American Sign Language Teachers Association
General Meeting
Kellogg Conference Center
Gallaudet University
October 1, 2004

Board Members present: President Leslie Greer, Vice President Thomas Riggs,
Outgoing Secretary, William Newell, Treasurer, Glenna Ashton,
Chapter Affiliation Chair, Laura Thomas, Professional Development,
Patricia Bruce, Evaluation Chair, Keith Cagle and, Interim Executive
Director, Cindy Campbell, and Incoming Secretary, Judie Cronlund

Parliamentarian: Robert Weinstock

I. Call to order
President Greer called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm.
Announced the Parliamentarian for the meeting, Robert Weinstock.

II. Mission Statement
President Greer read the mission statement.

III. Members present approved Minutes from General Meeting, Marriott Wardman
Park Hotel, Washington, D.C., July 7, 2002 as read.

I. President Greer’s Report

(Leslie to send me her powerpoint outline to insert here)
Greer made the motion at CIT convention in Minneapolis that requires ASL
communication at all times at the CIT conference.
Greer attended WFD meeting and reported that one of the big issues there was ASL
imperialism. Japanese delegation is concerned about protecting the indigenous sign
languages of the world. ASLTA has pledged to act as a resource to efforts to protect the
indigenous sign languages of other countries and to work against ASL imperialism.

Greer reported on efforts between ASLTA and CIT to work cooperatively and wants
input from the members.

September Board Meeting
Discussed insurance coverage and other issues in preparation for becoming independent
from NAD

January Board Meeting
Developed job description for the Executive Director position. We met in conjunction
with the CIT Board Meeting and conducted both separate and joint meetings with the CIT
to plan our future cooperation
July Board meeting
Greer represented ASLTA as delegate
Next meeting of the NAD will be in 2006 in New Orleans

Work in Progress
Greer explained the status of the 501(c)6/3. The board is presently working on reapplying for 501©6 after initially turning down that designation from the IRS. She explained the differences in the two classifications and the idea of establishing an ASLTA Foundation in order to achieve 501©3 status. It is much harder currently for organizations to get 501©3 status than in the past. After we get 501©6 we will work toward the idea of the ASLTA Foundation.

Greer announced that ASLTA was finally accepted as an affiliated organization with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. There were many questions from the membership about the purpose of joining ACTFL and President Greer explained that ACTFL is a very powerful language teaching organization and is the organization that sets the curriculum standards in foreign language. It is important for ASLTA to be affiliated so that ASL teaching becomes more equal and recognized.

Greer mentioned that ASLTA is in the process of revising our ByLaws
Greer announced that the Board will begin developing a 5 year and 10 year Strategic Plan. She requested strong member participation in developing the plan. The board needs member's help.
Greer announced the next ASLTA Professional Development Conference in Las Vegas NV, Nov 6-8, 2005. The conference will be held at the Alexis Park Resort. The hotel may add transportation to the “strip”. We are working on it.

II. Vice President Riggs’ Report

Riggs announced that he is beginning his second term as VP and thanked the members for their support.
Riggs thanked his committee that worked with him to pick the presenters for the NPDC in Indianapolis. We had a good selection of presenters.
Riggs worked closely with Patricia Bruce the Professional Development chair.
CIT CCIE (Tom will add and correct this part)
Riggs was selected to represent ASLTA. He presented the names of other members of this group and their organizational affiliation (Tom to add later). This group is attempting to establish an accreditation procedure for ITPs. CIT set up separate group to handle this.
It is independent of CIT. Had a meeting for 2 ½ days (dates). Set up time lines for establishing the group and getting things rolling. Will have several meetings online in which they will assign responsibilities to various people. There will be one more face to face meeting in February. Committee will work on it and submit to CIT summer of 2005.
Tom responded to questions from the Board. The Board was pleased to see ASLTA involved in this important activity.

Committee Reports
i. Foreign Sign Language Certification
Mike Kemp, Lynn Jacobowitz and Jennifer <name> (Tom to add what he wants in the minutes about this here).

K-12 Curriculum Committee
The committee is awaiting to have dedicated webspace on our website so that they can conduct their business. It is very difficult to get stable members of this committee because of the ways school change the responsibilities of staff. People who are originally working in teaching K-12 then get reassigned and no longer are able to work on this committee. Riggs clarified that one big difficulty with the K-12 is the L1 side because not many teachers are developing curriculum or teaching ASL to deaf students in a formal way. There are not a lot of materials.

III. Secretary Newell’s Report

Newell announced the newly appointed Secretary of ASLTA, Judie Cronlund.

V. Treasurer Glenna Ashton

Glenna Please sent me your General Meeting Financial report to place here.

Glenna reported the two biggest expense categories were Travel and Labor. The travel primarily involves Board meetings and because we recently became independent from NAD there is a lot of work to do which has made these board meetings necessary. The labor costs come from the salary of the Executive Director and assistants for the Evaluation Process.

A member suggested that ASLTA be more aggressive with seeking donations. Greer clarified that under the 501©6 IRS classification donations are not tax deductible to the donor. That is the reason ASLTA is seeking to establish the ASLTA Foundation.

Janice Cole presented a check to the Treasurer for $100 because she is so inspired with the hard work of the Board. She challenged all members present to make donations to the ASLTA. Many members came forward and donated money. The total raised was $1,000.00.

Donations were accepted via “passing the hat” from the members in attendance. Director Campbell requested those donating to be sure to list their names. Jacobowitz suggested that chapters fund raise and send 50% to ASLTA national

VI. Evaluation Chair Keith Cagle (Keith will send me his report to include here)

a. Number of certifications
   Total of 340 Certified Members (2004)
   Total of 211 in July 2002
   Professional 66
Qualified 70
Provisional 204

Greer encouraged members to become certified. She wants to be able to have ASL recognized at the Federal level. However, one criteria will be the strength of the organization as represented by the number of certified members. John Zinser from California mentioned that sometimes it is better to give a percentage of memberships who are certified rather than the number of certified. It will look more impressive.

VII. Chapter Affiliation and Bylaws Chair Laura Thomas- (Laura to send me her report to insert here)

29 Chapters affiliated as of September 2004
New chapters in process (Iowa, Maine, South Carolina, Dallas/Fort Worth, Hawaii, Sacramento)

Next targeted states: Tennessee, Georgia, Rhode Island

The meeting was suspended for 15 minutes at 2:59pm for a break and snacks. President Greer called the meeting back to order at: 3:15 pm

VII. Professional Development Chair Trix Bruce (Trix please add your report comments here)

List of Workshops

Bruce presented a brief history of the Professional Development efforts since she became chair. She developed a listing of workshops for the ASLTA website. She encouraged members to look at the website to get ideas for workshops. She is in the process of developing a nice interactive website that should be helpful to members and chapters.

List of Presenters
Will include presenter Bio, Title, Description, Contact information
Presenters will be able to submit their workshop presentations directly from the workshop to Bruce

Workshop Manual
Bruce is working on a manual which will give samples of flyers etc.

Lynn Jacobowitz encouraged “vet” speaker/presenters” to team with younger members to mentor them and develop the next generation of talent.

Jacobowitz encouraged Bruce to explore developing links to other websites devoted to ASL.
A member asked Bruce what happens to the reports of attendance to local workshops. Bruce responded that she makes a record of the clock hours. She keeps it all in a file and she sends it all to Keith Cagle and Laura Thomas for their records.

Another member supported the suggestion that mentoring of ASL teachers was a wonderful idea and ASLTA should support that concept.

A suggestion was made that ASLTA explore formalizing the system for tracking PDC clock hours to enable members to get a report annually.

a. Website

b. List of previous workshops
c. Presenter’s Bio

VIII. Interim Executive Director Cindy Campbell
Membership is the top priority. Campbell reported on the problems she has had since the disassociation from the NAD. Because their system was a month to month system and our new ASLTA membership system is a once a year, it caused several problems. There was a lot of confusion. Some people had already paid NAD. The bottom line is that it was a mess and hard to straighten out. The solution is to get all the membership data into a website database so that it is all coordinated. Evaluation information as well as membership and professional development information will all be fed into the same website.

Jacobowitz asked for clarification regarding his membership categories. Certified members are $50, Non-certified voting are $40 and Supporting (non-voting) are $25.00

Campbell reported on the newly designed membership card and displayed in on the projector.

Members asked why Qualified and Provisional Members would not be recognized on the card.

A concern was expressed about the Membership Status designation on the card and what it would mean if the Certified level were not put on the card.

Campbell reported on the website and the improvements and encouraged members to visit the website and provide feedback to her.
A suggestion was made that the membership card “swipe feature” could be used for any organization. For example, if a person went to the RID workshop then it could be used. Campbell asked members to be patient and allow us to take one step at a time.

**New business (Laura or someone send me the motions that were projected on the screen.)**

Motion 1 – ASLTA explore establishing a committee to monitor an ASL Honor Society for high school students taking ASL. (Adele Polk) – Pass

Motion 2 – ASLTA Board take an active role in “accreditation” of ASL programs to ensure students of the highest teaching standards and teachers of high qualities of ASL instruction provided (Beth Lucey) – postponed

Motion from the floor to postpone Motion 2 until November 2005 – passed

Motion 3 – ASLTA develop and draft promotional literature (in the form of a brochure, letter, etc.) to be distributed to schools as needed. This material should include facts about ASL teaching, such as: Deaf people can teach hearing students, and ASL is a real language; it is not easier than others. (Jason Zinza) – Motion 3 was withdrawn by Jason Zinza

Motion to amend by removing the second words “Deaf people can teach hearing students”. passed

Motion 4 – ASLTA have an election of officers by a staggering system. Refered to bylaws committee.

Motion 5 – ASLTA establish an ASLTA Foundation (501(c)3 non-profit organization). (Brenda Jo Falgier) - passed

Adele Polk asks any interested members to see her if they wish to participate in the National Honor Society for ASL

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm