

ASLTA

National Professional Development Conference 2017 Salt Lake City, Utah (June 29 - July 2, 2017)

General Membership Business Meetings Minutes

Business Meeting #1 Thursday, June 29, 2017

Time: 8:30 am

Presiding Officer: Vice President Keri Brooks

1) General Announcements

Keri Brooks: Board reports have been made via video and links will be emailed to all members for review, rather than having each Board member come to the stage individually in the interest of time.

Question from the floor [Anthony Isaacs]: If a member has a question about a report, what do we do?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: Contact info will be placed into the eblast.

2) ASLTA Board Elections

Nominations for ASLTA Board positions are open. Nominations accepted for the following positions:

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Professional Development Director
Heritage Language Director
Chapters Director

Two Board positions are not up for election:

Vice President (held by Keri Brooks)
Evaluations Director (held by Amy June Rowley)

One Board position title will be changed, with current appointee being transferred into the new position:

ASLHS Coordinator renamed World Language Director (held by Jason E. Zinza)

Nominations may be made here: tinyurl.com/aslta2017

Nominees and potential nominees are asked to keep in mind that ASLTA business is confidential, and thus any nominees must be able to have access to a computer that is inaccessible to others.

If a member is interested in running for a position, please prepare a 1 minute explanation of your qualifications.

Voting Procedures: A link will be emailed to members' email that will open the voting portal. This procedure is preferred in order to allow those not attending the conference to participate in voting.

Voting Window: NOON FRIDAY, JUNE 30 through NOON SATURDAY, JULY 1.

Question from the floor [Leslie Greer]: Can nominations be made from the floor during the election?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: No. All nominations need to be made by the deadline in order to allow time to place the nominee into the voting email going out to all members. This is done to facilitate equity between members who attend the conference and those who do not.

Question from the floor [Kavita Pipalia]: What is required to be an officer? Is ASLTA certification required?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: Great question. Some positions require ASLTA certification at the master level. Other positions require either master or certified ASLTA certification. If someone without ASLTA certification is elected to a position, that person has a one-year grace period to earn that certification.

Question from the floor [Katie O'Brien]: Does state-level certification fulfill this requirement?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: No, ASLTA certification is the only acceptable credential to serve on the national Board.

3) ASLTA Old Business

No old business to address.

4) ASLTA New Business

Vice President Keri Brooks: Some motions may require changes to the ASLTA bylaws. Currently, the ASLTA bylaws are suspended to facilitate Board restructuring. A completed and revised set of bylaws will be made available to membership prior to the next ASLTA conference in 2019. During this transition period, the ASLTA Board will communicate with membership as the Board drafts new bylaws for the Association.

Question from the floor [Brandon Hill]: Most state certifications and job announcements request an ASLPI score of 3+, yet the master level ASLTA certification requires a score of 4. That doesn't seem right. I'd like to make a motion to address this.

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: Such a motion would be out of order, since it would need to proceed through the Evaluation committee.

Question from the floor [Pam Walker]: Do changes to the Bylaws require 2/3 membership approval?

Response [Parliamentarian Joshua Beckman]: A 2/3 vote of those present is required to pass any bylaws changes, rather than putting it to a vote of the entire membership.

Question from the floor [David Martin]: Changing ASLTA's name to ASLPA was old business from 2015. We discussed it but nothing happened. Is that on hold or what?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: The Board decided it was best to refer the issue to the membership. If someone would like to change the name, then that person is free to make a motion. The same idea was attempted at the 2015 NPDC in Minneapolis, but it failed. There is no reason why it could not be attempted again.

MOTIONS

1) Motion from the floor: Leslie Greer.

I, Leslie Greer, move that ASLTA and CIT collaborate with each other.

Seconded: Kavita Pipalia

Rationale: We need each other. CIT's new mission is to focus on the Deaf community and contribute to it. To support schools for the Deaf. We are all teachers. We are educational organizations so we need to collaborate and engage in mutual support. ASLTA can use our accreditation system, and CIT would like to work on a joint evaluation system. I really want to move for better collaboration.

Discussion:

Question from the floor [unknown woman]: What would this collaboration look like? Would it include hosting a joint conference?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: That is something we could work towards, yes.

Question from the floor [unknown man]: NAD and ASLTA were once merged but had a big falling out. Collaboration with money could lead to big problems in the future. Are we talking merging or what? How will we keep the organizations safe?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: ASLHS has an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with ASLTA which is a set of agreements each organization must follow. We would have to develop an MOU with CIT to clearly outline and stipulate what's expected of each organization and what that collaboration would look like.

Clarification from the floor [Leslie Greer]: We want to keep each organization's IRS designation of 501c3 and 501c6 separate, so we will ensure that all regulations are adhered to. If we collaborate for conferences we can increase profits, and share them, too. Collaborating is especially important when it comes to hiring staff so that we can split the costs to create a home office. That would be great. It would reduce costs.

Question from the floor [unknown woman]: If aslta collaborates with CIT will CIT members actually come to our conferences?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: Yes, interpreters and interpreter trainers would be able to attend each other's conferences, whether Deaf or hearing interpreters.

Question from the floor [unknown woman]: But is that part of our mission?

Response [Vice President Keri Brooks]: Collaborating on registrations for conferences would be great, plus we could interact more with people. CIT relies on an ASL language foundation, and we rely on trained interpreters. Collaborating is not the same as merging.

Clarification from the floor [Bill Newell]: A longstanding goal for ASLTA is establishing a home office. We've never been able to afford it. CIT has also wanted a home office. If we collaborate and split the costs, then we can afford it. WE CANNOT MERGE because we need to maintain separate financial statements for our IRS compliance. We would maintain individual identities. But we'd work together to create a home office. Individually neither can afford it. Together, we might be able to.

Comment from the floor [Amy June Rowley]: I'm a member of both ASLTA and CIT. I attend both conferences and am involved with both. I think this would be a great idea.

One thing that I've been uncertain about over the past few years is our commitment to Deaf children and language deprivation. This field focuses on hearing learners. I see CIT also focusing on hearing learners. That's an intentional focus. Where and how do we prioritize Deaf children because ASL can be gone. So what is CIT's commitment to Deaf children? I don't see that message at CIT conferences, etc. Can Leslie Greer please address this topic.

Comment from the floor [Leslie Greer]: CIT adopted a new mission and it includes the Deaf community and deaf children. We are involved because we train educational interpreters. CIT needs input on language skill from ASLTA that we then incorporate into our training. We need that input.

Vice President Keri Brooks: I am closing the discussion due to time and calling for a vote.

Voting Results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of ASLTA and CIT developing ways to engage in closer collaboration.

Vice President Keri Brooks: It is now 9 a.m.. I am adjourning the business meeting. Members are asked to contact the Board to discuss ideas, concerns, and motions. Motions may be submitted ahead of time by emailing motionsproposal@aslta.org.

ASLTA Business Meeting #1 adjourned: 9:00 a.m.

Business Meeting #2 Friday, June 30, 2017

Time: 10:23 am

Presiding Officer: President Arlene Garcia

1) General Announcements

President Arlene Garcia: We will move right into the motions unless there are other announcements or business to address.

MOTIONS (numbering of motions continued from the previous Business Meeting)

2) Motion from the floor: Beatrice Pfaff.

I, Beatrice Pfaff, move that the name of the Association be changed from ASLTA to ASLPA (ASL Professionals Association).

Seconded: Kavita Pipalia

Rationale: By changing the Association name, we can expand the number of people, careers, and organizations in the ASL field under a larger umbrella. We can work together, expand our collective power, and improve efficiency.

Amendment #1:

I, Andrew Bottoms, move that we rename the Association the American Sign Languages Professional Association [Note: Pluralizing “language” to “languages.”]

Seconded: Ray Boland

Rationale: There are different sign languages in the USA and the Association’s name should reflect that.

Discussion:

Keith Gamache: This topic needs more thorough discussion. I’m unsure whether it’s possible to ever be ALL inclusive within one organization’s name.

Bill Newell: An organization’s name change can be made through the Board. We can formally change the name, which would involve a substantial number of changes on paperwork, IRS files, etc. Or, we can simply keep ASLTA as is but do business as _____, which would fulfill the same purpose.

3) Motion from the floor: Leslie Greer

I, Leslie Greer, move that this topic be referred to a task force appointed to examine the issue of changing the Association name.

Seconded: Daniel Gough

Voting Results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of referring the possibility of changing the name of ASLTA to ASLPA to an appointed task force, which will also examine whether to pluralize “language” to “languages.”

President Arlene Garcia: The following nominations have been received for positions on the ASLTA Board:

Professional Development: Dr. Janice Warshaw

Communications Director: David Martin

Chapters / Regions Director: Anthony Isaacs

Heritage Language Director: Petra Marsh / Ray Boland

4) Motion from the floor: Ray Boland

I, Ray Boland, move that the position of Heritage Language Director be revised to allow for two co-directors to manage the responsibilities.

Seconded: Janice Warshaw

Rationale: ASLTA President Arlene Garcia shared that Petra Horn-Marsh had mentioned concerns that the heritage language director's responsibilities would be too great to handle, and that she is in favor of a co-director. Two co-directors will share one vote and only one co-director at a time will attend face-to-face Board meetings due to financial constraints.

Voting results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of having co-directors fulfill the Heritage Language Director position.

5) Nominations from the floor: Dr. Jenny Gough

I, Jenny Gough, nominate myself for the Board position of Professional Development Director.

6) Nominations from the floor: Tim Riker

I, Brenda Schertz, nominate Tim Riker for the Board position of Advocacy Director.

Tim Riker accepted the nomination.

7) Nominations from the floor: Dr. Daniel Gough

I, Daniel Gough, nominate myself for the Board position of Advocacy Director.

8) Motion from the floor: Jenny Gough

I, Jenny Gough, move that the Advocacy Director position be served by two co-directors as this is a new position.

Seconded: Justin Small

Voting results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of having co-directors fulfill the Advocacy Director position.

9) Motion from the floor: Daniel Gough

I, Daniel Gough, move that all new Board members receive cultural competency / sensitivity training.

Seconded: Shannon Kapp

Voting results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of having Board members receive cultural competency / sensitivity training.

10) Motion from the floor: Kavita Pipalia

I, Kavita Pipalia, move that a task force be established to examine current practices in the K-12 and post-secondary systems to investigate how they establish minimum requirements for the hiring of ASL positions.

Seconded: Leslie Greer

Voting results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of having the Board establish a task force to investigate hiring practices in K-12 and post-secondary settings.

Voting Instructions: Information on how to access the voting portal will be emailed to members. Voting will be open for 24 hours.

Voting URL: tinyurl.com/aslta2017vote

ASLTA Business Meeting #2 adjourned: 11:30 a.m.

**Business Meeting #3
Saturday, July 1, 2017**

Time: ???????

Presiding Officer: President Arlene Garcia

1) General Announcements

President Arlene Garcia: We will move right into the motions unless there are other announcements or business to address.

MOTIONS (numbering of motions continued from the previous Business Meeting)

11) Motion submitted via email: Thomas Wills.

I, Thomas Wills, move that ASLTA work to include ASL as a world language option for IB (International Baccalaureate) programs so students who attend IB high schools that offer ASL courses can use ASL to fulfill those requirements.

Seconded: Tim Gough

Rationale: ASL is excluded from consideration by the IB system, so the best students often drop ASL in order to comply with IB requirements. I would like to see ASLTA advocate on behalf of ASL programs at IB schools and negotiate a way for ASL to meet IB requirements.

Amendment 1:

I, Heather Kendrick, move that Advanced Placement be added to this consideration.

Seconded: Leslie Greer

Rationale: The lack of an Advanced Placement exam for ASL also severely limits and negatively affects ASL programs at AP schools. ASLTA should advocate on behalf of both IB and AP to effect change regarding the status of ASL.

Motion from the floor:

I, Regan Thibodeau, move to refer the IB and AP issues to the Board for investigation.

Seconded: Toby Walsh

Voting Results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of having the ASLTA Board further investigate IB and AP issues.

12) Motion made from the floor: Leslie Greer.

I, Leslie Greer, move that the existing ASLTA logo be redesigned or that the Association revert to the older logo used in the past.

Seconded: Sharon Lott

Rationale: The current ASLTA logo is not very clear and doesn't convey the purpose or meaning of the Association. It was created by the ASLTA Board, whereas the Association's logo should be decided on by membership.

Amendment 1:

I, Amy June Rowley, move that ASLTA establish a committee to call for submissions for a new logo, which will be selected by ASLTA general membership.

Seconded: Jenny Gough

Amendment 2:

I, Tim Gough, move that the ASLTA committee call for submissions via an art competition from students in the K-12 system.

Motion from the floor:

I, Lisa Johnson, move that the issue of a logo redesign be referred to the Board.

Seconded: Leslie Greer.

Voting Results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of designing a new logo for ASLTA.

New Business

OASLTA (Ohio chapter of ASLTA) presented their bid to host the 2021 National Professional Development Conference, to be held in Columbus, Ohio.

Discussion:

- Should the conference dates remain in the summer or moved to the fall?

Motion made from the floor: Tracy Ivy.

I, Tracy Ivy, move to close the discussion regarding the dates for OASLTA's conference bid for 2021.

Seconded: Regan Thibodeau.

Voting Results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of keeping OASLTA's preferred conference dates.

ASLTA President Arlene Garcia moves that the membership move to a vote on OASLTA's conference bid.

Voting Results: PASSED. Clear majority of voters in favor of accepting OASLTA's conference bid. The 2021 NPDC will be held in Columbus, Ohio, and coordinated by OASLTA.

Motion made from the floor: Bonney Delao.

I, Bonney Delao, move to close new business.

Seconded: Deanne Bray

Voting Results: PASSED. New business closed.

Question from the floor [unknown person]: Where are the 2015 conference minutes?

Response [President Arlene Garcia]: Due to high turnover in the Secretary position, there may be some loss of information. Will need to track that information down.

Question from the floor [Keith Cagle]: Will the proposed bylaw changes be sent out to all members for a review and vote?

Response [President Arlene Garcia]: Joshua Beckman explained the process regarding bylaws revisions. Changes may be approved by membership change by change, or by simply approving all changes. More information will be forthcoming about ensuring transparency regarding bylaws changes.

Business Meeting #4 Sunday, July 2, 2017

Present:

President: Keri Brooks
Heritage Language Co-Director: Janice Warshaw
Heritage Language Co-Director: Ray Boland
Outgoing Professional Development Director: Christine Multra Krat
Treasurer: Daniel Heinze
Outgoing Treasurer: Bill Newell
Secretary: Raychelle Harris (had to leave at 8:25)
Evaluations: Amy June Rowley
Outgoing Chapters / Regions Director: Brenda Schertz
World Language Director: Jason E. Zinza
Advocacy Co-Director: Tim Riker

Kristine Hall (joined 8:57)

Kim Smith (joined 8:57)

Not present:

Chapters / Regions Director: Beatrice Pfaff (Bea)
Advocacy Co-Director: Daniel Gough

Called to order at 8:17am

1) President Keri Brooks:

New Business

- 1) ASLTA email addresses to be assigned shortly.
- 2) People have expressed concerns with John Maucere's show regarding inappropriate content, uncomfortable bullying in the guise of humor, and making members feel unsafe/unwelcome.
- 3) See below

Discussion re: John Maucere:

Janice: I wanted to protest his bullying behavior. It was unacceptable, particularly how he identified Nick Lalanne as Regan's "stalker" - reinforced stereotypes.

Keri: I want to be very mindful of how we present ASLTA to the public, so action is required. I want to have a response to JM done by July 2. Because Communications Director David Martin is traveling home, Keri will draft a message expressing the Board's concerns for JM as well as to the general membership. **ACTION REQUIRED: Draft a letter to JM and create a video for the ASLTA Facebook page.**

Amy June: We should include in the statement that we do not support bullying and that parts of the show were not appropriate for the setting, our membership, and our conference, and that we will take better precautions in the future to ensure entertainment is welcoming and respectful of all in the audience.

Specific Areas to Highlight re: John Maucere:

- Bullying in any format is not acceptable to ASLTA
- Demeaning various groups of people makes members feel unsafe and unwelcome, and that is not acceptable to ASLTA.

Tim Riker: Let's frame the letter to JM more positively by emphasizing ASLTA's values, such as inclusion, being welcoming, and a safe, respectful place for all.

Brenda: Let's keep it general, focusing on questionable content and behaviors and keep it at that.

Janice: It's evident he tried to challenge himself as an entertainer to present fresh material, but it doesn't excuse the content.

Keri: For members only or post it on ASLTA?

Board: Post it on the Facebook page

Keri: And second message to JM with specific feedback.

New Business #3

President Keri Brooks wants to schedule a face to face meeting / retreat that focuses particularly on social justice training. Will also mention that the Board is taking social justice training and will include that in the message to membership.

Keri will create a Doople poll for Board members in order to determine feasible dates for the face to face social justice training. Aiming for late Sept. or October. **ACTION REQUIRED: Create a Doople poll.**

Discussion on Potential Social Justice Trainers:

- Davina Robinson has offered to moderate
- Mark Ramirez
- Najma Johnson
- Carla Fernandez

Keri: Potential trainers will be asked to submit cost estimates, which will be shared with the Board. **ACTION REQUIRED: Contact trainers and request initial trainer's fees estimates.**

Amy June: We need more than just a workshop. We need to identify concrete action items. I want that trainer to focus on us the whole weekend.

Keri: Agreed. The whole weekend will focus on social justice.

2) Treasurer (outgoing): Bill Newell

- Bill will work with incoming Treasurer Daniel Heinze immediately to make sure Daniel is ready to take over the position fully by Sept. 1.
- Bookkeeper to be hired no later than August 1. Bill will train the new bookkeeper and Daniel on QB and CivicRM. Training needs to be done in person, which will require travel arrangements (previously approved by Board) for training over Labor Day weekend.
- **ACTION REQUIRED ASAP:** New bookkeeper must establish an address for all ASLTA mailings (PO Box or home). Must also file the IRS change of address form, and update the ASLTA W9 form. This also requires updating all addresses on ASLTA.org, all ASLTA forms (especially the mail-in membership form). Must be completed no later than August 31 / beginning of new membership cycle.
- Bill prepared and shared a Transition plan for the Treasurer and Bookkeeper positions that was shared via email. It lists each task needing to be completed by the new Treasurer and Bookkeeper by Sept. 1, 2017.

3) Professional Development Chair (outgoing): Christine Multra Kraft

Conference 2019 Update:

CMK: Still uncertain over location. Riverside? San Diego? CSDR might not be the best location due to size needs and logistics of travel and transportation. But Kristine Hall is having a tough time working with the San Diego ASLTA folks.

Jason: Maybe the national Board should get involved to help settle the dispute between SD-ASLTA and Southern California.

Janice Warshaw and Amy June offered to serve as mediators.

Kristine Hall: I'm drafting a final letter to SD-ASLTA to ask for their involvement in conference 2019. I'd prefer the conference to be in San Diego. Maybe ask to split profits 50-50 to convince them. If not, then I have to move forward. Will give them 14 days notice. I'm going to SD to investigate hotels.

Jason: I think the Board should take a stronger approach and draft a letter to SD ASLTA and say the Board is asking, on behalf of the national organization, to work with KH in organizing a conference in SD. **ACTION REQUIRED: Draft a letter to SD-ASLTA informing them that national ASLTA has decided to host the 2019 conference in San Diego, and invite SD-ASLTA to work with the existing conference planning team.**

Kim Smith: Suggestion for 2019 conference. If you know a person who is a potential speaker, reach out to that person. 2017 had a tough time with finding presenters.

Riker: We should do a poster session for people who might not feel comfortable with a full presentation.

2017 Conference Discussion:

- Brenda would like to see a conference evaluation form be sent to attendees, via Google forms. Include a section about who would you really want to see present again.
- ASLTA Board heartily congratulates and expresses deep appreciation for all the work of Kim Smith and the UT-ASLTA team, the volunteers, and everyone involved in planning and hosting a very successful NPDC. Thank you!

Meeting concluded at 9:58am

Minutes submitted by outgoing Secretary Jason E. Zinza on 7/2/17.

ASLTA NPDC Business Meetings Minutes and Motions submitted by outgoing Secretary Jason E. Zinza on 7/5/17.