AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING
NAD/ASLTA Conference - Norfolk, Virginia
July 7, 2000

I. Call to order

President Leslie Greer called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

II. Approval of ASLTA General Meeting Minutes of 1998

The ASLTA Membership reviewed and proposed no corrections on the minutes from the General Meeting held during the NAD/ASLTA Conference in San Antonio, Texas on July 10, 1998.

III. Isabelle Calvacca

President Greer announced that Isabelle Calvacca who was very actively involved with ASLTA as a board and Evaluation Team member has passed away. We remembered her in a moment of silence.

IV. Voting Procedures

President Greer explained that there are 2 different shapes in red and green. The red hand indicates certified members and whenever any motion related to certification is called upon, the certified members are the only ones to vote. The green star indicates non-certified members and is used to vote on any issue except those related to certification.

V. Treasurer’s Report

Jan McCready-Johnson, the Treasurer gave a graph report on ASLTA’s Financials during the fiscal years. (See attached ASLTA Financials)

VI. President’s Report

Professional certified members
President Greer explained that the Board is still working on the professional certified members on the ASLTA Website.

1st Professional Development Conference
She expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the 1st Professional Development Conference Committee and to MSM Productions, LTD and their staff for a very successful conference for ASLTA members in Rochester, New York in October 1999. The Silent Auction bids produced 60% profit to ASLTA and 40% to artists.
ASLTA Bylaws
President Greer announced that the ASLTA Bylaws are currently being revised.

Conference Proceedings
She explained that Mike Kemp was selected to be an editor for the 1998 ASLTA Conference workshop presentations to be printed in the Conference Proceedings. He was able to get only 3 (out of 7) presentations and felt it would not be cost effective.

ASLTA Website
President Greer expressed deep thanks to Alan Thomas, ASLTA Webmaster for his great job with the ASLTA Website.

Membership Drive
She explained that the Board’s efforts to draw more new memberships through the Membership Drive “2,000 by 2000” has not been quite successful.

Inquiries via Website
President Greer showed a chart of various topics from the inquiries through the ASLTA Website. She referred many issues appropriate to local chapters and for non-ASL issues to other organizations. She intends to write a letter to various organizations to encourage them to refer ASL-related issues to ASLTA Website.

Presentations
She displayed a chart of her presentations related to ASLTA for the years from July 1998 to December 1998, 1999 and up to July 8, 2000.

Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT)
President Greer announced that she and Vice President Barbara Ray Holcomb were invited to present at the CIT Conference in Utah during October 1998. They also met with the CIT Board and discussed about each organization’s goals. Both have the same goals of quality teachers. CIT is almost completed with their package to accredit the Interpreter Training Programs (ITP) and ASL Programs. Evaluation Chair Dr. William Newell and President Greer are currently on their training team. She announced that the CIT will host their biennial conference at Portland, Oregon this coming October. She is awaiting their formal invitation to the ASLTA Board to attend the conference. Once it is received, President Greer, the new Vice President and Dr. Newell will be attending. The CIT registration fees will be the same for both CIT and ASLTA members. President Greer encouraged the ASLTA members to consider attending the upcoming CIT conference. The members suggested that we consider holding the same conference as CIT instead of having 2 separate conferences.
NAD/ASLTA Boards Meeting
She explained that both ASLTA Board and NAD Board met at Norfolk, Virginia in January 2000. They agreed to set up an Ad Hoc Committee from both boards and work on increasing visibility for ASLTA and improving communication between ASLTA and NAD.

VI. Vice President’s Report

Workshop Presenters
Vice President Barbara Ray Holcomb reported that the San Antonio Conference had 25 workshops; 1st Professional Development Conference – 35 and this time had 24. She turned down an average of 5 – 7 Call for Papers.

A Guideline for Call for Papers
She felt it is important that ASLTA develops a guideline for Call for Papers.

Presenters’ Bureau
Since Vice President Holcomb took over the roles as the Vice President upon Keith Cagle’s resignation in 1998, one of the duties is to revise and update the Presenters’ Bureau. She also will be developing a guideline for this function.

CEU versus Clock Hours for Workshops
She clarified from the confusion about ASLTA offering CEU (Continuing Education Units). Currently ASLTA is offering only Clock Hours for ASLTA participants attending the workshops. However, ASLTA is now in the process of applying CEU with ACET (Associate Continuing Education Tracking). Once it is implemented, it will be absolutely a must for ASLTA to hire a person on a formal and continuous basis to work with ACET and awarding the CEU’s to the applicants.

New Logo
Vice President Holcomb explained that ASLTA’s current Logo has caused difficulties for printing because of its lines. She suggested that ASLTA gets a new logo.

VII. Evaluation Chair

ASLTA Evaluation Chair, Dr. William Newell announced his resignation from the position as the Chair of Evaluations that he has been doing for ten years. Keith Cagle will be replacing him.
Evaluation Team Training
Evaluation Chair Newell explained that he along with Keith Cagle had a training to retrain the current evaluators and to train three new Evaluation team members on June 30 and July 1 (prior to this Conference). Total of 12 people attended the training. The trainees are to be committed to 6 years on the Evaluation Team. The training session can be offered in 2 ways; through correspondence or in person. The Evaluation Team members must be certified on a professional level.

Directory on Website
He wanted to see a directory of certified members on the ASLTA Website. He said it can be done through a CGI system. The new Chair will be working on this.

Keith Cagle as New Chair
Evaluation Chair Newell explained that Keith Cagle went to Rochester, New York to receive training from him for the position of the Evaluation Chair last January. Keith recently teamed up with Bill on the evaluators training session. On September 15th Dr. Newell will officially relinquish his title and Keith Cagle becomes a full time Chair; however, Bill will assist him during the transition for one year.

Numbers of certified members, active and inactive members
He showed the charts of the number of individuals achieving ASLTA certifications as well as the number of active and inactive members.

Currently expired certifications
Evaluation Chair Newell explained that because of the rule that ASLTA set in 1996 for those who received a provisional level in 1996 that it would last only 4 years and now it is being expired this year. He intends to write a letter to these members and encourage them to apply for the next level, Qualified or they can extend for 2 years.

Professional Level Certification
He reminded that any one who is certified on Professional level must prove that he/she remains on an active membership list.

Suggestions
Evaluation Chair Newell would like to see more from ASLTA to encourage more people to apply for higher certification levels. He also thought an analysis is necessary to find out why people do not bother to apply for the next certification level.

VIII. Chapter Affiliation/Bylaws Chair
See attached report from Laura Thomas on ASLTA Chapter Affiliation/Bylaws
Announcement of appointment
President Greer announced that she appointed Laura Thomas to extend her position as the Chair of Chapter Affiliation and Bylaws for two more years.

IX. ASLTA Editor

President Greer announced that she appointed Cindy Campbell to be an Editor for ASLTA Newsletters.

X. K – 12 Curriculum Project Coordinator

Lynn Jacobowitz, currently the Coordinator of K – 12 Curriculum Project was unable to come. President Greer, on behalf of the Coordinator reported that the L2 Curriculum package is nearly completed. The L1 Curriculum Committee needs to have more ASLTA members to get their project moving.

XI. ASLTA Webmaster

Alan Thomas reported that he constantly updates the ASLTA Website. He would like to explore the ISP for better service as he wants to do a better job.

XII. Unfinished Business

A. Bylaws
ASLTA Bylaws Committee with the Chair of Laura Thomas continue to work on revising the bylaws.

XIII. New Business

1. ASLTA Logo
Barbara Ray Holcomb moved to set up a committee to review the new ASLTA Logo designs before presenting them at the next ASLTA Conference. Alan Thomas amended to appoint a chair to develop guidelines and network with the Logo Committee. The motion as amended was carried.

Professional Certification
Lorraine Flores moved that a candidate with a portfolio of ASLTA criteria and a Master’s degree in the field of Deaf Studies, ASL Studies, Teaching ASL or ASL Specialist (L1 and/or L2) send his/her official transcripts from the college to ASLTA and be automatically given Provisional and Qualified certificates. He/she will be required to go through the procedures for Professional Certificate. Neil Johnson amended the teaching experience of 5 years. Jim Lipsky amended the teaching experience of 300 hours. Both amendments were carried. Motion
to be referred to the Evaluation Committee.

3. Membership Meeting during ASLTA Conference
Carolyn Stem moved that National ASLTA holds membership meetings (minimum of 3 hours) at each ASLTA Conference. Carried.

4. Hire a CEU person
Sharon Antal moved that ASLTA hires a part time person to handle the CEU. Referred to Board.

5. Interpreters with Deafblind consumers
Sharon Antal moved that ASLTA helps the local chapter to cover interpreter expenses with Deafblind consumers at the chapter workshop. Referred to Board.

6. Board Communication with Members
Sharon Antal moved that the ASLTA Board responds email communication within 48 hours. Patti Raswant amended that the response be within 5 business days. Motion as amended carried.

7. Amend the requirements for Professional Certification
Brian Cerney moved to amend the requirements for ASLTA Professional level Certification to provide a third option of <or have an associate degree in "teaching ASL" plus five years ASL teaching experience>. (Note: this would expand #8 of page 16 for "ASLTA Information and Screening Application"-Appendix D). Referred to Evaluation Committee

8. 3rd ASLTA Professional Development Conference
Jeannie Wonder-Leightin moved that the 3rd National ASLTA Professional Development Conference be held in Bay Area, California in 2003. Carried.

9. ASLTA Information Kit
Whereas there is increasing inquiries from various language teachers or program directors on ASL as a language, whereas most of the ASL teachers often are not aware of increasing wealth of materials to support ASL as a language, Carolyn Stem moved that ASLTA Board appoints a committee to put together the ASLTA Information Kit to be shared among the ASLTA members. Carried.

10. Increased input from ASLTA Board to the members
Whereas National ASLTA sends out four newsletters a year, whereas National ASLTA newsletters contain vital information but exclude other useful information due to limited number of pages, whereas National ASLTA now has
its own home page, Carolyn Stem moved that National ASLTA use the home page to provide monthly information on the ASLTA Board activities, minutes, financial reports, information/news and announcements. **Referred to Board**

11. **Increased Visibility of Support from NAD for ASLTA**
Whereas ASLTA is affiliated with NAD according to Objective #1 of the ASLTA Bylaws “to provide a closer relationship between instructors of ASL and the NAD”, whereas all ASLTA membership includes required NAD membership, whereas the level of information and support of ASLTA in the NAD Broadcaster and at NAD Conferences is minimal, whereas the level of information and support of ASLTA by NAD state chapters is almost non-existent, Carolyn Stem moved that ASLTA Board approach the NAD and have them commit to providing ASLTA with one full page of the NAD Broadcaster on a monthly basis. **Carried.**

Carolyn Stem moved that the NAD distribute all the information and newsletters to all conference sites that involve ASLTA on the same timely manner as with NAD. **Carried.**

12. **Remainders of Motions be referred to Board**
Neil Johnson moved that due to time constraint of this general meeting the remainders of motions brought to the floor be referred to the Board for action before December 2000. Dr. William Newell amended that the deadline of December 2000 be removed and the results of Board action on the motions be reported on ASLTA website. **Motion as amended carried.**

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.