



ASLTA News
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Winter

Vol. 2008, No. 1



President Glenna Ashton & Keynote Speaker Ella Mae Lentz



Board at the start of the conference
Decked out; ready to rock!



Board at the end of the conference
Tuckered Out



Board & Committee Members
At Work – Laptops Abound!



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American Sign Language Teachers Association

Master ASL!

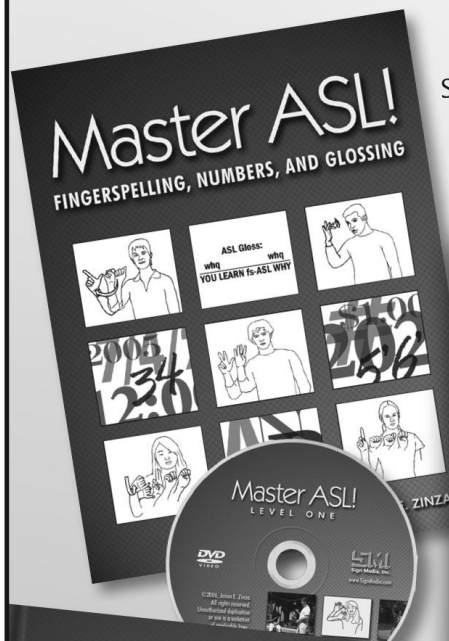
LEVEL ONE

by Jason E. Zinza



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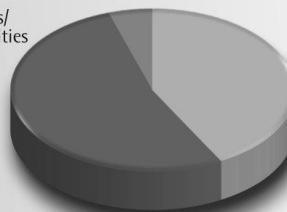
Finally, an all-in-one textbook that includes:

- Language and culture
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- Colleges/Universities 42%
- High Schools 53%
- Other 5%





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5C's	Master ASL!
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Cultures	Deaf Culture Minute, Deaf Culture Notes, ASL Literature
Connections	Eyes on ASL, Journal, I Want to Know, Focus, Fingerspelling, Numbers
Comparisons	Classroom exercises, ASL Up Close, Facial Expressions, FYI
Communities	Classroom communication, Community Research, Deaf World

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Letters to the Editor

To the officers and Conference Planning Committee of the ASLTA,

Just wanted to take a minute of your time to thank you so very much for the incredible COUNTLESS hours, weeks, days, and months you each put in to make the 2007 conference so successful!!

I for one truly appreciate all the sweat, panic, fear, uncertainty-equity that you each contributed to the event. The workshop selections were a nice change of pace from other conferences I have attended recently. The media accessibility to make each workshop visible was great.

I was pleased with the choice of facilities

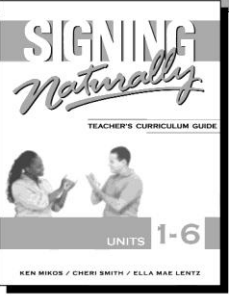
as the meeting rooms were large enough to accommodate almost every workshop. The hotel was in close proximity to the airport and the hotel had a FREE shuttle service between the two! A welcomed touch!

Offering of breakfast and mid-workshop snack breaks was very nice. The hotel's location near other eating establishments provided easy walking access when necessary.


I look forward to the 2009 conference, they have some pretty big 'shoes to fill' after the wonderful job you all did!!!

*Thank you so very much,
Your humble colleague in the field of ASL instruction,
Janice Blum*

The BEST Made Better!



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**ASLTA General Meeting
Tampa, Florida**

Saturday, October 27th, 2007 at 11:15 to 2:00

4th Annual National ASLTA Professional Development Conference

This serves as an outline of the proceedings. For the full report, go online to www.aslta.org.

Call to Order: 12:14 p.m.

Mission Statement: ASLTA Treasurer Betti Bonni signed

Parliamentarian: Angela Riha

Quorum: 25 voting members

Minutes: Las Vegas ASLTA Minutes, November 7, 2005 accepted

President Glenna Ashton's Report

Vice President Thomas Riggs' Report

Treasurer Betti Bonni's Report

Evaluation Chair Keith Cagle's Report

Chapter Affiliation Chair Pat Beech's Report

Professional Development Chair Trix Bruce's Report

Newsletter Editor (Publications/Media)'s Report, Alyssa Ramussen, Editor

ASL Honor Society's Report, Jason Zinza, Chair

ASL Standards Report, Glenna Ashton, Chair

ASL & Institutions of Higher Education Report (Alysse Rasmussen)

ASLPI/SLPI Report: Eddy Laird, Chair

Unfinished Business: None

Elections: Vice President & Treasurer (2008-2011)

Vice president: Larry Forestal

Treasurer: Betti Bonni

New Business

Conferences

2009 Conference: No chapters were bidding for the 2009 Conference.

2011 Conference: Washington State

Bylaws

Motion #1: Suspended the current Bylaws and have the vote from the floor.
Carried.

Motion #2: ASLTA mail out the new revised Bylaws to meet the requirement of 501 3 (c) application. Carried.



Motion #3: ASLTA reinstate the current Bylaws. Carried.

Motion #4: ASLTA members receive gentle reminder letters for their annual membership due payments. Action: Board passed this motion last June 2007; will implement by November 2007.

Motion #5: ASLTA members with the Qualified-level certificate have the option to maintain this certificate permanently as long as they are ASLTA members in good standing. Action: Refer to committee - Certification Evaluation System

Motion #6: ASLTA create and maintain a certification database (Pro, Q, Prov) so K-12, colleges, and universities can ensure that their teachers are appropriately certified and taught. Action: Already in bylaws, need to follow up with a committee

Motion #7: ASLTA assist all the state chapters in creating a national letter template (or website page) that states can pass on to their state colleges, universities to educate the program administration on the importance of hiring teachers with ASLTA certification. Otherwise we will not see an increase in ASLTA membership and attendance. Action: Refer to committee – ASL in IHE

Motion #8: ASLTA create and maintain a login and username to access the resources, guidelines, information sharing, files, lesson plans, etc. Action: Refer to committee – web site

Motion #9: ASLTA server host links for chapters that have own websites. Action: Refer to committee – web site

Motion #10: ASLTA recognizes L1 (ASL), develops ASL L1 curriculum and trains k-12 teachers. Action: It is already in bylaws – need to follow up with a committee

Motion #11: ASLTA refer all the motions to the board meeting to discuss. Carried.

Adjourned: 2:17 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy M. Wilkins
ASLTA Secretary
2006-2009



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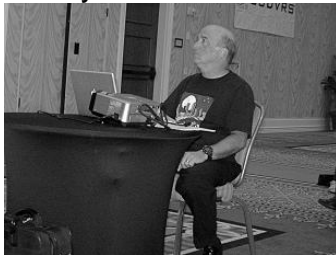


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ASLTA 4th PCD Photo Album

If you were here, can you find yourself?
If you weren't her, look what you missed!



Mike Tuccelli hard at work
Mike donated time & equipment
29th World's Largest Silent Weekend
www.drsign.com



CSD-TV Staff,
<http://www.csd.tv/>



Registration Staff ...
Tampa Deaf Volunteers



ASLTA Membership Chair

Yoga in the Morning



Exhibitors



Paul Jones ... The newest designs!



Mike Tuccelli is Dr Sign



Sprint cares! They were Platinum!



Marci & Karissa - wonderful HCC ITP students who helped above and beyond call of duty



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Joe & the gang from Dawn-SignPress ... our Bronze Sponsor:
www.dawnsign.com



Sorensen -- wonderful Platinum Sponsor – prepared a terrific, informative workshop regarding interpreting!
www.sorenson.com



Tony McGregor's beautiful art was a hit!



Conference Attendees Making Masks



CSD-VRS welcomes you!
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Clear View provided us with platforms for our presenters and a whole lot more!



Our wonderful Platinum Sponsors, Barbara & Vern, from Sign Media, Inc. sponsored workshops, awards, and more!
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Deaf Studies in April 2008 should be great!



Manning the table – the man!



ASL Services good games & great terps!



Jewels & jewelry!

Guests from New Zealand



... and their friend, doing double duty as interpreter, give us a chance to see NZSL in action!

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Chapter Luncheons ...





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ASLTA Conference 2007 DVDs

**Missed out on some
of the workshops?
Get them on DVD!**

A lot happened at the ASLTA Conference and you can catch up on anything you missed with these high-quality DVDs of conference workshops and events. Share conference workshops with colleagues and students, or just review highlights at your leisure.

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DVDs will be shipped in February 2008

ASL Poetry and Story Telling	1 disc	\$29.95
About Teaching ASL	1 disc	\$99.95
Conference Proceedings	4 discs	\$146.95
Combo (All three DVDs)	6 discs	\$234.85

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ASL Poetry/Story Telling	_____ x	\$29.95	_____
About Teaching ASL	_____ x	\$99.95	_____
Conference Proceedings	_____ x	\$146.95	_____
Combo (All three DVDs)	_____	\$234.85	_____
Orders are non-refundable Portion of proceeds go to ASLTA			Total \$ _____

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CSD (also known as Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc.) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing broad-based services, ensuring public accessibility and increasing public awareness of issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Through global leadership and a continuum of quality communication services and human service programs, CSD provides the tools conducive to a positive and fully integrated life. Please visit us online at www.c-s-d.org to learn more about what we can do for you.



CSD-TV has launched two compelling new programs created by and for the deaf and hard of hearing community.



FYE provides investigative reports, interviews, feature segments and profiles of deaf and hard of hearing people in the news. **Spice Up** takes you into the kitchen of noted deaf chef Jeff Perri as he shares the secrets to creating exciting cuisine. Watch a new episode every week online at www.csd.tv





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Deaf Film Night



Patti Durr & Dorothy Wilkins



Intermission



Ella Mae Lentz & Partner



T. J. O'Rourke Memorial Award – Jason E Zinza



Chapter Excellence Recognition Award – Fredrick Chapter of ASLTA (MD)



[no picture available]
Alan Roy "ALB" Barwiolek Distinguished Award – Rachel Stone



George W Veditz Award – Timothy "Timo" Owens



Award Stephen M Ryan Teacher of the Year Award – Adonia Smith

"Colors of ASL" Banquet



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Isabella "Izzy" Calavacca Award – Thomas Riggs, for 8 years service to the ASLTA Board



Sponsor Excellence Recognition Award - Sign Media, Inc



Two Guests from New Zealand



"Colors of ASL" Banquet Keynote Speaker, Ella Mae Lentz



"Colors of ASL " Banquet Ice-Breaker Activity



"Colors of ASL" Banquet Board Members wearing masks ... do you know who is who?

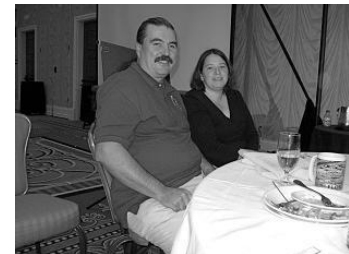
Business Meeting



Larry Forstal, our newly elected Vice-President



President Glenna Ashton



VP Tom Riggs & Parliamentarian Angela Riha



WA ASLTA bids for 2009



ASLTA Board Meeting Post Conference



Minutes of the Board (Post Conference)

**American Sign Language Teachers
Association (ASLTA)
Board Meeting
October 28, 2007 @ 1:00PM to
3:00PM**

Attendance: President Glenna Ashton, New-elected Vice President Larry Forestal, Secretary Dorothy M. Wilkins, Treasurer Betti Bonni, Keith Cagle, Evaluation Chair, Past Vice President Thomas Riggs, & Pat Beech, Chapter Affiliated Chair.

Absentee: Trix Bruce, Professional Development Chair

Members: Sharon Staehle, Gerry Francini, Jason Zinza, Lance Forshay, Amy Kurz, Darlene Sarnouski, Lynn Jacobs, Alysse Ramussen, and Judie Cronlund,

I. Call to Order: 1:24 p.m.

II. Mission Statement. Dorothy M. Wilkins signed the statement.

III. Approval of Minutes from meeting during June 1-2, 2007 to be approved by email.

IV. President's Report (Glenna Ashton)

- a. Code of Ethics: Larry Forestal and Betti Bonni
- b. Two VRS offers

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Set up committees (from the June 1-2 meeting)
 - Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the ACET official transcript for the Professional Development
 - Ad Hoc Committee to study the new professional development for requirements for ASLTA certifications.
- b. Motions from the 2005 conference
 - Motion 1: Conference in spring instead of fall due to new staff scheduling. Referred to the conference committee
 - Motion 2: Appoint Professional Certified person to represent ASLTA at any non-ASLTA ASL-related conferences
 - Motion 3: L2 curriculum be transferred from Gallaudet Department of Education to ASLTA webpage.
 - Motion 4: Contact American Medical Association to create national policy stating that ASL as babies



1st, 2nd, and/or Primary language. Committee established; Larry Forestal will chair

- Motion 5: Create representative positions for K-12 and college interest groups who will coordinate with the board (those will not be Board members). They will collaborate with the Board to develop programs, policies, etc. as needed.
- Motion 6: Creates a new team of L1 evaluators using ASLPI. Referred to ASLTA Evaluation team
- Motion 7: Appoint 2 new chairs (1 as the National curriculum project chair and the other as National Legislation chair).
- Motion 11: Appoint a committee to work with each state board of education and legislation to promote implementation of ASLTA's LI and L2 teacher certification.
- Motion 12: Set up a committee to investigate developing praxis test for K-12 or 9-12 (Foreign Language).
- Motion 16: Current professional ASLTA certification required by the National Council on Accreditation Teachers Education, NCATE for college professors. Referred to the Evaluation Committee.

V. New Business

- a. Site for Conference 2009: Phoenix Area, Arizona.

Motion #1: ASLTA assigned Gerry Francini as an ASLTA Conference Chair in 2009. Carried.

- b. Switch to different website

Motion #2: ASLTA use www.deafvision.net as a web master. Carried.

- c. Bylaws revisions

- d. Yesterday's motions referred
Motion#3: ASLTA members with the Qualified-level certificate have the option to maintain this certificate permanently as long as they are ASLTA members in good standing. Referred to Evaluation Committee.

Motion #4: ASLTA create and maintain a certification database (Pro, Q, Prov). Already in Bylaws, but need to follow-up with committee

Motion #5: ASLTA assist all the state chapters in creating a national letter template (or website page) that states can pass on to their state colleges, universities to educate the program administration on the importance of hiring teachers with ASLTA certification. Otherwise we will not see an increase in ASLTA membership and attendance. Referred to ASL in IHE



Amended: insert \$5,000 as ASLTA's financial support to develop survey to find out which schools / colleges / universities use ASL and the entrance level and to develop information kit. Before the information kit goes out, it will need to have the approval by the board members.

- Motion #6: ASLTA create and maintain a login and username to access the resources, guidelines, information sharing, files, lesson plans, etc. Referred to Webmaster
- Motion #7: ASLTA website server offer the place (links) for all the chapters that host their own websites. Referred to Chapter Affiliation and Webmaster
- Motion #8: ASLTA recognize L1 (ASL), develop ASL L1 curriculum and train K-12 teachers. Already in bylaws – 2005 ASLTA General Meeting, Motion #5, 11 & 12
- Motion #9: ASLTA provide grant writing workshop. Referred to conference committee

It was recommended to have workshops for teaching ASL instructors on how to write syllabus, develop lesson plans, acquire assessment tools, explain different teaching methods and research at the next conference.

e. Remaining motions from Yesterday's ASLTA General Meeting

- Motion #10: ASLTA work with NESINC (National Education Systems) regarding nationwide state exam for ASL Teachers, and urges NESINC to make the nationwide state exam available to 50 states. Already made the motion #12 in 2005 ASLTA General Meeting Minutes
- Motion #11: Update ASLTA Mission Statement to include new statements for L1 and L2. Carried.

Motion #12: One ASLTA board-member become a full-time staff with pay. Treasurer will investigate and report it on January 2008.

VI. Announcements

- a. \$91,275.40 final bill to the hotel for the conference.
- b. 15 candidates completed professional interviews; 1 candidate didn't show
- c. Almost all of the presenters signed the waive form for the CSD-TV. Will follow up with presenters for presentations to be printed on the CD-Rom proceedings. It was a pleasure working with Jim DeBee.

VII. Adjournment: 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Dorothy M. Wilkins
ASLTA Secretary, 2007-2009



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NC REQUIRES ASLTA PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION FOR LICENSURE

State of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Standards for Teachers of American Sign Language and Standards for American Sign Language Levels 1 and 2 was approved by North Carolina State Board of Education on June 5, 2007.

They also passed the requirement of a 4 year degree and an ASLTA Provisional Certification or a 4 year degree in ASL and an ASLTA Provisional Certification, said Dr. Rachael Ragin, consultant in Deaf Education and Audiology for Exceptional Children Division in the NC Dept. of Public Instruction. She spearheaded the NC standards committee which included several ASLTA certified members: Cindy Decker-Pickell, James M. Wilson and Keith M. Cagle.

Also both houses of NC State Legislature passed the ASL Bill unanimously in the spring legislative session to encourage high schools, community colleges and universities to offer the ASL courses.

NC State Governor Mike Easley signed the bill into the law on June 29, 2007.



Career Tips

While it is possible to teach in community education programs with little formal training, it is almost impossible to get hired by colleges and universities without at least a Masters and a specific number of credits (usually 15-20) in the ASL/Deaf Studies content area.

In the past it was possible for colleges and universities to hire someone as an "expert in the field" even if they did not have the formal background, but it always required a great deal of documentation and paperwork on the part of the college.

Now that the primary accreditation agencies such as SACS and NCACS are cracking down on colleges and universities all over the country, it is becoming more and more difficult to get hired without a formal degree.

Certification Issues

Professional Development Interviews

ASLTA Professional Interviews will be offered at NAD July 2008 conference in New Orleans and at the CIT October 2008 in Puerto Rico, provided there are enough candidates to fill the slots.





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Scholarship for Teachers

Once again Sign Media, Inc is offering scholarships. To apply online for 2009, go to: www.signmedia.com. The scholarship that pays for the ASLTA certification evaluation system fee - 4 at provisional, 4 at qualified, and 4 at professional level. The deadline for 2008 has already passed.



MLA: Record ASL Enrollment

The Modern Language Association released its preliminary report on 2006 foreign language enrollment. ASL is now the 4th largest language studied based on student enrollment! MLA stats indicate that ASL grew another 30% from 2002.

For general information, go to <http://www.mla.org>.

For the survey breakdown, http://www.mla.org/2006_flenrollmentsurvey



4th PDC Conference Proceedings

The order form for the ASLTA DVD Conference Proceedings is now online at www.aslta.org

The keynote and endnote by Ella Mae Lentz is well worth it! Along with all the great workshops!

The DVD on teaching ASL has many people discussing different aspects of the issues and challenges plus academic information.

The DVD on ASL literature includes all the performances of storytelling, poetry, skits of our talented ASL teachers.



ASL Honors Society

The ASL Honor Society is sponsoring its second annual ASL literature competition for ASLHS member schools, with a **deadline of April 18, 2008**. This year's competition categories are the following:

- ASL I: ABC Story, any topic
- ASL II+: Funny Story, any topic

We are offering cash prizes to the first and second place winners in both categories, so expose your students to ASL literature and encourage them to apply their learning and participate! Winning entries for the 2006-2007 competition were shown at the ASLTA banquet, and more than one teacher remarked his/her students could do better - if that's the case, then walk the talk! A wide variety of student strengths in ASL literature are represented, so don't feel your students must display perfect skills before entering the competition. The competition is a



great way to have students put their learning into action, so consider participating!

To download the flyer and view related information, including last year's winners, visit <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org> and click on "Storytelling Competitions."

PRESIDENT'S POST

– Glenna Ashton

January 2008

Wow! It's hard to believe that it's only been a few months since the 2007 Conference in Tampa, Florida. A lot of people were involved in the planning and execution of the very successful conference. The hotel was awesome, and I know I gained a few pounds from the delicious food. All of the workshops were well-attended with lots of networking in the beautiful hallways. We had the largest number of sponsors and exhibitors ever. We were able to completely surprise every award winner at the banquet 😊

The best part is that all of the conference proceedings are on DVDs filmed by CSD – TV. There are three available now to order – conference proceedings with the keynoter, Ella Mae Lentz, and all of the workshops plus the banquet. The second one is all of the talented ASLTA members that performed some form of ASL literature. The third is on teaching ASL with comments by an ar-

ray of experienced and talented teachers. You can get all three as a set at a discount. The order form is online at www.aslta.org.

We're starting the new year of 2008 with many plans. Most of these plans will be realized through the committees that have been set up in response to the motions passed at the business meetings or in response to a need to grow as an organization. All committees must have at least three members, so we're looking for many volunteers to fill out all the committees! Several of the committees do require that it be certified members due to the nature of the work involved. Certified members will get first priority in their choice of committees. Please do contact me at president@aslta.org to let me know which committee you want to get involved with. Include your VP if you want to discuss it further or ask questions. See elsewhere for the list of committees in this newsletter and contact me soon!

We continue to face the challenges of advocating for the recognition and respect for ASL, professionalism in teaching ASL, and increased support from educational institutions, government, and other organizations. The volunteer ASLTA Board cannot accomplish much without the input and involvement of all the members, so please contact any Board member to share your concerns, questions, news, and time to support ASLTA, which is your only national professional association of ASL teachers.



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INFORMATION ABOUT ASLTA CLOCK HOURS AND RID CEUs

We tried something different this year in order to do away with long lines. The program books contained two copies of the schedule. The yellow one was for ASLTA clock hours; the gray one was for RID CEUs. Both allowed the participants to keep track of their own hours. RID CEUs were turned in at the conference and have since been posted onto the RID website. If you see any discrepancies, contact AlysseR@aol.com, as she is the RID Approved Sponsor who agreed to coordinate that for ASLTA.

As for ASLTA members who wish to track ASLTA clock hours, all you have to do is keep your OWN copy (the yellow one). Nice & simple! That copy, plus your receipt for the conference, should serve as proof of attendance for your school. If it will not serve, please contact AlysseR@aol.com and she will send a similar form under her signature.

If you accidentally submitted your yellow ASLTA copy along with the gray RID CEU forms, and want it back, you may first email AlysseR@aol.com to determine if the copy has been retained. If it has been, you may arrange – only after she verifies that she has the yellow copy – to send a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) and she will return it to you. The yellow copies will ONLY be retained through APRIL of 2008. **You must submit your request prior to April 1st!**
Hey did you know.....

ASL national honor society:

Tricia McCarthy,

ASLHS Membership Coordinator

👉 There are 41 schools from all over the USA that have established chapters

👉 There are three colleges that have chapters

👉 Ohio School for the Deaf is a chapter

👉 Each chapter application gets an official certificate as well as students who earn graduation recognition get a special certificate

👉 ASL literature competition is open to ALL levels of signers with the possibility of monetary prizes to the top in each division

👉 Scholarships are available to BOTH students AND teachers to further education and professional growth in ASL

👉 There is an ASL honor Society pin available to all

👉 There are graduation recognition medals for outstanding academic achievement in ASL

👉 ASL Honor Society strongly encourages interaction and community service within the Deaf community

Check out the web site for more information and an application! Help us to grow and reach others! Any suggestions, questions comments please let me know! Love to hear from you....even if it is to tell us why you are NOT joining...maybe we can make improvements to convince you! I look forward to your applications: deafinitelyasl@aol.com



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“Staying connected with my friends allows me to be like any other teenager, and that feels great!”

—Ryssa
Student



My Sorenson VRS Story

“I use videophone technology, coupled with Sorenson VRS® (SVRS), to stay in touch with friends so I know when and where we are going to meet to hang out. Staying connected with them allows me to be like any other teenager, and that feels great!”

To learn more about Sorenson VRS and how you can apply for FREE VRS equipment please visit www.sorensonvrs.com.



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**“It’s reassuring to know
that when I use SVRS
all of my professional
communication needs
will be met.”**

—Moussa Ahmadi
Owner, Car Dealership



My Sorenson VRS Story

“I use Sorenson VRS® (SVRS) to discuss details of the cars I am selling. Because SVRS interpreters communicate information so professionally, my customers think I am a hearing car salesman. When my customers come to my car lot, they’re surprised to learn that I am deaf. It’s reassuring to know that when I use SVRS all of my professional communication needs will be met.”



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ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

2008 ASLTA Membership



2008 ASLTA Membership
POB 9244
Rochester, NY 14692-9998

Dues cycle is based on a calendar year, January – December

Any questions, please email membership@aslta.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!

Member's Information:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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Membership Categories:

Certified Membership (Voting) \$ _____ (\$50)

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To maintain valid certification dues
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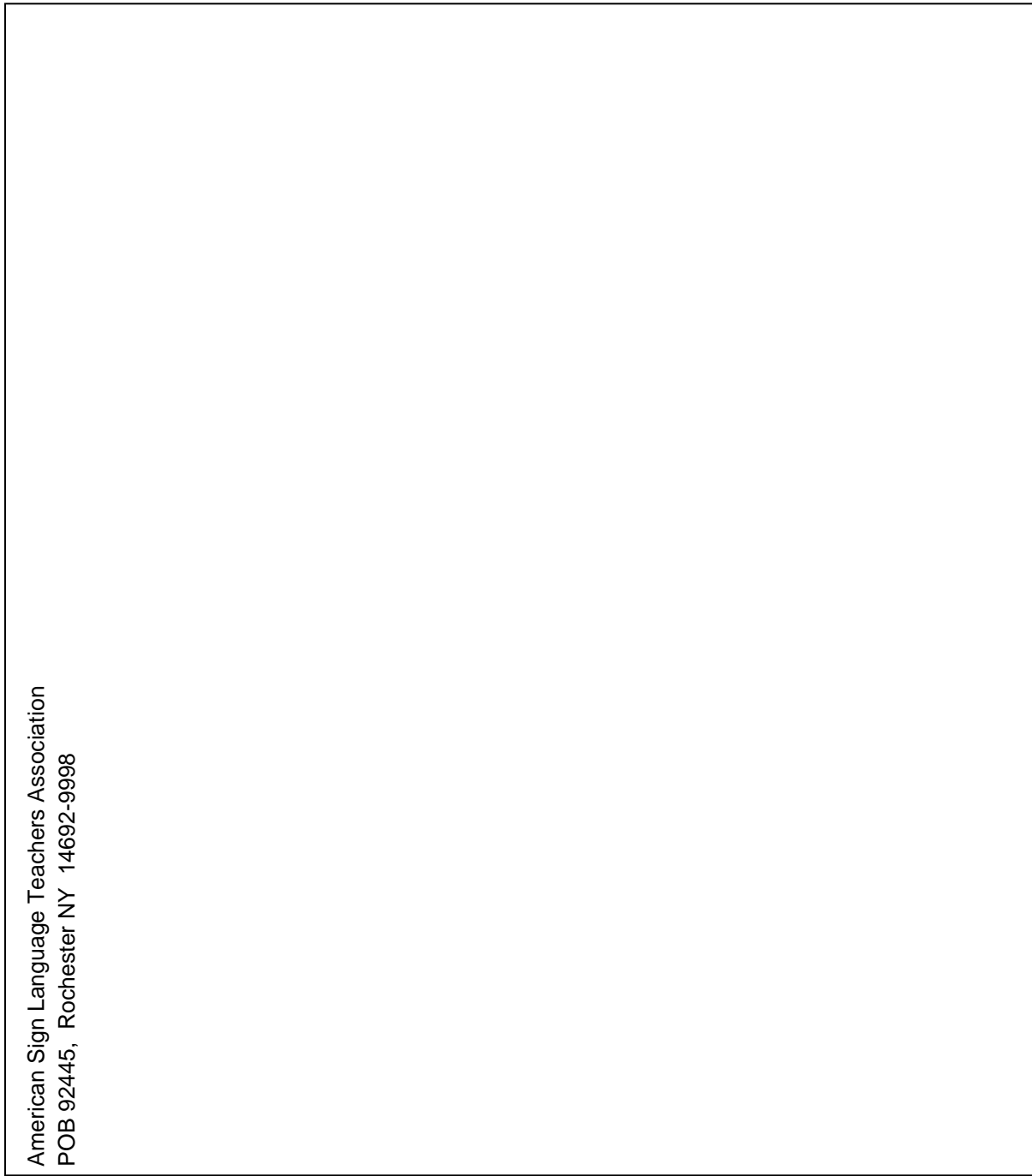
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