

ASLTA News

Summer Vol. 2008, No. 3

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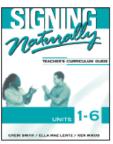


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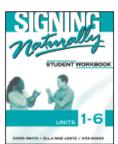


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ASLTA Evaluation Report Keith Cagle, Evaluation Chair

Welcome to summer season. Trust that most of you are enjoying your summer break.

We want to inform you that the requirement of ASLPI and SLPI: ASL is rescheduled from July 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009. It is because the new ASLTA website just came in with the links to ASLPI and SLPI: ASL. We are putting a listing of ASLPI and SLPI: ASL coordinators in our website for those of you who need ASLPI or SLPI:ASL. I have received some emails asking if all ASLTA-certified teachers must pass ASLPI or SLPI: ASL. No, the requirement is for only new candidates applying for Provisional evaluation on or after January 1, 2009.

I also have received some emails asking about "1-2 years of teaching experience" for ASLTA Provisional evaluation. It will be helpful for your Provisional evaluation if you have some teaching experiences; however it is not required. We acknowledged that more and more candidates for Provisional evaluation are coming from the 4years collegiate programs.

If 1-2 years of teaching experience is required, it would put those new graduates in "catch 22" unfairly. So it is a good idea for the collegiate programs to require a kind of practicum or internship for their students to gain some teaching experience.

Other emails have asked me if they could send the DVDs for their Provisional evaluations. Yes, you can send the DVDs. Importantly, our office will no longer do the copying production. The candidate will have to send the 4 copies of

portfolio and 3 DVDs / CD-ROMs / VHS tapes. I can't stress this importance to have a back-up copy of your portfolio and videotaping with you when you send your package to our office. A few mails were lost or damaged through the Post Office.

We will have our next Professional-level evaluation at the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico in October, 2008. We had to cancel the professional-level evaluation at the NAD convention in New Orleans due to a lack of available evaluators being able to come there. We will have interviews at our next ASLTA conference in Phoenix, Arizona in October 2009. We may have another interview opportunity at the FASLTA conference in February 2009 if there are at least 10 candidates ready to take. If you are interested in taking the interview in Florida in February 2009, please let me know. First come, first serve.

We are very excited about the DVDs coming out from the CSDTV. The DVDs of "ASL Poetry" (1 DVD) and "About Teaching ASL" (3 DVDs) are ready now. The CSDTV is working to finish the DVDs of "ASLTA Conference Proceeding," because it will have a set of 24 DVDs. We encourage you and your programs to purchase the sets of DVDs. If we succeed to break even with the cost of production, we will be able to continue this revolutionary concept of having the DVDs of our ASLTA conferences in future.

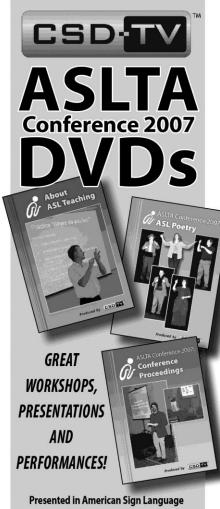
Have a wonderful summer season.

Keith M. Cagle



Conference of Interpreter Trainers CIT Don't miss our Sister-Association's Conference in Puerto Rico October 23-25, 2008 www.cit-asl.org

ASLTA News Summer Volume 2008, Number 3



Zip Code

	Quantity	Price	iotai Cost
ASL Poetry/Story Telling (1disc)	x	\$29.95	3
About Teaching ASL (3 discs)	X	\$99.95	
Conference Proceedings (24 discs)	x	\$146.95	
Combo (All three DVDs) (28 discs)		\$234.85	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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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

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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. The DVDs feature all the first season episodes of each program.

Program Activities Report By Betti Bonni, Treasurer

American Sign Language Teachers Association ASLTA

April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008

The American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) holds as its mission statement the following:

The mission of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) is to preserve the integrity of American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Culture.

The Association is committed to:

- Insuring that teachers of ASL meet the highest level of professional competence in knowledge and skill;
- -Improving the professional status of ASL and Deaf Studies teachers, and
- -Promoting the teaching of ASL in all levels of education.

ASLTA supports the growth of the profession of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies teaching through exchange of ideas among teachers on best teaching practices at local, state, and national levels.

As an organization, we offer

- Certification of ASL Teachers at 3 levels (Provisional, Qualified, and Professional);
- An affiliation program for local / state chapters of ASL Teachers, an ASL Honor Society for ASL students;

We are also members of two major professional organizations serving the field of foreign language instruction:

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the
- Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS).

This networking with other teachers of foreign languages has helped us tremendously in promoting equivalent standards of ASL teaching.

As of March, 2008, we have over 400 paid members. We have 30 affiliate chapters, and welcomed one new chapter during this time frame, the West Virginia-Mountaineers ASLTA.

From the **Evaluation Office**, 81 evaluations were performed by teams of trained evaluators. Results are:

PROVISIONAL EVALUATIONS

- Passed 26
- Re-evaluation 12
- Failed 4

QUALIFIED EVALUATIONS

- Passed 15
- Re-evaluation 5
- Failed 4
- Appeal 1

PROFESSIONAL EVALUATIONS

- Passed 7
- Re-evaluation and passed 2
- Re-evaluation / re-interview 6

For the membership, the Board of Directors organized and put on a **National Professional Development Conference** held in Tampa, Florida during October 25 – 28, 2007. Over 350 participants enjoyed a program with over 45 hours of professional development activities. In addition, the Board made a historic decision to record all **proceedings** and make it available on DVD for interested parties, rather than go with a print format. This fit in with our mission of promoting ASL as a world language.

The newly formed **ASL Honor Society** was launched in Spring 2007. Membership grew tremendously, with over 100 chapters. This group devised a contest for members, and offered a Laurent Clerc medal for those ASL students who were nominated by their teachers from each chapter. ASLHS - honor cords and medals are offered to graduates meeting GPA and community service requirements.

We have published 3 quarterly newsletters, as well as one issue devoted entirely to the 4th NPDC in Tampa, Florida. We have a mailing list of over 450 recipients.

We had **committees** formed to focus on the following areas:

- The 5th National Professional Development Conference, slated for October, 2009
- Re-submitting an application for 501 C 3 status as a stand-alone organization
- By-Laws revisions
- National ASL Standards
- K-12 ASL Curriculum
- Media / Newsletter / Website
- Proficiency Interviews for ASL Skills

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HIGHEST-QUALITY PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS

ASLTA Treasurer Report to Membership June, 2008 By Betti Bonni, Treasurer

Friends and Members of ASLTA,

Here is a report of the financial health of the organization:

As treasurer, I oversee 5 different accounts for ASLTA: our regular business checking account, a savings account, the Evaluation office account, the ASL Honor Society account, and our investment account with Charles Schwab, Inc. Each account generates a monthly statement. Each month, I compile all the statements into a single financial report which I send to the accountant at the National Association of the Deaf (since we are still under their umbrella of services). The NAD just completed a full audit of all accounts, including ASLTA's, last spring. I trust that our books are in order, and will look forward to receiving a statement from NAD's auditor to that effect. Below you will see 2 sets of balance sheets, one from January 2008, and the most recent one as of this writing, from May, 2008. The reports give account balances for each of the 5 accounts mentioned above.

Bank Statement Ba		
As of January 2008		
Bank of America	\$50,712.39	
Checking		
Bank of America	7,046.55	
Savings		
Bank of America	4,738.72	
ASL Honor Socie-		
ty		
First National	1,357.53	
Bank Evaluation		
Acct		
Charles Schwab	53,863	
Investment		
Total Assets		\$117,719.01

Bank Statement Bal As of May 2008		
Bank of America Checking	\$52,335.61	
Bank of America Savings	7,050.05	
Bank of America ASL Honor Society	7,615.35	
First National Bank Evaluation Acct	4,436.99	
Charles Schwab Investment	54,442.93	
Total Assets		\$125,880.93

Our accounts total usually fluctuates between these two figures, since we get an influx of membership dues and evaluation fees, and then spend funds on processing the evaluations and on postage and delivery of the newsletters.

I hope you can see that we are basically in good shape.

I serve on 2 additional committees as Treasurer: the 501 c 3 application committee, and the 5th NPDC (National Professional Development Conference) committee. A brief update:

The **501c3** process is a long and complicated process. At the general meeting in Tampa in October 2007, I explained that we needed to submit a clean record of financial activities for the 3 years prior to the application being submitted. Since the ASLTA books were turned over to me in 2005, I went ahead and made sure all account activities were documented clearly, and obtained the QuickBooks Pro software in order to maintain records accurately, since Fall 2005. We are now approaching Fall, 2008, so we are ready (!!!) to complete the application and submit it. Alysse Rasmussen and Glenna Ashton are also on this committee, and their immense contribution is gratefully acknowledged! Hopefully, we'll be able to report success by early 2009, and finally and officially become a standalone organization.

The ASLTA Board voted to host the next **NPDC** in **Phoenix**, **AZ** in **October**, **2009**. We quickly set up a conference committee, chaired by Geraldine Francini, and came up with a budget for the conference. We expect to duplicate the success of the 4th NPDC in Tampa (October, 2007). The Board has authorized the creation of another account (now 6 accounts I oversee!) dedicated exclusively to the 5th NPDC, and to seed the account with \$5,000. We are confident that

Gerry will pull together a fantastic committee to assist her. We already have flyers announcing the Early Bird registration for this conference! Be sure to get your registration in.

Respectfully submitted, Betti Bonni

Got something to say?

Got a question you want to ask?

Got a neat lesson you want to share?

Write an article for the ASLTA News ... Or put up a VLOG and send the link!

The more we share, the more we learn!



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Send your submissions to AlysseR@aol.com attn ASLTA News



My Sorenson VRS Story

"I use Sorenson VRS (SVRS) 10 to 20 times a day—as often as a hearing person uses the telephone—because it is fast and I can rely on the Sorenson interpreter to accurately convey my emotion. Also, as a full-time ASL instructor at Lee College, I use SVRS to communicate with my hearing students during office hours. I also use SVRS to call my doctor, my mother, hearing friends, businesses, and people at my church. One of the best things about SVRS is that hearing persons can easily call me."

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HIGHEST-QUALITY PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS



Chapter Liaison News By Patricia Beech

I would like all chapters to continue sending their workshop announcements and attendance information to Trix Bruce, PDC. She will be tracking your chapter's workshop hours (minimum of 12 per year). Her e-mail address is pdc-chair@aslta.org.

Whenever there is an election of new officers, change in officers, etc., please do inform chap-ter@aslta.org and webmaster@aslta.org so updates can be made to the ASLTA website. If you know of an interested group of teachers, individuals, etc., that would like to set up a chapter, please ask them to contact chapter@aslta.org for an application packet, or see:

http://www.aslta.org/images/chapters/Guidelines ForJoiningASLTA.pdf http://www.aslta.org/images/chapters/Affiliation Application.pdf

Active: California Los Angeles, California Sacramento Valley, California San Diego, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois Chicagoland, Indiana Willard, Kentucky Bluegrass, Maryland (formerly Frederick), Maryland Chesapeake Bay, Michigan, Minnesota Loon, Missouri, New Jersey, New York Greater Rochester, New York NYC Metro, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon Northwest, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas Houston, Virginia Veditz, Washington, West Virginia Mountaineers, and Wisconsin.

Inactive: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Utah Beehive, Virginia Dogwood, and Virginia Shenandoah Valley.

Below are reports from four chapters.

Thanks, Patricia Beech, Chapter Liaison

Florida Chapter of ASLTA

http://www.faslta.org/

FASLTA recently sponsored the "Master ASL" training for 21 participants in Oviedo, Florida from June 16-19. Participants were required to have their own copies of the MasterASL texts and paid \$350 for the training. In return, they received a bag, a DVD, a training text, and a National Standards text. FASLTA provided, at no charge, breakfast, lunch, and snacks each day of the training to help reduce costs to our members. Two \$50 scholarships were awarded to FASLTA member-teachers whose school districts did not supplement their costs. Gallaudet University Regional Center served as a cosponsor and donated \$250 to be used to provide the scholarships and other associated presentation costs.

FASLTA's 20th annual conference will be in the West Palm Beach area in February 2009. Look for the conference announcements and call for presenters in early August. FASLTA is in negotiation with ASLTA's Certification Committee and hopes to be able to offer Professional Evaluations at the same time as the 20th Annual conference.

A reminder: If you are a Florida ASL teacher in the K-12 system ... Florida Department of Education (DOE) ASL K-12 Teacher Endorsement courses or ASLTA Professional Certification must be completed by the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

We're a great group -- and you don't have to live in Florida to be a part of us -- FASLTA membership is \$25 and is due August 15th, 2008 for the 2008-2009 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our President, Alysse Rasmussen, at AlysseR@aol.com.

Maryland Chapter of ASLTA

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(Formerly Frederick Chapter of ASLTA) http://www.mdaslta.org/

Hello ASL teachers and Friends,

Yes, we have changed our chapter name from Frederick ASLTA Chapter to MD ASLTA Chapter. The ASLTA Board approved the new bylaws in February. What does this mean to the officers? The officers will remain the same till October 4th when we will host our first ever Maryland Statewide ASL teachers Conference at Frederick Community College. At the conference we will have election to elect new officers.

MD ASLTA wants to thank you for your support and kind comments when we got the Chapter Excellence Award at the recent ASLTA Conference in Tampa. Four of the officers were at the conference. Eddy Laird, Jackie Kanekuni, Loretta Roult and myself. It was a great honor and we are thrilled. Eddy Laird and I gave a presentation on leadership at the Chapter Luncheon we had a good rapport with the luncheon participants.

On March 22nd we had our general meeting and a shareshop on "Benefits of using ASL Vlogs in the ASL Classroom". On April 5th we had have our annual ASL Vaudeville. Loretta Roult and E. Lynn Jacobowitz were the co-chairs.

We are "Hands-Waving" excited to announce that we will follow the foot of some other states that do have Statewide ASL teacher's conference with our own first ever MD Statewide ASL teacher's conference to be held on Saturday October 4th at Frederick Community College. We look forward to the many good things that will come out of the conference.

Feel free to visit our website at www.mdaslta.org.

David Martin, president

Missouri Chapter of ASLTA

We hosted a workshop called "Assimilation in ASL: What's That?" on May 3rd, 2008. This workshop was designed to engage ASL signers, interpreters and educators. The presenter, Franky Ramont, discussed how to identify the process through analyzing classifiers and role shifting. We worked on various clips to identify particular situations and analyze role shifting and view from the signer's perspective.

The MoAD's Deafhood Committee is working and progressing forward in achieving the goal laid out by MoAD President Ella Eakins in having a Deafhood conference. For more information, contact Beth Williams the registration coordinator at cewmew@charter.net. You can watch updates on either websites at www.moadshowme.org or www.gslad.org.

North Carolina Chapter of ASLTA http://www.ncaslta.org/

The NCASLTA has been quite active in providing several statewide workshops primarily for ASL instructors and interpreters. Several NCASLTA/ASLTA members including Keith Cagle, Bob Moore, Sharon Hurley, Lynn Dey and myself were engaged in heightening ASL education/training for those in attendance for more than 20 hours since the ASLTA Conference in Florida. A few more workshops have been planned for our NCASLTA Conference in November. We are excited about Jason Zinza being part of our conference.

About a month ago Cindy Decker-Pickell represented the NCASLTA to the Department of Public Instruction in working with Rachael Ragin on finalizing the ASL teaching standards which had been implemented for K-12 students in North Carolina last year. Since the incept of these standards, the NCASLTA has received inquiry from several NC public schools about the opportunity of offering ASL classes as well as the need for ASL certification training for their potential current staff members. Next month in August, the NCASLTA Board will convene to

discuss our role working with the State of NC and the DPI in regards to "study plan" for those who seek licensure from the State to teach ASL in K-12 schools.

With the much-needed goal of establishing a pool of ASL instructors for hiring purpose, one of our NCASLTA members, Ginny Moorefield has conducted a survey designed to determine training needs and ideas for ASL workshops and courses. Next month in August, the NCASLTA Board will convene in response to survey as well as discuss our role with the State of NC to help with consultation and implementation.

Even more, the NCASLTA have come up with several exciting projects that we will work on in the very near future. Obviously, we have so much work to do with our hands full but that is something I hope we all enjoy doing this and take pride in our accomplishments.

James Wilson, president

No other reports were received.



ACTFL, November 21-23, 2008

Who's going to ACFTL?

It is the largest convention for foreign language teachers (that includes us!) in the world. Nearly 3000 people show! This year, it's at the Disney Swan & Dolphin!

If you're planning on attending the ACTFL convention November 21-23, 2008 at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort Orlando, please let Florida ASLTA know so FASLTA can plan something that gets all of the ASL teachers together for a bit of information sharing and fun.

Contact the FASLTA-FFLA Liaison Committee Chair, Shawn Olmstead at shawn.olmstead@earthlink.net. (Please put "ACTFL Convention" in the subject line) by October 1st.

Shawn can even let you know about a way to get you in at an ACTFL member rate for LESS than the cost of an ACTFL membership. Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA) members pay ACTFL member rates; but FFLA membership is MUCH less than ACTFL membership.

Do your students resist the idea of following Deaf cultural norms?

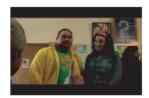
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What is an appropriate "Deaf Hug"?



What is the polite way to join a group of signers?



Should hearing people alert Deaf people to noises?

This DVD/workbook set contains an interactive DVD with 18 cultural scenarios and a 69-page workbook with readings and exercises designed to be used as homework activities for ASL/Deaf culture students. An excerpt from the workbook:

Deaf people are often oblivious to sounds in their environment. Sometimes they would like to know about these sounds. Other times, they wouldn't care. How do you decide to tell deaf people about sounds? Read the following and decide if most Deaf people would be interested in knowing about them or not.

- 1. Deaf person's car making funny noises
- Toilet running in a deaf person's house
- Mouse/rat footsteps in a deaf person's house
- 4. Hearing neighbors in a screaming match next door
- 5. Deaf person's stomach growling

For more information, visit www.treehousevideo.com Only \$24.95 per student for DVD and Workbook*



*NOTE: Workbook is provided on the DVD as a .pdf file



President's Post – Summer 2008 By Glenna Ashton

Hope you all have had a good summer! I've had several trips related to ASLTA during the summer.

I've attended the NAD Conference five times but this time was my first as a delegate to the Council of Representatives. I was representing ASL-TA as an affiliate of NAD. They had changed the procedures for motions with a shortened meeting schedule and it went smoothly.

The fourth ranked motion concerned the recognition of ASL as a national language on the federal level. Larry Forestal will be heading the NAD committee on that and I think ASLTA members could be very helpful to him. If you are interested, please contact him at vicepresident@aslta.org.

NAD also unveiled a new public relations campaign called "ASL is awesome for all!" This will focus on ASL in all forms of usage as a first language, a second language, and in interpreting. Again ASLTA members could be involved in that effort.

Finally, all the Deaf and Deaf-related organizations agreed to band together to present one voice to the government, agencies, and others by focusing on ASL as a language. So there was an emphasis on ASL as a language much like the original reason for the founding of NAD in 1880 – to preserve ASL in face of the changes in education and attitudes.

Plus I enjoyed meeting the ASLTA members that were at NAD! New Orleans was a fun town with lots of restaurants, bars, and street performances with great unique food and music (well, it felt loud to me, that's all). Unfortunately, I've still got a few NOLA pounds to lose!

Committee work continues to move forward with some being active during the summer and others still looking for more members. We hope to complete the slow preliminary work required to obtain our 501c3 status this year.

The ASL standards committee is also continuing their work with people anxiously awaiting the final ACTFL – approved copy expected next year.

The ASLTA website has undergone many changes with regular additions to the site – keeping checking it every now and then! We're adding video clips too!

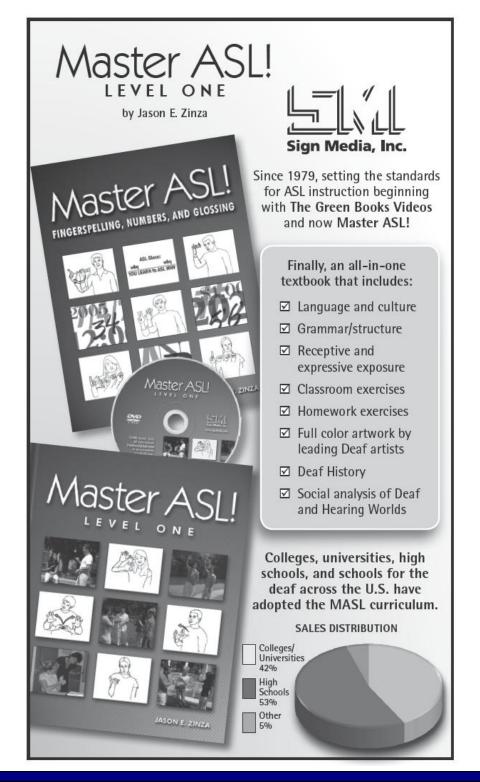
A new service is the **asltavrs.tv** relay service – be sure to put it on your speed dial. Further information is available at www.asltavrs.com. This will help with name recognition and revenues.

The ASLTA conference DVDs have been sent to those who preordered them. The last set with 24 DVDs of the workshops will be coming out soon.

There is an ASLTA group for members on Facebook so check it out at www.facebook.com.
ASLTA is moving and changing to provide more benefits for the members.

Soon it will be time to go back to school with new plans, activities, and materials. Remember to start or be active with your ASL Honor Society chapter. Make use of your local ASLTA chapter to set up regular workshops. Invite any Board member or contact any one of us for questions or help. However, the most important part is you, the ASLTA members – we want to hear from you and get you involved on committees. There is a list of committees on the web site and in the previous newsletters. Enjoy the last warm days of the summer!

Glenna Ashton



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Gerry Francini Heads 2009 ASLTA Conference at Phoenix

The American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) announced that next national ASLTA conference would take place at Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix on October 29 - November 1, 2009. The ASLTA Board appointed Geraldine "Gerry" Francini as the Conference Chair. At present, Judie Cronlund, Vice-chair; Larry Forestal, Secretary and Judy Mohan, Special Assistant have started to serve on the 2009 ASLTA Conference Committee with Gerry. The Conference Committee, which has met numerous times, is anticipating approximately 400 participants from across the nation and foreign nations. Nearly 325 people attended the previous ASL-TA conference at Tampa, Florida in October 2007. Further information and details are forthcoming.

ASL is the natural language of the American deaf community. In September 2007, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) hosted "Celebrate ASL!" in observance of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) International Day of Sign Languages at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Furthermore, the NAD has reaffirmed its stance that acquisition of language from birth is a human right for every person, and that deaf infants and children should be given the opportunity to acquire and develop proficiency in ASL as early as possible.

Concurrently, the ASLTA works closely with the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT). The CIT is a professional organization, which promotes educational advancement and specialized training for sign language interpreters. Undoubtedly, the ultimate success of professional interpreting depends on students' ASL proficiency, academic knowledge of the linguistic aspects of ASL, and the principles of effective interpreting in various fields such as education, business, employment, community service, and cultural enrichment.

At present, the ASLTA is the only national organization dedicated to the professional growth of teaching ASL and Deaf Studies. It is an individual membership organization comprised of ASL and Deaf Studies teachers and program directors ranging from elementary education to higher education as well as public/private service agencies in the United States.

-- Larry Forestal, Secretary, 2009 ASLTA Conference at Phoenix







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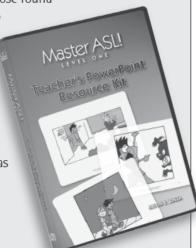
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American Sign Language Teachers Association



What? 5th National Professional Development Conference
Where? Arizona Biltmore Resort & SPA in Phoenix, Arizona
When? October 29 - November 1, 2009
Who can attend? ASLTA Members, ASL/Deaf Studies Professors and
Instructors, Program Directors, Linguists, Researchers,
Interested Individuals, Sponsors, and Friends
Conference theme?

VISION of ASL: CHALLENGE and CREATIVITY

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2008 ASLTA Membership



2008 ASLTA Membership POB 92445 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:

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