



ASLTA News
Spring, Volume 2009, No.1

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**ASLTA President's Post
Glenna Ashton**

The economy and the ASL teachers – ouch! It's nothing new; the current recession is affecting everyone and everything in some way. There is possible threat of cancelled ASL classes, laid off ASL teachers, downsized programs, and dried up sources of funding. Non-profit organizations are being affected as a result with lower levels of funding

and donations, memberships, and involvement.

Traditionally ASLTA and its chapters have focused on professional development and support of the certification evaluation system through meetings, workshops, and conferences. Schools, colleges, and universities often supported their faculty with the expenses such as registrations and travel. Now all that is changing, at least for this year.

What can ASLTA, the chapters, and individuals do to survive and prosper as professionals during the time of restraints? Sorry to say, but it would be creative fundraising and involvement. We could attempt to do similar things as Deaf Clubs and other organizations do. For example, something as simple as a 50/50 raffle can bring in much needed funds over a period of time. Perhaps meetings and workshops could be rotated in different areas of the chapter to make it easier for the time and travel involved and to reach out to more people in each part. Or there could be cooperative efforts between a few organizations to co-sponsor a weekend event so that people don't have to spend time and money to go to each one separately. Perhaps certain businesses and service organizations could set up scholarships. Indeed, all of this and more has been done by some chapters. Fundraising could be done at the school/college level to support the programs and teachers. Since there will be tight budgets everywhere, it is likely that ASL teachers may not get the administrative support once enjoyed, or even never enjoyed.



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Involvement will be needed at all levels from the school or college to the federal level to make sure that ASL does not suffer as a consequence of reductions. The Democratic federal administration is much more favorable to education including world languages, but many decisions are made at the state and county/district levels. Advocacy skills need to be learned or developed even further since the ASL teachers and organizations will have to look out for themselves, while everyone else is busy saving their own selves. Cooperation with other world language teachers and organizations could be helpful. A good source of language advocacy is at Joint National Council on Languages (JNCL), which ASLTA is a member of, on www.languagepolicy.org.

Meanwhile ASLTA continues to move forward in increasing the number of ASLTA - certified teachers, developing our web site and other media further, and preparing for the 2009 conference in Phoenix, Arizona. We continue to cooperate with other organizations such as NAD, CIT, ACTFL, and JNCL. However, we are a fully volunteer organization dependent on the volunteer Board, committees, and members to help us achieve our mission and goals.

The mission of the American Sign Language Teachers Association is to perpetuate, preserve, and promote American Sign Language and Deaf Culture through excellence in teaching. This includes teaching ASL as a heritage or first language, as a second language, and as part of Deaf Studies.

Tagline - Advocate. Professionalize. Teach.



Conference of Interpreter Trainers

Are you an interpreter mentor or teacher?

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If you answered YES, this exciting online seminar is for you!

Join us May 13th-15th for a free online seminar to explore Technology Tools for Assessing ASL-English Interpretation led by Danny Roush from Eastern Kentucky University.

Over the course of 3 days, we will focus on ideas and examples of current and potential uses of technology to comment on, and/or assess video-recorded interpretations. CEUs will be available for participation in this discussion.

For more information please visit our web site at

<http://www.asl.neu.edu/niec/>



Chapter Liaison News

Pat Beech

The 2009 ASLTA conference is fast approaching. We are making plans for a Chapters Meeting. As soon as the details are finalized, I will let you know via e-mail. In the meantime, please think about who will represent your Chapter at the meeting.



It is time for another Biennial Review. I e-mailed the form to all chapter POCs. Please fill it out, and mail it to me by April 3, 2009. Additionally, the ASLTA board decided to resume the annual \$35 renewal fee for all active chapters - starting now for this year 2009. Please include the check with the Biennial Review. For more information, contact me at chapter@aslta.org.

As the ASLTA guidelines (can be found on website) stated, each chapter:

- Have at least 8 members
- Have officers such as president, vice-president, secretary and/or treasurer, and PDC. All of these officers are required to be members of ASLTA
 - Provide at least 12 hours of professional development per year
 - Send meeting minutes and contribute news/workshop announcements to Chapter Liaison

When you have new officers, change in officers, workshops, etc., please do inform chapter@aslta.org and webmaster@aslta.org so those can be posted to the ASLTA website.

Active: California Los Angeles, California Sacramento Valley, California San Diego, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana Willard, Kentucky Bluegrass, Maryland (formerly Frederick), Maryland Chesapeake Bay, Michigan, Minnesota Loon, Missouri, New Jersey, New York Greater Rochester/Lilac, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon Northwest, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas Dallas-Fort Worth,

Texas Houston, Virginia Veditz, Washington, West Virginia Mountaineers, and Wisconsin.

Reactivated: Alabama

Inactive: Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois Chicagoland, Massachusetts, New York NYC Metro, Oklahoma, Utah Beehive, Virginia Dogwood, and Virginia Shenandoah Valley.

Below are reports from six chapters.

Thanks,

Patricia Beech, Chapter Liaison

Alabama ASLTA

Our chapter met January 24, 2009 with the goal of re-activating our organization. We were able to utilize video conferencing equipment at the school for the Deaf and meet with members throughout the state.

Officers were elected at the general meeting. President-Charlene Crump; Vice President – Judith Gilliam; Secretary-Dee Johnston; Treasurer – Michael Reutter; Members at Large - Rickey Clemmons, Kim Moon, Paul Ellis.

The board and members are a small, but very enthusiastic group and have made plans for quarterly meetings for the remainder of the year. On April 25, members will meet for a board meeting and a SHARE shop where individual participants bring ideas and methods of



teaching to share with others. Each person will leave with multiple projects, ready to teach! In the summer, we will join in a combined effort in conjunction with the Alabama Association of the Deaf (AAD) to bring in a speaker to talk about ASLTA and the importance of ASLTA certification during the AAD conference.

*

Colorado ASLTA

Updated list of Officers:
Cathy Bennett – President
David Aranda – Vice President
Timothy Chavalier – Professional Development Chair
Jodie Adams – Secretary
Vacant – Treasurer

*

Florida ASLTA

Updated list of Officers:
President: Alysse Rasmussen
Vice-President: Reinaldo J Vega
Treasurer: William Cooper, Jr
Secretary: Lori Cimino
Directors:
Jer Loudenback
Linda Combee
JoyAnn DiGiovanni
Past President: Cheryl Zuckerman

FASLTA's 2010 Conference will be held over President's Day Weekend (Feb 12-14) in Tampa. Conference Committee members are: Elias Goutoufas, Marika Robinson, and Paul Jones.

*

North Carolina ASLTA

From James M. Wilson, President:

The new year of 2009 has passed, and now the NC ASLTA Conference is around the corner. The Conference is taking place at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC on April 16th-18th. The theme is "The Power of ASL". With the help of our (NC) very own Deaf Artist by name of Nelson Oakley, he designed the logo. His artwork showing our theme is strikingly powerful. We will have Jason Zinza as our keynote speaker and workshop presenter. Moreover, we are fortunate to take advantage of one full-day workshop sponsored by Sorenson. For more information, please feel free to contact Bob Moore at rmoore@gardner-webb.edu and/or Lynn Dey at ldey@gardner-webb.edu.

I am pleased or, more appropriately to say, proud to inform that the NC ASLTA State Chapter has begun its business conducting SLPI: ASL ratings. WE have been awarded contract with Louisiana School for the Deaf to do the ratings for their staff over one-year period, effective July 1st. Because of similar nature of inquiry among several states with their potential interest in us, they wonder...how do we conduct the SLPI interviews for those from elsewhere in America than NC? Thanks to VP technology...we certainly use video-phone with the DVD recorder recording "live" interviews with an interviewer, followed by making DVD copies for ap-



proved raters to do the rating work. Again, for those who have inquired about how we began the process, they realized as a matter of fact that we have a larger pool of experienced raters, ranging from 4-23 years. I know it is not easy to emulate but for us, it is indeed a challenge.

Approaching the end of my first two-year term, I wanted to go on record and from the bottom of my heart that I have been very privileged to work with a very fine team of Board members. So is true for Kathy Apperson who has agreed to coordinate the NC ASLTA's SLPI: ASL. Most importantly of all, it is the NC ASLTA members who have shown their support toward our leadership, and I thank them.....

*

Pennsylvania ASLTA

We had an extremely popular and successful workshop titled "ASL Conceptual Blending Using Visual Media" in February. The presenters were Jason Norman and David Rivera. The workshop compared American Sign Language and the language of film. Both were fully animated and included rich visual details. The film clips showed a variety of genres and special effects that were ultimately translated into ASL. It was fun and highly recommended to all!

*

South Dakota ASLTA

President: Melinda Winter

Vice President: Kelly Cook
Secretary/Treasurer: Bonnie Rauk
Activities Coordinator: Christine Multra-Kraft

Hosting ASL Films at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD March 6 and 7.

Hosting "Silent Immersion" Tuesday, March 24 from 6:30-8:30pm at Deaf Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

*

Wisconsin ASLTA

This year WisASLTA celebrates our 10 yr anniversary!

On February 28, from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, WisASLTA hosted a workshop at Northcentral Tech Room E101/102 in Wausau, WI. Presenter Jason Zinza discussed methods for effectively teaching ASL in the 21st century. This was a hands-on workshop that introduced and reinforced key concepts essential to rejuvenating tired teaching. Activities and discussion helped us learn how to put theory into practice. This workshop was presented in ASL without voice interpretation and attended by 40+ eager attendees.

WisRID and WisASLTA look forward to another terrific opportunity to learn and enjoy in an ASL ONLY environment at the annual ASL WEEKEND. This will be held during May 1-3 at Lion's Camp in beautiful Rosholt, WI.



WisASLTA is very excited to announce an intensive "Master ASL" workshop to be offered during August 10-13. Please see the flyer for details.



Being an ASLTA Board Member

Trix Bruce

Professional Development Chair

Some American Sign Language Teachers' Association members have asked me about what's involved in board membership. I'm honored to be on the ASLTA board, and to serve as Professional Development Chair. I'm happy to have the opportunity to describe my experiences, and encourage you to join the board.

Five years ago, our former ASLTA president, Leslie Greer, asked me to be a part of this team. I was thrilled to join the board! I have very much enjoyed working with Tom Riggs, our previous vice president, and I'm looking forward to working with our current vice president, Larry Forestal.

Volunteering involves flying to board meetings, taking time to read through paperwork, answering questions, researching information, discussing issues, and making decisions on behalf of the organization. ASLTA board members don't earn money going to conferences and board meetings; in fact, each board member is responsible to pay out of pocket for personal needs such as day care, and others.

As a board member, I keep track of earned clock hours, and retain copies of past flyers. A member asked me to re-

view his workshop flyer, and I was glad to do this. I am currently working on creating ASLTA Presenters Directory. I'm thrilled to share my professional skills and appreciate it when other board members do the same. I have learned a lot from my fellow board members! Each of us has a different perspective. We share responsibilities, make plans, and evaluate past projects and decisions. My volunteer work with ASLTA is very rewarding.

Yes, volunteering with the board does take time and effort. Board members have chosen to do this work because we know it will contribute to ASLTA's strength and mission. Consider that most people find themselves in need at some point in their lives. Today you may be the person with the ability to help, but tomorrow you may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort. We need each other!

Our former president, Leslie Greer, and our current president, Glenna Ashton, have dedicated a tremendous number of hours to this volunteer work. Their positions are challenging! They communicate with those on the upper levels of various organizations, work closely with other groups, and help ASLTA run smoothly.

Board member Keith Cagle handles evaluation processing. Betti Bonni, our treasurer, keeps the books, recording money coming in and going out. Dorothy Wilkins is ASLTA secretary, keeping an eye on every detail and writing out the meeting minutes. Pat Beech contributes as our chapter representative. There are several committees, each one working



under a chairperson. In my position, I receive and send a lot of email, answer questions, and respond to requests about training and professional development. It's amazing to see the line up of new committee members joining the ASLTA "family" to help run this great organization!

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each of our board members for their hard work, ideas, and volunteer service. It's simply amazing that there has not been a "vacant" board position for a long time. We've had excellent participation, keeping ASLTA standing strong.

You will probably have some special reasons of your own to consider board membership. Once you're on the job, you'll know that your efforts are accomplishing something, your talents are appreciated, and you are making a difference.

Yes, it's a challenge to put our time, ideas and work together to keep ASLTA thriving. But board membership is satisfying, allowing us to focus on what we love, assure progress for organizational goals, be part of a team, gain respect, and stand up to be counted.



ASL Honor Society: Record Growth!
Jason Zinza

This year the ASL Honor Society, a program offered by ASLTA to all members, has experienced its greatest growth ever! Chapters have been established all over the USA at middle schools, high schools, community colleges, and universities. Here's a summary of what the ASL Honor Society offers:

- recognition for high academic achievement with honor cords (high school), the Alice Cogswell Medal (colleges), or the Laurent Clerc Medal (3+ years of studying ASL);
- eligibility to apply for ASL Teacher Mini-Grants to support ASL education;
- eligibility to participate in the annual ASL Literature Competition.

All ASL teachers are encouraged to form ASL Honor Society chapters on campus to encourage higher standards, better retention of students into advanced levels of ASL, and for student recognition. For more information visit the ASL Honor Society website at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>

ASL Honor Society: 2009 ASL Literature Competition
Jason Zinza

The third annual ASL Literature Competition is celebrating a record number of participants from all over the USA! Submissions were entered in two different categories: Traditional ASL Literature & Public Service Announcement. For the PSA, students made commercials on the topic of "Why People Should Learn ASL" which will be broadcast on Youtube for the world to see. Winners will be announced on May 15, 2009 on the ASL Honor Society website. Visit <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org> for more information.

If your students missed the opportunity this year, plan ahead for 2010!



ASL National Standards Committee: REVIEWERS NEEDED
National Standards Committee

The ASL National Standards Committee has worked on developing standards for K-16 ASL education for the past two years. Now, ASLTA members are encouraged to review the draft



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document and offer feedback. If you're interested in being a reviewer, please contact Kim Brown Kurz (kbkurz@gmail.com) or Jason E. Zinza (jzinza@gmail.com) for more information. Those who teach ASL at the elementary and middle school / junior high levels are especially needed.

What Does a Reviewer Do?

- Reviewers carefully read each section of the draft document, taking notes on any thoughts or questions that come to mind.
- Reviewers look at the big picture ("does everything flow together?") and make sure the details and content support the big picture.
- Reviewers make sure the spiral concept is solid and consistent from kindergarten to college, and that all the areas of communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities are present.

Who Can Be a Reviewer?

Those who have many years of teaching ASL are highly valued; those with strong linguistics, sociology, and culture training; program administrators and evaluators in the fields of ASL education, ASL teacher training; ASL assessment specialists; ASL specialists who work with ASL as a first language; ASL teachers with experience in kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, community college, and university; individuals who are familiar with the 5 C's / national foreign language standards; those who have a passion for raising expectations and making a difference in the field of ASL education.

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DEADLINE for
ASLTA PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW
APPLICATION
for Phoenix, Arizona is
June 30, 2009.

The professional interviews will be scheduled for Thursday, October 29th thru Sunday morning on November 1st.

Check into our www.aslta.org website and click on the tab of "Certification", and then click on "Professional." There is a link for you to download an evaluation package and fill out, and then mail it with a check to Keith M. Cagle, PO Box 39, Newell, NC 28126

First come, first serve.

If any question, please contact

Keith M. Cagle at

asltaevaluation2003@yahoo.com



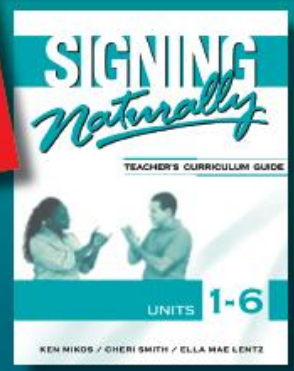
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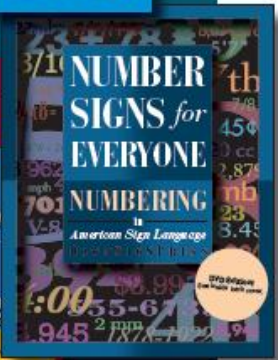
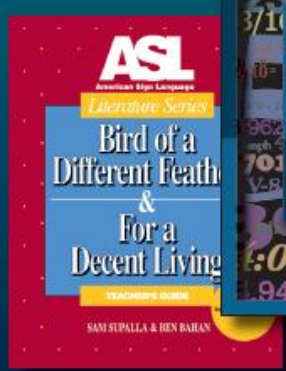
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Place: Conference Center at
Arizona Biltmore Resort & SPA,
Grand and Canyon Rooms

If you would like to attend, please fill out this workshop application form. All applications are due by July 1, 2009.
Application must be returned to: Sign Media, Inc., 4020 Blackburn Lane, Burtonsville, MD 20866-1167.

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Email _____

Name of School or Institution _____

Address _____

Which level of ASL do you teach? ASL Level 1 ASL Level 2 ASL Level 3 _____

Which text are you currently using? _____

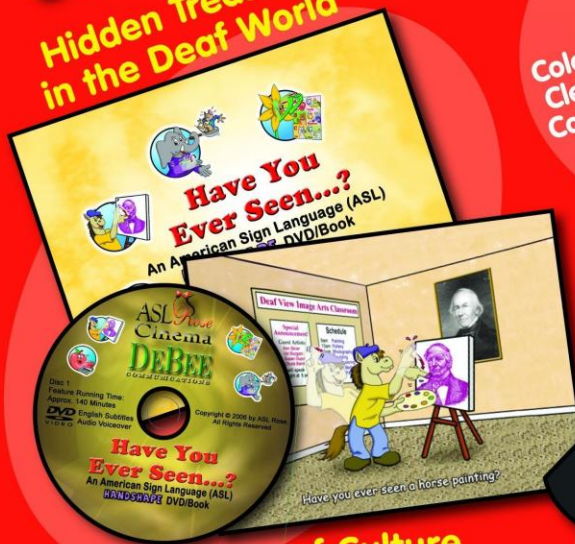


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The regular combo registration will cost \$425 per person from April 16, 2009 to September 15, 2009. The late combo registration will cost \$475 per person from September 16, 2009 on.

(Cut along the line)

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Town/City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Please make check or money order payable to: 2009 ASLTA Conference



Mail it to: Judy Mohan, Special Assistant
2009 ASLTA Conference
P.O. Box 71297
PHOENIX, AZ 85050





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ASLTA Conference 2007 DVDs

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



FYE

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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2009 ASLTA Membership



**2009 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:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Main Email (REQUIRED): _____

Other Email: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Membership Categories:

Certified Membership (Voting) \$ _____ (\$50)
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To maintain valid certification dues
must be paid each and every year)

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