

# American Sign Language Teachers Association's Winter 2017 - 2018

# *Newsletter*



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# Utah 2017 Conference Report

Dan Hoffman, Ed.D.

Hello my name is....

# Introducing the Board



(click on the title to see our introductory videos)



**Arlene Garcia**  
*Interim President*



**Jenny Gough**  
*Vice President*



**Raychelle Harris**  
*Secretary*



**Daniel Heinze**  
*Treasurer*



**Beatrice Pfaff**  
*Chapters & Regions Director*



**Janice Smith Warshaw**  
*Professional Development Director*



**David Martin**  
*Communications Director*



**Daniel Gough & Tim Riker**  
*Advocacy Co-Directors*



**Rayburn Boland & Petra Horn-Marsh**  
*Heritage Language Co-Directors*



**Jason Zinza**  
*World Language Director*



**Amy June Rowley**  
*Evaluation Director*



**Kristine Hall**  
*2019 National Conference Chair*



# Interim President's Report

Arlene Garcia, M.A.

It is with a deep sense of satisfaction I write this President's report to share activities, goals, action plans, and successes that has occurred in the past five months since the 2017 National ASLTA Professional Development conference in Salt Lake City, Utah with a record breaking 525 registrants and an expansion of 9 Board Directors to 14. Kudos and HANDS WAVING to Chair Kim Smith and the Utah-ASLTA's committee as they did an amazing job pulling recent conference together!

While I draw attention to all of activities, goals, action plans, and successes by the organization, as of October 2017, ASLTA Board voted and asked me to be the Interim President for the National ASLTA organization after Elected President Brooks resigned. I am fortunate to have this opportunity to work with 2017 - 2019 ASLTA Board. I can say with confidence that, as a whole, this current ASLTA Board Directors represents the most comprehensive group who will work to improve our organization and the infrastructure of the organization to reflect the fast-growing field of the ASL profession. We are going to be the change we want to see but we can't do it without our ASLTA active, good standing members and certified members!

With gratitude to every ASLTA Board who has made all of our work, as a volunteer organization, possible as they continue to present strong level of commitment, dedication and loyalty. Without doubt, the efforts from each ASLTA Board member will strengthen our organization but with time, patience, and respect as we continue to serve as an ASLTA Board member. Like what Veditz once said... "As long as we have Deaf people on earth, we will have signs... our beautiful sign language is the noblest gift God has given to Deaf People."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arlene', is written on a light blue, rounded rectangular background.



# ASLTA Activities



*September 2017:* Council on Educating the Deaf (CED) in Washington, DC

Former President Keri Brooks, Dr. Bobbie Jo Kite, Tawny Holmes, JD and Howard Rosenblum, JD & CEO of NAD



PC: Jason Zinza

*November 2017:* ASL Round Table (ASLRT) in Indianapolis, Indiana at Indiana School for the Deaf



Interim President Garcia, Heritage Co-Directors, Horn-Marsh & Boland, VP Gough, Chapters Director Pfaff, Evaluation Director Rowley and Rory Osbrink introduce themselves to the ASLRT audience PC: Kester Horn-Marsh

*October 2017:* First ASLTA Board Face-to-Face Meeting in Colorado

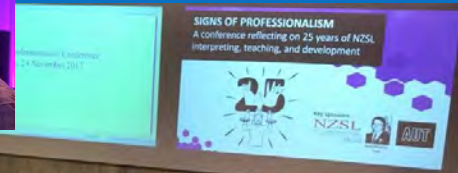
*November 2017:* American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) in Nashville, Tennessee

ASL attendees gather for a picture in front of ACTFL banner PC: ACTFL Professional Photographer



*November 2017:* New Zealand Sign Language Conference

PC: Benjamin Lewis



*October 2017:* First ASLTA Board Face-to-Face Meeting in Colorado



From L-R, back: D. Gough, Hall, Zinza. Middle: Smith Warshaw, Rowley, Boland, Riker. Front: Martin, Harris, Garcia, J. Gough and Heinze. Missing - Pfaff. PC: Random passerby



# ASLTA Goals & Action Plans

## ASLTA Board's Goals:

1. Creating bilingual Deaf-centric bylaws
2. Revisiting past board and member decisions and why or how those decisions weren't reflected in bylaws or in bylaw revisions
3. Having meeting minutes sent out to members in ASL and English as soon as they are reviewed and approved
4. Communicate with members more often and through various avenues
5. Continued consulting from Joshua Beckman, former parliamentarian for ASLTA



The board is all in a circle with hands in middle overlapping each other; cheering, "ASLTA Onwards!"

PC: David Martin

## ASLTA Board's Action Plans:

1. Update Information, Policy, Procedure, & Guidelines (IPPG)
2. Expand Chapters & Regions Model & Guidelines
3. Transition to New Website Host & Expand Website Usage
4. Organize and offer ASL Literature Online Course
5. Conference 2019 Site Visit and Board Meeting
6. Finalize ASLRT & ASLTA MOU
7. Create incentives for members who serve on committees
8. Start National ASLTA Professional Development Conference Call for Proposals
9. Announce New Logo Design Competition for Deaf High School Students.
10. Archive the ASLTA Facebook group

# ASLTA Board Accomplishments



1. Attend Board online meetings – 2x/month for 2+ hours each
2. Represent ASLTA at conferences (CED, ASLRT, ACTFL, New Zealand)
3. Gathered for Board Face-to-Face Weekend Meeting/Retreat
4. Complete ASLTA History workshop with Leslie C. Greer, Past President
5. Underwent Social Justice Training by Mark Ramirez
6. Listened to Leslie C. Greer & Jessica Bentley-Sassman, CIT Board members, give a workshop on Running an Effective Meeting
7. Revised & Developed ASLTA Board's Roles & Responsibilities
8. Review Bylaws and identify areas of improvement
9. Review Budget and identify areas for cost savings measures

## September - December



Mark Ramirez, social justice trainer, presents to the Board PC: Arlene Garcia



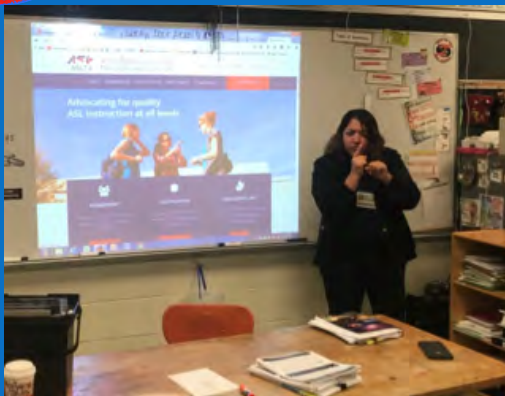
The board in front of RMDS sign  
PC: Amy Novotny

10. Review Strategic planning goals, determine progress and next steps
11. ASLRT as part of ASLTA organization (MOU pending)
12. Create official ASLTA organization Facebook Page, Twitter and Instagram
13. New Website host & expand ASLTA Website
14. Visit/Tour Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS) in Lakewood, Colorado
15. Volunteer ASL Storytelling with elementary students at Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) in Indianapolis, Indiana





# ASLTA Strategic Priorities



VP J. Gough shares stories with Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) elementary students PC: Arlene Garcia

6. Updated Evaluation & Certification system and promotion of 'ASLTA Certification' as the gold standard for a variety of ASL and Deaf Studies specializations

7. Updated Bylaws, policies, procedures and guidelines for positions and actions/events

1. Constant communication with our Members through Information & Member Center via ASLTA's Website, Quarterly Newsletters, eBlast Announcements & Calls for Action
2. Explore becoming ASL Professionals Association with greater emphasis on three focus areas: Heritage Languages, World Languages and Deaf Studies
3. Evaluate & maintain long-term financial oversight and fiscal stability/growth
4. Explore possible partnerships with sister organizations (e.g. NAD, CIT, ASLRT, ASDC, ACTFL, SASL)
5. Revitalize chapters & regions; increase membership & explore possibility of a brick & mortar office with an Executive Director



ASLTA board members in front of RMDS' timeline and history created by students PC: Barbara Wingfield

# Vice President's Report

Jenny Gough, Ed.D.



In my report as Vice President, I want to share about six different topics from July 2017 until now. These topics are regarding our organization, our progress, and our future projects:

1) *Bylaws and Infrastructure*: The first video was released via e-Blast last October. Both Joshua Beckman and I explained about the bylaws and infrastructure and how they are streamlined.

2) *2015 Business Meeting Minutes*: At the 2015 National Professional Development Conference (NPDC) in Minnesota, the 2013-2015 National ASLTA Board members did not have reviewers to review the business meeting minutes prior to the conference before voting the minutes as read. [\[Link\]](#)

3) *2017 Business Meeting Minutes*: The business meeting minutes from the 2017 National ASLTA NPDC in Utah were submitted to the three reviewers who were at the meeting to ensure accuracy. I received feedback from two reviewers, waiting on the third. After I receive their feedback, I will submit a clean copy of business meeting minutes prior to the 2019 NPDC's business meeting for review.

4) *Bylaws Committee*: The bylaws committee worked very hard and made good progress on revising and updating the bylaws. We focused on revising the mission statement and decided to add a vision statement. In addition, we added a new social justice framework. We also expanded the information about new ASLTA board positions in the IPPG as well as clarified some policies and guidelines. When the draft revision is approved by the board, I will share a copy of the draft bylaws for your review before the 2019 NPDC.



# Vice President's Report, cont'd.

5) *ASLTA Members Survey*: The ASLTA board worked on developing a survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather statistics on members' demographics, and to seek members' input on workshops/ training, use of ASL curriculum, ASLTA media communications, etc. **Please click here to complete this important survey.**



6) *ASLTA Website*: The board investigated pricing plans and agreed to change the web host and server for the ASLTA website to save on costs. We will also expand the members' features on the website. You will have access to ASLTA member database, discussion board, and many different features. You will see the change soon in the next few months. If you notice some features are still under construction, it is because we are still working on the changes.

In closing, I look forward to sharing more information with you in the next newsletter. Thank you.

This is a previously disseminated video report (October 2017) with captions discussing the bylaw issues along with Joshua Beckman's expert consultation and input



# Secretary's Report

Raychelle Harris, Ph.D.



Hello my name is....

# Treasurer's Report

Daniel Heinze, M.A.



Hello my name is....



# Chapters & Regions Director's Report

Beatrice Pfaff, M.A.



Hello ASLTA members, Chapters, and Board.

I wish you all a pleasant holiday! My name is Beatrice Pfaff and I'm from Indiana. I am the Chapters/Regions Director. I am looking forward working with you for the next two years, 2017 through 2019.

My goal is to be accessible to discuss chapter issues such as regional conferences and chapter guidelines and so on. My text is 317-531-2547 or email me at [chapters@aslta.org](mailto:chapters@aslta.org).

We have approximately 21 chapters in all. Some chapters did not renew their membership (due September 1) and will need to renew. It is not too late. Please pay \$35 for the annual dues online at [www.aslta.org](http://www.aslta.org).



Please update the **profile of your Chapter** including updating your contact information. Send your updated bylaws to [chapters@aslta.org](mailto:chapters@aslta.org). The updated information will assist me in contacting chapters and preparing for regional conferences this coming summer 2018.



# Chapters & Regions Director's Report

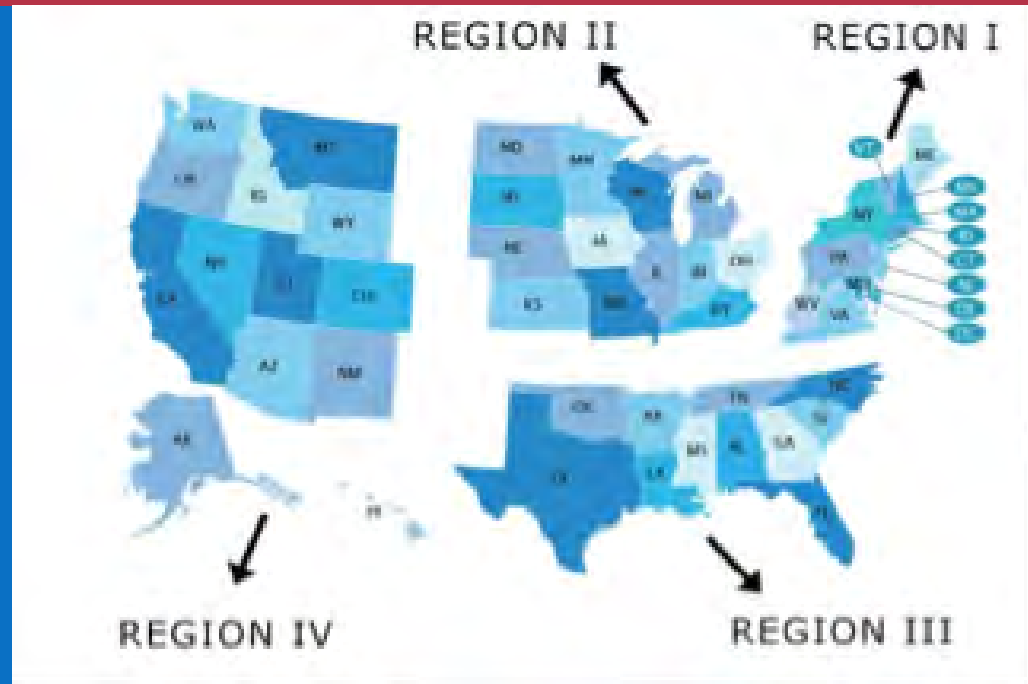
We have four regional chapter representatives. They are:

**Region 1** - Brenda Schertz  
([northeast@aslt.org](mailto:northeast@aslt.org))

**Region 2** - Bryan Bowen and  
Maura Hencker  
([midwest@aslt.org](mailto:midwest@aslt.org))

**Region 3** - Bo Clements  
([south@aslt.org](mailto:south@aslt.org))

**Region 4** - Barbara Hayes  
([west@aslt.org](mailto:west@aslt.org))



The chapter representatives and chapter presidents met in October and again in November. We will meet again in January to determine the winning bid for the upcoming 2018 Regional Conference.

It has been a pleasure to serve you all. Happy holidays!

# Professional Development Director's Report

Janice Smith Warshaw, Ed.D.



Hello, this is Dr. Janice Smith Warshaw. I am your National ASLTA Professional Development (PD) Director. I would like to share with you some tidbits which have happened since I first became PD director.

In late August and early September, the ASLTA President, Vice President and I met with Kristine Hall, the 2019 National Professional Development Conference (NPDC) Chair, and her conference committee issues regarding the conference site and costs. We signed a memo of understanding (MOU) between the ASLTA - Southern California Chapter and the National ASLTA organization. After signing, they were able to share an official announcement about the 2019 National Professional Conference in San Diego, California. You will see upcoming announcements on social media. It is a very exciting time!



The 2021 NPDC Co-Chairs, Arlon Nash and Lori Woods, from the ASLTA – Ohio Chapter and I met to start planning for the 2021 conference. Both co-chairs are looking for a site in Columbus, Ohio, for the 2021 NPDC. The next step is for me to submit a revised copy of ASLTA Conference Planning Guidelines.

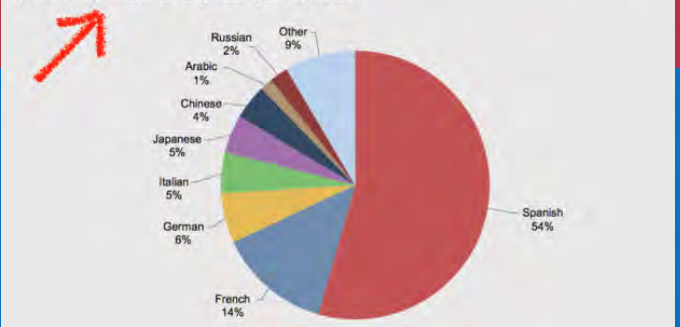
In closing, I want to share something very exciting. We, the National ASLTA, will host our first online workshop in January. More information will be announced soon.



# ASL Excluded from 2016 AAAS Report

In late October, Dr. Jason Zinza, World Languages Director discovered a report where ASL which was deliberately excluded from the 2016 American Academy of Arts and Science (AAAS) report on world languages in the USA (see pie chart). Dr. Zinza stated that AAAS and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) collaborated on this project. He was alarmed to see ASL excluded because he felt there was no academic reason for it. Dr. Zinza proposed to find a way of how to advocate for ASL's inclusion in the AAAS report. On November 15, Tim Riker (Advocacy Co-Director), Dr. Zinza and I attended the ACTFL conference in Nashville, Tennessee. A day before the conference, there was an Assembly of Delegates (AoD), invitation-only summit of ACTFL's organizational members, which brings together representatives from state, regional, and national language organizations as well as other leaders, including ACTFL's Board of Directors. One of their meeting agenda topics was *"Moving Forward with the AAAS Report - Advocacy and Legislative Panel."* After the panel discussion, we met with three leaders: Marty Abbott, Executive Director of ACTFL; Dr. William

Distribution of Postsecondary Course Enrollments in Languages Other than English (Excluding American Sign Language), 2013



Rivers, Executive Director of Joint National Committee for Languages – National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS); and Matt Schlesinger, Policy Associate, The Sheridan Research Group.

We expressed our deep concerns about AAAS's Statistical Report which was released in 2016 and excluded ASL from the report. Dr. Rivers agreed and commented that he will make sure to make some corrections and amend the statistical report. In the end, our meeting with Ms. Abbott, Dr. Rivers and Mr. Schlesinger was productive and educational. They know now to make sure that ASL is recognized and is considered as equally important as other foreign languages. Our job is not done - we have to continue making sure to correct misconceptions about ASL, which is the third most studied foreign language in the U.S.

# Communications Director's Report

David Martin, M.A.



Be sure to follow us on all three social media accounts below: Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. The more followers, the more likes, the more louder we can become as advocates and allies for ASL and sign languages in the United States!

Use the following hashtags when posting about ASL:

ASLTA organization: #ASLTA

ASLTA national conferences:  
#ASLTA2019, #ASLTA2021,  
#ASLTA2023 and so on!



@NationalASLTA



@NationalASLTA



facebook.com/NationalASLTA





# Advocacy Co-Directors' Report

Daniel Gough, Ed.D.

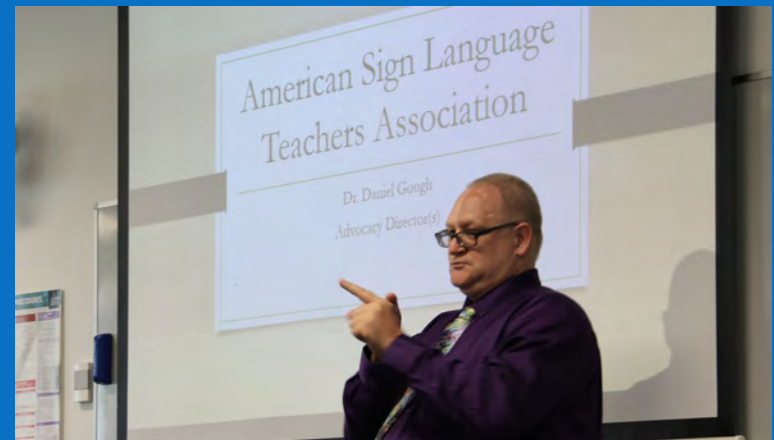
Tim Riker, M.A.



Hello, my name is Dr. Daniel Gough. Timothy Riker and I are your Advocacy Co-Directors. We started out by developing a position description for ASLTA's Advocacy Director.

Secondly, I attended New Zealand Sign Language Teachers Association Professional Conference. I presented about ASLTA organization infrastructure. The benefits of a professional organization that includes components such as current trends in Sign Language instruction, professional networking, and sign language teaching certification were discussed. A working relationship between the New Zealand Sign Language Tutors Association (NZSLTA) and ASLTA was developed.

We are seeking volunteers to help with a committee to work on recognizing and identifying various Signed Languages in North America. If you are interested, email us at [advocacy@aslta.org](mailto:advocacy@aslta.org). We look forward to serving you as your co-advocacy directors.



PC: Susie Ovens



# Heritage Language Co-Directors' Report

Rayburn Boland, Ed.S.

Petra Horn-Marsh, Ph.D.



We as Heritage Language Co-Directors want to share two exciting information with you all.

We had a successful American Sign Language Round Table (ASLRT) gathering in Indianapolis at Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD). There was an excellent rapport between ASLRT coordinators and ASLTA board members in discussing the future merging of both organizations.

There were several ASLTA board members who came to ASLRT (myself and Petra, as well as Interim President Arlene Garcia, Evaluation Director Amy June Rowley, and Chapters & Regions Director Beatrice Pfaff). We collaboratively gave a presentation on our proposal for ASLRT to join ASLTA and what the infrastructure would look like. The ASLRT participants gave their blessing for ASLRT to join ASLTA.





# Heritage Language Co-Directors' Report



Also, the most coveted National ASL K-12 standards through Clerc Center will be released in January 2018, which will offer guidance to the work of ASL Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (ASL CIA). ASL CIA is a group of ASL teachers and specialists who meet twice every year for the purposes of development, revision, and furthering curriculum, instruction and assessment in ASL as a heritage language of deaf and hard-of-hearing students.



Please be on the look out for updates in the near future on the next ASLRT in 2018 at Little Rock, Arkansas! If you have any questions or need more information about ASL as our heritage language, please feel free to email [heritage@aslt.org](mailto:heritage@aslt.org).



# ASLRT 2017 Chair Report

Cara Barnett, M.A.



Indiana Deaf School (ISD), along with their famous Hoosier hospitality, hosted 11th ASL Round Table (ASLRT) November 8-10, 2017 with 97 people in attendance. ASL teachers, specialists and school administrators from approximately 48 deaf schools in America and Canada came to ASLRT at Indianapolis, Indiana. Rosa Lee, ISD alumna, gave a sensational kick-off performance with her one-woman show full of Deaf, Black-Deaf, Deaf American storytelling, poems and songs.

For two days, following the theme, "Maintenance, Measurement and Mastery", presentations and discussions focused on the shift from using term L1 to Heritage Language, how to stick with the ASL framework, ASL curriculum as one of the transformative agents, Deaf students of color, how to elevate our roles as ASL teacher/specialist, and to think and plan our teaching in ASL. The attendees agreed that it is high time to elevate and expand the Heritage Language framework for Deaf students in Deaf education.



# ASLRT 2017 Chair Report



Due to the prevalence of language deprivation in the developmental experiences of most of Deaf students, the attendees also agreed that meeting their urgent language acquisition and development needs is of paramount importance in ASL instruction and planning. During the conference, supporting Deaf Ecosystem, ISD ASLRT team gave away over one thousand dollars in giveaways from Deaf businesses to conference attendees. Another highlight of the conference included the use of Certified Deaf Interpreters to make the conference presentation and discussion smooth. ISD students themselves played a role in ASLRT by doing the introductions and showing appreciation of presenters for their time presenting at ASLRT conference.







# ASL CIA Logo Competition

Camille Jeter-Lorello, M.A.

**Be the ARTIST!**

**We are looking for a logo to represent our  
Language, Culture, and Education**

**Deadline: May 18, 2018**

**Prize: \$100.00**

The logo needs to illustrate or symbolize ASL CIA's mission in providing ASL curriculum, instruction and assessment, and educational resources for Deaf Heritage Language learners from early childhood through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. ASL CIA's main objective is to provide teaching and learning materials in ASL Arts with three focused areas: *curriculum, instruction, and assessment*.

**Competition requirements** are as follows:

The logo shall include the name **ASL CIA**

**Color: purple and light green. Earthy tone colors**

**Competition artist must be at least 18 years old to submit their artwork**

Submit your artwork to: [ASLCIALogo@gmail.com](mailto:ASLCIALogo@gmail.com)

No later than 11:59 pm EST on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Demonstrate your creative design skills and win a prize!**





# World Language Director's Report

Jason Zinza, Ph.D.

Hello, my name is ....



PC: Patricia McCarthy

# Evaluation Director's Report

Amy June Rowley, Ph.D.



Greetings,

We have been focusing on getting the evaluation platform up for the new evaluation system this past fall. A few issues we dealt with included evaluator training for using GoReact, as well as learning what to ask for from candidates when submitting work to GoReact for us to evaluate. That has taken time and we look forward to making this process more speedy and efficient in the future. We also focused on helping Professional level certified members transition to Master level if they were up for renewals. Many people still need to be transitioned over from the Professional Level to the Master level, and that is a work in progress which will continue as members approach their renewals.

This Spring the Evaluation office will be focusing on contacting people who hold Qualified level certification to see how they want to transition. There are several possible options for these Qualified certification holders so this will be an ongoing process and will require a lot of one-on-one meetings.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!





# National 2019 Conference Chair's Report

Kristine Hall, M.A.

Hello all! I am very excited to tell you that we have established a wonderful committee, with chairpersons ready and eager to get started on the planning for the conference! The conference will take place in San Diego at the Hyatt Manchester Hotel, right on the coast from June 29 – July 3, 2019!

We are really excited to make this a memorable conference. It is our goal to launch a youth program prior to the conference. This is definitely something new for ASLTA and this is one of the steps in solidifying our partnership with ASLRT. If you happen to have any ideas or know anyone who would love to be a part of this exciting project, give us a wave!

Our website is up and will continue to be updated. [www.aslta2019.com](http://www.aslta2019.com). We hope to launch registration soon. We are also recruiting sponsors to give support to the conference and its mission to provide professional development for you. If you know any potential sponsors, please let us know at [ASLTA2019Conf@gmail.com](mailto:ASLTA2019Conf@gmail.com)!

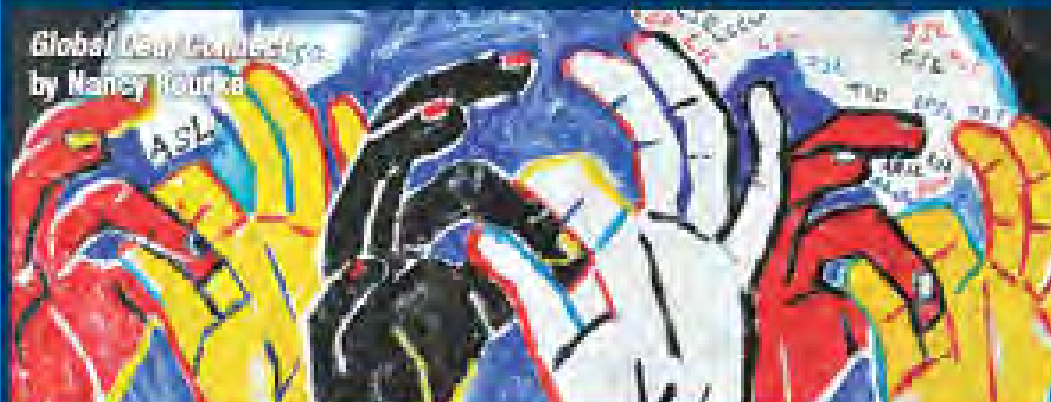
## SAVE THE DATE!

2019 Conference: June 30- July 3,  
2019

KEEP ME IN THE LOOP!

# AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO



Online or Face-to-Face • [UNCO.EDU/CEBS/asl-interpreting/](http://UNCO.EDU/CEBS/asl-interpreting/)



**UNC**

ASL & Interpreting Studies

**Click on the photo above to visit their page!**



**Gallaudet University's Department of ASL and Deaf Studies invites you to apply for the following faculty positions ([link](#)):**

*Two Tenure Track or Pre-Tenure Track in the ASL Program*

*One Lecturer (Non Tenure Track) in the ASL Program*

*One Tenure Track or Pre-Tenure Track in the Deaf Studies Program*

**For more information, contact [h-dirksen.bauman@gallaudet.edu](mailto:h-dirksen.bauman@gallaudet.edu)**



# *Holiday Wishes from the ASLTA Board!*



Advocacy

**Tim R.**

Treasurer '19 Conf. World Lang.

**Daniel H.**

**Kristine H.**

**Jason Z**

# American Sign Language Teachers Association

## *Newsletter*

Want to submit a bilingual article for the next issue?

Want to advertise your program, product or job vacancy?

(inquire as to our fees)

Want to share your Chapter/Region's news & photos?

Send your material to [communications@aslta.org](mailto:communications@aslta.org)



## Submission Deadlines:

Spring: Feb 15th

Summer: May 15th

Fall: August 15

Winter: December 15th



## **Newsletter Editor: Raychelle Harris**

(with plenty of help from the board and members, thank you all!)

**We want  
you  
in here!**

*Share your News!*

### **Valued Contributors:**

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Jenny Gough

Raychelle Harris

Daniel Heinze

Beatrice Pfaff

Janice Smith Warshaw

David Martin

Tim Riker

Daniel Gough

Rayburn Boland

Petra Horn-Marsh

Jason Zinza

Amy June Rowley

Kristine Hall

Anne M. Eagle

Benjamin Lewis

Amy Novotny

Barbara Wingfield

Patricia McCarthy

Dan Hoffman

Susie Ovens

Cara Barnett

Kester Horn-Marsh

*Newsletter*  
**American Sign Language Teachers Association**

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*Newsletter*

**ASL Teachers Association**