

ASLTA

American Sign Language Teachers Association

Newsletter Volume 7 Number 2 Fall/Winter 2002

ASLTA spins off from NAD

Formal agreement opens the way to full independence



A new era for ASLTA. Outgoing NAD President Libby Pollard and Leslie C. Greer with the MOU.

ASLTA and NAD have reached an amicable agreement that will enable ASLTA to establish itself as an independent non-profit 501(c)3 organization next year. Last July, at NAD's 46th Biennial Conference, ASLTA President Leslie C. Greer and NAD President Libby Pollard signed an official "Memorandum of Understanding" formalizing the separation and detailing ASLTA's future relationship with NAD.

continue on page 2

Zooming towards Indianapolis:

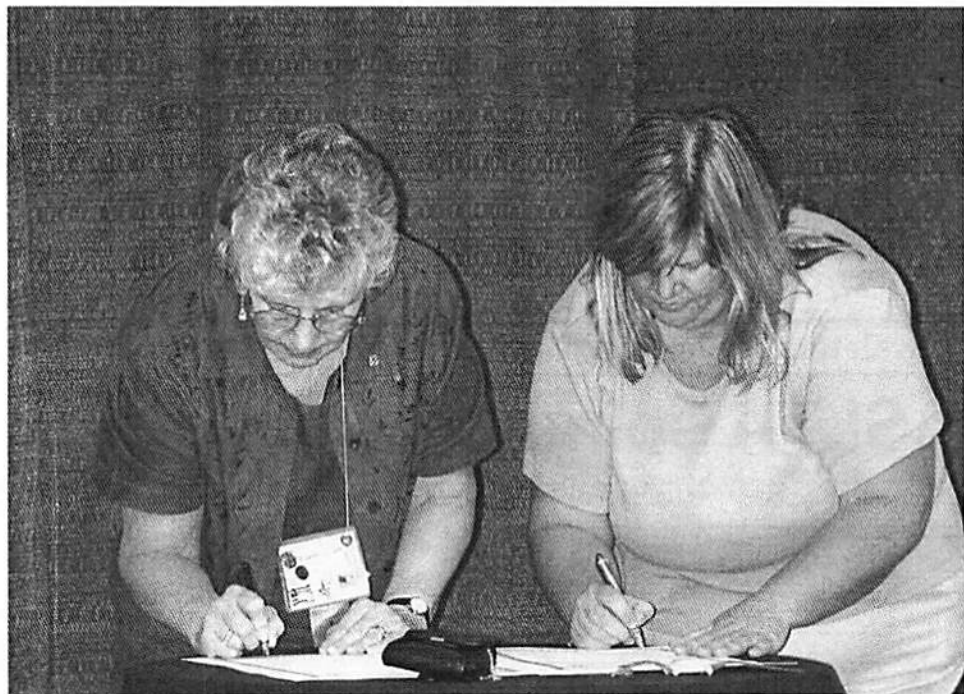
ASLTA's second National Professional Development Conference in the works

The Second National Professional Development Conference of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) will be held Thursday, April 10 through Sunday, April 13, 2003, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Marriott Indianapolis Downtown.

continue on page 4

**Racing
for Excellence—**
Put ASL Teachers in the Winner's Circle!

ASLTA



Libby Pollard and Leslie C. Greer sign the Memorandum of Understanding at the NAD Convention, July 7, 2002.

ASLTA SPINS OFF
continued from first page

Greer says that ASLTA is “spinning off” from NAD “because ASLTA wants to focus on the preservation of ASL and certification of ASL teachers, and the NAD has a broad political scope—they’re involved with all sorts of projects and legal cases. Being independent will enable us to better focus on ASL and Deaf Studies teaching and ASL preservation.”

From its modest beginning as the Sign Instructors Guidance Network (SIGN) in 1976, under the auspices of NAD’s Communicative Skills Program, ASLTA has grown steadily into a national orga-

nization of teachers, students, and supporters. In 1990, ASLTA adopted its present name, the American Sign Language Teachers Association, but has remained under the NAD. In 2003, ASLTA will officially become an independent organization, maintaining some legal and financial ties with the NAD.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) details the conditions of the spin-off, and makes provisions for financial auditing, royalties, representation, and the maintenance of liaisons on each organization’s Board of Directors. Both organizations will maintain their shared goal of promoting recognition and respect for ASL.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the American Sign Language Teachers Association
and
The National Association of the Deaf



All in attendance at this 46th Biennial Conference of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and General Meeting of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) in Washington DC, July 3 - 8, 2002, be witness to this historic occasion.

The ASLTA will become incorporated with the full support and blessing of the NAD as a non profit, 501(c)(3) association in the year 2003.

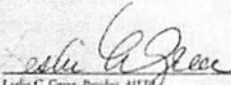
This Memorandum of Understanding, signed during the July 3-8, 2002 conference week, by the duly elected Presidents of both Associations proclaims the mutual support of our Associations now and in the future and provides a framework for working together toward our common goals and interests.

A Brief History

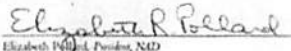
In July 1976 at the Houston Convention, the NAD embarked on a bold initiative to insure that American Sign Language (ASL), the natural language of Deaf Americans, would be taught by teachers who were well trained, competent and equal in stature to teachers of other languages. In 1976 the NAD established the Sign Instructors Guidance Network (SIGN) under the auspices of its Communicative Skills Program (CSP). From 1976 to this present day the NAD has supported the growth of the profession of ASL teaching. In 1990, SIGN changed its name to the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) with the dream of eventually becoming a strong, professional Association of ASL and Deaf Studies teachers in its own right. This historic week marks the beginning of the final realization of this dream initiated in 1976 by the NAD.

A Framework for Our Continuing Collaboration & Support

1. The NAD and ASLTA pledge to support the missions of each other's Associations because ASL is the natural language of Deaf Americans and the teaching of ASL should always be tied to the people for whom ASL is vital.
2. The NAD pledges to provide ongoing technical support to the process that will lead to full independent status for ASLTA as a non-profit association in the year 2003.
3. The ASLTA pledges to work cooperatively with the NAD to ensure that the process leading to full independent status is amicable and successful.
4. The NAD pledges to work out agreements with the ASLTA that will allow for mutual benefit to ASLTA and NAD in such matters as membership agreements, office space in the NAD Headquarters, participation in Biennial NAD Conferences, and local ASLTA participation in State Association Conventions and Regional NAD Conferences.
5. An audit of finances will be completed within three months after the official date of dissolution of the formal relationship between NAD and ASLTA, by the NAD and ASLTA Treasurers with NAD Business Director. This audit shall include resolution of all monies due and owing to ASLTA including, but not limited to, membership dues, royalties, and charitable donations will be transferred to the treasury of ASLTA. This also includes resolution of any ASLTA monies due and owing to the NAD.
6. After the final audit, the NAD will continue to transfer monies that may mistakenly be sent to the NAD in the name of the ASLTA, and vice versa (NAD monies that are mistakenly sent to ASLTA).
7. The NAD will continue to honor the existing contract between the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and the NAD whereby 5% of the royalties from the sale of the Basic Sign Communication curriculum are distributed to the ASLTA.
8. The NAD and ASLTA pledge to maintain liaisons to both Boards.
9. The NAD and ASLTA shall collaborate on advocacy for the recognition of ASL as a language and the inclusion of ASLTA certification in State regulations.


Leslie C. Greer, President, ASLTA

July 7, 2002
Date


Elizabeth Pollard, President, NAD

July 7, 2002
Date

Memorandum of Understanding

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ZOOMING TO INDY

continued from first page

This conference will follow the same basic plan at the first NPD Conference, held in Rochester, New York, in October 1999. There will be plenary sessions, workshops, instructive presentations, and ASLTA business. There will be some fun activities, and a few surprises.

As the title indicates, the emphasis is on professional development: workshops, presentations, and skill-polishing. It's geared towards ASL, Deaf Studies, and ITP teachers and students, and current and future interpreters. They can earn RID CEUs towards their ASLTA certification by participating in these events. There will be opportunities for networking and late-into-the-night discussions. Sales/exhibit booths will give attendees a chance to see what's new. They can browse through and bring back a variety of ASL-teaching and auxiliary materials—books, videos, software, and CDs.

Presentations will cover various aspects of Deaf Studies, ASL linguistics, teaching, curricula, and research. (See "Call for Presentations" box on page 10.)

The second Silent Auction Gala fundraiser, featuring original artworks by Deaf artists, has been scheduled for Friday night, April 11. Proceeds will benefit ASLTA and the participating artists. This event will be open to the public.

The Marriott Indianapolis Down-

town is located the heart of downtown Indianapolis, connected to the newly expanded Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome. It's only 10 minutes from the Indianapolis International Airport and within walking distance to more than 100 restaurants and night-clubs, close to downtown attractions such as the Indianapolis Zoo, City Center, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Children's Museum, Artsgarden, IMAX 3-D Theater, and the Indiana Repertory Theatre. A few other nearby don't-miss-them landmarks for sightseers are the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (the glorious centerpiece of Monument Circle), the City Market, the State Capitol Building, the Indiana World War Memorial, the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Murat Centre, and the Madame Walker Theatre Center.

The Marriott features 615 deluxe guest rooms, 28 suites, including 2 Presidential Suites, 18th- and 19th-floor concierge levels with private concierge lounge, an indoor pool, whirlpool and health club, a full-service restaurant, Champions Sports Bar, and a Starbucks. 200 rooms have been reserved for ASLTA. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis. (Up to four attendees can share a room.)

Watch for additional information on the ASLTA.com Website. The NPD-2 Conference homepage is at <http://www.aslta.com/conf>.

As before, teachers, students, and

ASL/Deaf Studies advocates can register online. The ASLTA.com Website us is for conference-related information only, and will contain full preregistration details.

Sponsorship, advertising, and on-site sales opportunities (exhibitors' booths) are available. Contact Matthew Moore, Conference Coordinator, 1095 Meigs Street. Rochester, NY 14620-2405.

Special Thanks

ASLTA wishes to express particular thanks to MSM Productions, Ltd., (Matthew S. Moore, Linda Levitan, and Charles F. Bancroft) for helping to make this newsletter possible and get it out on time. They are also coordinating the upcoming ASLTA Conference in Indy, and running the Conference Website.

Some Thoughts from the President



Leslie C. Greer

I'd like to extend my thanks to all those who voted for me in the last balloting. I was re-elected for a second term. And the action has really been picking up. Three "hot topics" are (1)

the Memorandum of Understanding between ASLTA and the NAD, (2) the ASLTA/CIT Task Force, and (3) our upcoming 2nd National Professional Development Conference.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a contract that opens the way towards ASLTA's re-establishment as an independent nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. This change, as noted on the MOU, is taking place in a friendly and planned-out way. The MOU details the change in status for ASLTA and makes provisions for maintenance of certain legal and financial connections between ASLTA and the NAD. For

example, we will continue to have liaisons on each other's Board of Directors. And we will continue to share our old goal of promoting recognition and respect for ASL. The new arrangement will make it easier for us at ASLTA to focus our energies on ASL/Deaf Studies teaching and professional development, certification of ASL teachers, and preservation of ASL.

The change officially takes effect on December 31, 2003. This coming year will be a time of transition for us. Up until now, we've been a purely volunteer organization. Now that we're going to be officially "on our own," we will probably be hiring an administrative assistant. More growth and more independence mean a need for more professionalism.

ASLTA has grown tremendously from its beginnings as a tiny group of ASL teachers into a national certifying body and membership organization. Our influence is felt in Canada and Japan. Last summer, the World

You can register online! Visit us at www.aslta.org/conf/

**ASLTA's 2nd Professional
Development Conference**

Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

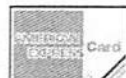
State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Voice TTY

Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

SIGNATURE _____



EXP. DATE:

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Choose from two registration packages.

\$300.00 (Basic Package) includes one ticket to the Friday-night Silent Auction Gala and hors d'oeuvres at the preview, 3 breakfast buffets, souvenir nylon zipcase with pad and program book; customized registration badge.

\$335.00 (Deluxe Package) includes all the above plus plate lunches on Friday and Saturday.

Mail registration form and
make check payable (IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY) to:

ASLTA Conference

1095 Meigs Street

Rochester, NY 14620-2405

**Deadline for Registrations:
January 31, 2003**

Federation of the Deaf asked the ASLTA Board for advice in setting up associations for sign-language teachers in their member countries. That's an exciting prospect!

Two years ago, ASLTA entered into an agreement with the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) to set up a joint Task Force. For the past 20 years, CIT has provided good accreditation services for sign interpreters, but had completely overlooked ASL courses. In 2000, CIT asked ASLTA to get involved in the Self-Study Review (SSR) and accreditation process. We are investigating the possibility of sharing a newsletter, office space, and staff, while maintaining separate missions and distinct identities. CIT's focus is on training sign-language interpreters; ASLTA's focus is on ASL and Deaf Studies teaching. There's some overlap between our organizations, constituency, and aims (some people hold membership in both ASLTA and CIT), which is why an expanded collaboration will benefit us. The Task Force Committee will hold a forum in Indianapolis next April at the Second National Professional Development Conference. Come and join the discussion, share your views, and be part of the action.

Plans are proceeding at full speed for the Indianapolis Conference. We've gotten some abstracts for presentations and workshops. Registrations are com-

ing in, and the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown reports that the rooms are filling up. Several outstanding Deaf artists and artisans have already expressed interest in participating in the Silent Auction Gala. We've been rounding up sponsors and advertisers. I look forward to seeing *all* of you there. I guarantee you, we're going to have a fabulous time, do some good networking, and get some important business done, too!

I'd like to welcome Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Campbell as our new Secretary, and Patricia (Trix) Bruce as our new Professional Development Chair. We've expanded the number of Board members from five to seven.



A trio of presidents. From left: WFD's Liisa Kauppinen, NAD's Libby Pollard, and ASLTA's Leslie C. Greer.

This reflects ASLTA's growth. Bylaws were passed last summer to increase the number of Board members to better meet the needs of the growing number of voting members. As ASLTA's membership continues to increase, the officers are keeping pace with this growth.

Best wishes to all ASLTA members for a good, healthy, and safe holiday season.



A Modern, Comfortable, Beautiful Hotel

As its name suggests, the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown is located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. Its spacious facilities include an indoor pool, whirlpool, health club, a full-service restaurant, sports bar, and easy access to dozens of prime attractions.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Voice TTY

Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

Guaranteed Reservation Credit Card #



EXP. DATE:

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ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS
 Single/Double/Triple/Quad: \$130.00 per room per night; \$25.00 surcharge for each additional person for doubles, triples, and quads.

Share with _____ & _____

The above-quoted rates are valid through 1/31/03

Check-in: 3:00 p.m. Check-out: 12:01 p.m.

Arrival Date: April 10th April 11th

I will arrive before 6 p.m. • I will arrive after 6 p.m.

Departure Date: April 13th

Contact: Reservations 317-640-7666 317-822-1002 FAX

Mail this form and check payable to:

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown

350 West Maryland Street., ASLTA Group

Indianapolis, IN 46225

**Deadline for Reservations:
 January 31, 2003**

SIGNATURE _____

“A great honor and tribute to my beloved husband”: Barbara Bernstein Fant receives Lou Fant’s George Veditz Award



Leslie C. Greer presents Barbara Bernstein Fant with Lou Fant’s posthumous Veditz Award.

Dear Members:

Please convey my sincerest gratitude to the ASLTA board and membership for bestowing the George Veditz award to my late husband, Louie J. Fant, Jr. at the National Association of the Deaf conference in Washington, D.C. this past July.

When I was first notified by Leslie Greer that Lou (as he was more popularly known) was to be given the Veditz Award and invited to Washington to accept the award on his behalf, I harbored mixed reactions ranging from surprise to delight to sadness and pain.

Surprise and delight in Lou receiving this wonderful honor; pain and sadness in the fact that Lou was no longer alive to come in person and accept the award himself. Nevertheless, I had to come. I could not do otherwise.

The awards banquet was lovely. It was heartening to see old friends, to make new ones and to feel the love, support and caring flowing throughout the room. Amidst much apprehension and emotion, I gave my acceptance speech. I realized afterwards that I had erringly left out parts of the speech and which I had promised to share again at a later date:

“I find it coincidental that Lou has been honored with the George Veditz award at this time. I remembered from the past few years how Lou would watch the old NAD films of Veditz frequently. He loved to single out and talk to me about signs that had evolved over the years and were no longer recognized in their older form. Veditz was concerned with the preservation of American Sign Language and used these films to help promote awareness and beauty of the language. I feel that Lou’s path paralleled that of Veditz’s. When William Stokoe first came out with his American Sign Language dictionary in the sixties and

declared ASL to be a unique and true language of its own, Lou had his doubts as first. But once he became convinced, Lou began to give talks and performances around the country to help promote the beauty and uniqueness of American Sign Language and even to go so far as to coin the term "Ameslan." He attempted to bridge the deaf and hearing communities through achieving greater understanding and respect for American Sign Language and elevating it to its rightful place amongst other languages.

I know that in his humble way, Lou would have accepted this award with his usual grace and gratitude; with a real sense of appreciation knowing that the award was given in the name of George Veditz, a man whom Lou admired in his own life and a model for Lou in his own videotapes. Thank you so very much."

The George Veditz award is beautiful and the wording even more powerful,

thus I take the liberty of repeating it here...

"American Sign Language Teachers Association Proudly Presents This Plaque to Louie J. Fant, Jr. In Recognition of His Significant Contribution To The Field of ASL Teaching.

"Teacher, Interpreter, Author, Actor, Renaissance Man of American Sign Language (Ameslan). Lou Fant is a model for all of us who love and cherish the beautiful language of signs. He was a pioneer in our field and we will ever remember him with our deepest respect and appreciation."

Words so aptly put and such a great honor and tribute to my beloved husband. I know that somehow Lou would be looking down with his radiant smile from up above.

Once again, my heartfelt gratitude.

Barbara Bernstein Fant

WANTED: Presentations for ASLTA's 2nd National Professional Development Conference!

www.aslta.com/conf/call_for_pres.html

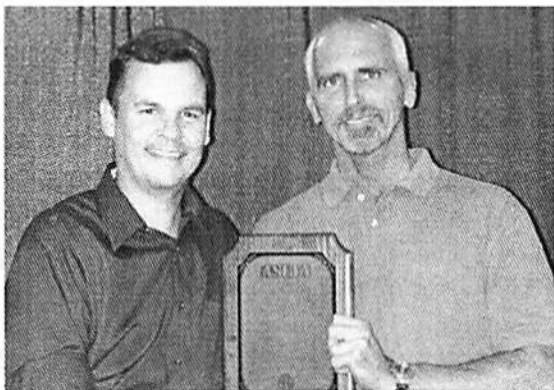
Deadline: January 6, 2003

“An unexpected honor”: Ken Mikos receives the Alan Roy “ALB” Barwiolek Distinguished Award

When I first heard that the award I was being presented was named after Alan R. Barwiolek, I felt quite honored and pleased to be associated with such a fine individual who had worked tirelessly for ASLTA many years before his untimely death several years ago. This award, as Keith M. Cagle, the Chair of the Evaluation Committee explained, was in recognition for my work as an evaluator - something that I had not expected because this work goes largely unrecognized by the general public. As evaluators, we all strive to be fair and impartial in the process of judging candidates for ASLTA certification at the Provisional and Qualified levels. Let me tell you this is no easy task, but I am willing to continue to serve as evaluator for many more years because we need the organization to grow and we need to increase not only our membership but

also the number of ASLTA certified teachers.

Finally, I want to thank ASLTA - the



Keith Cagle presents Ken Mikos with the “ALB” Award.

members and the officers for recognizing my work and commitment to the organization. This award is something I will always treasure! Thank you all!

Ken

“All I can say is ‘Thanks!’”: Mike Kemp receives the T.J. O’Rourke Memorial Award



Leslie C. Greer presents Mike Kemp with the T.J. O’Rourke Award.

All I can say is “Thanks” for the recognition of my international work. The plaque will serve as a reminder that I have yet many things to do before go out to the pasture. I look forward to going to other countries to continue my work.

Mike Kemp

A double surprise for the Holcomb brothers: Sam and Tom receive the Stephen M. Ryan Teacher of the Year Award



Leslie C. Greer presents Sam (at right) and Tom Holcomb with the Ryan Award.

It came as a big surprise when the president of ASLTA, Leslie C. Greer, announced both our names as the recipients of the Stephen M. Ryan Teacher of the Year Award. It was a surprise because Sam was told that his brother, Tom, would be receiving the award and that it was his responsibility to make sure that he shows up at the award reception on time. At the same time, Tom was given the same information, except that Sam would be honored with the award. So, both brothers worried all day long trying to devise a plan to bring their brother to the award ceremony on time. So when it was time for the announcement to be made, both of them were beaming with pride that their brother was about to be rec-

ognized for his contributions. So, yes it came as a surprise to the both of us when our names were announced.

We would like to thank ASLTA for this recognition of our work. As you know, we all are in this business trying to improve awareness of our beautiful culture just like Steve Ryan did with his masterful performances. This award serves as reminder that even one person, like Steve Ryan, can make a huge difference and that we, as individuals, must continue to spread the word about the legitimacy of deaf culture.

Samuel K. Holcomb
Thomas K. Holcomb

“Lucky to be among such good folk”:

Washington ASLTA gets Chapter Excellence Recognition Award

I have two confessions to make: (1) I have no skill at receiving compliments (my dear mother chides me about this), and (2) I have moral difficulty accepting compliments for doing “the right thing”. If you were in attendance at the awards ceremony at the NAD/ASLTA conference this past July, then you witnessed these two “faults” gloriously displayed as I stumbled and bumbled my way up onto the platform to help accept the Chapter award. Thank goodness two other WA ASLTA officers were with me, Barbara Bernstein and Trix Bruce, as well as two officers from our “parent” chapter NW ASLTA, Ed Ingham

and Kristi Winter. The award was a great honor indeed for all the energetic WA ASLTA and NW ASLTA members who have come together as a supportive professional community of ASL instructors. We are trying to do good things (as we should) to improve our profession. Sometimes we even succeed! I consider myself lucky to be among such good folk. Thank you, ASLTA Board, for recognizing the exploits of our troop of believers up in the far Northwest corner. I hope and trust we can continue to earn your respect and confidence.

Geoffrey Mathay
WA ASLTA



Leslie C. Greer presents Barbara Bernstein (left), Trix Bruce, Ed Ingham, Kristi Winter, and Geoffrey Mathay with the Chapter Excellence Recognition Award.

**Save these dates:
April 10-13, 2003.
Please mark your calendar!**

**What's happening?
The Second National Professional
Development Conference
at Indianapolis, Indiana!**

See you there!!!

ASLTA's bylaws mandate that the minutes from the July 2002 General Meeting at the NAD Conference (approximately 10 pages' worth) be included in this newsletter. There isn't enough space here to do that. But you can read them on ASLTA's Website (www.aslta.org) and print out a copy from the .pdf file.

“Gratifying to know that one’s work is appreciated”: NTID’s Educational Technology Resource Room & Instructional Design and Evaluation gets the Sponsor Excellence Recognition Award

At first I was confused. Why? When I was asked to attend a meeting of the American Sign Language and Interpreting Education department, at NTID, I wasn’t sure why they wanted me there. “Maybe

to say, very intimidating. “Oh no!” I said to myself, “My receptive sign skills are terrible, I’m not going to understand what they sign to me.” Well, when I was told that ID&E had been given The Sponsor



Leslie C. Greer presents Jonathan Millis (left), Sarah Perkins, and Jorge Samper with the Sponsor Award.

they are going to a conference and need help with their presentations,” I thought. Walking into room 2590 and being asked to stand at the front of the room facing all of the ASLIE faculty and staff was, needless

Excellence Recognition Award from the American Sign Language Teachers Association, this past July, I was surprised as were Sarah Perkins and Jonathan Millis of Educational Resources. The three of us work in the Educational Technology Resource Room that provides support to faculty and staff in the design of their materials. Sarah, Jonathan and myself were flattered at having been given this unexpected award. It is gratifying to know that one’s work is appreciated and recognized by others. Thank you.

Jorge Samper
ID&E Manager

Hello ASLTA members from Treasurer JaNahne McCready-Johnson:

Thank you for your confidence to re-elect me as the Secretary/Treasurer of ASLTA. Due to ASLTA membership’s approval of the revisions on ASLTA Bylaws, the duties are no longer dual. I am now the Treasurer for the term of 2002 - 2004. Dr. Cindy Campbell is the new Secretary for the term of 2002 - 2006.

When I gave ASLTA financial report to the membership at the General Meeting during ASLTA/NAD Conference, I inadvertently omitted the report on ASLTA Savings and Investment so here it is:

FISCAL YEAR OF APRIL 1, 2000 - MARCH 31, 2001

Share Savings:	\$41.64
VIP Savings:	\$7,805.51
Total:	\$7,847.15
Investment (Aim Global Telecom & Tech B)	\$25,259.91

FISCAL YEAR OF APRIL 1, 2001 - MARCH 31, 2002

Share Savings:	\$43.61
VIP Savings:	\$114,044.51
Total:	\$114,088.12
Investment (Aim Global Telecom & Tech B)	\$5,445.27



JaNahne McCready-Johnson



American Sign Language Teachers Association

**814 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD
20910-4500**

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PAID

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