REFERENDUM PASSED with LANDSLIDE

The referendum dated October 31, 1991 was sent to 374 members of the Sign Instructors Guidance Network. Thirteen were returned due to members moving with no forwarding addresses. 107 ballots were returned. This is the largest response since 1986 when SIGN was revitalized. There have been two other SIGN elections and one referendum on the revision of the SIGN By-Laws. The results of the referendum are:

1. The name of this organization is to be changed from Sign Instructors Guidance Network (SIGN) to Association of American Sign Language Teachers (AASLT).

   93 (87%) SUPPORTED
   14 (13%) DIDN'T SUPPORT
   0 (0%) ABSTAINED

2. Create a new name for our organization newsletter (formerly SIGN On/Off). SIGN members may submit their ideas for names of newsletter. SIGN Board will decide on a name and start using it in our next newsletter in January, 1992.

   93 (87%) SUPPORTED
   8 (7.5%) DIDN'T SUPPORT
   6 (5.6%) ABSTAINED

3. There will be a contest for our organization’s logo. The announcement of selection will be made at the next SIGN conference. Details of this logo contest will be announced in the January 1992 newsletter.

   105 (98%) SUPPORTED
   0 (0%) DIDN'T SUPPORT
   2 (2%) ABSTAINED

4. All SIGN memberships’ expiration date will be annually on March 1st. There will be a prorated fee for new members who join in any month other than March, to make their expiration dates fall on March 1st. Current SIGN memberships will be extended to March 1, 1993.

   104 (97%) SUPPORTED
   2 (2%) DIDN'T SUPPORT
   1 (1%) ABSTAINED

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In Memoriam
T.J. O’Rourke
Founder of the
SIGN Instructors
Guidance Network

T.J. O’Rourke, founder of SIGN and Chairman of the Board of T.J. Publishers passed away of heart failure on Friday, January 10, 1992. The SIGN Board and membership wish to formally recognize T.J. as a pioneer in the field of American Sign Language instruction. It was through his efforts in 1975, as Director of the Communicative Skills Program of the National Association of the Deaf, that the SIGN was established. T.J. was also a pioneer in the modern age of sign language instruction through his publication of A Basic Course in Manual Communication in 1973 and the establishment of T.J. Publishers and subsequent publication of numerous texts and curriculums on ASL instruction and Deaf culture. T.J. has had many other accomplishments in the field of education of deaf students and American Sign Language instruction which are too numerous to mention here.

All teachers of American Sign Language, our ASLTA Board and members and all deaf and hearing people who knew T.J. will sorely miss his leadership and goodwill. Thank you T.J. for virtually creating the profession of American Sign Language instruction. We all owe you our respect and we will miss you very much.
President’s message
Keith M. Cagle

For two years, it has been a challenging experience for me to serve as ASLTA President. There are many positive results as well as several difficult ones.

I am greatly indebted to an outstanding Board and some chairs for their very fine jobs and dedications which have made some of our goals possible. Nearly all my decisions are based on the review, input and approval by the Board. I have been in communication with the Board and chairs, often one to two times a month.

Referendum of October 31, 1991: The board and I are very pleased with you who have responded. We have implemented some points in the referendum: 1) change of organization name - ASLTA; 2) new name for our organization newsletter - ASLTA News; 3) extension of our board term to 1993 and set up a new biennial ASLTA convention which is chaired by Samuel Holcomb for Fall ’93; and 4) additions to ASLTA By-laws regarding the chair’s performances and replacement. We are implementing a new logo for our organization. We have decided to put two issues on a hold until our next Board meeting in Denver: 1) relationship with NAD; and 2) extending membership to March 1993.

84% of the voters supported the change of organization name. Originally it was “Association of American Sign Language Teachers”, however there were a number of feedback from the members and NAD to put “Association” in the ending instead of at the beginning. The Board approved and changed the name of organization to this: “American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA)”. Some people have asked why we changed the name. The new name reflects the language that the deaf community members have been using and nearly all of us the teachers have been teaching. We have become better understood about ASL thus it has become more widely accepted in our deaf community. And also more States have recognized ASL as a language of the deaf community and second/foreign language.

As for the relationship with the NAD, the Board and I have gone through a lot of investigations, debates, and careful thoughts and decisions.

With the assistance of Geoff Poor, Bylaw Chair, an attorney, R. Vincent Taylor met with Geoff Poor, former President Bill Newell and myself on March 27, 1992. He is willing to donate his service to our need to get incorporation and tax exemption. All we would need to pay is approximately $800 for NY State filing, IRS for tax exemption, Federal for incorporation, phone calls and stamps. We discussed the ramifications with being an affiliation, section or independent organization. He explained that NAD might claim on the term of “SIGN” and its evaluation system. And that we could choose to surrender all evaluation system and the name of “SIGN” to NAD, then we go on our own - starting everything from scratch with his assistance to get the INC, tax exemption and with his legal advices.

With the assistance of Laura Thomas-Roebal, Treasurer, we received the premium quotation from Albert H. Wohlers & Co. (insurer for Registry of Interpreters for the Deafs - RID) for our potential professional liability coverage. It was not so good news. To cover only Directors and Officers, it would cost our organization $2,740 a year. To cover all including evaluators and volunteers, it would cost us $5,481 a year. What more is that if we are being sued by NAD, this insurer would not cover our liability. The attorney said that being incorporated alone still is not adequate. Today some attorneys are able to penetrate through the protection of incorporation to sue you personally, therefore, it is wiser to have the professional liability protection. NAD President Roz Rosen explained...
ASL STORYTIME

A new videotape series from the Department of Sign Communication at Gallaudet University.

Each of the eight tape/volumes in the series contains eight stories signed by deaf adults, representing different ethnic groups.

You will want to order these tapes if you are interested in deaf culture, are looking for new ASL classroom materials, or are a sign language student.

Tapes are price at $39.95 each, plus $6.50 for shipping and handling, or you may order the complete set of eight tapes for $295 plus $12 for shipping/handling charges.

To order, mail the form below with your check or money order to:

Dept. of Sign Communication
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695.

Please send me:

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1992 FALL/WINTER/SPRING ASLTA NEWS 3
American Sign Language Teacher Association Conference Schedule
NAD Convention Denver, Colorado
June 30, 1992 - July 4, 1992

Tuesday, June 30
1:30 - 3:00 p.m. "Factors Leading to Successful ASL Acquisition" by Mike Kemp
3:30 - 5:00 p.m. "Visual Readiness Examinations: Mechanics and Techniques" by E. Lynn Jacobowitz

Wednesday, July 1
*8:30 - 9:30 a.m. "Impact by Boom of ASL Definitions" by Keith M. Cagle
*8:30 - 9:30 a.m. "Utilization of ASL Materials" by Holly Roth
10:00 - 12:00 p.m. "The Face of ASL: Teaching Non-Manual Grammar and Modifiers" by MJ Bienvenu
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. ASLTA Board Meeting
1:30 - 3:00 p.m. "Basic Assertiveness Training in Sign Language Teaching" by Janna G. Montagnino
3:30 - 5:00 p.m. "A Brief Overview of the Development and Implementation of the ASL at Kendall" by Melvia Miller-Nomeland

Thursday, July 2
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. "Signing Naturally Level 1: Strategies of Teaching ASL" by Jean M. Gordon
8:30 - 10:15 a.m. Local Chapter Presidents Meeting
10:30 - 12:00 p.m. "How to Set Up a Local Chapter of ASLTA" by Leslie Greer & Keith Cagle
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. ASLTA General Meeting
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. ASLTA Reception at Marriott Hotel's Colorado Ball room #E

Friday, July 3
8:30 - 12:00 p.m. "Signing Naturally: The Inside Story" by Ken Mikos, Ella Lentz and Cheri Smith
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. ASLTA Board Meeting
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. "Diagnosis and Remediation of Production Errors and Unique Learning Needs in Late-Learners of ASL" by Victoria Armour
*4:00 - 5:00 p.m. "Teaching ASL Linguistics to ASL Users" by Clayton Valli
*3:30 - 5:00 p.m. "Deaf Literature at NTID" by Patricia C. Kenney

Saturday, July 4
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. "Teaching American Deaf Culture" by Barbara Kannapell
*10:30 - 12:00 p.m. "1990's Video-Technology as Instruction Tools" by Suzanne Ladner Boesen and Keith Cagle
*11:00 - 12:30 p.m. "How to Apply for ASLTA Certification" by Bill Newell

* Concurrent workshops
### LISTING OF CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

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### COMING IN NEXT ISSUE OF ASLTA NEWS:

News about ASLTA
Conference at NAD Convention

ASLTA Board Members
and Committee Chairs' Reports

ASLTA Chapters' News
and Accomplishments

"Teach All Kids ASL"
Conference in Rochester, New York

Article: "Fingerspelling:
It's Not A Part of Sign Language Classes"

NY Liberty SIGN
Crossword Puzzle #1

and more....

### WANT TO ADVERTISE ???

Interested in placing your advertisement in next issue of ASLTA News to reach ASL instructors, please contact ASLTA News Editor at P.O. Box 507, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467

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1992 FALL/WINTER/SPRING

ASLTA NEWS 5
OFFICIAL RECOGNITION:

Leslie C. Greer, President
Lilac Chapter of SIGN
PO Box 23853
Rochester, NY 14692
(716) 275-4165

Isabelle Calvacca, President
NY Liberty SIGN
3 Birchwood Road
Medford, NY 11763
(516) 736-2204 (TTY)

IN PROGRESS TO BE RECOGNIZED:

Barbara Coulston, President
Florida Chapter of ASLTA
10615 Gunn Highway
Odessa, FL 33556

Andrea Kramer Frank, President
Massachusetts SIGN
93 Wilson Street, A-4
Marlboro, MA 01752
(508) 481-6651 (TTY)

Tom Riggs, President
Colorado Sign Instructors
3580 Arthur Ct. #4
Boulder, CO 80304
(303) 443-2594 (TTY)

Kathy Potter, Sec.-Tres.
The Loon SIGN Chapter of Minn.
7875 Guthrie Way
Morristown, MN 55052
(507) 334-5008 (TTY)

HAVE NOT APPLIED
FOR RECOGNITION YET:

Judie Cronlund, President
New York State SIGN
401 Turin Street

Rome, NY 13440
(315) 336-4084 (TTY/V)

Ruth Sandefur, Facilitator
Knoxville Chapter of ASLTA
PO Box 143
Rockford, TN 38753
(615) 974-2321 (TTY/V)

Caroline Stems, President
California Association of Teachers
of Sign Language (CATS)
(408) 476-2650 (TTY)

Agnes Sutcliffe, President
Chepeaske Chapter of ASLTA
9213 Tuckahoe Lane
Adelphi, MD 20783

JoAnna Liedel, President
Central Ohio Chapter of SIGN
Ohio Dept. of Education
Division of Special Education
933 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085-408
(614) 466-2650 (TTY/V)

NOTE: The current names of some affiliations possibly will be changed after their presidents have met at the 1992 NAD Convention in Denver, Colorado. The acronym of “SIGN” will have to be deleted or replaced with ASLTA.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

5. The current SIGN Board’s term will be extended one more year to July, 1993.

98 (91.5%) SUPPORTED
7 (6.5%) DIDN’T SUPPORT
2 (2%) ABSTAINED

6. Amended to the SIGN By-Laws that:

(1) SIGN President has the authority to replace a committee chairperson if
the chairperson has failed to fulfill the duties required of this committee and to
submit a timely progress report.

(2) SIGN President has the authority to replace an editor of our organization
newsletter if the editor fails to complete and publish one issue for more than sixty
days beyond the scheduled publishing date or consistently missed the deadlines.

94 (88%) SUPPORTED
12 (11%) DIDN’T SUPPORT
1 (1%) ABSTAINED

7. SIGN will be no longer a SECTION of the National Association of the Deaf.
SIGN will apply to become an AFFILIATION of the National Association of the
Deaf.

101 (94.4%) SUPPORTED
4 (3.7%) DIDN’T SUPPORT
2 (2%) ABSTAINED

The SIGN Board is very excited and eager to see the implementation of the
referendum and its becoming a reality. The President presents a discussion of the
process for implementation of this milestone referendum in his report.
that if we choose to be an affiliation, we couldn't have NAD's professional liability insurance coverage. With $5,481 a year for insurance premium, it would need 220 ASLTA membership fees ($25.00 each) to make a break even.

NAD President Roz Rosen informed me that if we choose to be an affiliation, NAD would keep and use $5,580.93 and other funds belonging to our SIGN to establish another "SIGN" organization to create NAD's own certification for sign teachers. We the Board are not enthusiastic to see two different certification systems being established in future to compete against each other which certainly would not serve the best interest of both ASL instructors and the deaf community. We viewed this as a potential threat from NAD. I explained Roz that it would not help the image of NAD much abroad. Roz explained that it is her serious desire to keep and support us as a strong organization under its wing, and she would support ASLTA to have a greater autonomy inside the NAD, similar to the State Associations.

After NAD's successful refinancing and our referendum last November, the NAD made some improvements to commit itself to our ASLTA's needs. NAD has established a new position, Communication Access Program Director, which is held by Grace Netti. She was hired to assist three major components of the program: Relay Services, Interpreting Certification and ASLTA. Grace Netti including NAD President Roz Rosen have been in close communication with me on a frequent basis. NAD had sent $2,252.00 last November and $5,580.93 last May. NAD promises to send another $3,130.20 in November, 1992 to pay off all balance of its debt to ASLTA. Eventually NAD will send 5% royalty earning from selling BASIC SIGN CURRICULUM books (an agreement between NAD and NTID) on a semi-annual basis. NAD also has been sending the ASLTA membership fee funds and updated membership listing to ASLTA on monthly basis. ASLTA Board has been pleased with these improvements. And with more facts about the costs of being independent affiliation, the Board has decided to suspend the implementation of new relationship from the passed referendum until our next Board meeting in Denver. There we will discuss on several proposals that NAD President Roz Rosen, NAD Financial Director Fred Kane, NAD Membership Director Larry Newman, NAD Communication Access Program Director Grace Netti, ASLTA Vice-President Lynn Jacobowitz and I myself have met and came up in our April 25, 1992 meeting at NAD Office. The meeting was productive.

New Changes: There are four new replacements. First, Chuck Gramley, Board member representing the Central Region, has resigned. Suzanne Boesen of Austin, Texas became our newest Board member. She has been an outstanding respondent. Secondly, Robin Titterington of Atlanta, Georgia replaced Ray Parks of Phoenix, Arizona as a Chair of ASLTA Fundraising. She has begun reviewing and investigating into possible grants and fundraising activities for ASLTA. Thirdly, Dr. Mike Kemp, Chair of Gallaudet University Sign Communication Department, replaced Dr. Lawrence Fleischer to serve as a Chair of ASLTA Evaluation System and Appeal Committee. He has begun actions. Finally, Brenda Aron of North Carolina replaced Mike Ernest as an Editor of ASLTA News. She recently has moved from Sioux Falls, South Dakota to North Carolina. She will begin rolling her sleeves on the ASLTA News in late summer. I am thrilled about it. No newsletter to the ASLTA members for past two years is my most frustration. I am very grateful to Matthew Moore, Publisher of DEAF LIFE, for willing to take charge of this new and first ASLTA News.

Coming..... Several board members and committee chairs have been working hard and dedicating to the ASLTA. The results are coming! First, Isabella Calvacca and Ruth Sandefur have completed the long-dreamed ASLTA Directory and are to print the 500 copies before the ASLTA Conference at NAD Convention, with a great help from Thelma Bohli, Chair of Memberships and Benefits who and her student assistant Ron Lvrick have spent many hours updating the ASLTA membership data. Secondly, Ken Mikos has completed the updating of ASLTA Brochure and printed 4,000 new brochures. Thirdly, Bill Newell has completed the new design of ASLTA Certificate which will be mailed to the valid certified members soon. Fourth, Leslie Greer has updated the handbook of "How to Set Up a Local Chapter of ASLTA". As soon as the Board reviews and approves, it will be available. Finally, Judie Cronlund, Chair of Nomination, Election and Award, and her committee have developed a proposed criteria for George Veditz Award for the Board's review in July.

More Accomplishments..... We have accomplished some. First the number of certified instructors has grown from 41 two years ago to 70 (see listed instructors on page 5 in this newsletter). Many candidates have applied and are awaiting for the results. Bill Newell has produced a new Sample of Sign Language produced by Herating Adult Learners tape for possible use as part of the Professional Level interview, replacing the existing outdated tape which has been used since 1976. I am pleased with his well-organized leadership and dedication.

Secondly, the number of local chapters has steadily expanded. New York Liberty SIGN has become the second chapter recognized by ASLTA in May 1991. Four new chapters: Florida Chapter of ASLTA, MASSIGN, Colorado Sign Instructors and Minnesota Loon Chapter of SIGN have applied to become recognized. The term of "SIGN" in their organization names will be changed after the local affiliation meeting in Denver. More information about local chapters' accomplishments in 1991-2 will be detailed in next issue of ASLTA News. I am very pleased with Geoff Poor, Bylaw Chairs, and Leslie Greer, Chair of Local Affiliations, for carefully reviewing their Bylaws, applications and progresses.

Thirdly, the ASLTA conference at NAD Convention in Denver has been well-organized and coordinated very well by ASLTA Conference Chair Tom Riggs of Denver, Colorado and Dorothy Wilkins, Chair of ASLTA Professional Development. We will have 14 workshops, meetings and reception for ASLTA members and invited people.

In closing, it has been a rewarding and challenging experience for me to serve as your President. It still is my intention to maintain and expand our professional organization into a stronger and viable one for the best interests of ASL teachers, students in our ASL classes, deaf students who will be taught by people who are taught by us, and the deaf community members.
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