

German Language Division

Minutes of the 2000 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. on 22 September 2000 by the Division Administrator, Helge L. Gunther. Ms. Gunther welcomed those attending, announced that the minutes would be taken by Janice Becker, and noted that participants were free to use the English or German language at the meeting. Ms. Gunther also asked if there were any additions to the agenda; there were not. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the annual meeting of the German Language Division held on 5 November 1999; the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Gunther then gave her report on the past year's activities of the GLD. In all, it has been a successful year, for which she thanked Ruth Boggs, Marga Hannon and Manfred Winter, Karin Wuertz-Schäfer, ATA headquarters (in particular, Christie Matlock, Division Coordinator) and the many other volunteers who contributed to the GLD's success. As of early September membership had grown to 697, hovering just short of 700 and up 60 from November 1999. This makes the GLD the third largest division, trailing Spanish (1728) and French (732) and slightly larger than the Interpreters Division (680) and Sci-Tech (623), which will be dissolved next year.

The professional tone and generous exchange of experience that characterize the GLD mailing list are another success of the past year, Ms. Gunther stated. Christoph Niedermaier will report for Michael Metzger in more detail about the list. Because the GLD mailing list contains so much information that is not readily available elsewhere, Ms. Gunther suggested that the GLD might want to compile that information and provide it through our web site, if someone would take on that responsibility.

The literary aspect of our members' work has found too little reflection in the Division's activities, Ms. Gunther regretted. Perhaps more could be done in this area. She reported that Ruth Boggs had succeeded in recruiting 7 speakers for the ATA conference this year, including a full-day pre-conference seminar on German/English accounting and financial translation. We also have a special invited speaker this year, Professor Glenn Cuomo, speaking at 1:45 on Saturday on "Navigating through Germany's Neue Rechtschreibung."

Ms. Gunther's report was followed by the report of the assistant administrator, Ruth Zimmer Boggs. Ms. Boggs reported that the GLD would host a dinner this evening at the Pebbles Restaurant. The number of German division speakers at this year's ATA conference was up 200%, a significant improvement over past years. Ms. Boggs also thanked the nominating committee comprised of Mrs. Bruni Johnson, Dr. Ingrid G. Lansford, and Mr. Hartmut H. Lau, and the inspector of elections, Ms. Doris Wagner, for their work in recruiting outstanding candidates for the elections and ensuring correct proceedings.

Manfred Winter, co-editor of *interaktiv*, the GLD newsletter, gave the report on the newsletter; Marga Hannon, the other co-editor, could not attend the ATA conference due to an injury. He reviewed the past year of *interaktiv*, noting that each issue featured one focus: conference reports following the last ATA conference; translation of financial reporting; the influence of English on the German language; and the Rechtschreibreform. Several articles in *interaktiv* were reprinted from other publications. Excluding regular columns, 37 articles were published in all, of which 35% were reprints, 85% of which were suggested by the officers and active core of the GLD. Of the original articles published in *interaktiv*, 54% were written by the same active core and 46% by other members. In light of these figures, Mr. Winter urged more members of the GLD to contribute both their own articles and suggestions for reprints. He also reported that both Marga Hannon and he would be happy to continue in their positions as co-editors.

The Webmaster's report was given by Christoph Niedermaier on behalf of Michael Metzger, who was not able to attend the conference. The GLD mailing list now has 105 subscribers, with a

turnover of about 10%. He reiterated Ms. Gunther's assessment that the mailing list succeeded in maintaining a good professional tone of discourse. It was urged that *interaktiv* include a box on how to subscribe as a permanent feature. The "express mail" feature, broadcasting to the entire GLD membership, received a good response. Mr. Niedermair also announced the GLD's page at the ATA's website, which includes the *interaktiv* archive. Suggestions for other features are welcome. Finally, he reported that Michael Metzger would be willing to continue as GLD's webmaster for the year 2001. Helge Gunther once again raised the question of who might be willing to collect all the valuable information from the GLD mailing list so that it can be made available at the GLD web site.

The financial report was provided by Helge Gunther, GLD administrator. A written copy of the budget as of 31 August 2000 was passed out to the members attending. Income exceeded the budget, and expenditures to date, excluding overhead costs, were also within budget. The largest item in the budget is *interaktiv*. Additional expenditures to the end of September include honorariums, printing and mailing costs, totaling around \$1,700. Expenditures to the end of September were expected to total \$7,952. Funds still available through the end of the year were \$1,135. Expenditures for *interaktiv* and the website through the end of 2000 total \$1,525. Total expenditures for the year will be within budget when the surplus from last year is included. The amount of the surplus still needs to be clarified with ATA. The amount listed (\$1,048) is incorrect, in Ms. Gunther's opinion. In June it was listed as \$2,715. If the surplus is confirmed, we will have \$2,325 available for the next year. In summation, the GLD is in good financial health.

According to our by-laws, the GLD must vote on next year's membership dues. Ms. Gunther suggested that we retain our current dues of \$15. Ruth Boggs made a motion that the dues remain at \$15, which was seconded and passed.

Prior to announcing the results of the election of GLD officers, the nominating committee, represented by Mr. Hartmut Lau, was thanked for securing the participation of four well-qualified candidates. The candidates were presented: Ms. Edith Losa and Ms. Dorothee Racette for administrator, and Ms. Amanda Ennis and Mr. Michael Magee for assistant administrator. Doris Wagner, inspector of elections, announced that 198 ballots had been cast, of which 197 were valid. The results were: Dorothee Racette 131 votes and Edith Losa 88 votes for administrator; Michael Magee 107 votes and Amanda Ennis 88 votes for assistant administrator. The "runners up" were introduced and made short presentations, vowing to provide whatever support they could to the newly elected officers. Ms. Ennis corrected one statement in her biographical information—she is not accredited by the ATA as was erroneously published.

Ms. Dorothee Racette then made a few remarks as the new administrator. She thanked her predecessors, Helge Gunther and Claudia Kellersch, and praised the content of *interaktiv*. Ms. Racette urged all members to take advantage of the GLD website and stated her opinion that *interaktiv* should be distributed primarily through the website, saving money for other expenses such as speakers for ATA conferences. Her goals for her tenure include promoting reciprocity with other German language organizations, such as recognition of accreditation; improving contacts with other German language organizations; and enhancing training opportunities for both beginners and experienced professionals. She seeks open communication with the membership so problems are not allowed to fester.

Mr. Michael Magee stated in accepting the position of assistant administrator that he seeks new "team members" to build the GLD and asked for a round of applause for Frank Dietz, who offers "the most complete glossaries on the net," in Mr. Magee's opinion. Mr. Magee also asked the members to consider making presentations at the 2001 ATA conference, as well as regional conferences such as other divisions organize. "The division needs to work for you and you need to work for the division," he concluded. To that end, he announced a "brainstorming lunch" to be hosted by division officers at noon, 23 September 2000, in a café at the conference hotel site.

The floor was opened for general discussion. Ms Stefanie Müller asked why some members spoke English at GLD meetings and stated that members should speak in their mother tongue. Janice Becker responded that, since all present could be expected to understand both languages, we should leave the issue to individual choice. The majority favored the latter approach. Claudia Kellersch, former division administrator (1996-98), suggested that the work of the division be divided into sub-committees, such as technical, dictionaries, etc. Ms. Gunther said this suggestion could be passed along to the new officers.

There being no further items on the agenda or issues raised for general discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Becker
Minute Taker