

## Minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division

The annual meeting of the German Language Division was called to order at 1:47 PM on November 7, 2002, by the division administrator, Dorothee Racette. After introducing herself to those present, she announced that approximately 70 people had made reservations for the GLD Dinner that evening at the Renaissance Hotel. Copies of last year's minutes had been placed on the chairs in the meeting room. Ms. Racette asked everyone to review the minutes and bring any additions or corrections to the attention of the meeting. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes of the 2001 annual meeting were approved by voice acclamation.

The German Language Division election was then held under the watchful eye of Nicholas Hartmann, who was the appointed Election Inspector for this occasion. The by-laws have been changed to make it easier for divisions to hold an "election by acclamation" when candidates for executive positions within the division are running unopposed. This change saves the division both time and money. The list of candidates was read (Dorothee Racette, running unopposed for Division Administrator, and Jutta Diel-Dominique, running unopposed for Assistant Administrator), and the candidates were elected by voice acclamation.

Ms. Racette then provided an overview of the GLD's activities over the past year. The possibility of a separate GLD conference was reviewed closely by a small committee brought together for that express purpose. A survey was posted on the Web to ask the over 700 GLD members for their opinions. Out of 120 responses received, approximately 80 people were in favor of such a conference, while 40 respondents were opposed to the idea. Ultimately, the committee decided that the time is not yet ripe for such an event; the current weak economy could hurt attendance and/or "steal" attendance from the ATA Conference. The committee will wait until interest strengthens to pursue this matter further. Ms. Racette also pointed out the wide variety of presentations related to German and German translation at the 2002 Annual Conference. There were more than a dozen such presentations made at the 2002 conference, compared to six at the 2001 ATA Conference in Los Angeles.

Ms. Racette is pleased with the progress that has been made on the FAQ, but feels overburdened by the flood of questions crossing her desk and would like to form a small committee of GLD members who are willing to assist with answering these questions.

Jutta Diel-Dominique, the newly elected Assistant Administrator, stood and provided some information on her background. After passing her *Abitur* in 1986, she studied for two years in Bonn before completing her *Diplom-Übersetzer* degree in English and Spanish at the University of Saarbrücken. She moved to Houston, TX and began her career as a freelance translator specializing in technical, automotive and computer-related subjects in 1993. She served as the Houston Interpreters and Translators Association membership committee chair for two years and helped organize the First Healthcare and Medical Terminology Seminar for Professional Translators and Interpreters at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston in 1994. In 1997, she moved to Denver,

where her freelance translation practice is currently based. Ms. Diel-Dominique thanked those attending for electing her to office and said she was receptive to suggestions and ideas relating to Division activities.

The Webmaster's report was the next item on the agenda. Michael Metzger reported that the e-mail list was running well, with 144-145 members participating. However, new mechanisms for verification of new members (especially those with multiple IDs) need to be developed. To that end, people wishing to be added to the GLD e-mail list must provide their full name, ATA membership number, and e-mail address with their request. Mr. Metzger would also like to receive regular updates from ATA HQ with information on new members so he can ensure that only GLD members join the e-mail list. In response to a question from the audience, he stated that occasional delays in the distribution of list messages were solely Yahoo's problem and suggested that the GLD may want to look for another host for the list, such as SmartGroups. In response to another comment from an audience member, he reiterated that agency queries are not an appropriate topic for the list due to possible liability issues and noted that an ATA directive on this issue was sent to all divisions in August. Mr. Metzger then thanked several contributors for adding content to the GLD Web site: Dorothee Racette, Ulrike Walter, and Erik Macki. It was suggested that the GLD Links, which are being compiled and organized by Erik Macki, could be categorized to make them easier to access. The list could be updated monthly or even weekly. Erik Macki is to submit a more detailed outline of his proposal to change the website.

The next item on the agenda was the report from Newsletter Editor Rainer Klett, who reported on behalf of *Chefredakteurin* Christiane Bohnert. Four issues of the very successful GLD newsletter, *interaktiv*, were published under their capable leadership. Mr. Klett reported that the most recent issue with the theme of "*Arbeit und Familie*" was very well received and that more issues would focus on a central theme in the future. He also felt that a mixture of specialized translation-related information and personal information similar to the balance achieved in the "*Arbeit und Familie*" issue was an excellent format for the newsletter. Ms. Racette mentioned that all back issues are archived on the GLD Web site for all division members to read. Mr. Klett urged the members to consider writing dictionary reviews for future issues of *interaktiv* and reported that he was strengthening contacts to several publishing houses in Germany. Reviewers will be able to keep a free copy of the dictionary they review, which is quite an incentive. A member asked whether dictionary reviews from BdÜ newsletters could be published in *interaktiv*. Mr. Klett believed this would be possible. Ms. Racette pointed out that someone from the BdÜ had contacted her about the possibility of subscribing to the MdÜ (the BdÜ magazine) without actually being a member of the organization. It was suggested that she could place an ad in the next *interaktiv* announcing this possibility to GLD members and allow them to take advantage of the offer if they so desired. Mr. Klett mentioned that he would like to have two articles about the ATA conference in the next issue. One article should be a general look at the conference from a first-time attendee, and one should be a more specific look at individual presentations submitted by someone with more experience. Mr. Klett also hoped for more Letters to the Editor (only one or two were

written during the previous year) and reminded those present that the newsletter is only as good as the articles that members submit.

The discussion then turned to the format in which the newsletter is made available to the members. Currently, an e-mail is sent with a link to the Web location where the latest issue can be downloaded in either .pdf or ZIP format. About 15 members were in favor of having the newsletter sent directly to them for the sake of convenience, but others felt that the file size would tie up their modems for too long or possibly exceed the memory limits on their mailboxes. Helge Gunther suggested changing the layout of the newsletter to make it easier to read on-screen and listing the links on the GLD Web site with the newest issues at the top of the list, not the bottom. Another member suggested saving photos and graphics in the newsletter at a lower dpi rate to decrease the overall file size. Ms. Racette lamented that the download rates (that is, the number of people who download the newsletter from the Web site) were not very high, but Per Dohler countered that the active members would always read the newsletter, and that was what really mattered.

Ms. Racette then moved to the next item on the agenda, the financial report. The finances are a bit more complicated this year than in previous years because the ATA is changing its fiscal year to run from July to June. With a current roster of 793 members, Ms. Racette felt that \$15 was a sufficient amount of money to continue supporting all of the division's important activities. Ms. Racette proposed that the \$15 annual dues remain at that level for the next year, and a voice vote approved that motion.

The meeting was then opened for new business. The first item was professional initiatives within the GLD. Mr. Metzger reported that upgrading the GLD Web site was definitely a priority, but the division conference would remain on hold for the moment. Ms. Racette then turned to the next agenda item, 2003 travel programs. There will be an Erlangen program in 2003 at the end of April or beginning of May. The exact dates and program have not yet been set. Ms. Racette urged those interested to contact Lois Feuerle for details. Assuming sufficient interest, there may also be a trip to Leipzig to visit Prof. Schmitt, tour automotive facilities, and act as mentors for University of Leipzig students. The current timeframe for this trip is also April/May 2003, but it may have to be changed to avoid a conflict with the Erlangen trip. The ATA is also sponsoring a regional legal conference in New Jersey in Spring 2003 (see the ATA Web site for details).

The floor was opened for other comments. Michael Metzger provided his e-mail address for any problems, suggestions, or comments members may have relating to the GLD e-mail list or Web site: [mm9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mm9@sbcglobal.net). Helge Gunther thanked Dorothee Racette, Michael Metzger, and the other GLD members who have worked so hard to help the division thrive. Elke Limberger-Katsumi thanked Dorothee Racette for being invited to the conference to make two presentations.

Ms. Racette then asked if there were any other questions or concerns. When none were raised, she adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.