

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division

The annual meeting of the German Language Division was called to order at 3:35 PM on October 15, 2004, by the division administrator, Dorothee Racette. After introducing herself to those present, she announced that 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 2003 annual meeting (held in Phoenix) were approved.

Ms. Racette gave a brief overview of the past year's activities. The Division had 684 members in August; the membership number tends to increase slightly by the end of the year. This is a decrease of 15% and the association is exploring possible reasons of the decline. The GLD maintains a newsletter, of which four editions were published, a website with archive of articles and past newsletters as well as a mailing list with 175 members. There were no major conflicts in the division and the planned trip to Vienna is a new departure for the GLD. Over the course of the year, 113 individual inquiries concerning German translation and association membership were answered.

The German Language Division election was then held under the watchful eye of Dr. William Bergerson, who was the appointed Election Inspector for this occasion. The list of candidates was read (Frieda Ruppaner-Lind, running unopposed for Division Administrator, and Jutta Diel-Dominique, running unopposed for Assistant Administrator), and the candidates were elected individually by voice acclamation.

The newly elected Division Administrator, Frieda Ruppaner-Lind, then introduced herself to those present, calling for active participation in Division affairs to maintain all programs, and thanked Ms. Racette for her service.

Rainer Klett, the editor of the GLD newsletter "Interaktiv" then took the podium to give a report of the past year's activities. He encouraged members to share ideas and suggestions for future publications. The problems with a direct email broadcast of the newsletter have now been resolved and Interaktiv is sent as a PDF attachment to all members, unless a request has been mailed to Headquarters to receive a hardcopy in the mail. For this purpose, a new electronic mailbox has been established (newsletters@atanet.org). Mr. Klett has established a connection with the German Langenscheid Verlag and will be asking for dictionary reviews in specific fields. In exchange, GLD members who write a review will receive a complementary copy of the dictionary. Mr. Klett asked whether anyone would assist him as Assistant Editor and Roland Grefer volunteered for this position.

Since the Division's webmaster, Mr. Michael Wahlster, was absent at the meeting, Ms. Ruppaner-Lind read a written report Mr. Wahlster had submitted, in which he asked for the submission of articles and links to add to the site. No major design updates of the site are planned for the coming year.

The budget of the division was briefly introduced. The Division revenues are based solely on membership dues. Since the division does not conduct any mid-year conferences, a large part of the budget is earmarked for educational activities at the annual conference. Since the given financial data were not detailed, some questions had to remain open until Headquarters can provide more detailed Division data.

Ms. Ruppaner-Lind then introduced the official representative of the German BDÜ, Ms. Regina Simmes. Ms. Simmes greeted those present on behalf of BDÜ-President Barbara Böer-Alves. GLD and BDÜ are planning to intensify their exchange in the future.

The membership decided to keep the membership dues at 15 Dollars a year.

Ms. Ruppenner-Lind then invited suggestions and comments from the floor. The question of a separate GLD conference was brought up, but given the rising number of professional development seminars and chapter conferences, it is questionable whether such an event could attract enough participants. Suggestions for upcoming conferences included a joint event with the Medical Division, combining German translation topics with issues in medicine. Participants also requested more presentations on technical topics.

Since it had not been possible to arrange a book exchange in Toronto, it was suggested to either organize such an event at the conference in Seattle or to post available books online at a separate list. Mr. Roland Grefer volunteered to establish such a list. Dr. U. Vielkind spoke in favor of the possibility to exhibit books translated by members.

Ms. Jill Sommer announced a volunteer vacancy for a news translator.

Since no other issues were brought up, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.