

**American Translators Association
German Language Division**

Minutes of the 1999 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 1:45 PM on 5 November 1999 by the Division Administrator, Helge Gunther. Ms. Gunther announced her intention to use the German language to conduct the meeting while leaving any speaker the option of using the English language. There being no objections, Ms. Gunther proceeded, declaring that the past year had been a success and thanking the following members for their support:

Ruth Boggs, Assistant Administrator

Marga Hannon (absent due to pro bono work for a St. Louis museum), Interaktiv editor

Manfred Winter, German proof reader and future co-editor of Interaktiv

Janice Becker, English proof-reader, Interaktiv

Karin Wuertz-Schaefer, layout, Interaktiv

Michael Metzger, mailing list management and web site development

Hartmut Lau, acting secretary

The minutes of the 1998 German Language Division (GLD) Annual Meeting were distributed. They were approved with one abstention and one correction on page 3, third paragraph, adding a space between the words "Ohio" and "volunteered."

The Administrator, **Ms. Gunther**, rendered her report. Highlights were as follows:

As of 30 December 1998 the division had 568 paid members. This figure needs to be reconciled with the ATA since their roster shows 637 members and since the division is funded by the \$11 obtained from each member's \$15 annual dues.

The membership trend is level: current, 561; 1998, 553.

The discrepancy may arise from the ATA practice of allowing members to pay dues for three-year periods while division dues are collected only on an annual basis.

The GLD is the fourth largest ATA division (following Spanish, French and SciTech).

Contacts within the division were facilitated by the e-mail list made available to members and ATA HQ.

Reports from ATA HQ were relatively timely re: payment of expenses.

Quarterly reports were submitted to ATA HQ.

There were frequent questions from persons new to the US who, having trained in Germany, wanted to know about translation in the US. The Administrator personally dealt with these questions.

Contacts were established with analogous organizations (ADÜ-Nord via Mr. Döhler, who was present). A copy of the ADÜ-Nord newsletter was passed around for members' information.

The Administrator expressed her hope that additional contacts be developed.

The Assistant Administrator, **Ms. Boggs**, rendered her report:

She was responsible for GLD conference speakers and the conference GLD dinner.

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The speaker effort was not very successful since there were few volunteers due to free-lancers' time problems and outside speakers demanding fees in excess of \$10,000.

Ms. Boggs thanked the "Three Doctors", Berger, Dietz and Wältermann, for their presentations at the 1999 ATA Conference.

The response for the dinner was a success. Ms. Boggs reiterated the arrangements for the dinner.

Manfred Winter read the newsletter report on behalf of the editor, Marga Hannon:

Four issues were published since the 1998 ATA conference.

The issues were from 14 to 24 pages in length.

They included articles, reviews, information, a regular contribution from the Administrator, Ms. Gunther and letters from GLD members.

The editor thanked her team: Manfred Winter, Janice Becker and Karin Wuertz-Schaefer, The Administrator announced that Mr. Winter would officially become the co-editor effective as of this GLD meeting. She also announced that the newsletter team had developed contacts with other newsletters: The ITI (UK) Mitteilungsblatt and the ADÜ-Nord (GE) Infoblatt.

The Administrator stated that the newsletter staff wished to develop a more comprehensive approach and asked all members to express their special interests via e-mail or postal mail.

The Web Site Administrator, **Michael Metzger**, rendered his report:

Steps toward completing the web site had been made clear in Interaktiv. The web site should be on-line within a month in conjunction with the ATA web site. It will consist of 4 to 5 pages and past issues of Interaktiv.

There are currently three mailing lists: membership, Ratsrunde and the web site committee. The latter will be discontinued this year when its work is done.

No report was submitted by the Literary Committee Chairman.

The budget was presented by the Administrator. A written copy of the budget as of June 30, 1999, was passed out to members. The Administrator orally presented the current figures and explained each item. She discussed the budget projection for next year, indicating that present plans anticipated a surplus of \$1,900. She suggested that a portion of this surplus be used to defray costs for a visit/presentation by the BDÜ president at the 2000 ATA conference in Orlando, FL.

The administrator then discussed the difference between a membership roster (names, addresses & electronic coordinates only) and a directory (same plus language combination(s), accreditation etc.). General discussion indicated that a separate GLD directory was not necessary and that there was no need to incur the expense of publishing a hard-copy roster in 2000. The membership did indicate interest in an electronic roster. Mr. Metzger pointed out that, at a meeting of ATA webmasters, the consensus was that this was entirely possible and preferable to independent division rosters. Members confirmed their preference for sticking to the ATA roster/directory presently available and not pursuing a separate GLD effort.

The Administrator and Assistant Administrator called for volunteers to speak at the 2000 ATA conference. Both emphasized the wealth of talent available within the division. They also called

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for volunteers to do GLD preparatory work for the 2000 conference (arranging speakers, exploring activities in the area) and asked the suggestions be submitted to Ms. Boggs, the Assistant Administrator.

The Administrator pointed out that, in 2000, a new administrator and assistant administrator will have to be elected for the 2000-2002 term. She called for volunteers for a nominating committee and pointed out that nominations are due 1 March 2000. Dorothee Racette offered to serve on the nominating committee.

The floor was opened to general discussion:

There was a lengthy discussion on the costs of printing and distributing the paper copies of *Interaktiv* and potential cost reductions via electronic copies only. The general consensus was that money could and should be saved via electronic distribution of the newsletter, but that members desiring a paper copy should be provided with same.

There was a discussion of obtaining ATA convention speakers focusing on GLD items of interest. It was pointed out that a pre-conference seminar of three hours would likely be of more use than a 1 to 1.5 hour conference presentation. Further, since attendance at pre-conference seminars was predicted on fees paid, some associated expenses could be covered. The ATA bureaucratic difficulties with speaker invitations were discussed. It was suggested that members canvass German firms, academics and fellowship holders active in the US geographic areas where members reside for potential speakers.

The subsequent substantive discussion focused on cooperation with ADÜ-Nord. Unfortunately, this discussion could not be concluded due to an unforeseen and inconsiderate interruption by a member with notions about transportation to the dinner. The Administrator attempted to keep the discussion focused on the topic and away from this non-substantial issue, however, this proved futile.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Hartmut Lau
Acting Secretary