

Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division
November 6, 2003

The annual meeting of the German Language Division of the American Translators Association was called to order at 1:49 PM by the division administrator, Dorothee Racette. Copies of the agenda, the financial report and last year's minutes had been placed 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 2002 annual meeting were unanimously approved. There were no additions to the agenda from the floor, and the agenda was approved.

Ms. Racette then provided an overview of the GLD's activities over the past year. The German Language Division had a member count of 761 as of October 2003, which was somewhat lower than in previous years. She also reported that she had answered 42 inquiries over the past year, which had been answered in detail. It may be possible to summarize the exchanges of these inquiries anonymously in an FAQ section of the new web site. The GLD listserv has 175 members and is considered a model list by other divisions within ATA. The GLD newsletter *Interaktiv* is published every three months. Ms. Racette emphasized that the newsletter must be a place where views are exchanged objectively and impartially.

The Webmaster's report was the next item on the agenda. The GLD's current webmaster and listmaster, Michael Metzger, announced his resignation and introduced his successors, the new webmaster, Michael Wahlster, and the new listmaster, Jost Zetzsche. Claudia Kellersch thanked Mr. Metzger on behalf of the GLD for his many years of service and for establishing the web site and the listserv. She noted that his duties were so numerous that they would now be divided between two people in the future.

The next item on the agenda was the report from Newsletter Editor, Rainer Klett. Since Mr. Klett was unable to attend the conference, proofreader Susanne van Eyl read a report on his behalf. The GLD newsletter, *Interaktiv*, was published four times this year – in December 2002, March, June, and September. Mr. Klett reported that the format had been changed from two columns to one to improve the newsletter's readability. He also noted that, since the newsletter is now published using the layout software QuarkExpress, it can be sent directly to the members as an email attachment instead of announcing a link for downloading. The newsletter's format is a blend of specialized translation-related information and personal information. Mr. Klett announced that he needs a co-editor (preferably a native English speaker) or perhaps a committee to help create the newsletter. He reminded the members that articles are always welcome, and thanked Janice Becker and Susanne van Eyl for their help during the past year. At this point, Ms. Racette asked for additional comments on the issue of the newsletter. The members praised the layout improvements. Ms. Racette suggested the newsletter include interviews of some of the older members to document their contributions to the field. Another member suggested the GLD cooperate with ADÜ-Nord to exchange published content.

Ms. Racette then introduced Ingrid Haussteiner, a representative of UNIVERSITAS (Österreichischer Übersetzer- und Dolmetscherverband). Ms. Haussteiner invited the GLD members to participate in the group's upcoming 50-year anniversary and event in Vienna from November 4-6, 2004. GLD and UNIVERSITAS are planning to intensify their cooperation and hope to exchange newsletters in the future through their web sites. The Austrian colleagues have been particularly active in the area of establishing quality standards for T&I.

Ms. Racette then moved to the next item on the agenda, the financial report. She noted that the finances reflected the last six months, since the ATA changed its fiscal year this year to run from July 1st to June 30th. Ms. Racette explained that the GLD gets its funding entirely from membership dues and it has never exceeded its budget. She explained that some divisions had questioned why they could not roll leftover funds over to the next fiscal year, but the ATA auditors had objections.

The meeting was then opened for new business. The first item was the unveiling of the new GLD website. Michael Metzger and Michael Wahlster explained that the site will be in German and is intended to be compact and easy to navigate. They also demonstrated the new drop-down archive. The website will include the editorial of the most recent newsletter, which will be changed four times a year. They purposely did not include a links page. Mr. Wahlster explained that the new web site has a counter, which will enable him to track where visitors are from and help him decide on future changes. Jost Zetzsche was then asked to come to the podium and introduce himself. Mr. Zetzsche will take over as the moderator of the GLD mailing list.

Ms. Racette announced that the GLD Happy Hour would be held the following evening from 5-6:30 PM. The floor was opened for other comments and announcements. The administrators invited comments and suggestions for next year's conference, to be held in Toronto. Member suggestions included closer cooperation with the Goethe Institute and German embassies/ consulates. Also, it was suggested to feature conference presentations on legal translation into German.

Ms. Racette then announced that a Nominating Committee was needed to find a new Division Administrator and Assistant Administrator, since both current terms of office were coming to an end in 2004. Susanne van Eyl, Jill Sommer, and Christiane Bohnert volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Racette then asked if there were any other questions or concerns. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.