

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the ATA German Language Division
New Orleans, Louisiana, November 3, 2006

The meeting was called to order by the Division Administrator, Frieda Ruppenner-Lind, at 3:35 p.m.

The assembled members approved the agenda for the meeting. Copies of the minutes from the previous year's meeting were distributed to those present.

Ms. Ruppenner-Lind gave a brief overview of the Division administration's activities over the past year, which consisted of planning the conference program, inviting speakers, establishing and maintaining communication between Division members, facilitating dialogue through the GLD mailing list and Interaktiv newsletter, and making information available on the GLD Web site.

Ms. Ruppenner-Lind congratulated outgoing Assistant Administrator Jutta Diel-Dominique on her two terms of outstanding service to the GLD and presented her with a certificate of appreciation and a farewell gift.

Ms. Ruppenner-Lind was asked last year by the Nominating Committee if she would be willing to serve a second term as Administrator, and she was willing to do so. The membership unanimously approved Frieda Ruppenner-Lind to serve a second term as Administrator.

Ms. Ruppenner-Lind invited the new Assistant Administrator, Ruth Gentes-Krawczyk, to introduce herself. Ms. Gentes-Krawczyk, a member of ATA since 1994, graduated from Kent State University's translation program in 2000 and is a native speaker of English. She would like to assist in planning site visits at future ATA conferences that would be of interest to GLD members, help find future speakers for conferences, and improve networking opportunities for those in more isolated areas,

The next report was given by Abigail Dahlberg, the newest member of the Interaktiv newsletter editing team. The editorial staff now numbers four people: Abigail Dahlberg, Roland Grefer, Rainer Klett, and Astrid Kaeser. They hope to publish four issues over the next year, with the next issue appearing in mid-December. By expanding the team, they hope to include more interesting and more relevant articles, more German-language articles, and fewer reprints from other sources. She exhorted members to step up and write more articles and provide more feedback.

The next report was given by Gerhard Preisser, the GLD list moderator, on behalf of Christoph Niedermair, who could not attend the conference. With the exception of the occasional hot topic, the GLD list is running well, and moderation will continue to employ a generally hands-off approach. The GLD list now has 248 members, an increase of 29 members from last year. This is most likely due to the fact that ATA has abolished

separate fees for Division membership. The average list traffic has also increased from an average of 500 list messages per month last year to 689 this year.

The next report was read by Frieda Ruppenner-Lind on behalf of Michael Wahlster, the Webmaster, who could not attend the conference. The Web site layout has remained the same. The "Das steht woanders" section was expanded. The posting of session papers/presentations from last year's conference caused a traffic spike in November 2005, showing that members appreciate and use this service. The site is also home to a newsletter archive. Traffic has increased to approximately 150 unique visitors a month.

Ms. Ruppenner-Lind proceeded to new business for 2007. Suggestions for future program items included a session on the heart with hands-on items, terminology glossary, and practice texts, hands-on legal workshops targeting both German and English native speakers, and chemistry-related sessions.

It was agreed that San Francisco-based GLD members would speak with PLD/ID organizers of the New Orleans cruise and investigate possibilities for a cruise or outside restaurant social event for 2007 as an alternative to a hotel-based Happy Hour. It was agreed that an outside restaurant would not necessarily have to serve German food.

There have been some calls for a mid-year legal or financial conference. About two-thirds of those present expressed interest in a mid-year subject-specific conference. There was considerable discussion on this issue. Members also suggested encouraging more German content at ATA Professional Development Seminars (legal, financial, etc.). A list was passed around for people to sign up for a mid-year conference planning group. Grace Leonard suggested offering an on-line workshop, reducing the cost greatly and not requiring anyone to travel.

There was also a suggestion to create a FAQ for the GLD list to inform new members of expected conduct and appropriate vs. inappropriate queries and behavior. Frieda asked for volunteers, and Susanne van Eyl, Jill Sommer, Marita Marciano, and Karen Leube all agreed to assist with this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Ennis