

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division

The Meeting of the German Language Division was held on October 3, 2022, via Zoom prior to ATA63 in Los Angeles.

In the discussion among members who had tuned in early, mention was made of the public holiday in Germany, German Unity Day.

GLD Administrator Carlie Sitzman called the meeting to order at 11:00 am EDT. She displayed the agenda via screen sharing; the agenda had also been sent to the listserv earlier in the day.

Forty-two GLD members attended the virtual meeting.

Motions were made and accepted to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting, which had been posted to the chat, as well as the agenda for the current meeting.

Carlie reported that she had been reelected as Division Administrator and Karen Leube elected as Assistant Administrator (after being appointed to serve the previous term). Carlie gave a brief overview of the past year's activities. These included various digital socials as well as the division's first division webinar. She mentioned several vacancies on the Leadership Council, including Digital Events Coordinator (Elani Wales stepped down from this position in the summer) and GLD Listmaster (Gerhard Preissner has given notice).

GLD Assistant Administrator Karen Leube reported on the GLD-related sessions at the upcoming 63rd ATA Annual Conference. She shared that Lisa R uth would be the Distinguished Speaker. Lisa had been invited to be the GLD Distinguished Speaker for the 62nd Annual Conference but had been unable to enter the US due to COVID-related travel restrictions. Other German track sessions will be offered by Michael Schubert and Kenneth McKerrow. Sessions by Abigail Dahlberg and Ted Wozniak will touch on German-English translation (MT and financial translation; translating sustainability reports).

The German Language Division social event will be held on October 14 at 10e, a restaurant near the conference hotel. Response to the event has been good and there is still space available for attendees. The deadline for signing up is October 10.

Karen reported that she and Carlie had noted that several Leadership Council members had elected not to attend this year's Annual Conference for business-related reasons, among them a downturn in translation business due to machine translation. They had contacted the President and President-Elect of ATA to express these concerns and asked for an opportunity to address these concerns at the upcoming conference. In addition, Karen started threads on the GLD and Business Practice listservs in which she asked members to share their experience with machine translation. When several members called for a forum for discussing the impact of machine translation at the Annual conference (e.g. "town hall meeting", panel discussion), Karen had posted a request for such a forum on the ATA Talk listserv. In response, the President Elect has asked the Language Technology Division to host discussions at breakfast on Thursday and Saturday morning at the Annual Conference addressing various aspects of machine translation and its impact on the T&I industry. Karen encouraged GLD members to attend these discussions.

Karen reported that she had prepared a GLD member survey and conducted it from July to mid-August. Response was good; around 115 GLD members participated. She will be writing up the

results and will post them on the GLD website. One interesting result was that at least half of the respondents had belonged to the GLD for at least 10 years. Only a handful of respondents had belonged for less than one year. At a recent Leadership Summit other division administrators reported that activities in their divisions also tended to be carried out by longer-term members. Strategies had been discussed for making new members feel welcome and encouraging them to volunteer. One approach could be a “buddy system” between seasoned members and “newbies”. Karen called for members interesting in being division “mentors”/“mentees” to contact her or Carlie. In the chat it was suggested that this be included in emails to new members and that refresher emails could be sent to longer-standing members.

Leadership Committee reports:

- Marion Rhodes (**Editor-in-Chief of *interaktiv* newsletter**) reported that two issues had been published this year with the themes “25th Anniversary Edition” and “Evolving languages”. Marion thanked her fellow *interaktiv* staff members for their work in the past year. She announced that the next issue, due out in spring 2023, would focus on machine translation and asked members for their contributions to the topic. She also encouraged members to volunteer to help with the editorial work.
- Robin Limmeroth, **GLD Website Administrator**, reported that relevant information is posted to the website (<https://www.ata-divisions.org/GLD/>), which also gives access to previous conference presentations. She asked for uploads of any sessions that have not been posted yet. She reported that she had updated the GLD history and that she plans to feature German-English/English-German translation-related blogs on the website blog and asked for contributions and recommendations. When updating the division history, she came upon impressive statistics including the number of posts on the GLD listserv and the dramatic increase in the number of likes and followers on GLD social media (the GLD’s Facebook page has 590 likes, while its Twitter account has 1,043 followers, up from 262 and 213 in 2017).
- Dr. Ellen Yutzy Glebe, **European Coordinator**, reported that she is currently living in the United States with her family and would be returning Germany in the winter. Her responsibilities are currently being performed by Karen Leube. The annual workshop had not been held in 2022 due to the pandemic. Karen announced the next workshop to be held from March 10 to 12, 2023, in Mainz featuring Invited Speaker Jay Marciano. The workshop announcement was posted in the chat and will be posted on the GLD listserv shortly. Karen reported that Robin Limmeroth had arranged for the venue and had reserved a block of hotel rooms at a discount.

Karen reported that currently 158 GLD members live in 11 European countries and that there was a dedicated listserv for this subgroup. She asked GLD members living in Europe to spread the word about the group.

- Ilona Friedman, **Social Media Coordinator**, was unable to attend the meeting. She posts regularly on Facebook and Twitter and is planning to set up a GLD LinkedIn page. Members are encouraged to Click, Share and Like!
- Carlie Sitzman, **Acting Digital Events Coordinator**, thanked Jill Sommer assisting Elani Wales and for hosting several digital socials. A new Digital Events Coordinator is being sought. The DEC does not have to design the content of webinars or socials; however, currently there is a fair amount of coordination with ATA Headquarters that has to be undertaken, including

verifying that participants are actually ATA members. This work is likely to become much easier in spring 2023, when Headquarters expects to be revamping its membership/community software.

- Heike Holthaus, **New Member & Proofreading Pool Coordinator**, reported on developments in the Proofreading Pool, which has been switched to LinkedIn. Heike has been in contact with the Austrian counterparts. Efforts made to step up the visibility of the Proofreading Pool may include changing the name to “Collaboration Pool” or a similar name that would more accurately reflect the function of the group.
- Last but not least, **Listmaster** Gerhard Preisser gave his highly anticipated annual report on the state of the GLD list. The full report will be posted separately on the GLD website. Gerhard gave a month-by-month report of the listserv highlights and even suggested that these could serve as an antidote to depression. Gerhard announced that he will be stepping down as Listmaster after 13 years, effective at the end of 2022. Although Gerhard will be a hard act to follow, serving as Listmaster is a fulfilling job and Gerhard hopes that a set of capable hands will be found to take over, rather sooner than later.

Carlie thanked the GLD Leadership Council for its work for the division. She also thanked John Cantrell for his help with visiting potential venues for the GLD ATA Annual Conference social and Robin Limmeroth for organizing the upcoming GLD Members in Europe workshop in Mainz. Finally, she thanked Jacqueline Jugenheimer for presenting the first GLD webinar and Petra Rieker for interviewing Lisa R uth for the GLD blog and for hosting the upcoming GLD Stammtisch to be held in Downingtown, PA, on October 5.

In new business, Carlie called for suggestions for a Distinguished Speaker for next year’s Annual Conference to be held in Miami, Florida, from October 25 to 28, 2023.

Robin Bonthron encouraged all GLD members to attend the workshop to be held in Mainz in March and endorsed the expertise of Invited Speaker Jay Marciano.

Carlie thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Leube