



## Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division

The Meeting of the German Language Division (GLD) was held on Friday, October 4, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 1:08 pm online prior to ATA65 in Portland, chaired by Administrator Karen Leube with Assistant Administrator Robin Limmeroth taking minutes and 32 GLD members in attendance.

Karen began the meeting with a call to order and welcome.

The agenda for the meeting and the Leadership Council reports were sent to the listserv prior to the meeting and added to the meeting chat, with a slimmed-down version of the agenda shown by Robin during the meeting as a screenshare of the meeting PowerPoint. Ruth Boggs moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Robin Bonthron. Heike Holthaus moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 GLD Annual Meeting on September 22, 2023 (available on GLD website (Archive) and in the Files section of the GLD listserv), seconded by Robin Bonthron. All minutes of Annual Meetings of past years are available for download on the GLD website under the heading "GLD Archive."

Karen announced the election of the GLD officers by acclamation, with Karen being reelected to the position of German Language Division Administrator and Robin being elected to the position of German Language Division Assistant Administrator, now dropping "Acting" from her title. Karen thanked Robin for all her work and the many meetings, phone calls, and messages back and forth. As Assistant Administrator, Robin does not file a report of her activities, and Karen wanted the membership to know how much she does.

### Brief German Language Division Overview

Next, Karen gave an overview of the past year in the GLD. While at the Networking Dinner at ATA64 in Miami, GLD members Geoff Koby and Robin Bonthron received the news that they had been elected to the positions of ATA President-Elect and ATA Treasurer respectively, resulting in two important ATA positions being filled by ATA members. As President Veronika DeMichelis became ill and had to step down unexpectedly, Geoff became ATA president. Karen updated attendees on Veronika, stating that she is still working and is happy to hear from people. The GLD sent Veronika a plant to cheer her up during this difficult time and wishes her all the best. Karen thanked Geoff and Robin for their support for ATA and the GLD and their work with HQ and the Board before reporting on very recent changes at HQ. Adrian Aleckna is now ATA Interim Executive Director. Karen spoke highly of Adrian, and the GLD Administration is looking forward to working with her.

Since the Annual Conference in Miami in 2023, monthly annual meetings of the Division Leaders ("Coffee Breaks") have been taking place, as well as the customary quarterly Leadership Summits. The most recent Leadership Summit was cancelled, and the next Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. PT. ATA Divisions Chair Andy Benzo was asked to fill the President-Elect position left vacant upon Geoff's assumption of the position of President, making it a bit difficult to organize the monthly Division Coffee Breaks. Karen has now been asked to organize these meetings together with Robert Sette and Analia Bogdan.

### Leadership Council

The GLD has 11 Leadership Council members with dedicated roles and two consultants. Robin shared the members of the LC as a screenshare of the PowerPoint file for the meeting which will be uploaded to the GLD website later.

*LC members: Karen Leube, Administrator; Robin Limmeroth, Acting Assistant Administrator; Rainer Klett, Listmaster; Marion Rhodes, outgoing interaktiv Editor/Sabine Seiler, incoming interaktiv Editor; Noah William Alter, Social Media Coordinator; Randal Gernaat, Web Manager; Ellen Yutzy Glebe, European Coordinator; Katrin Rippel Galati and Megan Falk, Digital Events Coordinators; Heike Holthaus, Collaboration Pool Coordinator; Kristina Cosumano, New Member Coordinator; Ruth Boggs and Andrew Belisle, Leadership Council Consultants*

To streamline the reports from Leadership Council members, Karen asked them to write up reports and then collated them, with only specific LC issues being addressed at the Annual Meeting rather than detailed reports being given by each member as in the past to free up time for comments and suggestions from the members at large. Karen shared the collated LC report with the membership by email on October 2, 2024; this report will also be uploaded to the website with other Annual Meeting documentation.

In 2024, Erin Riddle stepped down for personal reasons, with former Student Consultant Megan Falk moving into the position of Digital Events Coordinator to work with Katrin Rippel Galati. Karen thanked Erin for her good work.

Longtime *interaktiv* Editor Marion Rhodes has passed the baton to Sabine Seiler with the current issue highlighting GLD members who make an impact through volunteering outside of ATA alongside their ATA activities, along with much more content. Karen thanked Sabine for stepping up, and wished Marion could be present at the Annual Meeting or ATA65 to be able to thank her for all her hard work throughout the years on *interaktiv*, and her efforts to ensure it is not only a great GLD newsletter, but also a flagship ATA production. Marion was also very active on the ATA Public Relations Committee and is transitioning to a new career. Karen stressed how important it is for ATA to find ways to keep valuable assets like Marion in the organization, especially during time such as these when many translators are transitioning to other careers (often related to translation).

### **The GLD at ATA65**

Karen stated that the GLD had four slots for sessions chosen for the Annual Conference. This year, it is the GLD's turn to have a Distinguished Speaker, Inga Schiffler, who is filling two slots with *Exploring "Leichte Sprache": A Niche for Language Specialists, Parts I and II*. The two additional slots are filled by Karen, with her presentation "*You Can Say 'You' to Me.*" *Staying Abreast of Trends in the German Formal Address*, and Katharina Jones, with her session on medical translation entitled *It's All "Knockout Mouse" to Me: Comprehensibility Challenges in Translating Patient Information for Clinical Trials*. Karen and Robin are also holding a Professional Forum on ethics with Noah Alter.

Karen shared that the GLD is having its Networking Dinner on Friday, October 1, 2024, and thanked Portland-based GLD member Susanne Kraetschmer for finding the venue.

Robin gave details on the dinner at Brix Tavern in Portland at \$76 plus the app cost for purchasing a ticket, which includes an appetizer, salad, the choice of three entrees, and a dessert. Roughly 12 tickets are still available, and ticket sales have been extended to October 7, 2024, the new cutoff for early conference registration. She also mentioned that a sponsor has been found for a student conference attendee who may have difficulty paying for a ticket; any student or anyone knowing of such an attendee should please contact Robin or Karen. A mail about this will also be sent to the listerv. Robin also thanked Susanne for her assistance organizing the dinner.

Karen explained how sessions come to be, with the Division Administrator and Assistant Administrator contacting people who might have a proposal to submit. The Administrator and Assistant Administrator then receive German-track proposals to review and submit reviews to HQ but are not specifically informed by HQ whether these proposals have been accepted or not, or whether any other proposals touching on German have been submitted/accepted. Karen stated that it would be good to have more input about proposals being submitted/accepted. This year there are other sessions, including an AST Day session, that are involved with German but are not officially in the German track, as well as several sessions by GLD members that are not language-specific. Numerous sessions are in time slots competing against the GLD Distinguished Speaker or other GLD members, which is an unfortunate result of the difficulties of scheduling sessions for such a conference. Hopefully this can be examined in the future.

### **GLD events in the past year**

Next Karen talked about the GLD events of the past year. Robin shared the respective slide of the meeting PowerPoint file as a screenshare.

#### *In-person events:*

Feb. 2024	GLD Members in Germany workshop in Leipzig
Feb. 2024	GLD Stammtisch/workshop in Berwyn, PA
May 2024	GLD Stammtisch in Cologne
June 2024	GLD Stammtisch in Fairfax, VA

#### *Digital events: Webinars*

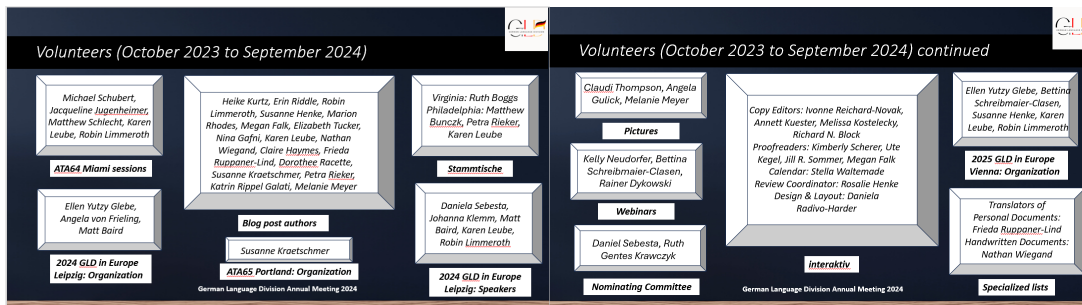
Nov. 2023	Inga Schiffler: "Leichte Sprache"
Feb. 2024	Kelly Neudorfer: "Translating subtitles"
March 2024	Bettina Schreibmeier-Clasen & Rainer Dykowski: "German in Austria and Switzerland"
June 2024	Katrin Lange: "USA-Germany Business Relations"

#### *Digital events: Socials and Co-working*

3rd Thursday of the month: Monthly silent Co-working  
December 9, 2023 (Social): ATA64 Recap and Social Event  
April 13, 2024 (Social): Celebrate National Poetry Month with GLD Colleagues and Friends  
August 23, 2024 (Social): Books & Other Readings That Inspire You and Me

### **Volunteers**

Karen thanked the many volunteers of the past year (October 2023-September 2024) and Robin shared the respective slides as a screenshare:



## Report from Heike Holthaus, Collaboration Pool Coordinator

Heike Holthaus reported on the Collaboration Pool:

- The pool on LinkedIn is comprised of members from ATA, ITI, and Universitas.
- Since the list has been made public, 80-90% of requests to join end up being from non-members of these organizations, which Heike must vet before admitting them to the group.
- There is no interaction within the group after initial posts when someone new has joined, even when Heike herself posted a few jobs.
- Heike asked the group to tell her their reasons for joining, whether they are collaborating directly and not on the list, and whether it makes sense to continue the Collaboration Pool or it is just a group people join to be in it.
- In the chat (see "Note" below) multiple questions, comments, and suggestions were offered (members reported not receiving notifications, a member asked which language directions (for both D-E and E-D), and one member said she had never heard of the Collaboration Pool. A suggestion was made to switch the group to a listserv on groups.io. DEC Co-Coordinator Megan Falk said that a blog post on the pool will be published in October and a GLD Social will be held in November focusing on the Collaboration Pool.
- Karen suggested that Katrin talk to Social Media Coordinator Noah Alter, who is a LinkedIn expert and Noah added his information in the chat. The LC will also discuss trying out a few things for the Pool in the future. Karen suggested that the different suggestions be trialed for four or five months, and the situation then be re-assessed.

## Report from Randal Gernaat, Web Manager

Randal reported on his efforts to centralize key resources on the GLD website and make them easier to find:

- There is a new "Find a Translator/Interpreter" section of the GLD website (<https://ata-divisions.org/GLD/find-a-translator-interpreter/>), which currently includes a link to the ATA website's general search, the list of Handwritten Document Translators, and the list of Personal Document Translators.
- Randal asked the membership to reach out to him or Karen with suggestions for additional resources that could be useful.

Karen reported that she had already directed a potential client to the list of handwritten document translators and another participant reported the same in the chat.

Several participants asked how they could join the respective lists.

## Report from GLD Listmaster Rainer Klett

Before his highly entertaining report on the topics and terminology discussed on the GLD listserv, GLD Listmaster Rainer Klett provided us with some statistics. Subscriptions to the listserv remained steady, with a gain of four subscribers over the previous year, demonstrating our strong interest in professional exchange and mutual learning. Approximately 2,500 posts were sent to the list, with a large number of terminology requests on the list in the last 12 months coming from Tom West, who kept us on our toes with rare, obscure, or dubious technical terms and phrases while editing a dictionary, with discussions around the terminology sometimes surprising us all with regional and US/UK differences.

Rainer's report will be uploaded to the GLD website and also shared in the next issue of *interaktiv*.

## Words on the ATA Annual Conference (Robert Sette)

Karen welcomed our newest member, ATA Board Member Robert Sette, who gave a delightful pitch for attending ATA65 in Portland. Robert talked about what a great city and conference venue Portland is. The Hyatt hotel is practically brand new, having been built during the pandemic, and the Conference venue is conveniently right across the street. The deadline for early registration pricing is Monday, October 7, 2024, and Robert encouraged anyone on the fence to sign up, making the following offer: Robert will personally buy a drink or fancy coffee for anyone on the fence about attending who is at the meeting and decides to register based on his pitch, confirming how convinced he is about the value of the conference for ATA members.

After registration at the venue in Portland, attendees will receive a free public transportation pass for the transit system, which has a stop right by the hotel on the line that also runs to the airport. The familiar language dots are also making a return to the conference, which is now celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> (blue sapphire) anniversary. Karen mentioned that 1959 was a great year, bringing us the ATA and Barbie, not to mention our very own GLD Administrator herself!

### **Future events**

Karen talked about the upcoming GLD events, with Robin sharing the PowerPoint slide in a screenshare:

#### **2024**

- October 30–November 2, 2024: The GLD at ATA65 in Portland
- Nov 15, 2024: (Social) ATA64 Recap and Social Event (second step to re-introduce the pool and its great potential)
- 3rd Thursday of the month, in November and December (Social): GLD Silent Co-Working
- No educational event in December 2024 due to the holiday season

#### **2025**

- 10th Annual GLD Members in Europe Workshop, Vienna: February 21-23, 2025 (Ellen mentioned that registration mail would be going out soon)
- Events are currently in the planning; there will also be social events that can happen every year, such as the events on Poetry Reading, the Books reports, and the ATA recap event.
- ATA66 in Boston: October 22-25, 2025

### **Karen recognized the following contributions to the GLD during the meeting**

- Thanks to the 2023-2024 GLD Leadership Council for their service
- Thanks to Marion Rhodes for her years of service, not only to the GLD, but to the ATA as a whole. We will miss you!
- Thanks to Erin Riddle for serving as the Co-Digital Events Coordinator
- Thanks to Daniel Sebesta and Ruth Gentes Krawczyk for serving as the GLD's Nominating Committee
- Thanks to Tatjana Dujmic and Kerstin Trimble for reviewing/translating content for the GLD website
- Thanks to Ellen Yutzky Glebe for planning the GLD Members in Europe workshop in Leipzig in February

### **New business for 2024/2025**

- a. ATA's 66th Annual Conference (*Boston, October 2025*)
- b. Suggestions for webinars and other digital events
- c. Call for blog contributions

*Note: During the meeting, a zoom chat was opened where attendees could state their name and where they are located, as well as to enable questions, comments, and information to be shared. In addition to the questions and comments mentioned above, contributions included praise for Portland's public transit system and thanks to the GLD Leadership Council for its hard work.*

*Materials shared included the 2024 Annual Meeting agenda and links to the Handwritten Document and Personal Document Translators lists on the website.*

Robin extended her personal thanks to Karen in particular and also to all other volunteers, including the Leadership Council and the GLD in Europe team, for all their good work to help make the Division successful. The last two years were great, and she is looking forward to working together during the next two years.

Karen thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

*Robin Limmeroth, 10/05/2024*