

Present: Linda Atwood, Ricky Baron, Karen Berrier, Bob Brooks, Paula Callaway, Mary Certa, Randa Duvick, Carol Goss, Belinda Potoma Barb Seeley, Elaine Shumway,

The meeting began at 10:20 am.

Immersion Calendar: Members began the meeting by setting the dates for the coming year's immersion dinners.

Old Business:

1. Approve minutes from spring 2009 business meeting: B. Seeley read the minutes from the spring meeting and *the minutes were approved after R. Baron made a motion to accept and L. Atwood seconded.*

2. Treasurer's report: E. Shumway moved the chapter's checking account to Teachers Credit Union in Valparaiso. This will save us the \$5 monthly fee we were paying at Chase Bank. Shumway did have to pay a one-time \$12 to open the new account, which also included a savings account (no minimum balance required). Shumway now has a checkbook and can easily write checks when necessary. Shumway suggested that the chapter name a second person to the account, ideally someone who lives in Valparaiso. B. Seeley agreed to serve as the second person on the account. *R. Duvick moved to approve the treasurer's report and members approved.* The current balance in the checking account is \$470.90.

3. Mentoring and advocacy:

- *Mentoring:* R. Baron told members to feel free to give his name/number to any teacher needing mentoring. Mentoring is not to be geared exclusively to teachers new to the profession but can certainly include opportunities for experienced teachers to share special skills or expertise with each other. For example, Baron worked recently with an experienced teacher in sharing ideas about technology.

- *Advocacy:* Baron received information from Margot Steinhart that the National advocacy website will be launched very soon. Baron encouraged everyone to look into the site and to share the resource with other teachers. R. Duvick explained further what will be included in the "French Advocacy Kit" and how teachers can use it to promote and save their French programs. The kit will be available through a website and also through a CD. A DVD will also become available in which individuals talk about why French is useful to learn.

- M. Certa reported that a nice article about the *Grand Concours* recently appeared in the Hammond newspaper and expressed how important it is to continue this publicity. Baron mentioned that the Post Tribune is less likely to run an article than the Times.

4. National Conference News:

R. Duvick reported that National has reconfigured how AATF regions are organized in the US. The only change for our region is that Tennessee has been added to the East Central Region. Also, there is now a strategic plan in place that will be announced to chapter presidents this fall. L. Atwood encouraged other members to attend next summer's national conference in Philadelphia (in 2011 it will be in Montreal; 2012 it will be in Chicago).

Announcements / Reminders:

1. Teacher of the Year Award: R. Baron congratulated L. Atwood (secondary) and C. Goss (post-secondary) for being named as French Teachers of the Year in 2009. Baron encouraged all members to consider nominating other teachers for this award.

2. Membership renewals: B. Seeley reported that membership renewals will be mailed soon. L. Atwood asked if anyone has contact with new teacher at Wilbur Wright. B. Brooks mentioned that he had let his membership lapse for 2 years and he did not receive a renewal form. He suggested that there may be others who would be willing to come back to membership if they were reminded. The chapter only has 19 paid members on the books this year (down by six paying members compared to last year). R. Duvick did mention that the overall membership has steadily decreased over the last 10 years (for a great variety of reasons).

3. Important dates were announced: Dainava Immersion Weekend; National French Week; IFLTA; ACTFL; *Le Grand Concours*; AATF National; Central States. B. Seeley announced that the 2011 Central States conference will be in Indianapolis and IFLTA will be helping to host. IFLTA will need volunteers to help run the conference and will offer free registration fees to those who volunteer.

4. French students on VU campus: R. Duvick announced that there are nine exchange students from France on the VU campus this semester. If members are interested in being in contact with these students, be in touch with Duvick. R. Baron reminded members that S. Chartier is willing to visit classrooms and be a resource for teachers and students alike.

New Business:

1. Regional Report: R. Duvick reported that there is always a focus on membership at the national level. Members also should look for more information about the strategic plan that will be shared nationally in the coming months. L. Atwood suggested that we further encourage membership renewal by adding new wording to the letter she sends out in October inviting participation in the *Grand Concours*. Duvick will assist Atwood in revising this letter of invitation.

2. IFLTA minigrants: These are still available (no specific deadline); AATF also has national grants available (chapter must contribute some funds toward the grant, though not necessarily matching).

3. *Grand Concours*: The date of this year's *Grand Concours* will be March 13, 2010.

4. Priorities and goals for AATF chapter funds: R. Baron, M. Certa, and B. Seeley met recently and made the following recommendations:

1. Continue to offer two \$50 grants to members to support French Week projects – to be due Sept. 18, 2009
2. Continue to offer professional development scholarships to support participation in IFLTA (priority given to those who are presenting and/or presiding) – to be due Sept. 18, 2009

Baron distributed applications for both of these opportunities.

Members discussed how teachers can best raise funds for various events and trips. L. Atwood proposed tapping local restaurants by asking them to give a donation back as a certain percentage during a teacher and/or student visit. Members present were lukewarm on adopting the idea as a chapter but certainly did not discourage individuals for pursuing this approach.

L. Atwood made a motion to approve the two grant options recommended by Baron for this coming year: Two \$50 grants and one \$150 professional development/IFLTA grant for a total commitment of \$250.

R. Baron seconded the motion and the members approved.

Another issue that members discussed: Will the chapter need to provide funds for the IFLTA workshop? R. Baron will find out for certain whether we will need to contribute to the \$100-200 honorarium for the speaker at the 2009 conference. (Todd Bowen will be presenting at French Friday morning workshop at IFLTA; Baron and Seeley will give a brief presentation about our chapter.)

Members discussed an idea proposed by M. Certa to create a total of three \$20 new membership grants to be awarded to three new, first-time members toward their national dues. (This would be a chapter investment of \$9.75 per member since our chapter receives \$10.25 back from the national AATF for each paid member).

R. Baron made a motion that we adopt the new membership grant if the honorarium due for the IFLTA workshop speaker is modest and if sufficient chapter funds are available. M. Certa seconded the motion. Members approved the motion.

5. Spring elections: Spring elections will take place for new VP. Please consider potential nominees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by C. Goss on September 7, 2009.

Immersion Dinners:

September	Linda Atwood	9.18	immersion dinner; watch Weapons of the Spirit film (35 minute film)
October	Paula Callaway	10.23	
November	Ricky Barron	11.13	
December	Jennifer McLeod	12.4	
January	Sylvain Chartier	1.29	
February	Mary Certa	2.6 or 13 (samedi)	9 am – 2 pm (lunch)
March	Randa Duvick	3.19	
April	Business meeting	4.24	
May			
June	Karen Berrier	6.10	(jeudi)