

In attendance:

Linda Atwood, Ricky Baron (*Vice President*), Karen Berrier, Bob Brooks, Paula Callaway, Mary Certa, Randa Duvick, Carol Goss (*Secretary*), Jennifer McLeod, Greg Miller, Belinda Potoma, Barb Seeley (*President*), Elaine Shumway (*Treasurer*), Nancy Tilka

After a presentation by Belinda Potomoa, the meeting commenced at 10:20 a.m. at the Lake County Public Library.

Items discussed:

(1) Continuing / Old Business

- We all enjoyed the presentation by Belinda Potoma about her study with the Summer Institute in Angers. Belinda spent her "Année à la Française" in Rouillac, a small French village, while she researched her French Literature study and lived a dream. Merci mille fois, Belinda.
- Minutes from the 4.19.08 spring business meeting were approved.
- **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Elaine Shumway provided a treasurer's report indicating an account balance of \$658.14 as of August 08. She noted that the chapter did finally cut a check in the amount of \$200 for the IFLTA 2007 conference presentation. No check was cut for the 2008 scholarship.
- **Advocacy/Mentoring:** Ricky Baron gave a report on the advocacy workshop he attended in Chicago in June 08 which was hosted by Margot Steinhart. Randa Duvick and Carol Goss also participated in the workshop. Numerous workshop participants will work in the coming months to fine-tune the documents and other resources that were created during the workshop. Once these documents are finalized, they will be posted on the national AATF website. Randa continued by contrasting a reactive approach versus a proactive and preventative approach to advocacy. She highlighted The World Speaks French website and also the hope that the French attaché to DC can draw the attention of the French government to advocacy concerns. Chapter members present discussed the need to be much more creative in getting students, parents, and administrators on board. One angle that Jennifer McLeod suggested is a humanitarianism model. Students in her French Club, for example, worked to put together a Haiti aid package, drawing attention to global and francophone issues. Members might want to explore Kiva.org, a website which allows individuals and groups to make donations toward micro-lending projects across the globe.
- **National Conference:** Randa shared briefly about her trip to Liège for the annual AATF conference. She announced that the July 2009 conference would take place in San Jose, CA and encouraged members to consider attending.

(2) Announcements / Reminders

- Ricky congratulated two chapter members who were nominated as AATF Teachers of the Year: Karen Berrier and Paula Callaway. He reminded members to think about nominating fellow teachers for next year; applications are due in March 09.

- Membership renewals will arrive soon; members were reminded to vote for national officers (including Randa who will run at the end of September).
- *Grand Concours*: Linda Atwood suggested that the *Grand Concours* be scheduled for March 14th.
- Various events were announced: IU Honors Program Test, Dainava Immersion Weekend, 2008-2009 VU events, IFLTA Conference, Une Balade Sur l'Eau, National French Week, ACTFL, Central States, le Grand Concours.

(3) *New Business*

- Regional Representative Randa Duvick gave her regional report.
- Members were reminded that they should considering applying for an IFLTA mini-grant (to fund, for example, a project similar to the Haiti project that Jennifer described earlier).
- Members discussed priorities and goals for the chapter funds. With \$350 surplus in the budget, members were asked to consider various options, including but not limited to the traditional student scholarship. Options suggested included an advocacy action plan, non-reimbursed conference fees for members who present, assistance to students attending the IU Summer Honors Program, contributions to the VU February workshop, purchasing books for a members-only book club, and an immersion weekend for members. (Members will explore further the idea of a members-only book club at the first immersion event.) It was decided that a committee would need to discuss this issue further: Mary Certa volunteered to take part, as did Jennifer and Ricky who will further discuss advocacy.
- As a result of the above discussion, the forming of the 2009 Scholarship Committee was delayed to a further time. Details about the scholarship competition will be removed from the chapter website until further decisions are made.
- The spring business meeting was scheduled for April 18, 2009.
- The immersion dinner calendar was set for 2008-2009. Several members expressed an interest in expanding the monthly immersion dinners to include additional events such as film nights or meeting at a café or restaurant. A first event was scheduled and more will be planned on an informal basis as the year progresses.

Respectfully submitted by C. Goss on 4.6.09.