

In attendance:

Linda Atwood, Ricky Baron, Karen Berrier, Paula Callaway, Randa Duvick, Carol Goss, Barb Seeley, Nancy Tilka.

The meeting commenced at 10:10 a.m. at the Valparaiso University German House.

Items discussed:

(1) Introductions of officers and members

(2) Continuing / Old Business

- Minutes from the 9.15.07 fall business meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's report: Treasurer Elaine Shumway was not present at the meeting, but she provided a written treasurer's report indicating an account balance of \$830.97 as of March 08. A few outstanding issues remain:
 - At the fall meeting members were unable to determine if checks had been cut for the two students to whom we had promised gift funds; Nancy Tilka reported that she did check with these students and they still were not sure if they received their checks. Members agreed that we have pursued the issue sufficiently and will not attempt to contact the students for further clarification.
 - The speaker whom we co-sponsored for the 07 IFLTA conference workshop contacted Linda Atwood. The speaker has yet to receive a check from the Indiana chapter of AATF. Linda has attempted to contact the chapter for an invoice so that our chapter can contribute the portion we promised (\$200). She has yet to receive a response from the other chapter. Members agreed to keep this amount in reserve should the other chapter request our contribution in the near future.
- IFLTA Conference 08: Linda asked whether or not the chapter should continue to co-sponsor the IFLTA workshop speaker. Members agreed that we would still like to participate, but only proportionally based on our membership numbers (roughly 1/6th of the membership of the other IN chapter). It was agreed that our chapter would be willing to pay 1/6th of the cost of bringing a speaker to IFLTA, with a maximum contribution of \$200. Members agreed to earmark this amount for the 08 conference.
- Linda Atwood expressed her thanks on behalf of chapter members to all those who hosted immersion dinners during 2007-2008. The October dinner in Michigan City was especially successful in drawing newcomers; Greg Miller has just recently become a new chapter member.
- Advocacy/Mentoring/Membership: Ricky Baron and Randa Duvick discussed advocacy issues in fall 07. Randa and Carol Goss agreed to work together on

creating a website focused on advocacy, using Indiana-specific content provided by “Tennessee Bob.” Randa reminded members to let potential new chapter members understand they are under no obligation to attend the bi-annual business meetings. Carol suggested adding a “Benefits to membership” area of the chapter website. Nancy mentioned that there is a real lack of leadership at her school. Randa suggested that the chapter president send a letter of encouragement to school administrators and/or department heads.

- *Grand Concours*: Jennifer McLeod contacted the French Consulate to solicit prizes for the *Grand Concours*, but we have yet to receive them. Ricky indicated that he is willing to donate a gift certificate from Café Fondue. Linda asked if members had suggestions for other prizes and/or ways to solicit prizes from businesses. She suggested the possibility that French Club students could contact area businesses. Linda will also buy book prizes at Barnes and Noble.

- *Web Site*: Carol reported that the updated constitution and addendum (revised at the fall business meeting) are now available on the chapter website. She also promised to work with Randa and Ricky to add additional advocacy and general media resources to the site.

(3) Announcements / Reminders

- *Regional Representative Randa Duvick* reminded members that the national publicity campaign continues. Members can access promotional materials through the website: theworldspeaksfrench.org. The site also offers a chat room where teachers can post questions. National also has mailed a promotional DVD to all members.

- *IN AATF Teacher of the Year*: Linda reported that she has not received any nominations for the Teacher of the Year. Ricky indicated that he will again nominate a teacher on behalf of the chapter.

(4) New Business

- *Grand Concours*: Linda announced that 385 students participated in this year’s *Grand Concours*, with 39 winners coming from our chapter. The turnout reflects an increase over the previous year in the total number of students as well as teachers participating for the first time. She reminded members that teachers do have the option of administering the test at their own school, but they need to register with her early. Finally, Linda sought advice on what to do should students again arrive to the exam late (due to weather or road construction). She did allow latecomers to take the exam this year, but as administrator Linda will make a decision in the future based on the circumstances at the time.

- *Chapter Scholarship*: The Scholarship Committee (Karen Berrier, Paula Callaway, Barb Seeley) received three applications for this year’s student scholarship. They announced the winner as Sarah Shaaban from Linda Atwood’s class at Crown Point High School. Sarah will be attending either Purdue or NW Illinois. Members agreed to give her a plaque (to be paid for with extra funds from the *Grand Concours* working budget). Linda also has two

dictionaries to distribute; one will go to the scholarship winner, one will go to our *Grand Concours* winner.

- Election: Ricky Baron stepped forward and offered to serve as Vice President. (No other candidates presented themselves for the office.) Members happily and unanimously voted in Ricky as VP.

The chapter officers for 2008 – 2010 will be:

President: Barb Seeley

Vice President: Ricky Baron

Treasurer: Elaine Shumway

Secretary: Carol Goss

- The Fall meeting was set for 9.20.08. Ricky will reserve a room at the Lake County Public Library. The meeting will begin at 10 am, but members are invited to arrive at 9:30 to hear a presentation by Belinda Potoma.

(5) Other

- Members had a broad discussion about how to spend chapter funds. Traditionally the chapter has spent membership income on a student scholarship. In the past year or two the chapter has also committed to contributing to the annual IFLTA workshop. Randa expressed that this discussion is a good one to have so as to better clarify for ourselves what our goals are as an organization. What expense(s) creates the biggest impact (in terms of visibility, advocacy, etc)? Do we want to use our dues to support students, teachers, officers attending national meetings, letterhead and other supplies, etc?

Carol suggested awarding funds to teachers who agree to present a French-focused session at IFLTA *and* whose school does not offer financial support to attend this professional conference. For example, the chapter could potentially spend the \$300 normally spent on the student scholarship on a yet-to-be established professional development scholarship, awarding perhaps \$50 for chapter members who will present an IFLTA session (x 6 teachers = \$300). Linda expressed her desire to continue the student scholarship. Other members encouraged further discussion and expressed their desire that the chapter consider other outreach ideas as well. Linda proposed that we table the discussion until the fall.

In the meantime, Carol, Randa and Ricky will meet during the summer to form some guidelines for a professional development scholarship that the chapter may decide to establish. The committee will present recommendations at the fall business meeting.

Respectfully submitted by C. Goss on 4.23.08.