The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Inc.

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2013

The Business Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese was held on Monday, July 8, 2013 in Salon A of the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio, Texas from 5:30-6:30 PM with approximately 150 members in attendance.

AATSP President Laura Zinke called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and announced the agenda for the meeting.

The agenda items presented and actions taken were as follows:

1. INTRODUCTIONS
   
   A. Introduction of Executive Council Members
      
      Laura Zinke; President; McClintock High School; Tempe, AZ
      Christine M. Campbell; Past President; Defense Language Institute; Presidio of Monterey, CA
      Sharon Ahern Fechter; President-Elect; Montgomery College; Rockville, MD
      Emily Spinelli; Executive Director; AATSP National Office; Walled Lake, MI
      Terry Ballman; California State University-Channel Island; Camarillo, CA
      Kevin Cessna-Buscemi; National Spanish Examinations; Valparaiso, IN
      Cheryl Fuentes-Wagner; Kempner High School; Sugar Land, TX
      Laura N. Jacobson; Niles North High School; Skokie, IL (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
      Sheri Spaine Long; University of Alabama-Birmingham; Birmingham, AL
      Margo Milleret; University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM
      Ada Ortúzar-Young; Drew University, Madison, NJ
      Judy Park; Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica; Buffalo Grove, IL
      Loknath Persaud; Pasadena City College; Pasadena CA
      Cathy Soud; The Bolles School; Jacksonville, FL (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
      Bill VanPatten; Michigan State University; East Lansing, MI
      Crystal Vicente; Athens Academy; Athens, GA

   B. Introduction of AATSP Staff
      
      Roberta Miller, Director of Financial Services
      Debra Nigohosian, Conference Coordinator
      Tracy Miller, Member Services

   C. INTRODUCTION OF COORDINATORS, DIRECTORS AND EDITORS
      
      Communications
      Director: David Wiseman
      Enlace
      Editor: Mary-Anne Vetterling
2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Executive Director, Emily Spinelli, delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the various roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director; she provided the membership with information about the external and internal activities of the Executive Director and the association in general. She further reported that the AATSP has gained a strong professional presence through its programs and advocacy efforts in the United States and abroad. Emily Spinelli concluded by stating that the AATSP was in a strong and stable position and that it was providing an increased number of member benefits.

3. MEMBER SERVICES REPORT
Tracy Miller, Member Services, reported data on the number of AATSP members broken down by language, level, and membership type. She also reported that a new publication was created to enhance communication with the membership. She reported that the A&R (Announcements and Reminders) is sent to the membership approximately every three weeks and contains information on AATSP programs, activities, and publications along with reminders about deadlines for AATSP professional development opportunities. Tracy Miller also reported that AATSP membership is stable in all categories. She recommended that current membership rates be maintained for 2014 and that a new adjunct membership category be explored.

4. CONFERENCE REPORT
Debra Nigohosian, Conference Coordinator, reported on the 2013 conference and the many and varied responsibilities of the Conference Coordinator. D. Nigohosian stated that 315 proposals were received for the 2013 conference and that 259 sessions, workshops, and special events were scheduled. A new feature for the 2013 conference was the Cultural Heritage Evening; three special events, including a film viewing and discussion, a reading of
a new one-act play, and a book review on the history of the Spanish language were offered. D. Nigohosian reported that the 2013 Conference attendance was on par with the 2012 Conference in Washington, DC and that there were approximately 500 members present.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT
Roberta Miller, Director of Financial Services, emphasized that the AATSP is financially very stable and that the AATSP continues to provide and further enhance member services and programs without increasing membership dues. She stated that there has not been an increase in dues for membership renewal in the last 7 years or since 2006 and that there are no plans to raise dues in the near future. R. Miller reported that additional deposits were made into the AATSP investment account established in 2012, bringing the balance to just over $400,000. The average rate of return during the first year was 12.45%. Because of the change from a fiscal year end to a calendar year end, R. Miller presented a fiscal year report for 2011-2012 and a short year-end report for December 31, 2012. These reports were prepared by Heller and Wetzler, CPA.

MOTION 1. The motion to accept the 2011-2012 CPA Financial Report was made by José Ortega and seconded by Ada Ortuñar-Young. The motion was approved unanimously by those in attendance.

MOTION 2. The motion to accept the Short Year (July 1-December 31, 2012) CPA Financial Report was made by Bill VanPatten and seconded by Cheryl Fuentes-Wagner. The motion was approved unanimously by those in attendance.

6. APPROVE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIEDAD HISPÁNICA DE AMISTAD
A search for a new Director of the Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad (SHA) was conducted in May-June, 2012. The Search Committee unanimously recommended the appointment of Katie MacMillan as the Director of Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad. The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica then approved the recommendation of the Search Committee.

MOTION 3. The motion to approve the appointment of Kate MacMillan as the Director of the Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad was made by Kevin Cessna-Buscemi and seconded by Yvette March. The motion was approved unanimously by those in attendance.

7. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2012 ELECTION
The Business Meeting concluded with the introduction of the candidates for the 2013 election for President-Elect and Representatives to the Executive Council. Each candidate was introduced and read aloud their statement of candidacy outlining their qualifications for office and what they hope to accomplish if elected. The candidates include:

President-Elect
    Elaine Davis; Madison High School; Madison, NJ
    José H. Ortega; St. Mary’s Hall; San Antonio, TX
College / University Representative
Deborah Gill; Pennsylvania State University-DuBois; DuBois, PA
Ana Sánchez-Muñoz; California State University-Northridge; Northridge, CA. Ana Sánchez-Muñoz was not in attendance; she did not provide a video of her reading her statement of candidacy.

Community College Representative
Sergio A. Guzmán; College of Southern Nevada; North Las Vegas, NV
J. Francisco Zermeño Cárdenas; Chabot College, Hayward, CA. J. Francisco Zermeño was not in attendance; he did not provide a video of him reading his statement of candidacy.

Secondary (9-12) Representative
Mirta Oramas; Gulliver Preparatory School; Miami, FL. Mirta Oramas was not in attendance; A video of her reading her statement of candidacy was provided and shown.)
Pamela Ottenheimer; Retired; Newtown, PA

8. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION 4. Marco Arenas moved to adjourn the meeting; Crystal Vicente seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by those in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.