



# Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association (VASLTA)

\*\*\*\*\*

March 2013

## Table of Contents

ASLTA Conference 2013 .....	Page 2
ASL Mixer on 03-26-2011 .....	Page 3
Celebrate Communication on 05-14-2011 .....	Page 3
Annual General Meeting on 05-25-2011 .....	Page 4-5
ASLTA Conference in Seattle during June 28-July 3, 2011 .....	Page 6
Board Meeting on 09-09-2011 .....	Page 7-8
Workshop on 11-12-2011 .....	Page 9
Holiday Gathering on 12-04-2011 .....	Page 10-11
VCCS ASL-IE Peer Group on 03-31-2012 .....	Page 12
Board Meeting on 04-14-2012 .....	Page 13-14
Celebrate Communication on 05-12-2012 .....	Page 15
Annual General Meeting on 09-15-2012 .....	Page 15-16
Blitz School About the Deaf on 10-13-2012 .....	Page 17-19
CIT Conference on 10-19-2012 .....	Page 20
Board Meeting on 11-17-2012 .....	Page 20-21
Holiday Gathering on 12-08-2012 .....	Page 22
Board Meeting on 01-12-2013 .....	Page 23-24



VASLTA Goals

<http://beechasl.net/vaslta/goals.html>

VASLTA Bylaws

[http://beechasl.net/vaslta/VASLTA\\_bylaws\\_june1999.pdf](http://beechasl.net/vaslta/VASLTA_bylaws_june1999.pdf)

VASLTA History

<http://beechasl.net/vaslta/history.html>



## VASLTA Board for 2011-2013

## Advertisement Rates



The 2011-2013 officers of VASLTA are:

President	Brian Leffler
Vice-President	Kevin Taylor
Secretary	Patricia Beech
Treasurer	Julie Bagshaw
PDC	Brian Leffler
Member-at-Large	Mary Bagby
	Julie Bagshaw
	Adele Polk
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Beech
Web	Patricia Beech

Currently VASLTA sends out newsletters 3 or 4 times a year. To find out when the next issue is scheduled, please contact Patricia Beech at [pgbeech@aol.com](mailto:pgbeech@aol.com).

To place an advertisement in future issues, please send your advertisement in electronic format to [pgbeech@aol.com](mailto:pgbeech@aol.com). JPEG format is preferred, but we will consider other formats.

1/4 page	\$25.00
1/2 page	\$60.00
Full page	\$100.00



# EDITOR'S CORNER



**American Sign Language Teachers Association**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Professional Development Conference**  
**July 2 – July 7, 2013**  
**Hilton Charlotte University Place**



**ASL Education: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond**

<http://www.aslta.org/node/609>

# ASL Mixer on 03-26-2011



# Celebrate Communication on 05-14-2011



# Celebrate Communication 2011



# Annual General Meeting on 05-25-2011



Dawn Hitchens-Seymour gave a presentation on “HB 1435 and its Impact on Virginia”. Dawn is an ASL teacher at Loudoun Valley High School. The idea of HB 1435 originated in Dawn’s classroom. Her students came to Richmond on two different occasions to testify before the House and Senate Committees.

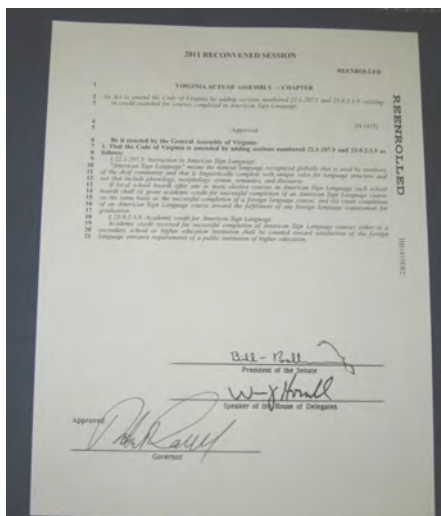
The signing ceremony took place on May 23, 2011 on the front steps of Main Hall at the Virginia School for the Deaf Blind. Governor McDonnell signed into law House Bill 1435, a bill patroned by Delegate Richard P. “Dickie” Bell (R-Staunton). Dawn and a number of her students were present at the signing ceremony. Additionally, students, teachers, and faculty members from VSDB were there.

House Bill 1435 requires local school divisions that choose to offer American Sign Language to offer it as a foreign language. It also requires public colleges and universities to recognize it to fulfill foreign language entrance requirements.

The bill was first referred to the Higher Education subcommittee, where it was reported out with a vote of 6-1. It then passed in the full Education Committee with a vote of 21-1. It passed on the floor of the House with a vote of 95-3. It was reported out of the Senate Committee on Education and Health with a vote of 11-4, and passed in the Senate with a vote of 34-6. It then received a few technical amendments from Governor McDonnell, and was passed again by both houses during the reconvened session. It went into effect on July 1, 2011.



Source of this picture: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/governorva/sets/72157626673640293/>



# Annual General Meeting on 05-25-2011 (continued)



## VASLTA Board for 2011-2013

Mary Bagby (member-at-large),  
Lenny Granda (ex-officio) Brian Leffler (president),  
Paula Debes (treasurer), Kalen Beck (member-at-  
large), and Debra Wolff (PDC)



Brian Leffler, and  
Debra & Ron Wolff



Brian Leffler, Mary Bagby,  
and Kalen Beck



Adele Polk and  
Tom Dowling



Cindy and Rachel Burton



Lenny Granda  
with his children



**Past Presidents**  
Patricia Beech, Lenny Granda,  
and Adele Polk

# ASLTA Conference in Seattle during June 28-July 3, 2011



Bummy Burstein  
and Pat Beech



Adele Polk  
at Hard Rock Cafe



Brian Leffler  
at Hard Rock Cafe



NCSD graduates try to remember signs used at NCSD  
(Nat Wilson, Rachel, and Pat Beech do the sign for Santa Claus)



Ann Silver



ASLTA 2011 Committee

## Board Meeting on 09-09-2011

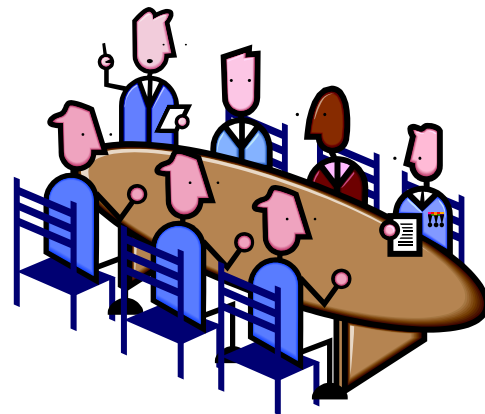


Kevin Taylor (Vice President),  
Paula Debes (Treasurer), Brian Leffler (president),  
and Lenny Granda (ex-officio)

Present: Brian Leffler, Kevin Taylor, Paula Debes, Lenny Granda, Adele Polk, Patricia Beech, and Elizabeth Bush (guest)

1. Review of officers
  - Secretary position still vacant
2. ASLTA Conference
  - Brian, Adele, and Pat attended the conference in Seattle this summer. They shared their experiences.
  - Adele mentioned that she had three Eyeth posters to give away. NOVA wants one, and Lenny wanted one. Pat suggested that the 3rd poster be given to NVRC.

3. Discuss location and dates for future meetings
  - Board Meeting on Saturday, October 15 at 9:30AM in NVRC
  - Holiday Party on Saturday, December 3 at 2PM in Paula Debes' house
4. Review list of Reports for future meetings
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Secretary (minutes)
  - Treasurer
  - PDC
5. Discuss membership for VASLTA & ASLTA
  - Pat mentioned that the bylaws required that the VASLTA president becomes member of ASLTA. Nothing was said about the other officers. However, she encouraged everyone to become members of ASLTA.
6. Treasurer's Report
  - We need to remove Lenny's name and get Brian's name on the account.
  - The current amount is \$5,637.99. She deposited a total of \$750, and paid \$240 for Ken Mikos to stay in hotel.



- The Board asked for 1-year report of the VASLTA account.
  - Paula explained about the VASLTA account. It used to be under First Union and then Wachovia, which is now Wells Fargo Bank. Because the amount in the account is small, Wells Fargo Bank charges monthly fees of \$4.00. She suggested that we close this account, and open one with The Fauquier Bank. With The Fauquier Bank, we will not be charged fees, can earn a small interest, and will get free checks. [Note: Paula’s husband works at this bank. Lenny raised concern that this might be a conflict of interest.]
7. PDC’s Report
- Workshop called “ASL Linguistics” by Katie Faust on November 5 (Board decided on November 5, rather than November 12 because of November 12 being the day after Veteran’s Day)
  - Kim Pudans-Smith for Spring 2012 on “Rubrics” and “Guidelines for videotaping students”
8. Brainstorming for what VASLTA needs or what it can do for the others
- Outreach programs – Examples are Deaf Humor, Blitz, and Storytelling. Board suggested that PDC oversees this. We will need teamwork on this.
  - Do we want VASLTA to become statewide? We need to get together with Bruce Sofinski representing Dogwood Chapter of ASLTA (Richmond & Tidewater area). We decided to put on the backburner for now.
  - For further discussion, the Board tabled this topic to meeting on October 15.

New Business:

1. Paula made a motion that VASLTA change from Wells Fargo to The Fauquier Bank. Kevin seconded. The Board decided to table this motion to e-mail with the 1-year report attached.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29PM.

Submitted by,  
Patricia Beech  
Secretary, Pro Tem



Lenny Granda and  
Elizabeth Bush



**Current & Past Presidents**

Brian Leffler, Lenny Granda, Adele Polk, and Patricia Beech

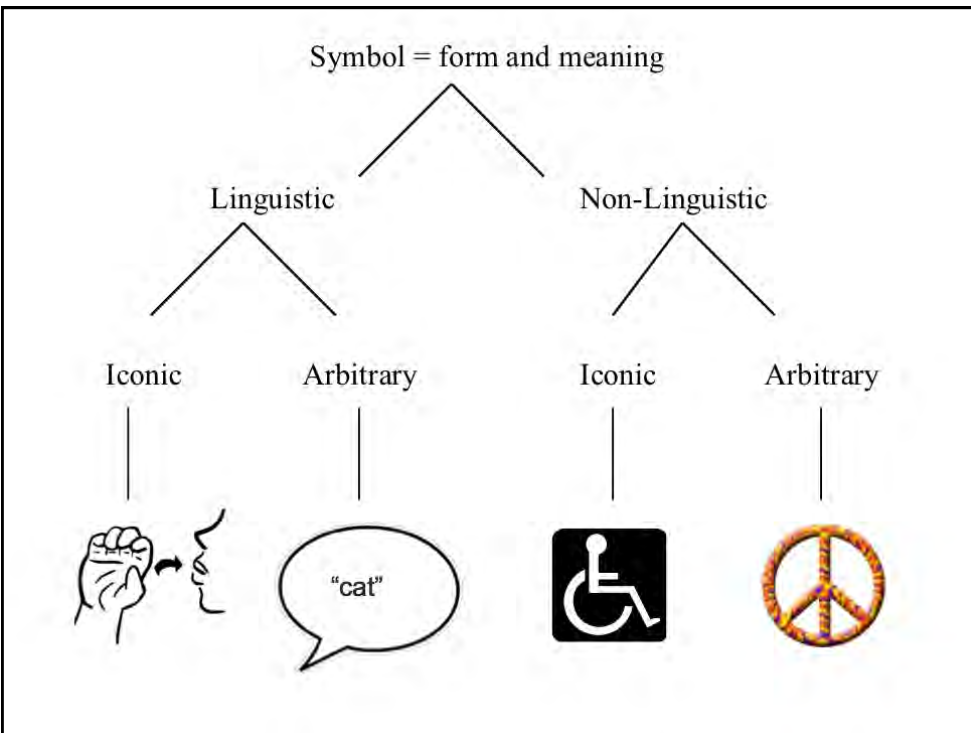
# Workshop on 11-12-2011



Katie Faust gave a presentation on “An Introduction to ASL Linguistics for ASL Teachers”. She received her Masters in Linguistics from Gallaudet in 2005 and her Ph.D. in Linguistics from Gallaudet in 2012. She has taught Linguistics, ASL, and Interpreting at NVCC-Annandale since 2004.

The presentation provided an overview of some basic aspects of ASL Linguistics applicable for the ASL classroom. Topics discussed included language vs. communication, ASL phonology, morphology, and sociolinguistics. The goal of this presentation was to have the participants being able to identify basic linguistics features of ASL when used by new signers in the classroom, and be able to incorporate knowledge of these features into the ASL teaching curriculum.

The participants at the workshops were: Patricia Beech, Brian Leffler, Anne Liversidge, Kevin Taylor, and Meg Vickers.



# Holiday Gathering on 12-04-2011



VASLTA hosted a Holiday gathering at the Debes house on 12-04-2011.



Brian Leffler



Abbas Behmanesh & wife, and Mish Ktejik



VASLTA Board



Jan Nishimura and Kalen Beck



Jim & Pat Beech



James & Adele Polk

# Holiday Gathering on 12-04-2011 (continued)



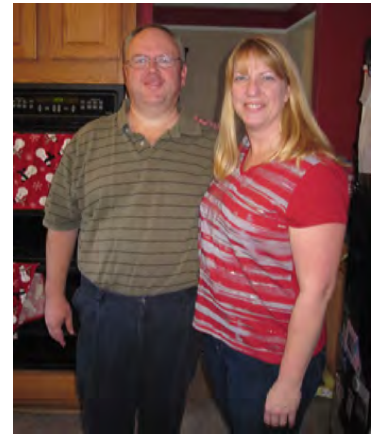
Lenny & Kristin Granda with  
Ashlyn and Ethan



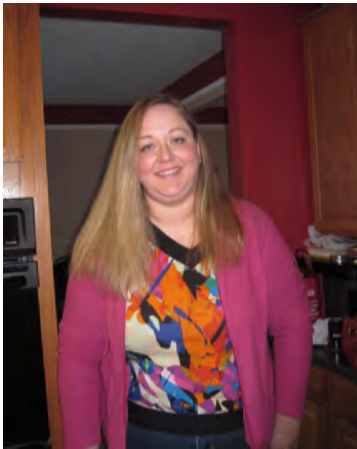
Elizabeth Debes and  
Fiona Polk



Brian Leffler and  
Jessica Debes



Mark and Paula Debes



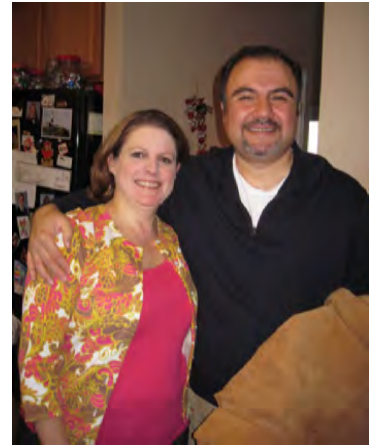
Julia Gutreuter



Mary Bagby



Jill Moebus



Abbas Behmanesh with wife



Andrew Debes



Sam Harris



Debra Wolff and  
Kevin Taylor



VASLTA Board with Past Presidents

# VCCS ASL-IE Peer Group on 03-31-2012



First row: Abbas Behmanesh, Bradley Brown, Star Grieser, Kathy Mutter, Kevin Taylor and Paula Debes  
 Second row: Paul Fitzpatrick, Bradley Dale, Patricia Beech, Adele Polk, Brian Leffler, and Maher Eshgi



Rhonda Jennings, Greg Prop, and Bobbie Dietz



Mish Ktejik



Bruce Sofinski



Paula Debes and Shelly Palomino

The ASL and Interpreters Education instructors at Virginia community colleges met at JSRCC in Richmond during March 30-31, 2012. Presentations were given by:

- Star Grieser on ASLville
- Paul Fitzpatrick on How to Make a "No Voice Policy Effective in the Classroom

- Bruce Sofinski on A Discussion: Deaf Cultural Literacy for ASL-English Interpreters
- Bradley Dale on ELAN
- Mish Ktejik on Interpreting Models
- Shelly Palomino on How to Grow, Develop, and Make your ASL Department Bigger and Better!

# Board Meeting on 04-14-2012

Present: Brian Leffler, Kevin Taylor, Kalen Beck, Julie Bagshaw, Mary Bagby, and Pat Beech

Meeting started at 10:22AM.

We approved the minutes from Jan 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

ASL Blitz:

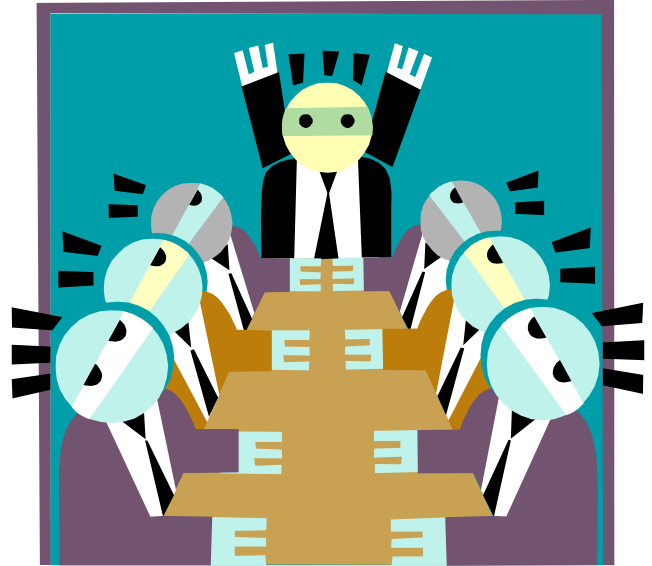
Pat moved that we have the ASL Blitz on October 13.

Kevin seconded. Passed.

Side Notes:

Mary's 1<sup>st</sup> grandbaby is due on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Brian thought about doing a revision of "Bison Song" to "Blitz Song".



Workshop on April 21<sup>st</sup>:

Brian said he could take pictures, if Adele couldn't.

Workshop is at 9AM-1PM. Presenter Kim agreed to a flat fee of \$300.

We will provide bagels and cream cheese (maximum \$30).

AGM:

Julie moved that we have AGM on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10AM till 12PM. Kalen seconded. Passed.

Larry Gray (MDASLTA secretary) will be the guest speaker. We will talk about partnership with MDASLTA.

Mary amended that we have a Blitz Planning meeting after the AGM meeting during 1PM-3PM. Kalen seconded. Passed.

The whole motion was approved.

Celebrate Communication:

Julie moved that we reserve a table for Celebrate Communication. Kalen seconded. Passed.

This event is on May 12<sup>th</sup> during 10AM-3PM.

We agreed to share a booth with JBinterpreting (Julie Bagshaw).

Adele, Pat, and Mary will represent VASLTA, while Julie represents JBinterpreting. Booking a table costs \$50 so ½ is \$25 for VASLTA and \$25 for JBinterpreting.

Free lunch for this table will go to Adele.

We will have sign-in sheet with e-mail address at the booth.

We decided to hold off events till after the AGM meeting.

(continued on next page)

## Board Meeting on 04-14-2012 (continued)

Blitz Planning dates:

#1 May 19 at 10AM-12PM

1<sup>st</sup> choice is Panera Bread; backup is Jersey Mike's (NVRC was booked so we couldn't use the meeting room).

#2 September 15 at 1PM-3PM (after AGM)

Location: NVRC

#3 October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10AM-12PM

Location: NVRC

Purpose: Go over registrations

Kalen nominated Pat as secretary. Julie seconded. Approved.

We need to reach out to High School ASL teachers and others, such as:  
Denise Drake, Sharon Bailey, Elizabeth Bush, and Colleen Hodgeson

One possible way is Orientation Day or Teachers Day for High School ASL Teachers.

We need to discuss with Adele – to find out what the High School ASL teachers need in workshops, etc. We thought of having a workshop on Master ASL 2 in Spring 2013. Pat will contact Jason and Barbara with CC to Brian and Debra. Another workshop could be ASL Lab.

FYI:

MDASLTA conference is on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03:53PM.

Submitted by:

Patricia Beech

Secretary 2012-2013



## Celebrate Communication on 05-12-2012



## Annual General Meeting on 09-15-2012



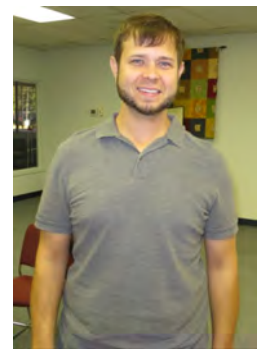
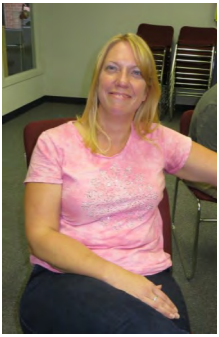
Dr. Keith Cagle gave a presentation on “Are Some ASL Lexical Signs 1000 Years Old?” on September 15, 2012. This was based on research for his Ph.D. dissertation. He explored the ancestral roots of ASL with lexical borrowing from Cistercian Sign Language and French Sign Language.

Cistercian Sign Language (CSL) was used at Cluny monastery in France @ 1068 A.D., and at St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, MA during 1789-1799. Old French Sign Language (FSL) was first used for instruction by Abbé Charles-Michel de l’Épée at the school for the deaf in Paris, France.

Cagle talked about creating a manageable sample. He used CSL as the base for his research. He came up with a final list of 55 lexical signs. He ended his presentation with the question, “Is it possible that some of our ASL lexical signs are nearly 1000 years old?”.



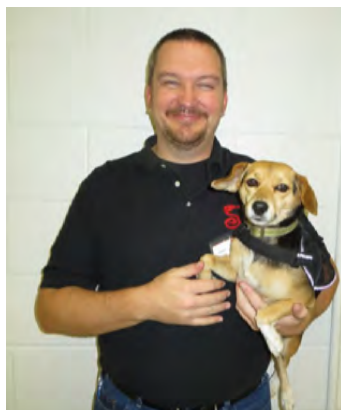
# Annual General Meeting on 09-15-2012 (continued)



# Blitz School About the Deaf on 10-13-2012



**Registration**  
Julie Bagshaw and Cassie Wykle



**Blitz Chair**  
Kevin Taylor



**Principal**  
Nancy Rarus



**Rover**  
Mary Bagby



**ASL Hands**  
Bradley Brown



**Geography**  
Tom Dowling



**ASL Culture**  
Paula Debes



**Sports**  
Tim Lavelle



**ASL Hands**  
Bradley Brown puts finishing touches on drawings



**Sports**  
Tim Lavelle in action

# Blitz School About the Deaf on 10-13-2012 (continued)



**Beginner Level**  
Adele Polk, Teacher



**Volunteers**  
Matt Ledler, Cassie Wykle,  
Karen Washburn, and Stephanie Frece



**Intermediate Level**  
Brian Leffler and Pat Beech, Teachers



**Theatrics and Intermediate Level**  
Brian Leffler



**Advanced Level**  
Larry Gray, Teacher



**Advanced Level**  
Larry Gray



**Beginner Level**



**Intermediate Level**



**ASL Culture**



Pat Beech, "Jill of all Trades"  
and Julie Bagshaw, Registration

# Blitz School About the Deaf on 10-13-2012 (continued)



**Librarian and Beginner Level**  
Adele Polk



ASL Hands Drawing by Beginner Level



**Silent Meadow LLC**  
Ryszard Szykowski, Sculptor



ASL Hands Drawing by Intermediate Level



**VAD Sales**  
Kathy Ferris



ASL Hands Drawing by Advanced Level

## CIT Conference on 10-19-2012



Tonya Custalow-Pearsall (JSRCC), Laurie Malhiros (JSRCC), Bruce Sofinski (JSRCC), Brian Leffler (NOVA Annandale), Pat Beech (NOVA Annandale), Star Grieser (Tidewater CC), Kevin Taylor (NOVA Annandale), and Paula Debes (NOVA Annandale)

## Board Meeting on 11-17-2012

Present at the meeting were: Kevin Taylor, Pat Beech, Mary Bagby, Bradley Brown, and Adele Polk. We had FaceTime with Brian Leffler during the meeting.

Excused: Julie Bagshaw

Meeting started @ 9:15AM.

Holiday Party on December 8 during 1PM-4PM at Mary Bagby's house:

- \* Mary - Chili and Guacamole Dip
- \* Adele - Chips and Salsa
- \* Pat - Cheese, Onions, Sour Cream and Crackers
- \* Brian - Cake

Kevin and Bradley have plans that day so they won't be able to join us. RVSPs are due December 1. Kevin will inform his student volunteers.

## Board Meeting on 11-17-2012 (continued)

Feedback received from Blitz participants was on Coffee, Classifiers, and Schedule.

Kevin talked about a new curriculum from Patty Lessard (cost around \$600). He plans to get it. We discussed the schedule issue. Kevin and Bradley talked about the name badge/schedule combo at MDASLTA conference. The schedule was on the back of the name badge. That is a great idea to use for future Blitz events. Pat will suggest that for ASLTA Conference 2013.

There seemed to be some confusion with the ratings on the evaluation forms. Pat will try table format for future events.

Pat will send PDF of the feedback summary to the Blitz volunteers, so that they could review them before the Wrap-Up party on November 30 at NVRC @ 7PM-9PM.

We didn't get financial report from Julie for this meeting, so Pat will contact Julie for the balance on the Blitz event. We need an idea of what we can spend for the Wrap-Up party. Also, Brian and Pat will check with Julie about helping out with the Treasurer's stuff.

We agreed that the next Blitz event will in October 2013.

Bradley asked Kevin how he felt about his role as Chair of the Blitz event. He was fine with his duties as the Chair.

Workshops by Jason Zinza:

- Pat will check with Jason about dates for the two workshops:
- MasterASL 2 (February 2, February 9, and February 23 (we will have a snow date))
- Elephant Game (April 6 or April 13)

Adele suggested that Pat check with Jason to see if he'd like to have David Martin present the Elephant Game workshop with him.

VAD Conference 2013: Pat is on the Program Book committee. She has a letter for VASLTA. We can discuss this at the next Board meeting, which is on January 12 at 9:00AM-11:00AM at Bob Evan's in Springfield.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46AM.

Submitted by,  
Patricia Beech  
2012-2013 Secretary



# Holiday Gathering on 12-08-2012



VASLTA hosted a Holiday gathering at the Bagby house on 12-08-2012.



Adele Polk gets ready to "stab" the cake brought by Brian Leffler



Stephen & Mary Bagby



Laurie poses while Tom views pager



Sitting: Laurie Dowling, Mary Bagby, LaVerne Cagle, and Adele Polk

Standing: Tony Ellis, Keith Cagle, Tom Dowling, Sharon Bailey, Brian Leffler, Julie Bagshaw, Mish Ktejik, and Pat Beech

## Board Meeting on 01-12-2013

Present at the meeting were: Brian Leffler, Kevin Taylor, Pat Beech, Julie Bagshaw, Mary Bagby, and Bradley Brown.

Excused: Adele Polk

Meeting started at 9:23AM.

Brian thanked Kevin for handling the last meeting. Copies of the minutes for the last meeting were distributed. The minutes were approved.

Old business:

1. Holiday Party - Thanks to Mary Bagby for allowing VASLTA to host the party there.
2. Blitz Wrap-Up meeting - The group was small but we still had good discussion. Pat gave Julie receipt for fingers bought at Chick-Fil-A for this meeting.
3. Jason Zinza - After Pat read the reply from Jason re: workshops, the board decided on Master ASL 2 on April 13, and agreed on the \$500 fee. We will have the workshop at NVRC (backup is NVCC-Annandale). There were some clarifications needed, such as mileage, min & max of participants, and textbook (required?). Pat and Julie will work on workshop fee. Pat will work on flyer and get approval from board before distributing the flyer. Kevin raised a point about the Master ASL 2 workshop. It is more appropriate for High School teachers. He was concerned that we may not get enough registrants. He had received names of High School teachers for recruiting purposes. Pat suggested that we send flyer to a POC for each county where the High School teachers teach ASL. During this discussion, we learned that the NOVA Peer Group will meet on April 19-20. Bradley pointed out that the DeafNation event is on April 20.



Treasurer's Report - Julie:

Copies were distributed.

Bank balance as of 12-31-2012 is \$5041.35.

There were some entries that Julie had questioned about. She will inquire the bank about these entries.

Julie got check from Paula Debes via Brian for \$175.00 (for the interpreters at FCPS at Blitz).

Profit from Blitz is \$418.78. That will be held for the next Blitz event.

The board approved the Treasurer's report.

We need to increase number of members for VASLTA. Pat moved that any new or renewed membership at this point will expire at end of September 2014. Julie seconded. The board approved.

New Business:

Advertisement for VAD 2013 Program Book

Advertisement for ASLTA 2013 Program Book

Brian moved that Pat come up with design for 1/2 page and 1/4 page, and get the board vote on these. Julie seconded. The board approved.


At the next meeting on March 2nd, we need to discuss:

- Blitz for next Fall
- Workshop on April 13
- Celebrate Communication
- General Meeting and Election


Meeting adjourned at 10:45AM.

Submitted by:  
Patricia Beech  
Secretary 2012-2013





Veditz Chapter of ASLTA  
is proud to host



**“MasterASL! Level Two”**  
by Jason E. Zinza, Ph.D

Saturday April 13, 2013  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Door opens at 8:30 a.m. and Wrap-up at 12:30-12:45 p.m.)

Dr. Jason E. Zinza is the author of “MasterASL! Level One”, and soon to be “MasterASL! Level Two”. He also authored the Fingerspelling and Number textbook and co-authored “The Elephant Game” with Dr. Kim Kurz. In addition to training teachers, he consults on curriculum development and issues related to ASL instruction. He is the coordinator of the ASL Honor Society, a program offered by ASLTA that recognizes high school students who are studying ASL.

This presentation will provide an overview of “MasterASL! Level Two”. The overview will cover different components such as textbook, teacher guide, discs, and website. Dr. Zinza will spend most of the time on hands-on activities.

Location: Northern Virginia Resource Center for  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (<http://nvrc.org/about/directions/>)

For more information, contact Brian Lefler at [blefler@nvcc.edu](mailto:blefler@nvcc.edu).

---

Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member*	Non-member**	
Master ASL – Level II	\$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$55.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	due by April 6 (No refunds after this date)

\* Must be a standing member of VASLTA  
\*\* \$15.00 will automatically make you a member of VASLTA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ TTY/V (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ TTY/V (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to VASLTA and send to:  
VASLTA, c/o Julie Bagshaw, 8115 Glenhurst Drive, Fairfax Station VA 22039

