



Veditz Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association (VASLTA)

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July 2009 Issue

President's Corner

Greetings!

The past year along with the current economy has affected a drop of VASLTA membership. I encourage you to get involved in supporting ASL teachers around our North Virginia region to keep in touch and get involved somehow. The VASLTA board needs your feedback and input on what workshop offerings would you want to see us provide? Contact me with your thoughts at Leonard.Granda@loudoun.k12.va.us or LGranda5@aol.com.

Our last few workshops has been sparsely attended and we need your help to promote and advertise our workshops. Please do send me your e-mail address so VASLTA can develop a better mailing/contact list of our members or potential members. Please spread the word when possible.

Speaking of workshops, the next one will be on the brand new Signing Naturally Level 1-6 curriculum that will be taught by two of the authors, Ken Mikos and Cheri Smith. The workshop will be held on August 14 & 15, 2009 at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), Annandale Campus, so hurry and sign up by contacting our very own VASLTA treasurer, Paula Debes via e-mail at pdebes@nvcc.edu. Flyer is enclosed.

VASLTA would like to thank Paula Debes for co-sponsoring this wonderful workshop along with Northern Virginia Community College's VCCS ASL and IE programs to make this workshop possible for our regional ASL teachers.

Have a great summer and come back in the fall refreshed and ready to teach ASL and Deaf Culture!

Leonard "Lenny" Granda
VASLTA President

In Memory



10/11/1948 - 11/24/2008

Dr. Michael Kemp was best known for his sense of humor and his teaching style. He taught ASL for 35 years, the last 31 at Gallaudet University. During his 31 years at Gallaudet, Dr. Kemp served as chair of three different academic departments, and served on numerous academic and professional committees. He focused his efforts on teaching and consulting Visual Gestural Communications throughout the world. His goal was to bridge the communication gap between the national and international deaf and hearing communities.

http://deafstudies.gallaudet.edu/Faculty-Staff/ASL_and_Deaf_Studies/Kemp_Mike.html

11/01/1944 - 06/02/2009



William "Bill" Thomas Ennis Jr. died on June 2, 2009, after a two-year battle with cancer. He was a federal employee for 38 years, but was fondly remembered as a storyteller, teacher, comedian, basketball lover and avid golfer. As a teacher, Ennis taught ASL for 30 years. He was also a signmaster for several theaters in the Washington, DC area. His greatest legacy was his storytelling. He became famous for this personification of a "golf ball" and audiences loved the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre." His love of life set the tone for family gatherings.

<http://www.bsksdsmo.com/misc/memorial/ennis-00.htm>
<http://anewtradition.blogspot.com/>

VASLTA Board for 2009-2011

The 2009-2011 officers of VASLTA are:

President	Lenny Granda
Vice-President	Cheri Martinez
Secretary	Lynn Rafferty
Treasurer	Paula Debes
PDC	Brian Leffler
Members-at-large	Mary Bagby
	Julie Bagshaw
	Emily Dobbs
Ex-Officio	Adele Polk
Newsletter	Patricia Beech
Web	Patricia Beech



The newsletter was created using a Macintosh PowerBook. The desktop publishing software used is "Ready,Set,Go!"

Advertisement Rates

Currently VASLTA sends out newsletters 3-4 times a year. To find out when the next issue is scheduled, please contact Patricia Beech at pgbeech@aol.com.

To place an advertisement in future issues, please send your advertisement in electronic format to 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

Celebrate Communication

- by Patricia Beech -

On May 2, 2009, NVRC had its annual "Celebrate Communication" event at George Mason University. One of the VASLTA board members worked hard at NVCC booth. That was Brian Leffler. That booth had handouts about VASLTA.

There were 52 exhibitors. Activities were provided for children, such as: MOTHER GOOSE Story Hour, Meet the Mascot, Craft and Coloring Tables,



5th National
Professional Development Conference
Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa
Phoenix, Arizona
October 29 - November 1, 2009

For more information, see:
<http://www.aslta.org/>



Annual General Meeting

- by Emily Dobbs & Patricia Beech -



On May 18, 2009, the annual General Meeting started with a presentation by Lenny Granda on “Using Technology to Teach ASL.”

The Promethean ActivBoard is a new technology making a bold appearance in many classrooms especially in Loudoun County, VA where ever classroom has replaced the traditional chalk board. The Promethean ActivBoard is an all in one media console to show DVDs, pictures and connect to a computer for internet use. This board can be easily converted to a white board with a smart pen and an additional remote mini-screen to write on from anywhere in the room. Another feature of the board is the ability to test the students with an egg sized remote for each student. The teacher can ask a question and each student can select their answer on their individual remote; this is like taking a multiple choice test with

answers from a-f. The results will appear on the screen in a graph format with how many students answered per multiple choice option. The right answer will appear in green and the wrong answers will appear in red.

This technology allows teachers to present the material visually and keeps the students engaged. The Promethean ActivBoard can be used for any lesson. To teach a common ASL 1 lesson such as types of clothing, colors, designs, and other describing information the teacher can illustrate many types of clothing on the screen and quickly switch the clothing, color and design by a simple click and drag of the object. The teacher can switch to a note pad application to type notes and highlight important points and draw free hand. To allow the students to become engaged with describing a picture or a situation this board brings it to the next level by allowing the teacher to focus on one small area of the picture with the rest of the screen black. The students can describe what they see then the teacher can uncover more of the picture slowly as the students describe more and more until the picture is fully revealed. What looks like a funny facial expression on a person's face can turn into a long story of what is actually happening in the surrounding scene by the end of the exercise. This board promotes a positive and interactive way to study for tests with game shows like “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” to test the students knowledge of facts and history. With Google Maps and other high tech web applications at a click of a button the sky is the limit for ways to incorporate this technology into your classroom. For more information on Promethean ActivBoard, see:

<http://www.prometheanworld.com/>

After the presentation, an election was held. Below is a list of officers for 2009-2011:

President - Lenny Granda
Vice President - Cherry Martinez
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Paula Debes
PDC - Brian Leffler
Members-at-Large: Mary Bagby
Julie Bagshaw
Emily Dobbs



Officers for 2009-2011

Emily Dobbs (member-at-large), Julie Bagshaw (member-at-large),
Adele Polk (ex-officio), Lenny Granda (president),
Brian Leffler (PDC), and Patricia Beech (newsletter and web)

Annual General Meeting (continued)



Emily Dobbs (secretary for 2007-2009)
typing up the minutes
of the Annual General Meeting



Lynn Rafferty
and Julie Bagshaw



During discussion



During discussion



Adele Polk with
one of her High School students

ASL Honor Society Induction

- by Patricia Beech -

ASL Honor Society at Woodbridge Senior High School had its first annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, June 3, 2009. Adele Polk, ASL instructor at WSHS, led the program with welcome, introductions, history & background, conferral of certificates and pins, and oath.

The inductees were: Alyssa Bilewski, Sarah Brown, Roberta Bugg-Bey, Rachel Gustavson, Brianna McCormick, Samantha Ouellette, Timothy Talbot, Taurionah Wilkins, Courtney Wardwell, and Cody Wykle.

Families joined the inductees at this special event. Also, Phyllis Fenner, Chair of the Foreign Language Department at WSHS, attended.



ASL Honor Society Induction (continued)



VCCS ASL & IE Presents...

In association with VASLTA

Signing Naturally, Units 1-6 With Ken Mikos and Cheri Smith

Date: August 14 & 15, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: Free for individuals currently employed at a VCCS college
\$60 for members of VASLTA
\$75 for non-members
Location: Northern Virginia Community College Room TBA

This workshop will focus on the new curriculum for Units 1-6 of the Signing Naturally series. Topics will include

- Overview of SIGNING Naturally Units 1-6 curriculum and materials
- Walk through the units, discussing goals and activities of each
- Teaching / learning strategies
- Techniques for introducing and explaining vocabulary
- Participants practice teaching assigned activities
- Overview of test ideas

Required Materials:

Each participant is expected to bring a copy of the Signing Naturally Units 1-6 Curriculum Guide and Teacher's Answer Key. For ordering information, please contact the publisher at:

DawnSignPress
ATTN: Customer Service
(858) 625-0600 VP/ Voice
(858) 625- 2336 FAX
www.dawnsign.com

Registration and CEUs:

There is a maximum of 30 participants allowed for this workshop and registration is on a first come, first serve basis. A total of 1.4 RID CEUs will be offered for this workshop through VRID.

Accommodations:

There are several hotels near Annandale for travelers. Some options include:

Marriott Fairview Park
3111 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church VA 22042

Homestead Studio Suites
8281 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive
Fairfax VA 22031

Quality Inn
6650 Arlington BLVD
Falls Church VA 22042

Travel and Directions:

The Signing Naturally Units 1-6 Workshop will be held on the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Directions to the campus and a campus map can be found at <http://www.nvcc.edu/about-nova/maps-directions/annandale/index.html> .

Registration Information

Please return this registration form to Paula Debes. Registration is limited to 30 participants so send in the forms ASAP. You may either email it to me at pdebes@nvcc.edu or send it via mail to:

**Paula Debes
Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale campus- CN 230
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003**

Name:

Email Address:

Phone/VP/Pager number (please indicate which applies):

Please check the one that applies:

_____ I am currently employed as an instructor for a VCCS college. (Please list college below)

_____ I am not employed as an instructor for a VCCS college but I am a member of VASLTA. I have included the \$60 registration fee. Checks should be made out to VASLTA.

_____ I am not employed as an instructor for a VCCS college and I am not a member of VASLTA. I have included the \$75 registration fee. (Indicate if you would like \$15 to go towards a Membership Fee for VASLTA.) Checks should be made out to VASLTA.