



Veditz Chapter of
American
Sign Language Teachers
Association
(VASLTA)

Greetings!

Make sure you check out our upcoming events and enjoy reading about what has been happening with VASLTA members!

Table of Contents

Upcoming Events and Editor's Corner	page 2
“Celebrating 30 years of Growth” by Susan Lane	page 3
“ASLTA NPDC” by Pat Beech	page 4-5
“ASLTA's 3 rd NPDC” by Pauline Spanbauer	page 6
“Are You Ready To Rumble....in ASL?” by Kris daCosta-Warshauer	page 7
“Teaching ASL in VA: SOL” by Julie Bagshaw	page 8
“Master ASL! Level One Training” by Mary M. Silvestri	page 8-10
List of Donors	page 11
VASLTA Membership Form	page 11

Calendar of Events

Saturday April 22, 2006

“Classroom Management”

Presenters: Adele Polk & Susan Lane

Location and Time: NVRC

9:00am to 12:00pm

Saturday May 13, 2006

NVRC’s “Celebrate Communication”

Location and Time: GWU

10:00am to 3:00pm

Monday May 22, 2006

Annual General Meeting

“Teaching ASL as L1”

Presenters: Lynn Jacobowitz and Adonia Smith

Location and Time: NVRC at 7:00pm

Advertisement

To place an advertisement in future issues, please send your advertisement in electronic format. JPEG format is preferred, but we will consider other formats.

$\frac{1}{4}$ page	\$25.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ page	\$60.00
Full page	\$100.00

Send articles or advertisements to Julie at Julie.Bagshaw@hotmail.com

THANKS!!

Editor's Corner

Greetings! I just wanted to let you all know how excited I am to be working with such a great group of people. I have big shoes to fill, but I am looking forward to the challenge. I am still learning people’s names and hope to put a face to those names as the year goes on. We have an exciting year ahead and hope to have all the VASLTA members involved. We love to hear your stories, ideas, and accolades. So if something is happening in your neck of the woods, please feel free to send me a paragraph or article for me to share with our group.



Thank you for welcoming me, and I look forward to this New Year!

- Julie Bagshaw -

ASLTA's 3rd NPDC: "Celebrating 30 Years of Growth!"

- By Susan Lane -

The theme, Celebrating 30 years of growth, American Sign Language Teacher Association's 3rd National Professional Development Conference was held on November 6-8, 2005 at the Alexis Park resort in Las Vegas sponsored by DawnSign Press, Deaf.com, and MSM Productions, Ltd. About 288 attendance was there during the conference, welcoming by the President Leslie Greer, the evening performance gala by Mel Carter, and general meeting. The committee wore blue ASLTA shirts with khaki pants. Four conference sessions were offered during three breaks of each day. One of the workshop given by Adele Polk and Susan Lane presented a wonderful power point "*Classroom Management*" along with the panelists: Jason Zinza, Pauline Spanbauer and an ASL teacher from Las Vegas. Even though we managed to sit in and stand in between ourselves on a small platform space when we walked and presented ourselves. Every workshop room has its own seating limitation volunteering and conducting by Las Vegas deaf senior citizens. The plan went well and the exhibit booths were displaying. Before the final day, a lunch banquet was served where Adele, Jason, Kris, Susan, and I were able to sit along with others to discuss the possibility of a new establishment of the *ASL National Honor Society* in a foreign language high school setting. We discussed our ideas and inputs using communicate emails and sharing others from different high schools. Last, special interest groups were a closing part that was agreed to wrap up into two different groups: college and high school levels. The high school groups expressed the large number of students in classroom differ from the college level. The final workshop for CEU was given for those who participated during conference sessions with passport. The overall was short and tiresome due to the evening entertainment by the infamous Las Vegas strip. We looked forward to the next conference somewhere in the west in the year of 2007.



3rd ASLTA National Professional Development Conference

- by Patricia Beech -

The 3rd ASLTA National Professional Development Conference held during November 6-8 in Las Vegas. Theme was “Celebrating 30 Years of Growth.”

Seven workshops, which I attended, were:

- “A Critical Look at ASL Education” by Eddy Laird - This addressed the social context of ASL, ASL teaching, and ASL learning. The emphasis was on what teachers and future teachers of ASL should know and understand about ASL in terms of attitudes, practices, rights, policy, and related issues.
- “Differentiated Instruction in ASL Classrooms” by Nowell Busch - This workshop explained how we could take a different role using differentiated instruction by becoming facilitators of learning, and providing us the framework to allow all students to succeed and achieve their best.
- “Language-in-Action: The Shape of Deaf Discourse about Interpreters” by Eileen Forestal, Stephanie Jo Kent, & Anne Potter - This discussed separating culture, discourse, and dynamics. The presenters felt that this would assist teachers in recognizing certain patterns of talk between Deaf and non-deaf concerned with interpreting, and understanding how these patterns perpetuate misunderstanding, distrust, and unequal power relationships.
- “ASL Handshape Stories: Strategies Using ASL Phonology and Deaf Culture” by Lynn Jacobowitz and Adonia K. Smith - This focused on how teachers could use 44 ASL-handshape stories incorporating Deaf Culture in the classroom, utilizing printed text, graphics, and ASL movies. The presenters have produced dual language DVDs/books. See www.aslrose.com for more information.
- “Exploring ASL Literature: A Study of ‘The Eyeth Story’” by Keith Gamache - “The Eyeth Story” was created and expanded into a 66-minute story line, after a silent-weekend campout for ASL students.
- “ASL Handshapes Galore!” by David A. Martin - This provided hands-on activities using ASL Handshapes.
- “A Sneak Peek at the ASL at Work Curriculum” by William Newell and Barbara Ray Holcomb - The presenters explained the work-in-progress on the new “ASL At Work Level One” curriculum being developed at NTID. The curriculum will have 16 units to cover the 1st year of ASL instruction.

Representing VASLTA, I attended a session on Leadership Training, presented by Libby Pollard. Below are some examples of what she covered:

- Team Building - all team members must know how to get work done together
- Leadership – Never doing things by yourself
- Leadership Skills – Good listener, good organizer
- Personality Traits – Be patient, do not criticize
- Signs of Aggressiveness – Putting others down, being bossy
- Signs of Non-Assertiveness – Passivity and afraid of taking risks, low self-esteem

- Signs of Assertiveness – Resisting unreasonable demands, being direct and honest
- Feeling Good about Yourself – Think positive, de-clutter your life
- “Chain Reaction” by Confucius
- Members – “lifeblood” of an organization
- Membership Rights – attend, participate, debate, and vote in meetings
- Membership Obligations – Attend meetings on time and remain until adjournment
- Officers – a necessary component of any organization
- Conduct of Business – Should be the joint responsibility of the president and the members
- Order of Business – Four parts to a meeting: opening, reports, business, and closing
- Main motion – Brings business before the assembly to be acted upon or decided by the assembly
- Amendments – Means to perfect a motion

At the Birthday Gala, there was a buffet and Roving Magician. Mel Carter (Master of Ceremony) provided the history on ASLTA while Laura Thomas presented the awards. The buffet included black-pepper-crushed roast sirloin of beef, chicken breast Saltim Bocca, and Salmon alla Griglia.

Highlights of the conference:

- 288 registrants including 7 from Japan and 2 from Puerto Rico
- Volunteers from the Las Vegas Senior Citizens and ITP at Community College of Southern Nevada
- 41 workshops
- Glenna Ashton from Florida is elected president
- 2005 Awards Recipients:
 - George Veditz Award: Leslie C. Greer
 - Chapter Excellence Recognition Award: Florida ASLTA
 - Sponsor Excellence Recognition Award: Conference of Interpreter Trainers
 - Isabelle “Izzy” Calvacca Award: Laura J. Thomas
 - Stephen M. Ryan Teacher of the Year Award: Mel Carter
 - Alan Roy “ALB” Barwiolek Distinguished Award: Chuck Gramly

The next conference will be held in Florida during 2007.



ASLTA's 3rd NPDC: "Celebrating 30 Years of Growth!"

- by Pauline Spanbauer -

"Celebrating 30 years of Growth" was the theme at ASLTA's 3rd National Professional Development Conference, which was held during November 6-8, 2005 at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas. The conference had three sponsors: DawnSign Press, Deaf.com, and MSM Productions, Ltd. About 288 people attended the conference, which included a welcome greeting by President Leslie Greer, an evening performance gala by Mel Carter, and a general meeting. The committee members wore blue ASLTA shirts with khaki pants.

Four workshops were offered at the same time during three sessions daily. At one workshop, Adele Polk and Susan Lane presented a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on "*Classroom Management*." They also had three panelists: Jason Zina, Pauline Spanbauer and an ASL teacher from Las Vegas. Even though the platform was small, we managed to get around when we presented ourselves. All workshop rooms had seating limits, which were monitored by the Las Vegas Deaf Senior Citizens. The exhibit booths were displayed well.

Before the last day of the conference, during a lunch banquet, Adele, Jason, Kris daCosta-Warshauer, Susan, and Pauline got to sit with others discussing the possibility of establishing an *ASL National Honor Society* for a foreign language high school setting. We discussed our ideas that included inputs via emails and sharing those with different high schools.

At the end of the conference, special interest groups were put into two different groups: college and high school levels. The high school groups expressed a concern regarding the large number of students in classroom. CEUs were provided to those who attended the workshops.

Overall, we were exhausted due to entertainment during the evenings on the infamous Las Vegas strip.

We look forward to the next conference in Florida during 2007.



“Are You Ready to Rumble...in ASL?”

- By Kris daCosta-Warshauer -

Several ASL teachers have dreamed of establishing a language competition among ASL students from area high schools. This is now a reality when ASL students – on Saturday, March 25 – seize the opportunity to compete with their signing peers in foreign language studies from other high schools. The sponsoring school, George Mason High School in Falls Church, Virginia, has invited ASL teachers in Northern Virginia counties to bring their ASL students to participate in the Modern Foreign Language Tournament (MFLT).

MFLT has been in the running for 15 years; this year is the first time ASL students are invited to compete. MFLT generally encourages foreign language students to present a few minutes worth of poetry, prose, oratory, dramatic interpretations, and skits spoken in the target language: Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Spanish. Judges score the participants on their delivery, pronunciation, interpretation, and material selections.

In order for the ASL component to mesh with the MFLT competition, and to conform to Deaf culture standards, a group of ASL teachers met with the event coordinator (Suzanne Planas) and the host school’s ASL instructor (Kris daCosta-Warshauer) recently. With input and feedback from six local ASL high school instructors, categories were revised to include materials acceptable for ASL competition: signed prose, dramatic interpretation of signed plays, and signed skits. Also, a new category was added to include ASL poetry – A to Z stories, numbers stories, handshape stories.

Watch for the next issue for a follow-up on the MFLT event, especially with the reactions from the ASL competitors! If you are a teacher and wish to prepare your ASL students for MFLT, please contact Kris daCosta-Warshauer for registration information and applications at dacostak@fccps.k12.va.us

Workshops by Jason Zinza

“Teaching ASL in VA: Meeting the Standards”

- By Julie Bagshaw –

On Saturday October 29, 2005, Jason Zinza presented a workshop called, “Teaching ASL in VA.” This intriguing presentation outlined the purpose for Virginia’s SOLs and how they apply to teaching ASL. Beginning with the 6 Core Competencies, Zinza lead the class to analyze how each competency is applicable in teaching American Sign Language. The class discussed methods for meeting the criteria of the competencies and how to evaluate them. In addition Zinza explained how to adapt the SOLs to match ASL levels one, two and three.

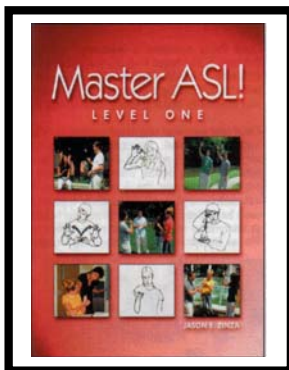
This workshop was very beneficial for ASL teachers. We had a 5 people attend the workshop and the rumor was that Zinza’s workshop was “challenging and stimulating.”

Jason Zinza has recently published his series “*Master ASL!*” through Sign Media, Inc. (<http://www.signmedia.com/>) Keep an eye out for it!

"Master ASL! Level One Training"

- By Mary M. Silvestri -

When I was attending the NAD convention in Norfolk a few years back, Adele Polk grabbed me and said, "There's a small workshop being presented now on the first ASL book designed for high school students. You have to come and learn more!" So off we went to attend Jason Zinza's brief presentation of a draft of an ASL textbook. Imagine a high school book on ASL with a DVD, both which a student could take home and study. I was hooked.



A few years later, Adele became president of the VASLTA chapter which sponsored the very first all-day workshop focused on this ASL book, "Master ASL! Level 1". And the books were hot off the press, in fact we had the first copies. Of course I drove all the way down from Connecticut during the weekend of the Winter Storm in the Washington area to attend this workshop which was on February 11. I wasn't disappointed.

First I do want to emphasize that although I'm personally very excited about using this new textbook/DVD this year, I know there are other equally good ASL books used by other teachers and that there is never one way which is the only way.

The workshop was from 8:30 to 4:00, with a half-hour for lunch. During this time, Jason conducted his PowerPoint presentation which was based on his Teacher Training manual for

Level One. The 20-some participants frequently asked questions and shared comments during Jason's presentation. At the end, there was a Question/Answer period.

The Teacher Training manual was 86 pages long, with half of those pages for notes and for questions based on the printed material. This manual was Day Two of a four day training session on Level One. The title of our workshop was "Curriculum Overview." The other workshops were "Standards and the Five Cs," "Pedagogy," and "Assessment."



We each were given the Level One textbook/DVD and student workbook which all of us were required to purchase before the workshop. During the course of the day, Jason would discuss different aspects of all three items when discussing various parts of his presentation.

What did I come away with? The very best part was to finally have a copy of Master ASL! Level One. The newest ideas for me personally were the value of teachings on of prosody and how to use the Narratives to help the students learn ASL. I also really enjoyed questions and comments from the attendees that were interspersed throughout the presentation. Jason did a great job handling both the PowerPoint presentation and audience participation. He has a lot of stamina! I must confess that when I went through the entire book and the student workbook and listened to Jason, my conclusion was that this is too difficult a textbook to use at the high school level. There's so much information to cover!



However, I know after using this textbook/DVD/supplementary book for more than a month that it is indeed very user-friendly for both myself and the students. We're in the first week of the Fourth Quarter and midway through Unit 5 (there are ten units) and I am enjoying covering as much ground as possible using tips from Jason (not EVERYTHING has to be covered) and the knowledge from the workshop which was rather overwhelming at times. Even with Spring Fever

and senioritis, my ASL completes their homework and memorize the narratives/dialogues with surprising speed. They're even ASL glossing.

I'm also using the book and DVD when I'm working one-on-one with DHH students in my "real" job as a Teacher of the DHH. Having Deaf teenagers using ASL on the DVD at a normal speed has kept their interest level high.

Oh yes, about the Teacher's Manual - it's supposed to be very thick and crammed with information. And it isn't ready. I did get the impression, however, that one can do without it, that Master ASL! can be adapted to fit each individual teacher's instructional style. For example, teaching ASL gloss is an option. The manual is to be ready later this Spring. Can't wait to get my hands on it!

Finally, it is my understanding that future training workshops should be arranged through SignMedia and that the ideal situation is a week-long training workshop. I'm not sure if I got this right though.

Thanks to VASLTA not only for sponsoring this workshop but for allowing someone from out-of-state to come. It was really great to spend time with my old friend, Pat Beech. And thank you, Jason, for conducting the workshop and for graciously agreeing to sign everyone's book!



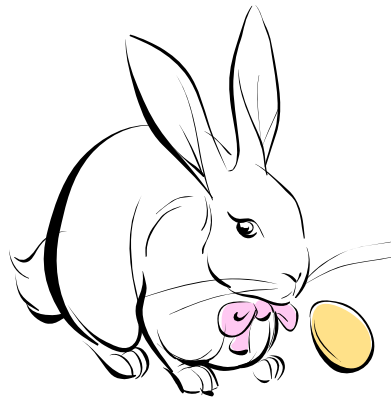
We had a whopping 22 people in attendance, 1 person from Connecticut, 1 person from Ohio and 3 people from North Carolina.

This is the 1st group in the U.S. to have received the “Master ASL!” book!

List of Donors

Below is a list of donors
from July '05 to present.
Thanks so much!!!!

Pat Beech
Darryl Israel
Nancy Shugart
Gary Viall



HAPPY
EASTER

VASLTA Membership Form 2006 to 2007

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Home () _____ TTY V

Work () _____ TTY V

Fax () _____

Do you have a TTY answering machine? Yes No

E-Mail _____

Please check if you are: (for directory purposes)

____ Sign Language Teacher

____ Deaf Culture Specialist

____ Interpreter or Interpreter Trainer

____ Educator of the Deaf

____ Other (please specify) _____

Are you certified by ASLTA? If so, what level?

What is the highest degree you have?

Specify level of class, if you teach ASL (currently or previously).

How many years of teaching ASL?

Are you currently teaching ASL? Where?

Do you want your name, address, and phone number printed in our directory? Yes No

Join VASLTA for \$15 \$ _____

(effective Sep. 1, 2003)

Donation to VASLTA \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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Nancy Shugart, c/o Membership, P.O. 3822, Oakton, VA 22124-3822

Do you want to receive future issues of the VASLTA newsletter via: regular mail or e-mail

Directions for NVRC

3951 Pender Drive Suite 130 Fairfax, VA 22030

FROM I-66: Take exit 57A (US 50-E) toward Fairfax. Merge onto Rt. 50 East, also known as Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Turn LEFT onto Waples Mill Road. Turn RIGHT at the light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive Park. Turn RIGHT at third entrance (left corner of Building 3949, a 3-story building). Drive toward back of complex and turn RIGHT between the 3-story building and the 1-story building, which is 3951 Pender. Parking is in the courtyard. NVRC faces the courtyard, Suite 130. There are two entrances; one side door directly into the office (sign on door) and one facing the courtyard leading into the meeting rooms, (sign on building). Handicap accessible parking spaces with ramp are near the entrance to the meeting rooms.

FROM ANNANDALE/BURKE/SPRINGFIELD AREA: Take Braddock Road west to Shirley Gate Road (you will cross Rt. 123). Shirley Gate will cross Lee Highway and become Waples Mill Road. After crossing Route 50, turn RIGHT at the light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive park. Turn RIGHT at third entrance (left corner of Building 3949, a 3-story building). Drive toward back of complex and turn RIGHT between the 3-story building and the 1-story building, which is 3951 Pender. Parking is in the courtyard. NVRC faces the courtyard, Suite 130. There are two entrances; one side door directly into the office (sign on door) and one facing the courtyard leading into the meeting rooms, (sign on building). Handicap accessible parking spaces with ramp are near the entrance to the meeting rooms.

FROM I-495: Take I-66 west, Exit 49 toward Manassas/Front Royal. Take 66 west to US-50 East also known as Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Turn LEFT onto Waples Mill Road. Turn RIGHT at light onto Pender Drive. Look on right for Fairfax Executive Park. Turn RIGHT at third entrance (left corner of Building 3949, a 3-story building). Drive toward back of complex and turn RIGHT between the 3-story building and the 1-story building, which is 3951 Pender. Parking is in the courtyard. NVRC faces the courtyard, Suite 130. There are two entrances; one side door directly into the office (sign on door) and one facing the courtyard leading into the meeting rooms, (sign on building). Handicap accessible parking spaces with ramp are near the entrance to the meeting rooms.