Secretary-Treasurer’s Report-2005

Our new website has been launched! The site has been up and running with no major problems since Dec 6th. Among the new features:

- Member Directory (searchable by name, institution, subfield, language area)
- Annual and Summer Meeting conference registration
- Membership renewal
- Payment of dues and publications
- Membership application and profile update
- Purchase of back issues of *Language*

Additional features still in development include the following:

- Electronic voting for constitutional amendments, motions, and LSA Officers
- Submission of abstracts (for both Summer and Annual Meetings)
- Submission of LSA Institute Fellowship applications
- Program Directory

Special thanks go to the staff of LINGUIST-List, under the leadership of Anthony Aristar and Helen Dry-Aristar, for their professionalism, helpfulness, and good humor throughout the first phase of the project. Thanks also go to the Computing Committee, chaired by John Goldsmith, and the Web Advisory Committee, chaired by Larry Hyman, for their many valuable suggestions and insights.

Other activities of the Society:

- Accepted the invitation of Michigan State University to host the 2006 Summer Meeting to be held 22-24 June in East Lansing. All students whose papers and posters are accepted for presentation will receive grants to attend this meeting. The support of the NSF is gratefully acknowledged.

- Collaborated with Rick Rickerson, Chair emeritus of the Department of the Foreign Languages at the College of Charleston, who has developed a series of radio programs entitled the “Five Minute Linguist” for NPR.

- Joined with other organizations in the American scientific, academic, and engineering communities to express our concerns about new security procedures that have affected scientific and academic exchanges and about the importance of peer review to the scientific process.

- Co-sponsored the 2005 Jefferson Day event sponsored by the National Humanities Alliance.
· Represented the Society at the Annual Meetings of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, the National Humanities Alliance, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Coalition on the Academic Workforce, and the Committee of Endorsing Societies of the Decade of Behavior.

· Raised over $39,000 to support the establishment of the Ken Hale Chair, a Linguistic Institute Professorship in Field Methods. To date, 188 members have made donations to or pledged support for the Hale Chair.

· Published one new FAQ, written by Monica Macaulay and Kristen Syrett, entitled “Why major in linguistics?”. Geoff Nunberg has agreed to prepare a FAQ (#16) on the “English only” movement.

· Continued the review and assessment of the Society’s principal activities as part of the LSA’s strategic planning project. In May, the Officers and Executive Committee divided into two groups to discuss “Committees: Structures and Procedures” and “Officers: Nomination, Duties and Responsibilities.”

· With Louanna Furbee, the LSA Archivist, organized a workshop held 9-11 July 2005 at the MIT-Harvard Linguistic Institute entitled “Language Documentation: Theory, Practice and Values”. This was the second event planned in 2005 as a part of the ongoing project “Archiving Endangered Languages: Communication among Competing Approaches and Education in Best Practices”. The LSA received support from the National Science Foundation for this effort.

Major Activities of the Secretary-Treasurer – 2005

My main projects for 2005 have been the launch of the new website and the reinstatement of the Summer Meeting. Other S-T activities:

· Proposed new selection criteria and procedures for LSA Presidents and Members of the Executive Committee.

· Proposed revisions to guidelines for abstract submissions.

· Proposed reorganization of LSA IT committees.

· Worked with Executive Director on the following projects:
  · Financial Procedures and Policy Manual
  · Location of 2007 Annual Meeting
  · Change of accounting firms, resulting in cost savings
  · National Research Council taxonomy
  · ADA-compliant policy for sign interpretation at Annual Meeting
Membership

A review of the membership figures for 2005 shows that regular membership declined by 38 (1.5%) from 2004, with US membership declining by 90 (5.4%) and international membership increasing by 52 (5.8%). As is the case in all odd-numbered years, student membership rose sharply (26%), due in large part to the 2005 Summer Institute at Harvard/MIT. To reduce the impact of year-to-year fluctuations in membership that result from Summer Institutes and the location of the Annual Meeting, we can compare the average number of members during the last six years with the average of the previous six-year period (each period including an equal number of institutes). Comparing the two six-year periods, we see that student membership has declined 14% and regular membership has declined 11%. The table in Appendix #1 shows the number of regular, student, and library members with US and non-US addresses for the 12-year period 1994-2005.

The following members made contributions to the LSA and became life members of the Society this year:

Diane K. Brentari, Marjorie KM Chan, Carole E. Chaski, Young Mee Yu Cho, Emmert C. Clevenstine, Gregg M. Cox, Andrew Garrett, Helen Goodluck, Kathleen Currie Hall, Chung-hye Han, Shi Zhe Huang, Bernhard Hurch, Robert Kirchner, Vern M. Lindblad, and Elisabeth Selkirk.

In addition, the following have held membership in the LSA for 40 years and thus became eligible for a complimentary life membership:


We congratulate our new life members and thank them for their support of the LSA.

Thirty individuals and institutions received complimentary membership in the Membership Assistance Program.

In Memoriam

We record with sorrow the deaths of the following members of the Society during the past year:
• Life Member Hreinn Benediktsson (Reykjavik, Iceland)
• Life Member John B. Carroll (Fairbanks, AK)
• Past President (1949) /Life Member Murray Emeneau: (UC-Berkeley)
• Life Member M. Dale Kinkade (U BC)
• Life Member Sheldon Klein (U WI-Madison)
• J. G. Kooij (Leiden U)
• Life Member Margaret Langdon (UCSD)
• William C. Mann (Lancaster, SC)
• Life Member Donald Marshall (Alexandria, VA)
• Vice President (1967)/Life Member Norman McQuown (U Chicago)
• Life Member Ernst Pulgram (U MI)
• A. Hood Roberts (Alexandria, VA)
• Life Member Bonifacio Sibayan (Philippines Normal U)
• Timothy Shopen, (Australia National U)
• Life Member William Staley (Grand Marais, MN)
• Honorary Member Kay Williamson (Harcourt, Nigeria)

Elections

In 2005, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Susan Fischer, proposed the following slate of candidates:

Vice President/President-Elect: Stephen Anderson, Yale University
Executive Committee: Peter Culicover, Ohio State
                  CTJ Huang, Harvard
                  Monica Macaulay, University of Wisconsin
                  Johanna Nichols, University of California, Berkeley

Over 600 ballots were cast by the deadline, resulting in the election of Stephen Anderson as Vice President/President-Elect for 2006. Monica Macaulay and Johanna Nichols were elected members of the Executive Committee for three-year terms beginning at the end of this Annual Meeting.

In addition, the Executive Committee nominated Brian Joseph of Ohio State University as Editor of Language and Gregory Ward as Secretary-Treasurer. Both were elected to serve in 2006.

Finances

McMaster and Associates completed its review of the Society’s funds through the end of the fiscal year, 30 September 2005. The audit report and management letter was presented to and approved by the Executive Committee.