

## MINUTES

WAVLI AGM - April 16, 1994  
Douglas College

Attending: Sue Harry, Sue Fraser, Diane Pattison, Jackie Ayton, Cyndi Marrington, Barb Mykle-Hotzon, Susan Taylor, Janice Betty, Robert Weaver, Monica Arduini, Jan Humphrey, Tracey Block, Tarren McKay, Karen Malcolm, Leslie McPhillips, Corinna Salvail, Ellie Casey, Kris Dundas, Alyson Seale, Dorothy Jordan, Cheryl Palmer, Suzie Giroux, Alex Walker, Estelle Blazicka, Leona Parr Hamel, Alice Chang, Karen Winters, Michelle Beckett. ( It is noted that 20 voting members are present.)

1. Call to order - 1:15
2. Minutes of the General Meeting on September 25 1993 were read. One correction was noted : the correction of the spelling of WAVAW on page 1. The minutes were then adopted as corrected. ( Sue Fraser, Barb Mykle-Hotzon )
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
See attached report.  
The executive meetings will be held the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Women's Center at Douglas College.
4. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
  - Diane Pattison is the representative for B.C. on the AVLIC Committee on Repetative Strain Injuries
  - A file folder of information is being compiled and can be borrowed. Any new material can be sent to Diane and added to this folder.
  - This committee is conducting a survey of interpreters who have submitted a claim to WCB and who are no longer working because of their injury. Please notify Diane of anyone you are aware of in this situation.
  - There was a recent workshop that focused on Repetative Strain Injuries and Carpal Tunnel Problems. The leader was Kate Montgomery ( Book: Carpal Tunnel Syndrome - Prevention and Treatment ). She states there are no cures but suggests several drug-free ways to handle the problem. Since it is a musculo-skeletal problem therapies include herbal balms, exercise etc. Some serious pain sufferers have improved following realignment of bones and muscles.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT - Copy attached
  - We are facing a deficit this year. We were hoping for a casino license as our major fundraiser.
  - This report was accepted as presented. ( Jackie Ayton, Barb Mykle-Hotzon )

## 6. AVLIC REPORT - Karen Malcolm

### a. AVLIC '94 - Winnipeg

- Nominations are being accepted for the Edward C. Bealer Award
- Interpreters are needed for the conference.
- 100 people have already pre-registered
- There has been some concern about the conference costs but the quoted amounts pay for everything including skill building workshops and a copy of the proceedings of the conference.
- chapters can bid to host the next conference

### b. Legal Interpreting

- AVLIC is trying to set standards for legal interpreting. A document is being written to include such issues as when a deaf interpreter is needed ( Jan Humphrey and Debbie Russell are involved in this process )

### c. Long Range Plan

- At the AVLIC Board Meeting in January there was discussion about the long range plan and role of AVLIC
    - some people are frustrated with the CES and feel it is unattainable
    - AVLIC would like to set up a mentorship program
    - need to clarify who we represent -eg. not oral interpreters, not LSQ interpreters, not transliteration (SEE)
- There are questions for chapter consideration:
- ... some people are wanting a name change from Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada ( AVLIC ) The committee needs individual input on this
  - ... how to distribute the Long-Range Planning document. AVLIC suggestion is to have each chapter make copies and distribute them - the chapter then would have the cost of mailing and copying
  - ... feedback could be obtained through a special chapter meeting ( for WAVLI anyone interested can attend the May Board meeting - last Wednesday in May , Women's Center 7:00 p.m.) or send written feedback to the WAVLI executive committee.

### d. Secretary of State

- there has been no new feedback from Sec.State about bidding

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### AVLIC Code of Ethics Meeting (Nov. 1993)

- Representatives from each chapter attended. Cyndi Marrington was there from WAVLI
- Early in the meeting there was a realization that revisions were not enough but that there was a need to start over and make an entirely new Code of Ethics. It was decided to get input from other organizations' Codes, from all the chapters, and from the Deaf Community. Leslie Rowe will be sending a video letter to each chapter explaining the process and asking for input.
- The Ethics Committee will meet at AVLIC '94 in Winnipeg.

Discussion:

- some situations that don't seem to be covered in the present code are:
  - ... issue of interpreter rights if there is sexual harassment in an ongoing long term assignment
  - ... legal aspects connected with minors. If there is disclosure of sexual abuse then the law requires disclosure which supercedes the Code of Ethics.
  - ... the integrity and dignity of all parties is not specifically stated in the Code but is part of professional conduct
  - ... appropriate dress is not included but should be part of professional conduct
- try to encourage the ethics committee to not feel they have to make the Code too succinct - an interpreters' role is expansive and needs some flexibility in the Code to meet the variety of situations that arise
  - If the minutes of the Code of Ethics Meeting are available by May then maybe this can be included in the agenda for the Board meeting in May.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Elections

President - Diane Pattison  
Vice President - Jackie Ayton  
Treasurer - Suzie Giroux  
Member at Large - Janice Betty

b. Directory

Motion: The directory in its present format should be distributed free of charge. (Karen Malcolm, Leslie McPhillips)

Discussion: The price for printing is approximately \$150 for 100 copies.

- other chapters don't charge for their directory
- format looks homemade so its purpose is more for promotion and should not be charged for
- if a person is not a member of the professional association then that person's name should not be included and promoted as "interpreter"
- there is a need to develop a different directory with pictures. There are so many new interpreters that a photo would be helpful
- a directory is a real benefit to a member
- in a new directory format with pictures and a little background information an individual might be charged to have their name included
  - companies could pay for advertising in the directory
  - A committee was set up to explore the issues involving the directory. ( Robert Weaver, Leslie McPhillips, Corinna Salvail , Jan Humphrey )

Question: Motion Passed.

- The printer doesn't own the original art work. It is owned by WAVLI so we should be able to get it from the company.

c. Interpreter Lists

- There was concern expressed about lists of interpreters that are given out by different organizations or individuals
- it would be better to have a list given out by WAVLI possibly with a short profile added
- this could be updated annually and faxed or mailed to employers
- this could be done by the membership person also Marna volunteered to help.
- distributed by WAVLI this would also support WAVLI membership

d. Interpreter Issues

- Thank-you from Jan Humphrey to all people who gave input about the interpreting and supervision of VLIT students. New policies have been set up.
- Money has been received from the government to deal with some interpreter issues. One task is to identify all the jobs in the province which might encounter deaf people and set up standards for ASL competence. The ministries of Social Services, Health and Advanced Education and Technology are involved.
- A new document is being written trying to set standards and identify some of the needs in the field of educational interpreting. Jean Campbell (Ministry of Education), Suzanne Bailey (Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology), representatives from Vancouver Community College, University of the Fraser Valley and Douglas College are involved on the steering committee. Some examples of their discussion might be setting a standard that anyone being hired as a "Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing" must have a "superior" level of ASL competence, or that instead of interpreters in high school being hired under the category of "aide", a new category of "Educational interpreter" be set up. Douglas College will have an assessment program in place so that anyone who is working as an interpreter or in the field of education but who does not have a certificate can have their ASL skills evaluated against these standards. This committee needs someone to represent WAVLI to attend these meetings and report back to the executive. There would be a meeting approximately one day every 2 months. Barb Mykle-Hotzon and Kris Dundas volunteered.

e. Motor Vehicle Branch

Mr. Vic Grayson gave a presentation in response to a letter that was received by the Motor Vehicle Branch expressing our concerns about problems arising when interpreters are present during licensing procedures.

Discussion - What would be considered to be proof that the individual being tested does in fact require an interpreter, ( eg. note from the school principal )?

- The learners' test is geared to a grade 5/6 level of English comprehension so is it necessary to have an interpreter?

- Learners' tests are provided in other languages, is it possible to produce one in ASL?
- Is it possible to have an interpreter present without that person unintentionally giving away the correct answers to the exam ?
- What constitutes skilled interpretation?

It was decided that to recommend some volunteers ( maybe from GVAD, or CAD ) and an interpreter work on a committee with the Motor Vehicle Branch to discuss these issues. The follow up to this presentation and contact with Vic Grayson was given to the Professional Standards Committee.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. **Membership**

- WAVLI has 59 members
    - 44 active members
    - 15 supporting members
- Keeping track of the correspondence for this committee requires a lot of work so Barb may contact some of the VLIT students to see if they are interested in being involved.
- People involved on committees should be WAVLI members.
  - We want to encourage people to join as active members - if they are working as interpreters then they are getting the benefits of the professional organizations fighting for WCB recognition of repetitive strain injuries as a job related injury, the improvement of working conditions ( eg. 2 hr minimum, promotion of team interpreting ), setting up grievance procedures and many other related issues.

### b. **Professional Standards**

- There is a new updated version of our WAVLI Brochure ready
- UBC President's Adhoc Committee is making recommendations for interpreting in Post Secondary Institutions
- A recommendation was made to the joint Douglas-VCC Committee that the word "interpreter" be eliminated from descriptions of the courses in the VCC calendar. The title on the certificate issued will also be changed.
- A letter was sent to the Motor Vehicle Branch
- An add soliciting volunteer interpreters for Children's Hospital was responded to and the concerns of WAVLI expressed.
- All copy of all letters from the Professional Standards Committee is sent to GVAD

### c. **Fundraising**

- The 50/50 tickets sold at the AVLIC Board Meeting Social earned WAVLI \$57.
- Alex Walker had the winning ticket from the Greg Evans workshop. She wins free registration for the next WAVLI workshop.
- The casino application is still pending.
- Ticket books money should be returned last Monday in May.

d. **Professional Development**

- May 12th there will be a budget planning workshop. Cost is \$15 for a 2 hour workshop. Some topics will be how to deal with fluctuating income, RRSP. daily spending etc.
- Wellness workshop June 11/12
- Summer workshop at Douglas College . People registering must attend both days, it will be advertised in the Ripple.

e. **Newsletter**

- The committee consists of Cheryl Palmer, Dorothy Jordan, Debbie Miyashita, Suzie Giroux, Ellie Casey Jami Nystrom.
- The deadline for the next issue is May 1st.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. There are job postings for Terrace, Courtney, Grand Forks for Sept./94

b. If you need cleaning services ( Lower Mainland ) for your house or office contact Jackie Ayton

9. **NEXT GENERAL MEETING** - Sept. 24, 1994 at 1:00 p.m. at Douglas College in the VLIT classroom.

10. The meeting was adjourned ( Jackie Ayton, Diane Pattison )