

## Chinese Language Teachers Association of Texas

Spring Board Meeting (Conference Call) 10:00 to 11:00am, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Chair:** Marshall

**Attendees:** Paul, Meng, Sharon, Lan, Li, Ardon, and Marshall

**Note-taker:** Jia Li

### 1. Updates

#### A. Workshops

Meng summarized the three workshops given from Oct. 2008 to Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

- a. Houston workshop on Oct. It was a 2-hour task-based workshop hosted by Marshall and Meng at Huaxia Chinese Language School. About 40 teachers of Chinese from both high school and heritage language schools attended.
- b. Austin workshop on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Lan. It was a one-day event held at St. Stephens Episcopal School. More than 40 teachers from both heritage and high schools attended. Directors of Foreign Language Instruction attended. 3 teachers from San Antonio's 2 heritage language schools were also among the 40 participants.
- c. Dallas workshop on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a 1.5 day event. Ardon was in charge. Over 100 high school teachers attended the event. Dr. Ke Chuanren was the key speaker for the workshop.

#### B. Current Financial Status (summarized by Meng and Lan).

Mainly two sources of income were reported/discussed in this part.

- a. from events
- c. membership fee

Meng sent out the spreadsheet before the meeting with a balance of \$11,500. Her report focused on the status up to after the Dallas Workshop.

**Red: expenses; Blue: income; Black: balance.**

This amount included the \$1900 deposited by Ardon on 2/24/09 to the CLTA-TX account (registration fee included).

This amount did not include \$1200 donated by Overseas Taiwanese Committee has not been received yet.

This amount did not include the last 8 checks for membership renewal (such as Sharon's school).

This amount did not include \$600 promised by UT-Dallas (intended to send directly to Ardon)

Note: Lan will send out a report on the updated status to the board in March.

Lan reported the current membership status.

- a. So far we had 64 paid members with a low in renewed previous members.
- b. Regarding eligibility of the members registered in Aug. 2008. In order to support and retain new members, Meng, Ardon, and Lan agreed on Aug. 30th 2008 at the Dallas annual conference: membership of those who joined in CLTA-TX in Aug. 2008 will not expire until the end of 2009. This is still effective.
- c. Sharon suggested all board members should be informed of any minor decisions made (like in g.) in the future. Agreed upon by all.
- d. All agreed that a reminder should be sent out to current members for renewal. An updated membership list should be sent to the Board every 2 to 3 months with a brief summary of the expiration date. However, Members' personal information (name, e-mail addresses, etc.) should not be disclosed on the website.

## **2 Annual Meeting**

Lan reported the progress that was made so far, including the role of EAI/CI (East Asian Institute/Confucius Institute) as co-host (taking care of the facility fee), BBL (Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies) as sponsor, and Li as the chair of the program.

The conference is scheduled for August 29, 2009 in San Antonio from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The conference room was reserved and many details were being worked on. Lan assured all the preparations would be taken care of by ESI/CI, UTSA.

Lan also reported that she would try to find 2-3 local supporters to take care of expenses on coffee break and invitation printout, etc.

Li reported the following:

The outline of the program by Meng was ready to fill up.  
So far, speakers who responded Meng's invitation include

- Key Note Speaker Claudia Ross
- Debbie at NEISD.
- Raqueneel at SAISD did not respond yet, Li suggested Dora Espiritu, Principal of the Jame Bonham Academy from SAISD as a speaker representing school district. They have a dual language program, offering Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin (just started).

Li reported that two presenters on high school and heritage language panels are finalized and search of the rest of the presenters was still going on.

Involvement of BBL faculty and doctoral students would be academically oriented, such as working together with heritage school or high school presenters.

Li introduced Lan's plan regarding the number of audience from different sectors:

1. San Antonio 60 (UTSA 30 + Trinity and heritage language schools 30)
2. Austin 30
3. Dallas 30
4. Houston 30

Meng mentioned that there might be less from Houston for being farther away from SA.

Meng suggested that presenters could be from both public and private schools but the focus should be on the existing programs other than new programs.

Marshall reported that Zhang Jie from Trinity would be one of the speakers. No possibility of getting one from Austin. There might be one from College Station and would be found out soon.

Lan reported that another proposed speaker from UTSA would be decided soon.

**Marshall suggested that more details could be discussed after the conference.**

4. **Possible Extension of Officers' Tenure: from one year to two years (i.e., President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President).**

Marshall explained reasons why the suggestion was made.

Paul agreed that the extension from 1 to 2 years is reasonable in that the president would do a better job in the second year since he/she would have more time and opportunities to know more about his/her job.

Sharon had some reservation on the extension based on the following counts:

1. if the president would like to serve for 2 years;
2. if any of the other board members would be interested to serve as the president.

Meng said that it was not easy to find one to serve as the President. Meanwhile, the extension would help the president to implement his/her plan effectively.

7 people would satisfy a quorum to vote: There were only three in favor, with the rest abstentions. I.e., a 4<sup>th</sup> person was needed to pass.

Li thought both sides made sense in their position and suggested that if we could make the bylaws so that the president serves 2 years but serve as **President-Elect and Immediate Past President** on shorter terms than suggested.

Marshall would change the language of the bylaws and send the revised proposal for vote electronically.

## 5. Upcoming Elections

Marshall reported that Stephen, Carl, and Paul would be leaving the board, and there may be others who wish to rotate off. So we will need a consensus of who will remain on the board so we can organize the elections.

Meng has agreed to chair the elections committee.

Paul mentioned that he did not have enough time to continue so would like to resign for the board. He suggested a small group of 9 board members instead of 12 so as to work efficiently.

## 6. Newsletter –Marshall agreed to help with the newsletter, al

## 7. CLTA-Texas Teacher Grant – Marshall and Sharon are on this committee, and there was only one applicant so far.

Ardon reported that one member of CLTA-TX missed the deadline for the grant and asked if it was still possible to submit her proposal.

Marshall suggested we extend the deadline, which was seconded by all present. So, the new deadline is on the coming Wed. 5:00pm central time. The applicant must be an eligible member to be accepted.

## 8. Other.

Paul expressed his appreciation for having him on the board and reported that he was not able to find a replacement at the moment but recommended that Zhang Hui, General Principal at Huaxia Chinese school, should be approached. His advice for the board was to be as inclusive as possible with regard to heritage language schools. The focus should not be just on high school and college levels.

Good-bye remarks from all present were extended to Paul with appreciation of his service and hope that we might get him back as key note speaker at our future conferences.

### **Amendment of the Bylaws - proposed change:**

Change the term of officers, President, President-Elect and Immediate Past President, from one year to two years.

### **Rationale:**

1. 2-year term provide the officers a longer period of time to be familiar with the organization and the Board.

2. 2-year term provides the officers more time to plan, implement and realize projects that take longer than a year.
3. 2-year term is more appropriate for small organizations like CLTA-Texas. It saves time and energy in nominating and running election every year. National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages also adopts two-year terms for their officers.

**Possible drawback:** If the two-year term applies to President *and* President-Elect, Immediate Past President, this implies that any President-Elect is committing to 6 years. In practice, the Immediate Past President may have few duties, but this is still a 4 year commitment from President-Elect to becoming Past President. Essentially, this is a long commitment.

*Here is the proposed amendment.*

### **Proposed amendment to CLTA-Texas Bylaws**

#### Section 5.01. Elected Officers

#### **Current text of bylaws:**

#### Section 5.01. Elected Officers

The CLTA-TEXAS shall have a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Each shall serve for one year, except Secretary-Treasurer for 2 years, commencing with the adjournment of the Annual Meeting and continuing until the adjournment of the Annual Meeting in the succeeding year.

#### **Revised text of bylaws.**

#### Section 5.01. Elected Officers

The CLTA-TEXAS shall have a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Each shall serve for two year, commencing with the adjournment of the Annual Meeting and continuing until the adjournment of the Annual Meeting two years thereafter.