

Minutes of Annual Meeting

Of

ATA Portuguese Language Division

The Annual Meeting of the ATA Portuguese Language Division was held on November 7, 2008.

All officers being present, the meeting was called to order by the Division Administrator, Eloisa Marques.

Agenda for the meeting

Eloisa provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting: to approve the minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting; to provide a summary of activities this year; to present issues facing the division in 2009, including the mid-year conference to be held in April 2009.

1. Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Alison Carroll and officially approved by the members present.
2. Summary of Activities in 2008:
 - Three issues of the PLD newsletter were published thanks to the efforts of editors Tereza Braga and Ana Luiza Iaria. The PLD intends to publish four issues in 2009. Eloisa called on members to contribute to the newsletter in 2009.
 - Three officers attended the ATA Meeting for Division Administrators, and Eloisa reported that the incoming ATA president was very intent on addressing division concerns about the erosion of division autonomy and the lack of control over division funds.
 - Eloisa announced plans to seek three or four bids to revamp the division's website so that it is more modern looking, easier to update and a better communications tool (she mentioned the idea of possibly including a blog).
 - The list serve address was provided for new members: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PLData.online>
 - Members were encouraged to attend the Friday evening division reception.
 - Asst. Administrator Julia Pedro spoke about the ATA mentoring initiative after attending an ATA session. She explained that the effort is very mentee-oriented and that the ATA website provides a well-structured approach for mentee and mentor as to how to use this program. She encouraged PLD members to participate and said that information about the program will appear in future editions of the PLData.

- Eloisa announced that the Division's Distinguished Speaker Paulo Britto had to cancel owing to the lack of interest in his pre-conference seminar. She will encourage him to participate in next year's meeting.

3. Activities for 2009

- The Division will hold elections for new officers in 2009. Eloisa encouraged members to consider running and thereby enhance their contact with colleagues and provide guidance for division activities.
- The ATA annual meeting will be held in New York from October 28 to November 1, 2009. The Division needs speakers, and Eloisa issued a call for proposals and suggested speakers.
- Division Treasurer Elena Langdon has procured a site at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) for the Division's mid-year meeting, which will be held in mid-April, 2009. It is a center for Portuguese translating and interpreting. Eloisa explained that ATA usually uses a company to organize meetings so that they conform to ATA standards, but the PLD has historically leaned toward more informal settings, such as Bristol Community College in Rhode Island, which was the site of the last successful mid-year meeting. The informal setting reduces the cost of participation, which is consistent with one of the goals for the Division, which is to encourage students and prospective translators and interpreters to attend and also to do "outreach" into the academic community.
- The PLD officers will be working with ATA in an effort to ensure that the mid-year meeting conforms as closely as possible to our successful approach in the past. Eloisa also asked for suggestions for topics to be covered in the meeting.
- All members introduced themselves, and then Eloisa officially closed the meeting.