



## MINUTES

President Janet Lumley called the meeting to order at 9:30. Those in attendance were: Dayna Chimelsk, Michael Hydak, Helen Guillory, Alline Jourdan, Anne Cirella-Urrutia, Amy King, Debbie Callihan, Jacki Thomas, Joel Mayer, Janet Lumley, Heather Alonso, Rita McKee, Betty Clough, Sarah Morlang, Rosemary Clark, Charlette Beillon, Anne Hilmy, Catherine Picot, Townsend Bowling, Judine Taylor, and Jeanne Johnson, and Jennie Chao

### **Business meeting and Lunch**

A buffet was generously provided by the French Consulate and El Tropicano Hotel.

### **Old Business:**

A. Secretary/Treasurer's report: Heather Alonso reported that there was \$1682.06 in the account.

B. Grand Concours Report: Rita McKee has worked as the Grand Concours administrator for 4 years and she reported that enrollment has continued to increase. One of the reasons for improved enrollment is that Ms. McKee has been able to offer discounts to teachers if they entered by a certain date. Members present decided to table the discussion of certificates for the Grand Concours since all students receive a certificate for participating. Members mentioned that they would like to see more pictures of student participants in the AATF bulletin. It was also mentioned that we revisit the money given to administrators as this is a great task.

C. President Janet Lumley has completed the process for TEA certificates for those attending meetings.

### **New Business:**

A. There was discussion to have the spring meeting in Castroville and possibly tour the Steinbach House or Landmark Inn. Joel Mayer made a motion to meet in Castroville and it was seconded by Dr. Jacki Thomas.

B. Dr. Helen Guillory was nominated for treasurer. Dr. Debbie Callihan moved and Joel Mayer seconded that the nominations cease. Dr. Helen Guillory was appointed treasurer by acclamation.

C. Rosemary Clark volunteered and was appointed for the position of Grand Concours administrator. Rosemary Clark was also nominated for position of secretary. Dr. Debbie Calliahn moved and Joel Mayer seconded that the nominations cease. Rosemary Clark was appointed secretary by acclamation.

### **Presentations:**

#### **Dominique Chastres**

Dominique Chastres spoke on behalf of the French Consulate in Houston. Mr. Chastres spoke about the geography of France and the Francophone world showing multiple images of the various French departments and overseas regions. He mentioned that France is the number one tourist destination and the 5<sup>th</sup> world power. French is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most used language on the internet and 2<sup>nd</sup> most studied language in the world after English. Most English speakers already know approximately 15,000 words in French. Moreover, studying French provides an alternate view of the world.

France has much more than just its *art de vivre* as it boasts a strong technological industry with the Airbus, Ariane rocket, TGV, and Peugeot. Furthermore, the French are the number 1 consumers of culture such as books, movies, music, and shows.

You may access pictures of France at: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>

#### **Marie Maurannes**

Marie Maurannes, specialist in FLE (français langue étrangère), works to promote French culture in the US. Ms. Maurannes spoke about French cinema and recommended the site [universcine.com](http://universcine.com), which has a selection of downloadable movies. She also informed attendees of several scholarships available for both students and teachers to visit or work in France. For more information on teaching or traveling abroad visit the website: <http://www.frenchculture.org/> and click on education. Here you will find information for both students of various ages as well as teachers.

There are also Fulbright scholarships for teachers. For more information please visit the website: <http://fulbright.state.gov/>

Other valuable websites mentioned which provide useful information for teachers are:

<http://theworldspeaksfrench.org/>

<http://www.frenchresources.info/>

<http://www.francofil.net/>

<http://espacefrancophone.org/>

<http://www.tv5.org/>

<http://www.rfi.fr/>

<http://www.france24.com/en/>

<http://www.france24.com/en/>

<http://www.presseurop.eu/en>

<http://www.presseurop.eu/fr>

<http://www.agendaculturehouston.info/teachers.html>

### **Amy King**

Amy King received a Fulbright scholarship to study abroad in Cameroon, Africa. Her goal was to create a cultural awareness project. She provided attendees with a historical and cultural background on the country accompanied with pictures. Ms. King discussed the importance of books which are considered valuable commodities and are wrapped in a protective plastic coating in bookstores. One of the high schools she visited had a cafeteria staffed by parents. If the parents did not show up with food to sell or the children had not brought something for themselves, then they did not eat. Families share a village mentality where all adults help to raise children. Ms. King was able to go on a safari as well.

Websites:

Macarthurfrench.wikispaces.com (you can access pictures from this site)

Concordiafulbrighttocameroon.pbworks.com (see Ms. King's culture project)

### **Dr. Anne Cirella-Urrutia**

Dr. Cirella-Urrutia teaches at Huston-Tillotson University which has a largely African American population. Dr. Cirella-Urrutia uses a lot of African Francophone children's literature to reach her students. She is able to incorporate these works in class to discuss the themes of integration, multiculturalism, friendship, and a matriarchal society. One author whose works, *La pêche à la marmite* and *Les petits acrobates du fleuve*, were discussed in detail is Dominique Mwankumi.

### **Dr. Helen Guillory**

Dr. Helen Guillory presented on the Anvill Project which is a national virtual language laboratory. It is very useful for listening and speaking practice. It is free for US educators. You can create an account or find out more information at the following website: <https://anvill.uoregon.edu/anvill2/>

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alonso  
Secretary/Treasurer