

The Japanese Teachers Association of Texas
2009 JTAT Annual Meeting
Texas Foreign Language Association Conference
Renaissance Austin Hotel at the Arboretum, Austin, Texas
Saturday, October 31, 2009

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

A total of 10 members.

Yoshiko Brotherton, Chizuko Bolinger, Yoshiko Fujii Gaines, Peggy Hardt, Mariko Jinbo, Lorin Park, Yuko Prefume, Hiroko Sato, Yayoi Takeuchi, Daniel Watanabe

Members Submitting Proxy Votes:

An additional 9 members.

Yukie Aida, Chikako Hirayama Cooke, Taeko Horwitz, Mihoko Nakashige, Mitsuyo Odom, Masako Perich, Hiroko Takabe Scharon, Rie Shichijo, Yoshie Kumagai Sweigart

Recording of Minutes:

By Peggy Hardt in the absence of JTAT Secretary Yoshie Sweigart.

Opening:

JTAT President Hiroko Sato opened the Annual Meeting at 3:40 PM. The Agenda for this Meeting was distributed. There was a brief discussion about the participation and visibility of JTAT at the TFLA Conference and what could be done to increase JTAT membership participation. The idea of scholarships for those who do not get travel funding from their schools was mentioned. This would require additional fundraising since the current JTAT budget could not support a scholarship program. This item was tabled for further discussion in the future.

1. Review/Approval of Previous Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved.

Note: The meeting date 10/18/09, is incomplete on the first page of the minutes.

2. Unfinished Business

a. Bylaws

The proposed bylaw revisions are still in progress under the ad-hoc Bylaws Committee.

b. Speech Contest Austin Regional

The Austin Regional Speech Contest will start in 2010.

3. New Business

a. Finance Report and Membership Report

Finance Report

JTAT Treasurer Mariko Jinbo gave a financial report for the period of 1/1/2009 to 10/30/2009. The balance from 2008 was \$2,629.57. Income was \$1,694.79 and expenditure was \$869.96, leaving a new balance of \$3,454.40. Expenditures were down this year since JTAT did not fund the prizes for the Nengajo Contest, as it is a program for students and does not benefit the teachers directly.

Membership Report

A dues-paid membership list, with 42 members, was distributed.

b. 2009 Nengajo Contest

The information sheet for the 2009 Nengajo Contest was distributed. The deadline is 12/21/09 for entries to be received by Mihoko Nakashige.

c. 2010 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest

Poems

Copies of the poems were distributed. The *furigana* and English translations have not been added yet and will be posted on the JTAT website when they are completed.

Qualifications for Participants

The qualifications for participants were discussed, especially as the Texas requirements seem to be more stringent than the Aurora Foundation regulations which are used for the national speech contest. The main issues were regarding individuals with one Japanese parent but who may not necessarily use Japanese significantly at home and are learning Japanese in school, and also the amount of time spent in Japan. These issues will need to be settled by the Speech Contest Executive Committee and their upcoming meeting. The JTAT members present recommended aligning the Texas regulations with the Aurora regulations.

d. Bylaws Update

Draft #2 of proposed amendments was presented. Various aspects of the Bylaws were discussed, including the leadership structure of the organization as outlined in the Bylaws. The committee recommended several areas to update in the Bylaws to make them conform more closely to the current practices of JTAT. For instance, the Bylaws would be amended to state that the general membership, rather than the Board of Directors, would vote on the officers. In other areas, they suggested making changes in JTAT practices to conform to the Bylaws. The primary example is the establishment of a Board of Directors as a distinct entity from the Executive Officers. The Executive Officers (President, Vice President[s], Secretary, and Treasurer) would carry out the day-to-day duties of the organization. The Board of Directors, on the other hand, would oversee and advise the officers as necessary.

e. Nominating Committee

The preset status of the work of the Nominating Committee was discussed. The Nominating Committee as been working on making nominations for the Board of Directors. Other nominations will need to wait until the Bylaws are completed.

f. Discussion of Election of New Officers and Board of Directors

The distinction between the Board of Directors and the Executive Officers was discussed. A role of three years and an initial group of three or four Board of Directors was proposed. Due to a lack of time, members were unable to vote on the Board of Directors. Voting will take place at a later time.