

**Japanese Teacher's Association of Texas
Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, October 2008
At Salon #7, Hilton Houston North Hotel**

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Attendance: A total of 14 JTAT members.
Chizuko Bolinger, Yoshiko Brotherton, Peggy Hardt, Mariko Jimbo, Michiko Makita, Kumiko Okutani, Yuko Prefume, Masumi Reade, Kazuko Sanada, Hiroko Sato, Nana Suzumura, Yayoi Takeuchi, Akiko Watanabe, Daniel Watanabe.
2. Recording of the Minutes: JTAT Secretary Yoshie Sweigart had a conflict and could not attend, and the minutes were taken by Daniel Watanabe.
3. Opening: JTAT President Hiroko Sato (HS) opened the Annual Meeting at 2:45 PM. The Agenda for this Meeting was handed out.
4. Treasurer' Report: JTAT Treasurer Mariko Jimbo (MJ) made the financial report that covered the period of Jan. 1 through Oct. 16, 2008, and a handout was distributed. Income was \$4,638.88, expenditure was \$1,764.31, giving the balance for today as \$2,874.57. Also a dues-paid membership list, with 29 members, was distributed.
 - 4.1 Membership dues collection has not been complete, though reminders have been sent out. Methods to confirm receipt of such notices were discussed. It was suggested by KS that various regions have a local contact source who can call members to remind people of unpaid dues. MJ will send out another reminder.
 - 4.2 Regarding membership dues, in order to synchronize the dues period with NCJLT (starts Jan. 1), it was suggested that JTAT start sending out dues notice from October, to collect it in time for dues deadline with NCJLT.
- 4.1 Questions were raised about financing for the Nengajoo Contest. Support by the Japan America Society of Houston, by individual schools, and organizations in the Dallas area were mentioned.
5. On Nengajoo Contest: Nakashige sensei was unable to attend, and handout from her was distributed.

5.1 There was significant discussion about the proposal to change the levels. Some members pointed out that 80% tend to be submitted by high school students, with far less participation in lower grade levels. A motion was made and seconded that the levels shall be,

Elementary School level	1 st through 6 th grades.
Middle School level	7 th through 9 th grades.
High School level	10 th through 12 th grades.
Adult level	

Motion was passed unanimously.

5.2 Category of awards was discussed. It was moved, seconded, and voted in to have

Grand Prize
Most Artistic Award
Most Creative Award
Most Humorous Award

with each teacher's discretion in submitting these categories.

5.3 Re Prize/Awards: JTAT will not give out any prize/awards (though will hand out certificates of recognition.) Nakashige sensei is to further check with various groups to seek sponsors for awards.

5.4 About entries: Each teacher will be allowed to submit 10 entries from each separate school.

5.5 About the contents of the Nengajoo: The contents concept shall remain as before. The wording of "greetings" to appear on the Nengajoo shall be recommended in the handout list. This will be reported to Nakashige sensei. The upcoming year's design will be **Year of the Cow**.

6. Discussion on "State-mandated Textbook for High Schools": The Texas State educational agency will pay for textbooks if they approve it. Because publishers have not submitted candidate textbooks, the State has not approved any specific book. Sanada sensei suggested that JTAT should act as an advisor to the State (which can change every ten years) so the most appropriate textbook can be approved and used in schools.

7. Report from the Bylaws Committee: DW, chair of the committee, reported the following (which has been abbreviated due to shortage of time):

- An amendment will be submitted to say that "*For practical purposes, the Corporation may be referred to as **the Japanese Teachers Association of Texas (JTAT)** in its communications and notices.*"
- DW will rewrite the purposes of JTAT for submitting an Amendment.
- Other possible Amendments shall be submitted for member's approval.

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8. About the Speech Contest: HS distributed a handout. An executive committee for this speech contest will be made up by: Consul-General's office (2 to 3), JETRO (one), JASH (3), JAGH (1), and Hoshuu-ko (one).

The meeting adjourned at about 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Daniel H. Watanabe