

AILACT
Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking
Newsletter June 2005

(compiled by Maurice A. Finocchiaro, President, AILACT)
(mailed July 8, 2005)
(apologies for duplicate distribution)

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1. Tribute to Outgoing President Bob Ennis

As President of AILACT for the previous three years, Robert Ennis did an outstanding job, deserving thanks and acknowledgement in this public forum.

2. Culminating Session of the Virtual Spring Meeting of AILACT May 19, 2005, McMaster University, 1:20 to 1:50pm

The meeting, late because of previous delays, was called to order by outgoing President Bob Ennis, who also served as provisional Secretary for the meeting.

People indicating their presence by signing the sheet were:

David Hitchcock
Mark Battersby
Michael Gilbert
Harvey Seigel
Trudy Govier
Lilian Bernejo Lugre
Drewe M Lowe
H. V. Hansen
John Hoaglund
Derek Allen
John Woods
Michael Scriven
Peter D. Asquith

Dan Boone
Chris Tindale
Tony Blair
Dan Cohen
Don Hatcher
Maurice Finocchiaro
Bob Ennis

The following e-mail addresses were requested to be added to AILACT-D discussion list:
drew.loewe@tcu.edu
txfencer@earthlink.net
scriven@aol.com

Don Hatcher submitted the Treasurer's Report, showing a current balance of US\$1932.91 and 149 members, as of May 12, 2005. The cost of the recent election mailing has not yet been deducted and some membership checks have not yet been deposited. Dues for 2006 are \$10.

Ennis requested the submission of any remaining ballots for the Board of Director positions. Some members present said that they never received ballots. Ballots were collected to be counted by Don Hatcher.

Membership forms and 2005 Essay Prize announcements were distributed by Ennis with the request that they be taken home and posted.

Ennis noted that during the previous four years,

- * The Constitution was amended under the leadership of Maurice Finocchiaro.
- * AILACT provided sessions at the three annual APA meetings each year arranged by Program Chairs, Dan Boone, John Hoaglund, Don Hatcher, and Peter Asquith.
- * Newsletters came out about three per year
- * A Web site was developed under the leadership of David Hitchcock. Its address is <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca>.
- * A somewhat active member discussion list (AILACT-D) was developed under the leadership of Michael Gilbert. A similar list was developed for Board discussions.
- * The annual AILACT Essay Prize was developed and awarded for 2004 with a jury composed of Tony Blair, Merrilee Salmon, and Michael Scriven

Ennis then turned over the Presidency to Maurice Finocchiaro; Derek Allen became Vice President; Don Hatcher retained his position as Treasurer. All were elected by acclamation.

Don Hatcher then announced the results of the Board election, after a tie was resolved by a flip of a coin. New Board Members are:

Tony Blair
Trudy Govier
Hans Hansen

David Hitchcock
John Hoaglund
Gerry Nosich
Michael Scriven
Bob Ennis (as Immediate Past President)

Tony Blair, as Chair of the AILACT Essay Prize jury, reported that the prize for 2004 was won by Marcello Guarini, who agreed to submit the paper to Informal Logic. The deadline for the submission of papers for the 2005 Essay Prize is August 1, 2005.

Michael Scriven suggested that a book be published containing most of the essays, which were of very high quality.

Michael Gilbert as the organizer of our discussion lists invited people to write him to be put on the AILACT-D list (gilbert@yorku.ca) and to be subscribed to the Arg Thry list.

David Hitchcock, Webmaster, noted that he has served since 2001 and plans to relinquish the post in 2007, if not before. Would someone like to work with David to be prepared to take over the Webmastership? Write David: hitchckd@mcmaster.ca.

Chairs of the APA Group Sessions reported as follows:

- * Don Hatcher (Pacific) reported that there was a good session about assessment, attended by about 15-20 people.
- * Peter Asquith (Central) reported an audience of about ten people and very high quality papers and discussion, including the 2004 Essay Prize essay.
- * Dan Boone reported that the invited panel on self-deception provided a high quality discussion for an audience of about 22 people.

David Hitchcock said that he would be delighted to make any APA group session papers available on our Web site. The question was then raised whether other publishers, such as Informal Logic, Springer, or Vale Press would then be willing to publish such a paper. The issue needs resolution.

Our time expired. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Ennis
Secretary for the day

3. The Spring Meeting of the AILACT Board of Directors
May 20, 2005, McMaster University, 1:10 to 1:50pm

The meeting was called to order by our new President, Maurice Finocchiaro.

Remarkably (given that we were piggy-backing on an OSSA meeting), all Board Members but one were in attendance:

David Hitchcock

Trudy Govier

H. V. Hansen

John Hoaglund

Derek Allen

Michael Scriven

Tony Blair

Don Hatcher

Maurice Finocchiaro

Bob Ennis

Ralph Johnson also attended (Our Constitution says that any member is welcome to attend a Board meeting)

Name.

Don Hatcher noted that a member had suggested that the name of the organization be changed to Association for Critical Thinking. After considerable discussion, Ennis moved, Hoaglund seconded, to keep the name as is. Passed unanimously.

Jobs.

Ennis noted that the most recent APA Jobs for Philosophers mentioned 'critical thinking' for five jobs. This is a much higher percentage of such mentions than usual. Ennis noted that jobs that call for critical thinking and informal logic often do not mention this fact about the jobs, and wondered what we might do to help people trained in informal logic and critical thinking get jobs. He reported that at the last informal gathering of AILACT, members recommended that APA officials be contacted to request that they request that such jobs be more transparent in their listings, and regretted that APA officials had not yet been contacted.

Michael Scriven suggested getting critical thinking and informal logic on the APA lists of Areas of Specialization and Areas of Competence.

Hans Hansen suggested that instead of our providing a listing of jobs, candidates need only look on the APA Web site.

Trudy Govier recommended asking APA to give this area more recognition.

Maurice Finocchiaro, echoing the remarks by Scriven and Govier, suggested that AILACT should try to have this area included among: (1) those that are the subject of official APA Newsletters, and (2) those that are the subject of the about two dozen advisory committees to the Eastern Division Program Committee.

David Hitchcock said that he would be happy to list jobs on our Web site if someone will tell him what to list.

Publication.

Michael Scriven suggested that we have a monograph series. Edgepress could do it though Michael is overcommitted.

It was noted that Vale Press is already doing a monograph series.

Publication of the many high quality entries for the Essay Prize entered the conversation.

Tony Blair moved that we form a Publications Committee composed of Michael Scriven, Trudy Govier, John Hoaglund, and Tony Blair, with Maurice Finocchiaro as ex officio, leaving it up to the Committee to choose its chair. Seconded by Bob Ennis. Discussion was rushed, as our time was expiring. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Ennis
Secretary for the day

4. AILACT ESSAY PRIZE

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking invites applications for its second annual AILACT Essay Prize.

The value of the AILACT Essay Prize is US\$500. The prize may, in extraordinary circumstances, be divided among entries judged to be of about equal merit.

Essays related to the teaching or theory of informal logic or critical thinking will be considered for the prize. An essay may be unpublished, forthcoming or previously published. There are no restrictions on authorship. Published papers must have appeared on or after 1 January 2005. Essays should be in the neighbourhood of 3500-5000 words. The essays will be assessed on the basis of, in no particular order: their originality, their scholarship, if applicable (papers that ignore the relevant literature will tend to go to the bottom of the pile), their argument (needless to say?), their style (lucid, delightful-to-read papers will tend to rise to the top), and their importance to the field (measured by how high they register on the "Everyone should read this paper-and soon!" scale).

The jury members for the 2005 AILACT Essay Prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Tony Blair (chair), Merrilee Salmon and Michael Scriven. The verdict of the jury is final.

To submit a paper, attach an electronic file to an e-mail with AILACT ESSAY ENTRY on the "Subject" line, or mail three paper copies, to the appropriate address below. Please send the paper ready for blind-reviewing (the author not identified on the paper or file containing the paper, and self-identifying references removed from the text, notes and References).

The deadline for receipt of papers to be considered for the 2005 AILACT Essay Prize is 1 August 2005.

Address email entries to: philos@uwindsor.ca and put in the Subject line: AILACT ESSAY PRIZE ENTRY.

Address paper copy entries to: AILACT ESSAY PRIZE ENTRY, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON, Canada N9B 3P4. Be sure to include your name and a mailing address in your covering note.

The winner will be announced by 1 December 2005. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner.

For information about AILACT, see our Web site: <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca> .

5. AILACT Sessions at the APA Central Division Meeting

Call for Papers and Workshop Suggestions

2006 Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT)

Central Division American Philosophical Association

AILACT will meet in conjunction with the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association in Spring of 2006, April 26-29, in Chicago at the Palmer House Hilton. Two separate types of sessions are under consideration. – one traditional paper presentations and the other a workshop focused on pedagogical topics. Consequently, two different submission invitations are included below.

(1) Papers on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation are welcome. Papers should be no longer than 12 pages or a 30-minute reading time.

(2) Also sought are suggestions for topics and potential participants as workshop leaders on issues, approaches, and useful resources for teaching informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation.

Deadline for both types of submission is October 1, 2005, and notification of paper acceptance is by November 22, 2005.

Send submissions as attachments in MS Word or PDF to the program chair, Peter D. Asquith, Michigan State University at: asquith@msu.edu.

6. AILACT Sessions at the APA Pacific Division Meeting

Call for Papers

AILACT meets in conjunction with the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association March 22-26, 2006 in Portland, Oregon. Papers on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation are welcome. Papers should be no longer than 12 pages or a 30-minute reading time.

Deadline for submissions is September 15, and notification is by October 15, 2005.

Send submissions as attachments in MS Word or WordPerfect to [<donaldhatcher@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:donaldhatcher@sbcglobal.net) or [<donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu>](mailto:donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu) or hard copies to:

Donald L. Hatcher
Center for Critical Thinking
Baker University
Box 65
Baldwin City, KS 66006

7. AILACT Session at the APA Eastern Division Meeting

This will be an invited program organized by Dan Boon danboone@iup.edu

(end)