

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2009**

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From the Editor: The past four months have brought three items of news. First, Prof. Susanna Nuccetelli of the St. Cloud University Philosophy Department has agreed to become our new AILACT Essay Prize Publicist, a position the Board created last year to encourage more submissions for the prize. She reports that the notice for the prize has been posed to all places listed on the AILACT web site and to 25 additional philosophy departments. She hopes to publicize the prize also through the APA.

Don Hatcher, our Treasurer, reports that as of December 31, 2008, AILACT had \$3,426.09 cash on hand. The AILACT budget for 2009 anticipates expenses of \$915 for the year but estimates dues income at \$600 with only 60 persons making payment. Please let's make this figure higher. You may use the membership form at the end of this letter to renew your membership and pay dues.

Finally, the Institute for Philosophy in Public Life at the University of North Dakota has started a philosophy radio call-in show, "Why? Philosophical Discussions About Everyday Life," broadcast locally on the second Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm Central Time and available live on the web at www.whyradioshow.org, where it is also archived.

Upcoming Meetings 2009

Group Sessions at the APA Pacific Division Meetings, April 8-12, 2009, The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, British Columbia, CA

Session 1 Date and Time: Friday, April 10, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Chair: Wanda Teays, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles

Part 1: On-Line Courses in Critical Thinking 7:00-9:00

Speakers: Darin Dockstader, College of Southern Nevada , "Teaching Critical Thinking Online: Getting Started"

N. Mark Rauls, College of Southern Nevada, "Teaching Critical Thinking Online: The Long View"

Part 2: Paper Presentation

Michael Scriven, Claremont Graduate University, "The Feasible/Probative Inference"

Session 2 Date and Time: Saturday, April 11, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Chair: Paul Green, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles

Topic: The Role of the Context in Critical Thinking

Speakers: Sharon Bailin, Simon Fraser University (Emerita), "Critical Inquiry: Considering the Context"

Mark Battersby, Capilano University, "Critical Inquiry: Considering the Context"

Comment: Donald L. Hatcher, Baker University, "A Response to Profs. Bailin and Battersby"

Comment: Jerry Cederblom, University of Nebraska at Omaha "A Response to Profs. Bailin and Battersby"

Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation, June 3-6, 2009, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, CA

Conference Title: Argument Cultures

Keynote Speakers: Ruth Amossy, Department of French, University of Tel Aviv

Robert C. Pinto, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor

David Zarefsky, School of Communication, Northwestern University

Abstracts of presentations, a registration form, and information about accommodations are available at the OSSA website: web2.uwindsor.ca/cpa/OSSA/

For information about OSSA, contact Hans Hansen at hhansen@uwindsor.ca.

Call for Papers, Group Session at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meetings, Dec. 28-30, 2009, New York Marriott at Times Square, New York, NY

Submission deadline: May 8, 2009

Papers on the analysis and assessment of non-formal arguments will be favored. Papers on any aspect of informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation will be considered.

Please send a (max. 400-word) abstract to hoaglund@cnu.edu.

Election of Board of Directors, 2009

The 2009 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dale Turner, has circulated to the membership a list of nominees for election to AILACT's Board of Directors and an invitation for further nominations. The Committee's nominees are:

President: Derek Allen

Vice President: Tom Solon

Treasurer: Don Hatcher

Directors At Large:

Jim Freeman
Dale Turner
Wanda Teays
Chris Campolo
Michael Scriven
Maurice Finocchiaro
Dan Cohen

If there are other nominees in addition to this slate, the Nominating Committee will circulate a list of all the nominees and a mail ballot to each member of AILACT eligible to vote, by 30 days before the 2009 annual meeting. The 2009 annual meeting will be held at the OSSA 2009 conference, University of Windsor, June 3-6. Mail ballots received by the chair of the Nominating Committee before the annual meeting, plus mail ballots submitted at the meeting, will together constitute the votes to determine the Board of Directors for the following two years. Members will be informed by email of the date and time of the meeting.

Membership Form
The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

The Association (AILACT) was formed in 1983 to promote research, teaching, and testing of informal logic and critical thinking at all levels; to increase the extent and quality of such research, teaching, and testing; and to facilitate discussion among its members. AILACT sponsors sessions at each APA divisional meeting and other meetings; has a Web site, <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca/>, that provides a wide variety of information about AILACT, informal logic, and critical thinking, and posts papers and other members' materials; has an e-mail discussion list* for discussion of topics of interest to members; and offers an annual Essay Prize for the recent essay judged best in the field.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2009

I would like to become a member of AILACT (US\$10 -- or the equivalent*)

I would like to renew my membership (US\$10 -- or the equivalent**)

Student Member (undergraduate or graduate) (fees waived)

(Make checks payable to AILACT)

Name: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any, indicate if student): _____

Date: _____

Please fill in the following:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: (Very important! Please print clearly. Much of our business will be conducted electronically -- but you will not be disenfranchised if you do not have an e-mail address.)

What would you like to see AILACT do, or do better?:

Mail with check to: Donald Hatcher, AILACT Treasurer, Center for Critical Thinking, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA Email: <d.hatcher@bakeru.edu>

*a check in the currency of the member, if the member so chooses