

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2011**

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From the Editor: As indicated in the April Newsletter, AILACT held an election for members of its Board of Directors starting in late June and continuing into early July. The Nominating Committee was unable to find members willing to stand for President or Treasurer. According to the Constitution, the Treasurer's two-year term is renewable and there is no limit on the number of renewals. By contrast, the President's two-year term is renewable only once, and Derek Allen had served two terms. He said, however, that since there were no nominations for President he would be willing to serve a further term provided that this departure from the Constitution would be acceptable to a plurality of eligible AILACT voters who voted in the election. This condition was approved by the Board and stated on the ballot, and it was fulfilled in the election. Thus, Derek has been elected to a third term as President. Donald Hatcher was elected to a further term as Treasurer. Yours truly agreed to serve as Vice-President. Since no one else agreed to stand for this post, the election was by acclamation. Six persons were elected to the Board as directors at large, with a tie for the seventh position. That has now been resolved. For 2011-2013 the directors at large will be Mark Battersby, Robert Ennis, Maurice Finocchiaro, Geoff Goddu, Michael Scriven, Dale Turner, and Frank Zenker. George Boger has agreed to be the AILACT Program Chair for the Eastern Division APA. As many of you know, Dan Cohen several times sent out a call for papers for this December's meeting to the AILACT-D list. Otherwise, Wanda Teays and Kevin Possin remain as Pacific and Central Division Program Chairs.

The notice for the 2011 AILACT Essay Prize is included in this issue of the Newsletter. For those who are planning to submit an essay, or seriously considering doing so, please note that the due date is October 31, 2011. Details of the competition and instructions for submission are all included in the notice.

Also included in this issue is an AILACT Membership Form, which should serve as a reminder for those who have not yet paid their dues for 2011 to do so. Dues (which continue to be \$10.00) may be paid by check or credit card or by PayPal; the form should be completed and sent (with a check if payment is by check) to our treasurer, Don Hatcher.

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Upcoming Meetings 2011-2012

AILACT Group Session at the Eastern Division APA meeting, DECEMBER 27-30, 2011 at the Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC

Details of the program together with the exact date and time of the session will appear in the December Newsletter. Papers, indications of willingness to comment, and proposals for sessions should be sent to boger@canisius.edu by August 5.

Call for Papers and Panel Discussions for the AILACT Group Session at the Central Division APA meeting, FEBRUARY 15-18, 2012 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL.

Please send your suggestions on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation, their instruction, their assessment, or their relations with other disciplines and world events. Ideas regarding a guest speaker, an author-meets-critics, or a joint session with another Group meeting are very welcome. And please forward this announcement to anyone else who might be interested.

Possible topics include: Critical Thinking/Informal Logic and the budget crisis, CT/IL and healthcare, the neurophysiology of CT/IL, the nature of CT/IL, and methods and means of teaching and assessing CT/IL.

Deadlines: Please send emails of interest by August 1, 2011. Papers and [confirmed] speaker lists should be submitted by September 20, 2011. Send papers as attachments in pdf or MS Word. Send all emails and submissions to the Program Chair, Kevin Possin, Winona State University, kpossin@winona.edu.

Call for Papers for the AILACT Group Session at the Pacific Division APA meeting, April 4-7, 2012, Seattle, WA. Hotel to be announced. Seeking speakers, commentators, panel

participants for a session on one of Wednesday-Saturday 4-7 April. Please submit paper/panel topic by **15 SEP 2011**, and include abstract or brief discussion of panel idea, to Wanda Teays, Program Chair (Pacific AILACT), *Email:* wteays@msmc.la.edu. Wanda Teays adds: If you wish to comment on a paper, please let me know. If you have an idea in the rough and want to discuss it, please email & we'll discuss. If you have day/time preferences or issues for the session, please indicate them with your submission.

Essay Prize in Informal Logic/Critical Thinking/Argumentation Theory

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2011 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the seventh year in which the prize has been offered.

- Value: \$300 U.S.
- The prize-winning paper, and any “honourable mention” paper, will be considered for publication in *Informal Logic* upon the conditions listed below.*
- Papers related to the teaching or theory of informal logic or critical thinking, and papers on argumentation theory, will be considered for the prize.
- There are no restrictions on authorship. Authors need not be members of AILACT.
- Previously unpublished papers, and papers published or accepted for publication between January 1, 2008 and October 31, 2011, are eligible. Maximum length: 6,000 words.
- Entries will be assessed on the basis of their argument, scholarship, style, and importance to the field.
- The jury members for the 2011 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Ralph Johnson (Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor), Trudy Govier (Department of Philosophy, University of Lethbridge), and Mark Weinstein (Department of Educational Foundations, Montclair State University). The decision of the jury is final.
- To submit a paper, attach a PDF (preferred) or MS Word or RTF document to an email with AILACT ESSAY ENTRY on the “subject” line and send it to Prof. Derek Allen (derekallen@trinity.utoronto.ca) with a covering note giving your name and a mailing address. Please send the paper ready for blind-reviewing (the author not identified on the paper or file containing the paper or in the description of the document’s properties that is part of the file, and self-identifying references removed from the text, notes and references).
- There is a limit of one entry per author.
- The deadline for receipt of submissions is October 31, 2011. The winner will be announced by January 16, 2012. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2012.
- For further information about the essay prize, please contact Prof. Susana Nuccetelli (snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu). For information about AILACT, visit our web site: <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca/>

*The prize-winning paper, and any “honourable mention” paper, will be eligible for consideration for publication in *Informal Logic* if it has not already been published or accepted or committed for publication elsewhere and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and if the author consents to its consideration for publication in *Informal Logic*. The editors of *Informal Logic* will arrange for blind review of the paper if these conditions are met. The author will be expected to revise the paper in light of the reviewers’ suggestions, or to justify not doing so.

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 holds an annual essay prize competition.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2011

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

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

I am a student and would like to become a member of AILACT (Fees waived)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ **(Please print clearly. Much of our business is conducted electronically. However, you will not be disenfranchised if you do not have an e-mail address.)**

Payment Options: **Check:** Make checks (US or Canadian only) payable to AILACT

Credit Card Payment: Please deduct US \$10 from

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

PayPal: log in to your account and send the payment to Don Hatcher's email address (dhatcher@bakeru.edu). PayPal will indicate that your payment is to AILACT.

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

Mail to: Donald Hatcher, AILACT Treasurer, Department of Philosophy, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA. Email: <dhatcher@bakeru.edu>