

The FINITE STRING Newsletter

Minutes of the 1981 ACL Meeting

Following are the minutes of the 19th Annual Business Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, held at Stanford University in Stanford, California, on June 30, 1981 with Norman Sondheimer, President, presiding.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting are printed in Volume 6, Number 3-4, of the *American Journal of Computational Linguistics*.

Program Committee Report

Ray Perrault, Chair, reported for the Program Committee (which consisted of himself, Chip Bruce, Jaime Carbonell, Mitch Marcus, Ellen Prince, and Ralph Weischedel). Twenty-five papers were accepted out of the sixty submitted. In addition, two panel sessions were held: Norm Sondheimer organized one on "Evaluation of Natural Language Interfaces to Database Systems;" Jane Robinson organized one on "Perspectives on Parsing Issues." The Proceedings of the Conference contains full texts for most of the papers and statements prepared by most of the panelists. [Details of the program are provided in the January-March 1981 issue of the *AJCL*, Volume 7, Number 1, pages 47-48. Copies of the Proceedings at \$10 (add \$3 for US first class mailing and \$6 for overseas airprinted delivery) are still available and can be ordered from the Secretary-Treasurer.]

Local Arrangements Committee Report

Jerry Kaplan reported that over 180 people were registered for the conference. Arrangements were proceeding smoothly, with the banquet and Presidential Address yet to come. [The final figures for attendance are: 187 total, including 40 students; 44 new members were added to ACL; 140 people attended the banquet.]

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

He reviewed the financial status of the Association for 1980 and the period of 1981 through 5-31. The income figures for the two periods were \$24,796.89 and \$25,973.41, respectively; the corresponding expenses, \$19,601.38 and \$17,127.14; the balances, \$5,195.51 and \$8,846.27; and the assets, \$31,645.64 and \$40,491.91. [Revised provisional figures for the full calendar year are included in the attachment at the end of these minutes instead of the material presented at the meeting. The corresponding figures for all of

1982 are: income, \$47,744.07; expenses, 41,610.02; balance, 6,134.05; and assets, \$37,779.69.] Walker noted the substantial AFIPS contribution [\$7,750.33 by the end of the year], noting that the membership drive, announced at the meeting last year, was instituted to allow ACL to retain its current status in AFIPS by getting 1500 members, thus allowing us to continue to receive such contributions.

Walker presented the membership figures for 1977, 1978, 1979-80, and 1981 through June. For those four periods, the numbers of individual members were 500, 444, 658, and approximately 800; for institutional members, they were 201, 218, 249, and 218; with total membership figures of 701, 662, 907, and approximately 1000. Although in mid-passage, the effort to recruit members certainly has produced results. [Revised provisional figures for the full calendar year are included in the attachment at the end of these minutes instead of the material presented at the meeting. The corresponding figures for all of 1982 are 1190 individual, 257 institutional, and 1447 total. A grand tribute to the membership drive.]

Jim Moore described the membership drive, which involved the creation of a poster and the assembling of lists of relevant organizations and of members from a large number of such organizations to mobilize a large mailing. In addition, booths were set up at the National Computer and Office Automation Conferences [and subsequently at IJCAI in Vancouver] to distribute information. [Although the cost has been high, over \$7,000, the additional 450-500 members added in this manner has provided good justification.] A suggestion was made that solicitations to increase institutional membership be made by asking members to ask their libraries to subscribe.

Editor's Report

George Heidorn reported production of the *American Journal of Computational Linguistics* is proceeding well. Two issues for 1980 have been completed, the second one currently at the printers. Three articles have appeared in each issue. Of 48 papers submitted, 14 have been published, 19 rejected, 5 are being revised, and 10 are in the review process. One conference paper has been published; one is in the process of revision. He expressed his appreciation to the Associate Editor, the Editorial Board, the referees, the President, and the Secretary-Treasurer. Heidorn asked for more papers, more technical reports for inclusion in the abstracts, announcements of all kinds, and expressions of interest in book reviews.

Executive Committee Meeting

Sondheimer began a review of topics discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting.

Walker announced that a fund had been established at MIT in honor of Bill Martin, a long time ACL member who had died early in June. Bill was Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and in the Sloan School of Management at MIT. Walker suggested that the ACL contribute \$100 to this fund, a recommendation that was unanimously approved.

Walker noted that 1982 would be the twentieth anniversary of the ACL; a commemorative session at the 1982 meeting is being planned.

Martha Evens reported that 75,000 people attended the June National Computer Conference in Chicago. Two ACL sessions were featured, one presenting papers, the other a panel [see the July-December 1980 issue of the *AJCL*, Volume 6, Number 3-4, page 193]. Both were well attended, and the New York Times interviewed Lance Miller and Bozena Thompson. Carole Hafner, Raoul Smith, and Kurt Godden helped maintain the ACL booth there. Paul Orgren took responsibility for the ACL booth at the Office Automation Conference in Houston in March.

Sondheimer reported on a Workshop on Applied Computational Linguistics in Perspective, sponsored by the Naval Research Laboratory that had been held the previous Friday and Saturday (26-27 June). There were five panels: Natural Language Interfaces to Computer Systems, Language Styles for Specialized Applications, Machine and Machine-Aided Translation of Technical Documents, Text Generation from Concept Representations, and Concept Extraction from Factual Text. The participants were pleased with the results, and a report is planned for publication in the *AJCL*. Stan Petrick reported on a set of ACL sessions planned for the Linguistic Society of America meeting in December in New York City. He announced a call for papers with a deadline for submission of 21 August. [For the actual program, see the July-September 1981 issue of the *AJCL*, Volume 7, Number 3, page 180.]

The next annual meeting is scheduled for 16-18 June at the University of Toronto. Lyn Bates will be Program Chair; Ray Perrault will handle Local Arrangements. Special sessions on speech acts or interface systems are being considered, as well as the 20th anniversary session referred to above.

A special meeting on applied issues in natural language processing also is under consideration for late 1982 or early 1983. [The meeting on Applied Natural Language Processing is now scheduled for February 1983 in Santa Monica, California. Iris Kameny is responsible for its organization.]

Cambridge/Boston has been chosen as the location for the 1983 annual meeting; June or August are being considered as appropriate times.

Martin Kay announced that the 1984 meeting will be held in conjunction with COLING-84. He will function as the U.S. coordinator for the conference, which will be held at Stanford early in July of that year. A mini-summer school is being planned for the two prior weeks. Kay pointed out that COLING-82 was scheduled for 6-10 July 1982 in Prague; he urged people to submit papers and attend.

Paul Chapin described the plans to publish an ACL Monograph Series, issuing two to three volumes a year. A number of publishers have expressed interest. A variety of kinds of publications are being considered in addition to regular manuscripts: papers from special meetings, theses, collections of published papers. He solicited reactions from the membership. A motion was made by Bill Mann empowering the Executive Committee to organize an editorial board and enter into negotiations for publication of a monograph series; it passed unanimously.

Sondheimer announced that the ACL was gathering information on graduate programs in computational linguistics; Martha Evens and Lauri Karttunen are responsible. Anyone with information on course offerings is urged to get in touch with one of them. The need for a careers brochure also is recognized; he solicited volunteers [and succeeded in getting Carole Hafner to accept responsibility].

With regard to relations with other societies, it was noted that SIGART now has Barbara Grosz and Ron Brachman in charge and that both Grosz and Walker are involved with the AAAI.

Sondheimer remarked on his concerns for funding cuts by the federal government; he indicated that the ACL was expressing these concerns in Washington and trying to mobilize other professional societies to do likewise.

Nominating Committee Report

Ron Kaplan, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (himself, Jonathan Allen, and Bonnie Webber), submitted the following nominations for 1982:

President:

Jane Robinson, SRI International

Vice President:

Ray Perrault, University of Toronto

Secretary-Treasurer:

Don Walker, SRI International

Executive Committee (1982-1984):

Lauri Karttunen, University of Texas

Nominating Committee (1982-1984):

Norman Sondheimer, Sperry Univac

He then announced that additional nominations from the floor were welcome, provided that the concurrence of the nominee had been secured in advance. No additional nominations were reported, and the vote for the preceding slate was unanimous.

Resolutions Committee Report

Jane Robinson expressed the appreciation of the ACL to SRI International, Sperry-Univac, and Stanford University for their support of the Association and of this meeting; to Norm Sondheimer for his most energetic presidential activities; to Ray Perrault and his Program Committee for an excellent program; to Jerry Kaplan and his helpers for the fine local arrangements; to George Heidorn, Michael McCord, the AJCL Editorial Board, and the referees for the high quality of the Journal; to Jim and Renee Moore and Candy Sidner for mobilizing the successful membership drive; to Paul Chapin for getting the Monograph Series organized; to Martha Evens, Paul Orgren, and their helpers at the NCC and OAC for representing us there; to the Executive Committee members for their involvement; to the Nominating Committee for selecting a respectable slate of officers for 1982; and to Don and Betty Walker for maintaining a Secretariat that shores up this enterprise.

The report was accepted with enthusiasm and the meeting was adjourned.

Donald E. Walker
Secretary-Treasurer

Annual Meeting	6,047	9,499
Other Meetings		275
Program Development	308	168
COLING	56	102
AFIPS Dues	500	500
Committee Expenses	493	212
Membership Drive		7,032
William A. Martin Fund		100
Refunds	2,754	777
	\$19,601	\$41,610
<i>Balance:</i>	\$5,196	\$6,134
<i>Assets:</i>		
CIF (Certificate)	\$25,000	
ILAF (Money Market)	5,020	\$35,133
Checking	1,560	2,127
Petty Cash	66	61
Accounts Receivable		459
	\$31,646	37,780

Membership	1978	1979-80	1981
Individual	444	658	1,190
US	325	478	975
Foreign	119	180	215
Institutional	218	249	257
US	102	117	119
Foreign	116	132	138
TOTALS	662	907	1,447

Attachments to the 1981 Minutes

Financial Status	1980	1981
<i>Income:</i>		
Dues	\$9,602	\$19,886
Back Issues	1,527	1,744
Special Mailing	369	1,202
Meetings	9,626	10,905
Mailing Labels	61	180
Conference Proceedings	354	538
TINLAP-1 Account	125	30
AFIPS	1,550	7,750
Interest	1,583	5,509
	\$24,797	\$47,744
<i>Expenses:</i>		
AJCL Production	\$4,093	\$10,634
AJCL Editorial	182	1,260
AJCL Copyright	20	40
Secretariat Services	2,197	5,254
Postage	2,099	4,105
Supplies	287	192
Printing	38	497
Equipment	527	963

Program of the ACL Sessions at NCC

The ACL will sponsor two sessions at the 1982 National Computer Conference (NCC), to be held June 7-10, 1982, in the Astrohalla and Astroarena in Houston, Texas. The NCC is sponsored by AFIPS and four of its constituent societies: the Association for Computing Machinery, the Data Processing Management Association, the IEEE Computer Society, and the Society for Computer Simulation.

At this year's NCC, more than 600 firms will display the latest advances in computer hardware, software, and services. They will occupy some 325,000 net square feet of exhibit space, up 95,000 net square feet from NCC '81. In addition, a technical program will focus on "Advancing Professionalism." Its aim is to emphasize the fact that even as systems become increasingly ubiquitous through office automation and home computing, there *are* methods for building them to be usable, reliable, and efficient.

The two ACL-sponsored sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, and will address the topics of machine-readable dictionaries and natural language help systems. Short descriptions of each follow.