

The FINITE STRING Newsletter

Minutes of the 1982 ACL Meeting

Following are the minutes of the 20th Annual Business Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, held at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Canada, on June 17, 1982 with Jane J. Robinson, President, presiding.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting are printed in Volume 7, Number 4, of the *American Journal of Computational Linguistics*.

Program Committee Report

Lyn Bates, Chair, reported for the Program Committee (which consisted of Lyn, Jonathan Allen, Robert Berwick, Barbara Grosz, Chris Riesbeck, and Stuart Shapiro). Sixteen of the forty-three papers submitted were accepted, about the same proportion as last year. In addition, three panel sessions were organized: "Natural Language Access to Databases – Theoretical/Technical Issues" by Bob Moore; "Reflections on 20 Years of the ACL" by Don Walker; and "Building Non-Normative Systems – the Search for Robustness" by Mitch Marcus. [Details of the program are provided in the January-March 1982 issue of the *AJCL*, Volume 8, Number 1, pages 46-47. Copies of the Proceedings at \$10 (add \$3 for US first class mailing and \$6 for overseas airprinted delivery) can be ordered from the Secretary-Treasurer.]

Local Arrangements Committee Report

Ray Perrault reported that 113 people had pre-registered for the conference. He expressed his particular appreciation for the support provided by his students in helping with local arrangements. [The final figures for attendance are: 138 registrants, including 26 students; 21 new members were added to ACL; more than 100 people attended the banquet.]

Nominating Committee Report

Ron Kaplan, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Ron, Bonnie Webber, and Norm Sondheimer), submitted the following nominations for 1983:

President:

Ray Perrault, University of Toronto

Vice President:

Martha Evens, Illinois Institute of Technology
Secretary-Treasurer:

Don Walker, SRI International

Executive Committee (1983-1985):

Ralph Weischedel, University of Delaware

Nominating Committee (1983-1985):

Jane J. Robinson, SRI International

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.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Don Walker reviewed the financial status of the ACL for 1981 and the period of 1982 through June 11. The income figures for the two periods were \$47,901 and \$26,363.41, respectively; the corresponding expenses, \$41,610 and \$18,878; the balances, \$6,291 and \$7,485; and the assets, \$37,936 and \$45,422. The ACL is doing well, although it was noted that no expenses for the 1982 *AJCL* volume have yet been incurred. [A detailed report is appended to these Minutes.]

He presented the latest membership figures, pointing out that personal memberships had almost doubled between 1979/80 and 1981 – from 658 to 1208 through June 11 – while institutional memberships had increased slightly. The values for 1982 are not indicative, since many people send dues in late, and no reminder notice has yet been mailed. Reflecting on the closeness of the membership drive to the target 1500 requirement for continuing membership in the American Federation of Information Processing Societies, the Executive Committee has approved a 20th Anniversary new member dues rate of \$10 for 1982. Those present at the business meeting were asked to inform people about the new rate and encourage them to become members. The Executive Committee also established an International Fund that will be used to provide membership and publications for people in countries where it is difficult to use national currencies for international transactions. Again, those present at the business meeting were encouraged to contribute and to inform others about the existence of the new fund. [The membership figures for 1977, 1978, 1979/80, 1981, and 1982 (through June 11) are appended to these Minutes.]

Candy Sidner (a member of the Membership Committee), reflecting on the cost and effort entailed in the membership drive (carried out under Jim Moore's general direction), suggested that such drives might best be conducted every five years. Walker noted that there are still major groups in microcomputers and in office automation that have not yet been contacted.

Other Meetings

Lance Miller announced that the two sessions held at the AFIPS Office Automation Conference in April had been successful. Karen Jensen, Nina Macdonald, Brian Phillips, and Don Walker presented papers on "Processing the Natural Language Content of Office Text." Alan Biermann, Jaime Carbonell, Gary Hendrix, and Fred Thompson presented papers on "Controlling Office Systems via Natural Language." Both sessions were chaired by George Heidorn. [Descriptions of the sessions are included in the *AJCL*, Volume 7, Number 3, July-September 1981, pages 180-181.]

Martha Evens reported that the ACL activities held earlier in June at the AFIPS National Computer Conference also went well. Robert Amsler, James Peterson, and Raoul Smith presented papers on "Processing and Generating Text Using Machine-Readable Dictionaries" in a session chaired by Evens. Elaine Rich organized a session on "Natural Language Help Systems" that also included Phil Hayes, Bill Mark, and Lynn Price. Evens expressed her appreciation to Paul Orgren and Raoul Smith for their help. [Descriptions of the sessions are included in the *AJCL*, Volume 7, Number 4, October-December 1981, pages 262-263.]

Bea Oshika described plans for the meeting on Applied Natural Language Processing scheduled for 1-3 February 1983. It will feature work on natural language interfaces, speech, and translation; system demonstrations will be included, and a set of half-day tutorials is being planned.

Other conferences in which the ACL will be involved include the Computer-Human Interface, organized by the new ACM Special Interest Group to be held in December 1983, in Boston, Massachusetts, and the COLING-84 meeting to be held on July 2-6, 1984, at Stanford University in Stanford, California, for which the ACL will handle local arrangements.

Cambridge University Press Series

Aravind Joshi announced that the ACL has just completed arrangements with Cambridge University Press for publication of a new series entitled "Studies in Natural Language Processing" for which he will be the General Editor. Paul Chapin was responsible for the organizational work associated with its development. Members are encouraged to contribute manuscripts for consideration.

European Chapter

Harry Somers described the motivation behind the establishment of a European Chapter for the ACL. Its primary objectives would be to simplify dues payment and to provide an opportunity for European

members, few of whom can attend the ACL annual meetings, to have an opportunity to get together. It would also provide a mechanism for simplifying the distribution of mailings to European members. The establishment of a chapter required amending the ACL Constitution; draft copies of the proposed revisions were circulated to the membership earlier in the Spring. Robinson asked for approval of the proposed amendments, and they were affirmed unanimously. [A copy of the revised ACL Constitution is appended to these minutes.] She remarked that the Executive Committee, now authorized to establish chapters, would meet the next day to approve a constitution for the European Chapter.

Editor's Report

Stan Petrick stated that he and Fred Damerau have been acting as temporary editors for the *American Journal of Computational Linguistics*, following George Heidorn's resignation. They hope to have the next issue ready by August; nine papers are being processed; sixteen others are being reviewed.

Announcements

Walker remarked that reports on graduate programs in computational linguistics and on careers are being prepared. He noted that the ACL office receives frequent requests for information on selected areas in computational linguistics, and asked that people volunteer to prepare short statements covering topics they are particularly interested in.

Graeme Hirst suggested that the term "American" in the title of the *AJCL* was not appropriate and that a change in the name should be considered. Robinson, responding to the sense of the meeting, agreed to have the Executive Committee act on his suggestion.

Walker announced that Martin Kay would receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, in October.

Resolutions Committee Report

Ray Perrault expressed the appreciation of the ACL to Lyn Bates and her Program Committee for the content of the conference; to Jim and Renee Moore and to Candy Sidner for their work on the membership drive; to George Heidorn for having brought the *AJCL* hard copy version into reality; to Stan Petrick and Fred Damerau for taking over editing responsibility on short notice; to Michael McCord for valuable services as Associate Editor; to IBM for continued support of the editorial activity; to Stan Petrick and Terry Langendoen for organizing the ACL sessions at the Linguistic Society of America meeting in December; to Martha Evens, Paul Orgren, and Raoul Smith for representing and supporting ACL at the National Computer Conference; to Lance Miller for

organizing sessions at the Office Automation Conference; to Paul Chapin, Norm Sondheimer, and Aravind Joshi for the establishment of the Cambridge University Press Monograph Series; to Harry Somers and Norm Sondheimer for work leading toward the organization of a European Chapter; to Don Walker as institutional memory and support; to Betty Walker and her able helpers for handling registration; and to Jane Robinson for her presidential activities so far and – in anticipation – for her forthcoming presidential address.

Jane Robinson added the appreciation of the ACL for Ray Perrault's work on local arrangements, and the report was accepted with appreciation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Donald E. Walker
Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments to the 1982 Minutes

Financial Status	1981	1982
<i>Income:</i>		
Dues	\$19885.42	\$15775.00
Back Issues	1744.00	1448.00
Special Mailing	1202.00	1033.10
Meetings	10905.21	5297.00
Mailing Labels	180.30	
Conference Proceedings	538.35	808.00
TINLAP-1 Account	30.00	67.50
AFIPS	7750.33	
Interest	5665.01	1868.63
Miscellaneous		66.00
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	\$47900.62	\$26363.23
<i>Expenses:</i>		
AJCL Production	\$10634.32	\$6554.46
AJCL Editorial	1259.96	
AJCL Copyright	40.00	10.00
Secretarial Services	5254.00	3334.50
Postage	4104.73	2401.80
Supplies	192.21	1047.70
Printing	496.95	817.00
Equipment	963.38	
Annual Meeting	9498.60	
Applied Meeting		3777.13
Other Meetings	275.00	87.98
Program Development	168.00	
COLING	101.59	66.00
AFIPS Dues	500.00	500.00
Committee Expenses	212.00	528.64
Membership Drive	7032.03	
William A. Martin Fund	100.00	
Refunds	777.25	168.50
Bank Charges		84.25
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	\$41610.02	\$18877.96
<i>Balance:</i>	\$ 6290.60	\$ 7485.27

<i>Assets:</i>		
ILAF (Money Market)	\$35289.71	\$40158.34
Checking	2126.53	3525.45
Petty Cash	61.00	93.00
Funds for Deposit		444.50
Accounts Receivable	459.00	1200.22
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	\$37936.24	\$45421.51

Membership Status

	PERSONAL	INSTITUTIONAL	TOTAL
1977	500	201	701
USA	364	92	456
Foreign	136	109	245
1978	444	218	662
USA	325	102	427
Foreign	119	116	235
1979/80	658	249	907
USA	478	117	595
Foreign	180	132	312
1981	1208	264	1472
USA	990	122	1112
Foreign	218	142	360
1982 (June)	799	249	1048
USA	644	114	758
Foreign	155	114	290

Constitution of the Association for Computational Linguistics

Revised – 17 June 1982

I. NAME

Association for Computational Linguistics

II. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association are:

1. To promote research and development activities in the field of computational linguistics.
2. To promote cooperation and information exchange among related professional and technical societies.
3. To represent computational linguistics to foundations and government agencies worldwide.
4. To provide information on computational linguistics to the general public.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to any person or institution with an interest in computational linguistics.
2. Dues for each calendar year are payable upon receipt of a dues statement. Members in arrears will be dropped from membership.
3. Any person or organization may become a sustaining member for any calendar year by payment of a sum equivalent to at least ten times the dues in force.

4. The rights of members are as follows: All members receive the regular publications of the Association. All members may submit papers for presentation at meetings of the Association. All members may participate in the annual business meetings of the Association, may vote in Association elections, and may hold office in the Association.
5. Distinguished scholars in the field may be elected Fellows of the Association by the members at an annual meeting, upon recommendation by the Nominating Committee to the Executive Committee. The number of living Fellows shall not exceed twenty-five; no more than three may be selected in any year.

IV. OFFICERS, ADMINISTRATION, AND ELECTIONS

1. The officers of the Association shall be: a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer; they are elected by the members of the Association at an annual meeting.
2. The administration of the Association shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee, which consists of the officers, the Editors, and three members elected (one annually) for terms of three years by the members of the Association at an annual meeting. If vacancies occur, the Executive Committee shall appoint replacements to serve until the annual meeting. The President of the Association shall be chairman of the Executive Committee for the one year of his tenure; he may also attend its meetings without vote for the three following years. The Secretary-Treasurer is empowered to deposit and disburse funds and to enter into contracts as appropriate to conduct the business of the Association.
3. The Executive Committee shall (a) determine the place and time of the Association meetings and appoint members to be responsible for organizing its programs and for local arrangements; (b) select the editors of any publication sponsored by the Association; (c) appoint members to various positions and form committees to assist in conducting the activities of the Association; (d) determine subscription and advertising rates for publications of the Association; (e) be responsible for an annual audit of the Secretary-Treasurer's report, which is to be presented at the annual meeting; (f) fix the annual dues of the Association; (g) fix registration fees for meetings; (h) charter chapters of the Association, revoke the charter of any such chapter if it no longer serves the objectives of the Association, and appoint inaugural officers and committees of such chapters. A representative from each chapter may

attend Executive Committee Meetings without vote.

4. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, who shall serve for three years, one elected each year. The member whose term is about to expire shall chair the Committee.
5. Elections shall be conducted as follows: the Nominating Committee shall nominate one person for each position to be filled at the annual election, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall, at least two months before the annual meeting, mail to the membership notices of these nominations. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided that each such nomination must be seconded by two members of the Association to be valid, and provided that evidence must be presented that such a nominee will serve if elected. If there is more than one nominee for any position, voting for that position shall be by secret ballot. Those elected shall take office on the first of January next following and serve until succeeded.

V. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee or proposed by not less than ten members, thereupon circulated to all and ratified by a majority vote of the members of the Association attending an annual meeting.

Program of the Applied Natural Language Processing Conference

A conference on Applied Natural Language Processing, sponsored by the Association for Computational Linguistics and the Naval Research Laboratory, will be held Tuesday, February 1, through Thursday, February 3, 1983, at the Miramar-Sheraton Hotel in Santa Monica, California. This special conference will focus on the use of computational linguistic techniques to solve real world problems. The conference will be limited to 300 participants. In addition to presentations of technical papers, there will be demonstrations of working systems and exhibits of special purpose processors, tools and other materials that support natural language processing. In conjunction with the conference, a tutorial program will be offered on Monday, January 31. The conference committee consists of Iris Kameny (General Chair), *System Development Corporation*; Beatrice Oshika (Program Chair), *System Development Corporation*; Donald Walker (Secretary-Treasurer), *SRI International*; Richard Cantone, *Navy Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence*; Christine Montgomery, *Operating System Division, Logicon*; Ray Perrault, *University of Toronto*; Jane Robinson, *SRI International*; and Norman Sondheimer,