

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

Table of Contents

1. From the Editor
2. Upcoming Meetings 2009-2010
3. Membership Form

From the Editor: On June 4 and 5, OSSA held a membership meeting at the 2009 OSSA conference in Windsor. The AILACT Board held a meeting via conference call on June 30. Our President, Derek Allen, has already sent a full report of both of these meetings to the membership. I would like then just to underscore certain points here. First, Derek Allen has been re-elected president, Tom Solon has been elected vice president, and Don Hatcher has been re-elected treasurer, all for two year terms. The other members of the 2009-2011 AILACT Board will be Dan Cohen, Bob Ennis, Maurice Finocchiaro, Susana Nuccetelli, Michael Scriven, Dale Turner, and yours truly. Wandy Teays will continue as APA Pacific Division Program Chair for the academic years 2010-2013, David Godden will continue as webmaster for 2011-2013, and yours truly will continue as Newsletter editor for 2010 and 2011.

Those present at the membership meeting favored creating a password protected section of the AILACT website to facilitate correspondence among members. The AILACT Board endorsed this proposal at its meeting. Information listed should include the institutional information, e-mail address, and teaching/research interests in informal logic/critical thinking/argumentation theory for those members wishing to be listed. Hard copies of this list will also be available to members who request it.

A second proposal put forward at the membership meeting called for creating an archive of teaching relevant material on the AILACT website, openly accessible from the home page. Members of AILACT who have recently written texts in the field would be invited to submit abstracts for posting. Members in general would be invited to post comments on texts in the field they have used recently, and members may also post comments on these comments. The archive may also include a list of members who agree to be listed, along with their e-mail addresses and information about their teaching responsibilities. This archive will not be password protected, since AILACT wants to be a resource for those teaching informal logic and critical thinking, not just its members.

The Board has supported creating four committees at its conference call meeting: Appointments, Recruiting, Textbook Review, and Critical Thinking Assessment. These committees should have two or three members, at least one not to be a Board member. Committees will choose their own chairs. Maurice Finocchiaro and Dan Cohen have agreed to serve on the Appointments Committee, Dale Turner and Tom Solon on the Recruitment

Committee, yours truly has volunteered to be on the Textbook Review Committee, and Tom Solon and Bob Ennis will serve on the Critical Thinking Assessment Committee. The entire Board will serve as a committee of the whole in discussing constitutional review.

As you can see, AILACT is contemplating a number of new initiatives. I hope I can report on their progress in the December Newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings 2009-2010

Group Session at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, December 27-30, 2009, Marriott Marquis, Times Square, New York, NY

Session: Argument Assessment in Informal Logic

December 30, 2009, 1:30-4:30 PM, Meeting Room to be announced.

Chair: To be announced

Speakers: David Hitchcock, McMaster University, "The Case that Inferences are General"

Commentator: To be announced

Gary Seay, Medgar Evers College, CUNY and Susana Nuccetelli, St. Cloud State University, "Reasoning, Normativity, and Experimental Philosophy"

Commentator: Harvey Siegel

James B. Freeman, Hunter College, CUNY, "Is Epistemic Probability Pascalian?"

Commentator: To be announced

Call for Papers and Panel Discussions for the AILACT Group Session at the Central Division APA meeting, FEBRUARY 17-20, 2010 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL. [Our meeting will be Friday evening, Feb. 19.]

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 war in Iraq, CT/IL and religious belief, CT/IL and relativism, the nature of CT/IL, and whether state-wide efforts making CT a graduation requirement have improved students' CT skills.

Deadlines: Papers and [confirmed] speaker lists must be submitted by August 31, 2009. Send papers as attachments in pdf or MS Word. Send all submissions to the Program Chair, Kevin Possin, Winona State University, kpossin@winona.edu.

Call for Papers/Presenters for the Group Session at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, March 31 - April 4, 2010, Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, CA

Attention all creative minds and critical thinkers: The AILACT session at the Pacific Division APA will occur probably on Thursday or Friday evening. Last year we had very lively discussions. For 2010 we will have just one session to maximize turnout and creative energy. That means we need YOU to submit ideas or papers. Ideally, we would like to have two

speakers and two commentators. However, another format might work well too. Since we cannot schedule the day and meeting time until we have the session pinned down, please submit your idea or paper topic (preferably with an abstract) by August 30th if at all possible. Send submissions to wteays@msmc.la.edu.

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*)

___ I am a student: graduate ___; undergraduate ___. (Fee waived)

(Make checks payable to AILACT)

Name: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Date: _____

Please fill in the following:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ (Very important! 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: donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu)

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