

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC  
AND CRITICAL THINKING  
(AILACT)  
*NEWSLETTER*  
DECEMBER 2010**

**Table of Contents**

- 1. From the Editor**
- 2. Upcoming Meetings 2010-2011**
- 3. Membership Form**

**From the Editor:**

Our president, Derek Allen, has informed you of virtually all the AILACT news in his report included in the agenda for the e-meeting of the AILACT membership from November 30 to December 14. Given that detailed report, there is almost nothing further to add here. The one exception is that we have received additional abstracts from textbook authors. These should be posted to the website early in the new year. Derek has written to you with the results of the votes taken at the e-meeting, but these are also given below. So are the results of the 2010 AILACT Essay Prize competition. Otherwise, information about the upcoming Eastern and Central Division APA Group meetings is posted here, as well as information about OSSA 2011, the biennial meeting of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation to be held in Windsor, Ontario next May. If you haven't yet paid your 2010 membership fees, PLEASE do so by the end of the month – a membership renewal form is included in this newsletter. Best wishes for the holidays and 2011.

James B. Freeman  
Department of Philosophy  
Hunter College/CUNY  
jfreeman@hunter.cuny.edu

**Membership E-Meeting, Nov. 30-Dec. 14: Vote Results**

The proposed constitutional amendments were approved (15/15). Fourteen members answered the question “Are you in favour of having a PayPal option for AILACT fee payments?” Eleven answered “yes,” one answered “no,” and two abstained.

## **AILACT Essay Prize for 2010**

Fourteen papers were submitted for the 2010 AILACT Essay Prize. The jury (Ralph Johnson, Harvey Siegel, Mark Weinstein) selected Geoff Goddu's essay "Is 'Argument' subject to the process/product ambiguity?" as the winning entry. Congratulations to Geoff, who also won the prize in 2007; he is the first repeat winner. There was one "honourable mention:" Ben Hamby's essay "Toulmin's 'Analytic Arguments'." Congratulations to Ben too. Thanks to the other authors for their submissions and special thanks to the jury members for their hard work..

## **Upcoming Meetings 2010-2011**

**AILACT Group Session at the Eastern Division APA meeting, DECEMBER 27-30, 2010 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place and The Weston Copley Place, Boston, MA.**

**Topic: Michael Roth's "Beyond Critical Thinking," *Chronicle of Higher Education* Article**

Chair: James B. Freeman (Hunter College/City University of New York)

Speakers: Harvey Siegel (University of Miami), "Criticality and Negativity"

B.W. Hamby (McMaster University), "Critical Thinking and Constructive Critique"

Daniel H. Cohen (Colby College), "The Problem of Critical Agreement"

**AILACT Group Session at the Central Division APA meeting, March 31, 2011, 7:15-10:15 p.m. at the Minneapolis Hilton, Minneapolis, MN.**

Chair: To be announced

Speakers: Susana Nuccetelli (St. Cloud State University), Gary Seay (Mearns College, City University of New York), "Experimental Philosophy and Cognitive Diversity"

Speaker: Donald Hatcher (Baker University), "The Ethics of Belief Revisited: Why Religious Beliefs Must be Subject to Critique"

Panelists: Robert Ennis (Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Donald Hatcher (Baker University), Kevin Possin (Winona State University), "Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum: Is Philosophy Asleep at the Job?"

**AILACT Group Session at the Pacific Division APA meeting, 20-24 April 2011 at the Bayfront Hilton, San Diego, CA**

Details of the program together with the exact date and time of the session will appear in the April Newsletter. For information before then, contact Wanda Teays, Program Chair (Pacific AILACT),  
*Email:* [wteays@msmc.la.edu](mailto:wteays@msmc.la.edu).

**Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference, Argumentation: Cognition and Community, May 18-21, 2011 at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, CA**

Keynote Speakers: David Hitchcock (McMaster University)

Paul Thagard (University of Waterloo)

Karen Tracy (University of Colorado)

Further details are available at <http://web2.uwindsor.ca/cpa/OSSA/index.htm>.

# 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 2010

- 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)

Please fill in the following:

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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>