

**Specialized Literacy Professionals**  
**Board Minutes (Draft)**  
**Google Hangout, May 9, 2013 7:30 - 9:00 pm (ET)**

*Those attending were: Rita Bean (Chair); Gary Shaffer (Treasurer); Evan Ortlieb (Board Member); Jennifer Shettel (Board Member); Wolfram Verlaan (Incoming Treasurer); Jack Cassidy (Executive Secretary). Absent: Barbara Marinak (Secretary)*

- I. **Thank You Gary**- The Board thanked Gary Shaffer for his many years of service as the treasurer of the special interest group. Jack Cassidy said he was diligent in safeguarding the SIG resources and prompt in issuing reimbursement checks – a great treasurer. Wolfram Verlaan (University of Alabama – Huntsville) was welcomed as the incoming treasurer.
  
- II. **Treasurer’s Report** -Gary Shaffer reported:
  - A. Currently, there is \$4,043.19 in the treasury
  - B. There are 133 members paid up until the end of 2013 or beyond.
  - C. Gary is working with Stephanie Grote-Garcia to facilitate the transfer of over \$6,000 from the 2012 conference at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. After the transfer there will be over \$10,000 in the treasury.
  - D. Gary and Wolfram plan on scheduling a meeting to facilitate the transfer of funds to a financial institution in Huntsville.
  
- III. **Research** - Rita Bean reported about the on-going research project on the role of the reading specialist. Proposals have been submitted to LRA. Currently, she is working with a graduate research assistant to establish the reliability of the instrument. The SIG will pay for his services as was done in the past. Ginny Goatley and Rita are working on position papers to submit to IRA. Laurie Elish-Piper, who is a member of the research team and a member of the Board, was mentioned as a good contact
  
- IV. **IRA Conferences**
  - A. **2013 CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO** - The 2013 SIG meeting in San Antonio was very successful: approximately 100 people attended the SIG session despite the fact that the meeting was scheduled at 3:00 pm on Saturday afternoon. Rita Bean led a group of presenters discussing the findings of the research study on the role of the reading specialist. Past chair Barbara Klebanow was presented with the “Exemplary Service Award”.
  - B. **2014 CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS** – After some discussion, it was decided to continue reporting on the research project on the role of the reading specialist. Laurie Elish-Piper was suggested as a possible keynote speaker followed by breakout groups on topics such as : elementary level reading specialists, secondary reading specialists, literacy coaching, teacher

training for reading professionals etc. Evan and Jennifer volunteered to work with Barb Marinak in developing a proposal.

- V. **Election** - Jack Cassidy (Executive Secretary) reported that there are 2 open Board positions (serving from 2013 to 2015) and a President-elect position (serving one year as president-elect and two years as President). Rita Bean will continue as president for 2013-2014 and Evan and Jennifer will continue as Board members for 2013-14. Barb Marinak will continue as secretary; Wolfram Verlaan will take over as treasurer on July 1, 2013. Candidate Profile forms for the open seats have been distributed to all members and are due by May 30, 2013.
- VI. **Website** - Jack Cassidy has been working with Paul Maxfield to update the website ([www.literacyprofessional.org](http://www.literacyprofessional.org)). Paul will be leaving to pursue his doctoral work at Kansas State University, but he has agreed to continue working on the website. The SIG pays him to maintain the site.
- VII. **TALE Conference** - The SIG will once again co-sponsor a conference with the Texas Association for Literacy Education. The conference will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at the campus on the campus of Texas State University in Round Rock (near Austin). Proposal forms have been distributed to all SIG members.
- VIII. **Other**
- A. Jack Cassidy will make a last effort to get a sponsor for the newsletter. Previous issues of the newsletter have all been formatted and printed by a corporate sponsor. Meanwhile, a new editor needs to be found.
  - B. After considerable discussion, it was decided not to extend the membership of those members whose membership had expired in 2012. The cost is relatively small (\$10 for one year and \$15 for two). The recently expired members will be contacted and urged to renew.
  - C. A Google Hangout will be scheduled for the end of June or beginning of July. The time preferred is 7:30 pm (ET) since Evan is in Australia.

*Minutes taken by Jack Cassidy and distributed on May 15, 2013*