

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 9, 1977

CONVENTION REPORTS

ACTFL and AECT were big winners for NALLD!

Within the past year, NALLD was well represented at two major and national conventions, the ACTFL convention in November 1976 in New Orleans, and the AECT convention in April 1977 in Miami. Each and every NALLD presentation (four in New Orleans and three in Miami) were blessed with large audiences and very spirited question/answer and discussion periods. It was truly heartening for me personally to meet NALLD members from as far away as Australia. In every instance there were new faces, new enthusiasm, and a new camaraderie. Certainly all of us present in New Orleans and Miami noticed a renewed impetus and direction for NALLD.

By the way, this new impetus will be ably carried forward by the NALLD Western chapter, with an excellent series of presentations at the 1977 ACTFL convention in San Francisco. I certainly want to encourage all NALLD members and interested individuals to check the ACTFL program for the NALLD presentations.

The 1978 NALLD general convention will be held in conjunction with the North East Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in New York's Rockefeller Center in April. In addition to a series of presentations at the North East Conference, we are trying to put together NALLD presentations for the 1978 AECT convention in Kansas City and the 1978 TESOL convention in Mexico City, both of which are in April. I strongly urge all interested NALLD members to come forth with program ideas for these conventions. Any ideas should be forwarded to our new Vice President and Program Director, Dr. Mark Seng, Director of the Foreign Language Education Center at the University of Texas in Austin 78712.

NEW DIRECTIONS

In response to the new impetus mentioned above and also in reaction to executive board discussions held in Miami, I want to approach our members with four ideas:

1. In recognition of the fact that, over the past ten years, NALLD has become a truly international organization with members currently active in over 20 countries, I feel that time has come to expand the editorial board of the JOURNAL to include members outside the United States in order to expand the quality and scope of articles. Therefore I am appealing to individual NALLD members outside of the United States to nominate individuals who might be interested in taking over the task of soliciting articles from his/her geographic area, editing such articles and forwarding

them onto Charles Richardson, the JOURNAL editor. Currently the largest groups of members outside the United States are located in Canada, Australia, Germany and Japan.

2. Since we wish to actively solicit articles and editorial assistance from NALLD members throughout the world, I feel that the time has come to regularly publish articles in languages other than English. I realize that this might create printing problems of the various diacritic marks. However, most of such problems can be overcome. For instance, in Germany the double S can be printed ss and the umlaut can be represented either with quote marks or replaced with an e after the vowel. I do feel it wise, however, to request an abstract in English.

3. I feel the time has come to consider a change in the name of the JOURNAL to reflect the thrust and direction of the organization. In addition, a modification of the cover format might be desirable.

4. Along with the possible change in the name of the JOURNAL, I would like for our members to consider changing the name of the organization to the International Association of Learning Lab Directors.

One of the topics covered during the meeting of the NALLD executive board in Miami concerned efforts to increase feedback from NALLD JOURNAL readers and members to the executive board and encourage increased interaction between NALLD members throughout the world. This column represents an attempt to encourage both feedback and interaction.

As NALLD President, I strongly encourage our members to contact me on the above noted subjects so that the board might discuss them at future meetings. Thank you very much and I hope to hear from you soon!

Dale V. Lally Jr, President
NALLD
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40208