

LISTENING POST

Newsletter of the International Listening Association

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President's Perspective

by Barbara Nixon, President



After this year's The Power of Listening conference in Minneapolis, I returned to my workplace as President Nixon.

Several colleagues have been asking me questions about ILA now that they have seen more ILA artifacts in my office and in my everyday apparel. (The one item that has sparked more conversation than any other is the blue wristband that is emblazoned with the single word "Listen.") I've now had the opportunity to tell the ILA story more in the last month than I have any single year since I became a member a decade ago.

Throughout its first quarter-century, the ILA has done a superb job with researching and making plans for the future. Some of those plans have reached fruition, while others have simply faded away. This is not to say that some of the committees have not been working diligently throughout the years—not at all. What I do mean is that it's critical that our committees not only work hard toward their goals; they also need to share their successes and challenges with the other committees. Increasing the dialogue will help us avoid the frustration of duplicated efforts or items not being addressed because one committee thought another was handling it.

Many of the hallway discussions I had in Minneapolis stressed one theme: it's time to revitalize all ILA committees. In the early spring, I asked each committee to provide a report on what their accomplishments were for 2005 and what their goals are for 2006. Many of those reports are in this issue of the Listening Post; others will appear in the next.

In the Listening Posts and on our ILA website for the coming year, expect to see more information about what our committees are up to. As you read these updates, perhaps you'll realize you have some expertise you could share; even if you are not "officially" on the committee, that's wonderful!

Many colleagues ask me, "Why do you volunteer so much of your time to the ILA?" Let me close my first President's Perspective with some thoughts by James A. Michener that best expresses my answer:

The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he's always doing both.



Ray McKelvy's Closing Remarks on the Year

from Ray McKelvy's Outgoing Presidential Address

The collective effort of [everyone who has served on the executive board or an ILA committee] and others is the key to the ILA. It isn't the individual effort of one person, but the collective efforts of many. I'd like to thank everyone who has made this organization what it is today. I repeat my early question about your personal contribution to the ILA: "If you aren't going to act, then who is?" We need each of you to take on some committee assignment this year to make the ILA stronger than ever.

Now on to my remarks. At the opening session, Barbara Nixon asked a question: "How has listening affected your life this last year?" I thought that was a great theme for what I had already started putting together for this speech. When I look back at the last year, I have been affected by many influences, but most notably by four role models.

The first, who touched me in 2004, was someone very dear to many of us, Melissa Beall's mom, Olga. Olga had been to several of the last conventions and became an important part of our ILA family. Maybe she wasn't always a perfect listener, but you knew that she had heard you. Sometimes she listened like a mother and chided us like a mother. Sometimes she teased like a sister or family member. She could flirt like a lover. Most of all, she acted like a best friend who cared about us and what we said. She was a great role model and we shall miss her.

The second role model was Ronald Reagan. We all know he earned the nickname "the great communicator" as president. Part of being a great communicator is being a great listener. Now, while we may not always agree with his political stance on issues, we must admit he knew the value of communicating. Another world figure who modeled effective listening also recently passed away, Pope John Paul II. Press releases often highlighted the fact that he could speak some 22 languages and he used them in many of his addresses. That also means that he could "listen" in 22 languages, which is no small feat. He was a model for listening in politics, in religion, for listening spiritually and for listening with love.

The last person who shaped my view of listening in 2004 was my former high school English teacher, Homer Norton, who sadly passed recently. On the day he died, his column appeared in the weekly newspaper. He was the town historian and wrote a weekly column for the community newspaper. He was still reaching out to communicate with others even on his deathbed. He already had the next week's column almost ready to go to print as well.

Homer was a veteran of World War II. He followed General Patton's army across Europe and buried the dead soldiers. He saw a great deal of Europe without some of the dangers his fellow soldiers faced. It was from that experience that he approached his teaching. He blended the lessons of history with literature and psychology to make learning a great experience. It was his inspiration that made me want to become a teacher, myself. I came to understand that if you keep your eyes and ears open, you will appreciate life more and learn far more than you ever thought. I guess you could say that Homer was my first introduction to the importance of listening, both in the classroom and in life in general.

Homer visited me and my family once when we lived in England. He wanted to visit Kings' College Chapel, a beautiful centuries-old church. I took it upon myself to find out something about the chapel by looking in all the Cambridge visitor's guides. I could tell him how many bricks were used, when it was built, how tall it was, and a bunch of other facts. As we walked across the market square toward the chapel and I began to try to impress him with my knowledge, he interrupted. (Ok, so he wasn't always the best listener.) He started to tell me what he knew about Kings' College Chapel from the readings of Coleridge, Thackeray, Erasmus, and other famous British authors. I was humbled. He knew more about the chapel than I did, and his knowledge had come from reading great authors, not tourist guides. Homer displayed to me the importance of learning and listening to great literature. He epitomized the role of communicator and listener as a teacher, friend, mentor, world traveler, and correspondent. He was sharing his story and his mission up until the very end.

So that is my year and how listening affected me – through the lives of four people, four great role models. They have exemplified listening to family, listening to friends, listening in the professions (whether it is acting, the media, teaching, politics and religion), listening with love, and listening for peace. These are the lessons for listening to the world. I hope we find some inspiration in the next year that keeps us passionate about listening, learning, and sharing.

Thank you.

ILA GOES TO GERMANY

by Margarete Imhof First VP Elect

The ILA board has decided to hold the 28th annual convention in Frankfurt, Germany in 2007.

We have a successful convention just behind us and those who attended felt the energizing effect of this intense meeting with colleagues and friends. As we are zooming in our focus on next year's big event in Oregon, Listening: The Language of Peace, we still need to have 2007 in the back of our minds. From the Stockholm experience in 2003, we know that conventions outside the United States take somewhat longer planning time for most members.

Just to give you an idea about the status of the planning: Jim Pratt, our Executive Director, and Margarete Imhof, the local arrangements chair, have looked at possible sites for the 2007 convention and found an amenable hotel located in downtown Frankfurt. The staff of the Frankfurt Tourism and Congress Center has happily agreed to help with all kinds of arrangements, such as hotel reservations, finding a venue for the closing banquet, arranging for pre- or postconference tours, and helping with informational material for everybody on how to get around and what to do.

Margarete's home base, the Dept. of Educational Psychology at Frankfurt University, has been excited about having the convention in Frankfurt ever since the good news was brought home. The department chair is very supportive of the event and, as he announced it to the department, he said it was a great honor for our university to be the co-host for ILA.

So, the routes are being paved and the local arrangements team has started to make plans to accommodate the ILA and to make attendance for you as convenient and comfortable as possible. Stay tuned for more information!

Listening: The Language of Peace

by Maria F. Loffredo Roca, Ph.D. First Vice President



As I contemplated a theme for ILA's 27th Annual Conference to be held April 19 – 23, 2006, James Pratt (ILA's Executive Director) pointed out that "Salem," the name of the city in Oregon where the conference will be held, means "peace." I started to reflect on the relationship between listening and

peace and rapidly concluded that listening is a central component of peace at all levels – from inner peace to international peace. Hence, the theme for 2006: "Listening: The Language of Peace."

Take a few minutes and think about this idea. Close your eyes and listen in. Quiet your mind. Just listen. What do you hear? Perhaps the more important question is, "What do you feel?" For those who meditate, or pray, or practice yoga, or engage in any number of other contemplative practices, we know that we feel a sense of inner peace when we "listen in." Indeed, listening is a key to the experience of inner peace. And if we define "language" as a way to convey meaning, then we can say that "listening in" is the language of inner peace.

As we move outward from the self to our relationships with others, we can explore the role of listening in creating peaceful interpersonal relationships. I am sure we can all recall a time in a relationship when the willingness of a friend or partner to listen brought peace to a conflict. In these moments, we deepen our connections to others by allowing listening to be the language of interpersonal peace.

Similar results occur in small groups when we really listen to others. Opening our minds and our hearts in non-defensive listening opens a whole range of avenues for productive engagement. When individuals feel listened to, they are more likely to want to work with other members of the group to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts.

The global level may offer the greatest and most important opportunities for listening to function as the language of peace. Imagine warring nations putting their differences aside long enough to listen genuinely to each other's concerns, issues, and realities. In such an atmosphere, listening truly could become the language of world peace.

The 2006 International Listening Association conference in Salem, Oregon, can give us the chance to engage these ideas at very high levels. The program planning committee is looking forward to reviewing your proposals and to having great material to work with to put together an exciting convention.

For more information on proposal submission or about the 2006 conference, you can contact Maria Roca, at mroca@fgcu.edu or by phone at 239-590-7185. You can also check the ILA website at www.listen.org for submission information.

2005 ILA AWARD WINNERS

LISTENER OF THE YEAR

OUTSTANDING LISTENING EDUCATOR



Donald Shelby(L) with presenter, Warren Gore (R)

won the ILA's
LISTENER OF THE
YEAR AWARD. This
award is presented
to prominent listeners who demonstrate the highest
standards of listening. Shelby has won
all five of the
nation's top journalism awards, including three national

Emmys and two Peabody Awards, the second for his work with the youth of Minnesota. He has received several additional honors for his work within the community. The ILA recognizes Don Shelby for his diligence in listening, both in his broadcasting work and in his community work.

DR. NANETTE JOHNSON-CURISKIS,

Assistant Professor in the MSUM Speech Communication Department, earned the 2005 OUTSTANDING LISTENING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD.



"Dr. Nan" with presenter and student, Rick Nienow

The recipient of this

award must be a knowledgeable listening teacher who shares that knowledge with others. Nan is a founding member of the ILA, and is the current secretary of the Executive Board. Her students call her "Dr. Nan" and all of her letters of nomination indicated that she is a "great teacher who lives what she teaches every day."

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

DISSERTATION AWARD



Jessica Buckingham with presenter, Dr. Nanette Johnson-Curiskis

JESSICA
BUCKINGHAM,
was awarded the
CAROLYN COAKLEY
HICKERSON
TEACHER
SCHOLARSHIP for
demonstrating excellence in teaching and
for her ongoing desire
to contribute to the
field of listening.
Jessica is a 3rd year
Communication Arts

and Literature teacher at Owatonna Public Schools and is in her 3rd year as the district's speech and English teacher; she also serves as the district head speech coach. Pictured with Jessica is her mentor, Dr. Nanette Johnson-Curiskis, who presented her with the award.

LAURA ANN JANUSIK.

Ph.D., Member-At-Large, Special Projects, earned the ILA's DISSERTATION AWARD for outstanding research.

The award-winning dissertation, directed by Andrew Wolvin, is titled:



Researching Listening from the Inside Out: The relationship between conversational listening span and perceived communicative competence.



Laura Ann Janusik, congratulated by presenter, Andrew Wolvin

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Bey-Ling Sha won a PRESIDENTIAL AWARD for giving her public relations class the term assignment of developing PR plans for the ILA. "Bey-Ling divided her class into six small groups and each group developed a full PR plan, including a budget. These six plans have been given to the ILA and are in the process of being implemented. The effort of Bey-Ling and her class provided high-quality plans for the ILA with some great ideas to increase awareness of both listening and the ILA to a variety of target audiences. For the ILA to have done the same thing would probably have taken many years and many PR classes to accomplish. Bey-Ling has provided the ILA with a much needed tool for starting our second 25 years. The entire organization owes Bey-Ling Sha a great debt of gratitude for her efforts on our behalf." -Ray McKelvy

Rick Bommelje, outgoing editor of the Listening Post, won a PRESIDENTIAL AWARD for outstanding editorial work. "Rick added some very professional touches to the ILA's newsletter by beginning a series of interviews with Listening Legends. Through his special connections, Rick was able to obtain high-quality printing and distribution of the Listening Post. He has taken what was already a good product for the members of ILA and improved it beyond our expectations. Rick was tireless in making sure articles and special items were submitted in a timely fashion. For this Rick deserved the recognition of all of the ILA members." -Ray McKelvy

LISTENING IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR

SC Johnson Company was awarded the ILA's LISTENING IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR AWARD for creatively and effectively promoting listening through an ad campaign that centered around listening—listening to employees, consumers, customers, and the global community—as part of its family ad campaign. SC Johnson is a family-owned company in its fifth generation of leadership. It is by listening to consumers and understanding family demands that SC Johnson has maintained its success for 119 years.

HALL OF FAME

Weslynn Martin, Professor Emeritus of Communication at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, was inducted into the ILA HALL OF FAME.

Weslynn was instrumental in establishing the endowed McGee Chair of Interpersonal Communication and Listening at Rockhurst University, and she served as the first chair. She established a professional relationship with Mr. McGee, a former business professional in Kansas City, Missouri, who felt that all of the ills of business could be cured through better listening.

McGee respected the work that Weslynn did at the university, and he chose to fund the position, which represents a significant landmark for the study of listening. The funding of the position requires that it be held by a faculty member who engages in the teaching and research of applied listening and interpersonal communication and that the topic of listening become integral at the campus and beyond.

As the first McGee Chair, Weslynn was instrumental in training faculty members in the area of listening in the classroom. Her workshops were often the most attended, and her work inspired the University to create a Center of Teaching Excellence and become a Carnegie Scholars institute.

As an ILA member, Weslynn brought undergraduates from Rockhurst's program to present research at the annual conference.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Thomas L. Friedman, author, New York Times columnist, and winner of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, was awarded the ILA's SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD. Friedman promotes the importance of listening in public leadership. In a January 27, 2005, oped column titled: Read My Ears, he stressed that President Bush needs to listen when he meets with European leaders. He asserts that listening is "a sign of respect" and "a sign that you actually value what the other person might have to say."

LISTENING LEGEND: KITTIE WATSON



Kittie is a past president of the ILA and a lifetime member. When she first joined in 1980, she was the ILA's 100th member. Co-author of several books including *Listen Up*, Kittie has innovated numerous listening assessments and profiles. She is recognized as one of the top twenty-five most prolific women writers in listening and communication.

What originally motivated your interest in the field of listening?

I think, originally, it was because my own family was kind of uncommunicative. For me it was more of a sense of talking at children. Children being seen and not heard and not having a real voice about opinions influenced me to look at who was heard and who was not. I began to look at the field of communication, not even knowing why I was going into it, but curious about interpersonal issues. Then, when I was going for my masters at Auburn, Larry Barker was my major professor and he had been doing research in listening. I was very curious about how people made decisions about how they listened to one another and about empathy, sympathy, and compassion. I had more and more curiosity about it and did some research on that as a graduate student and that led to more of my research in the area. When I won awards in public speaking, I had to think about audiences and listeners—how to get them listening to me and how to entertain them—so that also deepened my curiosity about being other-centered.

Whom have you considered a great listener and how has that person inspired you?

I'll have to say Larry Barker, who was one of the [ILA's] Listening Legends. He was my major professor and also had a clinical background. He has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and communication, so he had been well trained in that, but also his style is mild mannered in many ways, but very powerful because he's so bright. I saw how he worked with graduate students; I saw how he was with his family and how he was able to be present with people. A lot of that came through his own study and his spiritual practices and even Eastern religions. So it just inspired me to see this person who seemed to be so fully present with everyone he was with and that everyone appreciated that about him.

What do you consider your most significant accomplishment in the field?

I guess it would be in the area of assessment and research. I think that I have done a lot to influence the area of assessment with the Watson-Barker Listening Test and the Listener Preference Profile. Until there were some of these instruments, I don't think listener research was as widely used in business and industry, for example, and now the Listener Preference Profile is used internationally to help people with awareness and under-

standing of their communication preferences and styles, and I feel really good about that. It's been featured on 20/20; people look at the gender differences; in the ILA journal I just got, someone had used it as in instrument in research; so I think that encouraging other research, but also encouraging the use of tools to help people understand themselves better and communicate better, is something I feel best about. It goes back to your first question because it feels great when I see families communicating because they understand their differences; some of the workshops and seminars I've done through the years with couples have been really very special.

What are your goals from here?

With regard to listening, I have one goal that I have not accomplished that I still want to. A few years ago, at one of my last conventions at ILA, I presented a paper on Jesus as a listener; rather than focus on what he said, it looked at how he listened. One of the things that I still want to do is to write a book from a Christian perspective on listening, but looking at lessons to learn from the life of Jesus and the disciples.

You also mentioned being interested in the influence of Eastern philosophy. How have different traditions helped you in your listening practice?

I've learned a lot from Eastern philosophy, but I am a practicing Christian. One of the things that helped me so much with reading more from the Eastern philosophy and Gurdjieff, Ouspensky, and others was it helped me to know how to do the practice better. I was raised in Christianity. It was more what not to do as opposed to what to do and I think that Eastern philosophy helped me be more centered on what I could do to be present with other people.

What changes would you hope to see in the listening field to meet the needs of future generations?

I would hope that we would become more aware of cultural and individual differences so that we can be more appreciative and embracing of them, so that we can truly hear and understand. It goes back to something Steven Covey is known for saying (although the idea started long ago and comes from many places): "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." That's what I'd like to see, for there to be more tolerance and for us to hear people's points of view. I think there would be much less conflict if people felt understood.

What suggestions would you have for the ILA for moving forward to meet those needs?

I think we can do more to look at cultural differences. There's a man named Bill Lowery who worked in the Sudan to bring warring tribes together, and they would sit for days and weeks at a time listening to each other and each other's stories and the atrocities. It was only after people got through telling everything that anyone ever did to them—and not being interrupted to hear that's not true, but being allowed to tell their stories—that they began to heal. I think there are some things that ILA could do to set up some ways for us to model that in all kinds of venues. I would look at racial issues and really listening to each other rather than trying to fix each other or to make other people be like we are.

What has been your greatest challenge in promoting listening skills?

I think the biggest challenge for me has been people not taking it seriously. Because it's an internal process and people aren't caught not doing it or the consequences aren't as great, they don't take it as seriously at times. I think also that it's not as sexy as some other topics might be. There are certain individuals who are going to take it seriously, and I can get people involved in coaching and things like that, but it doesn't have the same impact, somehow, because we're a society of actor/speaker/doers. Taking time to be reflective and self-reflective is really hard to do in our culture where we're bombarded by messages constantly.

What has been your greatest personal listening challenge and what do you do to overcome it?

My personal listening challenge is not to jump too quickly. My mind goes very rapidly because when I was at Tulane I was teaching full time and I had a business full time. I was multi-tasking, as women do. I learned to test my assumptions more, not to believe I really understand before I do. I learned to ask more questions, to slow down enough to make sure that I really have understood another person's point of view. When you do that, it's such a gift to people, for one thing, and then it solidifies the relationship in an unbelievable way because you've slowed down enough to make sure that they're understood and that is probably what I find builds a strong relationship with people more than anything else.

What thoughts do you have about the future of the International Listening Association?

The future of ILA resides in youth, in student members, and student researchers to keep it alive. I think there has to continue to be new research, new information that stimulates peoples' curiosity and wonder and allows

them to feel like when they come they walk away with something that is going to be practical, useful, that they can use the next day. I think that's where we've missed engaging the younger ILA members; at least that's what I saw the last time I was there.

How has the ILA (or your affiliation with the ILA) helped you in your field?

It was unbelievable for me when I was in the academic world. Even when I was a young graduate student and I started focusing on listening as an area of research, ILA was so wonderful as a place that I could test assumptions, pilot test, and do beta testing of instruments and possibilities. It's such an encouraging, wonderful group of people. I think it's also so wonderful because it was a place where you felt safe to present papers, to be conversational, and to test some of the things that you might not in other places, where people would be overly critical and not encouraging of you. So, that to me was one of the greatest gifts it gave me—the wonderful group of people and the way that they supported and encouraged new ideas and new research in the field.

What is the best piece of advice you have to offer those looking to deepen their listening skills?

I think the best piece of advice is to check out two or three listening skills with other people in your sphere and to see how you're doing. I would say, "On a scale of 1-10, how well do I do at helping you feel understood?" "On a scale of 1-10, how well do I follow through on what we've talked about in the past and retain that?" "On a scale of 1-10..." etc. Then it makes it concrete and it's not as threatening. So, someone can say: "Well, I'll give you an 8," and you might say, "I wanted a 10, tell me about that 8." So then it creates a dialogue and I believe real dialogue is what can help us all.

Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share with ILA members?

I miss them a whole lot! I've had to make some choices about what I can do with my energy and time in the last few years. That have been very difficult for me because I'd like to be everywhere and do everything. For one thing, I started a new business when I left Tulane and that's created a different kind of intensity so I had to not be as actively involved as I once was. It's not that I don't love each and every person and miss them; it's just where I need to be for my own person right now. So, I miss and love them all. They're such a special group of individuals and I really value the gifts they've given me of encouragement, care, concern, and development and I know I wouldn't have done nearly as well in the academic pursuit without being a part of ILA.

Executive Director's Report

by Jim Pratt, E.D.





"Minneapolis is the Coolest Place on Earth" according to the postcards we sent to our absent members, and those who were there will agree!

Final convention registration was 161, up from the 115 registered in 2004 for the Fort Myers convention. The business conference, "The Role of Listening in Health Care," was acclaimed by all who attended, and we gained several new ILA members from that group.

Excellent programs, increased student participation, and renewed associations with some of our founding members made this convention especially memorable.

Our 8th floor meeting rooms, all with windows providing panoramic views of Minneapolis, introduced us to our host city. "It's so flat!" exclaimed one first-time visitor, looking out at a dozen lakes glistening in the sun and the Mississippi River winding a few blocks from our hotel; "Great for walking," I replied, as I recommended a stroll down Nicollet Mall and sidewalk dining, or the less sedate pleasures of Hennepin Avenue. Whatever the choices, everyone seemed to have a good time.

A new feature of our convention was a "Proceedings" book, containing advance copies of many of the programs. It was a popular addition, and I have several copies left. They can be purchased for \$20.00.

SALEM, OREGON in 2006: April 19-23

"Salem" means "peace," and so it is an appropriate location for our convention with the theme "Listening, The Language of Peace."

The beautiful new Salem Conference Center and Phoenix Grand Hotel, located in the center of downtown Salem, celebrated its grand opening a few weeks ago, promoting the ILA as the first group to schedule a convention in this facility. A city of 125,000, Salem is located in the splendid Willamette River Valley, an hour's ride by shuttle from the Portland airport (PDX) via I-5.

The impressive 1938 state capitol building is a few blocks from the Conference Center, and the Willamette River and riverside parks are within easy walking distance. Our growing membership in the Pacific Northwest will enjoy their first convention in the area since 1992, and our members in Japan will find Salem to be their closest convention location since Seattle. Please join us on April 19-23, 2006.

FRANKFURT, GERMANY, in 2007: July 18-22

Frankfurt is probably the easiest European airport to fly into from anywhere in the world. From the airport, a 15-minute subway ride will take you to Konrad Adenauer Strasse and the main downtown pedestrian shopping mall, one block from our convention hotel. Operated by the Spanish chain Navarre Hotels, the NH Frankfurt City Hotel is ultra-modern and stylish.

Our mothers taught us that breakfast was the most important meal of the day, and so they would be proud of us for choosing this hotel, where the continental breakfast (included in the room rate) is not the American version of a collection of sweet rolls but rather an immense buffet of cold cuts, cheeses, breads, yogurt, cereal, fruit, coffee or tea, and juices. (Best of all, for a three-Euro fee, you can have a slightly more modest sampling of that buffet served in your room!)

But enough about food: please read local host Margarete Imhof's article about the Frankfurt convention elsewhere in this issue.

Thanks for listening.

2005 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Ray McKelvy passes the gavel



Founding Members: Harvey Weiss, Nanette Johnson-Curiskis, Warren Gore, Edi Cole, Manny Steil, Andrew Wolvin, Ray McKelvy, and Carole Grau



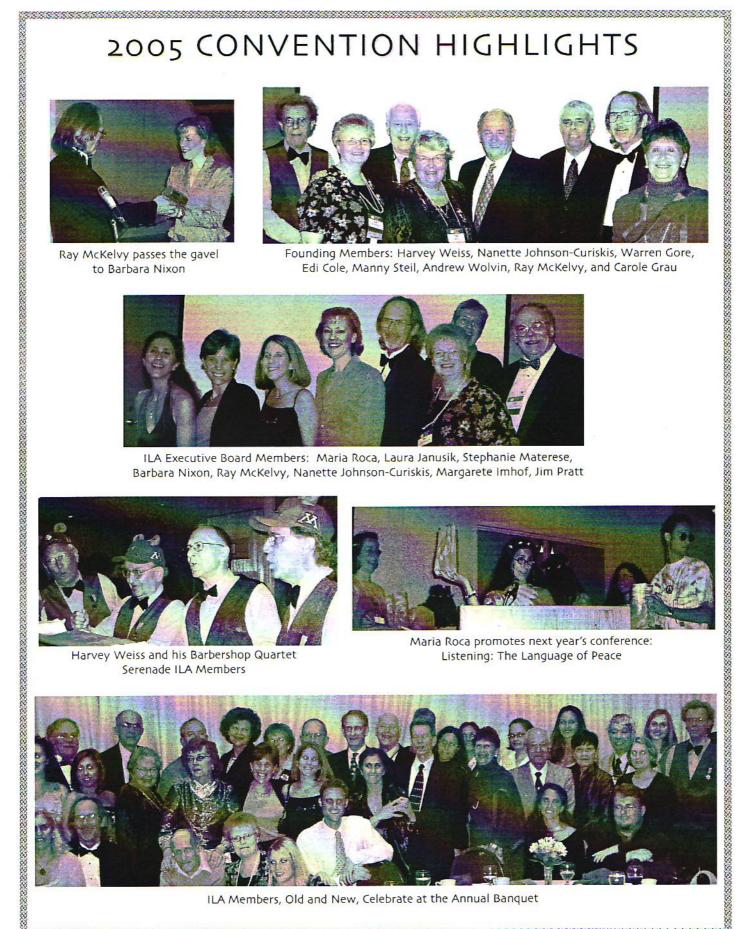
ILA Executive Board Members: Maria Roca, Laura Janusik, Stephanie Materese, Barbara Nixon, Ray McKelvy, Nanette Johnson-Curiskis, Margarete Imhof, Jim Pratt



Harvey Weiss and his Barbershop Quartet Serenade ILA Members



Maria Roca promotes next year's conference: Listening: The Language of Peace



ILA Members, Old and New, Celebrate at the Annual Banquet

NEWCOMER IMPRESSIONS

PAM LEINTZ & SUSAN WITKOWSKI Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI

As first time attendees and presenters, we have multiple impressions. Several years ago, when we began our project of creating an integrative listening model and started reading the work of the experts in the field, we didn't anticipate ever actually meeting them. A big thrill for us was not only meeting them, but also talking to them and attending their sessions.

In all the sessions, we experienced multiple dimensions and applications of listening that added to our awareness of the potential of the power of listening. We were impressed by the overall friendliness of the participants and the family reunion type atmosphere, which made us feel most welcomed. We appreciated other people's concern for our colleague and copresenter who was unable to be there in person, but who did her part via videotape.

For us, it was an incredible two days to listen and be listened to.

RICK NIENOW

Minnesota State University Mankato, MN

When I arrived home the Sunday morning after the convention, one of the first things my wife asked was, "How much did this little extravaganza cost?' We sat down to figure out what it did cost: \$600 for the college credits, \$250 for two nights at the Marriott, \$150 to fix my truck, \$100 in gas, \$250 for membership. This added up to a grand total of \$1350. "One thousand three hundred and fifty bucks," my wife, Cheryl, yelled. "What did you get that was worth thirteen hundred and fifty dollars?" What did I get for my money? I sat back to think

about the convention and what I had learned. I could break it up into two areas: information and people.

I was also able to attend two of the seminars at the convention. The first was *The Critical Importance of Listening in Higher Education*, by Sarah J. Smith. The most important thing I learned from her presentation is not to be afraid to get involved in helping students who need help. We, as educators, should not be afraid to listen to students and then direct them to appropriate offices or people.

The other seminar I attended was Technology and Listening: In the Classroom and Beyond, by Louisa Eckert. I found this presentation very interesting because I, too, am concerned about cell phones and computers in the classroom. There, as yet, seems to be no clear cut etiquette for the use of these two technologies. I think cell phones should be banned from class. I also think that playing "texas holdem" on the computer during a lecture is really rude.

The last two pieces of information I picked up at the convention were by far the most important. Harvey Weiss gave me two three-ring binders that contained ideas and lesson plans for teaching listening in the classroom. Ray McKelvy gave me a copy of the curriculum developed for an elementary listening program.

While the information I got at the convention was great, the people I met there were even better: friendly, patient, generous, and willing to share anything.

Through this convention, I learned what a truly wonderful organization the ILA is. It is an organization made up of people who are warm, generous, and friendly. So, yes Cheryl, I did get

my \$1350 worth. As a matter of fact, what I gained was priceless. Would I go again? In a (explicative deleted) heartbeat.

Rick also notes that among the lessons he learned at the convention was, "how to run a laminating machine without starting the room on fire." In addition to the wealth of information and fascinating people at the conference, I think we all take away something unique and, in Rick's case, possibly life saving. Thank you Rick, for not setting the hotel on fire!

LINDA DIAMOND

LISTENING Post Editor

As a newcomer to ILA conventions, I was impressed by both the knowledge and warmth of ILA members. I knew that I would learn a lot over the weekend; what surprised me was how welcoming this tightly-knit group is to newcomers. When I first arrived and said that I'm a writer, I was immediately introduced to Andrew Wolvin and and Kay Lindahl, who shared a wealth of information with me. I found that same open enthusiasm throughout the weekend. I quickly felt like a part of the organization and found fast, rewarding friendships.

I saw what Pam Leintz & Susan Witkowski referred to (above) as the "family reunion type atmosphere." With the closeness and long history of it's members, I would almost expect arriving at the ILA to feel a bit like walking into someone else's family reunion. Instead, the group makes the newcomer feel like part of the family, the long lost relative with whom everyone wants to share stories of the family's history. I imagine, though, it would be hard to feel like an outsider in a community of listeners.

Welcome New Members

TARIG AHMED

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BRIAN WILLIAMS

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NICHOLAS O. WILSON

Somerset, WI

nicholas.o.wilson@uwrf.edu

The ILA Young
Professionals

by Stephanie Materese Student Member, Executive Board



Many International Listening Association (ILA) students engaged in strong academic research this year. As student memberships are increasing, the strong contributions and energy of the ILA students are also rising.

Over twelve student papers were accepted and presented at the ILA's 2005 convention in Minneapolis, compared to five at the 2004 convention in Fort Myers, Florida. Given the importance of the student community to the ILA's future, the Executive Board and long-standing ILA community were pleased to see this increase in the quantity and quality of presentations.

Information about ILA's top student research can also be found at the new ILA student online community: "The ILA Young Professionals," at http://www.listen.org/student. This community was created this year as an environment for interaction of student scholars in the field.

Despite the strength of our student population, without the financial support of universities and workplaces, many bright scholars have voiced their inability to become members and attend conventions.

We urge faculty and professionals to continue to find and present opportunities to young students and employees to become part of the International Listening Association.

Committee Goals and Accomplishments

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Laura Janusik

Goals

- Develop a mission statement for the Research Committee to give future chairs a framework for annual goals.
- Increase interest and awareness in qualitative listening research by sponsoring a qualitative panel for Salem's conference.
- Continue to sort out what is known about listening and gender. (A Gender & Listening panel will be sponsored for Salem's conference.)
- Investigate the possibility of offering a Salem pre-conference workshop devoted to finding, writing, developing, and obtaining grants.
- Sponsor a "top research paper" panel for the Salem conference.
- Develop a "Members Only" web page that includes committee members' contact information and areas of interest for those who might be looking to collaborate on multi-site and multicultural research studies.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Pamela Cooper

Accomplishments

Award winners announced at banquet in 2005.

Goals

- Inform Listener of the Year of his/her award early enough so that he/she can make plans to attend our banquet.
- Announce award winners at the banquet in 2006.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chair: Rochelle Devereaux

Accomplishments

- The 2005 Business Mini-Conference dealing with healthcare issues went well, although attendance was not strong. Sheila Bentley did a fantastic job preparing everything; workshop sessions were good; some of the mini-conference participants attended the entire ILA conference.
- We selected a theme for the 2006 Business Mini-Conference: Lean Manufacturing. Tentative title: "Listening Lean: Bottom-Line Improvement Through Effective Listening." Suggested topics include the following:
 - Integrating Listening in Lean Manufacturing
 - Learning to Listen and Listening to Learn: Communicating with Diverse Cultural and Language Groups
 - Listening Across
 Departmental Boundaries
 - Managerial Listening 101
 - The Nuts and Bolts of Listening for Success
 - A Listening Model for Negotiation/Mediation

Goals

- Work in a timely manner to organize the 2006 Business Mini-Conference.
- Determine date and format of Business Mini-Conference by end of summer.
- Get more participants for Business Mini-Conference. Each

Business Committee member has been challenged to recruit at least one businessperson to present a workshop and/or to attend the Business Mini-Conference and/or to present a business-related workshop and/or to attend the ILA main conference.

- Local business people need to be approached as presenters and participants for workshops and possible keynote(s).
- Develop a strong publicity campaign for 2006 Business Mini-Conference.
- Reach out to potential and current committee members during ILA conference to invite them to the Business Committee meeting at 2006 conference so they feel welcomed.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Chair: Nanette Johnson-Curiskis

Accomplishments

Completed making digital copies of Board and General Assembly minutes from 2000-2005

Goals

- Coordinate scanning of all Listening Posts into PDF format.
- · Continue to digitize minutes.
- Continue to seek storage facility for artifacts.

Look for continuing updates on committee goals and accomplishments in upcoming newsletters and on the website at www.listen.org.

ILA-ENDORSED TEXTBOOKS

As a service to its members, the ILA will take a stand and "endorse" the treatment of listening in basic course and interpersonal textbooks. A review of the textbooks will be posted on the ILA website.

Goals of this project include:

- providing teachers with reviews of listening treatment in current textbooks
- providing textbook authors with constructive feedback on their treatment of listening

We need your help.

Do you teach the basic course? Do you teach an interpersonal course? Do you like or dislike the way that the topic of listening is treated in your text?

Please send the current title, author(s), and publisher of the texts that you're using. It would be helpful if you indicate your opinion of how listening is covered in the text.

Please send to: Laura Janusik, Board Member, Special Projects laura.janusik@rockhurst.edu

Recipes for Listening

Please send recipes and stories for an ILA cookbook, *Bringing Listening Back to the Table.*

Do you have a favorite dish that comes with a warm story on the side of times past or kitchen table stories? Does the aroma of a certain spice transport you to your grandmother's kitchen, a campground, or special times with family or good friends?

Please send your stories and recipes to: Lisa Orick at lisaO@tvi.edu

This project was cooked up by Cindy Grobmeier, Stephanie Materese, Genie McAvoy, Kae Van Engen, & Lisa Orick.

WANTED:

2005 Convention Papers & Presentations for the Convention Paper Resource Center (CPRC)

Congratulations to all presenters at the 2005 ILA convention! The papers and presentations were all excellent sources of listening information.

But what if some folks were unable to attend your session? And what if you yourself were unable to be at the all of the sessions you really wanted to attend? It's not too late!

We've got the perfect solution... Presenters: submit your paper or presentation to the ILA Convention Paper Resource Center (CPRC) as soon as possible. Participants: stay tuned for the latest 2005 CPRC Index posting on our ILA Web site.

The ILA Convention Paper Resource Center continues to make ILA convention papers, beginning with the 1998 ILA convention in Kansas City, MO, available to members and non-members through a simple, accessible ordering system.

Here's how the CPRC works:

 All 2005 ILA convention presenters are invited to submit their papers for inclusion in the CPRC.
 Forms for submission can be downloaded from the ILA Website. See Listening Resources/CPRC, or write to request an information packet.

Note: Reproduction of the papers by persons other than ILA requires further permission from the copyright holder. Authors retain copyright even after a paper becomes part of the ILA-CPRC database.

- All types of papers will be accepted, including—but not limited to—research papers, status reports on any aspect of listening, listening teaching/training techniques, and formal discussion summaries.
- Papers will be indexed and briefly annotated, according to CPRC indexing guidelines. The CPRC Index will then be published via our ILA website and in hard copy to interested consumers.
- Convention papers—on computer disk or in hard copy—will then be made available through Kathy Thompson at Alverno College for a nominal fee.

For more information about submitting or purchasing ILA convention papers, please contact Kathy Thompson, PCM Dept., Alverno College, P.O. Box 343922, Milwaukee, WI 53234-3922 or e-mail: Kathy.Thompson@Alverno.edu.

For complete minutes, go to www.listen.org.

Executive Board Meeting 4-14-2005

Executive Director Jim Pratt reviewed the financial report. The ILA did not meet goals for membership growth in 2004. Registration was slightly less than anticipated for Ft. Myers, with expenses generally under budget. The board noted that the boutique was doing well. The question was raised: "What kind of member benefits exist between conferences?"

ILA archives were discussed: Where to store? What to store? Who to store?; The board decided to hire someone to scan *Listening Posts* to post on members only website. The Mission and Goals Committee is looking at resources to cement institutional memory.

All committees need tasks and guidelines to create standardization. Committee chairs will submit a biannual report to the president in Sept. and March and to the *Listening Post*. Committee goals need alignment with mission and vision; board reexamining visions and core values of the organization. Board members are consulting on agenda for Sept. board meeting to discuss organizational vision.

Upcoming Conventions: The board discussed NH Ultra modern hotel, Frankfurt City, Germany for the 2007 convention. Margarete moved that we go to the hotel in Frankfurt, possibly using her university for a day. The motion passed unanimously. We would like to look in the northwest region for 2008.

Public Relations Plans: Ray Mckelvy will continue his ongoing project as his immediate past president project. Membership plans need to be worked on by a membership board member.

NCA Representation: Laura, Melissa, Cyndi, and Nan reviewed programs, panels, and papers submitted. There will be one panel accepted, one business meeting, and one program to fill. Melissa will continue as NCA Rep for two more years.

General Business Meeting 4-15-2005

Officers' progress reports were presented. President Ray McKelvy discussed PR reports from University of Maryland course outreach campaign for ILA Workshop in CA for WCA.

First VP Barbara Nixon stated her vision for revisiting and re-energizing the ILA's vision and mission. The board discussed creating press releases for the association and conference, the continued importance of the *Listening Professional*, and additions to the website.

Laura Janusik, Member at Large, Special Projects, discussed: consolidating a list of all award winners; a panel of early members to spotlight goals and mission of initial organization; a list of award criteria, especially ISIP awards; and the need to open CCRP papers for free to international students.

1st VP Elect Maria Roca reported there were no bylaw changes. Committee members are needed for Salem conference and Maria is making plans for Salem.

and VP—Jim Weaver did not attend; no report.

Secretary, Nan Johnson-Curiskis, has prepared a searchable, comprehensive data base of ILA minutes has been prepared for 2000 through present; Work continues on locating and adding minutes of the Organization before 2000.

Member at Large Global Outreach: Margarete Imhof reported we will be international again—come to Frankfurt July 17-22, 2007.

Member at Large Public Relations, Cyndi Grobmeier, did not attend but it was reported that she created press releases for ILA and for this years conference. Listening Professional continues to be important; the board hopes to add Listening Professional to the website.

Melissa Beall, immediate past president discussed: Coakley Scholarship redefined and clarified; ILA's voice

nationally and internationally; five new international members as a direct result of workshops and presentations by Melissa Beall.

Stephanie Materese discussed: connecting with community of students; creating an online community of students; new goal sponsorship by individual institutions through membership.

Listening Post editor, Rick Bommelje thanked all for their help in past as he will hand over the LP to a new editor.

Webmaster Joyce Chen was absent but the report, made by Melissa Beall, included thanks to Barbara Nixon for the web shell and previous work. Covers, photos, links, enhancements should be sent to Joyce.

International Journal of Listening editor, David Beard was absent; however, reported that the IJL is at the printers.

Executive Director Jim Pratt reported that membership increased to 408 members to date (with 56 life members). Jim also discussed the financial report and ideas for using the life membership fund as a reserve fund.

Nominations for Executive Board: Margarete Imhof - First Vice-President Elect; Pamela Cooper - Member-at-Large, Global; Cyndi Grobmeier - Member-at-Large, Public Relations. Nominations Committee for 2005-2006: Charles Veenstra, Michael Purdy, Irma Ilomaki, Kent Zimmerman. Diana Schnapp accepted the nomination for Nominating Committee and was elected.

A motion was made to make all Executive Board members voting members including the *Listening Post* editor, student member, web editor, *Listening Professional* editor, and *IJL* editor. This is a bylaw change and must be referred to the board for revision and suggestion to membership. This was sent to the board for further review and suggestions.

Don Burkheimer discussed marketing the organization: How can we make benefits of the organization more visible to newer/other member bases? Reach out to media reps, schools, school administrators, businesses, other organizations, and contact media about conferences.

Executive Board Meeting4-17-2005

Appointments: Linda Diamond as Listening Post Editor; Stephanie Materese as Student Board Member. The board is currently looking to fill the role of 2nd VP.

In a preliminary review of evaluations and feedback, the board determined that the programs were of good quality and variety. Areas to be improved for future conferences: more time for networking; additional informal reception time; AV coordination; charging for AV equipment use; setting clear expectations for presenters to use more dynamic formats than reading papers; incorporating "politeness reminders" to cut down on interruptions during sessions (cell phones, walking in an out of sessions, etc.).

Planning is underway for the 2006 convention in Salem, Oregon. The board discussed reaching out to corporate headquarters with a large presence in Salem: Oregon Telecom, Eoff Electric Company, SAIF Corporation (workers with compensation insurance, 650 people), Wachovia Corporation Call Center (500+), and Trendwest Resorts Call Center.

Between now and September, the board will delineate pros and cons for amending bylaws to make all board members voting members. Past presidents could examine constitution bylaws for revision.

The board discussed the value of holding a fall board meeting in the next convention city. Advantages: important for PR, logistics, gaining knowledge of the area. Disadvantages: difficult for finances and time constraints; considerable expense and commitment for International board members. The board also thanked Jim Pratt for his frugality when using frequent flyer miles.

The board plans to review and renew the ILA vision, mission, and goals. Maria, Barbara, and Margarete will begin a goal setting conversation to return to ILA goals, etc.

International Journal of Listening Submissions

The International Journal of Listening is accepting submissions for its 2006 edition. Of special interest are articles and book reviews on the following topics:

- Listening and Second Language Acquisition
- · Listening Assessment
- Listening, Audience Behavior and Media Studies
- Listening, Audience Behavior and Political Rhetoric
- Historical Studies of Listening and Audience Behavior
- Intersections between Listening and Reading
- Listening in Professional or Managerial Communication
- Insights of Cognitive Theory, Psychology or Philosophy on Listening
- · Listening and Rhetorical Theory
- Listening Research in K-12 Education
- Listening in Health Communication
- · Listening and Service Learning
- The Intersections between Musical Listening and Listening to Messages (listening as aesthetic vs. epistemic process)

Please send submissions electronically to:

David Beard, Editor bearoo43@umn.edu

The International Listening
Association

1-800-ILA-4505 www.listen.org ilistening@aol.com

Listening Post Submissions

Please share with the ILA community if you have:

- Written a listening-related book or article.
- Had a radio/television interview focused on listening.
- Guided a unique or inspiring listening seminar or workshop.
- Have a listening story to tell an experience or inspiration that would be of interest to ILA members.

Send submissions to:

listeningpost@listen.org
Next deadline: 9-10-05

ILA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Barbara Nixon
First Vice-President

Maria Roca

First Vice President Elect

Margarete Imhof

Secretary

Nanette Johnson-Curiskis

Member-at-Large, PR Cyndi Grobmeier

Member-at-Large, Global

Pam Cooper

Member-at-Large, Special Projects, Laura Janusik

Student Member

Stephanie Materese

Immediate Past President

Ray McKelvy

Listening Post Editor

Linda Diamond

International Journal of Listening Editor, David Beard

The Listening Professional Editor, Cvndi Grobmeier

Web Editor

Joyce Chen

Executive Director, James W. Pratt

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ILA Financial Statement, 2004, p. 1

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40		Budgeted	Actual
41	America Online	\$300.0	0 \$286.80
42	Awards/Plaques	\$400.0	0 \$233.80
43	Bank charges & credit card fees	\$900.0	0 \$868.97
44	Committees (incl. Research Grant)	\$500.0	0 \$854.51
45	Convention expenses: Gifts (President, Host)		\$110.66
46	Convention expenses: Board Meeting, Sept.		\$1975.44
47	Convention expenses: Meals @ \$125	\$18750.0	0 \$10586.96
48	Convention expenses: Mtg Rms/AV	\$500.0	0 \$1290.00
49	Convention expenses: Postage	\$400.0	0 \$465.54
50	Convention expenses: Printing	\$1000.0	0 \$547.20
51	Convention expenses: Speakers	\$500.0	0 \$0.00
52	Convention expenses: Supplies		\$85.98
53	Convention expenses: Student grants	\$500.0	0 3 \$435.00
54	Convention expenses: Tours/Buses		\$2137.00
5.5	Directory printing & mailing	\$1000.0	0 \$1007.36
56	Equipment	\$200.0	0 \$170.15
57	Insurance	\$600.0	0 \$589.00
58	IJL printing & mailing	\$2000.0	0 \$878.00
59	Listening Post printing & mailing	\$2400.0	0 \$2594.63
60	Listening Prof printing & mailing	\$1800.0	0 \$1201.39
6.1	Postage/Post office box	\$900.0	0 \$768.56
62	Printing & Photocopying: General	\$200.0	0 \$141.10
63	Printing: Brochures	\$1000.0	
64	Staff: Executive Director	\$12500.0	
65	Staff: Intern		\$0.00
66	Supplies	\$1000.0	
67	Tax preparation	\$900.0	
68	Telephone	\$1500.0	The state of the s
69	Travel: Fort Myers; Oregon site visit	\$2000.0	
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ILA Financial Statement, 2004, p. 2

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ILA Financial Statement, 2004, p. 3

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20		otions & purchases,	50 @ \$40	\$2000.00	
21	Interest	A Commence of the Commence of		\$1000.00	
22	LP advertis	sina	- Daniel	\$500.00	
23	Royalties		A comment of the second	\$2500.00	
24		: Book display, net		\$100.00	
25	Convention	: Donations		\$1100.00	
26	Convention	: Registration, 150 6	\$195	\$29250.00	
27					
28 Tota	lincome			\$60215.00	
294					
30 Expe	nses:				
31					
32	America Or	nline			\$300.00
33	Awards/Pl	aques			\$500.00
34	Bank charg	es & credit card fee	s		\$900.00
35	Committee		-		\$500.00
36	Convention	expenses: Meals & A	AV, 150 @ \$12	25	\$18750.00
37		expenses: Postage			\$400.00
38	decree and the second second	expenses: Printing			\$1000.00
39	***************************************	expenses: Speakers			\$1000.00
40	THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY O	expenses: Student of	rants		\$500.00
AL	Directory				\$1000.00
42	Equipment				\$200.0
43		& mailing			\$2500.00
44	Insurance				\$600.00
45		ost printing & mailin			\$2800.00 \$1500.00
46		rofessional printing	& mailing		
47	Postage	1			\$1500.0 \$200.0
48		photocopying			\$1000.0
49	Printing: B				\$12500.0
50		cutive Director			\$12500.0
52	Supplies	ntion			\$900.0
53	Tax prepar Telephone	audi		<u> </u>	\$1500.0
54	Travel			- 1	\$2000.0
55	Website			i i	\$500.0
56	Menare			1	
	al expenses:		Lana Lana di Mandalan di M		\$54050.0
	isfer to Life member s	avings		1-1-11-1	\$3250.0
59 Ira	Unbudgete				\$2915.0
60	Unbudgete	U I COGI VE	S. 100 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	1	
Administration of	al, Expenses plus Trans				\$60215.0

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