# Association for Symbolic Logic

BUSINESS OFFICE: BOX 742, VASSAR COLLEGE 124 RAYMOND AVENUE, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12604, USA FAX: 1-845-437-7830; EMAIL: asl@vassar.edu WWW: http://www.aslonline.org

#### ASL NEWSLETTER

September 2004

• In Memoriam: Jacob C. E. Dekker. Jacob C. E. ("Jim") Dekker, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Rutgers, and long time resident of Princeton, died at the University Medical Center at Princeton on April 3, 2004 at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife and devoted companion of fifty-three years, Henny. He was born in Hilversum, Netherlands, educated during the prewar and early war years at the University of Leiden and the University of Amsterdam. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1947 for graduate study at Syracuse University, where he received his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1950 under Paul Rosenbloom. After a year at Syracuse as an instructor, he took a three-year appointment to the College of the University of Chicago. In 1954, he joined Northwestern University. In 1956, Kurt Gödel invited him to be a member of the Institute for Advanced Study for two years, after which he moved to the University of Kansas. In 1959 he moved to Rutgers, becoming a full professor in 1961. He supervised nine Ph.D. students at Rutgers and one at the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

At the University of Chicago, Dekker spent time with Anil Nerode, then a graduate student in mathematics, and John Myhill, then a visiting assistant professor in philosophy there, both of whom would collaborate with him in future years. Myhill had just proved his famous recursive isomorphism theorem for creative sets, introduced by Post as a generalization of the set of Gödel numbers of provable theorems in arithmetic. Myhill showed any two creative sets differed by a one-to-one onto recursive permutation of the integers, thus eliminating them as candidates for intermediate recursively enumerable degrees.

This led Dekker to define a recursive analogue of Cantor's cardinal numbers, in which arbitrary sets are replaced by subsets of the non-negative integers, and arbitrary one-to-one functions by one-to-one partial recursive functions. Subsets of non-negative integers are recursively equivalent if they differ by a one-to-one partial recursive function, and the equivalence classes are the recursive equivalence types. Dekker was primarily interested in the effective analogue of Dedekind finite cardinals, that is, cardinals of sets that cannot be mapped one-to-one onto a proper subset of themselves. Without the axiom of choice, these need not be finite. The effective analogue is the isolated sets, those sets which have no infinite recursively enumerable subset. The isols consist of the recursive equivalence types of isolated sets. Dekker showed that the set of isols forms a cancellation semiring, and together with Myhill showed that in the ring of differences of isols the cancellation law for multiplication fails. The influential monograph, "Recursive Equivalence Types" by Dekker and Myhill appeared in 1960.

In 1959 Myhill discovered that a much larger class of functions of integers extend from the non-negative integers to the isols, the recursive combinatorial functions. Myhill and Nerode reduced the question of truth of universal sentences about combinatorial functions to behavior in the non-negative integers, which became a basic tool for the further research of Dekker and his students. Dekker subsequently published a monograph in French on combinatorial functions and isols. Among the mathematicians who worked in this area or its extensions were Barback, Crossley, Ellentuck, Hay, McLaughlin, Myhill, Manaster, Nerode, and Remmel.

In his later career, Dekker investigated structures whose domain is an isolated set and whose operations are recursive. He published papers on isolated projective planes, graphs, and vector spaces. These studies were an immediate precursor to the later study by others of recursive algebra, which studies structures with recursive sets as domain and with recursive relations and operations.

Dekker was a "complete gentleman" in the best sense, a droll wit blessed with a sunny disposition, who always treated students, friends, and colleagues with patience, kindness, and respect. He was a beloved teacher, giving perfectly prepared lectures with great clarity and rigor. Dekker loved to travel and to learn languages. He even gave invited lecture series in languages he did not know, from phonetic notes. He will be much missed by friends and family. • In Memoriam: Nels David Nelson. Nels David Nelson was born on January 2, 1918 at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Nelson received his Ph.D. in 1946, and was Stephen Kleenes first doctoral student.

During 1942-46 Nelson was an assistant professor at Amherst College. From 1946 until his retirement in 1986, Nelson taught at the Department of Mathematics of the George Washington University, where he established a curriculum in mathematical logic. He was promoted to professor in 1958, and was the chairman of the Mathematics Department from 1956 until 1967. Nelson served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association for Symbolic Logic from 1949 to 1953. He consulted for the National Research Council during 1960-63.

Nelson's research was in the area of intuitionistic logic and its connection with recursive function theory. He investigated the relationship, in intuitionistic formal systems, between a truth definition and the provability of formulas representing statements of number theory. Kleene had previously introduced the intuitionistic truth definition and arithmetized this truth notion in his definition of realizability of a formula by a number. Kleene's and Nelson's results, "related the constructibility demands of the intuitionists as embodied in a formal system of Heyting to Church's thesis identifying constructible and general recursive functions." As a consequence, they demonstrated that certain classically true formulas are unprovable in the intuitionistic predicate calculus with strong negation. Later, Nelson developed formal systems, in the Gentzen sequential form, for the negationless first-order predicate logic and the negationless arithmetic. In his 1949 Journal of Symbolic Logic paper, "Constructible Falsity," Nelson proposed a constructive logic in which falsity is conceived in a fashion analogous to that for intuitionistic truth. Nelson made the notion of truth precise by defining a syntactical predicate "The natural number a P-realizes the formula A," and expressed a correlative concept constructible falsity by a predicate "The natural number a N-realizes the formula A."

Nelson lived the last decades of his life in his Watergate apartment, near the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian museums that he frequently visited. He died on August 22, 2003.

• The 2004 ASL Election. At the end of this year the ASL will elect a Secretary-Treasurer, two members of the Executive Committee of the Council, and two members of the Council. All terms are for three years beginning January 1, 2005. The ballot will be sent to all ASL members with the November Newsletter. The 2004 Nominating Committee has nominated Charles Steinhorn (Vassar) as Secretary-Treasurer, Mariangiola Dezani (Torino) and Jörg Flum (Freiburg) for the Executive Committee positions, and Qi Feng (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and Prakash Panangaden (McGill) for the Council positions. The Nominating Committee consisted of Zofia Adamowicz, Joan Bagaria, Daniel Leivant, Paolo Mancosu, Dag Normann, and Jouko Väänänen (Chair).

Additional nominations may be made by petition signed by 10 or more ASL members; such petitions should be received by the ASL Secretary-Treasurer (email asl@vassar.edu or ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12604, USA)) no later than November 15, 2004. In a contested election, each candidate has the opportunity to make a 100-word statement to be distributed with the ballot.

- Call for Proposals: 2007 ASL Annual Meeting. The ASL Committee on Meetings in North America requests proposals for the 2007 ASL Annual Meeting, to be held sometime in the first five months of 2007. The Committee seeks a university somewhere in North America and a local arrangements committee to host the 2007 meeting and handle the local arrangements. The ASL Annual Meetings ordinarily cycle geographically as follows: midwest (Urbana 2000, Chicago 2003); east (Philadelphia 2001, Pittsburgh 2004); west (Las Vegas 2002, Stanford 2005). This cycle will be broken for the 2006 meeting, to be held in Montreal (east), and hence the Committee seeks a location in the midwest. Any reasonable proposal, however, will be considered. For more information, interested parties should contact Peter Cholak (email: Peter.Cholak.1@nd.edu) no later than November 1, 2004.
- Call for Proposals: 2006 AMS-ASL Joint Special Session. The ASL Committee on Meetings in North America requests proposals for an AMS-ASL Joint Special Session to be held at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio, Texas, January 12–15, 2006. Proposals and requests for additional information should be be sent by email to the Committee Chair, Peter Cholak (email: Peter.Cholak.1@nd.edu). The deadline for receipt

of proposals is January 15, 2005.

• Reduced Dues for Individuals and Institutions in Developing Economies. The ASL recently approved a program to offer reduced dues for individual and institutional members in developing economies. For 2004, the reduced dues are \$18 for individuals and \$130 for institutional members. These dues apply to individuals and institutions residing in countries whose economies are classified as 'lower middle income' or below on the World Bank's annual list. For further information, visit http://www.aslonline.org/membership\_outreach.html or contact the ASL Business Office: ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604, USA; Tel: 1-845-437-7080; Fax: 1-845-437-7830; email: asl@vassar.edu.

#### ASL MEETINGS

• Student Travel Awards: The 2005 ASL Annual Meeting, 2005 ASL European Summer Meeting, and other ASL or ASL-Sponsored Meetings. The ASL will make available modest travel awards to graduate students in logic and (for the European Summer Meeting only) to recent Ph.D.'s so that they may attend the 2005 ASL Annual Meeting in Stanford, California, or the 2005 ASL European Summer Meeting in Athens, Greece: see below for information about these meetings. Student members of the ASL also may apply for travel grants to other ASL or ASL-sponsored meetings. To be considered for a Travel Award, please (1) send a letter of application, and (2) ask your thesis supervisor to send a brief recommendation letter. The application letter should be brief (preferably one page) and should include: (1) your name; (2) your home institution; (3) your thesis supervisor's name; (4) a one-paragraph description of your studies and work in logic, and, in the case of an ASL student member application to attend an ASL or ASL-sponsored meeting other than the Annual Meeting or European Summer Meeting, a paragraph indicating why it is important to attend the meeting; (5) your estimate of the travel expenses you will incur; (6) (for citizens or residents of the USA) citizenship or visa status; and (7) (voluntary) indication of your gender and minority status. Women and members of minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply. In addition to funds provided by the ASL, the program of travel grants to the ASL Annual Meeting and the European Summer Meeting is supported by a grant from the US National Science Foundation; NSF funds may be awarded only to students at USA universities and to citizens and permanent residents of the USA. Air travel paid for using NSF funds must be on a US flag carrier. Application by email is encouraged; put "ASL travel application" in the subject line of your message.

For the 2005 ASL Annual Meeting, applications and recommendations should be received before the deadline of January 14, 2005, by the Program Chair: John Steel, Department of Mathematics, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA; email: steel@math.berkeley.edu.

For the 2005 ASL European Summer Meeting, applications and recommendations should be received before the deadline of April 1, 2005, by the Organizing Committee: LC2005, Department of Mathematics, University of Athens, GR-157 84 Zografou, Greece; email: lc2005@math.uoa.gr.

For ASL student member travel grants to other ASL or ASL-sponsored meetings, applications and recommendations should be received at least three months prior to the meeting at the ASL Business Office: ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604, USA; Fax: 1-845-437-7830; email: asl@vassar.edu. Decisions will be communicated at least two months prior to the meeting.

• 2004-05 ASL Winter Meeting (with Joint Mathematics Meetings). January 7–8, 2005, Atlanta, Georgia. This meeting will take place in conjunction with the Joint Mathematics Meetings, which will be held January 5–8, 2005. The invited speakers include: M. Aschenbrenner, A. Caicedo, T. Ishiu, O. Lessman, J. Mileti, B. Poonen, and W.H. Woodin. There will be a joint AMS/ASL Panel discussion on Hilbert's First Problem; the panel will be moderated by K. Devlin, and participants include P.J. Cohen, D.A. Martin, and W.H. Woodin. There will be an AMS-ASL Joint Special Session on Reverse Mathematics, organized by J. Hirst and R. Solomon. The ASL also is sponsoring a subsession of the AMS-MAA-MER Special Session on Mathematics and Education Reform, entitled "Mathematical Logic in the Undergraduate Curriculum," organized by J. Hirst. The members of the Program Committee are R. Jin, A. Kanamori (Chair), and A. Shlapentokh. A preregistration form and hotel information for this meeting are included in this Newsletter mailing.

- 2005 ASL Annual Meeting. March 19–22, 2005, Stanford, California. The invited speakers include: S. Awodey, I. Farah, S. Feferman, D. Haskell, A. Morozov, V. Pestov, A. Scedrov, A. Weiermann, and J. Zapletal. The Retiring Presidential Address will be given by R. Shore and the Sixteenth Annual Gödel Lecture will be given. A tutorial on computer-aided verification will be offered by M. Vardi. There also will be special sessions, with organizers in parentheses, on model theory (C. Miller and P. Speisegger), proof theory (G. Mints and S. Feferman), randomness (A. Nies), and set theory (G. Hjorth and S. Solecki). The members of the Program Committee are: J. Mitchell, M. Rathjen, S. Shapiro, R. Solomon, P. Speissegger, and J. Steel (Chair). The members of the Local Organizing Committee include: A. Arana, S. Feferman, G. Mints, J. Mitchell, and R. Sommer (Chair). Abstracts of contributed talks submitted by ASL members will be published in *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* if they satisfy the Rules for Abstracts (see below). Abstracts must be received by the deadline of December 10, 2004, at the ASL Business Office: ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604, USA; Fax: 1-845-437-7830; email: asl@vassar.edu.
- 2005 ASL Spring Meeting (with APA). March 23–27, 2005, San Francisco, California. This meeting will be held jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association. The Program Committee members for the ASL meeting are: A. Arana, T. Gillies, S. Lavine (Chair), and R. Zach. Abstracts of contributed talks submitted by ASL members will be published in *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* if they satisfy the Rules for Abstracts (see below). Abstracts must be received by the deadline of December 10, 2004, at the ASL Business Office: ASL, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604, USA; Fax: 1-845-437-7830; email: asl@vassar.edu.
- 2005 ASL European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium '05). July 28-August 3, 2005, Athens, Greece. Invited speakers include: J. Bergstra, D. Haskell, E. Jaligot, J. Moore, C. Parsons, H. Schwichtenberg, M. Sheard, S. Tupailo, K. Weihrauch, and J. Zapletal. The following short courses will be offered (with speakers in parentheses): computer science logic (P. Kolaitis), model theory (I. Ben-Yaacov), philosophy of logic (to be announced), and proof theory and constructivity (P. Aczel). The members of the Program Committee members are: C.T. Chong, C. Dimitracopoulos, H. Field, G. Jaeger, G. Metakides, L. Newelski, D. Normann, R. Parikh, J. Steel, S. Todorcevic, J. Tucker, F. Wagner, and S. Wainer (Chair). The Local Organizing Committee includes: D. Anapolitanos, C. Dimitracopoulos (Chair), L. Kirousis, G. Koletsos, M. Mytilinaios, S. Papastavridis, Th. Pheidas, P. Rondogiannis, G. Stavrinos, A. Synachopoulos, and A. Tzouvaras. Abstracts of contributed talks submitted by ASL members will be published in *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* if they satisfy the Rules for Abstracts (see below). Abstracts—hard copy or email—should be received before the deadline of April 15, 2005 at the official meeting address: LC2005, Department of Mathematics, University of Athens, GR-157 84 Zografou, Greece; email: lc2005@math.uoa.gr. For further information visit http://www.math.uoa.gr/lc2005.
- 2006 ASL Annual Meeting. May 17–21, 2006, Montreal, Canada. The members of the Local Organizing Committee include: Luc Bélair, F. Lepage, M. Marion (Chair), and P. Panangaden.
- Rules for Abstracts. The rules for abstracts of contributed talks at ASL meetings (including those submitted "by title") may be found at http://www.aslonline.org/rules\_abstracts.html. Please note that abstracts *must* follow the rules as set forth there; those which do not conform to the requirements will be returned immediately to the authors submitting them. Revised abstracts that follow the rules will be considered if they are received by the announced deadline.

### ASL SPONSORED MEETINGS

• International Workshop on Automata, Structures and Logic. December 11-13, 2004, Auckland, New Zealand. The theme of this event is the interplay between automata, structures, logic and complexity. Invited speakers include: A. Blumensath, B. Courcelle, C. Delhomme, R. Downey, V. Goranko, F. Klaedtke, T. Knapik, D. Kuske, C. Loeding, M. Lohrey, D. Niwinski, S. Rubin, J. Sakarovitch, F. Stephan, C. Stirling, and R. Thomas. The Program Committee members are: A. Dawar, E. Gradel, B. Khoussainov, D. Kozen, A. Nerode, and A. Voronkov. For further information, visit http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/wasl2004.

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### ASL SPONSORED MEETINGS (continued)

- First World Congress and School on Universal Logic (UNILOG 2005). March 26-April 3, 2005, Montreux, Switzerland. This event will focus on: techniques that can be used for a general theory of logics, studies of classes of logics, scope of validity and domain of application of fundamental theorems of logic, and, philosophical considerations about the nature of logic and the universality of some logical laws or axioms. Invited speakers include: A. Avron, D. Batens, J. Corcoran, J. Czelakowski, M. Dunn, D. Gabbay, R. Jansana, A. Koslow, V. de Paiva, K. Segerberg, J. Väänänen, V. Vasyukov, J. Woods, and J. Zygmunt. The school is intended for advanced students and young researchers. The organizers are: J.-Y. Béziau, A. Costa-Leite, A. Facchini, A. Karpenko, D. Sarenac, and H. Volken. The deadline for submission of contributed papers is October 30, 2004. For further information, visit http://www.uni-log.org.
- 2005 Australasian Association for Logic Meeting. September 24-25, 2005, Perth, Western Australia. The principal organizer of this conference is H. Slater (email: slaterbh@cyllene.uwa.edu.au). The meeting will be held immediately prior to the annual meeting of the Australasian Mathematics Society (September 26-30, 2005), which also will take place in Perth.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (Also see http://www.aslonline.org.)

• Professorship in Logic at Université Paris 7. A tenured Professorship in Logic (labelled: "Théorie des Modèles, Applications de la Logique à l'Informatique") is expected to be available at Université Paris 7, starting in the fall 2005. Precise details will be posted on http://www.logique.jussieu.fr/position.html as they become available.

Applicants should demonstrate the ability to teach courses in French, and have a high quality research record. Before being able to apply for a French position, one must get approval from the French administration and obtain a "qualification." Details on how to obtain this qualification will be posted on the website above. Please note that the initial step must be completed before October 19, 2004.

NEW BOOKS AND JOURNALS (Also see http://www.aslonline.org.)

- New journal: Logical Methods in Computer Science. This new open-access, online, refereed journal is devoted to all theoretical and practical topics in computer science related to logic in a broad sense. The Editor-in-Chief is D.S. Scott. For further information, visit http://www.lmcs-online.org.
- Knowledge Contributors. Editors: V.F. Hendricks, K.F. Jørgensen, and S.A. Pedersen (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003, ISBN: 1-4020-1748-0). http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-1748-0.
- Trends in Logic: 50 Years of Studia Logica. Editors: V.F. Hendricks and J. Malinowski (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003, ISBN: 1-4020-1601-8). http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-1601-8.
- Elements of Finite Model Theory. Author: L. Libkin (Springer Verlag, 2004, ISBN: 3-540-21202-7). http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~libkin/fmt.
- One Hundred Years of Russell's Paradox. Editor: G. Link (Volume 6, de Gruyter Series in Logic and its Applications, de Gruyter, 2004, ISBN: 3-11-017438-3). http://www.degruyter.de/rs/bookSingle.cfm?id=IS-3110174383-1&1=E.

CALENDAR OF OTHER MEETINGS (Also see http://www.aslonline.org.)

• Conference in Mathematical Logic. October 8–10, 2004, Denton, Texas. The University of North Texas will host an inaugural conference in mathematical logic at the campus in Denton, Texas. The conference will be broad in perspective, covering many areas of logic and set theory; all members of the logic community are welcome. Plenary speakers include: A. Blass, L. van den Dries, G. Hjorth, J. Knight, P. Komjath, T. Slaman,

and J. Steel. The Co-chairs of the Organizing Committee are S. Gao and S. Jackson. Partial support for travel is available. For more information, including other invited speakers, visit www.math.unt.edu/logic.

- Foundations of the Formal Sciences V: Infinite Games. November 26-29, 2004, Bonn, Germany. Topics to be discussed at this event include: infinite games in algebraic logic, in higher set theory, in set-theoretic topology, and in philosophy; infinite games and computer science; and, infinite evolutionary games. The invited speakers are: S. Abramsky, N. Dobrinen, I. Hodkinson, K. Kelly, H. Sabourian, M. Scheepers, B. Skyrms. The Coordinator of the Scientific and Organizing Committee is B. Löwe. For more information, visit http://www.math.uni-bonn.de/people/fotfs/V/.
- Third Joint Japan-Mexico Meeting in Topology and its Applications. December 6-10, 2004, Oaxaca, Mexico. This event includes topics of interest to logicians, particularly set theory and set-theoretic topology. For further information, visit http://www.cimat.mx/~victor/jamex.
- Workshop on Recent Advances in Core Model Theory. December 13-17, 2004, Palo Alto, California. This workshop, sponsored by the American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) and the NSF, will be devoted to important recent results in core model theory due to Woodin. The organizers are J. Steel and E. Schimmerling. For more information, visit http://aimath.org/ARCC/workshops/coremodel.html.
- Twenty-fourth Conference on Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science (FSTTCS 2004). December 16–18, 2004, Chennai, India. This annual event includes several topics of interest to logicians. Invited speakers include: J. Esparza, P. Indyk, P. Pevzner, J.C. Reynolds, and D. Thérien. For additional information, visit http://www.fsttcs.org/.
- Tenth International Conference on Database Theory (ICDT 2005). January 5-7, 2005, Edinburgh, Scotland. This event is a biennial scientific conference on research on the foundations of database systems. The invited speakers are: D. Maier, M. Schwartzbach, and M. Vardi. The Program Co-Chairs are T. Eiter and L. Libkin. For further information, visit http://www.cs.toronto.edu/db/icdt05/.
- First Indian Conference on Logic and its Relationship with Other Disciplines. January 8-13, 2005, Bombay, India. This event will focus on three themes: Indian systems of logic, systems of formal logic and foundational issues in philosophical logic, and issues arising out of applications of logic in the relevant disciplines. Invited speakers include: D. Acharya, S. Artemov, J. van Benthem, S.M. Bhave, M. Chakraborty, J. Crossley, D. Edgington, N. Foo, P. Gdrdenfors, P. Gokhale, Y. Gurevich, P. Hajek, D. Harel, R. Hilpinen, W.A. Hodges, D. Kayser, S. Kripke, R. Parikh, D. Prahladacharya, V. Pratt, M.O. Rabin, K. Ramasubramanian V.V.S. Sarma, S. Sarukkai, K. Segerberg, R.K. Shyamasundar, M.D. Srinivas, S.P. Suresh, R. Van der Meyden, and M. Xu. There will also be a short session for young scholars to present their research. For further information, visit http:// logic2005.hss.iitb.ac.in.
- Sixth International Workshop on Computational Semantics (IWCS-6). January 12-14, 2005, Tilburg, Netherlands. The aim of this event is to bring together researchers interested in any aspects of the computation of meaning in natural language, in multimedia objects, and in multimodal messages. For further information, visit http://let.uvt.nl/research/TI/sigsem/iwcs/iwcs6.
- Workshop on Extensions of Hilbert's Tenth Problem. March 21-25, 2005, Palo Alto, California. This workshop, sponsored by the American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) and the NSF, will be devoted to extensions of Hilbert's Tenth Problem and related questions in Number Theory and Geometry. The organizers include: B. Poonen, A. Shlapentokh, X. Vidaux, and K. Zahidi. Space and funding is available for a few more participants. Those wishing to participate should apply by completing the online form at the URL below, no later than November 1, 2004. For more information, visit http://aimath.org/ARCC/workshops/hilberts10th.html.

## The next Newsletter will be mailed in November, 2004. Items to be included should reach the Secretary-Treasurer before October 29, 2004.

Submitted by Charles Steinhorn, Secretary-Treasurer.