

Summary of AZTESOL Virtual Board Meeting, August 27, 2016

1. The President (Marjaneh) provided an update on the planning for the state conference in October.
2. The Treasurer (Laura) summarized the current state of the organization's finances. In accordance with a decision made at the last board meeting, preparations are being made to invest a portion of AZTESOL's funds in an investment account where it can earn better returns than it is currently getting in traditional checking and savings accounts.
3. The Membership chair (Lori) reported that AZTESOL currently has 501 active (paid) members.
4. The Webmaster (Paul) and Business Manager (Scott) reported that five members and seven exhibitors have registered for the state conference so far.
5. A special committee has revised and updated the language and criteria for some of the grants and awards that AZTESOL offers, and will present ideas for 4 new grants to the board.
6. The Sociopolitical Issues chair (Jenny S.) reported on meeting with Arizona senators and representatives and aides in Washington, DC to build relationships and to advocate for policy decisions related to ESSA and WIOA.
7. Regional mini-conferences are tentatively planned for the Southeastern and Northern areas of the state in the spring of 2017. The Southwestern area representative (Alma) is trying to increase visibility and membership in AZTESOL in that area of the state.
8. The Interest Section Coordinator (Lutfi) reported that the two current special interest groups (K-12 and Teachers of Refugees) will continue to exist under the new name of "interest sections" and that other new interest sections can be formed if 5 signatures are submitted.
9. The Immediate Past President's position ends in October, but Richard volunteered to continue serving on the board as the Rules and Resolution chair. In that capacity, he suggested that a year-round nominating committee needs to be formed to help recruit candidates for various board positions.