

## NAACL Treasurer's report June 2013



The Chapter's bank account held \$36,580 at the end of June 2013. This is the lowest the account has been since 2006 and stands in stark contrast to our account totals from previous years. The NAACL bank account is typically impacted by two factors: 1) conference debt or surplus (this includes ACL when it is held in North America), 2) expenditures such as supporting NACLO or emerging conferences in South America. In 2010, the bank account peaked at \$154,999 (with \$136,803 reported in June of that year). However, the NAACL-HLT 2010 conference in Los Angeles ran up a huge debt which slashed the surplus by over 50%. In 2011, we received \$38,950 as our 50% surplus from ACL 2011. In 2012, the NAACL-HLT conference in Montreal made only a small surplus of about \$2,500 meaning that our annual expenditures of roughly \$20k/year to support Computational Linguistics in other areas was not being matched or exceeded by the conference. As a result of the 2010 debt and normal outlays and the small surplus from NAACL-HLT 2012, the budget shrunk to \$116,072 in June 2011, then to \$104,234 in June 2012 and then to the \$36,580 this year.

The 2012 Treasurer Report by Chris Manning did note that the 2012 balance looks higher than it should as the 2010 debt was finally accounted for in later in the summer, and thus shows up in the 2013 balance (hence the large drop between 2012 and 2013). Additionally, our expenditures for the year leading up to this report (2012-2013) may seem higher since several of the 2012 outlays (\$10k for JHU 2012 Summer Workshop, \$1.5k for an Emerging Regions conference) occurred in late summer after the 2012 Treasurer Report, and most of the 2013 outlays (\$10k for LSA; \$5k for NACLO) have already occurred. Please note there is no JHU Summer Workshop this year.

A small bank account balance is troublesome for two reasons. First, it decreases our effectiveness to support Computational Linguistics locally and in Central and South America. Second, it decreases our ability to absorb a conference that incurs a large debt. Since the conference is the primary source of revenue, our ability to build back the account balance is contingent on conferences being continually successful. The last two years have seen registration rates go up slightly to increase revenues, however there a limit to how much this can change the account over the long term. So what can we do? Here are a few thoughts:

- We need to attract more sponsorship
- We need to find creative and innovative ways of reducing conference costs while also making it appealing for scientists and sponsors to attend. This year we have seen a lot of great changes such as the Video Recording of the oral presentations, the new Scheduling App which saved several thousand dollars, and the joint NAACL/ICML Symposium. In addition, Priscilla Rasmussen is investigating hotel chains which can host NAACL 2015 and 2016 in two different cities. By negotiating a two-city contract early we may be able to lower overall costs for both conferences.
- The banquet has usually been run at a loss, so we may want to consider not having it in future editions. However, this year, the format of the banquet was altered from the usual sit-down affair to make it more interactive and fun and hopefully draw more people to attend.
- We may also want to consider reducing some or all of our outlays. While this may seem austere, it would greatly assist in improving the account balance.

Joel Tetreault, NAACL Treasurer; June 24, 2012, San Francisco, CA.

