

By Yaegan Doran

Welcome

I am writing this on unceded Gadigal land, having recently changed university to be working on both Wangal land and Cammeraygal land at the Australian Catholic University's Strathfield and North Sydney campuses. I am writing this just a few days after the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – what the Howard government tried to depoliticise by calling Harmony Day. These two names for the same day conjure up different views of the world: one that openly acknowledges there are significant social issues that require purposeful action to address, and another where everything is just peachy as it is and all that needs to happen is for us to 'maintain' harmony. In light of the issues of our world, I am very proud of our SFL community in consistently foregrounding the political orientation of our linguistics and both the need for an acknowledgement of how society is and for purposeful intervention in the world to help make it a better place – rather than for simply a benevolent inertia.

This is on show in many of the branches of our linguistics where theoretical, descriptive

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- Establishment of SFL Special Interest Group about compassionate communication
- Halliday & Hasan archive working group update
- book launches
- ASFLA conference 2022 at MQ!



and applied goals are regularly brought together. But we have just recently added a new arrow to our bow in this regard with the establishment of the Special Interest Group into Communication for Peace and Compassion. This SIG has so far had two meetings, and as you will read in this newsletter, has made it its mission to 'empower and improve all lives' by examining and celebrating 'the semiotics of peace, compassion and empathy'. It has brought together a number of researchers from across Australia, and a few overseas, and is an exciting and timely addition as we move into an ever more worrying world. Big thanks to

*Please let us know if you have any news that should appear on these pages or if you have any ideas about what you'd like to see:
lorenzo@lorenzologi.com*

Lorenzo Logi, Editor

Message from the President

Elizabeth Thomson for proposing and driving the SIG, and for everyone who has so far been involved!

As you'll see in this newsletter, there is lots happening in the Australian SFL world at the moment. One very big project that you can read about is the establishment of an archive of materials from the estates of Prof. M.A.K. Halliday and Prof. Ruqaiya Hasan. This is an enormous project that is getting started under the incredible guidance of Helen Caple. As Helen notes, the key aim of this archiving effort is to preserve the huge number of materials that have been left behind and to make them available to scholars in perpetuity. Having seen the collection first hand, I can say it is extraordinary and will keep us busy in exploring it for many many years to come. Establishing the archive will involve a significant amount of work over quite some time and will also require considerable funds to support. Once the working group develops a clearer idea of just how much funding will be needed, we shall announce a funding drive, where we will be seeking donations from individuals and organisations across the SFL community both here in Australia and the world. This in turn will require significant administrative changes in ASFLA, which we are currently working on. So watch this space!

I am also very excited that we are having the ASFLA conference this year at Macquarie University! And I am particularly excited that (pending no new issues), we will be face to face! (with a decision on hybrid to be announced). Big big thanks to Cassi Liardet and team for getting going with the organising of this conference with aplomb. The conference will be held from Friday the 23rd September to Sunday the 25th September, with

pre-conference workshops on the Thursday the 22nd. As universities have progressively been moving away from having a shared mid-semester break, it was decided to have this year's conference over a weekend – so once the conference is here, we would be interested to hear your thoughts about what we do in this regard going forward! For now though, visit the ASFLA website at: <https://www.asfla2022.com> and get ready to submit your abstracts by the 17th April!

We also have some wonderful congratulations to give to Helen Harper and Susan Feez and to Julie Hayes and Bronwyn Parkin for winning their categories in the Educational Publishing Awards, as well as to a number of people finishing their PhDs, including our very own Lorenzo Logi (the person putting together this newsletter!), and to all of you who have had books or publications come out in the last little while – congrats!

Wherever you are, I hope you're doing ok with the floods and the pandemic and anything else that is going on in your world, and I very much hope that you are starting to feel that we are coming out the other side of the last two years. I'm looking forward to stepping into the post-pandemic world confidently and happily with you all.

And on a personal note, I'd like to thank Helen Caple as the outgoing President of ASFLA, for everything she's done over the last three very tricky years and for everything that she continues to do with the Halliday and Hasan archiving project. She has left intimidatingly big shoes to fill for me, but, in her usual way, she has organised the transition wonderfully. So thank you Helen, and congrats on finishing up!

Community News

From the ASFLA representative for South Australia

By David Caldwell

Bron Custance, our resident SA SFL education consultant, is currently working with SA schools in Term 1:

- a primary school that is moving to using LEAP to assess all students' literacy rather than Brightpath, which they find doesn't give them enough to work with. Principal had to defend decision to his Education Director and won. My work involves building all teachers' understanding of SFL to be able to then Level and plan for teaching.
- Two large secondary schools:
 1. where I'll work with the whole staff on key elements of SFL that can be applied to reading and writing LA texts; and work with Yr 7 Eng/HASS teachers to build their capacity to explicitly teach grammar (sentence structures) in context of reading and writing.
 2. where their focus is lifting results in audience (so we unpacked register, particularly tenor) and cohesion (reference, cohesive and rhetorical conjunctions, lexical cohesion, and macro, hyper and theme, which will also connected back to audience and orienting the reader).
- Later this term, I'll also work with another two primary schools who want to build teachers' capacity to understand and teach grammar (SFL).

ASFLA Education News

By Trish Weekes

As those in the Education sector know, the Australian Curriculum is currently undergoing review. Members of the ASFLA community have been actively involved in providing submissions to ACARA to provide recommendations and advice on the proposed Australian Curriculum for English. On behalf of ASFLA, I submitted a review to support the continued inclusion of a language strand in the curriculum and to offer some suggestions for clarification and improvement. Other members of our community provided more detailed advice and recommendations in their submissions.

A group of ASFLA members, led by Bev Derewianka, presented a letter to the CEO of ACARA, David de Carvalho, to offer advice and support in the implementation of the curriculum for English. The letter was a joint communication from ASFLA, ALEA and PETAA. We felt that more support for teachers was needed, especially in relation to implementation of the language strand of the curriculum, by providing annotated examples, professional development and so on. We received a reply from ACARA in December that thanked us for the submission and stated that the team 'may call on critical friends to provide a range of expert advice'. However, it was also noted that individual states, not ACARA, are responsible for the implementation of the curriculum. The new curriculum has not yet been ratified. We will keep the community posted. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the conversation and curriculum review.

Community News

Halliday & Hasan Archive Working Group Update

By Helen Caple, Chair of the Working Group

Following on from the AGM at the ASFLA Conference in 2021, a Working Group was established to begin the task of archiving unpublished materials from the estates of Prof. MAK Halliday and Prof. Ruqaiya Hasan. The group is chaired by Helen Caple, and Working Group members are: David Butt, Frances Christie, Yaegan Doran and Geoff Williams.

The Working Group meets once a fortnight and is currently working on the establishment of a trust fund, ongoing fundraising activities, an advisory board, and processes for the cataloguing, archiving and digitization of the collection of materials (an example from one of Halliday & Hasan's photo albums is included here). We are working closely with ASFLA on logistics for this project, but we hope to draw on the support of the wider community and international SFL organisations, once we have formally established the Trust.

The key aims of this group are to preserve the materials (through formal archiving and digitization), and to ensure access to these materials for scholars into perpetuity.

Once digitization has been completed, we will be working towards a permanent online platform for hosting the digitized files and will be negotiating with archiving organisations to secure a permanent home for the original materials.

Over the next 12 months we will use a page on the ASFLA website, and this newsletter, to keep you updated on our progress. If you have any questions or leads on where additional materials might be located, please do get in touch with us: Helen Caple (helen.caple@unsw.edu.au) for general enquiries or offers to help/get involved; and Geoff Williams (geoff.williams@sydney.edu.au) if you have information relating to Ruqaiya Hasan's materials.



Ruqaiya Hasan (17 February 2015)
Photo by Ernest Akerejola

Community News



September 25th 1948. At the honoured arrival of Mr Halliday and Mr Wu Shangwen (CIC), Mr Wu Liang invited scholars of same interest from the corporation to the one-week symposium. Hereby leave a trace to be remembered.
(Translated by Yan Yue)

Community News

Establishment of Special Interest Group (SIG) about compassionate communication

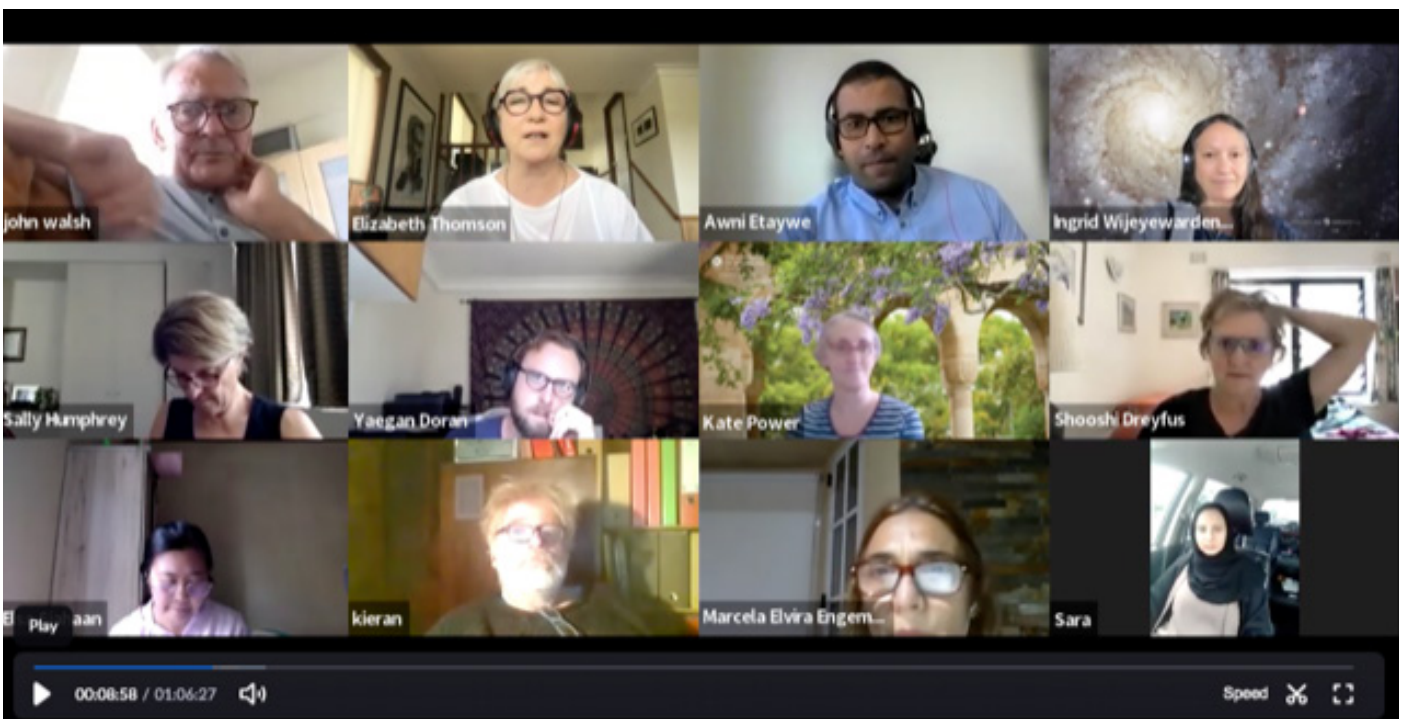
By Elizabeth Thomson

The ASFLA AGM in Sept, 2021 voted on the formation of a Special Interest Group (SIG) dedicated to 'researching and understanding the registers of peace and compassion'. This was an important moment for me as I have wanted to establish a community of like-minded, interested SF scholars who are keen to cooperate in analysing, disseminating and promoting genres of peace, empathy and compassion to the wider community.

And so under the auspices of ASFLA, the inaugural meeting of the SIG was held Dec 1, 2021 via zoom. We had 18 attendees from Australia, South East Asia, Europe and South America. The main purpose of the meeting was to establish the SIG's identity, vision and mission statements. We did this through small group discussions in breakout rooms, documenting the views of attendees.

At the end of the meeting, four people volunteered to work with me on drafting statements arising from the needs which surfaced from the discussion groups. Over the summer, this small working party produced two drafts for each statement which were presented to the February 25, 2022 meeting.

At the meeting, we discussed the options and agreed on our preferred SIG Identity, Vision and Mission statements. During the discussion, it was decided to incorporate all types of semiosis, rather than just language. In addition, we agreed on a tag or motto for the Special Interest Group.



Community News

SFL SIG motto:

Moving towards peace through semiotic enquiry

Identity Statement:

We are home to a diverse group of enthusiastic scholars, citizen linguists, teachers and students, working within the tradition of systemic functional semiotics. We collectively seek to understand, promote and raise awareness of the specific functions of language and other semiotic resources to express peace, compassion and empathy in everyday life and in other theatres of social engagement.

Vision Statement:

To empower and improve all lives, we examine and celebrate the semiotics of peace, compassion and empathy through collaboration and research, teaching and training.

Agreed Mission Statement

To realise our vision, we will:

- 1. Identify, analyse and instantiate genres of peace, compassion and empathy**
- by, for example, reading, discussing and creating texts in different professional, disciplinary and community contexts
- 2. Share our findings on the semiotics of peace, compassion and empathy**
- through research, conference sessions, special issues, community outreach and other means of dissemination
- 3. Apply our findings to inform the development of curricula, courses, and training resources oriented towards the language and other semiotic resources of peace, compassion and empathy and mentor junior researchers and teachers** in the implementation of these resources.
- 4. Extend and help resource the work on meaning-making practices and the communication of peace, compassion and empathy**
- by, for example, mentoring junior colleagues, researchers, students, and communities in writing grant proposals; conducting linguistic/discourse/semiotic analyses; collaborating in research projects; hosting reading–writing groups
- 5. Connect and collaborate with other disciplines, groups, organisations, and communities of practice** that practise, research and promote peace, compassion and empathy
- 6. Provide professional commentary** on matters relevant to public discourses of peace and compassion.

While there is always room for improvement, we feel our statements are a good beginning and acknowledge that revisions may result as the SIG evolves and enacts its mission.

I want to thank Ingrid Wijeyewardene, Penny Wheeler, Marcela Engemann and Yusnita Febrianti for their time and commitment over the summer break as together we worked on drafts for February's meeting.

If you are interested in attending the next SIG, feel free. It is open to all and the more the merrier. The next meeting agenda will be sent via asfla.net@freelists.org.

Community News

Duo book launch: "Modelling Paralanguage using Systemic Functional Semiotics" and "Multimodal Literacy in School Science"

On Wednesday March 16 at the The Peter Cosgrove Centre in Australian Catholic University's North Sydney campus, The Australian Catholic University National School of Education and Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education hosted the launch of two cutting-edge new books:

Modelling Paralanguage using Systemic Functional Semiotics

This book is the first comprehensive account of 'body language' as 'paralanguage' informed by Systemic Functional Semiotics (SFS). It brings together the collaborative work of internationally renowned academics and emerging scholars to offer a fresh linguistic perspective on gesture, body orientation, body movement, facial expression and voice quality resources that support all spoken language.

The book, in particular, is timely in offering Primary Literacy Education researchers and educators subject content knowledge for addressing new contents in the reformed NES K-2 English syllabus (2022) including:

- Oral language and communication – Alternative Communication Forms (gesture, body language and facial expression)
- Fluency – Prosody (intonation and voice quality)
- Understanding and Responding to Literature – representation of English Textual Concepts in multimodal digital literature

and

Multimodal Literacy in School Science

This book establishes a new theoretical and practical framework for multimodal disciplinary literacy (MDL) fused with the subject-specific science pedagogies of senior high school biology, chemistry and physics. It builds a compatible alignment of multiple representation and representation construction approaches to science pedagogy with the social semiotic, systemic functional linguistic-based approaches to the explicit teaching of disciplinary literacy.



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Community News

These books will give impetus to the pedagogic development of crucial 21st century multimodal literacies for learning in both science and humanities curricula. The authors are leading international researchers in these fields with wide and deep involvement with the school education community.

The two books are published by lead authors from the Australian Catholic University and include co-authors from the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, Deakin University and University of South Australia.

Dr Thu Ngo of ACU presided over the launch event, inviting speakers both in-person and via Zoom to comment on the books' relevance to their respective fields.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Educational Publishing Awards Australia

Congratulations to Julie Hayes & Bronwyn Parkin 2021 for winning of the Educational Publishing Awards Australia Primary Teaching award for *Teaching the Language of Climate Change Science*, and to Helen Harper & Susan Feez for their highly commended award for *An EAL/D Handbook*.

Free access to *Language, Context and Text* journal for ASFLA members

By Trish Weekes

Just a reminder that ASFLA has purchased membership of the journal *Language, Context and Text*. This journal contains important contributions from SFL scholars which may not be available in all university libraries. You can access Volume 3 by following the instructions below. The journal is hosted by Ingenta Connect and we have set up institutional membership for ASFLA, with the log in details below. Please share them only with ASFLA members.

1. Search for Ingenta Connect.

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/jbp/langct>

Or you can search from Ingenta Connect – Publications – Language Context and Text:



The screenshot shows the Ingenta Connect website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search Ingenta Connect" and a "Search by" dropdown menu. To the right of the search bar are navigation links for "About", "Contact", "Help", "Cart", and social media icons for YouTube, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Below the search bar, there is a "BROWSE BY" section with options for "Publication", "Publisher", and "Subject". The main content area displays the journal title "Language, Context and Text. The Social Semiotics Forum" and its ISSN numbers. A sign-in form is visible on the right side of the page, with fields for "Username:" and "Password:", a "SIGN IN NOW" button, and options for "Remember Login" and "Login reminder". There are also links for "OpenAthens" and "Shibboleth".

2. Sign in:

USER NAME: ASFLAjournal1

PASSWORD: ASFLAmembers1

ASFLA Conference 2022

ASFLA 2022

23-25 September
Macquarie University
www.asfla2022.com

The Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association (ASFLA) Conference 2022

We are pleased to announce the first call for papers for the 2022 Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association (ASFLA) Conference, to be held at Macquarie University, from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th September. The pre-conference workshops will run on Thursday, 22nd September.

The theme of ASFLA2022 is *Renewal and Resilience: Making Meaning in a Changing World*, which celebrates SFL's continuing quest for understanding semiosis with a view to making a positive social change. Specifically, we wish to highlight SFL's contributions to understanding how meaning-making resources are used to engage with the issues facing our era of uncertainty and rapid change: pandemics, climate change, infodemics/ misinformation, healthcare, war, technological disruptions, access to (online) education, to name but a few. More broadly, the conference aims to provide a forum for scholarly discussion on how the different areas of SFL theory and related disciplines have been applied, adapted, and/or extended to explore texts in both old and new contexts.

We invite abstracts that relate the conference theme to the fields of research that include but are not limited to:

- SFL
- applicable linguistics
- discourse analysis
- multimodality and social semiotics
- educational and applied linguistics
- digital communication
- healthcare communication
- clinical linguistics
- digital humanities
- translation and interpretation

As always, we welcome all papers aimed at advancing any area of SFL theory or praxis.

Presentation Format:

- Full papers consist of a 25-minute talk followed by 10 minutes for questions and discussion. The word limit for abstracts is 250 words (excluding references).
- Colloquia: As we will only have space for a small number of themed panels, please email the conference organisers separately if you intend to submit a proposal for a colloquium.
- Workshops: If you would like to organise a workshop, please contact the conference organisers directly. Workshops should be practical and involve participants in activities. Ideally, participants will experience methods of SFL analysis. All workshops need to state the level of prior knowledge or experience expected.

Key Dates

- Deadline for abstract submission: 17th April 2022
- Notification of acceptance: 15th May 2022

For further information, please visit our website: www.asfla2022.com.

ASFLA2022 Organising Committee:

- Sharyn Black, The University of New South Wales
- Jing Fang, Macquarie University
- Yulia Kharchenko, Macquarie University
- Cassi Liardet, Macquarie University
- Melissa Reed, Macquarie University
- Chavalin Svetanant, Macquarie University
- Dragana Stosic, Macquarie University
- Jiayu Wang, Macquarie University

Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the latest conference news and to connect with the [#ASFLA2022](https://twitter.com/ASFLA2022) community.

Grants and Scholarships

ASFLA Small Grants

Have you got a great idea but not enough money to make it happen?

Maybe ASFLA can help!

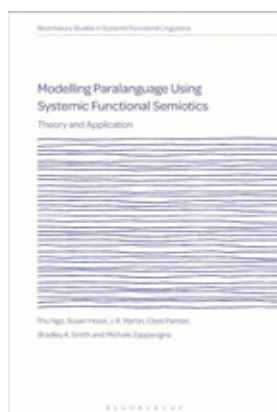
ASFLA offers small grants of \$500 - \$1500 to kick-start research projects in systemic functional linguistics.

We particularly welcome applications from ECRs and SFL-researchers who are in non-permanent positions.

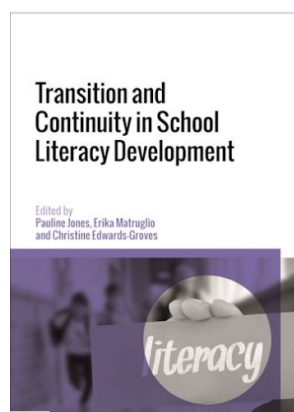
Email our president Yaegan Doran at yaegan.doran@acu.edu.au with a one-page project outline, also indicating how your research will benefit the ASFLA community, and a separate one-page budget plan with costs fully outlined.

There's no deadline for small grants - they are available any time.

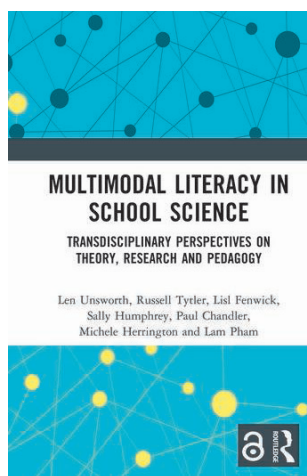
New Publications



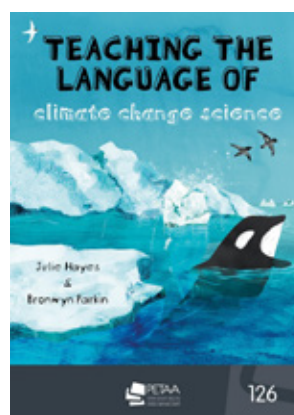
Ngo, T., Martin, J. R., Hood, S., Painter, C., Smith, B. A., & Zappavigna, M. (2021). *Modelling Paralanguage Using Systemic Functional Semiotics*. Bloomsbury Academic.



Jones, P., Matruglio, E., & Edwards-Groves, C. (Eds.). (2021). *Transition and continuity in school literacy development*. Bloomsbury Publishing.



Unsworth, L., Tytler, R., Fenwick, L., Humphrey, S., Chandler, P., Herrington, M., & Pham, L. (2022). *Multimodal Literacy in School Science: Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Theory, Research and Pedagogy*. Taylor & Francis.



Hayes, J. & Parkin, B. *Teaching the Language of Climate Change Science*. (2021). Educational Publishing Australia



Harper, H. & Feez, S. (2021) *An EAL/D Handbook*. PETAA

ASFLA membership

You may be wondering what does ASFLA spend its money on?

Over the past few years, for example, ASFLA membership monies have funded the following:

- Subscription to *Language Context and Text*
- Gunther Kress Symposium
- Annual ASFLA conferences
- Annual Hasan Prize
- 2018 Functional description and typology forum
- Appraisal symposia held at USYD (2013, 2015)
- Halliday Symposium at Sydney University 2015
- Hasan Symposium at Macquarie University 2016
- Register and Context Symposia at Macquarie University 2011, 2012, 2013.
- International Educational Semiotics Website
- Numerous international exchanges of scholars
- Student scholarships to ASFLA Conferences
- Over \$16,000 in small grants awarded over the last four years
- Supporting scholars and educators from Australia to present at the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) in Pakistan over the last twenty years.
- and more... what a bargain!

Life Membership

Invest in the future of our association and save yourself some hassle!

Life membership is a great idea. It saves you from having to remember to join each year AND it helps our association. Fees from life memberships have been placed in a special high interest savings account, to be used for future large scale projects. Our funds are mounting nicely, as reported by our then Treasurer Yaegan Doran at the 2018 AGM.

Life membership costs \$250.

How to pay ASFLA membership

1. Go to the ASFLA website www.asfla.net and click on membership.
2. Fill in your details.

ASFLA Membership Form

Please fill out your details

3. Follow the instructions about how to pay by EFT.

Annual membership:

Full – \$40

Student – \$25

School/institutional – \$50

Life membership:

Life – \$250