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## We're Kicking off the Annual Fund Drive – You Can Make a Difference in This Year and Into the Future!

Dear LSA Members -

Thank you for being a member of the Linguistic Society of America. Your membership not only enhances your own professional life. By being a member, you also support students, teachers, researchers, practitioners, departments, and the public use of linguistics. Through your membership and generosity, you enabled LSA to do amazing things this past year, including:



**Providing \$30,000 in membership scholarships.** LSA is committed to making membership available to anyone who is interested in linguistics, regardless of their ability to pay. We also give membership scholarships to high school teachers and students, people who have just earned the Ph.D., and to Indigenous Scholars of the Americas.



**Submitting an amicus brief in the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals demonstrating that linguistic evidence supports the use of chosen pronouns.** Current Florida law bars transgender and non-binary teachers from stating their chosen pronouns or titles in the classroom. Contrary to Florida's contentions, evidence from linguistics demonstrates that pronouns are not making objective truth claims about biology, nor are they difficult for children to learn.



**Building a "big tent" LSA that welcomes all linguists, including establishing the First Generation Access and Equity Committee.** In the words of Joshua Dees, "as a first-generation university student, the LSA has been a game-changer for me. Starting my Ph.D., I felt out of sorts and overwhelmed. Today, thanks to the LSA, I've gained the confidence to thrive in academia. The support I've received has empowered me to fully embrace my role as a scholar—an invaluable experience that's shaping my future."

### This year's goal: \$150,000

**The Executive Committee set a goal of \$150,000 for this year's Annual Fund drive because we want to continue the work you made possible last fiscal year.** Members contributed \$113,000 last year. This year, together, we can do even more to advance the discipline of linguistics, support linguistics students, build a "big tent" LSA, and bring the insights and empirical findings of our discipline to policy makers.

**We need to be frank. LSA is in a difficult position financially.** Scholarly societies like LSA have historically depended on three main sources of revenue: Annual Meeting registration, membership dues, and publication subscriptions. With skyrocketing costs, our Annual Meeting just breaks even in a good year, and even then, requires a subsidy from

unrestricted membership dues if we take into account staffing costs allocated to the Meeting. With declining funding for higher education, our membership numbers are not increasing to meet inflationary increases for operations. And while we are delighted and excited by the expanding open access opportunities in linguistics, we have not yet found a way to replace the lost publication revenue. **The bottom line is that LSA's annual revenue is considerably less than our expenses for core operations.**

But we aren't giving up! Far from it. We are expanding our membership offerings, adding new elements to the Annual Meeting (for example a new segment called LEXING, a symposium for Linguists in Industry, Non-profit, and Government sectors), and exploring new publications opportunities. **Together, we can help us build an even stronger and more vibrant LSA that can do even more to advance the scientific study of language.**

Please help us reach our \$150,000 Annual Fund Drive goal! **It doesn't matter how much you give; all amounts are meaningful and make a difference.** A latte costs about \$5.00 these days. If passing up one latte and sending \$5.00 to LSA is what you can afford, that would help! And if you can afford more, then your donations will help ensure that we reach our \$150,000 goal. Imagine the symbolic power it would provide if, when we go to foundations for program support, we could say that every member contributed!

**Please give at the level that makes sense for you. Click on the QR code or go to [www.lsadc.org](http://www.lsadc.org) and click "Donate." All gifts will be acknowledged on the LSA website.**

**Visionary: \$10,000+**  
**Benefactor: \$5,000 - \$9,999**  
**Patron: \$1,000 - \$4,999**  
**Innovator: \$500 - \$999**  
**Partner: \$250 - \$499**  
**Associate: \$100 - \$249**  
**Ally: \$11 - \$99**  
**Supporter: \$5 - \$10**



**Help us do even more in the year ahead and make a donation to the LSA Annual Fund Drive.**

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlyse".

Marlyse Baptista  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret".

Margaret Vitullo  
Executive Director

**P.S. Your gift, no matter the size, matters!**