



# NYS AFLT NEWS

New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.

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**Paul Sabatino**

## The President's Corner

Fall is almost over. Evocative landscapes of spectacular colors are behind us. The first dustings of winter have already appeared. This is the time when most of us are busy with myriad chores, some tedium, but there is much palpable excitement in the air. The stage is set for the next season with anticipation of family gatherings and holiday cheer.

This will be my last President's Corner article, and I wish to express my gratitude for the honor you have given me to represent our association. Your support,

sound advice and suggestions have been of great help. Last January, when with the sound of the gavel I opened our first meeting, I set a course for the direction I intended to follow. It was and it will always be my conviction that NYS AFLT's distinctive attributes are the individual members who comprise our organization. With your support, we have been able to stay the course, achieve noteworthy objectives, and lay the foundation for the realization of other long-range aims. We have instituted a statewide James E. Allen Award; with the help of Webmaster **Ken Hughes**, we now have a link that highlights regional and national media articles that put the spotlight on LOTE; and Curriculum Enhancement Chairperson **Toni Johnson**, assisted by **Michelle Mong**, is putting the finishing touches on a new link that will list NYS AFLT-sponsored classroom activities. It will include categories related to specific areas of studies, such as culture, grammar, history, language, literature, music, and other essential, classroom-tested topics.

One other area that I identified as in need of further exploration is the assistance and support of organizations outside our own collegial circles. I see the need to connect with the national and international business world so that we can promote and expand our mission. For this reason, during our annual meeting this past October, I scheduled a Symposium “*LOTE on the Move in the 21st Century*”, skillfully moderated by **Robin Thompson**. A panel of speakers, representing K-16 LOTE Educators, LOTE book educators, the N.Y.S. Education Department, N.Y.S. Business Council, World Trade Council and the U.S. Department of Commerce, national and international print and TV media, consular and diplomatic corps, all contributed their perspective on the teaching of LOTE, as well as workforce expectations for the global community and the economy of the 21st Century. The overwhelming response from the panelists and participants was that this is an area of crucial importance and certainly worthy of further exploration. We all look forward to the next phase of this initiative, appreciating the timeliness and utmost relevance of open dialogue in this area of mutual interest and benefit.

I encourage you to be pro-active in all things NYS AFLT. You are the lifeline of our organization. Through the years we have made

significant progress. The most recent and noteworthy achievement, long-awaited and supported by our organization, is the Board of Regents’ endorsement of the alternative Certification requirements that will facilitate the recruitment of prospective LOTE teachers. Our Board of Directors recently approved, and you voted on, some very important constitutional changes initiated by our Past President **Louis Baskinger**, and brought to successful fruition by our immediate Past President **Joanne O’Toole** and Executive Director **John Carlino**. We have begun a mentoring program, thanks again to Joanne who, together with our **President-Elect Susan Hochmuth**, is coordinating the one-on-one matching of interested participants. Many thanks go to **John Carlino**, the person behind the countless details that make our organization hum like a fine-tuned machine; our Treasurer **Deborah Carlson** and her keen ability to make the most of our resources; **Sue Barnes** and her superb organizational skills; **Sue Hochmuth**, First Vice-President who ran a highly successful Summer Institute this past Summer; our Second Vice-President **Irma Evangelista**, who had the huge responsibility of organizing the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting this past October; **Mary McBride**, our Secretary, whose thoughtful contributions and comprehensive minutes helped keep everyone on task during our meeting. **Ken Hughes**, our

webmaster, whose tech-savvy and novel ideas keep NYS AFLT on the cutting edge of technology; all our committee chairpersons and committee members, and all the volunteers who gladly give of their time and expertise. To all of you, my esteemed colleagues, I owe a huge debt of gratitude. Without your help and judicious advice, the steady and ground-breaking progress of NYS AFLT, its major events and hundreds of workshops, the awards and grants, and many other state-wide, regional and local activities would come to a screeching halt!

As in my first newsletter article, again I challenge our 2000+ members to be the observing participants within and outside the walls of the classroom. Delve into the daily lessons and discard those elements that do very little to promote the long-range focus of a LOTE program. A well-articulated series of components that use yesterday’s lesson as a point of departure for tomorrow’s objectives can and will have positive outcomes. And as important as vertical articulation is to the upward spiraling of language learning, so is horizontal articulation. Open and continuous communication among and between colleagues is crucial to the overall success of any program. Interclass visitations: why not? Why not embrace this invaluable supportive practice? Staff development has its rightful place, but it can never equal

the benefit of the personal interaction with intra- and inter-departmental colleagues.

LOTE pedagogy, like the seasons of the year, comes with its multicolored facets. While the correct methodology delivers an effective lesson, the art of connecting with our students is and will always be an inspiration, sometimes elusive and indefinable, sometimes intense with its requirements. And so, as we interact with our students and draw inspiration from their learning, let's move forward with the resolve of the artist who seizes the moment with palette in hand, and with skillful strokes of the brush, sees a wonderful landscape begin to emerge and develop in its entire dazzling splendor.

Happy and safe holiday cheers to all!

## Assistant Director Appointed

Roseann Lorefice has been appointed to the newly created NYSAFLT position of Assistant Director. After over 30 years as a LOTE educator, Roseann officially retired to pursue other language interests. She is currently an adjunct instructor at SUNY Cortland and a supervisor of student teachers. She continues as a Regents Item Writer and Exam Reviewer for the State Education Department and is a consultant for Teacher Certification Exams. Roseann has been involved

with NYSAFLT as a Regional Director and as chairperson of both the Public Relations and Affiliates Committees. She is a recipient of a study abroad scholarship from the French Cultural Services and was awarded the NYSAFLT President's Award in 2002. She is a past president and newsletter editor for FLACNY and currently edits the newsletter for the central NY chapter of the AATF.

In her position as Assistant Director, Roseann will be responsible for coordinating student and teacher awards. She'll be the point person for the NYSAFLT Journal, the NYSAFLT News and the Annual Meeting Publication, and will also serve as liaison between committee chairs and the Board of Directors.

We are happy to welcome Roseann to this position. She brings many talents and a wealth of experience. We wish her the very best!

## Annual Meeting 2008

The NYSAFLT Annual Meeting was a huge success! Kudos to **Irma Evangelista**, 2008 Meeting Chairperson, for planning a spectacular weekend of professional development and camaraderie in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Saratoga Hilton and Saratoga Springs City Center on **October 10 – 12**. After pre-conference workshops, the keynote speech



*NYSAFLT Members with Justo Lamas*

was delivered by **“Tennessee Bob” Robert D. Peckham, Ph.D.**, Professor of French, Department of Modern Foreign Languages, University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Peckham was the recipient of this year's Robert J. Ludwig National Distinguished Leadership Award.

The theme of this year's meeting was “Teaching Languages in a Changing World: Rethinking Literacies and Learners.” There were over ninety workshops, including a symposium, aimed at preparing LOTE educators to meet the present and future needs of students.

LOTE teachers were not only provided with quality professional development at the Annual Meeting: at the awards banquet, individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions to LOTE education. Entertainment and dancing followed, thanks to the talents of singer **Justos Lamas** and our own webmaster/D.J. **Ken Hughes**.

The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to make connections with colleagues from around the state, acquire

valuable professional enrichment, and remain updated on LOTE issues. Plans are already underway for the 2009 Annual Meeting. If you would like to volunteer for a committee or submit a workshop proposal, please visit [www.nysaflft.org](http://www.nysaflft.org).

## Colloquium 2009

Plans are underway for the 2009 NYS AFLT Colloquium. Mark your calendar for **April 24-25, 2009**: the Colloquium, organized this year by Chairperson **Sue Hochmuth**, will be held at the Best Western Sovereign in Albany. Check the website at [www.nysaflft.org](http://www.nysaflft.org) periodically for updates.

## NYS AFLT Election Results

Congratulations to the following on receiving majority votes in the recent NYS AFLT election:

### OFFICERS

**President-Elect:**

**Susanne Hochmuth**

**First Vice-President:**

**Irma Evangelista**

**Second Vice-President:**

**Nancy Ketz**

**Secretary: Toni P. Johnson**

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Buffalo –

**Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D.**

Mid-Hudson –

**Diana Zuckerman**

Syracuse - **Barbara Allen**

Capital - **Michael T. Michell**

New York City –

**Vivian P. Selenikas**

Rochester - **Lucy Ferruzza**

Long Island –

**William Anderson**

### NOMINATING

### COMMITTEE

**Candace R. Black**

**Kathryn Fagan**

**Alice N. Manning**

**Mary B. McBride, Ph.D.**

**Patience Peebles**

**Natalye (Moss) Polack**

**Rosa Riccio Pietanza**

## Regional News

### Central N.Y./FLACNY

The Foreign Language Association of Central New York (FLACNY) hosted its annual FLACNY Regional conference on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at the Holiday Inn on Carrier Circle, East Syracuse, New York. This year's theme was "Engaging All Learners."

Session 1 workshops included "PACE Model" presented by **Melissa Hoch**, Central Square High School; "Using TPRS Techniques to Keep Your Students Engaged and Coming Back for More" presented by **Marji LaBella** and **Jessica Potter** from the Camden Central School District; "Reading and Listening Strategies for Checkpoint C" presented by **Dr. Anita Vogely**, Binghamton High School.

Session 2 provided immersion workshops, including: French Immersion- "La Belgique," presented by **Véronique Bennett**, La Petite Planète and OASIS; Spanish Immersion- "Dificultades en Enseñar y Aprender Español," presented by **Hugo Acosto**, Owner and Publisher of CNY Latino magazine; "Other



*Dedicated LOTE instructors attend a Saturday morning conference with N.Y.S. Teacher of the Year Vickie Mike.*

Languages Immersion Tables," facilitated by **Rosanne Perla**, East Syracuse-Minoa High School.

### FLACNY Election Results

#### 2009 FLACNY

#### Executive Board

**President Nathan Lutz**,

Manlius Pebble Hill School

**Vice President Libby Stacey**,

Liverpool High School

**Treasurer Rosanne Perla**,

East Syracuse-Minoa High School

They will be joining:

**Secretary Charlene Holmes-**

**Sullivan**, Auburn High School

**Newsletter Editor Chris**

**Caskey**, Syracuse City School District

**Past President Laura**

**Shippee**, Living Word Academy

**SUPER-FLACNY Liaison**

**Barbara Gordon**, retired,

Liverpool High School  
**Member-at-Large Mary Pat Mahar**, Liverpool Middle School

For more information about FLACNY, please go to [www.flacny.net](http://www.flacny.net).

## ***Southern Tier***

On October 25, 2008, the Southern Tier Region of NYSAFLT held their Regional Conference at Tioga Middle School. The conference participants were treated to a keynote address entitled "Your Camera = Your TA" by **Bill Ryall**, the "Best of Show" presenter for the 2007 Annual Meeting. President-Elect **Sue Barnes** informed the audience of the benefits of being a NYSAFLT member.

Attendees also had the opportunity to attend two workshops of their choice, including helping students arrive at Checkpoints B and C, using the SMART Board™, motivational strategies, TPRS, using the internet in the LOTE classroom and grading the Proficiency Exam.

Directors **Marie Chianese** and **Karen Martín Sánchez** were honored to have this year's New York State Teacher of the Year, **Vickie Mike** from Horseheads Central Schools, as their guest and as one of the workshop presenters. A big thank you goes out to all the presenters, vendors, participants, guests, and planners who made the event a success!

## ***Westchester***

Our first WAFLE (Westchester Association of Foreign Language Educators) meeting got off to a wonderful start with introductions of our new executive board for 2008-2009: **Alexis Thornton**, President; **Amanda Clark**, Vice-President; **Roxanne Franquelli**, Secretary; **Julie Bianchi**, Treasurer; **Collette Dupré**, **Sally Barnes** and **Jeanne Anzalone**, Program Coordinators. An award was presented to our very own **Sophie Kent** for her administration of the Grand Concours National French Exam. We also recognized **Marissa Coulehan** (who could not be with us), who has stepped up to act as a Regional Director to NYSAFLT, replacing **Francesco Fratto** for the remainder of his term.

After all of this excitement, we were delighted by our new WAFLE president **Alexis Thornton** who gave a presentation on activities to start the new school year and games for the LOTE classroom. Our second meeting was a first for WAFLE: a "Swap and Shop" at Forty Four Tapas Restaurant in Croton-on-Hudson on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Members exchanged copies of useful activities for the LOTE classroom.

## ***Newsletter***

If you have an idea that you have not seen highlighted in the ***NYSAFLT News*** please be sure to send your ideas to the editor, **Mary Leptak**, at [newsletter@nysaflt.org](mailto:newsletter@nysaflt.org).

## ***In Memoriam***

**Chuck Zimmerman**

**Friends and Colleagues of Jo Zimmerman at the NYSPEF**

## ***NYSAFLT Cards***

Are there people that you would like to recognize or honor? Remember you can now send greetings, words of comfort, or any other sentiment with a NYSAFLT card.

For a minimum of \$5.00 per card, we will send your message and the fact that a donation has been made. These will be published in the ***NYSAFLT News*** and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship.

Cards may be obtained by going to [www.nysaflt.org](http://www.nysaflt.org), clicking on "Donate" or by sending a check (made payable to **NYSAFLT**) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters  
2400 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

# Mark Your Calendars

## December

- 8-9 Board of Regents Meeting
- 15 Deadline: Expense Vouchers to Headquarters
- 15 Deadline: Submission of Final Standing Committee Reports to President

## January

- 12-13 Board of Regents Meeting
- 15 Deadline: Novgorod Award Applications
- 15-17 NYSAFLT Meetings: Executive Committee, Board, Financial Management Committee

## March

- 1-31 National Foreign Language Month
- 2-8 New York State Foreign Language Week
- 7 Executive Committee Meeting (Buffalo)
- 14 NYSAFLT Rochester Regional Conference
- 15 AATI Award Applications
- 15 Deadline: Fulvi Student Applications to Directors
- 16-17 Board of Regents Meeting
- 21 COLT - NYSAFLT Regional Conference
- 28 WAFLE - NYSAFLT Regional Conference

## February

- 01 Deadline: March *Newsletter*
- 01 Deadline: Journal Issue #1
- 9-10 Board of Regents Meeting
- 28 WNYFLEC - NYSAFLT Regional Conference



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