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NYSAFLT

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News

A quarterly publication of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.
Volume 36, No. 4 Mary Leptak, Editor December 2009

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The President's Corner

Hello, NYSAFLTerS! It is November as I write this and thoughts are turning to Thanksgiving and holiday time.

I know you have all seen the holiday products out in the stores already! For most of us, the end of the first marking period has just passed. Perhaps your district, like mine, required 10 week assessments to obtain data to assess how students are doing. We are all working hard everyday to help our students acquire another language – to help them communicate at some level of proficiency. Along with that, we are dealing with difficult economic times, reduced staff and increased work loads, students who seem harder to engage, family stresses and just life in general.

It is easy to fall into discouragement or negativity. There are so many demands on your time. I know I am running as fast as I can to stay ahead of that steamroller called life that is VERY close on my heels! Holidays, although usually a positive, happy time, put added stress on an already full schedule. How do we stay sane with all these issues pressing down on us? Well, if I had a pill that would take care of it, I would be a millionaire. But I am just like you – struggling to get through each day, doing the best I can.

I would like to remind you of some of the ways that NYSAFLT can help ease these stressful times for you. NYSAFLT can't do your holiday baking for you, but we can help you check off some items on your holiday shopping list. Check out NYSAFLT tee-shirts at <https://www.nysaft.org/store.html>. They make great gifts for department members and other people interested in LOTE. I love NYSAFLT tee-shirts!

Just a reminder that, according to our organization's mission statement, **NYS AFLT exists to:**

- promote the study of languages and cultures.
- communicate information to our membership.
- foster and promote articulation at all levels of instruction.
- respond to the changing needs of foreign language professionals and students.
- lead and prepare the profession for foreign language teaching in the 21st century.

Also, **NYS AFLT's goals (also listed at www.nysaflt.org) are to:**

- promote the study of languages and cultures as outlined in the state and national standards.
- serve all areas of language study including Modern Languages, the Classics, Heritage Languages, English to Speakers of Other Languages, Bilingual Education, Native American Languages and American Sign Language.
- view foreign languages as an integral part of a multi-disciplinary education.
- view foreign languages as an integral part of the core curriculum.
- serve as a model for the interweaving of content and pedagogy.
- serve as a clearinghouse for research and information (e.g. exchange programs, grants, courses, study opportunities).
- encourage the foreign language educator to engage in action research for the classroom.
- foster and promote articulation with and among all levels of foreign language learning.
- provide and serve as a resource for quality professional development and lifelong learning.
- provide a network of support services to the foreign language educator.
- respond to the changing needs of foreign language professionals.
- assume the responsibility to develop future leaders in the foreign language profession.
- serve as a liaison to other professional and educational organizations.

In my years with NYS AFLT, I have found it to be a vital organization that does its best to respond to the changing world of education and its members' needs. The ideas I have received and the contacts I have made through my membership in the organization have made my life as a language teacher much easier. NYS AFLT, like all of us, is working hard to maintain its goals and standards in these difficult financial times. NYS AFLT has a fabulous website, maintained by our Webmaster extraordinaire, **Ken Hughes**, and all the people who provide him with items to post. The list of resources that you can find there are too numerous to outline here. But if you went through the mission statement and goals listed above, you would find that many of them are addressed and fulfilled via the website.

Here are some of my recommendations for ways to enhance your professional life, make it easier, and maybe even fulfill some New Year's resolutions:

- Keep your NYS AFLT membership current for 2010! Encourage others to do so also. Help us reach more people. What a great holiday gift membership could be – especially for a student!
- Take advantage of all that NYS AFLT has to offer you to help make your life as a language educator easier and more effective. Watch for announcements of future webinars and upcoming events.
- Apply for NYS AFLT scholarships and grants: note that many deadlines have been changed to December 15. This year's deadline has been extended to **January 15, 2010**.
- Use the website as a resource for advocacy information to promote language study and defend your program.
- Make sure your administrators are aware of the new webpage for administrators found at <http://www.nysaflt.org/admin/>.
- Visit the site on a regular basis to see what is new.
- Let the officers/headquarters know if you have creative ideas for ways that the organization can better meet the needs of language teachers.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season! Keep smiling and stay positive!

~Sue Barnes



NYS AFLT's 92nd Annual Conference



NYS AFLT's 92nd Annual Conference was held at the Buffalo Hyatt Regency and Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, New York. This year's theme, **Language Teachers: Seeing the Needs, Making a Difference**, was truly fulfilled with the availability of over 100 workshops and the inspiring message delivered by **Terry Caccavale**, Holliston Public Schools, Immediate Past President of the National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL), the keynote speaker.

The tone of the conference was set by the keynote speech on Friday evening. **Terry Caccavale** conveyed her message with humor and compassion, obviously important components of her teaching style. Terry spoke of total immersion in the classroom, of special needs students who later achieved success by even the most stringent of standards, and of how these two particular points are by no means mutually exclusive; rather, how the benefits of teaching in the target language are of actual benefit to all students.

Listen to Terry's inspiring speech in its entirety at: <http://cast.nysaflt.org/audio/2009ackeynote.mp3>. Her enthusiasm is truly contagious. This is a "must listen" for each of us as we, too, try each day to meet the needs of the students in our classrooms.

This conference offered an almost dizzying array of options, yet there were enough offerings during each time slot to achieve a truly balanced professional development experience. Technology, lesson planning, culture, teaching grammar in the target language, incorporating authentic materials and state standards were all addressed.



Above: Dedicated LOTE educators traveled from across the state and beyond to attend the NYS AFLT Annual Conference. There were workshops offered for everyone, from novice to veteran teachers.

Throughout the weekend, there were several ceremonies celebrating the efforts of NYS AFLT members who used their various talents for the good of the organization, culminating with Saturday evening's awards banquet. Members who had distinguished themselves in the field received recognition at the gala event. Attendees enjoyed a scrumptious dinner, along with good times with colleagues and entertainment.

The 92nd Annual Conference was an event to remember. Kudos to 2009 Conference Chairperson **Nancy Ketz** and Headquarters Staff for organizing a weekend of professional development, complete with fresh and innovative workshops as well as wonderful opportunities to network with colleagues. The numerous vendors also made it an excellent time to browse a plethora of available LOTE materials all under one roof.

Remember to start planning now for the 2010 Annual Conference! Visit www.nysaflt.org for more information and consider submitting a workshop proposal!



Rosa Riccio Pietanza, a recipient of the Dorothy S. Ludwig Memorial Award for Service to the Profession.



David Graham, NYS AFLT Past President and current Northern-West Director; his wife Louise Pilon Graham.; Josephine Maietta; keynote speaker Theresa Sullivan Caccavale; Simona Rodano, La Fata Italiana; and Susan Barnes, NYS AFLT President.



NYS AFLT Teams Up for the Spring Colloquium

“If we can make it there, we’ll make it anywhere...”

NYS AFLT and NECTFL are teaming up this spring!!! Within the framework of the Northeast Conference, NYS AFLT is conducting its Spring Colloquium. This wonderful collaborative effort will take place **March 25 – 27, 2010** at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. This year’s theme, “Simply Irresistible: People, Programs, and Practices that Inspire,” will be reflected in the series of expert panels that will be held on Friday and Saturday.

“NYS AFLT People that Inspire” will be composed of panelists **Jo-Ann Esrick**, 2008 winner of the Ruth E. Wasley Outstanding Foreign Language Educator Award (K-12); **Rosa Riccio Pietanza**, NYU – Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, 2010 NYS AFLT Dorothy Ludwig Award for Service to the Profession; and **Joanne O’Toole**, past president of NYS AFLT, current NECTFL Board candidate, and past winner of several NYS AFLT awards. The panelists will explore what defines an inspirational language teacher and discuss who and what has inspired them in their careers.

“NYS AFLT Programs that Inspire” will discuss the characteristics of inspirational language programs, the current challenges facing language programs and the vision for language programs in the future. Panelists include **Mary Holmes**, New Paltz CSD, NYS AFLT First Vice-President, former NYSED LOTE Associate and author of the NYSED LOTE Model Program self – evaluation tool; **Al Martino**, Instructional Administrator of Foreign Languages and ESL, Guilderland CSD, former NYSED LOTE Associate, and Past President of NYS AFLT; and **Reina McGoldrick**, representing Rye City School District, winner of the 2009 NYS AFLT Sally G. Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award.

The third panel, “NYS AFLT Practices that Inspire,” will consist of NYS AFLT expert practitioners who will share their philosophies on best practice in the language classroom. These practitioners include: **Vickie Mike, Ed.D.**, 2009 N.Y.S. Teacher of the Year, 2009 NECTFL Nominee to ACTFL Teacher of the Year and NYS AFLT Treasurer (2010-2011); **Bill Heller**, 2009 NYS AFLT Colloquium Keynote speaker, frequent NYS AFLT, NECTFL and ACTFL presenter; **John Webb, Ed. D.**, Director of the Program in Teacher Preparation, Princeton University, and past president of NYS AFLT.

In our final session, “NYS AFLT Showcase Panel,” the Executive Committee of NYS AFLT will showcase all that NYS AFLT is and has to offer to inspire our members to be leaders in the profession.

Please don’t miss this opportunity for professional development and networking with language educators from around the northeast.

“...it’s up to you.....New York, New York! Join us there!!!”



FYI: Deadline Changes

The school year has started. Is this the year you plan to apply for a teacher travel scholarship? A teacher incentive grant? A travel award to lead your students abroad? The James E. Allen Award to recognize your outstanding LOTE program?

If this is the year that you plan to apply for that scholarship or to submit an award nomination, please be aware that the traditional deadlines for these awards (spring) have been changed to **December 15**. This will allow for better planning for summer travel, for student groups traveling abroad, and allot ample time to document outstanding LOTE programs.

AND NOW, the deadline for awards has currently been extended to January 15, 2010. If you are thinking of applying for a summer travel scholarship/stipend, Gertrude Rossin/Teacher Incentive Award, Undergraduate or Post-Baccalaureate Scholarship, Zimmerman Student Travel Award, Hahn-FLES or James E. Allen Award, please visit www.nysaflt.org. In the "Members Only" section of the website, you will find the printable application, due on **January 15, 2010**. *In future school years, these award applications will have a uniform deadline of December 15.*

Descriptions of all awards and scholarships are available on the NYSAFLT website.

NEW at NYSAFLT

As already noted, Webmaster **Ken Hughes** has been busy adding many new features to the NYSAFLT website. In case you missed the listserv announcement introducing them, please take note of the following:

- The members of the Supervision Committee, chaired by **William Anderson**, have worked to develop common talking points related to LOTE education that would benefit New York State Administrators. There is a new website specifically for administrators: www.nysaflt.org/admin. Share this website address with your administrators as it is an invaluable tool in understanding and adhering to state policy.
- There is now a Website of the Year contest, open to all NYSAFLT members and their departments. Click [here](#) for contest rules and judging criteria. The deadline for entries is **April 15, 2010**. The winning website from each region will receive mention at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference. The overall State winner will receive recognition and a customized plaque at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference.
- There is now a NYSAFLT Speaker's Bureau. Do you have an expertise that you are willing to share? Are you looking for a presenter for a local or regional meeting? Check out this newest resource on the NYSAFLT website; click on "Speakers Bureau" under "Resources."
- The NYSAFLT website is starting a database of LOTE activities! Do you have a special lesson activity that you are willing to share with your colleagues? You may register this online on the Activity Database located under Resources on the homepage.



NYS AFLT Election Results

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

OFFICERS	REGIONAL DIRECTORS	NOMINATING COMMITTEE
President-Elect: Nancy H. Ketz	Buffalo Joann Thomasson	Louis K. Baskinger
First Vice-President: Mary G. Holmes	Capital Leslie Kudlack	Lillian Carey
Second Vice-President: Deborah Carlson	Mid-Hudson Margit Kaindl-Richer	Jill Dugan
Treasurer: Vickie Mike, Ed.D.	New York City Justine Freitas	Bill Heller
	Northern-East Mary Scharf	Jodi Larock
	Rochester Ida C. Wilder	Karen Moretti
	Southern Tier Molly Pioch	Dora L. Villani
	Westchester Enzina Zaino	

The NYS AFLT President for 2010 is **Susanne Hochmuth**. **Toni P. Johnson** will continue in her term as Secretary. Thanks to all for giving of your time and leadership to NYS AFLT!

Regional News

Central New York Region

Language Educators of Central New York (LECNYS) (formerly known as FLACNY) hosted its annual LECNY-NYS AFLT Regional Conference on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Rosetti Education Center, Madison Oneida BOCES, Vernon, New York. At the conference, **West Genesee CSD** was recognized as both the Syracuse Region James E. Allen Award winner and the first-ever Statewide James E. Allen Award for Outstanding LOTE Department.

At the conference, the sessions included a presentation by Tracy Brady entitled “Moroccan Cuisine,” Amy Pento’s “Podcasting in the LOTE Classroom,” and Karen Moretti and Laurie Clarcq’s workshop “Ready, Set, Go! Games and Activities for a Winning Classroom.”

There was a second session of immersion workshops representing an array of languages: for French, **Françoise Piron** organized “*L’Afrique, c’est chic!*”; for Spanish there was a panel discussion among Latino Youth: “*Lo que es cool en mi país: el argot, la música, la moda, y las actividades*”; Italian was included with

Ferdinando Cusato's "*I murali di Calabria*"; and Chinese, German, and any other languages were given the opportunity to have informal gatherings.

For more information about LECNY, please go to <http://www.lecny.org>.

Long Island Region

At the **AATI Long Island Chapter's** annual end of the year meeting, three students were awarded scholarships: **Emily Grazia (Rosa Manzo, teacher)**, **Diana Kesselman (Aurora O'Brien, teacher)**, and **Frank Canella (Dr. Craig Butler, teacher)**.

The **AATSP-Long Island Chapter** had a successful 2008-2009 year and is looking forward to the same for 2009-2010. Due to the positive response to last year's highly popular workshops offered by the chapter, this academic year the chapter has several professional development workshops scheduled on topics generated by the requests of members, including "Using SMART Board, Teaching to Checkpoint C and Beyond", "*Dia de los Muertos* Culture Lessons", "Proficiency Exam Preparation, PowerPoint Lessons and Registration for the NSE." Additionally, the chapter continues its Victor Baptiste Essay Contest and the Judy Abrams Scholarship, which honors an outstanding graduating high school senior. The 2009-2010 year culminates with the annual *Entrega* Ceremony which recognizes the accomplishments of Long Island students of Spanish through awarding of medallions, plaques and door prizes. Last year's *Entrega* ceremony consisted of over 300 students, guests and teachers who enjoyed refreshments and a reception at Jericho High School. The NSE (National Spanish Exam) continues to grow in registration having over 4,000 Long Island student-participants last year. As the exam is now administered by computer, teacher members are finding it more convenient to involve their students. For further information on all AATSP-LI Chapter activities, check out the blog at <http://aatsplongisland.edublogs.org> (which is updated constantly and is an excellent teacher resource for the classroom and lessons) or newsletter, *El Informador* (also published on their blogs), or email at aatsp.longisland@gmail.com.

The **LILT** Fall General Membership Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16 at the Plainview Holiday Inn. Changes to the LILT Constitution were ratified by the membership. The **LILT Regional Conference** was held on November 14 at Bay Shore Middle School. This year's theme was "Navigating in the Digital Age."

Mid-Hudson Region

There are a number of language-related opportunities available in the Mid-Hudson Region. We hope that you can take advantage of some of these.

ALoud (Association of Language Teachers of Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Surrounding Counties) kicked off its calendar for the 2009-2010 school year on **September 29** when **Margit Kaindl-Richer** and **Jeanne Blank** presented on student exchange programs. The Best of NYSAFLT, including highlights from the Summer Institute and the Annual Conference, was showcased on **November 17**. Other dates include **January 12** (a technology-related theme will be presented), **February 23** (a presentation on literacy), and **March 16** (offering an art-related theme). All regular meetings will be from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at SUNY Ulster. In addition, the ALoud-NYSAFLT Regional Conference will be in April and the dinner will be in May.

The World Languages Work Group of Ulster BOCES has begun its offering of six workshops for this school year. **October 1** was *Folders, Foldables, and Graphic Organizers*; **December 3** will offer an *Introduction to Regional Foods and their History*; *21st Century Learners in the LOTE Classroom* is the topic for **February 4**; *Left and Right Brain Activities* is scheduled for **March 4**; on **April 8** will be *Rubrics in the*

LOTE Classroom and **May 16** will be *What We've Learned Through Our Students*. All workshops are from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at New Paltz BOCES.

BOCES Ulster Adult Career Education Center in Port Ewen is offering several cooking classes with “**Chef Ef**” focusing on the regional cuisine of Spain. For more information go to www.ulsterboces.org or call 845-331-5050.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the **Wappingers Central School District** as the winner of the James E. Allen Award. The James E. Allen Distinguished Foreign Language Program Award recognizes and honors outstanding foreign language programs throughout NYS. Congratulations, Wappingers!

If you have any news you'd like included in the next newsletter, please send the information via e-mail to **Geraldine Popko** at gbpopko@verizon.net or **Diana Zuckerman** at dianazuk@yahoo.com.

Northern-West Region

The Northern-West Region held its meeting on **October 23** at the Savory Café in Watertown. **Joanne O'Toole**, former president of NYSAFLT, gave a fantastic presentation entitled “Propping Up Language Learning.” Joanne set up six stations around the room, each with two prop-making activities. Personal flyswatters, paper doll chains, paper bag puppets, and bookmarks were some of the props made. Everyone had a great time with the structured, hands-on, creative stations and walked away with ideas and materials they could immediately use in their classrooms.



Attendees enjoy station activities at the Northern-West regional meeting.

Participants also brought ideas to share related to culture, integrating technology, TPRS, games, club activities and travel. Next year's meeting will be held in the northern part of the region.

Westchester Region

WAFLE has been off to a great start. At the first meeting in September, several members shared their study abroad experiences. The October 24 meeting took place at Putnam High School with presenter **Sue Fenton**. The **November 17** meeting was a holiday activity *Swap 'n Shop!* On **January 12**, the scheduled meeting includes an informative session based on grading both the Regents and Proficiency exams. Last but not least; the Regional Meeting is schedule for **April 17, 2010**. Participants will have a variety of sessions they can attend. Should you have any questions, please email the president, **Alexis Thornton**, at athornton@pvcasd.org.

National Network for Early Language Learning

The National Network for Early Language Learning, NNELL, would like to express deep appreciation to NYSAFLT for its constant support and advocacy for early language programs pre-K – 8 in New York State. NNELL members were delighted to have **Therese Sullivan Caccavale**, Immediate Past President of NNELL, as the keynote speaker for this year's NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Buffalo. There were many workshops geared to educators and advocates of early language programs at the NYSAFLT conference presented by NNELL members. For more information about NNELL, go to www.nnell.org or contact **Diana Zuckerman**, N.Y.S. NNELL Representative, at dianazuck@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to N.Y. NNELL members from the **Rye City School District**. They received NYSAFLT's Sally G. Hahn Memorial Outstanding FLES Program Award. N.Y. NNELL is proud of them and of the many early language programs offered to our students in New York State.



*Photo (from left to right): **Vanessa Franco** (Rye FLES Teacher), **Sue Hochmuth** (NYSAFLT President-Elect), **Lauren Gobbo** (Rye FLES Teacher), **Reina McGoldrick** (Rye FLES Teacher) and **JoAnne Nardone** (Principal of Milton School, Rye)*



*Photo Left (from left to right): **Diana Zuckerman**, N.Y.S. NNELL Representative; **Therese Sullivan Caccavale**, Immediate Past President of NNELL; **Nathan Lutz**, NNELL's National Networking Coordinator*



NYSACards

In honor of

Alexandra Valenti

on her first teaching job
Good luck and all the best!

In honor of

Mary Leptak, Newsletter Editor

for her competent service and dedication to
NYS AFLT!

Sincerely, Roseann Lorefice

Congratulations to

David M. Steiner

On his appointment as
Commissioner of Education in New York State
from, Marie J. Campanaro, Chairperson
Public Advocacy Committee

Congratulations to

André Winston Lewis

on his appointment as
Deputy Asst. Secretary for International and Foreign
Language Education
from, Marie J. Campanaro, Chairperson,
Public Advocacy Committee

In memory of a great German teacher

Charles Zimmerman

from his friend, Michael Caola

Best Wishes to

Dr. Jean Leloup

upon her retirement from SUNY Cortland
from, Ginny Levine

<p><i>In memory of</i></p> <p>Harriet Franken</p> <p>Mother of Jill Dugan</p> <p>from, Colleen Sheehan</p>	<p><i>In memory of</i></p> <p>Mary Leptak's mother</p> <p>from, Sue Hochmuth</p>
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Are there people whom you would like to recognize or honor? 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.nysaftl.org and clicking on "Donate" or by sending a check (made payable to NYSAFLT) to:

NYSAFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Newsletter: From the Editor

I would like to thank NYSAFLT for the opportunity to have served as Newsletter Editor for the past three years. I have truly enjoyed this position and have learned a great deal. If you, as a member, have an interest in getting involved in a committee or other area, I strongly recommend it! I enjoyed meeting fellow LOTE educators, and fellow members including directors and officers, were always willing to help.

It has also been a unique experience to have played a part in the changes to the *NYSAFLT News*. Webmaster **Ken Hughes** has been highly instrumental in putting it on-line and thus going **green!** For the last year, I have also worked closely with **Roseann Lorefice** as we tried to perfect this new format. Thanks, Roseann! It has been a pleasure to work with you.

The new Newsletter Editor is **Lauren O'Malley**. I am sure that Lauren will help the newsletter to evolve even further, as she brings a wealth of great skills to the job! If you have an idea that you have not seen highlighted in the *NYSAFLT News*, please be sure to send Lauren a message at newsletter@nysaftl.org.

--Mary Leptak



Mark Your Calendars!

December

- 14-16 Board of Regents Meeting
- 15 Deadline: 2009 Expense Vouchers to Headquarters
- 15 Deadline: Final 2009 Standing Committee reports to President

January

- 11-12 Board of Regents Meeting
- 14-16 NYSAFLT Meetings: Executive Committee, Board, Financial Management Committee
- 15 Deadline: Teacher Incentive Grants & Gertrude Rossin Award applications
- 15 Deadline: Undergraduate Student Scholarship applications
- 15 Deadline: Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate Student Scholarship applications
- 15 Deadline: AATI, Cemanahuac, Costa Rica, Goethe Institute, Mexico, Quebec, Spain and South America Travel Awards applications
- 15 Deadline: Zimmerman Travel Award applications
- 15 Deadline: Hahn FLES Program Award applications
- 15 Deadline: James E. Allen Award applications
- 15 Deadline: "Best of State" (Annual Conference) to NECTFL

February

- 01 Deadline: March *Newsletter* submissions
- 01 Deadline: *Journal* Issue #1
- 01 Deadline: Workshop proposals for Annual Conference
- 08-09 Board of Regents Meeting

The NYSAFLT News is published by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.

NYSAFLT 2400 Main Street Buffalo, New York 14214 Telephone: (716) 836-3130 Fax: (716) 836-3020 www.nysaflt.org

NYSAFLT Headquarters Staff

John Carlino
Executive Director

Roseann D. Lorefice
Assistant Director

Kenneth Hughes
Webmaster

AnnMarie Rudin
Administrative Assistant

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