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NYSAFFLT

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News

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The President's Corner

How Does NYSAFLT Work?

As I assumed the office of presidency in January and began to take on its responsibilities, it occurred to me that the membership has already seen me in its leadership ranks for several years. Did you ever wonder why you see the same people being introduced as officers year after year, why it seemed the same people were leaders of NYSAFLT for a really long time, just with different titles? Well, you aren't alone! During a discussion at the January

2009 Board of Directors meeting, it was pointed out that many members probably don't fully understand how the NYSAFLT leadership system works. In fact, several members of the board weren't clear on the process either. Therefore, it seemed appropriate to address this topic in my first NYSAFLT News article as President.

There are seven officers of NYSAFLT: the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Second Vice-President, the First Vice-President, the President-Elect, the President and the Immediate Past President. All of these officers serve the organization in a volunteer capacity. The treasurer serves for a maximum of two, 2- year terms. The same is true for the secretary. A new treasurer and a new secretary are elected on opposite years, so that only one of them would be a new officer in any given year.

The 'officer track' is referred to as such because a person who agrees to run for second vice-president is agreeing to serve in a leadership capacity for a period of five years. Years ago, the leadership of NYSAFLT came up with a plan that would develop the leadership capacity of the organization and, at the same time, designate responsibility for the various conferences. A person who agreed to run and was elected to the position of second vice-president began his or her officer experience as the chairperson of the Annual Meeting. This is the biggest conference sponsored by our organization and routinely attended by hundreds of language teachers from across the state. (At the January Board of Directors meeting, this responsibility was changed to chairperson of the Summer Institute.)

The Nominations Committee works diligently each year to present two candidates for each of the open positions. However, once a person has been elected as second vice-president, that person typically runs unopposed from then on. This happens because a person elected as second vice-president has essentially been elected to serve in the officer track for the next five years.

In the second year of the officer track, that person serves in the capacity of first vice-president, responsible for chairing the annual Summer Institute. (This responsibility was changed to the Annual Conference as of the January Board of Directors Meeting.) In the third year of service, that person becomes the president-elect, responsible for chairing the spring Colloquium and preparing to take on the roll of president the following year. The fourth year marks this person's presidential year. The president performs duties as outlined in the officer job descriptions. The fifth and final year of the officer track, that person serves as the immediate past president, functioning as advisor to the new president.

Our previous leaders demonstrated foresight and wisdom when they developed the officer track system. NYSAFLT is an extremely complex and vital organization. A person moving through the five year presidential track has ample time to learn about the organization and its many facets prior to taking on the responsibility of the presidency. The chance to chair each of the three major conferences, attend and participate in Executive Committee, Board of Directors' and other meetings over the course of three years provides a new president with the background knowledge and experience necessary to lead the organization.

From a personal perspective, I am very thankful that I have had the opportunity to interact with NYSAFLT members, directors, the executive director and officers over the past three years. From them, I have gained tremendous knowledge and understanding of the workings of the organization. I am confident that my experiences as an officer over those years have provided me with a strong background that will better enable me to serve the organization in the presidential role. I believe it would be extremely challenging for a first year officer, without the aforementioned opportunities, to fully understand the complexities of the organization in a brief time.

So, when you hear someone comment about seeing the same people introduced as officers year after year, please gently remind them that those people are gaining knowledge and experiences that will make them better able to lead the organization – that together with the members and the Board of Directors, they are working to promote language teaching and to support language teachers throughout New York State.

Thank you for being part of NYSAFLT. I look forward to seeing you at the spring Colloquium in Albany!



Colloquium 2009: Give Yourself the Gift of Collegial Dialogue

Have you found yourself missing the opportunity to hold a professional dialogue with others in your field? If so, reward yourself with the gift of attending the 2009 Colloquium at the Albany Best Western on **April 24th and 25th**. This year's theme is "Our Second Standard: Integrating and Assessing Culture in the LOTE Curriculum." **Bill Heller**, a frequent presenter at the state and national level, will deliver our keynote address. Our panelists will discuss how we define culture, strategies and activities to integrate culture in our classrooms, ways of assessing culture activities, and how we are preparing teachers to deal with our second

standard. You will have the chance to discuss and examine the role of culture in the LOTE classroom and leave with practical ideas to take back to your students on Monday. For more information, contact **Sue Hochmuth** at shochmuth@nysaflt.org.

NYSAFLT's 92nd Annual Conference

Plans for **NYSAFLT's 92nd Annual Conference** at the Buffalo Hyatt Regency and Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, **October 9 – 11, 2009** are well underway. This year's conference theme is **“Language Teachers: Seeing the Needs, Making a Difference.”** Our keynote speaker is **Terry Caccavale**. Ms. Caccavale, currently a teacher in the Holliston (MA) Public School District, is the Immediate Past President of the National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL).

Session options are:

- Pre-conference workshops (3 hours), Friday 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Regular sessions (1 hour 15 minutes) all day Saturday and Sunday morning
- Post-conference workshops (3 hours), Sunday 12:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Workshop proposals are being accepted on-line until **April 1st**. Your expertise is valuable. Thank you for doing your part to make NYSAFLT a dynamic organization. For further information, and for workshop proposal submission, go to <http://conference.nysaflt.org>.

Have ideas to share with your colleagues? Consider being a presenter at the
92nd NYSAFLT Annual Conference
October 9 – 11, 2009
Buffalo, NY

Workshop proposals accepted online at

<http://conference.nysaflt.org>

Deadline for submission: April 1.

For more information, contact:

Nancy Ketz, 2009 Annual Conference Chair
nketz@nysaflt.org

John Carlino, Executive Director
hq@nysaflt.org



NYSAFLT: Many Voices Contribute to Professional Development

written by Vickie Mike

2009 New York State Teacher of the Year

When I think of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, many voices come to mind. I think of the voice of **Anthony Papalia**, my professor and advisor at the University of Buffalo; the voice of **Beth Bossong**, a former Horseheads colleague who introduced me to the Regional and Annual Meetings; the voice of **Al Martino**, a colleague who encouraged me to get involved, to present workshops, and to share

strategies and materials; the voice of **Harriet Barnett**, with whom I served on committees in Albany; the voice of **Anita Vogely**, who served on my doctoral dissertation committee; the voice of **Eliane McKee**, with whom I traveled to China as part of a World Language Educators' Symposium; the voice of **Jean LeLoup**, who created FL Teach; the voice of **Ginny Levine** of Cortland; and, more recently, the voice of **Jill Dugan**, whom I had the privilege of meeting last October in Albany. Yes, there are so many voices that come to mind when I think of the role NYSAFLT has played in my professional development.

There was no formal mentor program when I began teaching over thirty years ago. My mentors became my college professors, my colleagues at Horseheads, and new colleagues whom I met at NYSAFLT's Regional and Annual Conferences. It was and is through collaboration with all of these NYSAFLT voices that I grew and continue to grow professionally as a teacher.

Professional growth and teacher quality are topics that continue to be discussed in education forums. There are many solutions that are proposed to improve teacher quality. These include, but are not limited to, mentor programs, peer review and assistance, local in-service workshops and classes, and, of course, graduate classes for advanced degrees. While the aforementioned venues for professional development are important, I believe that membership and participation in professional organizations in one's subject area are also crucial to a teacher's professional development. Interacting with colleagues from different regions, from different states, as well as from different countries, provides a teacher with a variety of opportunities for professional dialogues. These dialogues are a vital step in one's professional growth as a teacher.

I thank NYSAFLT for the role it has played in my professional development as a Spanish teacher in New York State.



Regional News

Capital Region

The Capital Region Conference, co-sponsored by NYSAFLT and COLT, will be held on **Saturday, March 21, 2009** at Farnsworth Middle School, Guilderland. The Theme is *“Language Education: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.”*

This star-studded event will be kicked off with our keynote speaker, **Vickie Mike**, NYS Teacher of the Year. There will be workshops by DJ/Webmaster **Ken Hughes** and former SED Associate/Current NYSAFLT Second Vice-President **Mary Holmes**. Also planned are workshops on TPRS, Differentiated Instruction, Checkpoints A & B, FLES, Chinese and technology. The program, schedule of events and registration information will be posted in February on www.capitallanguageteachers.org under “Conferences/Events.”

COLT, a member organization of NYSAFLT, continues to plan social and professional events for Capital Region LOTE teachers. Please visit www.capitallanguageteachers.org for more information.

Mid-Hudson Region

ALoud (Association of Language Teachers of Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Greene Counties) held its Annual Regional Conference on November 1, 2008 at Marist College, overlooking the beautiful Hudson River. Our theme this year was “On-Target in the LOTE Classroom: Increasing Fluency in the Target Language.” Annie Gallin, Director of the Language Immersion Institute at SUNY New Paltz, presented methods to encourage using the acquired language skills in the classroom. Noura Hajjaj taught an immersion lesson in Arabic. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of our participants, presenters, exhibitors and conference planners.

ALoud also sponsors six professional development workshops for in-service credit each school year. Our upcoming topics include using photography in the LOTE classroom (**March 24**) and SMART Boards™ (date TBA). All workshops are held at SUNY/ Ulster from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Our annual dinner is scheduled for **May 14**. For more information contact Secretary **Geraldine Popko** at gbpopko@verizon.net.

We would like to thank **Natalye Moss Polack**, ALoud President, for her service and dedication these past three years as Mid-Hudson Regional Director for NYSAFLT. **Diana Zuckerman** (dianazuck@yahoo.com) has initiated her term as the new board member. Geraldine Popko will continue to serve another year. Please feel free to contact them.

Westchester Region

The NYSAFLT Regional Meeting presented by **WAFLE** (Westchester Association of Foreign Language Educators) will be on **March 28, 2009** from 8:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. at Briarcliff Middle School, Briarcliff Manor, NY. We will have workshops running throughout the day as well as vendors from different companies. The early bird registration cut-off date is March 1st. Anyone who would like more information can contact: **Alexis Thornton** at athornton@pvcisd.org.

Long Island Region

Language Organizations

- The Long Island Chapter of the **AATG** is holding its annual Sprachfest on **February 28** at Massapequa High School. For more information, please contact **Dean Guarnaschelli** at dgsprock@yahoo.com.
- The Long Island Chapter of the **AATSP** has a new and improved website. Check it out at <http://aatsplongisland.edublogs.org/>. Details about the upcoming National Spanish Exam, essay contest and Judy Abrams Scholarship can found there, as well as teacher tips and resources.
- The Long Island Chapter of the **AATI** has the following upcoming events:
March 27 - AATI LI 25th Annual Poetry Contest
April 24 - 3rd AATI LI Professional Meeting
May 16 - Dante Award & Scholarship Luncheon
Please check out the website for details at <http://www.aatili.org/>.
- The deadline for the **AATF** 2009 Walter Jensen Student Scholarship is **March 15**. To apply, go to <http://frenchteachers.org/hq/scholarshipjensen.htm>.

LILT News

- LILT has adopted an online service for its membership. Teachers can now join, renew their membership or register for workshops.
- At year's end, LILT had more than 850 members and continues to grow!
- The LILT/NYSAFLT Regional Conference was held on Saturday, November 15, at Division Avenue HS, Levittown, NY. The theme was “*Teaching Languages to the iGeneration: I am r u?*” Over 400 people attended this event that offered 23 workshops and numerous vendors. Congratulations to **Michele**

Ortiz, the On-Site Conference Chair; **Linda Scalise**, the Off-Site Chair; **Dan Saitta**, the Program Coordinator; and **Diana Riccoboni**, the Vendor Coordinator for the planning of this successful event!

- The LILT Winter Workshop Series begins February 23 and runs thru March 31. Register online to attend one of 13 great workshops being offered this year.
- This year's Poster Contest theme is "*Learn another language! i am . . . r u?*" The deadline for submission is **March 13**.
- The LILT Student Foreign Language Competition will be held this year on **Saturday, March 21** at Bay Shore Middle School. The deadline for entries is **March 1**.
- For more information about these events or to register, please go to www.liltfl.org.

New York City Region

The New York City Regional Committee of NYSAFLT-NYCAFLT-UFT, continues to take great pride in its tradition of offering professional development opportunities to NYC foreign language teachers. The committee consists of eight retired and twenty-two active teachers who meet six Saturdays each year to organize a half-day of workshops in the spring and one full day in the fall. After each committee meeting, the members consistently express their gratitude and appreciation for the support they receive from the committee.

On October 25, 2008, our 11th Annual Professional Development Conference took place at the United Federation of Teachers Headquarters at 52 Broadway. We were most fortunate to have as our keynote speaker **Louis Baskinger**, the 2006 President of NYSAFLT. His presentation was both entertaining and supportive of the conference theme, "NYC Celebrates 2008 International Year of Languages." The conference offered 28 workshops on diverse cultural and pedagogical topics, as well as language-specific sessions in Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish. It also provided a venue for LOTE educators to interact with colleagues from all over the NYC metropolitan area and to view the most recent materials offered by publishers and vendors.

Two other speakers at our Plenary Session who have made significant contributions were **George Altomare** and **Rosa Pietanza**. Thanks to George in his role as the Liaison to Professional Committees at the UFT, we are able to use the UFT's wonderful facility and to be served by its dedicated staff. Rosa, who has just completed her three-year term as NYSAFLT Director for NYC, gave a cogent and insightful presentation entitled "WHY JOIN NYSAFLT?" We also delighted in presenting **Nyree McCray**, the Coordinator of UFT Professional Committees, a well-deserved award for service to our committee.

Gary Milgrom and **Ronnie Maibaum**, the co-chairs of the conference, were assisted by **Nunzia Manginelli**, the Exhibit Chairperson; **Maria Milgrom**, the Registration Chairperson; NYC NYSAFLT Directors, **Rosa Pietanza** and **Karen Cooper**; **Irma Evangelista**, the President of NYCAFLT and the other committee members. We feel a great sense of satisfaction for having met the professional development needs of 356 LOTE educators.

Syracuse Region

The Foreign Language Association of Central New York (FLACNY) hosted its annual SUPER-FLACNY conference on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Goldstein Student Center at Syracuse University. This year's theme, "**Quick Takes**," featured several short presentations ranging from games and strategies to the four skills. There was something for everyone, applicable to any language, and adaptable to all levels. Attendees enjoyed a morning of camaraderie, professional development, and an exchange of ideas, followed by an informal lunch with colleagues. In-service credit was available. For news about future events, please visit http://www.flacny.net/flacny_events.htm.

The Schools and University Partnership for Educational Responsibility (SUPER) is co-sponsored by Syracuse University's Schools of Arts and Science and School of Education. The SUPER program helps

establish conferences and forums to create and strengthen networks for educators in all levels of education. SUPER has enjoyed a long and prosperous relationship with FLACNY and its members. For almost 20 years, this partnership has created an annual conference on the Syracuse University campus, where foreign language teachers can address common concerns and plan new directions for their programs.



Poster Contest Winners

“Languages in a Changing World” was selected as this year’s NYSAFLT Poster Contest theme, and participants illustrated this with skill and originality. The winning entries were:

- **Grand prize: Kaetlin McGee**
Hoover Middle School (**Karen Boehm** and **Anne Crusan**, teachers)
- **Elementary Division: Rachel Lim**
Herricks Middle School (**Thomas Coleman**, teacher)
- **Middle School Division: Christina Lekki**
Hoover Middle School (**Karen Boehm** and **Anne Crusan**, teachers)

We thank all participating students and teachers for their outstanding enthusiasm toward promoting world languages!

Call for Award Nominations

Do you know of a student or teacher of LOTE deserving of a scholarship for further study or recognition for his or her hard work? Perhaps in your community there is a language program worthy of recognition or a particularly strong supporter of languages. Consider nominating an individual or school for a NYSAFLT Award.

Visit www.nysaflt.org to learn more about the awards available. Information is available about Fulvi awards, Annual Conference award nominations, travel scholarships and James E. Allen awards in the “Members Only” section. NYSAFLT members may also order official Student Achievement certificates directly through the site.

Now is the time for members to submit nominations for these prestigious awards. Visit the NYSAFLT website for applications and deadline information.

Adventure in Provence

NYSAFLT member **Jayne R. Boisvert, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature at Russell Sage College, has been granted the opportunity this semester to spend an educational sabbatical in Provence. She is researching contemporary French crime fiction, notably the detective novels of best-selling author Fred (Frédérique) Vargas. While completing her research, she also maintains an informative blog on many aspects of French culture at <http://madameboisvert.blogspot.com/>. Word to the wise: be careful! After sharing her experiences in the south of France, you and your students just may feel compelled to take a trip there yourselves! *Merci*, Jayne!

Travel . . . It's Good for You!

Last summer, I had the wonderful providence to venture abroad. My travels were for a professional conference, the AATF Convention in Liège, Belgium. It was a delightful experience, everything and more than expected. Not only did I enjoy my travels, but I enhanced both my linguistic and pedagogical skills and networked with colleagues from near and far!

The conference was superb. An atmosphere of true collegiality abounded. I met several NYSAFLT members there, people who have long been active in many professional development activities. I chatted with **David Graham**, a NYSAFLT Past-President, about Québec and available opportunities for teachers to further their skills. David's wife, **Louise Pilon Graham**, as well as **Madeline Turan** were also present. I met **Elvira Sanatullova-Allison, Ph.D.** from SUNY Potsdam, the new editor of the NYSAFLT Journal. We spoke of new teacher preparation and the state of mentorship.

I left the conference with positive energy, ready to implement the new strategies learned and keep in contact with new friends. This is what professional development is all about. Whether attending a local NYSAFLT Regional or applying for a summer travel scholarship, a positive step is being taken. We never know who we'll meet or what great experience lies ahead!

--M. Leptak

Call for Nominations for 2009 NYSAFLT Elections

Candidates are sought for the following offices for terms beginning January 1, 2010:

Directors

Director, Buffalo Region, 3 year term
Director, Capital Region, 3 year term
Director, Mid-Hudson Region, 3 year term
Director, New York City Region, 3 year term
Director, Northern-East Region, 3 year term
Director, Rochester Region, 3 year term
Director, Southern Tier Region, 3 year term
Director, Westchester, 3 year term

Officers

Second Vice-President, 1 year term
First Vice President, 1 year term
President-Elect, 1 year term
Treasurer, 2 year term

Nominations Committee

2010 Nominations Committee, 1 year term

Requirements –

- A candidate for an office must have been a member of NYSAFLT for 5 years *preceding* 2009.
- A candidate for a Director position must have been a member of NYSAFLT for 3 years *including* 2009.
- A candidate for the Nominations Committee must have been a member of NYSAFLT for 2 years *preceding* 2009.

Any member of NYSAFLT may make a nomination. For more information or to make a nomination, visit our website or contact:

Mary B. McBride, Ph.D.,
Nominations Committee Chairperson
mbmcb@roadrunner.com
(716) 308-0177



NYSACards

Are there people that you would like to recognize or honor? You can now send greetings, words of comfort, or any other sentiment with a NYS AFLT 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 *NYS AFLT News* and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship.

Cards may be obtained by going to www.nysaflt.org, clicking on “Donate” or by sending a check (made payable to **NYS AFLT**) to:

NYS AFLT Headquarters
2400 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Newsletter

If you have an idea that you have not seen highlighted in the *NYS AFLT News* please be sure to send your ideas to the editor, **Mary Leptak**, at newsletter@nysaflt.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

March

- 01-31** National Foreign Language Month
- 02-08** NY State Foreign Language Week
- 07** NYS AFLT Meetings: Executive Committee (Buffalo)
- 14** Rochester Regional Meeting
- 15** Deadline: AATI Award Application
- 15** Deadline: Fulvi Student Award Applications submitted online
- 16-17** Board of Regents Meeting
- 21** COLT Regional Meeting
- 28** Westchester Regional meeting

April

- 15 Nominations due to Nominations Committee
- 15 Deadline: Regional Directors' Selection of Fulvi Student Awards
- 15 Deadline: Undergraduate and Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate Student Scholarship Application
- 15 Deadline: Cemanahuac, Costa Rica, Goethe Institute, México, Québec, and Spain Travel Award Application
- 15 Deadline: Zimmerman Travel Award Application
- 15 Deadline: Hahn FLES Program Award Application
- 16-18 NECTFL (New York City)
- 20-21 Board of Regents Meeting
- 24-25 Colloquium (Albany)
- 25-26 Annual Conference Planning (Albany)

May

- 01 Deadline: June *Newsletter*
- 01 Deadline: James E. Allen Award Application
- 01 Deadline: Nominations for NYSAFLT Annual Conference Awards
- 15 Deadline: Summer Journal Submissions
- 15 Deadline: Ballot Materials to Headquarters
- 15 Deadline: Submission of Names of Retiring Teachers to Headquarters
- 15 Deadline: Nominations for ACTFL/NYSAFLT Papalia Award
- 16 Nominations Committee (Syracuse)
- 18-19 Board of Regents Meeting

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

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