



and provided some very valuable contacts in Albany that are proving to be beneficial in our present situation, and also useful in getting NYSAFLT on their radar.

So, fast-forward to 2011. Where do things stand now? When I attended the March 2010 Board of Regents meeting with **Sue Hochmuth**, there was discussion about eliminating the SLPs and several of the Comprehensive Regents exams, but we were told that it was “only a conversation; nothing would be happening in the near future.” So much for conversation! In spite of numerous phone calls and letters from our NYSA-colleagues to the Regents, our beloved assessments were eliminated. Then, in last March’s NYSAFLT News, it was stated that there would be no changes to the graduation requirements or the diploma with distinction. How time flies! Now, in January and February 2011, the Commissioner has held regional meetings around the state to discuss “new graduation requirements.” If the commissioner wants to hear opinions about how to best prepare our students for “college and career success” in the 21st century in a global economy”, our NYSAFLT members will gladly inform him of LOTE education’s place. We don’t know where LOTE is on his agenda, but the fact that it is not even a part of the discussion is not a good thing. We are busy taking care of that omission. A huge thank you to **Marie Campanaro** for coordinating Public Advocacy representation for the different regional meetings and for attending the Rochester session. Thanks also to **Mike Mitchell**, **Leslie Kudlack**, **Al Martino**, and **Cindy Kennedy** for participating in these meetings. (Sorry if I left anyone out, but this was the information I had at the time of publication). Thanks also to all of you who filled out the Commissioner’s survey. At this point, we don’t know what decisions will be made; suggestions are scheduled to be presented at this year’s March Regents meeting. But one thing we do know is that NYSAFLT has the Commissioner’s and the Regents’ attention.

When I posted my welcome message on the website in January, I announced my theme for this year: **Synergy = Strength**. We can no longer stand by and wait for someone else to advocate for us. One by one, we need to come forward and do our part. We are a large organization made up of members with a huge variety of skills, talents, and resources. Let’s tap into those, but let’s not stop there. It’s also time to branch out and make some new NYSA-friends; it’s time to build our team. We all know some parents and PTA members, administrators, BOE members, local businessmen and women, Chamber of Commerce members, etc. who are supportive of language education. Let’s also tap into those resources to get additional perspectives and some more clout.

Speaking of “reaching out”, one recent decision made at the January Board of Directors meeting was to make public our archived (all but the most recent issue) **NYSAFLT Journals**. After considering input from several of our post-secondary representatives (initiated by **Bob Ponterio, Ph.D.**), the majority agreed that our **Journal** articles are a valuable resource that should be open to the public and shared. This seems to be a growing trend among educational organizations, and would definitely bring more attention to NYSAFLT. Researchers would enjoy a wider audience, hopefully leading to greater submission of articles, even our advertisers would benefit, and those articles that we wanted to go back to will be more easily accessible (for those who might forget the Members Only password).



In the meantime (or back at the ranch), NYSAFLT is moving forward, continuing to provide the best resources to its members. Our webinar series has provided valuable professional development that is LOTE-specific. The past series can still be accessed on demand by [clicking here](#). The next webinar series will be announced soon. Many thanks to **Peggy Sharkey**, chair of the Professional Development: Webinar Committee, for coordinating this program, and **Ken Hughes**, the Techno-Wizard, for doing all those technology things that I don't understand, but that make the webinars work.

I encourage you to join us April 29-30 in Albany for our next event, the **NYSAFLT Spring Colloquium**. President-Elect **Mary Holmes** has been working diligently to bring us inspiring practitioners to share "*Best Practices in Assessment*". This is especially timely, considering that we now have the extra responsibility of creating our own local "state" assessments. And don't hesitate to let your administrators know that by addressing this topic, NYSAFLT is seriously offering help, guidance, and support to New York's language teachers. On-line registration will be open soon. I also hope to see many of you at the NECTFL Conference **April 1-4** in Baltimore. Their theme is "*Strengthening Connections: Colleagues, Content, & Curriculum*".

I'd like to end up this issue's President's Corner with some "good news" items, so...

kudos to:

- **Geraldine Popko**, Chair of the Videocast Contest, and **Ken Hughes**, Webmaster, for an amazing job kicking off our first annual Videocast Contest, and to the teachers and students who participated. This was a huge success, and hopefully the start of many more years of great student videos. [Click here](#) to view this year's entries.
- **Jean LeLoup**, **Bob Ponterio**, and **Bill Heller** for their amazing article, "*Cultural Perspective in the Language Classroom: Providing a Meaningful Context for Communication*" which is available in the latest *NYSAFLT Journal*.
- **Janice Kincaid-Zapata** for her Best-of-Show award-winning presentation at the 2010 Annual Conference: "*Read it again! Children's Literature in the LOTE Class*". She will give a repeat performance at the **April 1-4** NECTFL Conference in Baltimore.

For my final requests, if you have a "good news" item or accomplishment to share, shoot me [an email](#). I'll be glad to include it in my next kudos list. Also, do remember to nominate deserving people for our numerous NYSAFLT conference awards. This is a great opportunity to give our colleagues the recognition they deserve for the amazing things they do. Don't wait until the last minute. Deadlines are quickly approaching!

Sincerely,

Nancy H. Ketz



NYSAFLT Colloquium 2011

April 29-30 in Albany, NY



Mary Holmes
Conference Chair

"Best Practices in Assessment"

The NYSAFLT Colloquium is a forum in which LOTE colleagues share perspectives, exchange ideas, and develop responses to issues of importance to the LOTE education community. Discussions will include the status of LOTE in New York State and will address the creation of local exams. Because continued professional growth is important to the success of all teachers, please join us **April 29-30** at the Best Western Hotel in Albany for the 2011 NYSAFLT Colloquium. For more information, please [click here](#).

NYSAFLT Summer Institute 2011

August 2-5 at SUNY Oneonta, NY



William Anderson
Conference Chair

"21st Century Skills: Building Global Literacy"

This year's Summer Institute is being co-sponsored by NNELL and will be held at SUNY Oneonta from **August 2-5**. The theme is *21st Century Skills: Building Global Literacy*. Due to popular demand we will once again be offering both a FLES strand as well as a general strand of workshops. Spend four days experiencing our engaging presenters, amazing exhibitors, fun evening events, and even some great prizes! For more information, please [click here](#) to contact the event chair, **William Anderson**.

NYSAFLT Annual Conference 2011

October 14-16 in Rochester, NY



Deb Carlson
Conference Chair



It is with great enthusiasm that I invite you to the **94th NYSAFLT Annual Conference: "Best of Language Learning: People, Programs, and Practices that Inspire."**

When I joined NYSAFLT over ten years ago and attended my first Annual Conference, I knew that this was an organization of excellence. For 94 years, NYSAFLT Annual Conferences have offered attendees cutting-edge workshops that teach, challenge and inspire each of us to grow and improve our craft. As



NYS AFLT members, we are fortunate to be part of this dedicated group of teachers who continually seek opportunities to learn from each other.

Once again, we gather together this year to embrace our theme. Our friends and colleagues will be there and we are thrilled to welcome our keynote speaker, [Maryann Woods-Murphy](#), **2010 NECTFL Teacher of the Year and New Jersey Teacher of the Year 2009-10**. Maryann is sure to inspire us with her views on diversity, cross-cultural skills and practices that engage our 21st century learners.

I invite all of you to be a part of NYSAFLT's 94th Annual Conference and to truly be inspired by your very own colleagues from around the state. For more information, please [click here](#). See you in Rochester!

Regional News

Buffalo Region

Don't miss presenter solicitation information and other news in WNYFLEC's Winter Newsletter, which is posted on [the website](#).

The WNYFLEC Regional Conference will take place on **Saturday, March 5**. Please [click here](#) for information or to register. We hope to see you there!

Capital Region



On **February 9**, COLT held its Winter Meeting: *Beat the Winter Blues!* at Mohonasen Draper Middle School. There was a brief business meeting, followed by short presentations and refreshments. This event was free for current COLT members.

The Capital Region Conference, co-sponsored by COLT & NYSAFLT will take place on **Saturday, March 19** from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Mohonasen High School, Schenectady, NY.

Theme: One More Step: Advocacy, Assessment, Achievement

Description: Can you do just one more thing for LOTE advocacy? Can you step outside of your comfort zone to reach more people on behalf of LOTE? In her keynote address, NYSAFLT Advocacy Chairperson, **Marie Campanaro** will outline steps to make this happen. Workshops to follow will include National Board Certification, TPRS, Formative Assessment, Checkpoint A Strategies and Activities, Organization, Documentary, Literature and Advanced Level Strategies.

Go to the [COLT website](#) for more information and to register. Not yet a member of COLT? [Click here](#).



Northern-East Region

The Northern-East Regional Conference titled "*21st Century Learning: Imagine the Possibilities*" will be held **Saturday, March 26** at Beekmantown High School. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and the workshops will conclude at 2 p.m. Check the [Regional News](#) section of the NYSAFLT website for updates related to the conference.

Westchester Region

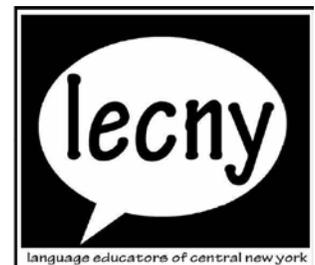
PWRFL's Regional Conference will take place on **Saturday, April 9** at Valhalla Middle High School. In February we held a logo design contest. For more information, please [click here](#) to contact us.

Syracuse Region

S.U.P.E.R.-LECNy Conference

Language Educators of Central New York (LECNy) hosted its annual **S.U.P.E.R.-LECNy** conference on **Saturday, February 5, 2011** at the Goldstein Student Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

This year's "*Quick Takes 3*" theme featured several mini-workshops covering a range of levels and diverse topics applicable to any language, and adaptable to all levels. Participants enjoyed a morning of camaraderie, professional development, and an exchange of ideas. Over 70 participants were in attendance.



Mid-Hudson Region

Thanks to **Margit Kaindl-Richer**, German teacher at Onteora High School, for serving as the Mid-Hudson Representative on the NYSAFLT Board of Directors. Over the past year Margit has been working hard on behalf of NYSAFLT members from our region. Congratulations to **Geraldine Popko**, Spanish teacher in the Saugerties School District, for being appointed to serve for the next year to complete Margit's term. Geraldine is an asset to the NYSAFLT Board of Directors. Welcome back, **Geraldine Popko!**

The Association of Language Teachers of Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Surrounding Counties (ALoud) provides over fifteen hours of professional development workshops throughout the school year. On **December 7**, ALoud held a "*Multicultural Holiday Swap Shop*" with delicious international food.

On **January 25**, **Maggi Gabriela Ackert** from C.J. Hooker Middle School presented "*Web 2.0 in the LOTE Classroom: Voki and 360 Cities*" to ALoud members. We would like to extend a special thank you to Maggi for sharing her expertise.



On **Wednesday, February 23**, the focus was on “*Advocacy and Brain Research*” featuring the foreign language learning documentaries [Speaking in Tongues](#) and the language segment of the brain research documentary [Changing Brains](#).



ALoud Workshop “Multicultural Holiday Swap Shop”: (pictured from left to right) Margit Kaindl-Richer, Jane Friedland, Geraldine Popko, Teresa Schirmer, Ana Gatta and Paula Klonfas.



“Web 2.0 in the LOTE Classroom: Voki and 360 Cities” Workshop: (left to right) Paula Klonfas, Jeanne Blank Maggi Gabriela Ackert, Bernadette Dvorak, Lynn Gore, Jennifer Hunt and Diana Zuckerman.

The **Annual ALOUD/NYS AFLT Conference** will be held on **Saturday, April 9**. Our theme this year will be “*The Show Must Go On: Keep the Spotlights on LOTE.*” **Vickie Mike** will be presenting “*Interactive Strategies*” and **Mary Holmes** will be presenting “*Theatre Games in the LOTE Classroom.*” We are looking forward to having both Vickie and Mary with us. All workshops and the conference are held at SUNY Ulster.

The deadline for the **ALOUD Senior Essay Contest** is **May 1**. We encourage ALOUD members to submit up to five original essays from their senior students addressing the topic: “*What Foreign Language Means to Me and How I Plan to Use It in the Future.*” Please contact **Ana Gatta** or **Diana Zuckerman** for specific essay guidelines.

The **Annual ALOUD Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, May 19** at the Mountain Brauhaus Restaurant in Gardiner. Come and celebrate the end of the school year, our ALOUD Senior Essay Contest winners and our retirees. Please make your reservations and payment early with **Ana Gatta** since there is limited seating.

The **Ulster BOCES World Languages Work Group** provides collaborative workshops throughout the school year. On **Thursday, March 3** participants will share “*Insider Tech Trading.*” On **Thursday, May 5**, participants will exchange lessons on “*Diversity through Cultural Celebrations.*” Register for these workshops through **Ulster BOCES**.

Spanish, French and Italian teacher representatives met at Ulster BOCES on **January 26** for the “**Ulster County Foreign Language Proficiency Checkpoint A Conference.**” The participating teachers collaborated to create a countywide assessment to take the place of the prior New York State LOTE Proficiency exam for participating school districts. The teachers will be meeting again to continue their work. Check with your school district to see if it is involved or if your district can become involved. You can contact Ulster BOCES at (845) 255-1402 for more information.



National Network for Early Language Learning



Lori Langer de Ramirez,
Helena Curtain, and Francesco Fratto.

NELL



Tara Tassani and Helena Curtain.

Here are some ways that NY members of The National Network for Early Language Learning (NELL) and NYSAFLT members are supporting and promoting Early Foreign Language Learning...

Dr. Helena Curtain, Professor Emeritus from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and co-author of the seminal book *Languages and Children: Making the Match*, presented an excellent workshop for over one hundred world language teachers on Long Island last fall. Her workshop, which was offered free of charge with the generous support of sponsors Dowling College and NYSAFLT, took place at Half Hollow Hills High School East. Her presentation, entitled “*Best Practices in Early Language Teaching*” covered topics such as “What successful early language teaching looks like,” “How the target language can be used in teaching beginning students,” and “How we can effectively incorporate language, culture and content into lessons.” Dr. Curtain’s energetic, entertaining, and enlightening presentation was met with rave reviews by all in attendance. Special thanks to Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez and Francesco Fratto for organizing and facilitating the event.

Global Language Project (GLP) is an educational movement and social venture that is altering the inequity of access to foreign language education. Through its *Speak to Succeed* program, GLP gives underserved New York City public elementary school students the opportunity to achieve fluency in world languages so they can increase their future success in higher education and the job market.



Global Language Project
Spanish Program at the YMCA
in Harlem, New York.



Global Language Project
Chinese program at P.S. 368
in Harlem, New York.



Global Language Project
Arabic Program at P.S. 261
in Brooklyn, New York.



Angela Jackson, a New York City social entrepreneur and former head of New Channels Marketing at Nokia, founded GLP. Nurtured by her experience traveling for work and living abroad, Angela saw first-hand that children in other countries were not only multilingual at an early age, but that their ability to speak more than one language positioned them more competitively for opportunities in higher education and the global marketplace. From this experience, Angela launched GLP in 2009 to give New York City kids an opportunity to become proficient in a foreign language.

The first program launched in September 2009 at P.S. 368 Hamilton Heights School in Harlem, NY with 30 students. Through the program success and popularity the program currently serves 150 students in five schools, offering after-school language instruction in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish. The program features a structured, immersion based after-school language curriculum based on state and national standards. The program serves students from kindergarten to fifth grade. GLP plans to expand out of New York City in the fall of 2011. [Click here](#) for more information or [here](#) to send an e-mail.

Save the date: NNELL will be cosponsoring the NYSAFLT Summer Institute from **August 2-5** at SUNY Oneonta tentatively including national presenters Joshua Cabral, **Terry Caccavale**, Janet Glass, **Al Martino** and Toni Theisen. The theme is *21st Century Skills: Building Global Literacy*.

NNELL keeps its members informed about the most up-to-date news regarding early language learning Pre-K through Grade Eight by offering professional development opportunities, the online *National Networking Newsletter* and the journal *Learning Languages*. NNELL membership runs from September through August, so now is the perfect time to renew or to become a new member. NYSAFLT is a long-time institutional member of NNELL. If you would like more information about becoming a NNELL member, please [click here](#) or contact NYS NNELL Representative, [Diana Zuckerman](#).

Thank you and I hope to see you in August at the NYSAFLT Summer Institute cosponsored by NNELL.

- Diana Zuckerman, NYS NNELL Representative

FYI

Second Language Proficiency Exam Alternatives

School districts and BOCES around the state have been busy collaborating to create alternative common assessments to the Second Language Proficiency Exams. Many are contributing tasks to a statewide item bank to be shared among participating BOCES by participating districts. The intention of the majority of districts is to preserve the speaking, listening, reading, and writing components, as well as the total point values and rubrics. The format, content and tasks will align with Checkpoint A and previous SLP Exams. While not yet officially scheduled, there has been discussion that common exams would be given on the Monday morning of Regents week in June as in previous years. Contact your district administrators to find out if your district will be utilizing the database or giving a common exam. You can also learn more about preparing alternative assessments on **Monday, March 14** at 4:30 p.m. through **John Carlino**'s webinar "*Exam and Item Writing for LOTE – A Do-it-Yourself Guide*."



NYS AFLT Professional Webinars for Educators

NYS AFLT is offering a series of webinars throughout the 2010-2011 school year that address multiple areas of foreign language education. You are encouraged to register at your earliest convenience for any of the webinars below. For more information, please [click here](#).

- **Wednesday, March 9 - 4:30pm** “*Web 2.0 for the LOTE Classroom*” presented by **Kenneth Hughes**.
- **Monday, March 14 - 4:30pm** “*Exam and Item Writing for LOTE – A Do-it-Yourself Guide*” presented by **John Carlino**.
- On **Wednesday, February 9**, **Nancy Ketz** presented “*National Board Certification for World Languages.*” This and other past webinars can be viewed on demand by [clicking here](#) to purchase a key.

Contests and Scholarships

Videocast Contest



The results of the Videocast Contest are in!

GRAND PRIZE: “*Discover Languages*”

Teacher: **Molly Pioch**

Student: Emily Rogers

School: Maine-Endwell Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL: “*I Have a Problem, I Don’t Know What to Do*”

Teacher: **Margit Kaindl-Richer**

Students: Christina/Elmo Tinti, Mackenzie Turck

School: Onteora High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL: “*The Bulldog Rap*”

Teacher: **Kristina Strauss**

Students: Beverly DiCorso, Kelly Pfluger, Ian Wilson, Sara Jenser, Erin Cuddihy

School: Hamburg Middle School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: “*Preston Videocast 2010*”

Teacher: **Marissa Coulehan**

School: Samuel J. Preston Elementary School

The videos are posted on the [NYS AFLT website](#). Members have viewed and voted for the People’s Choice for the Best Video of 2011. Congratulations to **Janis Labroo** and her students from Oneonta High School, Oneonta, NY.

***NEW!* Hahn FLES Teacher Incentive Grant** – The Hahn FLES Teacher Incentive Grants provide funds to NYS AFLT members to support school projects and teacher efforts that are related to the improvement and/or expansion of the instructional or extra-curricular program of a class, school or school district. Applications for a Hahn FLES Teacher Incentive Grants must demonstrate that they are to be used to foster, improve, or enhance a FLES program. The maximum amount of the grant is \$300.00. [Click here](#) to apply.



Public Advocacy Update

A Recipe for Quick and Easy Advocacy Try it during National Foreign Language Month



The appetizer

Send this assignment home with students to give to a parent, relative, neighbor, or other adult. You may want to put this in staff mailboxes as well.

Won't you take a few minutes to respond to the following questions? We would love to share your responses with our second language students during National Foreign Language Month.

1. Was there (or is there) ever a time in your work/life experience where you used (use) a foreign language? Please describe your experiences.
2. Was there ever a time when you wished you had knowledge of another language? Please explain your answer.

The entrée

Have students collect and categorize responses. It helps to type them and print them on cards. (My students were able to create the following from responses: Medical Personnel, Business, Teaching, Family, Travel/Leisure, Music, and Professions.) Display the quotes.

Side Dish #1

Have students learn geography by marking languages noted in the responses on a world map.

Side Dish #2

Create a document with all quotes to share with those who participated.

Side Dish #3

Write a summary of information found for a school newspaper article.

Dessert

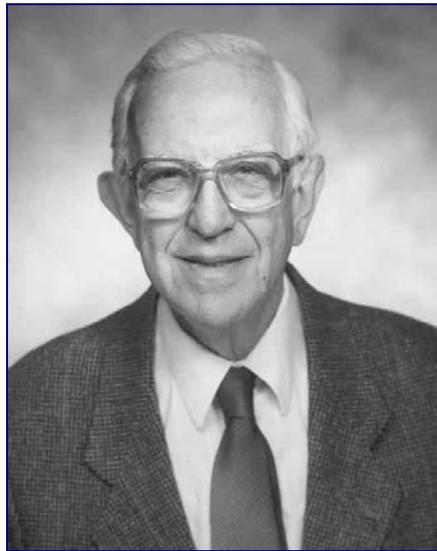
Contact the adults who responded positively and enthusiastically to the two questions. Ask them to write a letter on behalf of LOTE education. Provide them with names and addresses of key people to contact (such as Commissioner David Steiner, local Regents, and legislators). You can provide them with key issues or templates. To find all necessary information to give them, check the [Public Advocacy](#) section of the NYSAFLT website.

Please - share your results with NYSAFLT! [Click here](#) to send quotes and letters supporting LOTE.



In memory of Robert J. Ludwig

FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NYSAFLT



Robert J. Ludwig - 1920-2011

[View his guestbook](#)

I fondly remember Bob Ludwig from the late 1970s through the 1990s NYSAFLT Annual Meetings at the Concord Hotel in the Catskills. He seemed to know everyone, even those of us he only saw once a year. I marveled at his memory and his gracious manner with every question, concern or last minutes glitches. He always had a smile and kind words.

I got to see him, and the NYSAFLT Board of Directors, in action during my three years as a director for the central New York region. I was (and still am) in awe of the prodigious amount of work accomplished during those meeting days as well as throughout the year.

My greatest joy and memory of Bob, however, was in 2002, when I received the honor of New York State Teacher of the Year. I did not know until almost the last minute before I had my “day in Albany” that the only other language teacher to have won that award was indeed Mr. Robert Ludwig. It was a bonus that he, too, was a French teacher! I had no idea he would choose to be a guest at the awards presentation. What a surprise on that day when I saw Bob among the group of attendees at the ceremony and luncheon. I was deeply touched by his presence and honored to be in his company for this award.

Our profession is stronger and more dedicated because of his commitment, participation and leadership.

With fond memories,
Barbara Gordon



NYSACards



Condolences

to

Denise Mahns

LOTE teacher at Fayetteville-Manilus H.S.

on the passing of her grandfather.

From her friend,
Roseann Lorefice



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 print your message to indicate 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 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

Lately we have all seen cuts to school programming and funding. At the same time, our profession is being challenged by many people who clearly do not understand who we are. Why do we attend board meetings and rallies, or write letters to our legislators? I believe it is for the same reason that we are teachers – **we teach children**. I do not need to emphasize the significance of those three words to anyone in our membership. Our challenge is to make that message clear to our opponents and the decision-makers. Their children are our children. We want what is best for them and we hope they do, too. Through our combined efforts, we will make a difference in the lives of our children.

Comments and contributions to the NYSAFLT News are always welcome. Please e-mail your ideas or suggestions to me at the address below.

~**Lauren O'Malley**~
newsletter@nysaflt.org

“Decisions that are made about what will be accessible to children help shape the kinds of minds they will come to own.” - Elliott Eisner





Mark Your Calendars!

March ~ National Foreign Language Month ~

- 1 Deadline: Fulvi Student Award Applications
- 1 Deadline: *Journal* Issue #1 Submissions
- 7-13 New York State Foreign Language Week
- 11 Meetings: Financial Planning Committee, Executive Committee
- 12 Meeting: Executive Committee Meeting
- 15 Deadline: Workshop Proposals for the Annual Conference

April

- 1-4 NECTFL Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD
- 15 Deadline: Nominations to Nominations Committee
- 15 Deadline: Scholarship Application to ACTFL and NNELL Annual Conferences (TBD)
- 19-20 Board of Regents Meeting in Albany
- 29-30 NYSAFLT Spring Colloquium in Albany
- 28-29 Executive Committee Meeting in Albany
- 30 Board of Directors Meeting in Albany

May

- 1 Board of Directors Meeting in Albany
- 1 Deadline: June *Newsletter* submissions
- 15 Deadline: Names of Retiring Teachers to NYSAFLT Headquarters
- 16-17 Board of Regents Meeting in Albany
- 19-20 JNCL-NCLIS in Washington, DC

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

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Don't miss a single issue!

[Click here](#) to visit the website for archived editions.