

**PSMLA Executive Council Meeting  
State College, PA  
April 13-14, 2013**

**Saturday, September 8, 2012**

**8:15-9:15** – The PSMLA Executive and Finance committees met separately to prepare for the weekend: Maryanne Boettjer, Susanne Nimmrichter, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Jan Stewart, Thomasina White, and Robert Hall.

**President's Welcome** – 9:47 am

President White welcomed Council members. The following members were in attendance: Maryanne Boettjer, Ron DelPorto, John Grande, Robert Hall, Mina Levenson, Susanne Nimmrichter, Natalie Puhala, Rochele Reitlinger, José Ricardo-Osorio, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Jan Stewart, Daliang Wang, Thomasina White, Junko Yamamoto, and Nancy Zimmerman.

The following members were not in attendance: Beverly Buxareo, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, and Debbie Wills.

**Approval of minutes** from the spring meeting was done via e-mail.

**Treasurer's Report** (P. Rzodkiewicz for D. Wills)

Council carefully examined the Treasurer's report and there was much discussion. Council learned that the external audit is complete. First Security Insurance congratulated Debbie on the high level of performance displayed by her records and procedures. Mark S. McLaughlin, President, performed the audit. This was the third review of the files and accounting procedures for PSMLA.

**Secretary's Report** (P. Rzodkiewicz)

Phyllis reported that we currently have 388 members and 20 Institutional members. This is a low number for membership. Council discussed steps to take to increase and maintain membership. A second renewal letter had been mailed to those who did not renew their PSMLA membership. Approximately 10 did renew their membership after the second notice.

**Advertising Manager's Report** (R. Hall)

Bob presented his report to council. He explained that, to date, there are 5 ads for the Forum. There was discussion about why the number of ads is down. This may be due to the merging of companies, budgets being slashed, on-line books, etc. Bob discussed lowering the prices for ads. He explained that so far there are 5 tables sold for the 2013 conference. A few other companies have said they will be there but have not yet sent in the money.

Bob Hall has decided to resign as Ad Manager after this year's fall conference. Junko Yamamoto as agreed to be our New Ad Manager. She will work with Bob, especially during the conference. Bob has been the PSMLA Ad Manager since 2003 and his

absence will be greatly missed by council and by the exhibitors, with whom he has worked so closely over the years.

**Website Manager's Report** (R. DelPorto)

There was some discussion as to reworking parts of the website. Council was reminded of the need to let Ron know when it was time to remove information from the website so that it is as current as possible. Ron will again set up Election Buddy to run the PSMLA elections for the fall.

Council voted to accept all the above reports on an Rzodkiewicz/Reitlinger motion.

**10:00-11:00 – Committee meetings: Awards, Advocacy, Nominations/Elections**

Committees were asked to review the action plan prepared by their committee at the spring meeting, make necessary revisions and prepare their report. Committees were asked to forward a copy of their report to Phyllis for the minutes.

**11:15-12:30 – Committee Meetings: Membership, Professional Development, and Publications**

**12:30 – 2:00 – Working Lunch with committees**

**2:15 – 3:30 – Organizational Representative Reports**

**CCA** (P. Rzodkiewicz for D. Wills)

The product for this year's competition is ONE a Day Teen Advantage for Him/Her. The country is Chile. This year they have added the element of corporate sensitivity to the culture and have allotted an additional two minutes for the presentations to include the new item. The competition will be held on April 30 at the University of Pittsburgh. A video workshop was held in February with approximately eight schools joining in via an on-line conference call. This was a wonderful experience for the students. Deanna Baird and Barbara Zaun (CCA officers) sent their heartfelt thanks to PSMLA for their support and annual donation to CCA.

**JNCL** (M. Levenson)

Mina does a great job of disseminating information to our membership as it becomes available from JNCL. Council discussed the importance of our continued involvement with JNCL. Sister Mary Helen Kashuba will attend JNCL this year in Mina's place. She will be there for AATF and will also represent PSMLA.

**NECTFL** – (N. Puhala)

NECTFL was held in March at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. To help the organization, NECTFL membership is now available for \$50 and includes: reduced registration fees, three free webinars, and access to a members-only section of the NECTFL website. Natalie reported on the important projects of each of the states. Council was impressed with the new tri-fold membership brochure created by MAFLA, with the assistance of ACTFL.

**PaCIE** (Sister Kashuba)

Sister attended PaCIE and submitted her report following the conference in the fall.

**ACTFL and Conference 2012** (T. White)

ACTFL thanked PSMLA for making the conference such a great success. The participation and support of PSMLA contributed greatly to the success of the fall conference. There were 44 members of PSMLA who attended the conference. (This does not include ExCo members, members of other organizations, etc.) An electronic list of registrants was provided by ACTFL.

**Conference 2013—Pittsburgh** (J. Stewart)

Jan reported that the 2013 PSMLA conference would be held on October 17-19 at the DoubleTree in Greentree in Pittsburgh. The theme is: Get the Point – Languages are Bridges to the World. Silvina Orsatti will present the pre-conference on Thursday. The title of her workshop is: Digital Storytelling N'At. Bonnie Adair-Hauck will present the Keynote on Friday. Saturday will be the awards ceremony and the general membership meeting. The registration forms are completed and will be going out via the web and will be available on-line. Flash drives will be given to each person that registers this year. Bags will be donated by GNC.

ExCo accepted the conference rates on a R zodkiewicz/White motion.

**Conference 2014 – State College** (S. Nimmrichter & J. Ricardo-Osorio)

The conference will be held in State College at the PennStater. The plan will be to make it a joint conference, sponsored by as many AAT chapters in the state as possible. The committee will build time in the conference for a business meeting for each chapter. Luncheon tables could be language specific or created by association. There would be more sessions that are language specific. The theme will be: Many Languages, One State: Let's Collaborate. The committee will work on the rates for the conference. One idea was to invite non-PSMLA members for an additional \$15 if they are members of an AAT. This could be left to the chapter to see if they will cover the additional fee for their members. One luncheon will focus specifically on language issues in the state.

Council voted to accept the above reports on a Boettjer/Puhala motion.

**3:45 – 4:45 Standing Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** (J. Stewart)

Council discussed the importance for maintaining membership. This year, we had approximately 190 who have not renewed their membership. This has a large impact on our treasury. There was discussion on the importance of having the regional workshops to gain new members and retain our current members. Not all teachers are able to attend the annual conference with districts cutting back. Council will examine the breakdown of the expenses by ExCo.

**Awards** (R. Reitlinger)

This year, Rochele received four applications for the Cemanahuac scholarship. The information was distributed electronically to the committee for review. Amy Lierman was

selected to receive the award. She has been teaching for four years and has been a PSMLA member since 2010. Amy is thrilled to have won the Cemanahuac scholarship.

Rochele received eighteen applications for the Outstanding Senior Award this year. There was not time for the committee to convene before the ExCo meeting. The quantity of materials made it impossible to convert all the documents for distribution via e-mail. Rochele reviewed the materials and created a spreadsheet with pertinent information that could be used to evaluate the possible recipients. The following students were selected for the awards:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Jordan Sciascia – Germantown Academy

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Cristina Serban – Wilson High School

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Sarah Lotkowski – Plymouth Whitemarsh HS

Honorable Mention: Barbara Israelson – Collegiate Academy

Adam Sokol – Pennsbury HS

Estelle Rayburn – Dallastown Area HS

There was discussion about the need to provide a scholarship, similar to Cemanahuac, for other languages. Rochele will check with Vivian Harvey to see if we can provide an additional scholarship for a college senior. Rochele has requested that for the future, the applications for Cemanahuac and Outstanding Senior be submitted digitally in .pdf form. Council agreed that this would be very helpful.

#### **Publications** (S. Nimmrichter)

Rochele will put out another call for submissions for the Forum. Nancy will send artwork for the cover and filler to Rochele for the Forum. There was much discussion and it was decided that the Forum will come out at the beginning of the school year. This will allow Rochele to put the finishing touches on the Forum in the summer. The new guidelines and the format made it easier. Articles that were submitted for the Forum were of a much better length. Last year, council voted to have two digital editions of the newsletter per year. Daliang Wang will take on the Newsletter which will contain an abbreviated version of the minutes, information on workshops, award winners, information on elections, updates on ACTFL, NECTFL, JNCL, etc. Council members will help by providing appropriate information to Daliang.

Susanne will put the PSMLA standards on the website (from the Assessment guide).

Council, on a motion from Nimmrichter/Zimmerman, voted to allow Bob to cut by 50% the advertising rates for this edition of the Forum in an attempt to get more ads. This will be revisited again next year.

The above reports were approved on a Rzodkiewicz/Reitlinger motion and the meeting for Saturday was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

### **PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Agenda**

**State College, PA**

**Sunday, September 9, 2012**

**8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast in the Garden restaurant: meet over breakfast by regions to discuss professional development and regional projects.**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:25 am.**

President White welcomed Council members. The following members were in attendance: Maryanne Boettjer, Ron DelPorto, John Grande, Robert Hall, Susanne

Nimmrichter, Natalie Puhala, Rochele Reitlinger, José Ricardo-Osorio, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Jan Stewart, Daliang Wang, Thomasina White, and Junko Yamamoto.

The following members were not in attendance: Beverly Buxareo, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, Mina Levenson, Debbie Wills, and Nancy Zimmerman.

**Membership** (J. Ricardo-Osorio)

Council members were in agreement that we need to work hard to retain membership. José will contact those PA teachers who attended ACTFL but are not members of PSMLA. Junko will look at the perks offered with membership in some of the other state organizations. Another suggestion was made to tap into grant writing to be able to access money and offer workshops for our members at a reduced rate. Another idea that has been made before is to research and offer scholarships similar to Cemanahuac for a college senior and for other languages.

After some discussion, on a White/Boettjer motion, it was voted that Institutional Members will have one voting right. Schools with an Institutional Membership will be allowed one vote as we enter elections this fall.

The membership committee presented this idea for a “back to school membership drive.” The proposal was:

		<u>Current</u>	<u>Membership Drive – One Time Only (rate for two memberships)</u>	<u>Savings to members</u>
Regular		\$40	Renew and bring in one new member - \$60	
	2 year	\$70		- \$100
Students		\$20	Renew and bring in one new member - \$30	
	2 year	\$35		- \$50
Retiree		\$25	Renew and bring in one new member - \$35	
	2 year	\$40		- \$60

José will draft the letters and run through the committee and then the board. This is special offer for this fall in an attempt to generate new membership.

**Advocacy** (M. Levenson)

Many pieces of information regarding funding and Legislative efforts in Washington have been sent regularly to ExCo members. Requests have been made for letter writing to congressmen and senators in support of Foreign Language funding and initiatives. A PEP letter will be mailed to the state representative at Harrisburg so PDE can learn about the schools that are doing very well and to let them know about the awards offered by PSMLA for schools with exemplary foreign language programs. Superintendents also receive a congratulatory letter from the PEP committee. Sister Mary Helen Kashuba will represent us this year at JNCL. Thank you, Sister.

**PEP** (M. Levenson)

**2013 PSMLA EXEMPLARY PROGRAM AWARDS**

Every year, PSMLA seeks to identify and showcase exemplary foreign language programs by inviting all PA high schools to participate in the PSMLA Exemplary

Program (PEP) Awards program. The State Rep will receive a letter with the name of the winners in his/her District.

To obtain an award, schools must provide evidence of excellence for 11 program indicators established by PSMLA. PEP is *not* a competition; every school that provides the required evidence receives an award. Awards are given on a two-year basis. Numerous schools have held continuous awards, some from the inception of the program in 2005.

The secondary goal of PEP is to provide a blueprint so that all PA world language programs become PEP Award programs. To see detailed information about each school program, please see the **PSMLA PEP SHOWCASE** at [www.psmla.org](http://www.psmla.org).

***Congratulations to the following PEP SCHOOLS!***

***GOLDEN Globe Awardees:***

- **Abington Senior High School, Abington, 2013-14**
- **Academy of Notre Dame, Villanova, 2005-2014**
- **Camp Hill High School, Camp Hill, 2010 -2013**
- **Gateway High School, Monroeville, 2010 -2013**
- **Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, 2007-2014**
- **J.R. Masterman Laboratory/Demonstration School, Philadelphia, 2013-2014**
  
- **Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown, 2013-2014**
  
- **Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 2005 -2014**
- **Upper Moreland High School, Willow Grove, 2009-2014**
  
- **Upper St. Clair High School, Upper St. Clair 2005-13**

***SILVER Globe Awardees:***

- **Hempfield Area High School, Greensburg, 2011-13**
  
- **Penncrest High School, Media, 2005-2013**
  
- **Wilson High School, West Lawn, 2011- 14**

***BRONZE Globe Awardees:***

- **Deer Lakes High School, Cheswick PA 2012- 2013**

***GLOBE Awardees:***

- **Boiling Springs Senior High, Boiling Springs, 2012-13**
- **Charleroi Area High School, Charleroi, 2012-13**

- **Cumberland Valley High School**, Mechanicsburg, 2013-14
- **Dallastown Area High School**, Dallastown PA 2010-2013
- **Downingtown East High School**, Exton, 2012-13
- **Seneca Valley Intermediate/Senior High School**, Harmony, PA 2013-14
- **Waynesboro Area Senior High School**, Waynesboro, 2012-13

**ACT 48** (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne reported that we do need to recertify this year to be able to award ACT 48 hours. Fortunately the form is the same as from three years ago. Maryanne, Jan, and Susanne will look at the form and make sure it is completed correctly.

**Professional Development** (N. Zimmerman)

There was some discussion about the Common Core Standards. The ACTFL website has a document with information about Common Core Standards. Holt did an excellent presentation at ACTFL on this topic. We need to continue to meet by region to offer professional development opportunities for our members. Natalie will contact Karen Goldman at the University of Pittsburgh Latin American Studies. Mina will speak with Susan Polansky at CMU. Ron will track down the results from the professional development survey that went out. Another idea that was mentioned was to offer the exemplary sessions from our fall conference to districts for in-service ideas.

**Nominations** (J. Stewart for B. Buxareo)

Three ExCo members have terms that are expiring this year: Mina Levenson, Jose-Ricardo Osorio, and Nancy Zimmerman. José and Nancy are eligible and will run again. The membership, in May, will be asked to submit nominees for council via the list serv. Each person who is interested in serving on Council will receive a letter that explains the responsibilities of being on Council, expectations regarding attendance, etc.

President White read a letter from Debbie Wills, explaining that she will not run on the slate for Treasurer. This is an important position to fill. Thank you, Debbie, for all your years of hard work.

**PAC-TE** (S. Nimmrichter)

PAC-TE is the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators. They invited representatives of all content-specific associations in PA to a working luncheon at their fall conference in Hershey last year. Susanne attended the luncheon. The goal of the meeting was to formulate a plan for collaborating with PDE and the state legislature to respond quickly, proactively, and uniformly with recommendations and suggestions when changes to the School Code and/or state regulations, either for PK-12 education or teacher/school leader preparation are under consideration. By working with the policy-makers early in the process, we have the potential to become change agents rather than complaint makers, consequently assuring the initial preparation and ongoing development of highly effective teachers and school leaders staffing schools for all of Pennsylvania's students. PAC-TE then developed a Talking Points Document that many of the associations, including PSMLA, endorsed. The document was released to the press on April 16, 2013.

**Educator Effectiveness Teams** (T. White)

Thomasina reported that the PA Dept. of Education has created Educator Effectiveness Teams to develop “Student Learning Objectives.” The “SLO” design is to be applied to the “Elective” portion of the teacher evaluation system being implemented state-wide. This design is intended to provide a measure of teacher effectiveness based on measures of student achievement.

Content-specific SLO models with aligned student assessment/performance measures have been developed. PA teachers have created models in a variety of content areas, including World Languages. The next part of the process is to vet these models and assessments for appropriateness to the intent of measuring teacher effectiveness based on student achievement. Dr. JP Beaudoin, of Research in Action, led the SLO vetting and quality review workgroup. This was an important opportunity to provide input and leadership to the changes taking place in teacher evaluation across the state.

The implementation of these models will be determined by the individual school districts and the guidelines provided by the state. There is still much work to be done. Council approved the above reports on a Puhala/Levenson motion.

**New Business**

The spring meeting will take place at the Penn Stater on September 28-29, 2013.

On a motion by Stewart/Grande, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Rzodkiewicz  
PSMLA Secretary