



OFFICERS

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- **Mina Levenson, First Vice-President**
- **John Grande, Second Vice-President**
- **Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Secretary**
- **Michael Bogdan, Treasurer**
- **Jan Stewart, Immediate Past-President**
- **Megan Flinchbaugh, Newsletter Editor**

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PSMLA Debuts Its New Website

After much planning and effort, our newly redesigned website finally went live at the end of March and with it our new weekly Member News Updates mailing. The new website has some important new features:

- Every PSMLA member has an account on the website. You should have received an email on March 30 with account login information. If you cannot locate the email or forgot your password, visit the [Member Login page](#), enter the email address where you receive PSMLA News Updates, and request a new password. If nothing works, please [contact the webmaster](#).
- Once you are logged in, you can review your account information and make edits when your address or phone number changes. The email address in your account is the address where you receive PSMLA News Updates mailings. If you would like to change the address from a home address to a work address or vice versa, please make the changes here. If you would like to add a second email address, you can do so at the bottom of the homepage.
- The Members-Only part of the website includes a digital archive of the *Pennsylvania Language Forum* and a subscription to the PSMLA Member News Updates with messages that are intended only for active members.

We will continue to update our website with current information relevant to world language professionals in Pennsylvania. Please help us in doing so! [Click here](#) to contact the respective person on the executive council committees.

PSMLA News and Updates

Pennsylvania Language Forum

Pennsylvania Language Forum (PLF) invites you to submit your best teaching strategies, lesson plans, project ideas, and research for publication. Article submissions must be received by June 1 to be considered for publication in the Fall issue of PLF.

Visit the [PLF webpage](#) for more information, including instructions and guidelines for submission.

Questions? Email Megan Flinchbaugh at PALanguageForum@gmail.com.

PSMLA Nominations

Nominate yourself or a colleague for a 3-year term to the Executive Council of PSMLA. Nominees should currently teach a world language, be members of PSMLA for at least a year, be willing to attend two weekend-long board meetings, attend the fall conference, and be willing to serve on ExCo subcommittees.

[Click here](#) for more information. Deadline for nominations is May 15, 2016.

Tell colleagues about PSMLA

Do you know world language teachers in PA who still aren't members of PSMLA? Now is a great time to join.

Members are entitled to vote during elections, reduced fees for 2016 conferences and workshops, as well as all issues of PLF.

Regular Membership length is for one or two years; the membership fee is \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.

[Click here](#) for details regarding other types of memberships.

PSMLA 2016 Awards

The **Cemanahuac Award** for summer study in Mexico has been awarded to Ms. Mercedes H. Walton-Mason of Cedarbrook Middle School, Cheltenham, PA.

The awards for the **Outstanding High School Graduating World Language Students** are:

1st place: Ms. Morgan Rock of Dallastown Area High School. Her instructor is Ms. Cherie Garrett.

2nd place: Ms. Grace McStravock of Wissahickon High School, Ambler, PA. Her instructor is Ms. Diane Brant.

3rd place: Ms. Lauren Berger of Kennard- Dale High School, Fawn Grove, PA. Her instructor is Ms. Karen Snyder.

The Awards Committee of PSMLA would like to thank the many applicants for all of the awards and encourages our members to submit applications on behalf of yourself, colleagues, and your students for the 2017 awards.

In this, the pilot year of the **PSMLA Global Scholars Program**, PSMLA is proud to announce that the following students have successfully completed all of the criteria to graduate as **2016 Global Scholars**:



Global Scholar Graduate

1. Lauren Berger
2. Monica Buczyinski
3. Bailey Sisler

High School

- Kennard-Dale High School
- Hempfield Area High School
- Kennard-Dale High School

Global Scholar Advisor

- Karen Snyder
- Erica Shafran
- Karen Snyder

These students took the initiative to complete all of the components (designed as a 4-year program) in just one year. Congratulations to them and to their teachers! For more information, go to psmla.org/global-scholars.

2016 Conference in Erie: Register Today!

The 2016 Conference Committee is working hard to prepare for the PSMLA Fall Conference on October 13-15, 2016. This year's theme is *Languages: The Flagship to Opportunities*. The conference will be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie, PA.



We are most impressed with the conference proposals we have received on a wide variety of topics. The committee is working to prepare the final conference schedule. The Pre-Conference Workshop title is: "Using Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) to Improve Instruction and Learning", and will be conducted by Dr. Bonnie Adair-Hauck. Come prepared to explore how to improve students' interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational communication skills through IPA assessment. The workshop will provide participants with recently developed and expanded guidelines for how to design cognitively challenging IPA tasks. Suggestions on how to provide effective feedback and modeling to improve learner performance will be shared. Participants will begin to design integrated performance assessment tasks for use in their own classrooms using teacher-tested templates.

Be sure to register for the conference prior to September 16, 2016 to take advantage of lower rates. Book your room before September 12, 2016 to use the PSMLA Code for a reduced rate. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the conference and to access the 2016 Conference Registration Form.

There will be an optional winery tour on Friday after the conference. The \$30 fee for the tour will cover bus transportation to two wineries, a light supper including dessert, and wine tastings.

While you are in Erie, why not visit the Maritime Museum and see the Brig Niagara? Bring your family and let them enjoy their days at Splash Lagoon, an indoor water park very close to the conference center. Spend Sunday at the beach and look for some beach glass that has washed up to make some jewelry. We look forward to seeing you in Erie!

The PSMLA Exemplary Program (PEP) Awards



Each year PSMLA seeks to identify and publicly recognize exemplary PA high school foreign language programs. All high schools are encouraged to evaluate their program features as they relate to 11 indicators on the PEP Rubric and submit evidence of attainment at the Gold, Silver, Bronze, and/or Globe levels. PEP is not a competition; all schools that meet the criteria receive an award. Specific information about each of the following schools may be found on the [website](#) in the 2016 PEP SHOWCASE.

Congratulations to all the 2016 Pep Award Schools!

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

Abington Senior High School, Abington S.D., Abington
Academy of Notre Dame, Villanova
Gateway High School, Gateway S.D., Monroeville
Jenkintown High School, Jenkintown S.D.
Merion Mercy Academy, Merion Station
Owen J. Roberts High School, Owen J. Roberts S.D., Pottstown
Parkland High School, Parkland S.D., Allentown
Penncrest High School, Rosetree Media S.D., Media
Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Brashear High School, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pittsburgh
Strath Haven High School, Wallingford-Swarthmore S.D., Wallingford
Upper Moreland High School, Upper Moreland Township S.D., Willow Grove
Vincintian Academy, Pittsburgh

SILVER GLOBE AWARDS

Cumberland Valley High School, Cumberland Valley S.D., Mechanicsburg
J.R. Masterman Laboratory/Demonstration School, S.D. of Philadelphia
North Hills Senior High School, North Hills S.D., Ross Twp.
Twin Valley High School, Twin Valley S.D., Elverson

BRONZE GLOBE AWARDS

Carlynton Jr./Sr. High School, Carlynton S.D., Carnegie
Central Catholic High School, Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
Gettysburg Area High School, Gettysburg Area S.D., Gettysburg
J.P. McCaskey High School, S.D. of Lancaster, Lancaster
Nazareth Area High School, Nazareth Area S.D., Nazareth

GLOBE AWARDS

Delaware Valley High School, Delaware Valley S.D., Milford



Professional Development

In April, PSMLA and the Modern Language Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity (MLAPV) joined forces on Saturday April 30 and offered a workshop entitled **“Using the Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) to Improve Learning and Instruction”**. The presenter was Bonnie Adair-Hauck, Ph.D., from the University of Pittsburgh. In this workshop, Bonnie Adair-Hauck, Ph.D., co-author of the ACTFL publication: **“Implementing Integrated Performance Assessment”** (2013), presented an overview of the ACTFL Integrated Performance Assessment at the Novice, Intermediate and Advanced levels. The workshop provided participants with recently developed and expanded guidelines for how to design cognitively challenging IPA tasks.



The workshop, offered at Chestnut Hill College, was a great success and was attended by approximately 65 world language teachers and student-teachers from the Philadelphia and neighboring areas. Teachers said: “I can’t wait to try that in my classroom!” “I could

really use that idea!” “Wow, that’s exciting. I think my kids would get that!”

On April 16, PSMLA and Mercyhurst University co-hosted an Immersion Day. Participants, upon arrival, registered and enjoyed breakfast. They went to their respective rooms where they spent the rest of their day in the target language. Hayat Douhan led a session in French. She is a visiting Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Arabic from Morocco. Virginie Ruiz led a session in French and she is a Fulbright Teaching Assistant from Bordeaux, France. During lunch, a Mercyhurst language student, Sean McErlane, shared sample lessons on Nearpod, an interactive classroom tool for teachers to engage students with interactive lessons. Participants of PSMLA workshops and Immersion Days always enjoy the opportunity to practice their target language and to network with other world language teachers. What a great time!

Over 40 world language teachers attended the PSMLA/Messiah College Central PA Workshop on April 30. Michelle Kindt presented the first session **“Keeping Kids Engaged and Coming Back for More,”** with a focus on music in the classroom, current events, and incorporating homework choice activities. Michael Bogdan presented **“Activities to Develop Impromptu Speaking”** with many games and techniques for developing unscripted speaking skills at all levels. Finally, attendees had a choice between three culturally-based sessions led in the target language: French with Ann Hudson, German with Kathy Fegely, and Spanish with Gladys Robalino. The teachers and student teachers enjoyed an engaging morning of professional development, networking, and sharing.



For more information or to join PSMLA:

- go to www.psmpla.org
- look for PSMLA on Facebook
- or [contact the PSMLA Secretary](#)

The mission of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association is to enhance foreign language education throughout the state



by promoting the study of foreign languages,



by providing educators opportunities for professional growth and networking,



by recognizing excellence in the field, and



by collaborating with local, state and national organizations.

Spring Executive Council Meeting Highlights

Secretary's Report (P. Rzdokiewicz)

We currently have 583 individual members. There are 23 schools that have purchased a School Group Membership.

Treasurer's Report (M. Bogdan)

Council examined the Treasurer's report. Mike presented the balances and explained the various documents. An internal audit will be conducted during the Executive Council meeting this weekend.

Finance Report (M. Levenson)

PSMLA is currently classified as a non-profit corporation exempt under IRS Code Section 501(c)(6). Mina will investigate what we, as an organization, will need to do to apply for 501(c)(3) status.

Advertising Manager's Report (J. Yamamoto)

Junko explained that the color page ads for PLF are sold out at this time. She explained that all the information regarding sponsorship for the conference is available on the website.

Historian's Report (N. Zimmerman)

The position of PSMLA Historian is currently a five-year term. Beverly Buxareo, whose term ended in 2015, has agreed to stay on as Historian through 2019 to maintain the hard copy items for the 100th year celebration of PSMLA. Nancy is the electronic Historian and her term ends this year. The PSMLA Officers will discuss how to archive the electronic documents.

Pennsylvania Language Forum (M. Flinchbaugh)

It was decided that the Pennsylvania Language Forum would be referred to by its full name on first mention, and then as "PLF" in subsequent mentions. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2016. Megan is hoping for a publication date of mid-September.

Website (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne took council members through the website. The top blue bar on the website is for current announcements. Susanne will check with Ron and Antoine about having events automatically placed on the PSMLA calendar.

ACT 48 (B. Storey)

Council examined the Act 48 report. Teachers received hours only after completing the "Student Impact Statement" within two weeks after the event.

ACTFL (J. Stewart)

Sister Mary Helen Kashuba attended ACTFL and went to the small group meetings by associations. Susanne is going this fall and she will represent PSMLA.

Global Scholars (J. Stewart)

There are currently nine schools registered. 106 students are currently registered. Many presentations have been made to spread the word about the Global

Scholars Program at workshops, at the PSMLA Fall Conference, at PaCIE, at NECTFL, etc.

JNCL (M. Levenson)

Mina attended JNCL in Washington in February. Ms. Heimowitz from Senator Casey's office reiterated the necessity of building as strong a relationship, as possible, at the state and local level prior to the distribution of the ESSA Funding.

NECTFL (K. Fegely)

The Northeast Conference was held at the New York Hilton Midtown from February 11-13, 2016. Nathan Campbell and Megan Flinchbaugh presented the "Best of PA" session from 2014. Dr. Lucia Osa-Melero was honored as one of three selected MEAD Fellows at the Awards Ceremony. Our 2015 PSMLA Teacher of the Year, Gabriel Blanco, was honored during the formal Awards Ceremony as one of the finalists for the NECTFL Teacher of the Year.

Conference 2015—Philadelphia (J. Grande and N. Zimmerman)

The 2015 Conference was a great success with over 300 in attendance, a new record. The conference drew in 110 new members. The Best of PA Session was "Achieving Proficiency Through the Three Modes of Communication" by Sarah Aguilar-Francis and David Brightbill. The session evaluations were very positive.

Conference 2016—Erie (P. Rzdokiewicz)

The conference will be held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie on October 13-15, 2016. Those helping with the conference are: Judy Benedict, Cheri Dohmen, Bob Hall, Leslie Neil, Susanne Nimmrichter, Katie Pohl, Natalie Puhala, Phyllis Rzdokiewicz, and Debbie Wills.

Conference 2017 – Harrisburg (M. Bogdan and J. Stewart)

The 2017 conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, which is located in Grantville. The committee plans to invite PA Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera to the conference.

Conference 2018 (I. Espino deValdivia and M. Levenson)

Isabel and Mina are currently looking for a site for 2018 that can accommodate our audience. They will report back to Council.

Advocacy (S. Nimmrichter)

There was further discussion about ESSA: Every Student Succeeds Act. The states will receive federal funding. We need to lobby our representatives to support K-12 world language programs to make sure we receive part of the money that will be distributed. World language teachers should encourage representatives to visit their classrooms, get parents involved

in letter writing, etc. We need to work to have the position of World Language Advisor re-instated at PDE. Updates to the website were discussed.

Awards (K. Fegely)

The Cemanahuac application deadline was moved to November 15. The announcement for applicants will be published October 1 and results will be sent to the Cemanahuac representative by January 1. The date from Student Recognition will be changed to May 1. The instructors must be current members of PSMLA. Kathy recommended considering an additional award for the selection for Teacher of the Year following the NECTFL/ACTFL Teacher of the Year model, since our candidate is judged by NECTFL to represent the Northeast Conference at ACTFL the following year.

Nominations/Elections (N. Zimmerman)

There was discussion regarding having a non-voting student Teaching Candidate on ExCo. Elections for ExCo members will be held in early September.

Membership (I. Espino deValdivia)

The committee recommended to include one section on the website for the membership brochure and another for the benefits of membership. The committee prepared directions on how to log in and/or update (activate) accounts for renewals and current members.

Professional Development (R. Madel)

The committee also recommended creating a brief needs survey to be sent via the Listserv so we know what to offer with regards to professional development. The committee will standardize criteria for organizations looking to partner with PSMLA.

Publications (C. Huhn)

The primary focus of the publications committee has been the webpage and the welcoming of our new PLF Editor, Megan Flinchbaugh. The webpage has been fully revamped and is live. The Listserv was just transferred over this last week of March. Council approved David Brightbill as the new Listserv Manager. Council voted that if the PSMLA Listserv Manager is a voting member of ExCo, in place of receiving an honorarium, their hotel would be covered for the three times they are required to attend meetings.

Website Manager's Report (R. DelPorto)

We will start using webmaster@psmpla.org to send updates for the website to Ron. Ron has been working with Christina and Antoine to resolve problems and to make changes from suggestions, etc.

Fall Meeting 2016

The fall meeting will be held at the Penn State in State College on August 27-28, 2016.