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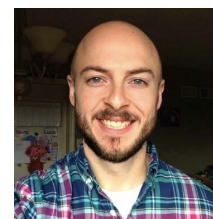
# PSMLA Spring Newsletter 2017

WWW.PSMLA.ORG



## PSMLA Welcomes New Mail Manager

Nathan Campbell, a Spanish teacher at Manheim Central High School, has been named the new mail-manager for PSMLA news updates and announcements. Please see the guidelines below for submitting announcements to the news manager. All inquiries should be sent to [news@psmla.org](mailto:news@psmla.org).



## Submission Guidelines for PSMLA News Items

PSMLA News Updates and Member Only News will be emailed each Tuesday morning. Submissions received by 11:59pm on Monday will be included in the weekly updates. Please adhere to the following guidelines when submitting your messages. With the exception of Conference and Workshop announcements, all mailings will be directed to PSMLA members only unless otherwise indicated. Messages may be edited for formatting purposes.

1. Please include a succinct title.
2. The message should be concise and include any pertinent information (cost, due dates, deadlines, links, etc.)
3. Please try to keep the message under 150 words.
4. Provide an email address where the reader can request additional information.
5. We are unable to accommodate attachments or images.



## 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. Visit the [PLF webpage](#) for more information, including instructions and guidelines for submission. Questions? Email Megan Flinchbaugh at [PALanguageForum@gmail.com](mailto:PALanguageForum@gmail.com).

### PSMLA Membership

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, get reduced fees for conferences and workshops, and receive 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 and benefits related to membership.

### PSMLA Nominations

We are now accepting nominations to serve a 3-year term on the PSMLA Executive Council. Nominees must be a member of PSMLA for at least a year. Please send an email expressing your interest or to nominate a colleague to Isabel Espino de Valdivia at [idevaldivia@gmail.com](mailto:idevaldivia@gmail.com). The nomination period will end at midnight on June 30, 2017. For more information please visit [www.psmla.org](http://www.psmla.org).

## PSMLA Awards

The **Cemanahuac Award** for summer study in Mexico has been awarded to Ms. Jaclyn Browning, Gateway High School, Monroeville, 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 2018 awards.



### The PSMLA Exemplary Program (PEP) Awards

Each year PSMLA seeks to identify and publicly recognize exemplary PA high school world 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 since 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 [2017 PEP SHOWCASE](#). Congratulations to all the 2017 Pep Award Schools!

#### GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

Abington Senior High School, Abington S.D.  
Academy of Notre Dame  
Carlynton Jr./Sr. High School, Carlynton S.D.  
Chartiers Valley High School, Chartiers Valley S.D.  
Fairview High School, Fairview S.D.  
Gateway High School, Gateway S.D.  
Jenkintown High School, Jenkintown S.D.  
Merion Mercy Academy, Lower Marion S.D.  
Owen J. Roberts High School, Owen J. Roberts S.D.  
Penncrest High School, Rosetree Media S.D.  
Pequea Valley High School, Pequea Valley S.D.  
Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Pittsburgh Brashear High School, Pittsburgh Public Schools  
Strath Haven High School, Wallingford-Swarthmore S.D.  
Upper Moreland High School, Upper Moreland Township S.D.  
Vincetian Academy  
William Penn Charter School

#### SILVER GLOBE AWARDS

Boiling Springs High School, South Middleton S.D.  
Cumberland Valley H. S., Cumberland Valley S.D.  
North Hills Senior High School, North Hills S.D.  
Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, Colonial S.D.

#### BRONZE GLOBE AWARDS

Gettysburg Area High School, Gettysburg Area S.D.  
McCaskey High School, S.D. of Lancaster

#### GLOBE AWARDS

Delaware Valley High School, Delaware Valley S.D.  
Hanover High School, Hanover Public S.D.  
Titusville Area High School, Titusville Area S.D.



**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

## 2017 Conference in Central PA: Register Today! October 5-7, 2017



PSMLA looks forward to welcoming you to our annual statewide conference of world language educators. Given our location near Harrisburg and our unique collaboration with the Pennsylvania Council for International Education (PACIE), we will have a special focus on advocating for our language programs, integrating global education into our curriculum, and practical takeaways relevant to all K-16+ educators and administrators. Our conference theme is “Capitol”izing on Languages and Global Education.

PSMLA is pleased to partner with the Association of World Language Educators (AWLE) for a pre-conference workshop on October 5 titled “Connecting the Standards: Approaching Communities, Cultures, and Communication through Everyday Activities” facilitated by Megan Flinchbaugh and Nathan Campbell, language teachers at Manheim Central High School. Educators will go home with strategies for engaging students, families, schools, and communities to promote the continued study of languages. Participants will receive ready-to-use tools that connect the target language and cultures to all stakeholders. The workshop will provide ample time to collaborate with peers, plan lessons, and create new materials. In the afternoon, the group will be transported for a tour of the Capitol Building and an opportunity to interact with state officials.

Please visit [www.psmla.org](http://www.psmla.org) for further details. Registration is now open! Register by September 18 for the reduced conference rate. You will also find the link to the discounted conference hotel rate for the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey.

## Professional Development

### PSMLA Immersion Day Chestnut Hill College - March 10, 2017

On Saturday, March 11, 2017, approximately 50 educators, gathered at Chestnut Hill College for the annual PSMLA Immersion Day. Chinese teachers heard Mien-Hwa Chiang Ph.D., on “Cultures and Connections: Developing Social Analysis Ability and Academic Language in a Content-based Lesson.” French teachers gleaned information on current problems with terrorism from Julien Suaudeau M.A., in his talk on «Djihadistes, tueurs de masse: essai de comparaison culturelle.» German teachers appreciated the cultural information they received from Joseph Moser Ph.D., who spoke on “Paul Celan’s Origins in Czernowitz.” Finally Sarah Aguilar-Francis, M.A. and David Brightbill M.A., provided insights into immigration for Spanish teachers in their presentation, “En busca del sueño americano: El viaje al Norte.”

After an international luncheon, all teachers participated in a session directed by Rich Madel and David Brightbill, “Promoting Proficiency in the WL Classroom.” Everyone was able to ask questions, share in the information, and comment on the means to develop proficiency. The event was sponsored by EMC, Santillana, Vista Higher Learning, Travel and Education, and West Chester University. Attendees noted the clarification of ACTFL tasks and rubrics and enjoyed talking about interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational tasks. Many appreciated contacts with other teachers who hold similar values and priorities. Evaluations were very positive, and the participants are looking forward to next year’s immersion day with great enthusiasm.

### PSMLA / Messiah College Workshop - April 22, 2017



Nearly 40 world language teachers attended the PSMLA/Messiah College Central PA Workshop on April 22. Dr. Susanne Nimmrichter and Michael Bogdan presented the theory and practice of teaching grammar in context and in the target language. After seeing multiple examples of how to co-construct grammar rules and to practice grammatical structures within a meaningful context, attendees worked in groups by language and level to develop a lesson plan or list of materials related to a challenging grammar structure. All participants have access to a shared folder with the work of each group. WholeRen Education helped to sponsor the breakfast and raffled a \$50 gift card. Based on the evaluations submitted, attendees appreciated having time to network with colleagues and to work together to develop materials that could be implemented immediately.



The mission of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association is to enhance foreign language education through-out 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.

For more information or to join PSMLA:

- visit [www.psmla.net](http://www.psmla.net)
- look for PSMLA on Facebook or contact

Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Secretary PSMLA  
at [secretary@psmla.org](mailto:secretary@psmla.org)

## Spring Executive Council Meeting Highlights

***The fall meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was at the Penn Stater, April 29-30, 2017.***

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

Phyllis reported that we currently have 533 individual members. Many members took advantage of the special 3-year membership deal for \$90 that was offered through January 31. Council is examining how the PSMLA vouchers have been redeemed.

### **Treasurer's Report** (M. Bogdan)

Council examined the Treasurer's report. Mike presented the balances and explained the various documents that detailed the different sources of dues, amounts from conferences, from membership, etc. This is the year PSMLA will have an external audit.

### **Finance Report** (M. Levenson)

Council voted unanimously to approve the new PSMLA Refund Policy. This policy will be placed on the website. John Carlino from NECTFL reviewed our current PSMLA Constitution and Bylaws. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to review and prepare documents in support of applying for tax exempt status, as well as, consideration for possible application for 501(c)(3) status.

### **Advertising Manager's Report** (J. Yamamoto)

Vendor space for this year's conference has been sold out, but the committee is looking for ways to accommodate more tables. Ads are coming in for the PLF and for the conference brochure.

### **Historian's Report** (S. Nimmrichter)

We do not currently have a Historian. Past historians have been asked to submit reports. Susanne will look into the duties of a Historian and determine if one is necessary.

### **Pennsylvania Language Forum** (M. Flinchbaugh)

Megan reported that currently, the Editor and assistant read all submissions, and jointly make decisions about whether or not to publish. If we had an Editorial Board, they would need to be available primarily in June and July to work with a deadline of mid-July. Megan will work to establish the responsibilities of an Editorial Board and will report back to Council. Megan would like to conduct a survey of the PLF readership.

### **Mailing Manager's Report** (D. Brightbill)

Approximately 40 messages were sent out over the past year. David has stepped down and the new Mail Manager will be Nate Campbell. The Publications Committee will discuss moving to set dates for the PSMLA News publication with a goal of one per week.

### **ACT 48** (B. Storey)

Brigitte reported that Provider Status with PDE has been renewed and accepted. The various evaluation forms by both participants and presenters will be revamped over the summer.

### **ACTFL** (J. Stewart and S. Nimmrichter)

Advocacy was a major topic at ACTFL. Lead with Languages campaign by ACTFL aimed at making language learning a priority in this country. The Advocacy Committee of PSMLA will review the ACTFL documents and place information on this campaign on our website.

### **PEP** (M. Levenson)

The eastern and western PEP committees met to rate the PEP applications. This year there were 20 applications, 6 of which were new to PEP. The PEP committee will require a tracking number for future applications.

### **Global Scholars** (J. Stewart)

In the first year of the Global Scholars Program (2015-16), there were 3 PSMLA Global Scholars Graduates. In this 2nd year (2016-2017), there are currently 37 Global Scholar Graduates from 8 schools. At the 2017 PSMLA Conference, there will be a session that will feature a panel of Global Scholars advisors who will share their experiences. Efforts will be made to publicize the Global Scholars Program to private and parochial schools in the state.

### **JNCL** (M. Levenson)

JNCL continues to be at the forefront on the struggle to fund foreign language initiatives. Information from the JNCL briefs will be examined for importance and Mina will have the information sent out via the PSMLA News.

### **PACIE** (Sister Kashuba)

Sister Kashuba attended the PACIE Conference on October 6-8, 2016 and presented an annual report from PSMLA. Sister Kashuba received the LaMarr Kopp Lifetime Achievement Award. PACIE will hold their 2017 conference with PSMLA at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey in October.

### **NECTFL** (K. Fegely)

The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages was held February 9-11, 2017 at the New York Hilton Midtown. PSMLA had a table at NECTFL this year. We were well represented at NECTFL: Bob Hall was our nominee for Teacher of the Year, Thekla Fall received the Brooks Award, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh received the Dodge Award.

### **Conference 2016 - Erie** (P. Rzodkiewicz)

The conference was held at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie on October 13-15, 2016. There were 33 members in attendance for the pre-conference and 162 members at the conference on Friday and Saturday. The Tech Playground was very well received. Feedback and evaluations were very positive. Attendees would like to have a shared Google site where conference presenters can share materials.

### **Conference 2017 - Harrisburg** (Bogdan and Stewart)

See the segment on page 3 for details.

### **Conference 2018** (Espino deValdivia and Levenson)

The 2018 PSMLA Conference will be held at the Pittsburgh Sheraton, Station Square. Members of the conference committee are: Isabel Espino de Valdivia, Mina Levenson, Natalie Puhala, Rochele Reitlinger, and Debbie Wills.

### **Conference 2019**

This will be the 100th Anniversary of PSMLA and the conference will be held in State College at the Penn Stater. Debbie Wills will create a historical display of PSMLA for the conference and the website. The chairs of the conference will be: Mike Bogdan, Susanne Nimmrichter, and Phyllis Rzodkiewicz. **Website Manager's Report (via Skype)** (R. DelPorto) Ron recommends that we purchase the Site Care Plan. Susanne will look into how we move forward and decide if we should purchase the Site Care Plan.

### **Advocacy** (M. Bogdan)

Discussion centered on the importance of having PA World Language Standards and having a World Language Advisor at PDE. All ExCo members are asked to reach out to their local representatives to make the case for the importance of world language education. Bill Rivers, Executive Director for JNCL, has submitted a proposal for our fall conference.

### **Nominations/Elections** (I. Espino de Valdivia)

Isabel will solicit nominations for ExCo from Council and through the News mailing. Voting will occur the beginning of September.

### **Awards** (K. Fegely)

Please see page 2 for information about award recipients. The recipients of other awards will be named at the fall conference. There were excellent candidates for all awards.

### **Membership** (M. Kindt)

The committee discussed changing the membership year from January through December to August 1 through July 31. Michelle is checking the feasibility of this change.

### **Professional Development** (R. Madel)

Rich explained that the committee would like to explore webinars as a professional development option for our members. The committee would like to have people register for regional workshops on our website in the same way they register for the conference.

### **Publications** (D. Brightbill)

The Publications committee is exploring the addition of a "Why join PSMLA" portion to the site featuring members' experiences at the conference, etc. The committee would like statistics to measure traffic to the website, which the website manager will submit.

### **Fall Meeting, 2017**

The fall meeting will be held at the Penn Stater in State College on August 26-27, 2017.