

OFFICERS

- Mina Levenson, President
- John Grande,
First Vice-President
- Isabel Espino de Valdivia
Second Vice-President
- Phyllis Rzodkiewicz,
Secretary
- Michael Bogdan, Treasurer
- Susanne Nimmrichter,
Immediate Past-President

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Susanne Nimmrichter

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

PSMLA 2018 Conference Highlights	1
Welcome New ExCo Members	2
Get Involved with PSMLA	2
Global Scholars Update	3
Professional Development	3
PSMLA Mission	4
Stay Connected with PSMLA!	4
Save the Date: Fall 2019	4

PSMLA Fall Newsletter 2018

WWW.PSMLA.ORG



PSMLA 2018 Fall Conference in Pittsburgh, October 11-13

"Get to the Point-Languages Matter"

The 2018 conference was held at the Sheraton Station Square hotel, right across the river from downtown Pittsburgh with a beautiful view of the Point State Park. We welcomed about 70 new PSMLA members among the almost 200 conference attendees on Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13.

Silvina Orsatti facilitated the pre-conference workshop on "Digital Games for Language Learning", which was attended by over 60 participants and therefore had to be split into two groups. Each group attended the half-day workshop with Silvina and then traveled to the Duolingo Headquarters in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood for a tour and updates on their most recent programming.

The conference included 48 presentations. The keynote speaker, Dr. Louis van Ahn, co-founder and CEO of Duolingo, mesmerized the audience with his keynote presentation. Conference attendees enjoyed networking during lunches and the wine and cheese reception. The nearby restaurants at Station Square and across the river in downtown Pittsburgh offered great choices for entertainment on Friday evening.

A big thank you to all attendees, presenters, exhibitors, conference committee members, and PSMLA executive council members for a great conference! PSMLA also thanks all sponsors of the 2018 conference.



PSMLA Awardees Honored

The PSMLA Annual Awards Ceremony was held during the conference luncheon on Saturday, October 13. We are honored to recognize the following organizations and PSMLA members:

- **PSMLA Merit Award:** *Dr. Susan Polansky from Carnegie Mellon University*
- **Outstanding World Language Teacher K-12:** *Erica Shafran, Hempfield Area High School*
- **Outstanding World Language Teacher Post-Secondary:** *Cathy Altmeyer, Washington & Jefferson College*
- **Frank Mulhorn Award:** *Dr. Jan Stewart, Seton Hill University*
- **Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year 2018 to go to NECTFL 2019:** *Rich Madel, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. Good luck in NYC, Rich!!*

Every year, the conference committee selects one session to represent PSMLA at NECTFL 2019:

- **Best of PA Session 2018:** *Google Tools in the World Language Classroom, Katie Bordner, City High, Pittsburg*

Welcome New ExCo Members!

David Brightbill, Spanish teacher and academic dean at William Penn Charter School (3-year term)

David is returning to the executive council for a second term. He has also served on the board of the Greater Philadelphia Area chapter of AATSP in recent years. He has presented at numerous conference including PSMLA, NECTFL, and ACTFL, and led many workshops for language educators at various schools' in-service days.



Cherie Garrett, Spanish teacher and department chair at Dallastown Area High School (3-year term)

Cherie has 28 years of experience teaching Spanish. She is the advisor for her school's PSMLA Global Scholars Program and the coordinator of the World Language Career Symposium at Dallastown high school. She would like to work toward obtaining the Seal of Biliteracy in Pennsylvania.



Silvina Orsatti, Spanish and methods instructor at University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg (3-year term)

Silvina served as a member of the Board of Directors for NECTFL from 2013-17. She has led many workshops on technology, most recently at our fall conference. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology (PAECT) and would like to see PSMLA build more partnerships with such organizations.



Wilma Dunkle, German teacher at Meadville Area Senior High School (1-year term to fill vacancy)

Wilma has co-organized World Cultures Week at her school and is the school-level coordinator for student participation in The Friendship Connection exchange program.



Are you interested in becoming more involved in PSMLA?

1. Please consider running for a three-year term for Executive Council. Each fall, there are 3 vacancies on the Council for which up to 6 candidates may run.
2. In addition, ExCo often needs volunteers to assist in various ways. For example, the Act 48 Representative uploads Act 48 credits to the PDE website for attendees of the conference and workshops, but does not need to be an ExCo member.
3. Submit articles and reports to the Pennsylvania Language Forum for publication.
4. Attend, help organize, or present at the fall conference or a local workshop.

Contact any PSMLA ExCo member to express your interest.

For a full list of ExCo members visit psmla.org/executive-council.

PSMLA Global Scholars Program - 2018 Updates

The PSMLA Global Scholars Program recognizes students from across the state of Pennsylvania that make a conscious effort to enhance their global competence during the high school experience thus preparing them for greater academic, professional, and personal success in an increasingly global society. They complete a combination of 4 sets of interdisciplinary criteria with a global focus from their existing curriculum in their schools and community including:

1. Academic courses (4 years of a world language plus 4 other courses)
2. Extra-curricular activities
3. Service hours
4. Literature/media reviews



Upon earning the PSMLA Global Scholars Graduate designation, students are eligible to receive a certificate and to wear a Global Scholars honor cord at graduation. Congratulations to the twelve schools that boasted a total of 71 PSMLA Global Scholar Graduates for the 2017-2018 school year:

Avonworth High School
Camp Hill High School
Dallastown Area High School
Fox Chapel Area High School

Franklin Regional High School
Governor Mifflin Senior High School
Greater Latrobe Senior High School
Hempfield Area High School

Kennard-Dale High School
Norwin High School
Penncrest High School
Selinsgrove Area High School

More information about the PSMLA Global Scholars Program and how you can enroll your students is available at www.psmla.org/global-scholars.

Professional Development

Coming up in 2019 ...

NECTFL

If you have not already done so, register now for the Northeast Conference on **February 7-9, 2019** in New York City. The complete preliminary program has been posted to the website and the first registration deadline has already passed. Visit www.nectfl.org for more information.

Southeastern PA

PSMLA's Spring Immersion Day will be held on **March 9, 2019** at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. A workshop on "Teaching with Comprehensible Input" will be followed by sessions in Spanish, French, German, and Chinese, lunch in the target language, and a short afternoon session about using crafts in the World Language classroom. For more information, contact jgrande@umtsd.org.

Central PA

On Saturday, **March 30, 2019** join PSMLA members at our annual spring workshop at Messiah College. The focus will be on promoting and maintaining the use of the target language. Breakfast, lunch, and networking included! Visit psmla.org in early 2019 for more details.

Southwestern PA

The IUP Spring Methodology Conference on Foreign Language Teaching will be held on **April 12, 2019** at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. More information, visit www.chss.iup.edu/spanish/methodsconf/.

Taking place in fall 2018 ...

Art in the Language Classroom Workshop

On November 3, 2018, PSMLA members attended a free tour and workshop of the Dickinson College Trout Gallery in Carlisle. First, attendees toured the exhibit in French, German, or Spanish, participating in activities that could be mimicked with their own students in an art museum or virtual tour. Then, PSMLA board member and former AATG President Kathy Fegely led an interactive session on techniques for incorporating art at all levels of the language classroom. Finally, attendees participated in table talks and networking over lunch. We thank Dickinson College Trout Gallery for sponsoring this event.

ACTFL

PSMLA was well represented at ACTFL 2018 in New Orleans as presenters, exhibitors, and attendees. Next year's conference will be held in Washington, D.C. on November 22-24. ACTFL is currently calling for proposals. Visit actfl.org.



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.org
- look for PSMLA on Facebook or contact

Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Secretary PSMLA at secretary@psmla.org

Stay Connected with PSMLA!

ExCo Meeting Minutes

The fall meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was at the Penn Stater, August 25, 2018. Visit www.psmla.org and search under the membership tab in order to read the minutes. Please note that you will need to log in first.

Past PSMLA Newsletters

For past issues of the newsletter visit www.psmla.org and search under the publications tab.

PSMLA News Submissions

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 see the guidelines below for submitting announcements to the news manager. All inquiries and submissions should be sent to news@psmla.org.

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

Pennsylvania Language Forum (PLF)

For past editions of PLF visit www.psmla.org and search under the publications tab. Submissions are always welcome. Article submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, but must be received by June 1 to be considered for publication in the fall issue of PLF. All authors and any co-authors must be current PSMLA members. PSMLA members whose work is chosen for publication will be notified via email and receive \$10 "PSMLA Bucks" which are redeemable for PSMLA membership renewal or registration at a PSMLA-sponsored workshops or events.

50th anniversary
PACIE
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

100th anniversary
PSMLA
PENNSYLVANIA STATE
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

Save the date

OUR PAST
OUR PRESENT
OUR FUTURE

FALL CONFERENCE
October 24-26, 2019
Penn Stater Hotel &
Conference Center
State College, PA

Join PSMLA at our 100-year anniversary conference to be held October 24-26, 2019! We will offer up to nine concurrent sessions through our partnership with the Pennsylvania Council for International Education (PACIE). We will have an expanded exhibit hall, silent auction, wine and cheese reception, and special recognition of our centennial. Session proposals will be accepted in February and March. Check psmla.org in 2019 for more details.