

PENNSYLVANIA STATE
MODERN LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION

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PSMLA SPRING Newsletter 2014

WWW.PSMLA.ORG



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NEWSLETTER
EDITOR:
DALIANG
WANG

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ing highlights

PSMLA Members at NECTFL 2014 Boston

The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages was held in Boston at Marriot Boston Copley Place from March 27-30, 2014. PSMLA was well represented at NECTFL!

- **Peggy Carlson**, PSMLA 2013 Teacher for the Year from Deer Lakes High School, was recognized as a finalist for NECTFL Teacher of the Year!
- **Dr. Nancy Zimmerman**, from Kutztown University, was recognized as a Mead Fellow 2014!
- **Dr. José Ricardo-Osorio** was elected as a new member to the NECTFL Board of Directors until 2018.
- **Rich Madel**, from Colonial School District, presented his Best of PA Session to an eager, interested audience!
- Sessions were also presented by Executive Council Members **Sister Mary Helen Kashuba**, **Dr. Daliang Wang**, and **Dr. Jan Stewart** as well as by PSMLA member **Silvina Orsatti**!



Outstanding Senior Awards

PSMLA congratulates two Outstanding Seniors:

- 1st place, **Elizabeth Smith** from Wissahickon High School
- 2nd place, **Cody Dally**, from Nazareth Area HS

Cemanahuac Scholarship

PSMLA also would like to congratulate teacher **Lindsay Aley**, from New Brighton Area H S, and student-teacher **Christina Villani** from the University of Pittsburgh, for each being awarded the Cemanahuac Scholarship for a two week stay in Cuernavaca, Mexico to study and experience everyday life!



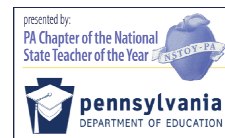
PSMLA Executive Council Elections

The elections for open positions on the PSMLA executive council will take place at the beginning of the school year. Nominations have been made. Please vote at the beginning of fall 2014.

PSMLA Member Finalist as Teacher of the Year

Governor Tom Corbett announced on April 4 the 13 educators who have been selected as finalists for Pennsylvania's 2015 Teacher of the Year.

John Grande, PSMLA Executive Council member and Spanish and French teacher at Upper Moreland Township School District was among final candidates.





International Food Tasting and Walking Tour II

The Strip District Market tour is a late morning weekday tour featuring a behind-the-counter look at a variety of eateries in Pittsburgh's historic market district. This tour links local history with the eating establishments peppered along Penn Avenue with taste samples from around the world including Italian pastries, Mediterranean and Polish specialties, European meats and French bread. Join us for an informal get-together after the tour to network and socialize.

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 @ 10:00am **Duration:** 2 hours

Meet: In Pittsburgh's Strip District Old St. Patrick's Church courtyard, 1711 Liberty Avenue

Cost: Members \$34/ Non-members \$39

RSVP Spots go to first 24 guests that send payment. Send check payable to *PSMLA* to Rochele Reitlinger 148 Valleycrest Drive Cecil, PA 15321 Questions? Contact Natalie @ ernie4@windstream.net

PEP Awards 2014



In honor of the national "2005 Year of Languages", PSMLA began showcasing exemplary PA high school foreign language programs. All PA high schools are invited to participate.

PEP schools are required to submit evidence to document that they meet the rigorous criteria established by PSMLA.

PEP is not a competition; every school that provides the required evidence receives an award. The goal of PEP is to provide a blueprint so that ALL PA high school world

language programs become PEP Award programs.

All PA students deserve exemplary foreign language programs!

Congratulations to the following Pennsylvania Schools, who will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony at 2014 PSMLA Conference in October, for their exemplary programs!

Golden Globe Awardees :

- Abington Senior HS
- Academy of Notre Dame
- Germantown Academy
- J.R. Masterman Laboratory/Demonstration School
- Owen J. Roberts HS

- Penncrest HS
- Pittsburgh Allderdice
- Upper Moreland HS

Silver Globe Awardees:

- Boiling Springs Senior HS
- Chartiers Valley HS
- Vincentian Academy
- Wilson HS

Bronze Globe Awardees:

- J.P McCaskey HS
- North Hills HS

Globe Awardees:

- Cumberland Valley HS
- Gateway HS
- Keystone Oaks
- Seneca Valley Intermediate/Senior HS
- Waynesboro Area Senior HS

PSMLA Conference 2014 : Many Languages, One State: Let's Collaborate!

Register now for the PSMLA 2014 conference which will be held at the Penn Stater in State College on October 17-18, 2014, with a pre-conference workshop planned for October 16.

For the best conference and hotel rates, register before September 15. You will find registration information at www.psmla.net.

All three AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) chapters in the state of PA are collaborating to co-sponsor this conference at which you will be able to:

- Attend professional development sessions.
- Meet world language colleagues from across the state.
- Learn more about the status of world language education in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Share and collaborate to infuse new strategies and energy into your classrooms.

Conference Location & Accommodations

The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel,
215 Innovation Boulevard
State College, PA 16803

<http://www.thepennstaterhotel.psu.edu> / 800-233-7505

- Room Rate: \$105 per night (before 9/15/14) • Registration Code: **PENJ14G**



Pre-Conference Workshop at the PSMLA 2014 Fall conference:

**The New PA Teacher Evaluation System and the Danielson Framework:
Making the Match, Avoiding the Pitfalls, and Maximizing your Observation as a World Language Educator**

The pre-conference workshop, will be held Thursday, October 16.

- The cost will include continental breakfast and lunch.
- Act 48 credits will be available.

Dr. Donna Spangler, Spanish teacher at Hershey Middle School, has worked in her school district with the new PDE evaluation system and will facilitate the workshop to help prepare PSMLA member for success as we transition into the new system.



Keynote Speaker at the PSMLA 2014 Fall conference:

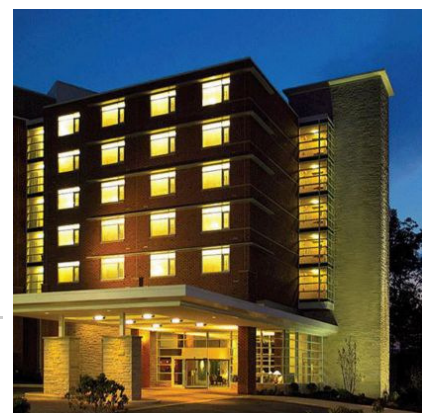
Christina Frei, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Language Instruction, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

**Mark your
calendars and
tell your
colleagues
about the
PSMLA Fall
Conference!**

OCTOBER 17-18, 2014
STATE COLLEGE, PA

The spring Meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was also held at the Penn Stater, April 5 & 6, 2014.





For more information or to join PSMLA:

- go to www.psmla.org
- look for PSMLA on **Facebook**
- or **contact**

Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Secretary PSMLA
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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 PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Highlights

PSMLA President Jan Stewart developed the agenda, committees met and gave reports, and plans were made for future workshops and conferences.

Treasurer's Report (R. Reitlinger)

Council carefully examined the Treasurer's report. Jan requested that an annual report for the previous year be ready for the spring meeting each year.

Secretary's Report (P. Rzodkiewicz)

Phyllis reported that we currently have 440 individual members and 24 Institutional members. Council was reminded that one of the best ways to maintain and increase membership is through regional workshops across the state.

Advertising Manager's Report (J. Yamamoto)

Junko Yamamoto has taken over as Ad and Exhibit Manager. Junko reported that five tables have been sold as of March 26 for the fall conference. EMC will donate \$800 toward the wine and cheese reception. Santillana is sponsoring bags for the conference.

Website Manager's Report (R. DelPorto)

Ron reminded Council that they need to remember to check the website to make sure that information that pertains to their committees is up to date.

Advocacy (M. Levenson)

It was decided that it is not in our best interest to cut JNCL. The three new members have volunteered to sort through all the information we receive from JNCL, make changes, and send it out to the membership.

Finance (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne explained that, as the new Chair of the Finance Committee, she wanted a good understanding of finances and exam-

ined the past 5 years of reports. It was determined that ExCo will spend judiciously and cut back on expenses in a variety of ways. As each committee meets to prepare their report for council, they will look at ways they can reduce costs yet continue to best serve our members.

Awards (R. Reitlinger)

(See page 1 of this Newsletter for details.)

ACT 48 - (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne informed Council that in order for members to receive Act 48 credit, they must complete the evaluation. This is in compliance with PDE. For this year's fall conference, participants will need to complete the Student Impact Statement for PDE.

CCA

Jan explained what CCA is to the new members on ExCo. There was some discussion as to whether PSMLA should continue to fund CCA at the same level since the competition and participating schools are only from SW PA.

JNCL (M. Levenson)

Mina will represent PSMLA at JNCL-NCLIS this year at the delegate meeting on May 8 and 9. PSMLA pays \$750 every six months in dues to JNCL. Mina participated in a nationwide conference call on March 10. Mina continually sends out memos, alerts, and information to ExCo that contains updates that should be acted upon and disseminated and discussed at ExCo and at our local schools.

NECTFL (D. Wang)

Council congratulated Nancy Zimmerman on being selected a Mead winner for 2014. Her project deals with creating e-books for heritage and non-heritage speakers of Spanish. There were only two Mead win-

ners this year, as opposed to the usual four winners. As usual, the Meeting of the States was very informative.

PaCIE (Sister Kashuba)

Unfortunately, the PaCIE conference is the same date as our fall conference this year. They are doing regional workshops: one on Common Core and one on Global Competence.

Conference 2014—State College, PA

(See page 3 of this Newsletter for details.)

Conference 2015 – Philadelphia (J. Grande & N. Zimmerman)

The conference will be held from October 15-17 in King of Prussia.

Publications (S. Nimmrichter)

Donna Spangler has taken over as Editor of the Forum. Council voted to fund two free one-year memberships for new contributors to the Forum.

PSMLA Conference 2016

The 2016 conference will be held in Erie. Phyllis and Daliang will work on securing a place and date for the conference.

Membership (P. Rzodkiewicz)

Council voted to change the Joint Membership to include two members who have the same home address. There was also discussion about deleting those past members who have not renewed their membership from the list serv.

Nominations/Elections (B. Buxareo)

Beverly reminded council that three ExCo members have terms that are expiring this year.

PEP (M. Levenson)

(See page 2 of this Newsletter for details.)

Professional Development (N. Zimmerman)

Chestnut Hill College held their yearly Professional Development day. Natalie is planning to have a Restaurant Crawl in the Pittsburgh area.