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PSMLA Fall Newsletter 2016

WWW.PSMLA.ORG



PSMLA 2016 Fall Conference in Erie, October 13-15

Languages: The Flagship to Opportunities

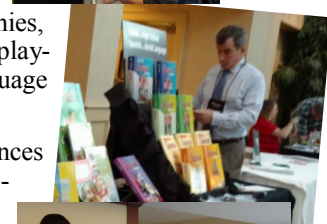
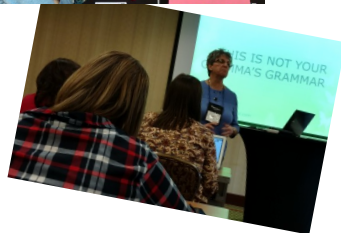
THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's PSMLA conference a huge success!

It all started with an excellent pre-conference workshop conducted by **Dr. Bonnie Adair-Hauck** on Thursday on the Integrated Performance Assessment.

We had many teachers and students from all over the state, Ohio, New York and beyond, representatives from Travel Companies and Technology Companies, opportunities to buy jewelry, a technology playground, a winery tour and, of course, Language Lotto and the Silent Auction!

There were many wonderful sessions, chances for networking, and catching up with long-time colleagues.

If you weren't able to join us this year, see you at PSMLA 2017!



PSMLA Awardees Honored

PSMLA Annual Awards Presentation was held on Friday October 14 at the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie, PA. We are honored to recognize the following organizations and PSMLA members:

- **Merit Awards:** *Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh* and *Multicultural Community Research Center in Erie*
- **Educator of the Year:** K-12 - *Bob Hall*, Fairview School District
- **Educator of the Year:** Post-Secondary - *Dr. Alice Edwards*, Mercyhurst University
- **Best of PA Session:** - *Strive for a 5*, Shannon Froelich and Bob Hall, Fairview School District

PSMLA is happy to recognize excellence! Congratulations to all!

In Memoriam



Dr. Iraldo ("Raldo") O. Parascenzo, long-time member of PSMLA and former Executive Council member during

the organization's early years, died on July 16, 2016, at the age of 90, in his home in Canonsburg.

Raldo was President of PSMLA from 1974 to 1976 and a member of Executive Council for over a decade. He received the

PSMLA Educator of the Year Award in 1981.

Known to his students as Dr. P., was professor of Spanish at California University of Pennsylvania from 1965-2004, where he was also chair of the Department of Modern Languages. A talented and enthusiastic professor, Raldo inspired his students with his passion for Spanish

Beyond teaching his undergraduates, Raldo was a mentor who counseled his graduates as they went into the workplace or graduate programs. Further, he encouraged his teacher candidates

to become involved with professional organizations such as PSMLA.

Few people knew that Raldo served in World War II and was also a talented musician, having played the saxophone and clarinet in two orchestras. He leaves behind a long legacy of students who studied Spanish and Spanish Education and whose lives are undoubtedly better for having had Dr. P. as a professor and mentor. He will be sorely missed and always remembered. *Written by Dr. Eileen Glisan*

Welcome New ExCo Members!

Jean M. Copeland - French (Secondary)

Jean has been teaching French since 1997, after careers in the Fashion and retail industries. She currently serves as the Department Chair for Masterman's World Language Department.



Keith Corbitt, Ph.D. (Spanish and Portuguese, West Chester University) Assistant Professor of Languages,

Keith is currently the Supervisor of Teacher Education at West Chester University and has served as chaperone for teacher candidates at the PSMLA Conference. He has also served on the 2015 PSMLA conference committee, and supervised a vendor's booth while chaperoning 14 teacher candidates.

Isabel Espino de Valdivia, Ph.D. - Spanish, Japanese (Secondary)

A native of Trujillo, Peru, Isabel teaches Japanese and Spanish at the Pittsburgh Public Schools and is a National Board Certified Teacher. In addition, she is recipient of a number of grants to support her programs and has been a presenter at state, regional and national conferences. Isabel was named 2008 PSMLA Educator of the year, and is a member of the National Leadership Program for Japanese Teachers.



Are you interested in becoming more involved in PSMLA?



1. Please consider running for a 3 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. 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. From time to time, similar opportunities present themselves.
3. Submit articles and reports to the Forum for publication.

4. Attend, help organize, or present at the fall conference or a local

workshop.

Contact any ExCo member to express your interests! See www.psmila.org for a full list of ExCo members!

Advocating for World Languages

At this time in our nation's history, advocacy for foreign languages is more important than ever before. In recent months, there have been numerous articles and statements in the media that support the role of foreign languages in the future of our nation and our educational system. Following are resources and recent newsworthy items on this very important topic:

1. Resources on Advocacy from our recently updated [advocacy webpage on psmla.org](http://psmla.org/advocacy)
2. A recent article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette by Thekla Fall, that emphasized the need to rejuvenate and support the proud history of World Language education in Pittsburgh: [Immersion subversion](#).
3. [JNCL-NCLIS](#) is a non-profit organization whose primary goal is to advocate for all areas of World Language. This website provides updates on cur-

rent advocacy efforts in World Language education, as well as information on who to contact to advocate for language education.

4. Information on [California's Proposition 58](#), which will make it easier for California to offer bilingual education programs.
5. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages very recent [position statement on the role of language learning and diversity](#).

We would like to encourage World Language Educators to continue to be proactive and also to share world language information with their legislators as well as in their local communities.



UPCOMING EVENTS!



Save the Date



2017 PSMLA Conference

(in collaboration with PACIE = Pennsylvania Council for International Education)

“Capitol”izing on Languages and Global Education

October 5-7, 2017

Holiday Inn Harrisburg / Hershey



Southwest

Come join us at the 42nd [IUP Spring Methodology Conference](#) on Friday, April 21, 2017. Full details are on our webpage, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!

Central

PSMLA will host a workshop for world language teachers at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg on Saturday, April 22. The focus will be techniques for teaching grammar in context. Details and registration will be available at psmla.org and in the PSMLA News emails in 2017.



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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secretary@psmla.org

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.

Fall PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Highlights

The fall meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was at the Penn Stater, August 27-28, 2016

Secretary's Report (P. Rzodkiewicz)

Phyllis reported that we currently have 656 individual members. There are many members whose membership expires this year in December. Some PEP Vouchers have been redeemed. Thekla and Mina have sent a notice to PEP schools reminding them to redeem their vouchers.

Treasurer's Report (M. Bogdan)

Council examined the Treasurer's report. Mike presented the balances. We have not yet paid for the printing of the Pennsylvania Language Forum and we have not begun to pay the many expenses from the conference.

Finance Report (M. Bogdan for M. Levenson)

The Finance Committee recommended a reduction in the price for the outside back cover of the conference brochure. Mike Bogdan is working with John Carlino from NECTFL to review our current bylaws so that we can pursue applying for non-profit corporation classification under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). A new refund policy is being examined, and once approved, will be placed on the website.

Advertising Manager's Report (J. Yamamoto)

Junko explained there were \$800 in sales of ads for PLF this year. Junko has been working hard to secure ads and tables for this year's conference.

Historian's Report (N. Zimmerman)

Prior to Google Drive, all reports and documents from the fall and spring meetings have been stored on Nancy's computer. IUP is the designated repository of all these electronic and hard copy documents. Jan provided the link the Table of Contents where the hard copy of items are stored. We will use this information as we approach the 100th year of PSMLA.

Pennsylvania Language Forum (M. Flinchbaugh)

Megan will be creating a PLF Mission Statement and would like to have an Editorial Board for the PLF. The PLF is not a full peer-review journal, but having the Editorial Board may help to make it more professional and to bring in more submissions. Many attachments will be available on-line so people can make adjustments and use them.

Mailing Manager's Report (D. Brightbill)

David explained that the new process is more involved than just forwarding emails to the members. Council members like the "look" of the new "PSMLA News" and they agree it is professional and consistent.

ACT 48 (B. Storey)

Brigitte reported the hours submitted since our last council meeting. The hours were submitted only

after

teachers had completed the online evaluation form within two weeks after the event. Brigitte and Jan are working on the assessment portion of the application. Jan, Mike, and Phyllis offered to help Brigitte with the 6 standards that need to be addressed. The assessment of the participant is the difficult part of the application.

ACTFL (J. Stewart and S. Nimmrichter)

Sister Mary Helen Kashuba represented PSMLA at ACTFL last year. Both Susanne and Jan are going to ACTFL this year and will represent PSMLA at the Delegate Assembly.

Global Scholars (J. Stewart)

Some of the criteria were changed to reflect school population, just as we do with the PEP applications. Pedro Rivera sent a personal letter of congratulations to each of the three PSMLA Global Scholars this summer at the end of our pilot year. Jan has been in contact with Pedro Rivera and his office to keep them current on the Global Scholars Program. Jan and Sister Mary Helen have done presentations across the state to promote this new program. It has been very successful with many schools already registered.

PEP (M. Levenson)

The PEP rubric and indicators were reviewed and refined/clarified. The PEP vouchers may only be used by PSMLA members. Members from the Pittsburgh area will meet in October to encourage their schools to apply for the PEP award.

JNCL (M. Levenson)

Lobbying efforts were successful in maintaining funding levels for many Fulbright programs, rather than the cuts that were proposed. Efforts are ongoing to impact congressional funding. Sister will no longer represent AATF at JNCL. Mina will continue to go every other year.

NECTFL (K. Fegely)

NECTFL will be held February 9-11, 2017 at the New York Hilton Midtown. We need to submit the 2016 Best of State winners by the end of November. The NECTFL Mead Fellow Program application has been updated and posted to the website. Applications are to be submitted through PSMLA no later than November 15. The NECTFL Teacher of the Year selection process will be the same as last year. The deadline to receive application packets is January 5. NECTFL awards (Freeman Award, Brooks Award, and the Dodge Award) are open for nominations.

PACIE (Sister Kashuba)

The theme of the 2016 PACIE Conference is Building Bridges in Global Education. Sister will attend and present the annual report from PSMLA at the evening meeting on October 6. PSMLA and PACIE have worked together on plans to hold the 2017 conference together.

Conference 2017— Harrisburg (M. Bogdan and J. Stewart) The 2017 conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey. ExCo approved a partnership with PACIE for the 2017 conference. Jan and Mike are confident that this partnership will pool resources, help with cost sharing, and increase total attendance. See psmla.org for more details.

Conference 2018 (I. Espino deValdivia and M. Levenson) Isabel and Mina are currently looking for a site for 2018 that can accommodate our audience.

Conference 2019

This will be the 100th Anniversary of PSMLA and the conference will be held in State College at the Penn Stater. We need to secure a contract for the conference. We hope to have a historical display of PSMLA at the conference and on the website as the event gets closer.

Advocacy (J. L. Dassier)

The PSMLA advocacy webpage is dedicated to promoting language education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. See psmla.org for updates.

Awards (K. Fegely)

Kathy distributed to council a proposal for a new PSMLA award for 2017. This would be for a Teacher of the Year candidate that would reflect the priorities for selection by NECTFL and by ACTFL. The Awards Committee worked on the rubrics for the PSMLA Outstanding Educator of the Year awards. There was a lengthy discussion on these awards.

Membership (I. Espino deValdivia)

The committee examined the membership section on the website. The website is critical and very important in order to retain and increase membership. The committee proposed a special membership deal: purchase or renew a 3-year membership for \$95. This offer will start as soon as it can be announced and will expire on January 31, 2017.

Professional Development (R. Madel)

Rich explained that we could add additional events for world language teachers on our calendar, and set up a membership survey and will continue to investigate different services that we can use to offer webinars. The Professional Development committee will work out the details.

Publications (C. Huhn)

The Publications Committee is working on fine-tuning areas of the website. Susanne will look at the Yahoo Group and remove some people that are still receiving email that are no longer on Executive Council. Christina will continue as liaison with the Webpage.

Website Manager's Report (R. DelPorto)

Various things will be sent to Ron, via Christina, for updates and changes to the website. met this week-end.

Spring Meeting will be held at the Penn Stater in State College on April 29-30, 2017.