

PENNSYLVANIA STATE  
MODERN LANGUAGE  
ASSOCIATION

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# PSMLA Fall Newsletter 2013

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NEWSLETTER  
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## PSMLA 2013 Conference in Pittsburgh: A Major Success!

October 17-19, 2013, the PSMLA Fall Conference was held at the DoubleTree in Greentree (Pittsburgh) and attended by nearly 200 PSMLA members, exhibitors, and presenters from the state of Pennsylvania as well as from many other states.

The pre-conference workshop, *Digital Storytelling Apps N'at* (N'at is not a typo but represents yet another language: Pittsburghese) was well-attended and conducted by Silvina Orsatti, from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Silvina shared many sites, apps, and strategies to use technology to enhance student involvement and engagement in storytelling.

On Friday and Saturday, October 18-19, there were 30 different sessions from which members could choose. These sessions included a variety of languages, strategies, presenters, and opportunities for infusing fresh perspectives

## PSMLA Awardees Honored

The PSMLA annual awards presentation was held on Saturday, October 19 at the conference. We were honored to recognize the following PSMLA members:

### Frank Mulhern Leadership Award:

**Dr. Bonnie Adair-Hauck** (Univ. of Pittsburgh)

### K-12 PSMLA Teacher of the Year:

**Margaret Carlson** (Deer Lakes High School)

### Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year:

**Dr. Frank Brooks** (Indiana University of PA)

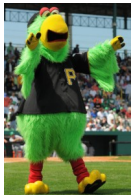
into teaching and learning.

Dr. Bonnie Adair-Hauck, in her keynote speech *Assessment in Foreign Language Learning: Curse or Cure*, shared with attendees her research, experiences, and resultant challenges to the world language profession.

A highlight at the end of Friday afternoon was a wine and cheese reception for attendees, presenters, and exhibitors to visit, collabo-

rate, and relax. Special appearances were made by Pittsburgh Pirate mascot the Pirate Parrot and Steeler mascot Steely McBeam. Lots of fun and photo ops ensued.

Thanks to the 2013 Conference Committee for their dedication and efforts!



### Merit Awards:

- University of Pittsburgh European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center
- University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business

(Please see more information about honorees on page 2.)

PEP Awards (Please see page 2 of this newsletter for a list of the PEP schools.)

PSMLA is happy to recognize excellence! Congratulations to all!

## Application for ACT 48 Provider Approved

PSMLA is happy to report that our application as Act 48 Provider was approved for another three years by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We look forward to continuing our service to our members by providing professional development opportunities.

## More about the 2013 Conference Awardees

**Bonnie Adair-Hauck, Ph.D.** is a second language research professor for the *University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center and the European Union Center of Excellence* where she also serves as a language consultant for educational institutions both nationally and internationally. Since 2001, she has served as the Director of the *University of Pittsburgh's French Immersion Institutes* designed to broaden middle and high school teachers' cultural understanding of French speaking countries while concurrently strengthening their French speaking/listening skills. Bonnie is also a Past-President of PSMLA and has long been involved with PSMLA in a variety of ways.

**Dr. Frank B. Brooks**, Associate Professor of Spanish and Foreign Language Education, who has been teaching for over three decades, is currently on the faculty at IUP. At IUP, Dr. Brooks teaches Spanish language and conversation, works with students pursuing their teaching certificate in Spanish Education, and currently serves as co-chair of the [IUP Spring Methodology Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#).

**Margaret Carlson** is a Spanish and French teacher for the Deer Lakes School District and served as department chair for ten years. She has also taught a master level class at the University of Pittsburgh and methodology at La Roche College. Peggy served on the Advocacy and Business Committees for the PSMLA executive council from 1998 until 2004.

Thank you to these three outstanding educators for their contributions to our profession!

## PEP Awards 2013

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 blue-print 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 were recognized at the PSMLA Awards Ceremony, for their exemplary programs!

Gold Award winners :

- **Abington Senior HS**
- **Academy of Notre Dame de Namur**
- **Germantown Academy**
- **J.R. Masterman Laboratory/Demonstration School**
- **Owen J. Roberts High**
- **Pittsburgh Allderdice**
- **Upper Moreland HS**

Silver Award winners :

- **Wilson High School**

Globe Award winners:

- **Cumberland Valley High School**



## PSMLA Conference 2014

Each fall, PSMLA hosts a conference for PSMLA members, rotating the venue to various locations in the state in order to make attendance convenient for members.

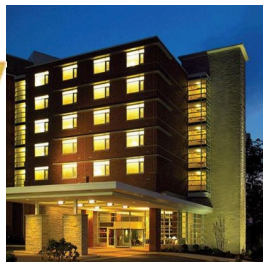
The PSMLA 2014 conference will be at the Penn State State College on October 17-18, 2014, with a pre-conference workshop planned for October 16.

All AATF, AATG, and AATSP chapters in Pennsylvania have been invited to co-sponsor the conference. We hope for a great turnout. Please watch your inbox for the call for proposals at the beginning of 2014. For more information, contact the conference chairs [Susanne.Nimmrichter@millersville.edu](mailto:Susanne.Nimmrichter@millersville.edu) or José Ricardo Osorio at [jgrica@ship.edu](mailto:jgrica@ship.edu).



**Mark your  
calendars, tell  
your colleagues,  
and stay tuned  
for more details!**

**OCTOBER 17-18, 2014  
STATE COLLEGE, PA**



## PSMLA Elections and Appointments 2013

The PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) is comprised of world language professionals from across the state who volunteer their time and talents to maintain and further the interests and professional development of PSMLA members. PSMLA ExCo convenes three times per year: during the spring and early fall (generally at State College) plus at the Fall Conference. The honor of serving the PSMLA membership is accompanied by a commitment of time and talents as well as costs. Some of the ExCo members' schools and universities support their involvement by assisting with expenses.

### Members elected to the PSMLA Ex-Co for a three-year term (2014-2016):

- Isabel Espino de Valdivia. Pittsburgh Public Schools
- José Ricardo-Osorio, Shippensburg University
- Nancy Zimmerman. Kutztown University

### Members recently appointed to the PSMLA Executive Council for a one-year term (2014):

- Deanna Hinman, Mercyhurst Preparatory School
- Caroline Neville, Parkway Center City High School

### Officers elected for 2014-15:

- Jan Stewart, President
- Susanne Nimmrichter, First Vice-President
- Mina Levenson, Second Vice-President

- Rochele Reitlinger, Treasurer
- Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Secretary

### Additional Changes for PSMLA ExCo:

- Junko Yamamoto, Advertising Manager
- Donna Spangler, Forum Editor

Thanks to Bob Hall for years of service as Advertising Manager and working with advertisers and exhibitors at for our publications and fall conferences and to Debbie Wills for tireless efforts for 12 years as Treasurer.

Rochele Reitlinger has been serving as the Forum Editor with Donna Spangler assisting her. Donna has graciously agreed to take over as the Forum Editor with assistance from Angela Ryan.

### **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!** Contact information is found on the PSMLA website ([www.psmla.org](http://www.psmla.org).)



For more information or to join PSMLA:

- go to [www.psmla.org](http://www.psmla.org)
- look for PSMLA on **Facebook**
- or **contact**

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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.

# Fall PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Highlights

The fall meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was at the Penn Stater, September 28-29, 2013.

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

## **Treasurer's Report** (D. Wills)

Council examined the treasurer's report. Several council members conducted an internal audit of the finances following lunch on Saturday. Debbie reported that money continues to come in from conference registrations and from the conference exhibitors.

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

Phyllis reported that we currently have 468 members and 23 Institutional members. The number of members has increased considerably since the spring due to the number of teachers and students who have become members because they will attend the conference in October 2013.

## **Advertising Manager's Report** (R. Hall)

Bob Hall and Junko Yamamoto are working together as Ad and Exhibit Managers. Junko will replace Bob as Ad and Exhibits manager in January. They reported that currently there are 15 tables for the conference. They also reported on the number of ads for the Forum and for the PSMLA 2013 conference brochure.

## **Website Manager's Report** (R. DelPorto)

Ron reported that there has been more activity lately on the website because the elections were held through Election Buddy.

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

(See page 2 of this Newsletter for details.)

## **Advocacy** (M. Levenson)

Memos, alerts, and information regarding funding and legislative efforts in Washington have been sent regularly to members. Sister Mary Helen Kashuba represented both PSMLA and AATF at the JNCL-NCLIS meeting in May.

## **Finance** (J. Stewart)

Jan reported that the financial situation for PSMLA is stable, but not in a growth mode. Thomasina White reminded council members that all council members must submit all requests for reimbursement within two weeks if they are to be reimbursed.

## **Awards** (R. Reitlinger)

(See page 1 of this Newsletter for details.)

## **PDE** (T. White)

Thomasina reported that arbitration regarding the loss of the four positions (including World Language Advisor) at PDE was upheld and PDE was told to reinstate the individuals to the positions but there was no time frame given and nothing has yet been done.

## **ACT 48** (S. Nimmrichter)

The application has been resubmitted for continuing being a provider for ACT 48 credits for our members and was approved in November.

## **Conference 2013** (D. Wills & J. Stewart)

(See pages 1 and 2 of this Newsletter for details.)

## **CCA** (D. Wills)

The winners were: Upper St. Clair, North Allegheny, and Franklin Regional. This year, the country is Kenya and the product to be marketed is: "Bayer One a Day Teen Advantage for Him and for Her."

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

Sister Mary Helen Kashuba represented PSMLA at JNCL this year. Sister went to the offices of several senators and spoke in favor of promoting legislation to promote foreign languages, flap grants, title VI grants, etc.

## **NECTFL** – (D. Wang)

NECTFL will be held in Boston at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel in Boston, MA from March 27-30, 2014.

## **PaCIE** (Sister Kashuba)

Sister will attend the meeting on October 10-12 in Philadelphia and report on the activities of PSMLA

## **Conference 2014—State College, PA**

(See page 3 of this Newsletter for details.) (S. Nimmrichter and J. Ricardo-Osorio) There is a plan to make an effort to involve the AAT chapters from the state at the conference.

## **Membership** (J. Ricardo-Osorio)

Council asked the Committee to examine the institutional and individual Memberships to clarify the differences.

## **Nominations/Elections** (B. Buxareo)

Beverly reported on nomination results. (See page 3 of this Newsletter for results.)

## **Publications** (S. Nimmrichter)

Rochelle will step down as editor of the PSMLA Forum. Nancy Zimmerman volunteered to help out as a proofreader of the Forum. Natalie reported that one person is needed for posting on a regular basis for Twitter.

## **Professional Development** (N. Zimmerman)

Nancy reported on the results of the professional development survey, which found that teachers want workshops on classroom management.