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NEWSLETTER
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PSMLA Spring Newsletter 2013

WWW.PSMLA.ORG



PSMLA-ACTFL 2012 Conference in Philadelphia: A Major Success!

The PSMLA 2012 Fall Conference was held in conjunction with the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Philadelphia.

- Events were held in the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the Center City Marriott.
- Numerous sessions that addressed multiple topics in keeping with the latest ideas, strategies and techniques in World Languages education.
- Vendors shared their products and materials with demonstrations and workshops.
- PSMLA sponsored workshops

PSMLA annual awards presentation was held Friday evening at the Marriott. We were honored to recognize our awardees (see article below).

A small reception was held after the program. We had a wonderful conference at the ACTFL convention. We had the opportunity to meet colleagues from many states, discuss and share ideas, see new and exciting products and experience the beauty and history of the "City of Brotherly Love". It was a major success!

PSMLA annual awards presentation and reception was held on Friday November 16 at the Marriott in Philadelphia. We were honored to recognize the contributions of the following PSMLA members:

Frank Mulhern Leadership Awards:

- **Sister Mary Helen Kashuba** (Chestnut Hill College)
- **Eileen Glisan, Ph.D.** (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

K-12 PSMLA Teacher of the Year:

Kathy Fegely (Antietam Middle/Senior HS)

Highlights of NECTFL 2013 Conference

The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages was once again held in beautiful Baltimore at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel from March 7-10, 2013.

Highlights included:

- A presentation by PA Mead Fellow, Dr. Daliang Wang of Mercyhurst University.
- A presentation by Best of PA presenter, Dr. José Ricardo-Osorio of Shippensburg University.
- A Meeting of the States attended by Thomasina White, Natalie Puhala and Jan Stewart was held for state leaders to share both challenges and successes.
- Pennsylvania proudly shared the PEP program as a model for quality language program recognition.

With funding challenges, the future location and date for NECTFL 2014 have not yet been decided. Please stay tuned to www.psmla.org for more information.

PSMLA Awardees Honored at ACFTL 2012

Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year:

Nick Uliano, Ed.D. (Cabrini College)

Merit Award:

Lower Merion School District – FLES program

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

Kathy, Eileen, and Sister Mary Helen are among many talented PSMLA members who will be presenting sessions at our 2013 conference in Pittsburgh. (See page 4 of this newsletter for details about the 2013 conference.)

Immersion Day at Chestnut Hill College



The Immersion Day was held on February 23, 2013 at beautiful Chestnut Hill College near Philadelphia. Two two-hour sessions were offered in French, German, and Spanish in the morning. During the afternoon session, all participants

experienced a Karaoke lesson led by Dr. José Ricardo-Osorio.

In the words of our president, Thomasina White: “The participants shared many thanks and praises. They enjoyed their day of presentations on culture and pedagogy as well as conversations with colleagues. The international lunch was delicious and the singing was great. The novice teachers were really appreciative of the strategies taught, ideas shared and the resources that were available. The weather even cooperated. It was a great day!”

Comments from participants:

- “The sessions exceeded my expectations.” (on many evaluations)
- “I liked the size and the opportunity to converse in the target language.”
- “I look forward to incorporating what I learned today into my teaching.”
- “I would like to hear (the presenters) again because they have great ideas that we can use in our classrooms.”
- “The presenters were dynamic and engaging.”
- “These Chestnut Hill workshops have been great every year!”
- “The hour went by too fast! I could have sat there all morning listening to (the presenter).”

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 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 PSMLA Awards Ceremony at the fall 2013 conference for their exemplary programs!

Gold Award winners:

Abington Senior High School, Abington, 2013-14
 Academy of Notre Dame, Villanova, 2005-14
 Camp Hill High School, Camp Hill, 2010-13
 Gateway High School, Monroeville, 2010-13
 Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, 2007-14
 J.R. Masterman Laboratory/Demonstration School, Philadelphia, 2013-14
 Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown, 2013-14
 Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pitts. Public Schools, 2005 -14
 Upper Moreland High School, Willow Grove, 2009-14
 Upper St. Clair High School, Upper St. Clair 2005-13

Silver Award winners:

Hempfield Area High School, Greensburg, 2011-13
 Penncrest High School, Media, 2005-13
 Wilson High School, West Lawn, 2011- 14

Bronze Award:

Deer Lakes, Cheswick, 2012- 13

Globe Award winners:

Boiling Springs Senior High, Boiling Springs, 2012-13
 Charleroi Area High School, Charleroi, 2012-13
 Cumberland Valley High School, Mechanicsburg, 2013-14
 Dallastown Area High School, Dallastown PA 2010-13
 Downingtown East High School, Exton, 2012-13
 Seneca Valley Intermediate/Senior High School, Harmony, 2013-14
 Waynesboro Area Senior High School, Waynesboro, 2012-13

To see detailed information about each school program, please see the **PSMLA PEP SHOWCASE** at www.psmla.org.

PSMLA Conference 2013: Get the Point: Languages are Bridges to the World

Register now for the 2013 PSMLA Fall Conference that will be held:

- on **October 18 & 19, 2013**
- at the Doubletree Hotel
- 101 Radisson Drive
- Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (Greentree)

with a pre-conference workshop on Thursday, October 17.

You will be treated to an extensive array of sessions and workshops highlighted by Keynote Speaker Dr. Bonnie Adair-Hauck, the recent recipient of ACTFL's Anthony Papalia Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. Dr. Adair-Hauck, who is well-known to PSMLA as well as world language teachers across the nation, will speak on *Assessment in Foreign Language Learning: Curse or Cure?*

Don't miss Thursday's pre-conference workshop *Digital Storytelling Apps N'at* (as expressed in Pittsburghese!) by Silvina Orsati, the 2011 NECTFL Sans Inc/Mead Fellow whom many members know from hosting our PSMLA Webinar series in 2011-2012.

Conference co-chairs Debbie Wills and Jan Stewart and the 2013 conference committee are working hard to bring you a wonderful professional development experience. In addition to sessions, you will enjoy collaborating with other conference attendees, browsing for materials provided by exhibitors, or simply relaxing with colleagues over coffee or at the Wine and Cheese Reception.



For the best conference and hotel rates, **register before September 25**. Go to www.psmla.org for the registration information and form. Come and enjoy our beautiful, hospitable city!



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

**OCTOBER 18-19
PITTSBURGH, PA**

Back to School Membership Drive

Watch your inbox. PSMLA will have a membership drive at the beginning of the school year. There will be special offers when you renew your membership and invite a colleague to join with you.

PSMLA Executive Council Elections

The elections for open positions on the PSMLA executive council will take place at the beginning of the school year. We are looking for nominations. Please consider running for a position.

Contact Beverly Buxareo at profesorabux@gmail.com.

Cemanahuac Scholarship

Congratulations to PSMLA member Amy Lierman (New Garden Elementary School in the Kennett Consolidated School District) who won the Cemanahuac scholarship. She will travel to Cuernavaca, Mexico, this summer.



Outstanding Senior Awards

PSMLA is proud to honor the following students selected for these awards:

- 1st place: Jordan Sciascia – Germantown Academy
- 2nd place: Cristina Serban – Wilson High School
- 3rd place: Sarah Lotkowski – Plymouth Whitemarsh HS
- Honorable Mention:
 - Barbara Israelson – Collegiate Academy
 - Adam Sokol – Pennsbury HS
 - Estelle Rayburn – Dallastown Area HS



For more information or to join PSMLA:

- go to www.psmla.org
- look for PSMLA on **Facebook** and **Twitter**
- 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

The spring meeting for the PSMLA Executive Council (ExCo) was at the Penn Stater, April 13-14, 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 (P. Rzodkiewicz for D. Wills)

Council examined the Treasurer's report. Council learned that the external audit was completed and no irregularities were found.

Secretary's Report (P. Rzodkiewicz)

Phyllis reported that we currently have 388 members and 20 Institutional members. This is a low number for membership. Council discussed steps to take to increase and maintain membership.

Advertising Manager's Report (R. Hall)

Bob reported on the plans for the exhibit at the fall conference and discussed lowering the prices for ads in the Forum. He also announced that he has decided to resign as Ad Manager after this year's fall conference. The board congratulated and thanked him for his service since 2003.

Website Manager's Report (R. DelPorto)

Ron will again set up Election Buddy to run the PSMLA elections for the fall.

Advocacy (M. Levenson)

Requests have been made for letter writing to congressmen and senators in support of Foreign Language funding and initiatives.

Finance (J. Stewart)

Council discussed the importance of maintaining membership. Not all teachers are able to attend workshops or the annual conference with districts cutting back. Council will examine the breakdown of the expenses by ExCo.

Awards (R. Reitlinger)

(See page 1 and 3 for details.)

ACT 48 (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne reported that we do need to recertify this year to be able to award ACT 48 hours.

CCA (P. Rzodkiewicz for D. Wills)

The product for this year's competition was ONE a Day Teen Advantage for Him/Her. The country was Chile. The competition was held on April 30 at the University of Pittsburgh. A video workshop was held in February joined by approximately eight schools online.

JNCL (M. Levenson)

Council discussed the importance of our continued involvement with JNCL. Sister Mary Helen Kashuba will attend the JNCL Lobby Day this year in Mina's place. She will be there to represent both AATF and PSMLA.

NECTFL – (N. Puhala)

NECTFL was held in March at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. To help the organization, NECTFL membership is now available for \$50 and includes: reduced registration fees, three free webinars, and access to a members-only section online.

PAC-TE (S. Nimmrichter)

PAC-TE started an initiative to work with PDE and the state legislature to respond quickly, proactively, and uniformly with recommendations and suggestions when changes to the School Code and/or state regulations, either for PK-12 education or teacher/school leader preparation are under consideration. PAC-TE developed a Talking Points Document that many of the associations, including PSMLA, endorsed. The document was released to the press in April.

ACTFL and Conference 2012 (T. White)

ACTFL thanked PSMLA for making the conference such a great success. The participation and support of PSMLA

contributed greatly to the success of the fall conference.

Conference 2013—Pittsburgh (J. Stewart)
(See page 3 of this newsletter for details.)

Conference 2014 – State College (S. Nimmrichter & J. Ricardo-Osorio)

The conference will be held in State College at the PennStater. The plan will be to make it a joint conference, sponsored by as many AAT chapters in the state as possible. We hope to have more sessions that are language specific. The theme will be: *Many Languages, One State: Let's Collaborate*. One luncheon will focus specifically on language issues in the state.

Membership (J. Ricardo-Osorio)

Council members were in agreement that we need to work hard to retain membership. We will have a back-to-school membership drive this fall. The board approved a motion to allow schools with an Institutional Membership to cast one vote in the elections this fall.

Nominations (J. Stewart for B. Buxareo)

The membership will be asked to submit nominees for council via the listserv. President White read a letter from Debbie Wills, explaining that she will not run on the slate for Treasurer. The board thanked Debbie for all her years of hard work.

Publications (S. Nimmrichter)

The Forum will be published at the beginning of the school year rather than at the end. We will continue to publish a newsletter after each ExCo meeting.

PEP (M. Levenson)

(See page 2 of this Newsletter for details.)

Professional Development (N. Zimmerman)

There was some discussion about the Common Core Standards. We need to continue to meet by region to offer professional development opportunities for our members on this and other topics.