

PSMLA Executive Council Meeting
State College, PA
April 5-6, 2014

Saturday, April 5, 2014

8:15-9:20 – The PSMLA Executive and Finance committees met separately to prepare for the weekend: Mina Levenson, Susanne Nimmrichter, Rochele Reitlinger, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Jan Stewart, Thomasina White, and Junko Yamamoto.

President's Welcome – 9:43 am

President Stewart welcomed Council members and introduced the new members. The following members were in attendance: Beverly Buxareo, Ron DelPorto, John Grande, Christina Huhn, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, Mina Levenson, Caroline Neville, Susanne Nimmrichter, Natalie Puhala, Rochele Reitlinger, José Ricardo-Osorio, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Donna Spangler, Jan Stewart, Daliang Wang, Thomasina White, Junko Yamamoto, and Nancy Zimmerman.

Approval of minutes from the fall meeting was done via e-mail.

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.

Finance Report (S. Nimmrichter)

Susanne explained to Council that the Finance Committee had met via Skype in March since members are located across the state. During the Skype session, we discussed the fall conference rates, conference expenses dealing with finances, the 2013 annual Treasurer's report, etc. Susanne explained that, as the new Chair of the Finance Committee, she wanted a good understanding of finances and examined the past 5 years of reports. She pointed out that 5 years ago, PSMLA had \$60,000 and now we are down to \$25,000. It was determined that ExCo will spend judiciously and cut back on expenses in a variety of ways. For the fall ExCo meeting, we will start later on Saturday morning so members can drive in on Saturday morning. We will go later on Saturday and finish on Sunday. 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. On a Levenson/Ricardo-Osorio motion, council voted that at this year's fall conference and for the future, exhibitors have the option to join us for lunch and purchase their lunch at the conference rate. More specific examples of ways to cut back on expenses will be detailed in the various reports.

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. This will be discussed further after the committees meet on Sunday.

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.

Council voted to accept all the above reports on a Ricardo-Osorio/Reitlinger motion.

11:00-11:30 – Committee meetings: Advocacy, Awards, and Nominations/Elections

11:30 – 12:00 – Committee Meetings: Membership, Professional Development, and Publications

Committees were asked to brief new members on their most recent action plan and establish a timeline for committee work. They were also asked to review their committee portion of the website and communicate any changes to Ron. Committees were asked to forward a copy of their report to Phyllis for the minutes.

12:00 – 2:04 – Working Lunch

The following committees met over lunch: the 2014 Conference Committee (State College) and the 2015 Conference Committee (Philadelphia).

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. We did discuss that this started as a PSMLA project. Jan explained that she will investigate further and then council will make a decision with an e-mail vote to follow.

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

PaCIE (Sister Kashuba)

Sister explained to the new members what PaCIE represents. She explained they have taken a strong stance on the implementation of world languages. They are very interested in how world languages have an impact on the global marketplace. 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 (S. Nimmrichter & J. Ricardo-Osorio)

Susanne and José presented the proposed conference rates for the fall conference. They raised the rates \$10 for each category. For non-members, the rate was \$20 more since dues were raised. The rate for the college/university students is higher this year so we do not lose money on student attendees. It is hoped that the Schools of Education will help support the students they send to the conference. AAT members of participating chapters will receive a reduced conference rate. On a Zimmerman/Huhn motion, Council voted to approve the conference rates.

Nancy asked Dave Pini to design the conference logo. She gave him \$250 for the professional design he created. On a Nimmrichter/Ricardo-Osorio motion, council voted to reimburse Nancy for the logo that was created.

The chairs reported that 12 session proposals have come in so far. There are a total of 32 sessions available. On a Buxareo/Grande motion, Council voted to have Donna present the Pre-Conference workshop. Donna will send the title for the workshop to José. On a White/Ricardo-Osorio motion, Council voted to accept the Schedule of Events for the conference. The local committee met with Susanne and José over lunch. The local committee members are: Gabi Appel, Maggie Muir, Lieselotte Sippel, and Nick Gallo.

Discussion also centered on the importance of having 15 minutes at the conference on the state of languages in the state of PA at the Business Meeting/Luncheon on Saturday. Thomasina will be in charge of this presentation.

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

The conference will be held from October 15-17. The chairs are meeting with the hotels to investigate the dates and various price points. They are comparing rates at the Crowne Plaza and the Sheraton in King of Prussia. An idea for the pre-conference workshop is to offer a mural tour of Philadelphia in French, German, and Spanish, done in the target language. A possible theme for the conference is: History, Heritage, and Languages. It is approximately a 40-45 minute ride from King of Prussia to Philadelphia. They also have several candidates for the Keynote.

On a Puhala/Ricardo-Osorio motion, Council voted to accept the above reports.

Awards (J. Grande and R. Reitlinger)

The following awards were presented:

Cemanahuac – Lindsay Alley from New Brighton

Cemanahuac Student Teacher–Christina Villani (sponsoring teacher-Heather Hendry)

Outstanding Senior Award – 1st place to Elizabeth Smith from Wissahickon and 2nd

Place to Cody Dally from Nazareth Area HS

There was much discussion regarding the candidates for the 2014 Conference Awards. Candidates for the K-12 Teacher of the Year and for the Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year were discussed and discussion will continue via e-mail. A vote will be taken via e-mail for these two awards. The candidates for the Merit Award and for the Frank Mulhern Leadership

Award were determined. These names are not listed here to avoid giving out their names before they are notified. The deadline for nominations for the awards is May 15.

Publications (S. Nimmrichter)

Donna Spangler has taken over as Editor of the Forum. There was discussion on moving the publication of the Forum to the spring and also how to solicit more articles, better contributions, etc. for the Forum. On a Nimmrichter/Neville motion, Council voted to fund two free one-year memberships for new contributors to the Publications: Forum. One membership will be for a person who is currently not a member and one for a current member. There was much discussion about keeping the cost for this year's Forum the same as last year. We will consider moving the Forum on-line next year. One option is to have the membership choose between receiving an on-line copy and a print version of the Forum. If we send a Forum only to those who request the print version, this will cut down on printing costs. The committee will explore having a business create the PDF of the Forum. Rochele reminded Council that one of the few things we can deduct with taxes is printing and postage. Rochele will investigate this further.

Council was reminded to send information to Daliang for the Newsletter that will go out the end of April or early May. Some possible topics include: awards, TOY, Mead Fellow, conference information, etc.

Fall Meeting, 2014 - (J. Stewart)

The spring PSMLA Executive Council meeting will be held at the Penn Stater the weekend of September 13-14. The room rate will be \$119 rather than the \$84 rate we are accustomed to. The meeting format will change for this meeting. Most council members will arrive on Saturday morning. We will begin at 11 am and work until approximately 5:30 pm. Committees will not meet that weekend; rather they will meet via Skype prior to the meeting. Sunday's meeting will be as usual.

The above reports were approved on a Rzodkiewicz/Grande motion. The meeting for Saturday was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

PSMLA Executive Council Meeting Agenda

State College, PA

Sunday, April 6, 2014

8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast in the Garden restaurant. Council members met over breakfast to discuss professional development and possible regional projects.

The meeting was called to order at 9:22 am.

President Stewart welcomed Council members. The following members were in attendance: Beverly Buxareo, Ron DelPorto, John Grande, Christina Huhn, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, Mina Levenson, Caroline Neville, Susanne Nimmrichter, Natalie Puhala, Rochele Reitlinger, José Ricardo-Osorio, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Donna Spangler, Jan Stewart, Daliang Wang, Thomasina White, Junko Yamamoto, and Nancy Zimmerman.

Membership (J. Ricardo-Osorio)

José explained that the Holiday Membership Special did not bring in the number of new members for which we had hoped. After some discussion about allowing for same-sex couples, on a Stewart/Neville motion, council voted to change the Joint Membership to include two members who have the same home address. This will be changed on the membership forms and on the website.

There was also discussion about deleting those past members who have not renewed their membership from the list serv. Jan and Isabel will follow up with this and will check with Devin to see what the expense would be to have more than one list serv: one for those who are current members and one for those who have not renewed. Isabel will collect the information and there will be an e-mail vote regarding this once we have the cost of having more than one list serv.

José also asked council members to look at some different language associations' web sites, like NYSAFLT. He would like us to consider making some changes to our website.

Nominations/Elections (B. Buxareo)

Beverly reminded council that three ExCo members have terms that are expiring this year: Christina Huhn, Caroline Neville, and Natalie Puhala. She asked members to think of good candidates that represent a variety of academic levels. We want to represent a variety of languages from various parts of the state. A request for nominations will also be sent out via the list serv. May 15 will be the deadline for submissions to Beverly.

ACTFL - (T. White)

ACTFL continues to advocate for the importance of World Language education. The focus is: Advocacy and Effectiveness: The Power of Collaboration. ACTFL is also concerned that several states have lost their State Supervisors of World Languages. They have begun an advocacy campaign. They are also developing a position statement to define "global competence."

Given the many changes in the teacher evaluation process throughout the United States, ACTFL is looking at student growth and teacher effectiveness. ACTFL's work on the alignment of the ELA Common Core Standards to the World-Readiness Standards for learning languages; as well as their joint effort with NCSSFL in creating the "Can-Do Statements" Publication will go far to support teacher effectiveness and student growth.

Caroline recently received the most recent Title IV document by an administrator. World languages have been eliminated from Title IV. The State Board approved the new Title IV Document in September. All other content areas are listed. We assume that world languages are not included because we do not have Approved World Language Standards. Each school district will need to submit a strategic plan to PDE. This falls under Advocacy. The Advocacy committee will need to research this and get more information. They will formulate a plan and share with ExCo. PSMLA needs to take action in an organized and informed manner. A letter will be drafted and then sent through the proper channels.

Advocacy - (N. Zimmerman)

After much discussion, it was decided that it is not in our best interest to cut JNCL. It costs us \$1500 to belong to JNCL and approximately \$800 to send someone to represent us. It was

decided that it is difficult to read all the e-mail from JNCL. The three new members have volunteered to sort through all the information we receive. They will take the information that is most pertinent, make it more user friendly, and send it out to the membership. Nancy will send Ron the link to put JNCL on the web page.

Other discussion centered on Global Education and a Bi-literacy Seal. Links will be sent to members so we are more informed.

On a Rzodkiewicz/White motion, council voted to pay the \$874.50 to continue our membership with JNCL.

PEP - (M. Levenson)

Mina and Thekla worked hard to finalize the 2014 Pep Awards. Ten PEP applications were received. 3 schools improved, 2 schools received a lower rating, and one school stayed the same. 3 schools were new to PEP. One school did not receive an award. There were seven schools that could reapply, but did not. In total, there are currently 19 PEP schools. Thank you to all who helped with PEP.

Professional Development (N. Zimmerman)

Chestnut Hill College held their yearly Professional Development day. This was very successful and brought in several new members.

Donna agreed to do a regional workshop in the Lebanon area. More details will follow as plans are made.

For the southwest, Natalie is planning to have a Restaurant Crawl in the Pittsburgh area. This is an international food tasting and a walking tour of Pittsburgh. Professional development hours will not be provided. It will be a fun day with light social networking for PSMLA members and their guests. Members will pay \$34 and non-members will pay \$39.

The southeast will have host another workshop in March 2015. They will keep the morning format the same. The afternoon session will be on the new teacher evaluation system and the ACTFL standards. There was discussion about the cost of these workshops for non-members. One concept is to offer a non-member registration rate and count the extra money toward membership if they decide to join PSMLA. Act 48 will only be given to those that are members of PSMLA.

The northwest will plan a different kind of day for the fall, possibly September. The morning will be an Immersion day like we have had in the past. There will be an international lunch with teachers working and eating at tables by language taught. The afternoon will be a visit to the wineries in North East. The visit to the wineries will be available to friends and to spouses.

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. This does not take long to complete and will serve as an assessment that will also be beneficial to PSMLA. PSMLA will help other organizations that need help completing the paperwork for Act 48. We will not, however, share our complete document as each

organization applying is unique and ours would not serve as a template for the different organizations.

The above reports were approved on a Levenson/Grande motion.

New Business

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. They will look for others to help with the conference. ExCo will also help with the conference.

Fall ExCo Meeting, 2014

The fall meeting be held at the Penn Stater again but will have a different format. We will start at 11 on Saturday. Reports are due one week prior to the meeting. Committees will meet via Skype prior to the meeting.

2019 – PSMLA 100th Anniversary

There will be a special conference/event for our 100th Anniversary.

IUP Conference

IUP would like to exchange a table for our conferences this year. No one from ExCo is able to attend the IUP Conference and man the table. Christina will check to see if someone from IUP can staff the PSMLA table. We will have membership forms available, as well as Assessment Guides.

On a Stewart/Levenson motion, Council voted to exchange tables.

On a motion by White/Levenson, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Rzodkiewicz
PSMLA Secretary