



Since 1917

NYSAFLT

www.nysaftl.org

News

quarterly publication of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.
Volume 45, No. 1 JoAnn Duffy Thomasson, Editor March 2018

In this Issue

The President’s Corner	1
Annual Conference	4
Where are they Now?	5
Member Spotlight	7
Regional News	8
Public Advocacy.....	13
Announcements	15
Calendar.....	18

The President’s Corner



Michelle Shenton

Welcome to 2018! Following the success of the 100 year celebration of NYSAFLT is daunting: What’s next? Where do we go from here? How can I follow in their footsteps? However, I’ve been inspired and encouraged by so many NYSA-colleagues past and present to continue into the next century of NYSA-excellence in world language education.

I was fortunate to hear Ying Jin, ACTFL’s 2018 Teacher of the Year, speak in Nashville and was inspired when she said, “The letter C is important in the lives of world language teachers.” Of course that brings to mind the 5 C’s of the ACTFL standards and Can-do Statements; however, my mind kept finding more C’s that pertain to NYSAFLT and world language (WL) educators. I furiously started scribbling my notes.

Collaboration

Besides our inter-organizational collaborations, NYSAFLT supports ACTFL and NECTFL and works with its organizational members, as well as NYSED’s Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL). In addition to our past work, including the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, NYSAFLT is currently working with the OBEWL on a committee to review NY’s world language standards, a very important step toward supporting our work and reinstating our WL state assessments.

Communication

NYSAFLT communicates with you through our [Newsletter](#), [The Language Association Journal](#), [website](#), and NYSAFLT Connect emails. You can make your experience more



“interpersonal” by participating on a committee, becoming a regional director, and/or an officer. Just ask us how!

Careers

The teacher shortage is real! You can help by supporting and mentoring new colleagues, hosting student teachers, and encouraging students to become WL teachers. Where to start? Checkout ACTFL’s “[Educators Rising](#)” initiative to turn language learners into language teachers.

Did you know that NYSAFLT has a [Job Placement Service](#)? As a member, you can sign up to receive notification of job postings received by NYSAFLT or encourage your school to post openings with us.

Contribution

NYSAFLT can’t do it alone. We rely on you, our community of leaders and learners, to grow and shape our organization and our profession. Please consider

- presenting at one of our conferences,
- participating in our social media circles,
- contributing an article to one of our publications,
- applying to our [Leaders of Tomorrow](#) program,
- joining one of our committees, and/or
- running as a director or an officer.

Champion

As WL teachers, we advocate for our students and programs everyday. We need to take that advocacy and apply it outside of our comfort zone by presenting our successes and recommendations to our Boards of Education, communities, business partners and legislators. How can NYSAFLT help?

- Explore our [Advocacy](#) page for talking points, sample letters, position statements, and more.
- Read NYSAFLT Connect emails for up-to-date information from the profession, NYSED, and national initiatives.
- Find resources to support your goals. For example, have you read [America’s Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century](#)? This national report by the Commission on Language Learning “recommends a national strategy to improve access to as many languages as possible for people of every region, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background....”

Connections

NYSAFLT offers [two major conferences](#) for opportunities to connect with like-minded WL professionals, as well as harnessing our collective energy to improve our work and learn new methods to bring back to our classrooms. Please consider attending and/or presenting to share your passions and expertise.



- **2018 Summer Institute:** **August 7–10** at SUNY Oneonta
- **2018 Annual Conference:** **October 19–20** in Rochester, NY

Can't wait for more professional development? Then take a look at

- [NYS AFLT's webinars](#), including archived presentations.
- [Regional conferences](#) around the state.

Did you know that NYSAFLT is CTLE Certified by NYSED? Our professional development counts toward your 100 hours needed for maintaining professional certification.

[Connect your colleagues](#) with NYSAFLT. Tell them about our organization and ask them to join or renew their membership. Give the gift of a membership to a student-teacher or new colleague. Ask your school to fund your department's memberships.

NYSAFLT's identity and work is that of our members. Your influence determines what we create, how we can change, and how we can create change for our students and our profession. Using all of the C's in our collective toolkit, we can create multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and tolerant young citizens.

Thank you for being a part of a tradition of excellence as NYSAFLT continues into its next century!

Warm wishes for 2018!

Michelle Shenton

SAVE THE DATE!!

Are you ready for summer camp for language teachers? The theme for the 2018 NYSAFLT Summer Institute is ***Engaging the World, Changing the World with Languages***. Come and join us **August 7–10** at SUNY Oneonta. Watch for more information in the June newsletter or contact info@nysaflt.org with any questions.



Annual Conference 2018

INSPIRING PROFICIENCY
FOR LIFE
#howlanguagematters



October 19–20

Rochester Riverside Hotel

Rochester, New York

“The limits of my language are the limits of my universe.”

— **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

As members of NYSAFLT, we understand the importance of language teaching and learning. Since 1917, NYSAFLT continues the proud tradition of leading in professional development opportunities for language teachers across New York State. In 2018 our focus is on **Inspiring Proficiency for Life**.

The 101st **Annual Conference** will be held in beautiful Rochester, NY. With our distinguished keynote speaker, **Noah Geisel**, ACTFL Teacher of the Year 2013, we will explore **#howlanguagematters** in our lives and in the lives of our students.

- 🕒 **Join the conversation!** Encourage a colleague to share the AC18 experience with you. Watch for info about the many scholarship opportunities available for teachers.
- 🕒 **Share your story!** What impact do languages have in your life? Consider presenting with a friend or colleague on **#howlanguagematters**.
- 🕒 **Make a difference!** What will be your legacy? Together we are teachers, leaders, advocates, champions and lovers of languages and cultures. Together we **#leadwithlanguages**.
- 🕒 We are **#NYSAFLT** strong and we are **Inspiring Proficiency for Life**. That is **#howlanguagematters**.

To find out how you can get involved or to submit your session proposal, visit www.nysaftl.org. Contact conference chair **Beth Slocum** at info@nysaftl.org for further information.



Where are they Now?



In select editions of the Newsletter, you will meet one of our past presidents to find out what he/she is doing now and to hear about the experience as NYSAFLT President.

In this edition we hear from [John Webb](#), 1990 NYSAFLT President

NYSAFLT was a “way of life” for me for almost 30 of my 42-year career in education and the single most important influence in my coming of age as a professional. My career achievements were made possible because of NYSAFLT and the first-hand involvement that it afforded me with all the professional issues, research and pedagogical practices of our time and the extraordinary people who were making them happen.

I began my career in a junior high school as a teacher of French in 1968. After three years, the school’s principal appointed me chair of the department which consisted of fourteen teachers of French, Spanish, German, Italian and English as a Second Language (which I also taught). In September of my first year as chair, the chair at the high school suggested to this nervous novice colleague that I should attend that fall’s NYSAFLT Annual Meeting at the Concord Hotel. That’s how it all began.

To say I was astounded by everything is an understatement. First of all, the Concord in those days was considered the hotel of hotels, boasting the largest dining room in the world and a nightclub stage that had hosted every show biz idol of our time (none of them ever performed at a NYSAFLT Annual Meeting, of course . . . but we kept hoping). There I was actually seeing, listening to, and talking with all the major figures in foreign language education in the State, the “notables,” as [Dorothy Ludwig](#) used to call them. And then there were all the teachers attending the conference. The majority were veterans of the classroom, but many were, like myself, relative newcomers. Our differences in age and experience quickly fell away as we shared ideas, challenges, enthusiasm . . . and a ton of laughs. Everyone interacted with a level of professional consideration that made me feel respected and competent. It was so rich, so much fun! During the opening session of this past fall’s **Annual Conference**, I sat near a group of (obviously) young teachers, and I could tell from the expressions on their faces that they were experiencing the same exhilaration I had felt 46 years ago. I was thrilled for them, because I suspected that I was observing the beginnings of a potentially wonderful life’s adventure for all of them.



Needless to say, that first Annual Meeting was a catalyst for me to go back to my school and become like the professionals I had met at the Concord. The efforts that we launched in Pomona, too numerous to list, attracted the attention of our own school board as well as other professionals in the area. **Pat Sweet**, a NYSAFLT Board member at the time who went on to become president, enlisted me for all kinds of regional activities as well as membership on a number of NYSAFLT committees. I really WANTED to be a part of this professional community, so my involvement was more than just enthusiastic. In 1974, **Marcella DeMuth** asked to me join the Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting that she was chairing. From that point on, things began to speed up. Pat and I, along with several others colleagues, founded the Rockland County Association of Foreign Language Teachers (RCAFLT) so we could share ideas and resources locally and defend programs that were being eliminated in an era of serious budget cuts. We petitioned the NYSAFLT Board of Directors to give us professional recognition, which they did, thus giving rise to the regional organization network that still exists in the state.

In the early 1980's **Tony Papalia** from SUNY Buffalo led NYSAFLT and launched a series of publications to help teachers retool for the paradigm shift from grammar-based to proficiency-based instruction and for the renewed focus on preparing learners to be citizens of a globally interdependent world. He invited me to write a number of articles for those publications. That led to my multi-year tenure as editor of the *Language Association Bulletin*. I then moved into the leadership track as a Board member, then second vice-president and chair of the Annual Meeting, first vice-president and chair of the Colloquium, and finally to president at the time when the Board of Regents was considering whether to make foreign languages a requirement in the State's schools and institute the 8th grade proficiency examination. It was an amazing era; there are many stories to tell.

Those experiences in NYSAFLT and the responsibilities associated with those leadership roles were the training ground where I learned the essential skills of my career. When I was elected chair of the Board of the Northeast Conference, I knew I could do it, because I had already done it with NYSAFLT. When I began teaching the methods courses at Hunter College, I was working in totally familiar territory, because I had conducted so many workshops at NYSAFLT regional and state conferences. When I was asked to serve on ACTFL's National Foreign Language Student Standards Task Force in 1993, I felt comfortable because I had already served on committees with seriously distinguished professionals during my years with NYSAFLT. And there is no doubt that the NYSAFLT-related items on my curriculum vita gave my candidacy for the position of director of the Program in Teacher Preparation at Princeton University the credibility that resulted in my receiving that extraordinary appointment, and those same experiences enabled me to meet the challenges of that position effectively and successfully.

I always say that, since I retired in 2010, I haven't done anything I used to be good at; maybe that's the way it should be. Having grown up gay in the 1960's and 70's, I never really needed to develop skills for marriage. However, in 2011, in Miami Beach where I had retired to a life of sun, sand and leisure, I met Marine Gunnery Sergeant, Nelson Mondaca, and we were married in Cooperstown in 2013. Together, we have returned to my native Otsego County, New



York where we live only two blocks from the Baseball Hall of Fame and just down the lake from the Glimmerglass Opera Festival. We share our beautiful home with our three golden retrievers, all licensed therapy dogs who “work” at Bassett Hospital and the local nursing home.

I keep track of NYSAFLT and the work of this new generation of dedicated teachers and leaders. In spite of all the assaults on the dignity of our profession, teaching remains among the noblest of callings. Our work as teachers is more essential than ever in a world that is increasingly fractured by misunderstandings. This is NYSAFLT’s challenge in its second century, but I have no doubt that the people in those beloved trenches and the young people still in high school who aspire to join our beloved profession will stand up proudly and competently to the tests ahead. We always have, and we always will.



*Nelson, **John** and the three girls:
Dakota, Jersey and Savannah*

Member Spotlight



The “Member Spotlight” feature will highlight the work and accomplishments of one of NYSAFLT’s members. If you know someone who should be highlighted, please let us know!



This edition’s Member Spotlight focuses on **Pamela Russell**, Spanish Teacher in the North Syracuse CSD and President of **LECN**.

I earned my BS in Spanish and Adolescent Education from SUNY Oswego and my MEd from Binghamton University. I currently teach 7th & 8th grade Spanish in the North Syracuse CSD.

I credit much of my success to my parents, John and Marie. Without their hard work, influence, support and love I wouldn’t be the person or teacher I am today. In addition to my parents, I have an amazing boyfriend, Doug Stano, who is truly my better half. He is incredibly supportive and encouraging in all of my endeavors. I am so lucky to have so much love and support from my family.



In my free time, I'm an avid Latin dancer. Doug and I also love traveling to explore the world, although we spend much of our summer on our boat on the St. Lawrence River. We are also aspiring to be an Adirondack "46er" and complete the Fire Tower Challenge.

I am a NYSAFLT member because of **Joanne O'Toole**. I credit her and my NYSA-friends with much of my success as an educator. I was very fortunate to learn from Joanne in my undergraduate studies. Without her wisdom, encouragement and support I would not be half the educator I am today. Joanne's encouragement to become a NYSAFLT member before I even knew what that stood for was the best gift she could have ever given me. The support and exchange of ideas between NYSA-friends is truly invaluable and irreplaceable. I am eternally grateful for all of the connections I have made, the friendships I've developed, and the amazing ideas I've learned along the way.

Regional News

Capital-East

My name is **AJ Ferris** and I am excited to be serving as the new regional director along with **Mary Goetz**. I currently teach 9th grade French and Spanish at Saratoga Springs High School. Fun fact, I've been a NYSAFLT member longer than I've been a certified teacher! I originally got involved as an undergrad at SUNY Potsdam, and once I attended my first Annual Conference as an A/V volunteer (shout out to **Mike Mitchell**, Bethlehem CSD) I knew I would be a member for the rest of my teaching career. At Saratoga, I am an advisor for a variety of clubs, including French Club, German Club, Pride Club, and the Class of 2019. I look forward to working more closely with all of you in the Capital-East region over the next few years!



AJ Ferris

If you are doing anything awesome with your students, in your classes, or at your schools, please reach out to either of us via email to let us know. There are so many wonderful things happening in our region, and we would love to include your stories, activities, and pictures in the next newsletter.

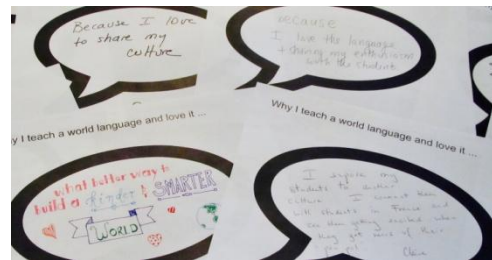
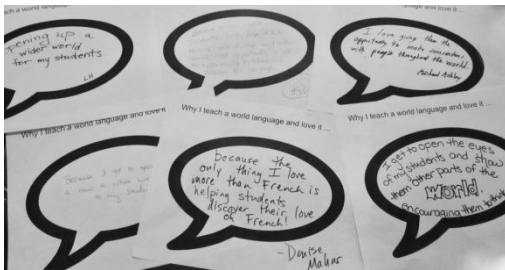
COLT will be hosting its regional conference, co-sponsored by NYSAFLT, on **Saturday, March 24** at Saratoga Springs High School. With fresh new workshops and some of our favorite presenters, this is sure to be a professional development event that you do not want to miss! Make sure to register online if you haven't already. Hope to see you all then!



Central

On **Saturday, February 3**, LLL-LECNy workshop was held at Syracuse University's Goldstein Student Center. There was an array of different topics presented by dedicated professionals in the field. Many helpful strategies were provided to promote student learning through engaging student activities such as, understanding the blogging concept, growth mindset, video stories, and the impact of the Connection Standards. The event was very well attended.

In addition to the presentations, the NYS AFLT table had a reflection activity for teachers. Teachers volunteered to complete individual thoughts on "Why I teach a world language and love it...." Some of the inspirational and wisdom-filled responses can be seen below in the pictures below.



Thank you to everyone at **LECNy** for hosting this annual, anticipated event; to all the presenters for sharing your knowledge and expertise; and to all of whom contributed to the world language reflection.

The **NYS AFLT Central Region** and the Department of Romance Languages at Binghamton University are proud to announce their upcoming conference: *Contextualizing language learning: Bringing down the classroom walls*. Our keynote speaker is **Dr. Joanne O'Toole** and our workshops include: communicative language, designing articulated performance assessments, project-based learning, and more. The conference will take place on **March 2**, at Binghamton University. It is an event you will not want to miss. You can [register](#) here or contact [Marisol Marcín](#) for more information.

Mid-Hudson/Westchester

The last meeting for **PWRFL** in 2017 was on **Tuesday, November 28** at Valhalla Middle-High School. "Pinterest" was the theme of our meeting. Many thanks to Lillian Carey, a retired educator and Google Certified Trainer, for joining us and showing teachers the multitude of resources and the ins and outs of Pinterest. Since the computer lab was available for our participants, everyone was able to create an account and explore our Pinterest Board (search: **PWRFL**). When you post to your own boards, post on ours as well to share the wealth of knowledge discovered.




“*Seal of Biliteracy*” was the topic of our **Tuesday, January 9** meeting at Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School. We were pleased to have new attendees from Rockland County and Long Island. [Sarah Campbell](#) is an ESL educator in the Croton Harmon UFSD for grades 5-12. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Language, Literacy, and Culture Education. During the Seal of Biliteracy workshop, Sarah explained about the NY State Seal of Biliteracy and demystified the process for implementation. She outlined the process and procedures for implementation and shared student generated portfolios and presentations. Time was allotted for an exchange of questions and suggested responses among the attendees.

Our last meeting before our **Annual Conference**, was on **Tuesday, February 6** at Carmel High School. The focus of this meeting was “*What does your grading policy look like?*” This was an open discussion to share the policies, rubrics, and standards that are used at many grade levels and among our member’s schools.

The **PoWeRFuL Annual Conference** will be on **Saturday, April 14** at Putnam Valley High School. We will again offer contests for high school, middle school, and FLES students. Please visit our [website](#) for details about the conference and student contests.

Finally, we have requested nominations for President and Secretary. Both positions are for two years. Please send your nominations to [Nancy Kress](#).

	
<p><i>Lillian Carey, retired educator and Google Certified Trainer, discusses the ins and outs of Pinterest</i></p>	<p><i>Sarah Cambell presents the NYS Seal of Biliteracy at a PWRFL meeting</i></p>

NYC-Long Island



Michele Sennon-Britton

My name is **Michele Sennon-Britton** and I am the newly elected regional co-director, working with **Valérie Greer** to represent the NYC/LI region. I have been teaching Spanish with the NYCDOE for 15 years. I have a BA in Spanish and an MA in Multicultural Education from the College of New Rochelle. I accepted this nomination to serve on the Board of Directors out of my willingness to serve people and make a positive contribution to promoting foreign-language learning. Please contact [me](#) with any questions or regional news.



The **2018 FLACS World Language Conference** will be held at Hofstra University in the Sondra & Davis S. Mack Student Center on **Friday, March 16** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's theme is: *Strengthening the K-16 Bonds: Inspiring future Educators*. This year's keynote speaker is Benjamin Rifkin. The conference fee is \$90, which includes free parking, continental breakfast and lunch. Go to www.flacs.org to register.

Celebrate foreign language week from **March 5–11!** This year's LILT poster contest theme is: *Languages: Windows to the World*. The deadline for submissions is on **March 16**. Your LILT membership dues must be paid by **February 15** in order to be eligible to enter your students. Go to www.liltfl.org for more information.

On **Saturday, November 4** LILT held its 2017 Annual Conference; *Best Practices: What's on your playlist?* at William Floyd High School in Mastic Beach. Joshua Cabral, the Keynote Speaker, presented an inspirational workshop entitled "*Language and Culture: The Pathway to Global Citizenship*." Other workshops covered topics such as using music and movies in the classroom, Google Classroom, and ideas for teaching FLES. Some new initiatives included "Swap Shops" for Checkpoints A, B and C where participants were able to share their best practices and their best ideas for classroom lessons. LILT offered four sessions with a total of 20 workshops and eleven exhibitors.

Congratulations to **Valérie Greer** and **Wendy Mercado** for winning Best of NECTFL at the 2017 conference. They presented their winning session entitled "*Top Ten Activities to Liven Up Your Language Class*" at the ACTFL conference in Nashville on **November 18**. They had a large audience and their presentation was an enormous success.

The New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) reached a milestone last fall when it held its 20th annual professional conference, *Celebrating 20 Years of Promoting World Languages and Cultures*, on **Saturday, November 4**. Nearly 300 teachers of Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, Greek, German, Latin and other languages came to the UFT headquarters for the conference.

NYCAFLT will hold its *Annual Spring Professional Development Workshops* on **Saturday, April 28** at the UFT Headquarters in Manhattan. The program will consist of two ninety-minute sessions with breakfast, and a 20-minute coffee break between sessions. Teachers will be able to choose one of four workshops in each session. Registration will be online via Eventbrite and the fee will be \$30. There will be no on-site registration for this event. Each workshop will be limited to thirty-five participants. Participants will receive a certificate of participation upon completion.

NYCAFLT's principal mission is to provide high quality professional development for New York City world language teachers. Thanks to NYS AFLT as a unifying force in New York State, we are also able to serve the foreign language teachers of neighboring Long Island and



Westchester. Our spring workshops will emphasize the high-demand topics of class management, technology in the foreign language classroom, formative and summative assessments, building literacy, and various other protocols in the classroom. The NYCAFLT Committee is looking forward to another inspiring and meaningful professional development conference.

Western New York

WNYFLEC will be holding its annual **Regional Conference and National Foreign Language Week Kick-Off** on **Saturday, March 3** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m at Mount St. Mary Academy. This year's conference theme is reminiscent of NYSAFLT's Annual Conference: *The Power of Languages*. **WNYFLEC** will be kicking off the week with a brand new conference format, featuring keynote speaker **Bill Heller**, in addition to a variety of workshops, a dedicated work session to start putting all of those great conference ideas into motion, and announcement of the winners of the annual poster contest! More information, as well as registration information, can be found on the WNYFLEC [website](#).

The **Rochester Regional Conference** will be taking place on **Saturday, March 10** at Nazareth College. The 2018 theme is *World Languages: The Uniting Force for Cultural Understanding*. The Rochester Region is once again looking forward to a full day of a wide-ranging selection of workshops, exhibitors, and networking time. Back by popular demand is the "All for \$1" Table. Teachers are able to donate gently used classroom items. All proceeds will benefit the 100K for 100 Years Campaign. Registration information can be found on the NYSAFLT Regional Conferences page. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Western Region is thrilled to congratulate **JoAnn Thomasson** and **Sheri Green**, who recently earned National Board Certification! It took an incredible amount of time, hard work, and dedication – and we are so excited for them!



AATF of WNY

The AATF convention will take place from July 18-21 in La-Pointe-du-Bot, Martinique. The theme for this year is *Créolité et environnement aux Antilles francophones*. French Teachers are encouraged to go to the [website](#) for convention registration which includes four lunches, a reception on the final evening, one 1/2 day excursion, and two round-trip ferry tickets for travel between La-Pointe-du-Bout and Fort-de-France along with your welcome packet and access to



all the sessions and exhibits. Registration must be completed by May 15 to avoid late registration charges.

This summer, members of [AATF of WNY](#) are joining the Buffalo-Lille Association's Study Tour to the *Eurométropole* of North France and Southern Belgium July 1-8. This tour includes two professional day visits in the areas of law, education, business, the arts, health/medicine or sports. There is still availability for the quoted transatlantic flight plus roundtrip bus and train costs to/from the airports. Please contact [Brenda Benzin](#), Vice President and Study-Tour Chairperson, for more information.

Our Board looks forward to hosting a table at the [WNYFLEC/NYS AFLT Regional Conference](#) on [March 3](#) at Mount St. Mary Academy, in Kenmore, NY. We encourage everyone to celebrate *La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie* which takes place every year on [March 20!](#) We are planning a Spring Chapter Meeting for a *Soirée Francophone* with native speakers to share their cultural experiences in a panel discussion format. If you know of potential native French speakers who would like to share their francophone background, please contact [Michèle Roberts](#), WNY Chapter President. The meeting will take place in April or early May. Please visit us on Facebook @FrenchTeachersWNY.

Public Advocacy

World Language Exams

The Board of Regents requested \$950,000 in NYSED's 2018 budget for the reinstatement of the Spanish and French Regents exams. Governor Cuomo, the Senate and the Assembly will each develop their own budget to be made public by the end of February. These three legislative entities will negotiate what to include and **cut** in the proposed budgets until they develop one NYS budget. Time is of the essence! In order for our exams to be included in the final budget, we all must persistently **call, write and visit Governor Cuomo, and our Senator and Assembly members** about the importance of world language learning and of the need for valid benchmark exams. On NYS AFLT's PA webpage, there are templates, pre-written letters, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of your elected officials. It only takes five minutes. When we make a lot of noise, we are heard.

NYSUT World Language Subject Area Committee (SAC)

[Barbara Patterson](#) and [Diana Zuckerman](#) attended the New York State United Teachers Union's (NYSUT's) World Language Subject Area Committee (SAC) meeting in January. Topics of concern and action included reinstatement of the Proficiency and Regents exams, world language teacher shortage and recruitment including edTPA, Seal of Biliteracy, districts in non-compliance with NYSED 100.2(d) regulations, and native language speakers earning world language credit. Collaboration between NYSUT and NYS AFLT progresses us towards our world language goals.

<p><i>Linda Zusman, Lela Dunbar, Diana Zuckerman, Jolene DiBrango NYSUT Executive Vice President, Barbara Patterson, Janice Strauss, Ellen Sullivan NYSUT Assistant in Research and Education Services at the NYSUT World Language Subject Area Committee meeting</i></p>	<p><i>Lela Dunbar, Linda Zusman, Tiffany Bratz, Scott Wilkolaski, Jackie Paredes NYSUT Legislative Representative, Barbara Patterson, Ellen Sullivan NYSUT Assistant in Research and Education Services, Christine Brucker Skyped, Virginia Ubari, Janice Strauss, Diana Zuckerman at the NYSUT World Language Subject Area Committee meeting.</i></p>

NYSUT Regions' Legislative Meetings

Denise Mahns and **Barbara Patterson** attended NYSUT's Onondaga County Legislator's Breakfast in December. Susan Arbetter, host of Capital Pressroom, moderated the panel discussion with Senator DeFrancisco and Assemblymembers Finch, Hunter, Stirpe, and Magnarelli. Afterwards, teachers and students from each school district were divided into breakout meetings with these Senate and Assembly members. Denise and Barbara met with Assemblyman Stirpe and Assemblyman Magnarelli to educate them on the repercussions of the elimination of the Proficiency and Regents exams in world languages and asked for their support in reinstating these exams.

<p><i>Denise Mahns and Barbara Patterson meeting with Assemblyman Stirpe</i></p>	<p><i>Barbara Patterson with Assemblyman Magnarelli</i></p>

Diana Zuckerman attended NYSUT's ED 13 Legislative Luncheon in February. NYSUT representatives spoke with elected officials about educational issues of concern. She will also be lobbying with NYSUT's Committee of 100 in March. It is critical for legislators to hear from world language teachers.

Each NYSUT region hosts a meeting with their local Senators and Assemblymembers which you can attend. This is the perfect time to have a face to face discussion with your local Legislators on any world language concerns. Check with your local union President or the [NYSUT Regional Staff Director](#) in your region to find out when these meetings occur.



Stay up-to-date on world language issues through our NYS AFLT Advocacy Center. We have a wide range of articles and research documents, a listing of ways to contact your legislators and take action, and links to valuable resources. You can also contact your Public Advocacy Co-Chairs [Barbara Patterson](#) and [Diana Zuckerman](#).

National Network for Early Language Learning FLES News

NNELL had wonderful representation at **NECTFL** in New York City. Early language educators attended multiple sessions specifically for them, including the first-ever session focusing primarily on teaching Pre-K language learners! On **Friday, February 9**, **NNELL** Northeast Representative **Marissa Coulehan** facilitated the “*NNELL Networking Un-Con*” at which early language educators from up and down the Northeast region discussed topics in groups such as classroom management in the target language, immersion, resources for songs and poems, and planning multiple preps. Even founding member Dr. Helena Curtain dropped in and shared her wealth of knowledge with the group!

Look at all these [#earlylang](#) teachers collaborating during the [#NECTFL18](#) NNELL un-conference!!!



5:01 PM - 9 Feb 2018

Save the date! **NNELL Summer Institute** will be **July 13–15**. The conference theme is “*Exploring the Multiple Pathways toward Proficiency.*”

The FLES Committee is pleased to announce that there are nearly 20 members of a FLES Collegial Circle sponsored by Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES meeting four times this school year. What a fabulous display of collaboration among early language educators in the Mid-Hudson/Westchester region.

Announcements

NYS AFLT offers many professional opportunities for teachers and professors to travel abroad, attend conferences, have ideas or projects funded, and be lauded for their website or departmental work. Submitting an application or nominating someone for a grant, scholarship and/or award enhances your curriculum vitae and the professional domain of your APPR. Winning allows you to showcase the talent within the LOTE department in your district or university. Most importantly, we grow as individuals in the profession that we love! Visit the awards [page](#) for more information and **APPLY!** In addition, stay tuned for information about the 2018 *Virtual Video Contest*. Below are upcoming deadlines for awards and scholarships:



March:

15 – NOMINATE a student for a *Fulvi Award*. \$150 is awarded to the winner, \$100 is awarded to the runner up, and \$50 is awarded to an outstanding 8th grader in world language study. These three awards are given out in each of the five NYSAFLT regions.

April:

13 – APPLY for a *James E. Allen Award*. This award recognizes and honors outstanding world language programs in each of the five NYSAFLT regions.

13 – APPLY for a *Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Award*. \$1,000 is awarded to an outstanding school-based FLES program. The monies are to be used to support and promote the expansion of this outstanding FLES program.

13 – APPLY for a *Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship*. Up to \$500 is awarded to a FLEX or FLES teacher to attend a professional conference in order to enhance quality language instruction and promote networking among FLES teachers.

13 – APPLY for a *Teacher Incentive/Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant*. Up to \$200 is awarded to support teacher efforts that improve instruction, expand extracurricular programs of a class, school or school district, or create a school and/or community project that is cultural in nature.

13 – NOMINATE a teacher for the *Dorothy S. Ludwig Memorial Award*. Awarded to a world language teacher for outstanding service to the profession.

13 – NOMINATE a person for the *National Culture Through the Arts Award*, awarded to a person in the performing arts for whom knowledge and appreciation of world languages and cultures are important.

13 – NOMINATE a person for the *Outstanding Journalist/Media Presenter Award*. Awarded to a NYS publication, TV/radio station, or film/video writer or producer which promotes world language education.

13 – NOMINATE a supervisor for the *Remunda Cadoux Award for Leadership in Foreign Language Supervision*. Awarded to a NYSAFLT member who has demonstrated excellence, service, and leadership in a supervisory position.

13 – NOMINATE a teacher for the *Ruth E. Wasley Distinguished Teacher Award*. Awarded to a K-12 and/or post-secondary teacher who has demonstrated excellence.

13 – NOMINATE a person for the *Senator Paul Simon Friend of Foreign Languages Award*. Awarded to an individual and/or organization outside of the world language profession who has demonstrated support for FL education and/or FL teachers.

13 – NOMINATE a person for the *Sister Rose Aquin Caimano Distinguished Administrator Award*. Awarded to a non-language specialist who is supportive of the teaching of world languages.



13 – NOMINATE an article for the *Papalia Award* which is awarded to an outstanding professional article on second language education from the preceding year.

May:

4 – APPLY for a *France Scholarship* which consists of a \$250 scholarship to a teacher who has been accepted to a French professional development program abroad.

Language Association Journal

Want to share ideas or research with your colleagues but prefer the written word? Then it is time to think about submitting to the Language Association Journal! We welcome a range of topics, generally following the formats of teacher to teacher articles, scholarly research, and reports. The Language Association Journal is published two times per year. It is not too late to submit for the February deadline, just email *Journal* editor [Mary Caitlin Wight](#) to talk about timelines! Submit your work through the NYS AFLT publications [webpage](#) and share all your best with your colleagues!

Congratulations!

Dr. Erin Kearney of the University of Buffalo is the recipient of the Modern Language Association's thirty-fourth Kenneth W. Mildener Prize. She is receiving this award based on her in-depth investigations which led to her book, *Intercultural Learning in Modern Language Education*, in which Dr. Kearney challenges current practices and theories.

Dr. Kearney is a graduate of the French language and literature program at Pennsylvania State University (BA) and the French literature (MA) and educational linguistics (PhD) programs at the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently an associate professor of world languages at the University of Buffalo, NY.

Message from the Editor

Welcome to our new Exec Board and Regional Directors. I look forward to working with you this year! I would like to take a line or two to thank **Marie Campanaro** for her efforts in bringing back the “Where are they Now?” and “Member Spotlight” segments in this edition of the *NYS AFLT News*. Marie remembered these sections from **Bill Anderson**'s tenure as NYS AFLT president and took it upon herself to begin making contacts to bring them back. If there is someone you'd like to see featured in these segments, please send us his/her contact information. We always love to highlight the accomplishments of our NYS AFLT members!



NYS AFLT Cards

<p>Are there people whom you would like to recognize or honor? You can now send greetings, words of comfort, or any other sentiment with a NYS AFLT card. For a minimum of \$5.00 per card, we will print your message to indicate that a donation has been made. These will be published in the <i>NYS AFLT News</i> and will benefit the teacher travel scholarship. Cards may be obtained by going to the donations page or by sending a check (made payable to NYS AFLT) to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NYS AFLT Headquarters 2400 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14214-2364</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Congratulations to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTINE CIOPPA SHERI GREEN JOANN THOMASSON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">for earning NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION in WORLD LANGUAGES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sincerely, Marie Campanaro</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p>
--	--

Mark Your Calendars

March

- 1–31** National Foreign Language Month
- 2** **Deadline:** Teacher Travel Award Applications (Except French-speaking world; see application)
- 5–11** NYS Foreign Language Week
- 12-13** Board of Regents Meeting
- 16** **Deadline:** Leaders of Tomorrow Applications
- 16** **Deadline:** Fulvi Student Awards Applications
- 20** **Webinar:** “Designing Articulate Performance Assessment Exemplars”



April

- 9–10** Board of Regents Meeting
- 13** **Deadline:** James E. Allen Award Applications
- 13** **Deadline:** Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Applications
- 13** **Deadline:** Hahn Teacher Scholarship Applications
- 13** **Deadline:** Teacher Incentive/Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant Applications
- 13** **Deadline:** Post-Secondary Student Scholarship Applications
- 13** **Deadline:** Annual Conference Awards Nominations
- 18** **Webinar:** “Building Listening Comprehension Skills with Authentic Sources”
- 27** **Deadline:** Submission of Names of Retiring Teachers

May

- 4** **Deadline:** NYSAFLT Travel Stipend Applications for study in the French-speaking world
- 4** **Deadline:** June *Newsletter* Submissions
- 5** Board of Directors Meeting (Albany)
- 7–8** Board of Regents Meeting
- 14** **Webinar:** “Enacting the Work of Teaching: Introducing High-Leverage Practices in Foreign Language Education”

The *NYSAFLT News* is published by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Inc.

NYSAFLT, Inc.
 2400 Main Street
 Buffalo, New York 14214
 info@nysaflt.org
www.nysaflt.org

NYSAFLT Headquarters Staff

Executive Director	Administrative Assistant
John Carlino	Sean McDonough