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Volume 46, No. 4 Diane Tyminski, Editor December 2019

In this issue of NYSAFLT News, you'll get to know Dr. Virginia Levine and catch up with past president Al Martino. You'll also find regional news along with updates from NNELL, the Public Advocacy committee and more!

If you don't see all of these important features, there's a possibility that the newsletter is being truncated by your email server. Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom and to click on "view entire message" so that you don't miss a thing!

Click here to check your membership status.



The President's Corner

Dear NYSAFLT Family,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president in our organization's 102nd year of leading with languages. I am grateful for the many connections made along the way. From Lew-Port to Northport to Port Henry, we are creating meaningful contexts for communication and intercultural understanding. Across the Empire State, we are modeling how to #leadwithlanguages.

This is such an exciting time for languages in New York State. Under the expert leadership of **Candace Black**, NYSED Director of World Languages at the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (and NYSAFLT past president), our standards revision process is being informed by your participation and practice. As the process continues, I look forward to collaborating and learning to understand our checkpoints through the world-readiness lens. As the World Language Network coordinator for the Genesee Region Teachers' Center (GRTC), I will be reaching out for input for our spring (and maybe summer) meeting. Yes, I see you and I am tapping you on the shoulder.

Thank you for your support and contributions to the language learning community. Because of you, NYSAFLT continues to build bridges and foster real-world connections for our students.

Remember to follow your heart and share your passion. Consider sharing an idea, joining a committee, nominating students and colleagues for awards and/or submitting a session proposal for the Annual Conference. (The proposal deadline is **March 1**).

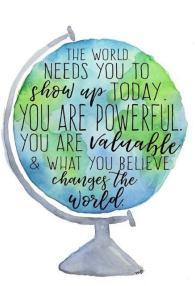
Continue to surround yourself with inspiration and positivity. Give the gift of NYSA-membership to a colleague or student teacher, participate in a #nysachat or apply for a grant or scholarship.

Are you ready to grow your leadership? Apply for our Leaders of Tomorrow program or join in the fun at Summer Institute in August!

Whatever path you choose, please keep in touch. Share your story @NYSAFLT @SlocumBeth #nysachat. I look forward to hearing from you in the new year ahead.

Warm regards,

Beth



Member Spotlight

For this issue's Member Spotlight, Virginia Levine shares her personal NYSAFLT story!

My love affair with world languages began very early. As a child, I can remember my fascination with the Latin language I heard at Sunday mass. When, as a ninth-grader, I began my formal studies of Spanish, I was instantly enchanted with all aspects of second language acquisition.



Having a phenomenal Spanish teacher was critical to my eventual career path. A singleton world language teacher in a tiny school district, Mrs. Louise Smaila had a magical way of bringing other cultures to life for us. It was only much later that I learned that she had never been out of the country herself – or quite possibly even out of our county.

I attended SUNY Albany as an undergraduate. Never once did it cross my mind to veer from my love of languages as my chosen major. In addition to Spanish, I picked up French, graduating with honors and 7-12 certification in both languages. I was fortunate to be a member of the very last methods class that Dr. Ruth E. Wasley taught before her untimely passing. Years later, I was deeply honored to receive the NYSAFLT Ruth E. Wasley Post-Secondary Award, named for the amazing woman who was an inspiration to so many NYSAFLTers. I continued my education at Pennsylvania State University, earning both my master's and Ph.D. degrees.

From the moment I entered the classroom as a fledgling TA, I knew that teaching college was my niche. I savored every moment of teaching college for 28 years before entering the world of administration. I taught at SUNY Geneseo, Hiram College, and the University of Miami, Coral Gables prior to taking a few years off to have children and to develop a bilingual program at their preschool. In 1988, armed with a solid background in Spanish American literature and existentialism, I prepared to teach at SUNY Cortland only to discover that, while my Spanish American Existentialism course had not filled, there was a need for a world language methodologist. Teacher preparation quickly became my new joy, and I am so deeply heartened when I hear the many success stories of my former students

who became first-rate world language teachers. Teaching is, and always will be, in my blood.

My introduction to NYSAFLT occurred in fall 1988, when Drs. Irmgard Taylor and Victoria Stiles, German professors at Cortland, announced the NYSAFLT annual meeting at the Concord Hotel, in Lake Kiamesha with the directive "and you HAVE to go." I did attend, and met a host of amazing world language leaders, including John Webb, Al Martino, Bob Sherburne, Michelle Bloom, Mary Champagne-Myers, Janine Manley and Linda Zusman, to mention a few. And, of course, Bob Ludwig, the icon of the organization. All movers and shakers, and definite role models for the profession. I have been blessed to work, and play, with many other valued members of the NYSAFLT family ever since. Before I knew it, I was serving on the Advocacy Committee, the Articulation Committee, the Postsecondary Committee, the Board, and later on the Executive Board as second vice president and first vice president. Planning the Annual Conference in Rochester was a labor of love, as were inaugurating the Summer Institute at SUNY Oneonta, serving as editor of The NYSAFLT Journal for ten years, and organizing countless world language methodologists roundtable discussions. In the '90's, I co-chaired Commissioner Mills' statewide Blue Ribbon Committee on Foreign Languages in the Elementary School. I testified before the Board of Regents, advocating on behalf of world languages. Most recently, I was pleased to organize a daylong workshop on campus that Dr. Jennifer Eddy facilitated on Designing Articulated Performance Assessment Tasks. This workshop included college and K-12 world language professionals and Candace Black, NYSED-OBEWL. Recruitment to my current administrative position precluded my assuming the duties of NYSAFLT president, but the transition was seamless, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Joanne O'Toole. Although I had never planned to go into administration, I have found over the years that, in many ways, I can advocate even more broadly and effectively for world language teaching and learning.

Throughout my journey of over three decades, I have learned that it takes an entire NYSAFLT village to advocate, maintain vigilance, and deliver our message about the importance of world languages. It seems that at every turn in the road we are faced with new or ongoing challenges. Nevertheless, the incredible rewards of world language teaching compel us to persevere. Together we have the ability to impact future generations in a peaceful yet powerful way, the joy of mentoring future teachers, and the opportunity to craft deep friendships with like-minded professionals. I will be forever grateful to NYSAFLT for my lifelong opportunity to advocate for world languages and the celebration of other cultures.

Virginia B. Levine, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and Vice President for Policy and Accreditation SUNY Cortland

Where Are They Now?

For this issue, we check in with Past President, Al Martino!

I am not exactly sure when my connection with NYSAFLT actually began, but it must have been around 1978. I was already involved in the local chapter of AATSP in Binghamton with **Beth Bossong**, *Dos Ríos*, and those meetings, our culture fairs, and national tests all led me to connect with an even larger group of teachers.



At that time I was teaching French and Spanish in the Sidney Central Schools (HS) and shortly after starting there full-time, I began to get student teachers from SUNY Oneonta under the auspices of Dr. Mireille *Vandenheuvel*. This connection led me ultimately to NYSAFLT. Shortly thereafter I met Dolores Mita at the time when they were beginning work on the New York State Syllabus, *Modern Languages for Communication*. The rest is history.

Writing this article has triggered some very interesting memories of NYSAFLT. One of them is that in the mid-1980s I met **Harriet Barnett** and have remained in close contact with her to this day. Her ideas and philosophies towards children and languages and her strong love of teaching have affected me strongly. I also recall running for office at the end of the 1980s. I was shocked at this point to have been asked to run for first vice president and truly felt I didn't have a chance. I ran against Adrienne Greenbaum, a French teacher from Long Island. We were very friendly and I just assumed that she would win. SURPRISE! Bob Ludwig kept telling me not to worry, and that running for office was a good thing. Bob was right. Bob was right about so many things, even the prune danish at the Concord Hotel!

The Concord Hotel! For me, this iconic structure always meant meetings, vendors galore, excited participants and presenters sharing their unique ideas with others. And for those of you who know me, it also meant running back and forth to dance recitals in between those meetings and workshops. NYSAFLT allows that!

Once on the executive track, my life changed dramatically, both personally and professionally. NYSAFLT is an organization that is run with heart and soul, and as such, it touches all of us deeply. For me, and as well as for others, it consumed a lot of time. Details for meetings were done manually and communicated through phone calls. This volunteer job had benefits that were measured in human life; I was able to meet and interact with hundreds of foreign language teachers not only from across New York state but across the country. Although those communications were tedious, things changed when Tom Myers, computer expert, and spouse of **Mary Myers**, another ex-president, forced us all to become computer literate –at least minimally so – and open email accounts! NYSAFLT represents a huge area of teachers geographically and e-mail was a lifesaver.

In the early 1990's we wrestled with major pedagogical and theoretical issues that have had lasting effects on our field. Our colloquia were attended in great numbers as we discussed the nature of communicative teaching and the relevance of grammar. Sides were taken. Tears were shed. Voices blustered! But in the end, the organization grew stronger and grew larger as the new syllabus and the new SLP exam were rolled out. Teachers began to share their creative ideas, their lessons, and unique ways in which we could create what we then called the communicative classroom. Teachers were talking to each other, listening to each other, and teachers were growing professionally in leaps and bounds.

Remember cooperative learning? Well, ask Dr. Vickie Mike who singlehandedly spearheaded one of the largest summer conferences at Skidmore College. People came from all over the state to learn about cooperative learning strategies and techniques which are still valid, valuable and successful in the classroom.

First and foremost, NYSAFLT expanded my world. I know we tell our students that learning a foreign language will expand their world. Well, NYSAFLT does the same thing. The people that I have mentioned so far are only the tip of the iceberg of some of the most wonderful and giving people ever. There are hidden jewels all over the state, teaching in the smallest of communities and teaching in the large urban areas, all trying to help students experience foreign languages. NYSAFLT helped me to find them and helped me to bring out some of their ideas as presenters in our many conferences and newsletters. NYSAFLT gave me opportunities to be involved at the national level with ACTFL and even NNELL. It taught me acceptance of others' ideas when maybe I was too sure of myself. It taught me to always be willing to move forward and not let the past control you. It taught me how to organize a meeting and how to run the meeting. It also taught me how to step away when the time was right.

Interestingly, I would never have had the job as the single Associate in Foreign Languages in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for the New York State Education Department for seven years had it not been for NYSAFLT. NYSAFLT became a platform from which I could share my experiences, my knowledge, and my willingness to work hard to make languages right in New York state. It gave me the appreciation for the statement, "languages are for ALL children," a theme which I fear seems to be losing its strength now that we are in the 21st century. I will always believe that every child has a right to learn a foreign language and that we are responsible for making it happen. ALL children deserve access! Today, many years later, I carry with me the essence of NYSAFLT. As New York state moves toward implementing new standards, I hope that the standards remain accessible to ALL students. I watch from afar as many of you know that I have retired to

Phoenix, Arizona. Yes, it IS a dry heat!

Before retiring I concluded my career as an Instructional Administrator of World Languages and ESL for Guilderland for eight years. I was able to bring all of the skills, knowledge and connections to the job in what I hope was a successful part of my career. The ability to be flexible and willing to undertake new tasks was a critical skill as I supervised an ever-growing ESL population in our school. In the Guilderland Schools, I worked with some of the most creative and dedicated teachers ever!

On the personal side, during this time I married my partner, of then sixteen years, as my NYSAFLT family cheered me on. We have indeed retired to Phoenix, Arizona. As soon as we moved here I joined AZLA, the Arizona Language Association. They have an annual meeting that is truly phenomenal. They too work to represent people from ALL over the state; from the desert sands of Yuma to the snow-capped mountains in Flagstaff. Then, I went back into the classroom for two years. First as a full-time teacher of French and Spanish and then as a substitute maternity leave replacement. My short return to the classroom proved that I still love working with students and that I still hate after school meetings! Harold, my husband, remains by my side supporting me through all this professional activity and helping me to always stay positive. He is the quintessential travel partner! He can read a map!!!

As a retiree, I finally picked up mahjong, a game I had been wanting to learn ever since our Japanese exchange student in 1979 gave me a set. However, my love of Spanish was pushing me in still another direction. At present, I am a third-year doctoral student in Spanish peninsular literature with a focus on women's studies and queer theory. My specific focus is in the area of uncovering women's voices through pop literature of the early 1900's. It may take another couple of years to take the necessary tests and then the dissertation, but it just makes sense to me to do this now. I must say, being older than even the instructors is a very interesting dynamic but it is fun because I am NOT, I repeat I am NOT working towards employment, thank you!

I welcome communication with anyone from my NYSAFLT family. I see your pictures on Facebook and get a true sense of delight in seeing what you are doing. And you might not be surprised to learn that my email has not changed. It continues to be: lotino@aol.com. Drop me a line or find me on Facebook. I would love to hear from you.

Regional News

Central New York

The LECNY/NYSAFLT Regional Workshop was held on Saturday, October 5, in Liverpool. The event started with an immersion café, followed by a wonderful keynote address given by Melanie Thomas, and concluded with breakout sessions given on a variety of topics. The breakout sessions included Seal of Biliteracy, Using Stories in the World Language Classroom, Animated Short Films in the World Language Classroom, and a variety of best practices for the world language teachers. This year's presenters included Maria Fenton, Amy St. John, Diane Tyminski, and Michelle Walpole. Thank you to everyone who attended, all presenters, and to all the LECNY members who hosted the event.



LECNY will be hosting its annual LLL-LECNY workshop on **February 1**. Please check www.lecny.org for additional updates as they become available. Hope to see you there!

Laura Rouse is ending her term as regional director. She wants to thank the membership, the board of directors, the executive committee, and all other NYSAFLTers for helping her learn with some of the best in the profession and for allowing her to serve and represent her region in this important role. She passes the torch to **Brianna Jaspersohn**, a dedicated, dynamic, and energetic French teacher in the Lafargeville CSD who will continue to lead our region into the future. Please visit the Central NY Regional News section of the NYSAFLT webpage.

AATF of CNY

AATF of CNY hopes that everyone is having an excellent school year so far! We have been pretty busy on our end. On **Saturday**, **October 19**, we had our fall workshop entitled *Cracking the Code: Puzzle-like Activities for the LOTE Classroom*. In this workshop, **Dr. Denise Mahns** and **Sarah Woodward-Jones** from Fayetteville-Manlius High School presented breakout boxes, **Michael Ashley** from Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School discussed crime scene investigations, and **Janis Labroo** from Oneonta High School presented her mystery unit. We hope you will be able to join us for our annual French hockey night at the Syracuse Crunch on **January 10**. Also, Le Grand Concours will be here before you know it, so keep your eyes open for registration information.



Mid-Hudson Westchester

We want to welcome **Trisha Moller** as our new regional director for NYSAFLT (beginning in January) to serve Mid-Hudson/Westchester. We thank **Eleanor Dana** for her service the last three years on the NYSAFLT board of directors!

PWRFL has gotten off to a very busy start to the year hosting several workshops, including a discussion and viewing of the NYSAFLT webinar on Portfolios, a workshop on Chromebooks in the WL Classroom, and "Movie Talk" – about using film in the classroom.

In addition, our members were out in full force at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs. Many ALOUD and PWRFL members attended and several presented, including our very own vice-president **Roxanne Franquelli-Beras** and **Richard O'Riley**.

We will start the new calendar year with our workshop on authentic resources at Putnam Valley High School on **Tuesday**, **January 7** from 4–6 pm. All are welcome to attend! Please RSVP to powerfuleducators@hotmail.com.

NYC- Long Island

Annual Conference Award

On Friday, November 1, 2019, Jill Schimmel, Senior Director of World Languages, NYCDOE, was awarded the Sister Rose Aquin Caimano Distinguished Administrator Award, at the NYSAFLT's 102nd Annual Awards Banquet. The event took place during the 2019 Annual

Conference, held at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, NY. New York City is very proud to celebrate one of its distinguished administrators. Please join us in congratulating Jill, for receiving this great honor.



This award was given in recognition of Schimmel's amazing work in promoting professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators across the five boroughs of New York City. She constantly advocates for all students to have equal access to quality multilingual



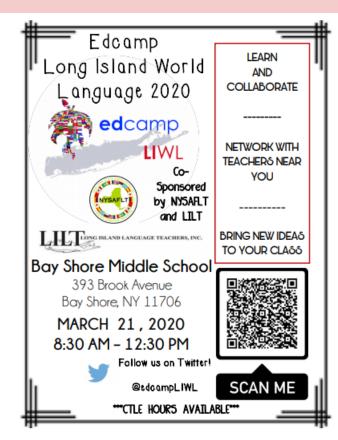
New Regional Director

My name is **Wendy Mercado** and I am excited to be serving as the regional director for NYC/LI region, alongside **Michele Sennon-Britton**. I was elected to begin in 2020, but I am starting a little earlier now that **Valérie Greer** has moved on to the secretary-treasurer position. I have been teaching Spanish at Bay Shore Middle School since 1998. I received both my BA and my MA at SUNY Stony Brook. In addition to being a member of NYSAFLT, I am also a member of ACTFL and LILT and a frequent presenter at many conferences since 2012.

As a NYSAFLT member, I have served on the Annual Conference Planning Committee and the Nominations Committee, as well as being part of the 2017 Leaders of Tomorrow cohort. I am looking forward to continuing to network with language teachers and leaders throughout the state and also learn ways to help advocate for world language teachers and stronger programs on Long Island. Please contact me at wmercado@bayshore.k12.ny.us with any regional news, information or questions.

EdcampLIWL

EdcampLIWL will be coming to Long Island for the first time on **Saturday, March 21** at Bay Shore Middle School. The event will start at 8:30 with a welcome session. The day will continue with various sessions led by the edcampLIWL organizers as well as participants. This is a FREE event that is open to all World Language, Dual Language and ENL educators and administrators. Building communities of empowered educators with a collaborative, participant-driven professional development model is the mission of edcamp. This is an UNconference, which means that all sessions are participant driven and facilitated. Come in and find the session that best meets your needs and learn from your fellow colleagues. Best of all, this event is being co-sponsored by NYSAFLT so CTLE credits will be available.





Western New York

We want you to *Leap Into Languages* at the 2020 WNYFLEC/NYSAFLT Regional Conference! Mark your calendars for **February 29, 2020**. We are thrilled to welcome **Candace Black** as our keynote speaker to give us an update on the exciting new things happening in the

All of the details will be available soon, including location, prices, etc. In the meantime, we will be looking for presenters with expertise in using Can-Do Statements, the Levels of Proficiency, the Modes of Communication, Backwards Design, etc. If you aren't already a member of WNYFLEC, please visit our website: www.wnyflec.org.

In other conference news, the Rochester Regional Conference is set to celebrate its 50th anniversary on **Saturday, March 7, 2020** at Nazareth College. Our keynote speaker, **Dr. Jennifer Eddy**, will present updates on the New York State World Languages Standards. Come join us!

Do you have an idea, a project, an activity, or a reflection on your instruction and your students' learning that you'd like to share? We are currently accepting workshop proposals! Check out the NYSAFLT Regional Conferences page for more information.

Annual Conference Award

Congratulations to Santiago Masferrer Chito, who was recognized in Saratoga Springs at the NYSAFLT Annual Conference. He received the Friend of Foreign Language Award. He is a fixture in the Buffalo community and an advocate for social justice and equality. **Kristina Strauss**, WNYFLEC President and **Michael LaPaglia**, NYSAFLT Western Director, nominated Santiago for all of his efforts and involvement in the Buffalo area. They were honored and proud to share this evening with Santiago. His words were very inspiring. ¡Gracias, Santiago!



NYSAFLT Director Michael LaPaglia, Friend of Foreign Language Award recipient Santiago Masferrer Chito, and WNYFLEC President Kristina Strauss

Public Advocacy

Campaign to Reinstate Funding for Proficiency and Regents Examinations It's easy to advocate!

Why bring the examinations back?

World language teachers and programs across the state suffered a great loss when the World Language Proficiency and Regents exams were eliminated. Throughout the state, the exams were a consistent measure of students' proficiency. State assessments in world languages placed our programs on par with all other CORE subject areas. They also provided an assurance that our districts were in compliance with the NYSED 100.2 (d) regulations. The loss of our state assessments has limited options for our ENL population and students proficient in other languages, since they can no longer challenge exams for world language credit toward graduation. State-developed world language state assessments would provide a valid measure of world language proficiency for all students - including both the 4+1 Pathway and the New York State Seal of Biliteracy.

Would the exams be the same?

Reinstated exams would reflect the new World Language Standards (once approved by the Board of Regents) and current best practices in world language teaching. A process will be created to ensure valid assessments.

Will the exams be automatically reinstated once the new world language standards are approved?

Not necessarily. New York State currently has world language standards but no state assessments. We need to campaign on why world language state exams are critical in order to be included in future New York state budgets. The approval of the new world language standards is a good first step, but it will not include a provision to reinstate the exams.

What can I do?

Visit the Public Advocacy pages in the "<u>How to Take Action Today</u>" page. You will find speaking points, a pre-written letter, and a postcard template.

Send a letter (55 cents), send a postcard (35 cents), or send an email. Make a phone call or schedule a visit.

Legislative aides tally and report the number of communication on any given topic. An issue that receives the most tallies becomes a priority. Ask family members, colleagues, and friends to call, write, and visit.

Whom do I contact?

Contact your Board of Regent first! The Board of Regents submits a budget proposal to NYSED in January. We need to contact them to ensure that state assessments are included in the budget. Last year, funding for exams was included in NYSED's budget request but was eliminated in the budget negotiation process.

Communications with Governor Cuomo, our Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, as well as our Assembly Speaker are second in priority. You will find their mailing and email addresses at the "How to Take Action Today" page.

Finally, contact your state senator and assembly member. You can find your Regent member, your state senator and your state representative at this/link.

Got Articles?

Don't forget to continue to pass along articles, infographics, and videos that you feel would be valuable additions to our collection of world language documents. Send the link to Marie at mcampanaro@aol.com. We strive for articles that would be of value to world language educators and avoid articles that favor specific languages over others and that promote forprofit organizations. Check out our current treasure trove of articles and documents!

Classroom Advocacy

How have you advocated for world languages in your classroom this year? Share your successes with us so that we can promote your ideas at @jl_delf or @nysaflt on social media. Photos are always welcome!

Advocacy Help

Stay up-to-date on world language topics through our <u>NYSAFLT Advocacy Center</u>. You can also contact your Public Advocacy Co-Chairs **Barbara Patterson** at <u>Imsspanish32@gmail.com</u> and **Marie Campanaro** at <u>mcampanaro@aol.com</u> for assistance in advocating within your district and community.

National Network for Early Language Learning



Early language educators from all over the country met at the Language Learning for Children special interest group business meeting at the ACTFL Convention 2019.



Congratulations to North Shore School District, winner of the Sally G. Hahn Outstanding FLES Progam 2019!

We are updating our NYSAFLT FLES webpage and would like to reflect the most accurate information. Please take a look at our NYSAFLT FLES Map. Is your FLES program on the map? Is your information accurate? If your program needs updating, please email <u>srtacoulehan@gmail.com</u> to let us know! Remember that FLES is anything below grade 7.

Additionally, NYSAFLT members can take advantage of the excellent opportunities for FLES teachers by applying for scholarships, grants, and awards in the "Members Only" section of the NYSAFLT webpage.

Announcements

Language Association Journal **Call for Papers**

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 with the next deadline being February 1. Find full details and submit your work through the NYSAFLT publications page and share all the best with your colleagues

NYSAFLT Cards

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 NYSAFLT 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 NYSAFLT News 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 NYSAFLT) to:

> NYSAFLT Headquarters 2400 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

Mark Your Calendar

December

Executive Committee (Poughkeepsie), December 7 Board of Regents Meeting, **December 9–10** Annual Conference Planning (online), **December 10**

Webinar: Embedding Authentic Resources Into Lesson Plans (Grahn, 7 p.m.), December

Membership year ends, December 31

January

Membership Year Begins, January 1 Nominations Committee Kick-off Meeting, January 7

Executive Committee and Financial Management Committee (online), January 11

Webinar: They, Too, Can-Do: Strategies and Accommodations for Diverse Learners (Blouwolff, 7 p.m.), January 15

Board of Regents Meeting, January 21–24 Regents Examination Period, January 21–24

Board of Directors (online), January 23 Deadline: Vito Marcello Rochester-area Fund an Idea Grant, January 31

February

Deadline: March Newsletter Submissions, February 1 Deadline: <u>Journal Issue #1 Submissions</u>, February 1

JNCL-NCLIS - Language Advocacy Day & Delegate Assembly (Washington, DC),

February 5-7

Board of Regents Meeting, February 10-11

Northeast Conference (NECTFL, NYC), February 13–15

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