



In this issue of NYS AFLT News, you'll get to know Erin Johnson and learn about the World Teen Camp. 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!

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The President's Corner

Welcome to the NYS AFLT's 103rd year! While 2020 is not the start of a new decade, as my students want to believe, it is a year for continued exciting changes. Thanks to **Candace Black**, NYS AFLT past president and Associate in Instructional Services at NYSED - Office of Bilingual Education & World Language, and the input of many NYS AFLT and language educators, NYSED has drafted revised standards. This was the first step in the process to get them adopted and while the timeline has been adjusted, we are on track for having revised world language standards by the end of the year.

I have been a member of NYS AFLT for almost 40 years (yes, I am old). Somewhere in the middle of my career, I was told that I would be a good fit for middle school and that I would be teaching there in September (that principal was gone shortly after dropping that news). I was very anxious about changing levels. At the time, I was afraid of the change and possible failure. Someone recommended a book entitled, *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson, M.D. After reading it, I began to search for "new cheese." NYS AFLT was, and is, my go to resource. I attended conferences and networked with so many generous presenters and colleagues. I first heard about comprehensible input at a session that I attended the last year that the Annual Conference was held at the Nevele Resort. Without the forward thinking and support of NYS AFLT, I would not still be in the classroom. So, as the revised standards become a reality, NYS AFLT is here to support you on your journey of adjusting curriculum and finding cultural resources as you work to connect your students through languages and culture.

In 2019 NYS AFLT adopted our [Strategic Plan](#) 2019–2023. Our organization will focus on three strategic priorities:

- addressing teacher recruitment and retention;
- building our members' capacity for leadership; and
- strengthening our community connections through our advocacy efforts

With these priorities in mind, I encourage you to apply for scholarships, nominate a colleague for an award and/or submit a [proposal](#) for Annual Conference (deadline **March 6, 2020**) or a regional conference. We continue to support our Leaders of Tomorrow (deadline **March 13, 2020**) program to build our leadership capacity. We have updated the advocacy page on the website. Of course, all this information and more is available here at [NYS AFLT.org](#). Visit often!

If you don't know where to begin, [email me!](#)

I wish everyone a prosperous and healthy new year.

Leslie

Summer Institute

Are you planning to attend the annual Summer Institute? This year it will take place **August 7–10** at SUNY Oneonta. A true "summer camp for language teachers," attendees at the conference always leave happy and full of inspiring new ideas. This year, we will be **Re-envisioning New York State World Language Standards** - fitting for year 2020.

If you've never been, or even if you are a repeat attendee, this is one week you won't want to miss. Tuesday will kick off with **Candace Black**, our Associate at NYSED, as well as **Joanne O'Toole** and **Bill Heller** with a Methods Bootcamp.



Wednesday includes both FLES/novice and upper level strands, featuring ACTFL Teacher of the Year 2019 Rebecca Aubrey, and ACTFL President-Elect Jessica Haxhi! Jessica and Rebecca hail from our neighboring state (and my home state) of Connecticut, and they are always excellent presenters who speak from the heart about solid practice. Thursday includes an afternoon outdoors, at the Camp at SUNY-Oneonta as well as Immersion Night activities - including a GAMES option this year! Friday wraps up with a look into leadership with our past ACTFL-LILL attendees and our own NYS Leaders of Tomorrow, as well as a mini-UnCon to round out your week.

There are so many fabulous presenters from NY and beyond, and the best part? Eating meals and hanging out with these speakers, getting to follow up the sessions and ask your questions in the moment, and becoming true colleagues and friends. Come and hear from **Brenda Buckley**, **AJ Ferris**, **Valerie Greer**, **Mary Holmes**, **Mike LaPaglia**, **Wendy Mercado**, **Trish Moller**, **Sarah Shainfeld**, and more!

If you've never attended, please consider joining us - there is a scholarship available for first-time attendees to defray costs! Check the Members Only section of the NYS AFLT website for more information. Per diem rates are also available, so you can attend only one or two days, if you want. Won't you join us for SI this year?



Member Spotlight

For this issue's Member Spotlight, **Erin Johnson** shares her NYSAFLT story!

Growing up, French and education were always a part of my life. I grew up with a mom who was a French teacher in the district where I went to school. Middle school French was hard for me - not the language itself - but the classes. I still remember sitting in my seventh grade French class and having my classmates tell me that I only had good grades because my mom was a French teacher (she wasn't my teacher at the time) or making fun of me if I made a mistake because, if my mom was a French teacher, I should know everything about French. Things got better in eighth grade when I had my mom as a teacher for the first time. My classmates quickly realized that everything I was able to do in French was me and not mom. If anything, she was harder on me than she was on any of my classmates. From that point on, French was always one of my favorite classes.



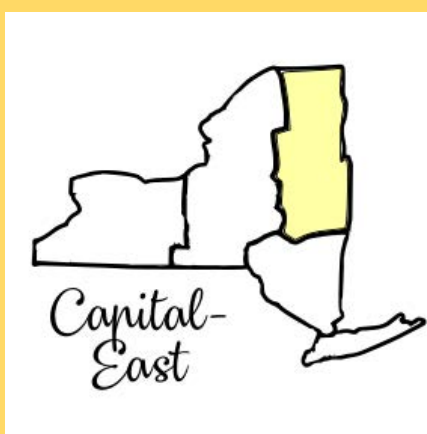
During my freshman year of high school, I decided that I wanted to be a French teacher (I had wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember, I just didn't know what subject until then). When I told my mom this, she suggested that if I wanted to teach French, I also needed to learn Spanish as it would open up more opportunities for me in the future. So, starting in my sophomore year of high school, I took both French and Spanish classes every year. As a senior, a classmate and I had the opportunity to teach French to an elementary class once a week. This was my first experience teaching French. While mom would guide us, we did all the planning for what we would teach each week along with what activities we wanted to do, and we also created any materials that we needed. This opportunity made me realize that teaching French was definitely what I wanted to do - just not at the elementary level (bless all of you FLES teachers).

I attended Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA for my undergraduate education. There, I majored in French Education with an additional emphasis in Spanish. I spent my junior year studying abroad at these Université Catholique de Lille in northern France. While there, I was hired to teach English to a community group of adults - it was a great experience and one of the first opportunities that I had in teaching a new language to someone! Upon graduating from Juniata, I returned to my home town of Penn Yan, NY. I decided to get my Masters degree and attended Nazareth College where I got my Masters degree in Educational Technology. A year after graduating from the program, I was asked to return to teach a class. I taught Computer Graphics every summer and fall for seven years and I also taught Applications for one semester.

After subbing and having a part-time long term sub position in the Penn Yan School District, I was hired as a part-time Spanish teacher at Penn Yan Middle School in 2011. While at the middle school, I taught French and Spanish for grades 6-8 (the combination of languages and levels I taught seemed to be different every year). When my mom, the high school French teacher, retired three years ago, I got the opportunity that I had been waiting for. I was able to transfer to the high school to be the French teacher. I was lucky to have the opportunity to work in the same department as my mom for the first six years of my teaching career. She is the one that first inspired my love for the French language and culture and she was the one that taught me how to give that same love to my students. I will forever be grateful that I got to work so closely with her and that I can still call on her for help anytime I need to talk through an idea.

My NYSAFLT journey also started because of my mom. I attended my first Rochester Regional Conference when I was just a junior in high school - because Mom made me! She told me that if I wanted to teach languages, then I needed to be a part of NYSAFLT - so I joined and I have never looked back. I continued to attend Rochester Regional Conferences throughout college, and in my senior year of college, I attended my first Annual Conference. I don't think I have missed one since! In addition to attending the NYSAFLT Annual Conference, I have also had the opportunity to attend the NYSAFLT Summer Institute and several NECTFL and ACTFL Conferences. I really started to get more involved in NYSAFLT when I was first asked to present a workshop with my mom at a Summer Institute. From there, the two of us continued to present together, usually about technology or the gaming format that we used in some of our classes. In 2017, I was selected to be a part of the Leaders of Tomorrow program. In 2019, I was a member of the Nominating Committee and also presented my first solo workshops! I credit my success as a teacher to my mom and the incredible NYSAFLT members who are so open to sharing all the amazing things that they are doing in their classrooms. I am grateful for the opportunities that NYSAFLT has provided for me, the friends that I have made and the wonderful ideas that I have gotten along the way. I can't believe that I am halfway through my 10th year of teaching and I am looking forward to what is to come over the next 20 (or more) years!

Regional News



Capital East

Upcoming Events

Kathryn Inhelder and **Margaret Leone** will be presenting a professional development workshop to the New York Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society for women educators, at the state convention in Syracuse NY on **April 25**. The presenters will be speaking about the Celebration of Francophone Culture that was first held in 2019 at the Strand Theater in Plattsburgh, NY and will be repeated in May of 2020.

On **April 28** the Adirondack Foundation will be hosting its second conference for world language teachers in Lake Placid NY,

Central New York

LLL-LECNY

The annual LLL-LECNY event took place on **Saturday, February 1** at Syracuse University's Goldstein Student Center. Many fantastic mini-workshops on a variety of topics were enjoyed by all. Topics included a NYSAFLT Advocacy update, maintaining 90% target language, brain breaks for students and teachers, the development of proficiency through tasks and intercultural competence and strategies to organize the world language classroom for increased student engagement and student-directed learning.



Thank you to LECNY and Syracuse University's Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics for hosting such a wonderful event! Congratulations to all presenters. A special thanks and congratulations also goes out to Barbara Gordon who was honored with the CNY Friend of Foreign Language Award. Thank you Barbara for your dedication to our field!

Foreign Language Teaching Conference at St. Lawrence University

On **March 20**, there will be a Foreign Language Teaching Conference hosted at St. Lawrence University that focuses on sharing favorite methodologies for teaching world languages. All area world language teachers are encouraged to attend! You can register [here!](#)

News from the World Language Council

The World Language Council of the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (MidState RBERN) is representative of 126 school districts in Central NY. We are a team of world language teachers who are dedicated advocates of multilingual and multicultural opportunities for all students. The work of our council focuses on strengthening content knowledge and instructional practices, supporting the newly revised NYS Standards and aligned assessments, as well as the NYS Seal of Biliteracy. We collaborate regularly to share regional successes, to address our continued professional development, and to support world language educators throughout our region.

New Regional Director for CNY

My name is **Brianna Jaspersohn** and I am excited to be serving as the new regional director for CNY alongside **Stewart Smith**. I am currently teaching French at LaFargeville Central School. I received my Bachelor of Arts in French and German from Hartwick College and my Master of Science in Teaching in Literacy from SUNY Potsdam. I am the current president of the Foreign Languages of Northern New York Leaders as well. I am very excited to become more involved in NYSAFLT this year. It has been such a learning experience for me and I appreciate the opportunity.

Please feel free to reach out to me to share and celebrate classroom activities, student successes, and department happenings. I look forward to getting to know our region much more closely over the next three years!

AATF of CNY

"Bonne Année" from all of us at AATF of CNY! We wish you all a happy and healthy new year and we are so happy to announce some of our upcoming events!

Le Grand Concours

Registration is still open for Le Grand Concours! Because of online testing, teachers may select their testing dates within the following windows:

- FLES testing: February 15–March 1 2020
- Levels 01-5 testing: February 22– March 29 2020

AATF of CNY recommends testing during the first two weeks of March.

Registration information and additional resources can be found on www.frenchteachers.org/concours.

Recent and upcoming events

We hope many of you were able to attend French Night at the Syracuse Crunch on **Friday, January 10**. Our annual movie night and our Spring workshop are just around the corner. Further details on both of these events will be announced soon.

NYC- Long Island

NYCAFLT Conference

On **Saturday, November 16**, over 175 educators attended the 2019 Annual Professional Development Conference hosted by the New York City Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYCAFLT) under the umbrella of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and co-sponsored by NYSAFLT. The all-day event was held at the UFT headquarters in Manhattan. Participants were able to attend three 85-minute workshops from a selection of 20 offerings, many of which focused on different aspects of foreign language teaching and learning: technology, pedagogical strategies, culture, and assessment.



During the plenary session, **Irma Evangelista**, President of NYCAFLT, warmly welcomed and thanked everyone for choosing to be present at the conference. NYSAFLT president-elect, **Sally Barnes** and NYSAFLT 1st vice-president, **Jenny Delfini**, brought greetings on behalf of the organization. Conference chairperson, **Nunzia Manginelli**, introduced the keynote speaker, **Candace Black**, Associate in Instructional Services in the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages at the New York State Education Department. Candace is a 21-year world language teacher, who, with her riveting delivery and inspiring words of encouragement, gave attendees a taste of the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages and what to expect in her workshop later on. The conference theme, **World Languages Proficiencies: Celebrating Our Shift to Global Connections**, was highlighted, as evidenced by the many workshops which maintained language proficiencies as a focus. Keynote speaker **Candace Black** facilitated a workshop entitled *Exploring the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*. She captivated her audience with her witty, yet very enlightened contribution. During her presentation, she encouraged educators

to come away with a solid foundation of the 5 C's as well as how these 5 guiding principles can help shape instructional tasks that engage our learners in authentic tasks towards true proficiency.

A World of Possibilities: Connecting Advanced Literacies to the Core Practices, presented by **Jill Schimmel Sopa**, called on teachers to recognize the importance of understanding the context outside their own classroom. Some workshops were geared towards teachers of specific languages. Dr. Polly Duke, sponsored by the American Association of French Teachers (AATF) shared *Teaching the Holocaust in France through Memoirs*. All the way from Naples, Italy, Roberta Pennasilico, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI), conducted a workshop on *Building an effective AP Italian course from the beginning to the advanced levels*. Marisa Fang directed her workshop entitled *Enhance Language Skills through Engaging Activities* towards teachers of Chinese. The versatile duo of Gabriela Altomirino and Mar Lised Vigil were able to make the material accessible to all attendees to their workshop *How to choose authentic resources with a purpose*. In Christopher Barley's workshop *Engaging Students through Comprehensible Input (CI): Reading and Storytelling in the Foreign Language Classroom*, teachers were even able to walk away knowing a few words in Portuguese.

Attendees were not disappointed by frequent presenters such as Yadira Alejandro-Robles, who shared best practices for teachers. She provided the opportunity for them to explore a variety of lessons designed with the three modes of communication, using authentic resources. Her workshop was entitled *Enhancing Teaching through Content Using the Three Modes of Communication*. **Rosa Bonilla** explored the cultural opportunities that New York City has to offer, in which she stressed the importance of taking advantage of these cultural opportunities in order to build literacy, storybook projects, art projects and develop a love for the Latin culture.

Special recognition to the Planning Committee of NYCAFLT/UFT for organizing another successful Fall Conference. The next event will be the Spring Professional Development conference in early May at the UFT Headquarters in Manhattan. Once available, details will be shared via the regional news section of the NYSAFLT website and the [UFT website](#).

LILT Conference

Also on **Saturday, November 16**, Long Island Language Teachers held their annual conference at Longwood HS, co-chaired by Jennifer Schuster and **Jackie Ammirato**. The keynote speaker this year was Rebecca Aubrey, the 2019 ACTFL Teacher of the Year. The theme of her speech was *Leaving Lasting Footprints: Empowerment, Empathy and Connections*. Rebecca is a passionate speaker and every language educator would benefit from hearing what she has to say.

Many of our NYSAFLT members were in attendance and quite a few presented sessions. The sessions were on a variety of topics from *Surviving Your First Year of Teaching* to working with SIFE students, Can-Do Statements, curriculum alignment, performance assessments, mindfulness and technology tools such as Google and Nearpod. Presenters from our #nysafamily included **Tina DeFalco**, **Donna DiNatale**, **Vincenza Graham**, **Valérie Greer**, and **Wendy Mercado**. They all did an amazing job giving the conference attendees a wealth of valuable information!

LILT is now accepting submissions for the 2020 Student World Language Competition. Check out their website for more information: www.liltfl.org



Rebecca Aubrey with Donna DiNatale; NYSAFLT members at the LILT 2019 conference.


EdcampLIWL

EdcampLIWL is coming soon! This FREE professional development opportunity will be on **Saturday, March 21, 2020** at Bay Shore Middle School. The event will be co-sponsored by LILT and NYSAFLT and CTLE hours will be available to all attendees. The link to register is: <http://bit.ly/edcampliwl2020>

Edcamp
Long Island World
Language 2020


LIWL


Co-Sponsored
by NYSAFLT
and LILT


LONG ISLAND LANGUAGE TEACHERS, INC.

Bay Shore Middle School
393 Brook Avenue
Bay Shore, NY 11706
MARCH 21, 2020
8:00 AM – 12:45PM

 Follow us on Twitter!
@edcampLIWL

*** 3 CTLE HOURS AVAILABLE THROUGH LILT ***

English as a New
Language, Dual
Language, and
World Language
teachers
welcome!

Learn,
Collaborate and
Network!



SCAN ME

Western New York

Rennes and Rochester Poster Contest

The City of Rennes, France organized a poster contest last spring. The posters were to show a link between the two sister cities- Rennes and Rochester. Troa Vimahi, a junior at Honeoye Central



School, won the Grand Prize for his entry entitled, *La Cathédrale Saint-Pierre de Rennes + Rochester City Hall*, in the Lycée category.

Troa received a certificate and a copy of the book *The Secret Life of the Pencil: Great Creatives and Their Pencils* when Honeoye's exchange students from Rennes were here in the fall. Troa will be traveling to Rennes, France in April for the second part of the exchange between Honeoye Central School and Lycée Bréquigny. Troa will spend a week in Rennes where he will definitely have the chance to see the cathedrale he portrayed in his drawing.

NYS Seal Of Biliteracy

In January, world language and ENL teachers from Kenmore West High School hosted teachers and administrators from Lewiston Porter CSD at an informational and sharing session about the NYS Seal of Biliteracy. The Kenton teachers were happy to share their experiences and help answer any questions about the NYSSB. The Seal of Biliteracy was offered by 228 schools in the 2018-19 school year. The Kenton UFSD is one of many districts in New York State to offer the Seal of Biliteracy to their students and Lewiston Porter CSD is looking to join the ranks.

Public Advocacy

Postcard Campaign to Reinstate World Language State Assessments Continues

Background

World language teachers and programs across the state suffered a great loss when their Proficiency and Regents exams were eliminated. Throughout the state, the exams provided 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 our ENL population and students proficient in other languages. They can no longer challenge exams for world language credit toward graduation.

After a very extensive process of collaboration with world language teachers across the state, the NYS Department of Bilingual Education and World Languages is preparing to announce the new World Language Standards and Guidelines in the spring of 2020. It is our hope to coordinate the return of world language state assessments with the introduction of the new World Language Standards.

We are advocating for the reinstatement of state assessments, beginning with the Proficiency Exam (Checkpoint A) for the first cohort of students under the new standards, and continuing our efforts to include Checkpoint B exams for this population two years later. For these reasons, the NYSAFLT's Public Advocacy Committee is continuing its postcard campaign to reinstate our state assessments.

Timeline

The earliest Checkpoint A exam, for the first group of seventh and eighth graders taught with the newly revised World Language Standards, could be in June of 2024. The three-year exam development process would have to begin in 2021, therefore, we need to advocate for the reinstatement of the exam now.

The NYSED OBEWL must submit its budget proposal in December of 2020 and the Board of Regents will vote on the budget for this exam development in the spring of 2021. Our goal is to have the funding for the reinstatement of the exams in these budget proposals.

Action Plan

Visit the [Public Advocacy pages](#) for materials to express your support. The "[Take Action](#)" section provides speaking points and postcard and letter templates. The "[Contact Your Elected Officials](#)" section provides addresses for your Board of Regents member, local elected officials, and the Governor's office.

The issue with the most communication becomes priority! You can write a postcard or letter, make a phone call, and schedule a visit. The Governor's office contacts should be made from March 2020 through March 2021. These dates are important as we need communication made in time for the budget decisions that will be made by these offices.

Watch for Public Advocacy campaigns at your regional conferences. Urge your colleagues (WL or non-WL) to support our cause!

NYSUT's World Language Subject Area Committee

In December, the New York State United Teachers Union's (NYSUT) Subject Area Committees (SAC) met in Albany. [Tiffany Bratz](#), Lela Dunbar, Kier Palmer, Jan Strauss, [Barbara Patterson](#), Scott Wilkolaski, [Diana Zuckerman](#), and [Linda Zusman](#) represented world languages. Topics of concern included reinstatement of the Proficiency and Regents exams, world language teacher shortage and recruitment, problems with edTPA, finding support for early language programs, and issues with locally developed Checkpoint A and B exams. We gave feedback on the NYS graduation requirements and SED's draft Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards. The committee drafted a resolution, to be submitted to NYSUT's Representative Assembly in May, to eliminate the term "core" in NYS since the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) promotes a well-rounded education and does not use "core" to identify certain subjects. Collaboration between NYSUT and NYSAFLT progresses us towards our world language goals.

NYS Graduation Requirements

The NYS Board of Regents is reviewing the NYS graduation requirements. SED is holding regional meetings to gather feedback on the five guiding questions or you can complete the online survey. This is an opportunity for you to advocate on the benefits of world language study and why world languages should continue as a graduation requirement. We have the unique perspective of the negative effects on programs, the content of existing programs, and consistency of student outcomes when state assessments are eliminated. Please share your stories on how the lack of unified state exams have affected the world language program in your district.

Advocacy Help

Stay up-to-date on world language topics through our [NYSAFLT Advocacy Center](#). You can also contact your Public Advocacy co-chairs [Barbara Patterson](#) at lmsspanish32@gmail.com and [Marie Campanaro](#) at mcampanaro@aol.com for assistance in advocating within your district and community.

Language Advocacy Day 2020: my perspective
Jenny Delfini, 1st vice-president

Executive Director **John Carlino**, Advocacy chair **Marie Campanaro**, and I attended the JNCL-NCLIS 2020 Language Advocacy Day in Washington, DC on **February 6-7**. Others in attendance from New York State included **Angelika Kraemer**, Natalia Lusin, Tiziana Aime, and Ada Ortuzar Young. Representatives in the field of world language education and industry met with their U.S. Senators and Representatives to urge them to support legislation that will aid in creating a multilingual and culturally sensitive society. It is the responsibility of the 1st vice-president of NYSAFLT to attend as the official designee for our organization, but anyone can register and attend this event. I was lucky to have been part of the Assembly of Advocates at ACTFL in November, where we also lobbied for support of various legislative "asks." It was great to be part of such a large and diverse group of colleagues, coming together to ask lawmakers to think about the future of our country in terms of languages and culture.

So what did we ask our representatives to support in February?

- **America's Languages Caucus**: A caucus established by David Price (D-NC) and Don Young (R-AK), to raise awareness about the importance of world language learning and international education, particularly as it relates to our nation's economic and national security; ensure adequate resources are directed towards the study of world language learning; and focus on improving access for students and educators who wish to participate in these fields of study, including world languages, Native American languages, and English for English learners.
- Funding for the inaugural year of the World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program: Although authorized for 2020, we still need funds in 2021 to support the grants and programs included in this program.
- Co-sponsor (in the House) or introduce (in the Senate) the World Language Teacher Student Debt Reduction Act: This act would increase Pell Grant Loan Forgiveness from \$5k to \$17.5k for language teachers, the same for subjects of other national shortage areas.
- Co-sponsor the Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching (BEST) Act: This bill seeks to award 2-year, renewable grants to establish or improve Seal of Biliteracy programs at the state level.

Although we did not meet with Sens. Gillibrand or Schumer directly, their staff were extremely knowledgeable and asked great questions about our "asks." Many of us had appointments with the offices of our local Representative in Congress as well, and it's extremely powerful to meet with someone from your area, who represents you in our government. I met with Representative Delgado's staffer, and I'm looking forward to attending Town Halls that he hosts in the Hudson Valley, as well as following up on asking him to visit my classroom.

On Friday, all of the attendees debriefed and had follow-up discussions about how to continue advocating at home; we were all delighted to hear from Everette Jordan of the Department of the Treasury, and Vincent Makori, of Voice of America; both spoke candidly and eloquently about how languages relate to their work and our country.

If you have never attended, please consider going next year! I feel inspired to speak up more for language education. The organizers did a fantastic job; many thanks to Bill Rivers, Trey Calvin, and Alissa Rutkowski for their efforts. Next year's Advocacy Days will be **February 4-5, 2021**.



New York State representative at Charles Schumer's office



New York State representatives at Kirsten Gillibrand's office



Marie Campanaro at Joseph Morelle's office



Jenny Delfini at Antonio Delgado's office

World Teen Camp

Guten Tag! Bonjour! Ni hao! Buenos días!

The New York YMCA is proud to announce the second year of our successful dual immersion [World Teen Camp](#). Targeting students ages 12–16 who are learning French, German, Mandarin, Spanish or ENL, the camp was designed by two friends, NYSAFLT member [Katrina Bauerlein](#) and longtime YMCA camp director Mary Gifford-Smith, and held its inaugural season in 2019. Bauerlein and Gifford-Smith sought to bring together students who are learning about one another's cultures and languages in a recreational, authentic environment for a truly international experience.

At World Teen Camp, International and American campers live, learn, and have fun together in a traditional sleepaway camp setting that includes four language villages: French, German, Mandarin, and Spanish. Each village is designed to create a dual immersion experience, allowing campers to be fully immersed in the language they are learning alongside peers who are native speakers of that language. Each village contains 20 campers, about half of whom are native English speakers (who are learning the target language of that village) and about half of whom are native speakers of the target language (who are learning English). Some ENL campers have recently moved to the US, while others are international campers who are experiencing the US for the first time.

The WTC experience provides campers with all the authentic exchange benefits of a homestay program but also the freedom and structure associated with sleepaway camp. "So often, students are interested in hosting an international exchange student, but because of their own family's crazy schedule, their own personal commitments or even the size of their home, being a host family isn't always possible. In addition, many American families are reticent to send their kids overseas at this age, too. That's one thing that makes the WTC so successful - campers benefit from the same cultural and language immersion as they would during a homestay, but they're only traveling a few hours away by car," says Bauerlein, who teaches 7–12th grade German in Mahopac Central School District in the Mid-Hudson Valley. "In many ways, we hope this experience becomes a stepping stone for American students who will grow in confidence and motivation to study and travel abroad."

Another advantage is that the camp setting, and the unique structure which allows teens to be both learners and experts, engages kids in a very different way than the traditional classroom setting. "Our teachers tell us that kids who are more hands-on learners, or are more socially motivated—and thus may be harder to reach in the classroom—really blossom in this environment," says Gifford-Smith. "Sleepaway camp, as a setting, is well known for helping to bring kids out of their shell and encouraging them to take risks. Seeing the impact that has on teens' willingness to engage in learning and actually use the target language is so inspiring. Best of all, parents tell us their children are still engaged with their World Teen Camp friends on social media, and thus keep growing in their proficiency without even realizing it!"

The 2020 WTC will run from **July 12–25** at the NYC YMCA's bucolic campus located in Huguenot, New York. In addition to campers, NYSAFLT members are encouraged to refer bilingual high school seniors and college students interested in working as counselors in our four villages. Especially those pursuing a teaching certification are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates may email resumes to the YMCA NYC Director, Thad Gifford-Smith at tgsmith@ymcanyc.org.

National Network for Early Language Learning

Upcoming FLES-related PD

FLES Fest 2020 for K-8 language teachers is on **Saturday, May 16, 2020** at the Dalton School, NYC. Join us to "talk shop," swap ideas, and connect. This year, NYSAFLT second vice-president [Marissa Coulehan](#) is the keynote speaker. Marissa is an elementary Spanish teacher and language leader. This event is co-sponsored by NNELL. For more information and to register visit <https://www.dalton.org/dalton-fles-fest-2020>.

NNELL Summer Institute will be in Chicago, IL from **June 19–20, 2020**.

NYSAFLT Summer Institute, chaired by FLES teacher and NYSAFLT first vice-president [Jenny Delfini](#), will continue to offer a FLES strand this year on **Wednesday, August 5, 2020**. Are you a FLES teacher? Two \$500 scholarships are available each year for a FLES teacher to attend a conference. Find out more in the Member's Only area of the NYSAFLT website.

NNELL at NECTFL

There were many NNELL leaders and members at the Northeast Conference (NECTFL) in New York City on **February 13–15, 2020**. NNELL past-president, Nathan Lutz, organized an incredible conference filled with inspirational sessions, professional learning, and networking. The theme of the conference was ***Languages for All: Envisioning Language Learning Opportunities for Every Learner***. Great job, Nathan!



New Jersey NNELL Representative, Amanda Seewald, was honored with the Nelson H. Brooks Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Profession. Amanda humbly accepted the award by acknowledging the past recipients of the award, whom she has admired and respected for their amazing leadership. Congratulations, Amanda!

Northeast NNELL Representative, **Lisa Urso**, presented a session called *Introverts in the World Language Classroom*. Lisa shared some interesting statistics; for example, many CEOs describe themselves as “quiet” or “shy” and the most effective leaders are motivated not by the spotlight, but by pushing new ideas forward and making the world better as a whole..



Connecticut NNELL Representative and 2019 ACTFL Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Aubrey, presented a featured session, *We Can All Do It: Differentiation Through Backward Design*. She reminded her audience that differentiating doesn't just mean that we should exclusively focus on accommodations and modifications, and that offering student choice makes a huge impact on student learning.

NNELL executive secretary, **Marissa Coulehan**, hosted the *NNELL Networking 'Un-Con' Share Session*. Members and future members alike learned about the multiple benefits that a NNELL membership provides. They chatted in small groups, asking each other questions and sharing experiences specifically related to early language learning. She also presented a session called *Stories, Robots, and Coding*. Participants were able to tell stories, problem-solve, and give directions with Cubetto, the friendly and playful robot.



NNELL past-president Rita Oleksak presented a session on *Building Authentic Learning Experiences that All Students Can Access* while NNELL past-president **Lori Langer de Ramirez** presented the featured session *Teaching our Tongues: Celebrating Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Schools*.

NNELL member, Julie Speno of Mundo de Pepita, relaxed the crowd by presenting her Best of Maine workshop *Be the Calm Classroom*. In the photo, you can see her walking participants through a brain gym exercise.

NNELL member, Leslie Grahn, led a workshop called *Using Authentic Resources to Teach Grammar in Context*. NNELL member, **Jenny Delfini**, spoke to future leaders urging them to *Empower Yourself, Empower Others*.



Overall, this was a conference packed with sessions for and by early language educators. NNELL was well-represented!

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 **September 1, 2020**. Find full details and submit your work through the [NYSAFLT publications page](#) and share all the best with your colleagues

NYSAFLT Cards

Congratulations and a big THANK YOU to
John Carlino
for 16 years as our
NYSAFLT Executive Director
-Marie Campanaro

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

March

National Foreign Language Month, **March 1–31**
Board of Regents Meeting, **March 2–3**
[Teacher Travel Award Applications](#) (except French-speaking world), deadline **March 2**
[Proposals for the Annual Conference](#), deadline **March 2**
Webinar: [Guiding and Empowering Learners Through Can-Do Statements](#), **March 11**
Central States Conference (Minneapolis, MN), **March 12–14**
[Fulvi Student Awards Applications](#), deadline **March 13**
[Submission of nominations](#), deadline **March 13**
[Leaders of Tomorrow Application](#), deadline **March 13**
Executive Committee and Initial Budget Planning, **March 14**
Annual Conference Planning (online), **March 24**
Nominations Committee Meeting (online), **March 26**

April

Board of Regents Meeting, **April 6–7**
[Post-Secondary Student Scholarship Applications](#), deadline **April 10**
[James E. Allen Award Applications](#) (Secondary), deadline **April 10**
[Hahn Outstanding FLES Program Application](#), deadline **April 10**
[Teacher Incentive/Gertrude Rossin Cultural Grant Application](#), deadline **April 10**
[Annual Conference Awards Nominations](#) (including Papalia), deadline **April 10**
[Virtual Video Contest](#), deadline **April 10**
Webinar: [The Revised NYS World Language Standards- A NYSED Update](#), **April 21**
Executive Committee (online), **April 22**
Submission of Names of Retiring Teachers, deadline **April 25**

May

June Newsletter Submissions, deadline **May 1**
[French-Speaking World NYSAFLT Travel Stipend Application](#), deadline **May 1**
Board of Directors and budget planning, **May 2**
Leaders of Tomorrow Opening Session, **May 2–3**
Board of Regents Meeting, **May 4–5**

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