In this issue of NYSALFT News, you’ll get to know Brianna Jaspersohn and catch up with past-president Nancy Katz. You’ll also find regional news along with updates from the Public Advocacy committee, information about the DesignSpace website and more!

If you don’t see all of these important futures, there’s a possibility that the newsletter is being truncated by your email server. We urge you to scroll all the way to the bottom and to click on “View entire message” so that you don’t miss a thing!

Cheers,

Sally Barnes

The President’s Corner

I hope that 2021 has started off positively and productively for you. Whenever and whatever you are teaching, I am certain that you are pushing and learning as you move forward. Wouldn’t you agree that at this time of the year we can always use a little inspiration in the classroom? Well, you are in luck, as NYSALFT is offering several options!

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships: Did you know that NYSALFT offers many awards, grants, and scholarships? It is a great way to promote your program, your colleagues and your students. Several awards have deadlines in March and April so check out the awards section on www.nysaflt.org and get going!

Webinars: NYSALFT offers quality one-hour webinars throughout the year, all for CTLE credit. You can visit the NYSAFLT Events page to check out upcoming webinars. Our next webinar on May 4, 2021 will feature Melanie Thomas, one of our regional directors for Western New York. She will present “Teaching Speaking Fluency in the Communicative Classroom.” On May 4, past-president Beth Slocum will present “Shifting Academic Mindsets: Lessons learned from Action Research in Actionable Corrective Feedback.” Webinars are free to members only and you may watch them for CTLE credit at the time they are scheduled OR as a recording at your convenience.

NYSALFT Virtual Spring Conference (aka NYSA-Fair): It’s not too late to join our co-chairs Marissa Coulehan and Francesc Plana, who have prepared a fantastic line up of educator-presenter who are ready to share and inspire, all from the comfort of your home.

NYSALFT Virtual Summer Institute: You can get ready for the new 2021-2022 academic year with workshops on a variety of relevant topics, including the revised New York State world language standards. And it’s online, so no need to interrupt your summer plans. Save the dates: July 20-August 6!

NYSALFT Annual Conference: We are planning on a hybrid event in Syracuse this year. Save the date of October 22-23. It is a really valuable way to kick off your academic year!

Consider presenting at the NYSALFT Annual Conference. We are always looking for people with passion, creativity and energy! The deadline to submit a proposal is April 30.

NYSALFT Advocacy Center: Check out updates on whom you can contact and how you can help, as the revised world language standards are introduced to the Board of Regents.

Take a moment and take a breath to acknowledge all you have done this year for your students. Now let NYSALFT help you do something for yourself as you close out this school year!

Cheers,

Sally Barnes

Annual Conference

Greetings, NYSA-friends!

With the near-complete adoption of updated standards for our field, we are looking forward to the 2021 NYSALFT Annual Conference, Rooted, Strong, and Growing with New Standards in NYS, to be held in Syracuse, NY. As we align our own state standards with those of ACTFL, we will focus on our own re-education of what proficiency looks like, how we can include culture and equity most effectively in the curriculum, and what language teaching methods can be honed for bringing out the best in any teaching situation.

As always, our vision is to bring together all those involved in the teaching and promotion of world languages, including researchers and educators at every level, across New York State.

The program will include three-hour pre-conference workshops for in-depth learning, as well as a wide variety of one-hour sessions over the course of the conference. We welcome all proposals – those with a connection to our theme, as well as those that address topics of general interest in the field. We encourage both veteran and new teachers to submit proposals; while those who have been teaching for a while can share their successes, our new colleagues can share new perspectives and points of view as well. Need some guidance on how to best write a workshop proposal? Check out the video for suggestions and inspiration!

We have made provisions for the possibility of going virtual, if need be...BUT I sincerely hope that we can see each other on-site in Syracuse!

Please visit www.nysaflt.org/annual-conference for additional information and to submit your proposal. Do not hesitate to pass the link on to anyone you feel has a message and a voice that needs to be heard! Proposals are due by April 30, 2021. Any questions should be directed to info@nysaflt.org.

I’m looking forward to the many things you are doing for world language education in New York State!

Jenny Delfini
The only caveat to this award was the requirement to present to a professional group. Still not fluency improved that summer, and I learned dozens of techniques to promote speaking skills.

Recherches et d’Applications Pédagogiques en Langues

Things changed in 1988 when I won a State Ed scholarship to study at the Université de Nancy. My career path is probably quite different from most others: it was a series of challenges, lucky breaks, shoulder-taps, and being in the right place at the right time. The year I graduated from SUNY Albany, State Ed had just dropped the language requirement, so jobs were hard to come by. I was lucky to be hired 2 days before the school year started, by a tiny rural district. I was lucky to be hired 2 days before the school year started, by a tiny rural district. I was fortunate to have been brought into the NYS family. NYSFALT has helped me so much as a professional and I am honored to help the organization in some small way.

Attending NYSFALT annual conferences inspired me and several other colleagues in northern New York to create the Foreign Languages of Northern New York Leaders (FLaNYY). In 2017: Our goal is to increase connections between the world language teachers of the northern New York area, as many of us are often departments of one at our small rural schools. Through FLaNYY connections I have met so many amazing colleagues in the region and learned so much that I have brought back to my own classroom.

As a northern New York native, I call this beautiful area home. Though a product of a very small school in Sebastian, NY, I was lucky to have amazing world language teachers in elementary and high school and my love of languages started at a young age. In addition, my family hosted several foreign exchange students growing up and I have learned to learn about other people and places in the world. My interests in other cultures grew when I attended Hofstra College in Oceanside, NY. At Hofstra, I participated in some really unique travel and study opportunities. While an undergraduate student, I worked on the 2004 presidential primaries in New Hampshire, studied in New Zealand, studied in Lithuania, student taught on the island of Anguilla, and attended the Université de Québec à Chicoutimi. In 2007, I graduated with a degree in French and German. Upon graduation, I was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and spent the following year as an English teaching assistant in Gavelsberg, Germany. This experience was a defining moment for me both as a person and as a teacher.

Currently, I am in my 11th year teaching French at LaFargeville Central School and it may be the most challenging time of my career thus far. In a school that has two world language teachers, I am the only French teacher. The connections I have made regionally and statewide have been invaluable to me. I have learned as much from my colleagues near and far and am excited to continue my involvement in NYSFALT for years to come.

On a personal note, my husband Robert and I recently purchased our first home and have been working hard to make it our own. We have a 3-year-old named Phoebe who is excitedly awaiting the arrival of her new baby sister in May. We enjoyed having lots of extra time to travel together, and make memories outside of the home again soon!

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In this issue of NYSFALT News, Brianna Jaspersohn shares her NYSFALT story!

Realizing that I wanted to be more involved, I volunteered that year at the hospitality booth. The following year, I began, in the words of John Cervinos, my role as a “face of NYSFALT.” That was my first year as the AV volunteer working with Mike Mitchell. Since then, I have continued to serve on the AV committee and last year in 2020 I began my first year as a regional director for Central New York. Though I still think of myself as a NYSFALT newbie, I feel incredibly blessed to have been brought into the NYS family. NYSFALT has helped me so much as a professional and I am honored to help the organization in some small way.

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aware of any organization; I was lucky that the superintendent’s conference that day was a county-wide, subject-specific meeting. I was on the agenda. As I watched the teachers enter the room, I was obvious that they had a lot more experience than me. My survival skills kicked in; I switched from a lecture on techniques to an invitation to share ways that they have used similar methods. I quickly learned that we are all experts with something to share, and all walked away with a much richer arsenal of ideas than I could have ever presented alone. I got a taste of the importance of professional collaboration, and I learned that learning, leading and collaborating are the keys to the future of education.

That first year was a turning point for me. I was invited to present alone. I got a taste of the importance of professional collaboration, and I learned that learning, leading and collaborating are the keys to the future of education.

The next few years on the executive board were amazing, continuing with keynotes and presentations on standards and advocacy, attending many of the regional conferences from Valhalla to Beekmantown, from Saratoga to Hamburg, from Gouverneur to Watkins Glen. Everywhere I went, I met vibrant, innovative professionals. Gradually my original presentation on the 28 NY standards had grown into connecting with the new Common Core Standards.

Looking back, it’s amazing to see how my career evolved. Having created professional collaboration during my first years of teaching, I’m able to see very clearly just how crucial it is; not just for learning new things, sharing, and gaining confidence, but for the opportunity to meet professionals who could mentor, guide, and encourage me to achieve my potential. It’s obvious to me now that others recognized my possibilities before I did, and I’m eternally grateful to the amazing NYSAFLT professionals who encouraged me along my path.

After retirement and completion of the NYSAFLT executive cycle, I’ve been volunteering for AARP as a legislative lobbyist for senior issues (using my advocacy skills) and as a Speaker’s Bureau presenter, while also full-time caregiving. For the past 3 years, I’ve been taking classes at MLNY Learning in Retirement where I also facilitate the “Conversations in French” classes for senior citizens who studied French 30 years ago and want to recapture and reignite their skills. Currently the president-elect of MLNY, ready to lead our transition now to Zoom classes, I am thrilled to be able to interact with my MVILR classmates and MVCC students.

Several of my classmates have also been writing articles for the website and gathering articles for handouts, continuing the diligent work of our hard-working Board of Regents. This was a dangerous time for the districts chosen to strengthen Level IV-V by offering college dual credit with MVCC. These programs are still thriving! I’m glad to see new programs available to world languages.

With encouragement from NYSAFLT professionals, my leadership and collaboration had grown. It was at this point that I realized that I needed to consider running for 2nd vice president. I hesitated at first, but of course, the conference committee invited me to consider running for 2nd vice president and the Board of Regents. Our first year was devoted to this transition, and I was surprised by the support and encouragement that I received from the NYSAFLT community.

I continued to present at the NYSAFLT annual conference and forums at various points in the year. At the same time, I was working with experts from local districts, including Liz Sacco, Lucile Mail and others, to improve their skills. I’m currently the president-elect of MVILR, ready to lead our transition to becoming a viable organization.

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Congratulations to Rose Hosp, Maureen Shiland and Dr. Stacy Bernstein, President of the National Board of Standards.
The proposed name change of LCSTE to WL, the revised world language standards, and the timeline for each was presented to the Board of Regents by Carmen Black, Associate Director of Instructional Services. WLSTE also presented a session entitled “40-4-3: 40 Minutes, 4 Skills, 3 Modes of Communication.” FinalMarie spoke about differentiating student-centered instruction through the application of the four skills of language learning.

World language administrators PLC

Jill Schremel, Senior Director of World Languages at the NYCDOE DSL, has created a monthly PLC for world language administrators. We extend a thank you to Laa Smith Sense and Vivian Selenikas from Long Island City High School for sharing information about the thoughtful programs designed to serve heritage and native Spanish speakers in their community. During the December 5 session, we deepened our shared understanding of resources available from the Division of Multilingual Learners to support MLLs/ELLs across all content areas, re-established our learning community, re-focused on our own roles, as well as the planning and implementation of effective instruction in remote learning. We also considered ways to “know your teachers well” to inform professional learning to guide them along the Educator’s Path to Proficiency.

The January 28 PLC meeting featured Elizabeth Mawsen on FDR High School, sharing her world language/ESL department’s journey to develop curricular units in alignment with the principles of CRSE and the upcoming standards shifts.

NYS Russian Olympiad

Every year, Staten Island Technical High School in collaboration with ACTR hosts the NYC Russian Olympiad. ACTR Olympiads of Spoken Russian is an amazing celebration for the learners of the Russian language and culture in New York City. This school year, it will be conducted VIRTUALLY on March 25–26, 2021.

The Olympiads of Spoken Russian is a unique national event for Russian language learners and heritage speakers. There are 3 competes that the students compete in and the students are registered by level depending on their Russian language proficiency and experience. Each regional contest will follow the format of the International Olympiads: Commission I: Speaking about yourself, everyday conversation
Commission II: Civilization
Commission III: Reading and discussion; recitation of a poem

If you would like more information about the competition itself, please visit https://www.actr.org/olympiada-of-spoken-russian.html

AP for All

AP for All (Office of Equity and Access-NYCDOE) is very excited to continue engaging with its diverse and dedicated Spanish teacher community through professional development and PLC, after school meetups, and lab classroom intervisitation. In Semester 2, we will start our PLC series, focused on fostering equity for all students, with two interactive sessions: “Building Classroom Community Online” (February) and “Afro-descent From New York to Mississippi where I learned about Second Language Acquisition.” These competitions are a great way to encourage teachers to be creative and proud of their accomplishments. Visit https://www.actr.org/olympiada-of-spoken-russian.html

AP for All

The AATF-WNY is planning a virtual Sonia Puleo-Musque in March with awards available for participants. Students and teachers will be encouraged to submit videos of student reading poetry, singing playing a song or reading prose. The best videos will be uploaded to our YouTube channel for viewing on March 18, 2021.

NYS Board of Regents

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The Public Advocacy Committee is continually updating and adding to our impressive them to support (or join) each of the above "asks".

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

At the time of our visits (and of this writing), this Caucus has NO representation from New students and educators who wish to participate in these fields of study, including world resources are directed towards study of world language learning and to improve access for economic and national security. The bipartisan caucus also aims to ensure adequate designated resource center to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of

This bill would amend Title 6 of the Higher Education Act to authorize the creation of a Academy of Arts and Sciences

Every year, world language educators from across the U.S. gather in Washington, D.C. through the Joint National Committee for Languages - National Council For Languages and International Studies (JNCL NCLIS) to advocate for world language education. This year’s advocacy days were completely virtual and NYSAFLT was well represented with president Sally Barnes, executive director John Caltam, first vice-president Marisa Coulahan, and our advocacy committee co-chairs Barbara Patterson and Marie Campanaro. Other NY teachers rounded out the team, including Dr. Erin Kearney.

The entire NY team virtually met with the staff from the offices of Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and then split forces to meet with the following members of the U.S. Congress: Brian Higgins (D-NY26), Mondaire Jones (D-NY17), John Katko (R-NY24), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY12), Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18), Joe Morelle (D -NY25) and Lee Zeldin (R -NY12).

Virtual participants of JNCL NCLIS advocacy days.

Here are the main issues we asked of our legislators, with a brief summary for each:

1. Support the World Language Advancement and Readiness Program ( WLARP).

Congress included $15 million in 2021 to begin the World Language Advancement and Readiness Program. This bill was introduced in response to the 2017 report of The Academy of Arts and Sciences which details the critical shortages of language and cultural skills in the U.S. and specifically targets the needs of the U.S. military and intelligence sectors. The funds will support world language programs in Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and schools which host Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) programs. Although the focus of these monies is defense, schools which host Junior ROTC programs are eligible for funding, and should therefore open opportunities for many more students as well as world language teacher training. We asked our senators and members of Congress to approve $15 million for the 2022 fiscal year.

2. Support forthcoming legislation that will provide federal funding for available implementation of programs to enable every student the opportunity to earn the Seal of Bilingual, see our impressive "Siegel database.

3. Co-sponsor the Native American Language Resource Center Act Bill when it is introduced.

New York State is home to many indigenous peoples. Despite 30 years of the Native American Languages Act, our indigenous languages remain on the brink of extinction. According to the findings from the 2017 report released earlier, "every Native American language other than Navajo has fewer than 20,000 speakers and many are down to less than 10 speakers." Beyond the value of preserving important cultural heritage, research has shown that instruction in Native American languages has been linked to academic achievement and gains in high school graduation rates. This bill would amend Title 6 of the Higher Education Act to authorize the creation of a designated resource center to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and revitalize Native American languages.

4. Join the Congressional Language Caucus.

The mission of the American’s Languages Caucus is 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. The bipartisan caucus also aims to secure adequate resources are directed towards study of world language learning and to improve access for students and educators who wish to participate in these fields of study. Including world language, Native American language and English for English learners.

At the time of our visits (end of this writing), this Caucus has NO representation from New York State.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Contact the office of your US member of Congress (NOT your state representative) and ask them to support (or pass) each of the above "asks".

KEEP INFORMED

The Public Advocacy Committee is continually updating and adding to our impressive
Click on over to the deadline is you to start thinking of what you can share with your colleagues! The next submission interested in world language education. The journal is published twice a year, so it is time for Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT). The audience for this journal includes The sweet@monroe2boces.org Shawnna Sweet, Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES - Pietro Mendola, Buffalo Public Schools - Melissa Duquette, RBERN West at Erie 1 BOCES - If you have any questions, please email NYSAFLT@nyssb.org to add your domain, so that you can explore and develop exemplars with your program.

You can take your time when designing an exemplar, no worries! Save it and return later; others cannot see it until it is published. the tab, “My NYSAFPAT” is your area for exemplars under construction. You will receive feedback from our design team before publishing. You can receive a CTLE credit from OCM BOCES for each published exemplar. See the DesignSpace tutorial, as well as various videos by teachers explaining their design process in the target language. For many years, teachers across New York state designed these tasks using paper templates at workshops and conferences. Were you one of them? Resource! How is the time to enter your exemplar into the DesignSpace?

You will see how the NYSAFPAT DesignSpace helps you to develop tasks differentiated for vertical articulation, suitable for immediate and long-term curriculum and assessment goals. This makes more sense since New York state identified Intermediate High as the goal for the Seal of Biliteracy, impacting the earlier levels and targets. Your students can do these tasks between levels, buildings, and schools or even within the same multi-level classroom. The DesignSpace exemplars integrate all 5 Cs by design: Communication, Culture, Comparison, Communities, and Connections. This template lets you see all of these at a glance.

Dr. Jennifer Eddy is Associate Professor and program director of World Languages Education at Queens College, City University of New York. Dr. Eddy, together with her program team, prepare undergraduate and graduate for a clinical year in methods, curriculum and assessment and student teaching, as well as courses in research and world language curriculum design. QC certifies teachers of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. The program focuses on performance assessment and intercultural communicative competence to facilitate articulation in World Language programs.

Seal of Biliteracy Panel Member: Volunteers Needed!
The RBERNs are seeking community members who are proficient in a variety of languages to support schools by serving as panel members for NYS Seal of Biliteracy NYSSB presentations. Ideal volunteers would be teachers of the target language or native speakers of the language. Panel members for all languages are needed, including low incidence languages.
The NYSSB acknowledges the importance of being biliterate in today’s global society. It highlights the hard work and achievement of students, and encourages students to pursue language study while in school, including the continued development of one’s home language. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for these students and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admission. Participating in a Seal of Biliteracy event is a great opportunity for college faculty, language teachers and community members to learn more about the NYS Seal of Biliteracy while supporting multilingual learners in earning this distinction.
The main task of a volunteer would be to view a high school student's live presentation, interact with the student in the target language, and share feedback using a rubric provided by the school. An online, asynchronous training opportunity will be available for volunteers to learn more about the Seal of Biliteracy and the presentation process. The approximate time commitment is 30 minutes for training and 30 minutes for a student presentation.

To volunteer as a panel member, please submit this form or use the QR code to the right.

For more information on NYSSB panel presentations, visit: https://www.nyssb.org/world-languages/module-5-preparing-panel-presentations

For more information on the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, visit: https://www.nyssb.org/world-languages/module-5-preparing-panel-presentations

For more information on the RBERNs, visit: http://www.selforganizedteacher.com/nyssb/powerful-learning-exemplars

If you have any questions, please email:
Melissa Dupette, RBERN West at Erie 1 BOCES - info@dupetteelixir.org
Pietro Mendola, Buffalo Public Schools - pemandola@buffaloschools.org
Shawnna Sweet, Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES - sweet@monroe2boces.org

On behalf of all multilingual learners in New York State, we appreciate your consideration!

Announcements

Language Association Journal
Call for Papers

The Language Association Journal is the official peer-reviewed journal of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT). The audience for this journal includes world language educators at all levels, teacher educators, administrators, and others who are interested in world language education. The journal is published twice a year, so it is time for you to start thinking of what you can share with your colleagues! The next submission deadline is September 1.

Click on over to the NYSAFLY publications page for more information!

ACTFL OPI Familiarization Workshop - Hybrid
July 6–20
Offered Exclusively to NYSAFLT Members!

This virtual workshop, modified from the traditional in-person workshop and designed according to current research on virtual learning for adults, represents a 14-hour professional development experience. The workshop includes presentations by ACTFL CARD Director Dr. Margaret Malone, examples of ACTFL OPIs conducted by our certified testers, as well as quizzes and activities that will solidify your understanding of each major proficiency level. The content of the workshop will be based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, ACTFL Rating Scale, and the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview. This workshop will be asynchronous, but with a kick-off meeting (July 15) and two scheduled Zoom sessions conducted by a certified OPI workshop facilitator (July 15 and 21). Participants will receive a certificate stating that they have accumulated 14 hours of CTLE professional development. Workshop materials are provided electronically.

Cost: $200

Registration is open at https://nysaflt.org/conferences

Space is limited to the first 20 participants.

### Seeking schools with Biliteracy Pathway Awards

Does your school or district offer Biliteracy Pathway Awards for students in grades K–11? If so, we would love to hear from you! We are seeking model schools to develop a new module for the NYSSS Guidance Tool Kit.

Please contact:

Shanaa Sweet
Mid-West RBERN
(513)352-2671
SSweet@monroe2boces.org

### In memoriam - Dr. Gladys Lipton

Dr. Gladys Lipton (1923–2021) passed away on January 19 at the age of 97. Gladys Lipton was truly a titan at a critical and formative time of our profession. The late 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s. Her work has had a tremendous impact on where world languages are today in education. Gladys taught French and Spanish in the New York City Public Schools and served as the Assistant Director of Foreign Languages in NYC.

After retiring from the NYC Public Schools, she became the coordinator of foreign languages and ELLA language programs at the Anne Arundel County Public Schools in Maryland and eventually worked in the Modern Language Departments at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She wrote over 200 articles, language dictionaries and books on FLES teaching. Gladys was actively involved in ACTFL, AATP, AATSP, NNELL and NYSAFLT, and is a past president of both AATP and NYSAFLT.

### 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

Please contact: NYSAFLT Headquarters
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Buffalo, NY 14214-2364

### Mark Your Calendar

**March:**
- **Deadline:** All Teacher Travel Award Applications (except French-speaking world), March 2
- **NYSAFLT Spring Conference (online), March 5-6**
- **Mid-Winter High Language Week, March 7-13**
- **Executive Committee and Hotel Budget Planning, March 13**
- **Webinar:** “Reimagining Graduation Practices in a Communicative Classroom” Melanie Thomas, March 15, 4 p.m.

**April:**
- **Deadline:** Nominations submitted to Nominations Committee, March 15
- **Board of Regents Meeting, March 15-16**
- **Board of Directors (online), March 23**
- **Nominations Committee Meeting (online), March 25**
- **Deadline:** Post-Secondary Student Scholarship Applications, April 1
- **Deadline:** New Grantees, April 1

**May:**
- **Deadline:** June Newsletter Submissions, May 3
- **Deadline:** French-speaking world NYSAFLT travel stipend applications, May 3
- **Webinar:** "Writing Academic Writing: Lessons learned from Action Research in Advanced Spanish Classes" (Staff Session), May 4, 7 p.m.
- **Board of Directors (online), May 5**
- **Board of Regents Meeting, May 10-11**
- **Annual Conference Planning Committee (online), May 15**

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

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