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In this issue of NYS AFLT News, you'll find important information about the upcoming annual conference, get to know Cristina Santiago-Campbell and check in with past president Bill Anderson. You'll also find regional news along with suggestions for transitioning to the new standards, 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. 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

"Progress, not perfection."  
Caeleb Dressel  
Olympic Gold Medalist 2021  
(from motivational quotes)

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you had some personal time to recharge your batteries and refresh your mind these past two months. As I was watching the Olympics this summer, Caeleb Dressel's comment after winning a gold medal resonated with me. With everything that has been going on in the world, we have to be mindful of the critical role we play as educators. There is always progress to make in our teaching practice.



In addition to the love of language and culture which we share with our students, we should also nurture their social emotional skill set and strive to create a classroom where their diversities and individual talents are celebrated. Every academic year offers us a chance to make progress and improve our practice.

I am certain that you are as eager as I am to get back into the classroom with students to make the magic happen in person. It is exciting to think that teachers are now able to incorporate the revised NYS world language standards into their planning! Check out the [NYSED website](#) for details and be sure to register for the NYS AFLT annual conference to get up to speed.

Summer notes from team NYS AFLT:

**Alexis Thornton**, NYS AFLT board member for Westchester/Mid-Hudson, participated in ACTFL's Leadership Initiative for Language Learning (Cohort 4). Alexis collaborated with other language leaders to explore personal strengths and apply them through their work as educators.

NYS AFLT hosted its first ever ACTFL OPI Familiarization Workshop. Participants were able to work independently and had two live sessions with an ACTFL teacher trainer to discuss and debrief. It was a great opportunity to delve into the proficiency levels for language learners and to re-evaluate how they are communicated in the WL classroom.

NYS AFLT hosted another successful virtual summer institute, *Get in Tune with the New State Standards!* Thanks to first vice president **Marissa Coulehan** for assembling a first-rate program with state and nationally acclaimed presenters, inspiring participants in their preparation for a new academic year.

I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone in person in Syracuse at our annual conference. Please be sure to register for [Rooted, Strong and Growing with NYS Standards](#) and join us **October 22** and **23** at the Ramada in Liverpool, NY (formerly Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool). There will also be a remote option for colleagues who are unable to join us in person. **Jenny Delfini** and her committee have been working diligently on a comprehensive and engaging program which is guaranteed to enrich your world language classroom practice.

A new school year is an opportunity to share the gift of NYS AFLT membership with your colleagues and friends. As you prepare your curriculum and classroom, please remember that NYS AFLT offers numerous resources for world language educators throughout the year (including free webinars- stay tuned for our 2021/22 lineup). Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter @NYS AFLT.

Wishing you a smooth transition to the new school year and reminding you that **NYS AFLT is here for you**. Stay safe and well.

## Summer Institute

NYS AFLT held its second virtual Summer Institute, *Getting in Tune with the New State Standards*, via Zoom from **July 29 – August 5**. The conference was a resounding success!

Workshops included topics on the new NYS world language standards, equity and social justice, technology integration, and FLES. Name That Tune, Finish the Lyrics, NYS A-Bingo and Musical Bingo rounded out the social hours.

What did participants LOVE about #NYS AFLTSI21?



"I love the collaboration & how this truly feels like my group of teacher friends! <3"

"I enjoyed the variety of presenters and topics. Many different perspectives were well represented."

"Loved that we were able to have presenters from out of state in addition to our NY superstars"

"Making change seems possible and not so overwhelming"

Want to catch up on sessions you missed? Recordings will be available for registered conference attendees until **September 30, 2021**.

Thank you to our fabulous and inspiring presenters: Rebecca Aubrey, **Flor Berman**, **Candie Black**, **Diana Clark Pérez**, **Marissa Coulehan**, **Dr. Helena Curtain**, Glenda De Hoyos, **Samantha Decker**, **Dr. Victoria Gilbert**, Leslie Grahm, **Bill Heller**, **Erin Johnson**, Dr. Angèle

Kingué, Stephen Krawec, **Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez**, **Dr. Marisol Marcin**, **Dr. Joanne O'Toole**, **Ingrid Paredes**, Dr. Joseph Parodi-Brown, Amanda Robustelli-Price, Samara Spielberg, Jim Ventosa, and Meredith White.

Congratulations to Summer Institute scholarship winners **Janine Bacarella**, **Sally Caley**, **Christen Visceglie**, **Olivia Woodruff** and **Shih-Han Wang**. Congratulations to FLES scholarship winners **Claire-Louise Meng** and **Alexis Porcelli**.

Special thanks to executive director **John Carlino**, president **Sally Barnes**, president elect **Jenny Delfini**, 2nd vice president **Swaz Piron**, secretary/treasurer **Valérie Greer**, and host volunteers **Katie Inhelder**, **Wendy Mercado**, **Cristina Santiago-Campbell**, **Melanie Thomas**, and **Alexis Thornton**.

We look forward to summer institute 2022, *Weaving the World Language Standards Together*, with incoming 1st vice president and summer institute conference chair **Swaz Piron** leading the way.

## Annual Conference



It is hard to believe that the annual conference is almost upon us! Registration is open and we cannot wait for the presenters to share, for awardees to be honored, and for you to meet once again with your colleagues across New York State to collaborate as we delve deeper into the changes to our new State Standards for World Languages.

Recognizing the continued impact of Covid on how we go about our lives and business, NYSAFLT wants to protect the health and safety of our attendees, staff, presenters and volunteers to the greatest extent possible.

We will abide by any guidelines set forth by the Onondaga County Department of Health, which currently require masks in all indoor public settings. We will also require proof of vaccination to attend the on-site conference. If you will not be fully vaccinated by **October 22**, you may register for the virtual component of the conference.

The virtual components of the conference will be held Monday and Tuesday, **October 18** and **19**. Attendees will be able to attend up to four live interactive sessions. You will also have access to any of the other streamed workshops as recordings afterward, as a set of pre-recorded only sessions, which will be available until **November 30**.

Planning on coming to Syracuse? Of course we have the traditional conference offerings, including five incredible pre-conference workshops on Friday morning; but you will also have access to the virtual offerings as well. See registration info on the [webpage](#) for more specific information, including CTLE hours.

We are looking forward to having Leslie Grahn join us as keynote. **Candace Black** will also give a state-of-the-standards address on Saturday, providing vital information about the timeline and professional development opportunities she and the NYSED OBEWL Executive Team have put together. All three - **Bill Heller**, **Lori Langer de Ramirez**, and **Dr. Joanne O'Toole** - have additional sessions at the conference.

There are so many wonderful offerings that cover a full spectrum of topics we see in our classrooms and school communities across the state - from proficiency to diversity to social-emotional learning and beyond. I encourage you to review our program and register today for the option that best suits you. We would love to include all of you, our NYSAFLT family, in our 2021 conference!

## ROOTED, STRONG AND GROWING *with new standards in NYS*



## Member Spotlight

*In this issue of NYSAFLT News,  
**Cristina Santiago-Campbell**  
shares her NYSAFLT story!*

For as long as I can remember, bilingualism has been a part of my life. I grew up in a Spanish-speaking household in Brooklyn, NY and learned English simultaneously with my father's family and in school. My mother is a native of El Salvador and my father was a "Nuyorican," or a son of Puerto Rican parents.

Traveling at an early age with my family introduced me to world languages and cultures and inspired my love for them. In high school, I was able to take both Spanish and Italian which further piqued my interest in languages.



In college, I knew that I wanted to continue studying languages but was not sure what to do with them. I decided to major in Spanish and minor in Italian and Secondary Education at St. Joseph's College. When I began my student teaching practicum, I was fascinated with how many multilingual students we have in NYC and the range of languages offered for traditional language learners as well as heritage and native students.

After graduating, I was lucky to be hired at the school where I did my student teaching and I continued my linguistic journey as I earned my M.A. in Spanish Language and Literature from Brooklyn College. I spent 15 years at James Madison High School and learned from many unique experiences. I taught all levels of Spanish and Italian to a myriad of students from different backgrounds and linguistic experiences. We also had a large ENL population and I



assisted with parent outreach and registration. It was here that I realized that we had a larger pool of heritage students than we originally thought. We had many Asian-Latinos that were multilingual. For example, I met a student with Georgian parents that was born and raised in Spain; he spoke Spanish, Russian and Georgian fluently. With the assistance of my supervisor, we began a successful special track for these students in language studies: Spanish 4, AP Spanish Language, and AP Spanish Literature. Many of these students also went on to study additional home languages that we offered (Chinese, Russian) or a completely new language (Italian, French) during their senior year. At the same time, we had many advanced students that learned Spanish as a second language who were also able to benefit from this program and excel.

By 2016, I was the International House Coordinator as well as Spanish teacher as our language program continued to grow. It was during this time that I also became a member of NYSAFLT. I always enjoyed reading the *Language Association Journal* and all the resources that NYSAFLT provides for world language educators. During one of the sessions that I attended, I first learned about the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. I knew that we had a great multilingual student community and recognized that the seal is one of the best ways to honor their heritages, cultures, and multilingualism. From this time on, I became very involved as an advocate for the Seal of Biliteracy in NYC. During this time, I was also pursuing my second masters degree in Educational Leadership. With the support of my administration, colleagues, and my NYCDOE Borough Office, I was able to chair our NYSSB and help 3 cohorts of graduates attain the NYSSB in Spanish, Russian, and Chinese. Shortly after, I was tapped for a position at the NYCDOE Office of Assessment to work with the wonderful team that designed, managed, and directed the scoring of the LOTE exams in NYC. This was one of the most difficult decisions in my life, but also one of the best. My entire career had been in a school building and I knew I would miss the students. During my short time at the Office of Assessment, I was able to hone a completely new set of skills as I worked with a wonderful team of colleagues and teachers to create scoring guides for all of the LOTE exams that NYC offered, train teachers, administrators and also bring my own norming experience that I had acquired as an AP Spanish Language exam scorer with the College Board. This was a time of great professional learning and connection with world language educators in NYC, NY State, and beyond.

In 2019, I was tapped to become the Assistant Principal of World Languages at Brooklyn Technical High School. As I truly missed working directly with students and teachers, this position was a dream come true! I consider myself blessed to work with a large department of 30 world language teachers at the largest high school in the nation. We currently offer Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. I also continue to teach! Currently, I am the NYC Regional Director for NYSAFLT. It is an honor to serve in this role and I am so thankful for all of the support that NYSAFLT provides for our profession. This is an exciting time for world languages in NYS and in the entire nation and we must continue to advocate for our colleagues and our students!

## Where Are They Now?



*In this issue, we check in with past president **Bill Anderson**.*

When **Marie Campanaro** approached me to write this column, I was thrilled. I mean, to be included in the esteemed company of NYSAFLT past presidents is truly humbling and an honor. Besides, who can say NO to **Marie Campanaro**?!?! ;)

I just started my 30th year as a NYS educator. It flew by in an instant. I still remember setting up my first classroom at Pine Bush High School in 1992 as a newly minted high school Spanish teacher. I was fortunate enough to have colleagues like **Tamara Natoli**, Luzmela Schiavone, and Carol Springer to show me the ropes and help me navigate “new teacher” blunders.

One of the most important things they taught me that first year was about an organization called NYSAFLT. We all drove to the Concord Hotel in the Catskills to commune with other world language teachers. It was my first real experience with professional development specifically tailored to language teachers. I was overwhelmed but so excited! This conference experience confirmed all that I learned at Syracuse University about second language acquisition and instruction. Elvira Swender was my mentor at Syracuse and she inspired me to become a Spanish teacher who focused on communication and proficiency. I said to myself, “I found my people!”

\*language nerd sighs\*

In 1998, I moved to Long Island to teach Spanish at Massapequa High School. Long Island would be the place that helped foment my career as a language supervisor and leader. I completed my Education Administration studies at SUNY Stony Brook and 2004 was my first year as a world language supervisor. I found myself sharing my experiences and understandings of effective language teaching with other language teachers (both new and experienced). This was my calling. I found my purpose and my calling as an educator.

In 2004, I volunteered to assist with registration at the annual conference. That was the year that I met **John Carlino** and Ken Hughes. We became the “three amigos.” They taught me what it meant to be the “face of NYSAFLT.” It was so important at every event to show kindness and helpfulness to members; to show them that somebody cares. Ken and I used to say that this was our main job as registration and A/V chairs. You would see my face annually at the registration booth helping teachers with registration packets and suggesting organizational tactics for navigating the workshop schedule and exhibit hall to new attendees. I loved helping others and being the kind “face of NYSAFLT.”

I continued to support NYSAFLT through many volunteer opportunities. In 2008, I was drawn to run for the board of directors. The leadership bug was real and it was calling out to me. From Long Island director, I segued to the 4-year presidential track and served as the 2014 NYSAFLT president. It was an awesome and amazing experience! The post-presidential withdrawal left me wanting to continue leading and supporting language educators. I was elected to the NECTFL board of directors in 2015 and served on the ACTFL board of directors from 2016-2018. In 2019, I was hired as the Director of World Language Education at Hofstra University. This provided me the opportunity to teach future language educators the importance of teaching “in the language” as opposed to teaching “about the language.” With the current teacher shortage dilemma, it is imperative that we encourage and train students for the profession. These experiences not only reinforced the importance of outreach and support to current and future language teachers, but also the critical need for national leadership and advocacy.

Throughout my experiences with these organizations, one goal remained the same: being the “face of NYSAFLT (Massapequa/Hofstra/NECTFL/ACTFL).” Over time, I realized that being the “face of NYSAFLT” was a larger scope than simply helping a conference attendee or presenter. It is about representing our members to Superintendents of Schools, to the State Education Department, and to our government-elected officials. Being the “face of NYSAFLT” is about advocating for language students, teachers and programs on the state, regional and national levels. It’s about nominating NYSAFLT members for NECTFL Awards and presenting our initiatives at the ACTFL Assembly of Delegates. NYSAFLT is an actively-involved, pioneering association in relation to many other state language organizations. It is consistently at the forefront and on the cutting-edge of language advocacy and professional development (e.g. one of the first to run webinars). It is frequently viewed as the exemplar. NYSAFLT has been ahead of the curve for over 100 years, due in large part to individuals like **Bob Ludwig**, **Joe Tursi**, **Anthony Papalia**, **Al Martino**, Louise Terry, **David Graham**, **Sue Hochmuth**, **Candie Black**, **Marie Campanaro**, **John Carlino**....and the list goes on and on and on...

I am forever grateful to NYSAFLT for instilling in me a sense of purpose: a purpose to collaborate, a purpose to advocate, a purpose to pay-it-forward, a purpose to LEAD. Without NYSAFLT, I would not have the close sense of camaraderie that I feel with so many colleagues. Without NYSAFLT, I would not have made the seamless transition to world language supervisor. Without NYSAFLT, I might not have had the opportunity to participate on the national level. NYSAFLT will forever be in my heart and soul as a language educator.

P.S. There are absolutely no plans for retirement on the horizon because I love what I do on a daily basis!

## Regional News

### AATF of CNY

AATF of CNY wishes you all a "Bonne Rentrée" as the summer comes to a close and we say "bonjour" to the 2021–2022 school year!

We have some wonderful accomplishments to recognize here in Central New York! Evan Krukin, a senior AP French student at Fayetteville-Manlius High School, has been selected as the winner of the 2021 AATF of CNY Scholarship for Excellence in the Study of French. Evan has been the president of Le Cercle français, the high school French Club, for three years and, in 2020, he was elected treasurer of the Fayetteville-Manlius Chapter of la Société Honoraire de Français. This year, Evan will pursue degrees in Communications and French at Syracuse University and he plans to study abroad. Félicitations Evan!



We are also pleased to announce that Tyler Yankee of Mexico High School in Mexico, NY has received the 2020–2021 Outstanding Senior in French Award and is the first student at Mexico High School to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. The subject of Tyler's SSB project was L'Académie Française and its role in modern society and he had the privilege to interview four Francophone speakers from France, Germany, Switzerland and Quebec. Tyler, who also graduated as valedictorian of his class, will attend Clarkson University in the fall where he plans to major in Technical Sciences in hopes of becoming a software developer or data scientist. Félicitations Tyler!

Despite another year of difficult circumstances, Central New York French students performed remarkably well in Grand Concours. Two students earned gold medals, 13 earned silver medals, 11 earned bronze medals and many earned honorable mention certificates. A special congratulations to the platinum medal winner, with a perfect score on the level 4E exam! Bravo et félicitations à tous!

Throughout the school year, AATF of CNY hosts many fun events, including French Night at the Syracuse Crunch, our spring movie night, as well as some very interesting conferences and workshops. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to get together with fellow Francophiles during this school year. Stay up to date with our events by visiting our website, [www.aatfcny.org](http://www.aatfcny.org) and by liking us on Facebook.



### Mid-Hudson Westchester

PWRFL is happy to welcome everyone back for the 2021–22 school year. Our registration is now open via our [website](#). (You can also download our registration form and pay by check!) We welcome our incoming secretary Andrea Bromberg and thank Viviane Lynch for her dedication these past years!

We would like to announce our upcoming (virtual) meetings for the fall. On **Tuesday, September 21** at 4pm we will host "Using Goformative.com to Make Your Classes Go, Go, Go" with president **Alexis Thornton**. On Tuesday, **October 12** at 4pm we will welcome back Dr. Stacy Bernstein for an encore of her presentation "Create An Adventure Story." All members will be sent the link to log-on prior to each meeting.

We are pleased to announce that we have been reauthorized to continue offering CTLE credits for all meetings! Please consider joining us for another exciting year and do not hesitate to reach out with ideas for future presentations. We look forward to "seeing" everyone this fall!

### NYC- Long Island

Long Island Language Teachers (LILT) is now accepting proposal submissions for the 2021 LILT Annual Conference, which will be held virtually **November 12–13**. This year's theme will be *Languages Break Barriers*. If you have an idea to share with the Long Island community of world language teachers, please submit a proposal. LILT will also be holding their general membership meeting on **Thursday, September 30** at La Famiglia Restaurant in Plainview, NY. Visit [www.liltfl.org](http://www.liltfl.org) for more information.



## National Network for Early Language Learning

Congratulations to the FLES Scholarship award winners! **Claire-Louise Meng** and **Alexis Porcelli** recently won the Sally G. Hahn FLES Teacher Scholarship Award. This is an award given to New York FLES Teachers to attend professional development opportunities of their choice.

Consider applying for this and/or other FLES awards this year. You can learn more about these awards on [nysaflt.org](http://nysaflt.org).

## Public Advocacy

### **America's Language Caucus Needs NYS Representation!**

[America's Languages Caucus](#) is a bipartisan committee of members of the U.S. Congress. Its mission is to raise awareness about the importance of world language learning and international education. The critical need for language proficient graduates was outlined in the 2017 Congressionally-Commissioned Report on Language Learning: *America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century*. The caucus is especially focused on our nation's economic and national security and aims to ensure that adequate resources are directed towards the study of world language learning and improving access for students and educators who wish to participate in these fields.

Presently there are 21 members of this caucus, but New York State is not among them. Please write to your [U.S. member of Congress](#) and urge them to join this important group of decision makers.

Let us know how you make out!



**NYSAFLT Annual Conference**

The public advocacy committee meeting at this year's annual conference will be during session A on **Friday, October 22**. The meeting is open to everyone. Drop in to hear about the recent progress world language education has made in New York State and become part of our next action plan. Join us to learn more about how you can help advocate for K–post secondary world language education. Please stop at our table in the exhibitor area with your suggestions, concerns and to pick up advocacy materials.

**On the National Level - WL Successes!**

World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program

You may recall that Congress included \$15 million to begin the World Language Advancement and Readiness Grant Program in 2021. The bill was introduced as a response to reports of the critical shortfalls of language and cultural skills in the United States and specifically targets the needs of U.S. military and intelligence sectors.

In July of 2021, the House Subcommittee in Defense Appropriations awarded an additional \$15 million for 2022!

The funds will support world language programs in Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools and schools that host Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs. Congressmen David Price (D-NC) and Don Young (R-AK) introduced the bill.

Equitable Access to Seal of Biliteracy Programs


The House Committee on Appropriations released the [draft report](#) for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations for fiscal year 2022.

JNCL-NCLIS has worked with lawmakers on a new strategic pathway to secure funding for subsidizing students' fees for Seal of Biliteracy assessments and provide more equitable access for all learners to earn the distinction. We are pleased to report that this has been included in the report. It will not be a law, but will demonstrate to states and school districts that Congress values the Seal of Biliteracy and supports efforts to increase the inclusion of English Language and Heritage Language Learners in these programs. In addition, the report approved \$3 million to establish a Native American Language Resource Center and stresses the need to invest in federal foreign language and cultural competency programs.


**Transitioning to the NYS World Language Standards**

September 2023 may still be two years away but it's not too early for you and your colleagues to start preparing for the new NYS World Language Standards! Check out this infographic with suggestions for what you can do NOW to facilitate the transition. (This infographic includes many useful links that won't show up in the image below. Click [here](#) to find a copy of the infographic with links!)

TRANSITIONING TO THE REVISED LEARNING STANDARDS




**The NYS World Language Standards**  
**First Steps for a Successful Transition**  
**Summer 2021**




1

**FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF** with the revised **NYS WL Learning Standards**; Performance Indicators; Themes and Topics; and other available documents. (Gradual implementation of the standards begins in September 2023.)




2

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES** available from NYSED, NYSAFLT, NECTEL, and other state and regional organizations. These may include online workshops, webinars, and conferences such as NYSAFLT's **Annual Conference** and **Summer Institute**.




3

**COMMUNICATE WITH ADMINISTRATORS** the need to allocate time and money for teacher preparation and collaboration, workshop and conference attendance, staff development, curriculum writing, and resources.




4

**DIALOGUE WITH COLLEAGUES** to identify strengths and assets you each bring to the transition. Set goals for your professional learning and next steps. Identify professional learning that will address areas not already represented.



5

**COLLECT AND CURATE AUTHENTIC AND OTHER RESOURCES DIGITALLY** and share them among colleagues to support your transition to the revised standards. Consider cultural resources, curricular materials, links to professional learning opportunities, and social media platforms.



## Announcements

**Language Association Journal**  
**Call for Papers**

The *Language Association Journal* is the official peer-reviewed journal of 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 **February 1**.

Click on over to the [NYSAFLT publications page](#) for more information!

**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

**September**

**Deadline:** *Language Association Journal* submissions, **September 1**

Executive Committee Meeting (online), [September 13](#)  
Board of Regents Meeting, [September 13–14](#)

**October**

Board of Regents Meeting, [October 18–19](#)  
Joint Executive Committee (Syracuse, NY), [October 21](#)  
Joint Board of Directors (Syracuse, NY), [October 22](#)  
[Annual Conference](#) (Syracuse, NY), [October 22–23](#)  
Annual Business Meeting (Syracuse, NY), [October 23](#)

**November**

**Deadline:** December newsletter submissions, [November 1](#)  
**Deadline:** [NECTFL Mead Scholar Award applications](#) (to NYSAFLT), [November 1](#)  
New Directors' Orientation (online), [November 9](#)  
**Deadline:** online application for [Charles Zimmerman Memorial Travel Award](#), [November 15](#)  
Board of Regents Meeting, [November 15–16](#)  
[ACTFL Annual Convention and WL Expo](#) (online), [November 19–21](#)

The **NYSAFLT News** is published by the  
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