

The IWLA Bulletin

A Newsletter for the Members of the Iowa World Language Association

Volume XV No. 2

Winter 2008/2009

From the President: Patricia Calkins

As I take on a leadership role as President of the Iowa World Language Association this year, I am thankful for the good work of those who have gone before me. In the past few years the IWLA has started to organize in ways that will strengthen the position of world languages in Iowa and will thus contribute to the ability of Iowa to compete in a globalized world. The most public of these efforts is the letter writing campaign, coordinated by our advocacy committee, to secure public funding for a State Supervisor for Languages. As part of this process, we must educate our public representatives about what we actually do, and how we can contribute to Iowa's future. For us, our value is obvious, but unfortunately there are those out there, even potential allies, who do not understand what language teachers and their students accomplish. I believe that most people can envision how world languages can be helpful in dealing with matters of diversity and multiculturalism. It seems natural that who have never interacted with another culture need to develop communication skills in order to facilitate a respectful intercultural interchange. But we need also to educate others about how we impact Iowa in other ways. A parent might ask, "What critical thinking skills does my son or daughter acquire by taking a world language that could help my child succeed later?" A businessperson might ask, "What concrete, transferable skills could I, as a potential employer, expect to find in a student who has majored in Spanish or German?" Our students might ask, "If I can test out of a college language requirement by taking three years of a language in high school, why should I bother taking any more when I get to college?" Our politicians might ask, "If Iowa is an English-only state, why do we need to support a State Supervisor for Languages?" A school administra-

tor might say, "We have limited resources. The only languages with any use are Spanish and Chinese. Why should we offer French?"

I am sure that all of us have heard such questions more often than we care to remember. This is why I believe Dr. Ali Moeller's keynote address to us at our conference in October was so important: the *LinguaFolio* system that she has been researching, and that has been in use in Nebraska and several other states for a number of years, provides a system in which students document for themselves the progress they make towards concrete communication goals. In addition, it provides them with a framework of goals they can work for, thus setting the stage for the kind of autonomous learning that Dr. Moeller has identified as a key to student success. But *LinguaFolio* also answers the questions posed by parents, employers, politicians, and school officials as to what our students actually learn. The value of world languages cannot be questioned when we can support our claims with research-based data.

Iowa needs to become a *LinguaFolio* state. The Iowa AATG has made some efforts in this area, and while the results are heartening, such an undertaking requires broad support across languages and levels in Iowa. If we adapt *LinguaFolio* to Iowa, we can reap many benefits:

- * We can provide our students with a more effective learning experience, including the benefits relating to autonomous learning described by Dr. Moeller.
- * We can win allies to our cause of strengthening world language education in Iowa. Parents, employers, politicians, and school administrators will better understand the

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CONTACT INFORMATION FOR IWLA

Patricia Calkins, President

Dept of World Language and Culture Studies
Simpson College
701 North C Street
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-1645
Patricia.calkins@simpson.edu
Home: 410 West Salem Ave.
Indianola, Iowa 50125

Stacy Amling, Treasurer

Des Moines Area Community College
slamling@dmacc.edu

Dawn Frye, Immediate Past-President

Hudson High School
1708 4th Ave. NW
Waverly, IA 50677
319-352-9060
dfrye@hudson.k12.ia.us
wvan8v@aol.com

Sara Blanco, President-Elect

Price Lab School, UNI
sara.blanco@uni.edu
319-273-3002
www.pls.uni.edu/blanco

Wade Petersen, Vice-President

Valley Southwoods
Freshman Highschool
petersenw@wdmcs.org
wadecp@netins.net

Julie Wilhelm, Editor, IWLA Bulletin

1185 Quail Avenue
Goodell, IA 50439
641-495-6161
farm5@frontiernet.net
Iowa State University
3102 Pearson, Hall
Ames, IA 50010
jwilhelm@iastate.edu

Carrie Mulvihill, Secretary

1323 Victoria Circle
Norwalk, IA 50211
515-981-6474
cjmulvihill@dmacc.edu

**THANKS FOR YOUR
LEADERSHIP,
OFFICERS OF IWLA!!**

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value of world languages.

- * We can strengthen our association. An undertaking of this kind will require the work of many people. It can energize us behind a concrete, realizable goal, and provide more points of contact throughout the school year, not only in October.
- * We can increase the solidarity of all languages in Iowa. Our AAT's will need to work together to provide the professional development support needed for our teachers.
- * We can work towards the shared aims of our programs at all levels: elementary, secondary and post-secondary. LinguaFolio promotes lifelong learning and thus provides a central focus for all language teachers.

Please take the time to check out the website for Nebraska LinguaFolio at the website of the Nebraska Department of Education: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/FORLG/LinguaFolio/LinguaFolio.htm>. If you'd be interested in forming a working group to study LinguaFolio for Iowa, send me an email at profpatricia.calkins@yahoo.com or patricia.calkins@simpson.edu.

Those who know
nothing of foreign
languages know
nothing of their own.

Johan Wolfgang von Goethe

DID YOU KNOW.....

By: Dawn Frye



I recently discovered that I-tunes has a good selection of television episodes that you can download. My most recent find was Anthony Bourdain's episodes of No Reservations broadcasted on the Travel Channel. Anthony Bourdain is a world traveler, author and chef. On his show, *"he circumnavigates the globe on his conquest to discover the cities, villages and countries that provide life's truest surprises."* His travels include places such as Perú, Jamaica, the Greek Islands, Mexico, Paris, Puerto Rico and others. The episodes can be downloaded for only 1.99!

CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE March 19-21 Chicago, Illinois

Go to:
<http://www.csctfl.org/2009conference.html>
for more information

NSLI for Youth

The US Department of State through the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI for Youth) provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly taught languages in summer, semester, and academic -year overseas immersion programs.

Apply at: www.nsliforyouth.org

Deadline: February 2, 2009



SHOUT-OUTS for IWLA!

By Lisa Sobotka, 2008 Co-Program Chair

A big **SHOUT-OUT** to all who attended the 2008 conference! It's always so nice to see everyone! Thanks for coming! We look forward to seeing you again next year!

A returning **SHOUT-OUT** to all presenters who came back and presented at the conference again this year! Your expertise and enthusiasm are inspiring! Thank you so much for sharing your time and ideas!

A grateful **SHOUT-OUT** to all first-time presenters at this year's conference! Thank you so much for trying something new and for giving back to our profession! We can't wait to see what you present next year!

Another grateful **SHOUT-OUT** to our key note and luncheon speakers Dr. Ali Moeller and Rob Denson! Thank you for your thought-provoking and motivating words!

A celebratory **SHOUT-OUT** to Paulino Brener for winning "Best of Iowa"! Your presentation was awesome and applicable!

An appreciative **SHOUT-OUT** to our many exhibitors, thanks for coming. The conference wouldn't be the same without you.

An accomplished **SHOUT-OUT** to the Conference Planning Committee and the Exec. Board for a job well done! Thank you for your amazing leadership and dedication to our profession.

An excited **SHOUT-OUT** to all who are planning to present in 2009! We will be back in Des Moines, but at a different venue! We are hoping to have even more presenters next year, so please get those presentation proposals filled out and sent in to Kerisa Baedke.

IWLA Member Spotlight

by Keeka Baedke



At the Advisory Council meeting on the Thursday evening before the conference, we discussed what Advisory Council

members could contribute to the newsletter. I thought it would be fun to spotlight a member in each newsletter. So I approached Mary Stimmel and asked her if she would let me write a little something to spotlight her. For anyone who knows Mary, you can understand that she was very reluctant to draw attention to herself. But for anyone who knows me, you know that I can be very persuasive! So here is the first IWLA Member Spotlight.

Mary has been teaching Spanish at Lincoln High School in Des Moines for twelve years. Mary is the department chairperson at Lincoln. She is very involved in her department and in the state in all things related to language education. Before Lincoln, Mary taught Spanish, English and Yearbook for seven years at North Polk. At North Polk, she expanded a two-year language program to four years. Mary was the instructor for the after school language program at Holy Trinity School for three years prior to working at North Polk. And her first Spanish teaching job was at West Burlington High School where she taught for two years and where she expanded a one-year program to two years.

Mary has long been an active member in IWLA. She said that she first joined IWLA as a student at Iowa State University. Mary served the organization as IWLA Treasurer

for ten years and as Immersion IWLA chairperson for seven years. Mary has been providing IWLA members with a wonderful opportunity since 2003 as the IWLA conference credit instructor. She writes the proposals each year so that members can earn graduate credit from Drake University or staff development credit from Heartland AEA for the wonderful learning that takes place at our annual conference. I, for one, take advantage of this opportunity whenever I can. Since my best staff development comes from IWLA each year it is nice to reflect on my experience and to earn credit for what I learn there. Mary also considers herself a “go-fer”, at the conference she watches to see who might need help and she steps in where she can, be it helping a presenter with tech equipment or handing out advocacy letters. Mary is quick to see a need and to step in and help.

Mary is active in the state in other ways. She served as an international consultant on the formation of API (Arica, Chile English teachers) and their first immersion workshop. She has always been an active participant at AATSP-Iowa events. She has served as a chapter officer. Mary has shared the wonderful things that happen at AATSP-Iowa with colleagues by presenting at the AATSP national conference as well as at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Mary has also written several grants for AATSP for various activities and projects. Mary has been very involved with the teachers from Spain serving as Orientation chairperson/presenter for past six years or so.

Mary was the first world language teacher

in Iowa to earn her National Board Certification (AYA/ELA) and she encouraged others to apply for National Board Certification in languages when that program was begun. She has been a strong advocate of that program and is willing to answer questions and mentor those interested in pursuing their National Board Certification.

It is evident that Mary is a professional educator who believes in giving back to the profession and who believes in continual personal and professional growth. She is passionate about language and culture and she finds ways to share that passion with others in her classroom and through IWLA, AATSP as well as with the teachers from Chile and from Spain. She is willing to roll up her sleeves and work hard for IWLA members each year so that we can have the most positive conference experience.

When I asked Mary what is the greatest thing that she has gained from her involvement in IWLA this was her response. "The camaraderie is invaluable. I have learned so much from others and have gained in language skills as well as leadership skills. Contacts have made involvement in other activities easier. I am more confident so have been able to do more at the building level like developing classes for staff and students beyond the standard four years."

Mary wholeheartedly encourages newer members to get more involved. She hopes that everyone responded to the survey that the Executive Board sent out indicating interests and skills so that members can be matched up with the needs of the organization. Like Mary, the more involved you are in the organization, the more friends you will make, you will improve your language skills and your pedagogy, and you can gain

valuable leadership experience while working alongside others who share your passion and commitment. Mary says that IWLA gives her such a boost every fall that she feels energized for the rest of the year!

Thank you, Mary for your part in giving all of us at IWLA a boost!

Join ACTFL Today

With a membership to ACTFL you will receive "The Language Educator", the latest publication from ACTFL that serves educators of all languages as well as receiving "Foreign Language Annals" which publishes original work focusing on the latest practices, methods and research.

Go to: www.actfl.org

Summer Seminar in Spain for Spanish Teachers

June, 2009

Cáceres, Spain



- * Program cost: \$1300, (estimated)
- * Spanish 590, 3 graduate credits
- * Conversation, Culture, Practical Teaching tips
- * Full room and board with a Spanish family
- * Transportation from Madrid to Cáceres
- * Weekend in Madrid

Application deadline:

March 15, 2009

For More Information Contact:

Julie Wilhelm
3102 Pearson Hall
Iowa State
(515) 294-8186
jwilhelm@iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Foreign Languages & Literatures

3102 Pearson Hall

Ames, IA 50011

(515) 294-4046

<http://www.language.iastate.edu>

IWLA PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM
2009 IWLA CONFERENCE THEME: World Languages: A Passport to the Future
October 9-10, 2009, Des Moines
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THIS PROPOSAL: June 15, 2009

Please type or print clearly. We regret that we are unable to pay our presenters' expenses or registration fees. You will be notified in late July if your proposal has been accepted. Please send your completed proposals via email (**preferred**) or U.S. mail to:

Name: Kerisa Baedke
Position: 2009 Program Chair
Email: kbaedke@mchsi.com

Address: 1923 56th Street
City/Zip: Des Moines, IA 50310
Phone: (515) 223-8966

I. Contact Person for Presentation:

Name (as you would like it to appear in the program):			
Current Position/Title:			
Current School Affiliation:			
Preferred Mailing Address:			
Phone Numbers:	Home:	Work:	
Fax:		E-Mail:	

II. CO-PRESENTER(S) (these names will be listed as speakers under your presentation; however, only you will receive communication regarding this presentation):

SCHEDULE INFORMATION: Please check [x] all times that you are **AVAILABLE** to present. Please understand that we need presenters to be flexible about days and times. We want to have as full and varied a program on Saturday as we do on Friday. Thank you for your willingness to share with your colleagues. Your flexibility makes putting together the schedule much easier. ALL sessions are 50 minutes in length. If you wish to do two 50-minute sessions back to back, please indicate that below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday p.m.

LEVEL:(check appropriate designation [x])

<input type="checkbox"/>	All	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-Secondary

LANGUAGE: (check [x] all necessary components):

A. Presented in:

B. Examples given in:

<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	English
<input type="checkbox"/>	Target language (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Target language (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Both	<input type="checkbox"/>	Both

EQUIPMENT: IWLA will provide the following equipment free of charge, subject to availability. Presenters will supply **ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	overhead/screen	<input type="checkbox"/>	TV/VCR/DVD	<input type="checkbox"/>	presentation table
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If you need an internet connection, please indicate it here. Yes _____ No _____
 There is a **SUBSTANTIAL** fee. The cost could range between \$65 and \$175 including service charge and tax.
 You will be informed of the total cost when we know how many presentations require an internet connection each day.

TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

DESCRIPTION: (Max. 70 words)

Conference Wrap-Up

By: Mary West

“In the Shadow of the Capitol”: The theme for this year’s conference was meant to send the message that if we want to continue to grow and improve as a profession we must take some responsibility for our own future by advocating for our cause. This means becoming active politically. Tammy Dann our advocacy chair and Carrie Mulvihill, our secretary, spent hours and hours on our behalf to make our case for the need for a full time language consultant at the department of education.. They organized and carried out an extensive letter-writing campaign. Have you heard back from your legislator? We cannot sit back and be the targets for the first programs to be cut in financially strapped budgets.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to present. We cannot have a conference without each of you taking part and presenting. If you have attended the conference more than twice, contact Keeka Baedke or Lisa Sobotka and they will help you decide what to present. We can all share good ideas. Did you take away one good idea that you have tried in your classroom? I am going to continue learning about LinguaFolio and the research Dr Ali Moeller has done on student self-motivation. Here is the link http://www.nde.state.ne.us/FORLG/LinguaFolio/2007LinguaFolioPresentation_files/frame.htm

My single wish is that you found a new colleague, someone to share ideas, materials and “war stories” with. It will make you a better teacher. You are as close as your e-mail. Did you go to your AAT meeting?

I have to say that no one has had a better committee to work with than I did on last October’s conference so thank you again to these key people and their committees: Elizabeth Zwanziger who was by my side as unofficial co-chair, Susan Sandholm-Petersen, the local chair, Karisa Baedke and Lisa Sobotka , program chairs, Stacy

Amling and Bea Houston ,membership and registration, Julie Wilhelm and Regina Schantz, exhibitor co-chairs who attracted more exhibitors this year than last!! I can’t wait to see the responses to Sara Blanco’s new conference survey. Kudos Sara.

This is my last official submission to the newsletter as a member of the executive board. I thank you for having had the opportunity to serve IWLA in this capacity and I believe strongly in the organization. It is a time of economic stress at every level, but it is also a time of hope for renewal. We will face some new challenges as an organization that no one could have foreseen. Therefore, I am so very happy to confirm that we have very capable and dedicated people on our executive board to guide us. I also want to affirm that the responsibility rests with each member to contribute so that we can stay viable and continue as the only organization dedicated to serving and providing staff development for teachers of all world languages in the state. Therefore be open to change and do what you can to support IWLA. It is all about YOU.

Teaching resources

<http://www.langsource.umd.edu>

<http://www.nflc.org/reach>

<http://www.frenchteachers.org/technology/index>

<http://www.uni.edu/becker>

<http://www.suelebeau.com/languages.htm>

<http://www.ilovelanguages.com>

2009 IWLA CONFERENCE

World Languages: A Passport to the Future

Des Moines Marriott Downtown
700 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
October 9 & 10, 2009



IWLA GRANT APPLICATIONS GUIDELINES

- Grant recipients must be members in good standing of the Iowa World Language Association.
- Grants from the Iowa World Language Association will be determined by the availability of funds from year to year, not to exceed the budgeted \$1500 in total grants. Individual grants do not normally exceed \$500.
- The deadlines for applications are October 1 for November notification, and April 1 for May notification.
- Grants are primarily for, but not limited to, innovative projects. Priority is given to requests which are unique in nature, and which clearly demonstrate an ability to reach greater numbers of teachers and students.
- **Applications for conference attendance will be considered.** **NEW!**
- Request to support applicants' travel to target cultures will not be considered, nor should applicants submit requests to be paid for the time they spend on the project.
- All expenses must be justified by receipts, and a follow up written report is required for total reimbursement.
- Upon notification of acceptance, the applicant will be allotted one-half the funds allocated. The remainder of the grant will be forwarded only upon receipt of a report from the awardee to the IWLA Vice-President providing verification that the project was completed.
- **If a project is funded, the recipient is expected to share his or her work in one of two ways:**
 - (1) a brief article submitted to the IWLA Bulletin, or
 - (2) a presentation at a plenary session of the annual IWLA meeting.**This must be done within one year after termination of the project.**
- Applications will be coded to ensure anonymity of applicants and are decided "blind" by members of the grants committee. Applicants should avoid language on the application form(s) which would make it easy to identify the person, school or district involved.

-----**INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH YOUR IWLA GRANT APPLICATION**-----
IWLA GRANT APPLICATION: IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Date: _____ Code (will be assigned by IWLA) _____

Applicant's name and position: _____

School name and address: _____

Phone: _____ e mail _____

Home address: _____ Phone: _____

THE PORTION BELOW IS TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR PRINCIPAL, SUPERINTENDENT, OR DEAN.

I understand that _____ has applied for a grant from the Iowa World Language Association to support a project involving:

I am confident that s/he is capable of completing this project as described in the application, and I support this work.

Signed _____
Position _____
Date: _____

IWLA GRANTS APPLICATION FORM

Please type or print neatly so that materials made be clearly copied for members of the Grants Committee.

I. Language(s) taught: _____

II. Level: _____ FLES _____ MS _____ HS _____ Post-Secondary

III. Description: Please write a brief description of your project for which you are seeking IWLA funding.

IV. What, if anything, about this project makes it innovative or unique?

V. How many people will benefit from your project? Who are they?

VI. Total amount you are seeking for funding: \$ _____.

VII. You have attached a detailed, projected budget with this application. (required)

VIII. If it is not possible to provide you the total amount requested, do you wish to be notified about

Possibly funding your project at a lower amount?

_____ Yes _____ No

IX. Do you understand that, if funded, you will be expected to share your work with members of the

IWLA, either through the Bulletin, or a presentation at the annual meeting?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please mail this completed form, along with a detailed budget, and the identification form on the back of this page to:

Grace Valdez
IWLA Grants Committee
1927 Clay St.
Cedar Falls 50613
E-mail: valdezg@cedar-falls.k12.ia.us

REMEMBER TO KEEP A COPY OF THESE DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS.

Survey Results

Following are some of the results of the survey done by Sara Blanco using Survey Monkey, more survey results will be in the spring newsletter.

The historical success of our organization is due to our teachers and members like you. Please know that we value your feedback and participation. Without that, we will not continue to succeed and prosper. We wanted to take this opportunity to share our thoughts on your thoughts, as presented in the post-conference survey.

Many of the respondents indicated that registration and hotel information was not available soon enough for them to make adequate arrangements.

Although the information through the Bulletin may have been delayed this past year, the hotel and conference registration information was available on the IWLA website as of May 2008. Our website is an excellent resource, with a great deal of useful information. Please continue to check it (www.iwla.net) and use the links there—for the conference or for your teaching. On a side note, we are always looking to update it, so please send your suggestions .

As a first-time membership/registration chair, I worked under the assumption that most people are well-versed in the way our conference runs, so I perhaps did not provide enough information as quickly as I could have. However, we are going to make an effort this year and in the future to do more to spread the word—through our Google group and directly through emailed information sent to those who pre-register.

We, the Executive Board and the conference planning committee members, will do our best to provide as much information as possible to you as soon as it is available. We do strive to have the best variety of presenters possible to meet the various needs of world language teachers. We have begun work on the 2009 conference, and look to have more information ready for you by the spring bulletin. The program chairs have agreed to try to make the preliminary presentation descriptions available on the website earlier, but it will probably not include the information of when these presentations will

be scheduled because a great deal of last-minute shuffling generally occurs. Having the presentation information available is a continuing struggle, partially because we often lack sufficient presenters who sign up by the deadline and partially because schedule changes occur.

Looking ahead to our next conference, the later dates in October 2009 (October 9-10, so save the date!) should give you and your district a slightly larger window of time to get payment processed once school is in session, but please plan ahead as much as you can. As we are all aware, money is tight and going to be even tighter. However, the sooner your request is submitted, the more likely it is to be considered. You may want to consider submitting your request before the end of the school year—to be considered in the July or August board meeting for the appropriate budget year, rather than September or even October.

Some things you can do:

- * Visit the IWLA website frequently to see when information becomes available. Sign up for IWLA's Google group (this may be done through the website).
- * Be proactive about your registration. Follow up with the membership chairperson if no email confirmation is received, as this may indicate a problem or that it hasn't been received. You should usually receive it within a week of receipt. (On a side note, be sure that you provide a valid email address to allow us to send it to you!)
- * Consider being a presenter—alone or with another teacher. We all have so much to share and this should strengthen your argument to your district the importance of your attendance.
*Make sure that a **check** is sent with your registration/dues payment—we are unable to process purchase orders and this requires additional time to contact the school & get a check issued.
- * If your payment is processed late, it is very helpful if you can contact the registration chairperson to let them know you are planning to attend. This will ensure we have

enough food and room to accommodate all of our participants.

*Pay your dues even if you are unable to attend the conference. This will ensure that you are kept informed of other issues and future conferences/events that you might be able to attend. You will be able to continue to receive the bulletin and support our association.

Many respondents indicated that the conference is very expensive, and there should be a Friday only rate.

We continually work to run the most economical, yet effective conference possible. We have determined from your feedback and from historical conference attendance data that Des Moines is a great central location that draws the largest crowd from all of Iowa. However, Des Moines is one of the more expensive places in the state to hold conferences and indeed conference costs overall have increased dramatically in the last few years. There are trade-offs that make it worthwhile, such as the central location within the state to allow greater participation, as well as the availability of entertainment (such as the World Food Fair) or restaurant selections that many people enjoy.

We have considered other venues, such as universities or other locales, but there are a number of factors that continue to make having the conference at a hotel the best option. One of these is finding space available on Fridays while classes are in session, as well as providing large spaces conducive to presentations. Another consideration is the convenience factor for those who travel from out of town. Having the conference in a hotel makes it easy for those who need a hotel room to easily access their belongings while also providing a more social environment through the centralization of activities.

We are unable to offer a reduced Friday-only price due to the fact that Friday is when we incur the bulk of the conference costs. We use the most rooms for the presenters, key note, and exhibitors that day, as well as offering the bulk of the food. On the subject of food, we are often locked into spending a certain amount of money

at the conference location due to the amount of space we require. That also means that we have to allocate how that money is spent at the facility—and often comes in the form of food. The contractual price unfortunately does not take into account ‘extra’ items, like technology requirements, internet access, or other equipment, which are additional expenses.

Many of you have been involved in planning prior conferences and are equally aware of the challenges of putting together an affordable yet worthwhile conference. As we work with the budget for next year, we are working hard to keep prices competitive with other state conferences and similar to what last year’s cost was.

Letter Writing Campaign Follow-Up

By: Carrie Mulvihill

First of all, very special thanks to all of you who signed your letters at the conference in support of a full-time foreign language consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. Thanks to you taking the time to sign them, we sent about 350 letters to Iowa legislators. That’s about double what we were able to send last year.

An extra special thanks to Tammy Dann, who engineered this year’s process to help us streamline our system and have more letters available. You’re amazing, Tammy!

If you get responses from your legislators, feel free to pass on any comments that you received to me (cjmulvihill@dmacc.edu) or Tammy (trdann@juno.com). I got a phone call from my state representative, and he is supportive to our cause. If your legislators have specific concerns or suggestions, we may be able to address them in future letter-writing campaigns or advocacy plans. If you haven’t gotten a response from your legislator, feel free to follow up on your own. I’m glad to assist in any way I can, whether it’s finding an e-mail address, mailing address, or whatever else I can. If you see them around town, let them know how you feel about this issue.

Thanks again to those of you who signed the letters.

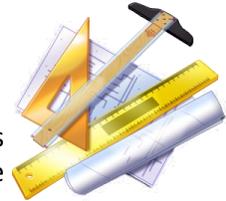
Tools to Use: Google Sites

By: Sara Blanco

Have you ever wanted to create your own webpage to link all of those great webquests, class handouts, post assignments and online resources you and your students use? Or perhaps you have a webpage, but like me, are frustrated with the program your school uses and the difficulty involved in uploading the webpage. I recommend checking out the free webpage maker offered by Google, called Google Sites. Google Sites has its limitations, as most free technology tools does, but for the novice to intermediate technology user it is a great tool. As I mentioned before, my motivation in switching to Google Sites came from the frustration I was experiencing with the uploading program I was required to use with the school's webpage maker program. I would spend twenty minutes trying to upload changes that took me ten minutes to make. With Google Sites I simply click on the save button and my updates are instantly uploaded. I also like the convenience of working at home and Google Sites is accessible anywhere internet is available. This allows me to add links or make changes during my nightly preparation for teaching at home. As for the user friendliness, I personally have found Google Sites to be fairly easy to use. As with anything new it takes a little time and patience in the beginning to get to know the webpage maker and how to navigate it. If you're willing to spend a little time playing with it, soon you'll have your webpage started.

To get started you must have a Gmail account. This is an email account through Google. You can set this up for free through Google also. To set up an account go to www.google.com and click on the Gmail link above the search box. Once you have your Gmail username and password go to: <http://sites.google.com/> and begin setting up your Google Sites webpage. If you are interested in viewing what a Google Sites webpage looks like, you are welcome to view my webpage at <http://sites.google.com/>

[site/senorablanco/](http://sites/senorablanco/). This is just an example of what I have chosen to do with my webpage. Expect function, not frills. I don't claim to be an expert with webpages! Happy webpage making!



Office of Education of the Spanish Embassy Offers Program for Students

By: Adolfo Carbón

One more year, I am writing to you with information about one of the programs offered by the Office of Education of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, which I believe may be of interest for some of your students.

The program of Language and Culture Assistants in Spain gives juniors, seniors or college graduates the opportunity of spending a year working in Spanish schools, helping Spanish students to learn English and to appreciate the culture of the USA.

They receive a monthly salary and have medical insurance. Assistants work for 12 to 16 hours a week.

The deadline for applications is April 15th. A very important change for this year is that positions will be assigned according to the order in which they are received so early applicants will greatly increase their chances of obtaining an assistantship and of being assigned to the region of their preference.

Complete information can be found at <http://www.mepsyd.es/aacc> or at this website in English: <http://www.mepsyd.es/educa/jsp/plantilla.jsp?id=140i03&area=internacional>

Iowa World Language Association Meeting of Advisory Council and Board of Directors

Thursday, October 2, 2008 7:00 P.M
Embassy Suites on the River
101 East Locust Street, Des Moines

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Frye at 7:51 PM.

Present: Stacy Amling, Lora Appenzeller Miller, Keeka Baedke, Rosa Bailey, Sara Blanco, Patricia Calkins, Tammy Dann, Dawn Frye, Bea Houston, Carrie Mulvihill, Susan Sandholm-Peterson, John Scott, Amy Schuman, Coralie Turner, Mary West, Julie Wilhelm

Welcome and Introductions

Dawn welcomed attendees and introduced John Scott, the new consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. He has elementary, middle school, and high school experience including Spanish and ESL. This is his first experience with the IWLA. His main responsibilities are with ESL.

Mary has planned a wonderful conference, special thanks to her. Mary gave special thanks to her wonderful conference committee.

This will be the last meeting as treasurer for Lora Appenzeller, who is now director of the business office in her school district.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Patricia Calkins moved to approve them and Bea Houston seconded. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report

As of October 1, two checks have been written to pay for the conference, for \$7500 and \$2000 with the balance yet to go. Cash flow is positive, but not as much as years past. Some deposits from Stacy for registration are yet to be included.

The budget has been tighter last few years,

there used to be larger carryover. We've had to dip into reserves from previous years. Bank of America account has \$23,000 in case cost of hotel can't be covered. Des Moines is more expensive than Dubuque if you do a side by side comparison in past 3 years. It was noted that all prices are going up, not just with the hotel.

At the end of this month, better idea of where we are financially. We may want to think of raising dues to \$25, which would not be out of line in today's market.

39 students are registered, need to continue to encourage participation as they are part of the future of organization. It is \$114 per person for the conference and subsidizing students is costly, but need to continue if at all possible.

Can give students and retirees some chances to help with the organization. Could offer reduced rate for retirees who are volunteers and recruit retirees as volunteers.

Need to talk to colleagues that could not come to the conference about paying dues for the organization. Many not able to come due to flooding and/or school cutbacks.

Mary West moved to approve the treasurer's report and Bea Houston seconded. The motion was carried and the report was approved.

Conference Committee Reports

Advocacy – Tammy Dann

Tammy asked John Scott his responsibilities with world languages. Main job is to work with ESL and is trying to figure out how to make it overlap with Spanish. Can only represent the Department of Education, but plans to get to the Café Latino and meet people. Glad to meet monthly or bimonthly with representatives from our organization. He asked us to put together a list of needs, on the ground information. There isn't a list of protocol or responsibilities in his job, but in forming and maintaining relationships. He can't pay for people to come meet with him, but

he can drive places. He recommended that we have projects with a high profile that would get press—showing success, making videos, providing things that people can buy and sell. We may want to investigate a partnership between IWLA and other organizations.

Once Carmen Sosa passed away, was concern her replacement would have no world language responsibilities. We requested a meeting with Judy Jeffrey. Tammy, Carrie Mulvihill, and Susan Sandholm-Peterson met with Cheryl Mullenbach at the Iowa Department of Education. She is the Social Studies consultant, which is a relatively new position. It was created when social studies became part of the core curriculum.

It is unclear how much of John's job is working with world languages. He may be working with the teachers from Spain and China. In the meeting, Cheryl was provided with a list of responsibilities for foreign language consultants from the National Council of State Supervisors of Foreign Language. We indicated the tasks that the IWLA does to some extent, but there are still many responsibilities left undone.

Need to reach all the FL teachers in the state. Have gotten information on purchasing contact information from the Department of Education for all FL teachers in Iowa. The list is updated in January, should purchase it in order to contact people before our next conference. The purchase of this list needs to be included in our next meeting.

As part of her responsibilities with social studies, Cheryl will be doing trainings at AEAs where these teachers then train teachers in their schools. It was suggested that this model be used for foreign language.

Many surrounding states currently have international education initiatives that include world language and culture education. We lose out on federal funding since do not have a full-time state supervisor who can apply for FLAP and

other types of grants. Many leaders in the state see the need for international education, and there was a Governor's Task Force on Foreign Language education in 1983. Little has changed even though a variety of initiatives were outlined. Recent editorials from the *Des Moines Register* emphasized the importance of foreign language education.

Need to talk to education and international business leaders to make our case with the Legislature. Media attention would help, and local attention from service organizations could help us make our case. Susan suggested Rotary, Kiwanis, and other service groups. Patricia will work with businesses to get them more involved in our cause. Creating a panel for next year's conference about business needs. Languages are Iowa's business.

Need to talk to education committee in the Iowa Legislature about which comes first, the funding from legislators, or a budget request from the DE. Committee ranking members in the Senate are Brian Schoenjahn, Staci Appel, and Dave Mulder. Ranking members in the House are Roger Wendt, Mary Mascher, and Mike May. Tammy will put together their contact information and send to Carrie to send to Executive Board and/or Advisory Council. Tammy will also do a letter for college presidents and will share the talking points.

Conference Exhibitor Liaison – Julie Wilhelm and Regina Schantz

Lost 5 vendors but gained 7, 2 more vendors than last year. Have 31 vendors this year. Cost of travel may have been an issue for some. Vendors here seem happy.

Please patronize the vendors. Be sure to go to top area, where sometimes not a lot is sold. Visit Prentice Hall on the top level.

Membership – Bea Houston & Stacy Amling
267 have sent in their forms. 4 for dues only/retirees, 39 for student registrations, 4 Saturday

only and 220 for all other types. 263 conference registrations right now with 10 vegetarian meals. Green sticker designates vegetarian meals.

Could send out postcards to remind folks to pay dues and provide offer to let folks pay for years in advance, \$100 for five year membership. Perhaps a quick e-mail to remind folks to pay membership.

Fillable form was helpful, thanks Julio for the help, and also for Capitol in background on the form. Processing was easier since most were done on computer.

Registrations seemed to begin and come in later. Form could be included in spring bulletin, or save the date cards could be sent. Though registration information was on the web in May, many waited until the form was in hand. By Sept. 15, only 15 registered. Could be 3-tiered registration to motivate to register early. This could help provide a better idea of numbers. People who pay for themselves could pay earlier. There could be a July 1/15/August 15, September 15, and then late registration. Late registrants slow down receipts, and the final number. There were only 2 calls about refunds. Need to consider deadline for refunds.

May want conference hosts to stand at the door to make sure folks have nametags before luncheon session. IWLA pays \$45 a plate for the luncheon.

May want to consider asking vendors to sponsor some parts of conference. We may need to consider Drake or DMACC as a different conference site if we're going to survive. Reopen the dialogue of having a one day conference at a college campus. May be able to get larger numbers in another location.

School districts are tightening down on time or money for professional development. In some districts, teachers are lucky if district pays for the sub. Lots pay the registration themselves.

Wisconsin and Minnesota have education association day statewide, first part for their professional organization, conference Thursday afternoon and then Friday. May need to get ISEA to look at this possibility too and consider joint conference.

Should work with model core curriculum folks. Sara Blanco will work with Price Lab at UNI; they are working with Core Curriculum. Could bring consultants from AEA, working with Rosa's list. Teachers could meet after school or after 5:00 on Friday, have classes until 9 or 10, then all day Saturday.

Local Conference Chair - Susan Sandholm-Petersen

There will be a restaurant guide coming tomorrow as well as signs. There will also be boxes for scholarship donations and for Best of Iowa. There are ASK ME buttons for hosts. Local committee will be introduced and the two free registration winners will be announced. This is being done instead of the small prizes from area businesses.

Program Chairs - Keeka Baedke/ Lisa Sobotka

Lisa did all the printing, her 4th time as program chair. Excited to have full program. 35 on Friday, 18 on Saturday. Thanks to presenters including student presentations from Luther, UNI, and Simpson. Fewer sections in the languages. Variety of technology, methodology, exchange programs, and assessment presentations.

Was one issue with internet connections. 3 presenters using internet, going through hotel to pay for it. One will use Blackberry and laptop. Can also take information from internet and put in a slide.

Everything in program should be accurate unless someone drops. Keeka will be with Mary at billing to be sure we are only charged for what is used.

Advisory Constituency Reports:

AATF – Sherri Condon - no report. Unable to

attend conference.

AATG – Patricia Calkins – nothing to report

AATSP – Rosa Bailey

More than willing to connect people using AEA lists. She has consultants' names and phone numbers and map of all the Café Latinos. There will be one in Council Bluffs. AEA consultant will come and share ESL methods. Materials from AEA, food, are all free.

Pella had a Café Latino, AEA 16. There will be one October 25 in northwest Iowa. First session on October 25, and teachers can attend two out of three sessions to get credits. If successful in the fall, will do again in the spring and then bring WIT college van to IWLA. Still need people in northern part of the state, Mississippi area.

Japanese Assn. – Sachiko Murphy – report sent
City of Des Moines and Kofu, Japan are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their sister city relationship this year. Japanese students from Valley High School and Central Campus participated in related activities.

In March, students helped out a sister city booth at KidsFest at the Varied Industries Building. In April, students participated in the Drake Japanese Karaoke contest, with the 2nd place winner from Valley High School. In May, Valley High School students performed the Okinawa dance at the annual Asian Heritage Festival. In August, visiting Japanese students participated in the candle festival at Gray's Lake. Activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary continue, and a Japan Festival is being planned in April for high school students.

AMICI – John Gruber-Miller – no report

Department of Education Consultant – John Scott. See his comments under the Advocacy Report above.

Public College/University Representative – Linda Quinn Allen- no report

Private College/University Representative – Coralie Turner

Changes at Grand View, new academic dean and new building on campus. Will be able to host Café Latino in training center for teacher education. Investigating Spanish for heritage speakers opportunities

Private colleges battling for enrollment with online institutions.

Need to determine who isn't coming and get folks to present from all the colleges, and also promote greater student involvement. Need to nurture students and get more people involved in teaching foreign languages. Can e-mail lists of foreign language people from going through websites.

Can put together informal oral proficiency for teachers and develop collegiality of correction after building a relationship.

Could be useful to have numbers of students enrolled in foreign language courses to develop materials in advocacy.

Community College Representative – Beatrice Houston

We may not just want to contact president of colleges and universities, may also want VP or lower levels, academic deans for developing relationships.

WIT putting together Heritage Spanish. Bea working with Curriculum Director, getting goals and objectives in line with DMACC plan, then will petition Academic Council. Have in place by fall.

Enrollment in Spanish at WIT was highest ever this fall also students majoring in foreign language. Program with elementary schools in fall and in spring, and often students decide to go on and study foreign language education.

Middle School Representative – Susan Sandholm -Petersen

Connections established at the past two IWLA conferences are beginning to prove helpful to middle school language teachers in Iowa. This year, Susan sent information about successful middle school language programs to teachers in an Iowa school district who requested it in order to expand their existing language offerings.

Sent out information on IWLA presentations at the 2008 conference which might be of interest to middle school language teachers. Will continue to gather contact information from middle school teachers, so that we can share successes and get additional ideas for improvement in our programs and teaching.

Elementary/FLES Representative – Shelly Power – no report
Presenting NNELL session.

Central States Representative – Keeka Baedke
There is a free extension workshop at Central States for conference attendees. Information will be submitted in February along with a reminder of dates.

Sara will include information request for those who are attending Central States, which is March 17-19 in Chicago in a post-conference online survey.

ACTFL Representative – Mary Doyle – no report.
Will be attending in November.

Lueann Bregman, who attended last year, was unable to come to conference.

Other Reports:

Web Administrator – Julio Rodriguez – no report

IWLA Bulletin Editor – Julie Wilhelm
Need something from each AAT and something from Advisory Council for the Bulletin. Each of us should be able to come up with something. We need to hear from more people. Write about what's going on in the classroom. Fun little things like a Did you Know? or funny things that students say. Successes, member

spotlight. Promote the organization and what we're doing. Include information about John Scott.

Historian – Juan Trujillo – no report
Juan is in Iowa City with a subdural bleed and there is no report on his condition. Dawn will mention it at general session. Keeka will get a card for folks to sign. Pass along any news if folks hear any.

Parliamentarian – Keeka Baedke
Worked hard on bylaws and should be included on website. Bylaws changes have been printed and are in bags. We will be voting Friday on the changes. Advisory council will go around and pick up ballots.

Standing Committee Reports:

Awards - Grace Valdez
No grant applications.

Scholarships – moratorium, position vacant
Asking for donations for scholarships again, people will get a sticker indicating that they are contributing.

Need to mention at general session. Would like to offer 2 \$250 scholarships. It's a good opportunity to be on the scholarship committee to see the great letters, videos of teachers doing great things.

Nominating - Mary West
Wade Petersen and Erik Ladner are candidates for vice-president, Stacy Amling for treasurer and Keeka Baedke for Central States. Fabulous people to fill positions.

Old Business

Corporate sponsorship
Patricia has some ideas on corporate sponsorship. Duronda Schlue is a dedicated retiree to the field and is passionate about this area. Tammy Dann is also working that direction also.

Central States
Leadership program at extension workshop this

year at Central States.

New Business

2009 Conference information – Dawn
Conference will be in Des Moines again. We have a 2 year contract with Downtown Marriott. Conference is a week later. Incentives to move until the following week. We have a reduced room rate to move later as well as negotiating internet issues. There will be some who won't like it.

Dawn doesn't know how A/V and internet expenses will compare for future conferences. Should not be as expensive at Marriott as at Embassy Suites. \$150 internet connections, \$500 for LCD projector, \$45 for overhead projector package. If we bring our own, there is often a service fee for things you bring in on your own. Dawn will ask more questions about how people can use blackberries and other technology to get around them.

International food festival will be weekend of the conference next year. May ask festival people to sponsor a session.

IWLA Survey – Sara

Will send out online survey, e-mailing out after conference through Survey Monkey. Calculates all the data coming in for you, and it's paperless. Will ask people if they're interested in serving on committees. Should have data within 3 weeks and can put results on web.

Reminders

Post Conference meeting - Executive board members and conference planning board will meet immediately following the conclusion of the final session, approximately 1:30.

Bulletin deadline for winter issue is November 15. Please write something for the bulletin, encourage those who you think might have a good idea to write also. Bulletin seems to have some errors in contact information, and also need to update contact information on website. Please review what is listed. Stacy needs to get her contact info to Julie.

Adjournment

Motion for adjournment by Bea Houston, seconded by Sara Blanco. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the 2008 IWLA Award Recipients

Secondary

Lisa Sobotka

Valley Southwoods

Post-Secondary

Anne Lair

University of Northern Iowa

Best of Iowa

Paulino Brener

City of Lakes Waldorf School

Minneapolis, MN

Distinguished Service

Cathy Stone

Perry High School

Winners of Free Registration

Gretchen Kirchner

Keokuk

Kathy Gus

Boone

Election Winners:

**Central States Representative
and Parliamentarian**

Keeka Baedke

Vice-President

Wade Petersen

Treasurer

Stacy Amling

Executive Board and Conference Committee Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2008

Embassy Suites – Board Room

Past-President Dawn Frye called the meeting to order at 1:28 PM.

Attendees: Stacy Amling, Lora Appenzeller, Kerisa Baedke, Sara Blanco, Patricia Calkins, Bea Houston, Carrie Mulvihill, Wade Petersen, Susan Sandholm Peterson, Regina Schantz, Amy Schumann, Lisa Sobotka, Mary West.

Conference wrap up – Successes/Future Improvements

- * A lot of past issues were tweaked. Set-up was more efficient. Susan will send Dawn final conference report.
- * For every 100 rooms booked, received 4 hours of volunteer time from Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, very helpful. Prefer to have it in 2 hour chunks, 8-10 then 10-12. 4 hours of volunteers with a computer. Computer was formatted for right size of name badges. DSMCVB will send information 6 months in advance.
- * No scholarship donations, likely this was not the best format. There was a check off on the registration form, but if a check isn't marked scholarship, not known without the registration form if a scholarship amount is included. Registration folks can keep track of how much is for scholarship fund as registrations are received.
- * People seemed to like the free conference registration idea instead of small door prizes. Kathy Gus from Boone and Gretchen Kirchner from Keokuk were the winners. Susan will e-mail them and when they send in their registration, they send along the e-mail from Susan to indicate that their registration is paid.
- * Best of Iowa format could be improved. It's not worthwhile to go back to student marshals, but could be two groups of volunteers --morning and afternoon to pick up ballots. Could have Friday and a Saturday vote. Re-

membering to vote could have been the problem. The last session presenters on each day could make an announcement with a local committee person at the door with the Best of Iowa box. Could have ballots by the box for people to vote on the spot.

- * There was someone at the lunch who didn't have a nametag. May need to emphasize checking nametags at the lunch. All those who have paid should be in agreement with enforcing this.
- * Ask Me badges were helpful. Will likely get more questions next year since conference at new location to help conference run smoothly.
- * Could use a message board. If not an easel, then a person with a sandwich board. If people don't realize they've won something and don't claim drawing prizes, vendors can take them back.

Registration

- * Worked well to have the split for registration and pre-registered participants with the name badges separate from everything else.
- * Ran out of packets Friday afternoon. Were at 243 on Wednesday, last count was 326. Need to hold some packets back for Saturday morning. Local people could get a conference program with descriptions with page protector and have at front desk. Had at a glance copies for those who didn't get packets, and extras often get taken.
- * Some of the exhibitors are regular attendees or may not need packets, often get doubly counted.
- * Need more room at registration area if to have 2 computers. Had two onsite, but needed more space. Need to be more separated from the letters, too much clutter. Bea will work with Dawn to ask for more space.
- * Registration won't be in lobby of hotel next year. If programs on the end of the table or behind, will take less space.
- * Need to include more information on the website, Google group to say if you haven't received a receipt, then check that it's been received. Issues with teachers when others sent in their forms and checks, and weren't

sent in on time.

- * Could have the fillable form on IWLA site instead of the printed out document, then registrants send in form and gets matched up with check when it comes separately. Then put an acceptance box at the bottom, "I realize that I will receive a receipt and it's my responsibility to follow up."

Exhibits

- * Overall smoother than last year, but complaints about lighting. Worked on rotating locations. 2 more exhibitors but fewer booths, didn't have anyone down the hall. Some left Friday night or were sitting by themselves with no food.
- * Exhibitors will be close to sessions next year.
- * Liked having packets. Hope to have high numbers again, transportation costs rising so vendors decide where to go, want them to keep choosing us.
- * There was one complaint about no box lunches, but they don't get it at any other place. A couple complained about not getting food and some were willing to pay for a lunch to be provided.

Program

- * Went pretty smoothly, but things did come in late. Weren't enough session proposals at the deadline. Four people have talked to the chairs to propose sessions for next year.
- * Need to work out how things will be moved, managing technology, room setup. May want to include on form how room should be set-up--theater style, rounds, tables etc. in big rooms. Hotel was accommodating. In one room, didn't have the screen that was needed. Hotel said that if we needed TVs moved, they would have moved them.
- * Comments on how good sessions were. Descriptions of sessions were requested for the website, though the At a Glance with times on it wouldn't be available. Was request for a refund when the sessions were not of interest. The descriptions could be on website as soon as we have a rough idea. Could also be helpful with administrators and could help motivate for early registration.

Website

- * Could be helpful to use the website so peo-

ple get used to finding them there.

- * There were e-mails from people about information not being on the website. Lisa and Keeka put up the At a Glance, but other things were sent to the Executive Board and conference people when they could have been put on the website. Everything for website should go through the conference chair perhaps so that there is one point of contact. Or need to decide how different items should be distributed. Lots of things didn't get on the web that folks didn't realize would have been helpful.
- * Julio has been really busy this semester. If we come through conference in decent shape, would like to pay him something, about \$500 as an honorarium for his work though this would hardly pay for a quarter of what he does. Needs to be Executive Board vote, we'll talk about it at January meeting.
- * May need to add a message board to website. Teachers who need things, have an issue, or need assistance.

Finances

- * Hotel people will contact Lora with the final amount needed. Checks for \$7500 and \$2000 have been submitted. Shouldn't have to dip into the Bank of America account. Lora will work with Mary.
- * Things will get passed into Stacy in November/December.
- * Need to have two people touch the money, registration person and Treasurer. Need to have receipts. We should keep using CPA, same tax person as she knows the history of the organization. We can mail things to her.
- * We do have to file taxes even though we don't have to pay them to file status paperwork. Don't qualify for tax exempt status, but have official paperwork that was filed to Secretary of State's office. Paperwork needs to be updated every 2 years and we are coming due to have it done again. Coralie's husband would probably know how to do that. Just need to know what needs to be filed.
- * Should get name of organization official changed (from IFLA to IWLA). File papers with Secretary of State. Sara will ask lawyer

friend of hers about the process.

- * Liability insurance is paid up, but not sure until when, though it is paid every 3 years. Bill gets sent to Lora.

Technology

- * Just a few asked for technology when proposals were sent in.
- * Right outside the business center, there was free access. Lora got one check from Linda Schlesinger (Vista Higher Learning) and for Julio's.
- * Could have been helpful to have a person that could help with technology.
- * Some presenters were saying they would need help setting it up. Should designate a person to help with technology.
- * Charges at next hotel are less, but not sure what they are. Sprint cards are \$50 a month, and also Verizon has them. Julio Rodriguez did pay for access, but he didn't get it. He may have gotten moved out of the originally assigned room. We can't charge Julio since it didn't work.

Wrap-up

- * Hotel people great people to work with this year. Did some things better this year. Were some frustrations with people disappearing as far as hotel employees to work with, but were helpful during the conference. Some trouble with consistency from one set of directions to the next.
- * Glad to have so many walk-ins. We thought it might be a down year, but turned out well.
- * Interested to see what will be said on the surveys.
- * Folks need to update their contact info on website.
- * Winter bulletin deadline is November 15.
- * Winter Executive Board meeting will be early, January 3, as Patricia will be leaving on the 6. Advisory Board meeting will be run by Sara and Dawn in spring time. Advisory board meeting will be at next conference hotel if possible.
- * Speaker has been determined for next year, a woman from Kansas. Wasn't announced, though we think one has been secured.

Meeting adjourned by President Patricia Calkins at 2:55 PM.

Deadline for spring bulletin :

March 15

Please send articles or ideas for articles to Julie Wilhelm,
farm5@frontiernet.net

The theme
for the 2009
Foreign
Language
week is:



"Many Hands, Many Voices, One World"

March 2-8, 2009

2009 Summer French Teacher Training Grants

Every year in July, the French Government, through its Embassy and consulates in the U.S., offers grants to qualified Primary and Secondary Schools French Teachers who would like to improve their language skills and enhance their knowledge of French culture.

APPLY NOW (Deadline : 02/13/2009)

About the Grant

What is covered :

- * Subscription fees and the training for 3 weeks
- * A round-trip train ticket from Paris to the training center
- * A part of the costs for the lodging and food

What is not covered:

the flight USA/France.

About the Training

- * Selected candidates spend 3 weeks in July in an official French training center with qualified tutors.
- * The program includes intensive practice of French language, in-depth analysis of a theme and study of multiple aspects of French culture.
- * While applying, candidates may indicate their preferences between the themes offered (please note that the Embassy might not be able to allocate the candidate first choice).

Participants will enjoy and highly benefit to enroll in the numerous activities organized by the training center to promote the cultural aspects of the region.

Eligibility

Full-time certified teachers in public or private accredited schools :

- * Are US Citizen or Permanent Resident (French citizens are not allowed to apply)
- * Have working knowledge of French
- * Are assigned to teach the French language and/or French Culture in grades K-12
- * Wish to strengthen French skills and enhance knowledge of French culture
- * Have not received a grant from the French Government for the last 3 years

If you are a member of the AATF, you need to apply through your AATF chapter.

For more information and application, please visit :

<http://www.frenchculture.org/spip.php?rubrique516&tout=ok>

If you have any questions, please contact our office or SPCD@ambafrance-us.org

