

The Communicator

Newsletter of the
Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association

July 2009

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ETS Sets Review of Praxis Exams in French and Spanish

Dr. Ruth Smith and Stephanie Viator have been asked to serve on a review committee for ETS to look at the composition and required scores on the French and Spanish Praxis during the coming year.

From the President

Greetings!

The LFLTA Executive Board met recently to start work on our activities for another year! The retreat was held in Pineville on June 19-20. At this meeting, we welcomed our new members: Marilyn Ashton, Region I; Scott Harris and Rose Pichon, Region II; Thomas Shanklin, Region III; Maria Isabel Wilson and Martha Lambert, Region IV; Tia LeBrun and Lova Moreno, Region V; Cecile Barnhart, Region VI; and Christel Sharp, Region VIII. The Board also appointed Michelle Racca to serve as webmaster. We also had to say goodbye to Cheryl Javaherian and thanked her for her years of service.

The Board reviewed its work from last year and noted the following achievements: redesigning the board so that it now works on a broad range of issues and business vital to foreign language education as well as planning and conducting the annual conference, writing a mission statement, adopting a logo, increasing membership, becoming more active in SCOLT and ACTFL, updating the constitution, recruiting new Board members, forming an Advocacy team, and conducting a successful 2009 Conference in Alexandria. For 2009-2010, we have set several goals: to appoint a webmaster, establish a teacher of the year award, host regional meetings within the boundaries of four regions, create a budget for LFLTA and the Conference, create manuals for both LFLTA and the conference, archive LFLTA records, involve more members on a regular basis, and improve communications.

We are counting on you to help us, and we encourage you to become involved. We have appointed the following leaders and teams for 2010, and they would be (continued on page 2)

Teaching Ideas and Tips

Note: This is YOUR column! All items published in this column will be credited to the sender. Published sender also receives a small prize! Send submissions to marymcgehe@aol.com. Include your full name and address, and the language you teach.

This month's tips are on motivating and rewarding students.

I bought paper euros from Teacher's Discovery and laminated them. I give them as rewards for various things throughout the year. At the end of the year, I hold a French Market. Each class has equal amounts of a variety of products available. The student helper (who buys first) and the class get to spend their wads of euros on whatever they choose. They love it!

Tia LeBrun,
French Teacher
Calcasieu Parish

Congratulations to ULM! The Board of Regents has awarded a grant to ULM to hold a World Language Festival in northern Louisiana in spring of 2010.

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very happy to hear from you. Please take special note of the future regional meetings because we need everyone's help to bring these about.

Newsletter, website, email tree, and logo: Mary McGehee, leader, Ruth Smith, Michelle Racca, Marilyn Ashton.

Budget: Glenda Williams, leader, Juanita Bienvenu, Anita Greenwood, Maria Blanca Wortham, Jackie Labat.

Advocacy: Ruth Smith, leader, Christel Sharp, Rose Pichon, Maria Isabel Wilson, Tia LeBrun, Terri Hammatt.

Scholarships, Awards, and Study Opportunities: Christine Griffith, leader, Scott Harris, Martha Lambert, Lova Moreno.

Nominations, By-laws, and Constitution: Anita Greenwood, leader, Maria Blanca Wortham, Thomas Shanklin.

Regional meetings: Maria Blanca Wortham, leader, Christine Griffith, Sara O'Neal, Juanita Bienvenu, Terri Hammatt.

Manuals: Leanna Buckley, leader, Stephanie Viator, Cecile Barnhart, Tia LeBrun.

The Board meets again on September 26th in Alexandria. If you are interested in attending this meeting or sending your suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us or send your suggestions to the above members. Their email addresses can be found on page 6 in this newsletter, and also on the LFLTA web-site, www.ulm.edu/languages/html.

Let us hear from you! I welcome any feedback or suggestions regarding LFLTA business, and Anita Greenwood, our vice-president, welcomes any feedback and suggestions regarding the annual conference.

Maria Blanca Wortham,
President, LFLTA

The newsletter and e-mail tree team is organizing an accurate list of e-mail addresses of all the foreign language teachers in the state. We need your help. If you have not yet received an email from Mary McGehee, please send her your email address, and encourage colleagues to do the same. Send them to marymcgehe@aol.com

Regional Meetings in planning stages for fall 2009

To kick off the new school year, regional meetings are being planned for throughout Louisiana. The LFLTA committee on regional meetings names the following board members as coordinators for these meetings:

North: Ruth Smith, Maria Blanca Wortham, Christel Sharp, Christine Griffith, Stephanie Viator, Anita Greenwood, and Leanna Buckley.

Central: Sara O'Neal and Cecile Barnhart.

Southeast: Terri Hammatt, Mary McGehee, Scott Harris, Rose Pichon, Thomas Shanklin, and Juanita Bienvenu.

Southwest: Maria Isabel Wilson, Michele Racca, Martha Lambert, Glenda Williams, Love Moreno, and Tia Lebrun.

On page 5 in this newsletter and on the LFLTA web-site, you will find email addresses for your regional team. Please contact them with your ideas and watch for announcements of these meetings!

Congratulations to the 2009 "Best of Louisiana Presenter" and Mini-Grant Recipients!

Congratulations to **Genedi Shamburger**, whose presentation "*Le Club Francais....C'est Chouette! Create and Sponsor a Winning French Club*" was selected as Best of Conference in February! Participants in each session completed session evaluations which were tallied after the conference. Genedi will represent LFLTA at the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) in Winston-Salem, NC in March of 2010.

Congratulations also to Christel Sharp and to Christine Griffith, winners of the 2009 Mini-Grants from LFLTA. Christel, whose project is entitled "Virtual Vacation" and Christine, whose project is entitled "Adopt an Escargot," each received \$500.00 to use in developing their projects in their classrooms. We look forward to hearing from them next year at conference.

Newsworthy

Newsworthy, the journal of the National Network for Early Language Learning, is posted online, and all the links work. Here, you will find teaching ideas applicable to early language learning, and adaptable to many levels of language teaching and learning. To access this wonderful source, go to www.nnell.org and click the link to *Newsworthy*. Current and archived issues are available.

Among recent articles are

- Manuscript submissions
- Mr. Picasso Head
- Virtual tour of Machu Picchu
- Learning a Second Language is Good Children Mind Medicine
- Teaching Ideas for Primary Teachers
- French Online Articles
- Smithsonian Global Sound Tools for Teaching
- Mexico for Kids

Another wonderful source at this site is their monthly feature "Home/School Connection." The article for June is "Reading with your child."

From the Vice-President and Conference Chair

Hello, Fellow LFLTA Members,

The LFLTA Board has just returned from our 2009 weekend retreat where we began working toward next year's conference and continued expanding the scope of our organization so that it better serves those who teach and study foreign languages in Louisiana. Our President, Maria Blanca Wortham, has a very clear vision of where our organization should be headed and is masterfully guiding us toward that end. It is so gratifying to watch our transformation into a more serviceable and effective board.

We had a great conference in Alexandria last February, with 120 participants. Close to 20 teachers, professors, and administrators volunteered to share their knowledge and experience in round table or lecture presentations. According to the participant evaluations, Genedi Shamburger was selected as our "Best of Louisiana Presenter" for 2009, and she will represent us at the SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching) in Winston-Salem, N.C. in April 2010.

Audrey Heining-Boyton was an inspiration to us all. She showered us with encouragement and ideas for promoting the importance of learning foreign languages at the school, parish, and state levels. She also shared countless ways to encourage our students to speak and write in their new language, thereby making our classrooms more interesting and relevant.

The two LFLTA Mini-grants of \$500 were awarded to Christel Sharp of Rayville High School and Christine Griffith of Riverside Elementary School in Shreveport. Congratulations to Christel and Christine!

The board would like to thank all of you who took the time to complete conference evaluation forms. We are considering your very helpful comments as we plan for the 2010 conference. Next year we hope to have a social activity Friday evening; we plan to allow more time for Round Tables, and hope to be able to put a bit more "breathing room" in the schedule. The 2010 conference was already set for Alexandria (because of its central location and affordability) but in 2011, we will host the SCOLT conference in Baton Rouge. Beyond 2011, we will consider holding LFLTA conferences in cities such as Lafayette, Baton Rouge, or New Orleans. However, this would require a higher registration fee, due to the high facility costs in those locations.

In order to inform school supervisors about the conference earlier in the year, we are asking presenter applications to be submitted by September 21. This will give us time to include an abbreviated conference program in the letter to the supervisors. Please encourage someone from your school or area to present. The application form can be found at the LFLTA website, www.ulm.edu/languages/LFLTA.html, and also on the following page of this newsletter.

Thank you so much for your input. We always want to make our conferences as good as they can be. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Anita Greenwood
LFLTA Vice-President and Conference Chair

**Application to Present at the
Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association
Annual Conference, February 26 and 27, 2010**

Name _____
Email _____ Tel: _____
Home Address _____
School Affiliation _____
School Address _____

Title of Proposed Presentation _____

Type of Presentation (Check one)

_____ **Round Table session. (20 minutes)** Presenters will demonstrate activities and information so that participants may then engage in the discussion or share other suggestions.

_____ **Lecture presentation. (45 minutes)** Presenters may discuss new approaches, information for foreign language teachers, cultural or literary topics.

Themes and Sample Topics. (Check the category applicable to your presentation.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ Curriculum Issues | ___ Professional Issues |
| ___ Experiential Learning | ___ Immersion |
| ___ Research in the Classroom | ___ Teacher Education |
| ___ Technology | ___ Testing and Evaluation |
| ___ Language Clubs in School | ___ FLES, From Theory to Practice |
| ___ Making Connections to other Subjects | ___ Literature in the World Language Class |
| ___ Activities for Teaching Reading, Writing, Speaking, and/or Listening | |
| ___ Increasing funding at the State and Parish Levels | |
| ___ Increasing Access to Languages: All Levels and to More than One Language | |

Will this presentation be interactive? (Teachers are asking for hands-on demonstrations.) Yes _____ No _____

Equipment: For lecture presentations, Conference Center will provide a screen, overhead or Infocus, and internet access. Check which of these you need: ___Screen ___Overhead projector ___Infocus projector ___ Internet access. Presenter should bring any other equipment needed for the presentation.

For round tables, extension cords and internet access will be provided. Keep in mind that the audience will be gathered around the presentation table. **Bring your own computer. A computer will not be provided.**

Will you bring assistants (teacher or students) to work with you on the presentation?

Yes _____ No _____

Please be aware that the assistants must pay conference fees if they attend more than your session. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are included in the conference fees.

Summary (35 to 50 words). This summary will be used as the description of your presentation in the program. Please write it in the language that you plan to use in the presentation. If the topic is applicable to all languages, it is recommended that the presentation be in English. You may write on the back of this sheet.

Mail completed form postmarked no later than September 21, 2009, to **Anita Greenwood, 3005 Lakeview Pl., Ruston, La 71270**, or submit by email to algreenwood1@gmail.com. **Direct questions to Anita by email.**

LFLTA Board Members

President: Maria Blanca Wortham wortham@ulm.edu
Vice President: Anita Greenwood agreenwood@suddenlink.net
Secretary: Ruth E. Smith rusmith@ulm.edu
Treasurer: Glenda Cormier Williams glencor_w@yahoo.com
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Representatives:

Region I: Marilyn Ashton mashton@yahoo.com

St. Charles, Jefferson, Plaquemine, Orleans, St. Bernard

Region II: Scott Harris sharri9@lsu.edu

Rose M. Pichon

W. Feliciana, Pointe Coupé, EBR & WBR, Iberville, Livingston, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Tammany, City of Baker, City of Bogalusa, Zachary Community School District, City of Central

Region III: Juanita Bienvenu lukejuanita@cox.net
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St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption, Ascension, St. James, St. John

Region IV: Martha Lambert marthitall@hotmail.com
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Vermillion, Iberia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Acadia, Evangeline, St. Landry

Region V: Tia LeBrun tia.lebrun@cpsb.org
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Region VII: Christine Griffith clgriffith@caddo.k12.la.us

DeSoto, Red River, Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, Claiborne

Region VIII: Etheldra Christel Sharp etheldrac@bellsouth.net
Stephanie Viator sviator@cedarcreekschool.org

Concordia, Tensas, Catahoula, Franklin, Caldwell, Madison, E. Carroll, W. Carroll, Richland, Morehouse, Ouachita, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Monroe City

Vacant positions for regional representatives will be filled at the Annual Conference in February 2010.

From the Advocacy Committee

Advocacy Committee members led by Dr. Ruth Smith, chair, report that BESE and the State Legislature did not remove world languages from the TOPS program this year.

The committee also announces their agenda for the coming year. They will:

- Review Louisiana's certification requirements for teachers of world languages, explore what other states require, then report to LFLTA, and make a recommendation to BESE.
- Address the plethora of waivers for world language programs that are granted to school districts based on the lack of available world language teachers.
- Address the reduction in language programs in school districts.
- Work with state regional leaders to publicize achievements on state and regional levels.
- Review the Roadmaps (5-year plans) developed in other states, and form a group to create a Roadmap for Louisiana.
- Seek the creation of an endorsement for high school students who complete at least four years of the same world language in middle school/high school.

LFLTA members who wish to work on Advocacy or who have suggestions or questions should contact Dr. Ruth Smith at rusmith@ulm.edu

From the State Department of Education

The Accords between Louisiana and Hidalgo, Mexico will be signed July 29, 2009.

The Accords between Louisiana and Belgium will be signed in Brussels September 27 and 28. State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek and Terri Hammatt will attend in the Louisiana Delegation.

BESE and the State Legislature did not remove world languages from the TOPS program this year. In addition, two bills have passed committees which reflect support for world language education: one will allow foreign associate teachers to participate in the state retirement system, and the other will allow certified teachers from other countries to use that certification to qualify to teach at the secondary level.

This spring, the Department of Education held workshops on LinguaFolio. French teachers came to the Department on Thursday, April 23; Spanish teachers attended the workshop on Friday, April 24.

Plan now to apply for an LFLTA mini-grant for 2010! Grant application form for 2009-2010 will be posted soon on the LFLTA website.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- July 2 – 5, 2009.** American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). San Jose, CA. Information: www.frenchteachers.org/convention/default.htm
- July 9 – 12, 2009.** American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. Information: www.aatsp.org
- November 20 – 22, 2009.** American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Annual Convention and World Languages Expo. San Diego, CA. Information: www.actfl.org
- November 20 – 22, 2009.** Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA). San Diego, CA. Joint conference with ACTFL. Information: <http://clta-us.org/meeting.htm>
- November 20 – 22, 2009.** American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI). San Diego, CA. Joint conference with ACTFL. Information: www.aati-online.org
- March 24 – 27, 2010.** Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Boston, MA. Annual Conference. Information: www.tesol.org
- April 15 – 17, 2010.** Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT). Winston-Salem, NC. Information: www.scolt.org
- July 4 – 7, 2010.** American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). Philadelphia, PA. Annual Conference. Information: www.aatf.org
- July 2010.** American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Annual Conference. Guadalajara, Mexico. Information: www.aatsp.org
- November 19 – 21, 2010.** American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Annual convention. Boston, MA. Information: www.actfl.org
- March/April 2011.** Joint meeting of Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) and Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association (LFLTA). Baton Rouge, LA. Information: www.scolt.org.
- July 2011.** American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). Annual Conference. Montreal, Quebec. Information: www.aatf.org