

# WNYFLEC NEWSLETTER

September

FALL 2011



## WNYFLEC FALL MEETING 2011

### The New York State of LOTE: Danger and Opportunity

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To get back into the swing of the upcoming school year, WNYFLEC will be hosting its annual Fall Meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2011. It will take place at the Wegmans located at 5275 Sheridan Drive (near Evans) in Williamsville, NY 14221. It will run from 5:00—7:00p.m. A variety of Wegmans finger foods and beverages will be offered for you to enjoy during the workshop!.

This year we are honored to have one of our favorite Regional Conference presenters as our keynote speaker. Bill Heller will address the theme “The New York State of LOTE: Danger and Opportunity.” There will be some small group brainstorming and sharing based on his presentation. In addition, Bill will also offer a workshop on Building Speaking Proficiency Strategies. Grab a friend and/or a coworker and reserve your spot now to take part in this awesome session of professional development ! For any questions please contact Fall Meeting Chair and Third Vice President Julie Aguglia at jaguglia@wnyflec.org .

**Note:** The Fall Meeting requires pre-registration and is open to both members and non-members.

#### Fall Meeting Reservation/ Fee schedule:

Postmarked by Saturday, September 10th : \$12

Postmarked by Friday, September 16th : \$17

#### FALL MEETING 2011 REGISTRATION FORM

Postmarked by Saturday, September 10th : \$12

Postmarked by Friday, September 16th : \$17

*Send this form with payment (checks payable to WNYFLEC) to the address below. We hope to see you there!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide email for payment and registration confirmation)

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** Julie Aguglia, 61 Pamela Court, West Seneca, NY 14224





## From Our President . . .

Dear Colleagues,

- "Some days you just have to eat s\*\*t and pretend you like it."

The above quote is a gem I heard from a speaker during a recent professional development session. I believe the speaker attributed it to Justin Halpern's S\*\*t My Dad Says, (which explains the salty language), or maybe his own dad; I am not 100% sure. While it lands on the crasser side of the fence, it is nevertheless true. During your preparations to become teachers many of you were lead to believe that things would work out fine and be primarily conflict-free if you just collaborated with coworkers, followed your textbook's suggestions for classroom management, remembered Bloom's Taxonomy, and wrote 27-part lesson plans with 15 page reflections. While some of the information and guidance was invaluable, it didn't really prepare you for things like the huge administrative paper trail (ie: Memo #57, Version 3), the exhausting committee work, the lunchroom politics, or the idiot savant that is your Principal/Superintendent/Mentor. It didn't prepare you for umpteen schedule changes, for springing 8 unique preps or additional duties onto you, or that for the Nth year in a row your salary would not reflect a cost of living increase. It also didn't prepare you for massive program cuts, job losses, or the destruction and dissolution of the LOTE Proficiency and various Regents Examinations.

These are challenging times: You were told that you would have a classroom but were moved onto a cart ; That you would have more planning time this year, but you actually have less; That the NYS exam was the utmost comprehensive assessor of the standards, but then it was cut. You worked with your union representatives to fight for your rights but did not receive the concessions you desired, or perhaps you are (still) working without a contract. You wrote letters, sent faxes, and made phone calls regarding the three-ring-circus that continues to be the cuts to LOTE programs almost everywhere, and still dedicate huge blocks of time to eliciting complete answers to questions on the NYS exam eliminations and the state of graduation requirements. In a nutshell: you bite off a lot, but the powers that be do not always allow you to chew it.

Take heart, as even in perceived defeat there can be small (or not so small) victories: you didn't get a raise, but you still have a job? Congratulations, because not everyone was so lucky. Moved from a classroom onto a cart? See previous response. Lost department members or a set of LOTE classes due to fiscal cuts? Be upset (I am, I lost half of my department), but also be grateful (as I am) to still *have* a department and/or classes to offer. Freaked out last year (even just a little) when you heard about the elimination of the NYS exams and that you were going to have to find some other way to give the year-end assessment? Understandable, but if you are reading this it means that you are alive, having conquered that obstacle and survived an unwelcome process that was no small task. And you can, and will, do it all over again because if this profession has taught you anything it is to work hard, fight hard, and persevere. To the extent that I agree with the opening quote, I also *disagree*: you may have to eat s\*\*t sometimes, but you don't always have to pretend you like it.

May the current challenging times not diminish your desires during this (or any) year to be the best LOTE professional that you can be, and to fight for the needs of your program and students. May the projects and efforts that you bite into this year leave you only with the taste of success; and if not—may you use your amazing perseverance and plethora of bi-, tri-, or multilingual vocabulary to not pretend that you like it.

In Solidarity,

Ellen Connell, President

## PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR : 2011—2012

EVENT	DATE	SITE / INFORMATION
<p><b>WNYFLEC FALL MEETING:</b></p> <p><b>The New York State of LOTE: Danger and Opportunity—Featuring Bill Heller</b></p> <p>Come socialize with colleagues from around WNY, enjoy delicious finger foods from Wegmans, win some prizes and pick up some great instructional ideas!</p> <p>Event fee is \$12 if postmarked by September 10th, and \$17 if postmarked by September 16th. <b>There is no registration at the door!</b> **Note – bring a friend... you do not need to be a member to attend this event .</p>	<p>September 22nd 5:00—7:00pm</p> <p><b>RSVP by</b> Sept. 10th OR Sept 16th</p>	<p><b>Wegmans</b> 5275 Sheridan Drive (near Evans) Williamsville, NY 14221</p> <p><b>RSVP to Julie Aguglia</b> 61 Pamela Court West Seneca, NY 14224 jaguglia@wnyflec.org</p>
<p><b>NYS AFLT 94th Annual Conference:</b></p> <p>“Best of Language Learning: People, Programs, and Practices that Inspire”</p>	<p>October 14—16th</p>	<p><b>Rochester Hyatt Regency</b> Rochester Riverside Convention Center Rochester, New York</p> <p>See NYSAFLT.org for details</p>
<p><b>WNYFLEC Poster Contest:</b></p> <p>“Get Inspired By Foreign Language”</p> <p>Rules available on wnyflec.org; see the Awards &amp; Contests page .</p>	<p>January 13, 2012</p>	<p><b>Due to Carol Wirth</b></p> <p>Orchard Park Middle School 60 South Lincoln Ave. Orchard Park, NY 14127 cwirth@opschools.org</p>
<p><b>WNYFLEC - NYSAFLT Regional Conference &amp; Foreign Language Week Kickoff</b></p> <p>“Get Inspired By Foreign Language”</p>	<p>March 3, 2012</p>	<p><b>West Seneca West Middle School</b> 395 Center Road West Seneca, NY 14224</p>
<p><b>WNYFLEC Awards—Nominations*</b></p> <p>(MaryAlice Seagrave Award, Anthony Papalia Award, Teacher Incentive Grant, WNYFLEC Service Award, Friend of Foreign Language Award)</p> <p><i>*Applications available on www.wnyflec.org beginning November 1st, 2011.</i></p>	<p>March 25, 2012</p>	<p><b>Due to Amanda Repasky:</b> 108 C Windsorshire Drive Rochester, NY 14624 arepasky@wnyflec.org</p>
<p><b>NYSAFLT Colloquium</b></p> <p>“Pathways to Global Competency Through World Languages and Cultures ”</p>	<p>April 2012</p>	<p><b>Binghamton, NY</b> See NYSAFLT.org for details</p>
<p><b>WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. (Student, Teacher and Recognition) Award Nominations</b></p>	<p>April 2012 (TBA)</p>	<p><b>Due to Julie Aguglia</b> 61 Pamela Court West Seneca, NY 14224 jaguglia@wnyflec.org</p>
<p><b>WNYFLEC S.T.A.R. Awards Ceremony</b></p>	<p>June 6, 2012 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>Michael’s Banquet Facility</b> 4885 Southwestern Blvd. Hamburg, NY 14075</p>

# WNYFLEC EXECUTIVE BOARD DIRECTORY

## 2011 – 2012

**PRESIDENT**

Ellen Connell

*Pinnacle Charter School: 570-1576*

econnell@wnyflec.org

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

JoAnn Thomasson

*Hamburg Middle School: 646-3250*

jthomasson@wnyflec.org

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Eileen Angelini

*Canisius College: 888-2829*

eangelini@wnyflec.org

**3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

Julie Aguglia

*West Seneca West MS: 677-3500 x 4901*

jaguglia@wnyflec.org

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Kim Miloshevski

*West Seneca West MS: 677-3501 x 4428*

kmiloshevski@wnyflec.org

**TREASURER**

Kristina Strauss

*Hamburg Middle School: 646-3250*

kstrauss@wnyflec.org

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Amanda Repasky

arepasky@wnyflec.org

**HISTORIAN (Interim)**

**Jessica Matthews**

*West Seneca East MS: 677-3530 x 4506*

jmatthews@wnyflec.org

**NYS AFLT Representatives**

JoAnn Thomasson

*Hamburg Middle School: 646-3250*

jthomasson@wnyflec.org

Dr. Eileen Angelini

*Canisius College : 888-2829*

eangelini@wnyflec.org

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Mark Critelli

*Barker Road Middle School: 585-267-1809*

membership@wnyflec.org

# NYSAFLT NEWS

Greetings from your NYSAFLT Directors!!

We hope you have been enjoying your summer vacation and are geared up for another school year. NYSAFLT has been very busy planning and executing the Summer Institute which was held in early August in Oneonta (hope some of you were able to attend and enjoy it) as well as getting ready for the Annual Conference. Speaking of which, don't forget to register!! The Annual Conference theme is *Best of Language Learning: People, Programs, and Practices that Inspire*. The Conference will be held October 14-16 in Rochester. Register today at [nysaft.com](http://nysaft.com)! Western New York's own Deb Carlson is the chair of this year's Annual Conference.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2011 NYSAFLT Fulvi Award recipients from the Buffalo region. As the regional directors, we were pleased to represent NYSAFLT at the WNYFLEC STAR ceremony in June and present Fulvi Awards to Caitlin Cirrincione of Hamburg High School, Joshua Glaspoy of Kenmore East High School, and Jessica King of Orchard Park Middle School. The dedication to language study that these students have shown is a tangible sign of the continuing value of second language study. We congratulate their teachers, as well, and thank all those teachers who took the time to nominate outstanding foreign language students. In addition to presenting the Fulvi awards, we also had the honor of recognizing students from Hamburg Middle School as the winners of the NYSAFLT video contest, middle school division. All the winning videos can still be viewed on the NYSAFLT website, under "resources" and "video contest". Check them out if you haven't already!

Please be assured of NYSAFLT's continued presence in Albany. Our advocacy committee continues to work hard to promote the study of foreign language. More information on what you can do to make your voice heard is available at <http://www.nysaft.org/advocacy/state.html>.

Wishing you a good start to the 2011-2012 school year. If NYSAFLT can be of any assistance to you or your programs, please don't hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you in Rochester for the Annual Conference!

— JoAnn Thomasson and Dr. Eileen Angelini

# — NYSAFLT NEWS —



## Special Notice Regarding the Upcoming Reorganization of NYSAFLT:

At its January 2011 meeting, the NYSAFLT Board of Directors voted to reduce the number of directors on the Board and redefine the current ten regions into five larger geographic areas. These changes will go into effect on January 1, 2012.

### Rationale:

Currently, NYSAFLT has an executive committee of eight and a board of 20 directors. Also invited to board meetings are our assistant director and webmaster, bringing the total number of people participating in board meetings to 30. NYSAFLT, although a vibrant, dynamic and active organization, currently has fewer members than it has had in the past. Recognizing also that we now have the ability to disseminate information more quickly than ever before, as well as the fact that our four paid employees do many of the tasks formerly assigned to officers, directors and committee chairs, we have come to the conclusion that a board of 28 individuals is no longer necessary to oversee the business of the association. Other factors being taken into consideration are:

- The strength of regional organizations has all but eliminated the traditional need to require directors as individuals to provide for a conference in their region. Where no regional organization exists, directors and/or committees of NYSAFLT members have the option of running a regional conference with NYSAFLT support. This would not be changed.
- For many years, the nominations committee has had great difficulty in finding more than one nominee for open director positions (and has often been confronted with regions where there were no nominees at all).
- Financially, the organization cannot justify the expense of meetings at the current size and frequency. By reducing the number of directors from 20 to 10, NYSAFLT will save roughly \$9,000 per year.
- By merging regions, but keeping two directors per larger region, NYSAFLT will be able to maintain the continuity provided by having two directors whose terms are staggered.
- Regions would be re-defined as a geographic area of the state within which there may be more than one "central" location. With this change, we are moving away from the previous assumption that members should always be within easy driving distance of a central location and/or that a "region" is defined by the area served by a regional association such as WNYFLEC, COLT, or ALOUD. The new definition would allow for greater flexibility in organizing regional events, fostering new leadership, and managing the business of the association at the regional level.

# WNYFLEC AWARDS

## Anthony Papalia Award:

To assist the recipient in pursuing a course in his or her Master's degree in Foreign Language Education or to further his or her graduate education studies.

## Teacher Incentive Grant:

To enable recipients to develop new materials or techniques to enrich language teaching and learning in the foreign language classroom.

## Service Award:

A prestigious recognition usually awarded to a member, not necessarily an officer, who is outstanding in performing for the association, and is active and involved in the language profession.

## MaryAlice Seagrave Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher Award:

A prestigious recognition of an outstanding foreign language teacher who is also active and involved in professional activities for the school district and the language profession.

## Friend of Foreign Language Award:

To recognize an individual outside of the teaching profession who is a strong advocate for the study of foreign language and culture.

- Contact the Executive Board for application forms or visit the Awards page at [wnyflec.org](http://wnyflec.org) .
- **Completed applications must be received by March 25, 2012 for nominations to receive consideration.**
- Winners will be honored at the S.T.A.R. Awards Ceremony on June 6, 2012.

Why wait?? Apply for a Teacher Incentive Grant or nominate a colleague or affiliate for a WNYFLEC Award today!

## It's Never Too Early—

# Renew Your Membership Today!!

Just a reminder to renew your WNYFLEC Membership, which will expire on December 31st (unless you are a Lifetime member).

Our membership runs from January 1st—December 31st , so make sure you renew by the end of the year!

## Bennington College

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Date pd.	_____
Check #	_____
Amount	_____
Entered	_____

**WESTERN NEW YORK  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
EDUCATOR'S COUNCIL  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Note: YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

(Membership runs on the calendar year: January - December)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Language(s) Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

**or** College/University \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(\*An email address must be provided, and kept current, to ensure receipt of electronic newsletter delivery)

Please check this box if any of your information is new.

	<b>NEW</b>	<b>RENEWAL</b>
College Student (provide proof of <u>full time</u> schedule) \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular Member \$ 22.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retired Member \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Member \$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Please consider making a donation to WNYFLEC to help support one or more of the following scholarship funds:</b>	
Anthony Papalia Award (tuition assistance)	\$ _____
Teacher Incentive Grant (project-based funding)	\$ _____
Humanitarian Award (to fund philanthropic efforts)	\$ _____
General Scholarship (divided equally among awards)	\$ _____
<b>ENTER TOTAL PAYMENT HERE: \$ _____</b>	
<small>(Total payment should reflect member fee plus any donations, if applicable)</small>	

WNYFLEC is an organization made up of volunteer members who care. Please visit us online at [www.wnyflec.org](http://www.wnyflec.org) and register to volunteer on a committee (or on an "as-needed" basis). Your talents are needed to help LOTE flourish in our area!

Check the newsletter or website for information on upcoming events to see where help is needed - ANY time you can give would go a long way in promoting Foreign Language in Western New York.

<p><b>For U.S. mail:</b> Send checks, payable to <b>WNYFLEC</b>, along with this form to:</p> <p align="center">Mark Critelli ♦ 14 Blackwatch Trail, Apt. 5 ♦ Fairport, NY 14450</p>
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## Western New York Foreign Language Educators' Council

### WNYFLEC Regional Conference Announcement 2012

Once again, the Western New York Foreign Language Educators' Council/ New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers Regional Conference is scheduled to coincide with National Foreign Language Week. The theme of the conference is "**Get Inspired By Foreign Language.**" This year's conference will be held on **Saturday, March 3, 2012** from 8:00am until approximately 2:00pm. at **West Seneca West Middle School** in West Seneca, NY .

The WNYFLEC conference has traditionally been one of the largest language gatherings in New York State, drawing from as far east as Rochester and as far south as the state border. The conference will include approximately 20 workshops for foreign language teachers. In addition, the conference design allows ample opportunity for participants to browse exhibitor displays and shop for materials to enhance their students' learning and achievement.

**Please consider presenting a workshop at our conference this year.** You are sure to have an eager audience of foreign language educators spanning from elementary levels to college. Foreign language teachers are known for continuously seeking the best and most captivating materials and ideas to create the optimum learning environment for their students. Please share your experience, enthusiasm and expertise with us; you will have a highly interested audience and we are sure that it will be well worth your time to join us!

For your planning convenience, West Seneca West Middle School offers us quite a few technology resources, such as:

- Several rooms equipped with Promethean Boards
- A computer lab with approximately 30 computers
- Media carts equipped with projectors that hook up to laptops
- Several classroom sets of laptops

**\*\*Please note that West Seneca West Middle is a PC-based building. If you will be using a Mac, you will need to provide any necessary cables.\*\***

**To register as a presenter at this year's event, please fill out the attached form and return it at your earliest convenience to [jthomasson@wnyflec.org](mailto:jthomasson@wnyflec.org) (preferred method of submission).** If you prefer to mail the form, you may send it to:

JoAnn Thomasson  
5508 George Drive  
Hamburg, NY 14075

If you have any questions, please call me at (716) 649-4653.

**\*\*\*Due to program design and printing schedules, the final deadline for submitting your workshop information is *January 30, 2012*. Thank you!**

Sincerely,

JoAnn Thomasson, Conference Co-Chair

[jthomasson@wnyflec.org](mailto:jthomasson@wnyflec.org)

# Western New York Foreign Language Educators' Council

## WNYFLEC Presenter Registration/Information Form

PRESENTER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

WORKSHOP TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description (4-5 sentences to be printed in the program)

How many **60-minute workshops** would you like to present? (circle one) 1   2   3

*Multiple workshop requests will be honored based on room availability.*

*Notification prior to the conference will indicate how many workshop sessions you have been assigned*

\*If interested in presenting more than one topic, please complete:

2<sup>nd</sup> WORKSHOP TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description (4-5 sentences to be printed in the program)

3<sup>rd</sup> WORKSHOP TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description (4-5 sentences to be printed in the program)

**Please list any equipment you will need for your presentation (overhead, smartcart, etc.)**

\*Please include a short biography written in the third person (no more than 100 words) to be printed in the program. You may want to include your name, current position, school/teaching experience and travel experience. Your biography will be printed as you submit it; please be sure to check your proposal prior to submitting your workshop request.

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**SUBMIT TO: JoAnn Thomasson**



Introduce a colleague  
to WNYFLEC today!  
Membership Form is  
located inside.

Don't forget to  
RSVP for the Fall  
Meeting!  
See you there!

- Don't forget:
- The Fall Meeting will be held on September 22nd, 2011 from 5:00—7:00pm.
  - The Poster Contest deadline is January 13th, 2012.
  - The NYSAFLT 94th Annual Conference is October 14-16th in Rochester!

WNYFLEC  
c/o Mark Critelli, Membership Chair  
14 Blackwatch Trail, Apt.5  
Fairport, NY 14450

## WNYFLEC NEWS

A publication of the Western New York  
Foreign Language Educators' Council