FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

The FLAGS Pole

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Advocacy doesn't take a break

by Nicole Naditz-FLAGS and CLTA Advocacy Chair

Normally summer is a relatively slow, relaxed time for all of us. Lesson planning stops. Grading stops. Even legislation at our state capital is pretty much done—new legislation isn't typically introduced in summer. Since one of key responsibilities of the advocacy committee is to review any legislation that may impact world language programs and decide whether to support, oppose, watch or ignore that legislation, summer is usually pretty quiet on the advocacy front. No new legislation means nothing to review.

This summer was the exception. The delays in our state budget combined with national measures tied to the Race to the Top federal grant funding stimulus program led to a busier-than-normal summer for those of us working in advocacy. So, combined with the extensive preparations involved in getting ready for the Discover Languages event at the California State Fair on September 5, I have been busy writing letters regarding actions taken by governor Schwarzenegger effectively eliminating the Curriculum Commission (which means no work can be done to revise our framework so that it reflects our new standards); submitting comments to my congressional representatives regarding the importance of ensuring that language programs are a key component to creating the "innovative programs" the Race to the Top funds are financing; and attempting to halt legislation that would have changed our state's graduation requirements so much that students would risk having no time to even include language instruction in their high school curriculum.

As of press time, I don't have an update for you on any of these initiatives or the impact of any of the letters/statements I have prepared on behalf of language educators in our state. Check our web site or future newsletters to find out whether these efforts made a difference. In the mean time, if you would like to get involved, or have questions about the legislation I'm currently following, contact me at advocacy@flagsteacher.com.

Advocacy also has another face: the public outreach activities. Lucky for us, 2010 could be a banner year on this front. Back in 2005, we celebrated The Year of Languages. In Sacramento, we became a national model for this program by hosting our first Read Around the World at several branches of the Sacramento Public Library and *(continued p 5)*

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CHANGE IN FLAGS DUES IN 2011. SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO SAVE MONEY BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

New Website!

Have you joined the new FLAGS website so you don't miss news from us?

You must join the new website to continue getting emails from us!!

http://flagsteacher.ning.com/

The FLAGS Pole

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The Presiden't Perch
Ruth Ward

Hello Everyone:

Welcome back to a new school year! Although the calendar says it is still summer, our inner academic clocks know we are already in the very midst of our school cycle! Please visit our new and improved website at http://flagsteacher.ning.com to learn about this year's exciting FLAGS activities. Create a free account on the new site when you visit so that we can continue to send you email updates. We cannot add email addresses to the site ourselves; you have to add yourself in order for us to be able to send you updated information.

Well, let's start at the beginning. On Saturday, September 5th, we will be hosting the second annual all-day FLAGS International Interactive Games Exhibit created by Nicole Naditz for the State Fair. Families, as well as students and teachers, will visit our booth to play games, talk about language learning, take the "Are you smarter than a language teacher" quiz, and spin the wheel for Discover Languages merchandise. As Nicole says, "It is a lot of fun--you get to play games and give away free stuff, so volunteers are sure to be a hit with the fairgoers." Please consider joining us for a four-hour volunteer shift. It will feel great to get involved!

Speaking of getting involved, we would like to invite FLAGS members and potential members to bring twenty copies of an activity you would like to share to our Share-a-thon on Thursday, September 17th from 4:30 to 6:00 PM at Natomas High School, room K109. In addition, please mark you calendars to come to our Fall Workshop: Web 2.0 Wikis and Lingt, which will take place at Bella Vista High School from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Our webmaster Nicole will be on hand to present the multiple uses of these vital technological tools. On Saturday, January 23rd we will present our Winter Workshop: Language Potpourri from 8:30 to 12:30 at Natomas High School. Please go to the FLAGS website to pre-register for these informative events.

As to future activities, we are looking forward to seeing old and new members at the 2010 California Language Teachers' Association Conference, to be held in San Diego from March 11–14. Consider presenting a one-hour hour interest session or even a half-day workshop. To fill out an online application to attend or to present, please go http://www.clta.net/conference/. This will be an event you won't want to miss!

To get more information about all these happenings, go to http://www.flagsteacher.ning.com/. There you will find the FLAGS activities calendar, as well as flyers, maps, directions, and registration forms. Moreover, you will see announcements on advocacy issues, links for specific languages, and super opportunities for you to tell us what you would like to see FLAGS do for you in our periodic "FLAGS Polls." There is even a link to the electronic version of the *FLAGS Pole publication.*

(continued on page 3)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ONE FRIDAY EACH MONTH
FLAGS Board meeting
All members are welcome
Contact: Ruth Ward
(530)661-4117

September 5
FLAGS at the State Fair (contact Nicole Naditz to help)

Thursday, September 17
FLAGS Share-a-thon
Natomas High School, Room K109

November 19-22
ACTFL Conference in San Diego

Saturday, October 24, 8AM-1PM
FLAGS Fall Conference: Wikis and Lingt
Bella Vista High School, Room B-15

Saturday, January 23, 8:30-12:30
FLAGS Winter Workshop: Language Potpourri
Natomas High School

March 11-14, 2010
CLTA Conference, San Diego

March 19, 2010
FLAGS Teacher Awards Dinner

May 1, 2010, 8:30-10:30
FLAGS Student Awards Breakfast

(President's Perch continued from p 2)

Oh, yes, another important topic: Teacher Award nominations.
FLAGS members may nominate individuals in three categories of awards: Outstanding New Teacher, Outstanding Teacher, and President's Award. At the flagsteacher.ning.com website, you can download all of the forms from the links provided at the bottom of the page. The **Outstanding New Teacher Award** honors a teacher new to the profession who has been a world language teacher for three years or less, **Outstanding Teacher Award** honors an accomplished teacher who has been a world language teacher for at least four years and who is an inspiration to everyone, and the **President's Award** recognizes a person who isn't a world language teacher, but whose support and efforts give us strength and keep our programs vibrant. This award is for administrators, district personnel and community members who share our commitment to language education. Please nominate someone at your school site! Let's help our colleagues and allies gain the recognition they deserve!

In addition to FLAGS events, on Saturday, October 17th, CapFLP, the California Foreign Language Project, will be sponsoring a one-day workshop at San Francisco's De Young Museum, spearheaded by CapFLP Leadership Team member Catherine Fox-Anderson. Called "Faces, Voices; The Story in the Painting, the Painting in the Story," it will provide teachers with hands-on activities for integrating art and writing in the World Language classroom.

CapFLP will also be presenting two seminars in the 2009-2010 school year: Foundations for Successful Foreign Language Teaching and Creating Standards-based Lessons. The Foundations seminar, presented by Jennifer Hill, and Jeanne Kirchofer, and Cindy Peiper, will be held on six Saturdays: 9/12, 10/3,11/7 of 2009, as well as 1/9, 2/6, and the morning of 3/6 of 2010. The Standards-based Lessons seminar, presented by Ruth Ward and Tanya Zaccone, will be held on five Saturdays: 1/30, 2/27, 3/20, 4/17, and 5/15 of 2010. You will be able to earn 4 Continuing Education units for your attendance at each of these intriguing seminars.

Well, that's it for now. Stay well and continue the wonderful work you do that makes us all proud of our profession!

Un abrazo,
Ruth
FLAGS president

CapFLP Summer Seminars, 2009

by Ruth Ward

Wow! What an experience! From June 15-19, 2009, CapFLP was proud to present two language-specific strands on social, political, cultural, and historic trends for teachers of French and Spanish. The two groups, immersed in their respective target languages, met from Monday through Friday at Sacramento State University. All lessons were communication-based in approach and reflected the California Foreign Language Framework and National Foreign Language Standards. The fee was $75 for student, intern, and first year teachers, and $150 for all others. Participants who attended all 40 hours and who completed all the course requirements were able to earn four continuing education units, for the minimal cost of $65.

The French strand, "Perspectives on World War II in France," was presented by National Board Certified Bella Vista teacher Nicole Naditz. This forty-hour program presented a historical overview of the Vichy State and the Occupation and then moved into a more in-depth analysis of resistance to the Vichy government and the rescue of Jewish children in France. Participants interacted with numerous authentic documents in a variety of media as they explored these topics. Some of the documents they considered were literary excerpts about the era, oral and written testimonials from survivors of the war, propaganda distributed by both resistors and collaborationists, songs representing both viewpoints, radio broadcasts and newsreel footage from the period, as well as both documentary and feature films that considered different aspects of life during this time. In order to develop their own framework for understanding these diverse documents, participants engaged in a diverse array of activities that required creativity as well as sophisticated levels of interaction and discourse.

The Spanish strand, "Más temas trascendentes: Current Socio-Political Trends in Latin America," was presented by Natomas High School teacher Dr. Ruth Ward and National Board Certified Center High School teacher Tanya Zaccone. The presenters introduced their workshop series by expressing their indebtedness to Lynn Eddie-Zambrano of San Diego State University, who developed and facilitated a seminar entitled "América Latina: Temas trascendentes para el siglo XXI" at San Diego State University in the summer of 2007. After attending her seminar, the two immediately decided to adapt and replicate the program for the teachers of northern California.

Like its southern prototype, this program examined economic, political, social and cultural issues unfolding in the region and offered insights into where Latin America is headed in the twenty-first century. Presentations, some of which were given by U.C. Davis doctoral candidates and other local experts, addressed several topics such as key concepts and defining moments in Latin American history, U.S.-Latin American relations, political and educational trends, trade and globalization, and popular culture. Colombia, El Salvador, and Peru received particular attention. Lesson suggestions incorporated the various intelligences as a means of incorporating important content about Latin America into Spanish classrooms.

We thought you might enjoy some participant testimonials as to the value of these seminars. At the end of the week French participants commented, "The information was presented using all different types of teaching and learning styles that included all types of learners. I liked the audio and visual examples given to support the written materials." "Today's activity where we picked images and put music to it was awesome!" "Exploring authentic texts is best and I really liked our opportunities to listen to the words spoken by [concentration] camp survivors." "I loved Nicole's attention to different learning modalities; she modified her presentations rotating between text, video, music, etc." "The materials provided were interactive and took a scaffolding approach to complicated information [...] making it easier to digest." "Most of all, several aspects and points of view were explored present a well-rounded presentation. The presenter also allowed the audience to form their own reactions and ideas." "Awesome week. I'm sorry it's at an end."

Spanish strand participants observed, "The seminar is worth while for any language teacher as you will obtain an unprecedented amount of information to aide you in your classroom." "Our presenters were well organized and got us actively involved in each of the different lessons they presented. There was never a boring moment. We were hopping all the time." "This seminar was very useful to further my pedagogy. I will definitely use all the activities and movies and power points provided for us. I have grown so much with this seminar. I can make these activities more intense, and interesting for my students." *(continued on p 6)*

(Advocacy continued from p 1) also by working with the Sacramento County Fair to create judging categories for the display of student work in world languages. Almost five years later, both of these programs are still active, thanks to the ongoing efforts of teachers in our region who still organize these activities on behalf of their students.

In honor of the upcoming five-year anniversary of both of these programs, our goal this year is to reinvigorate interest in both programs by increasing participation in them. This is where you come in. Why not consider saving a few student projects for consideration in the county fair in May of 2010? You assign and collect projects every year. Why not set aside the best ones so that your students' achievement can be viewed at the fair? Or, if you prefer, prepare students to read children's stories in your target language at their local branch of the public library. I have numerous documents and materials to help you get started even if your library has never hosted this program. It's great publicity for your program and great community service for our students. Or do both! Contact me at the address above for more information. Our campaign can only become more visible (and therefore more effective) with your help!

Have you joined the <u>new</u> FLAGS website so you don't miss news from us?

You <u>must join</u> the new website to continue getting emails from us!!

http://flagsteacher.ning.com/

CLTA CORNER

Welcome to the Wild and Wonderful World of Languages

March 10-14, 2010: **CLTA Conference in San Diego**

Interested in presenting? See the CLTA website: www.clta.net for more information.

FLAGS TEACHER AWARDS. THINK AHEAD!

The FLAGS board cannot nominate teachers for an award, so we're counting on you, our dedicated members, to please nominate a colleague this year as an Outstanding Teacher or New Teacher. The process is fairly simple. Write a letter of nomination, collect three letters of recommendation, get a resume of the person, show off that fabulous someone to us! We want to hear about them and recognize them! Forms and information will be available in late fall on our website.

We're going digital!

This newsletter will now be featured online. Check out future issues on the FLAGS website. An email will be sent letting you know when a new edition is ready to be read at http://flagsteacher.ning.com

FLAGS dues will go increase from $17 to $20 January 1, 2011.

You can save money by two years of dues through December 31, 2010!

So renew your membership early, stay informed, and save money!

(CapFLP Summer Seminar continued from p 4)
"One of the things I most enjoyed was seeing the different ways and possibilities there are to incorporate technology into the classroom." "By the end of the week, I took away a new appreciation for how people in Latin America live with and deal with politics. I also had lessons that I could tailor to fit the high school curriculum." "We should do this every year with different topics."

If you would like to attend a CapFLP seminar, don't miss our Foundations for Successful Foreign Language Teaching series for the 2009-2010 school year. The presenters will be CapFLP Leadership Team members Cindy Peiper, Jennifer Hill, and Jeanne Kirchofer. The day-long sessions will be held on six Saturdays: September 12, October 3, November 7, December 5 of 2009 as well as January 9, February 6, and the morning of March 6 of 2010. For more information, please go to the FLAGS website at http://flagsteacher.ning.com. We hope to see you soon!

Membership Corner

It's "Back to School" time, and that means it's time to plan to renew your membership with FLAGS and CLTA! The new membership years starts on January 1, 2010, but why wait…get it off your "To Do" list today.

If you are not sure whether your membership is up to date, check your mailing label: your membership year is printed beside your name. If it says "2009", you're current. Thank you! If it has another year printed, it's not too late! Please send in your renewal today. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact me at membership@flagsteacher.com.

to the FLAGS website at http://flagsteacher.ning.com. We hope to see you soon!

The FLAGS Board is planning to increase membership dues to $20.00 per year beginning January 1, 2011. We want to offer our current members (and anyone who joins FLAGS in 2010) the opportunity to save a bit by paying 2 years of dues (for 2010 and 2011) at the current rate. Please see the membership form in this issue or online for rates for CLTA and FLAGS.

The FLAGS Board really counts on your membership to meet our plans for professional development programs, maintaining communication, and offering services for students and teachers in the area. This year, we plan to sponsor two conferences, the Teacher Awards Dinner and Student Awards Breakfast, as well as sending quarterly newsletters and maintaining the FLAGS "ning" website as a resource for educators. Please help us to achieve our goals by renewing your membership.

Also, as advocates for the language teaching profession, please take a moment to encourage your colleagues who are new to the profession (or new to your school) to become involved with professional organizations such as FLAGS & CLTA. Tell them to check out our website, www.flagsteacher.ning.com (be sure you have joined the "ning" yourself, or you'll miss important FLAGS messages), and let them know how important it is to network with other professionals and receive the support that membership brings.

FLAGS and CLTA deserve to be at the top of your "To Do" list. Please take a moment to complete the form on the next page and send your check in today. We certainly appreciate your support.

Christine

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

(A regional affiliate of the **California Language Teachers Association**)

Membership Application or Renewal

January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

Circle One

Name (please print)..... New Renewal

Title (circle one) Miss Ms. Mrs. Sister Dr. Mr. Rev. Brother

Home Address.....CA.....

number street city zip

Home Phone (.....) ..... School Phone (.....).....

School ..... Language(s).....

School Address.....CA.....

number street city zip

E-mail ..... Fax .....

(New members) I was encouraged to join by .....

Save by paying 2010 and 2011 dues at 2010 rates! (2011 FLAGS dues will be $20.00)

FLAGS dues ($17 Regular; $10 Student; $5 Retiree) **$_____ (A)**
(2 years = $34.00 regular)

CLTA dues ($50 Regular; $40 Student or Retiree) **$_____ (B)**
(2 years = $100.00 regular)

TOTAL (A + B) $_____

If paying FLAGS & CLTA dues, please make check payable to **CLTA** and send it with this form to:

MARGE SOTOMAYOR, CLTA Membership
PO Box 123
Ferndale, CA 95536

If paying FLAGS dues only, please make check payable to **FLAGS** and send it with this form to:

CHRISTINE LANPHERE, FLAGS Membership
9400 Trenholm Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95758

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

c/o Kristina Jenkins
120 Sierra Woods Circle
Folsom, CA 95630

Check out the FLAGS website!
http://flagsteacher.ning.com/

What's your membership status?

Have you been wondering if you'd renewed your FLAGS & CLTA membership? You can tell by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. The membership year that you have paid through is printed beside your name!

Please renew today!

New Website!

Have you joined the new FLAGS website so you don't miss news from us?

You must join the new website to continue getting emails from us!!
http://flagsteacher.ning.com/

Do it today!!
We can't sign you up, so we can no longer email until you sign up!