

FLAGS POLE

FALL, 2020

FLAGS is a membership organization whose purpose is to provide networking, resources and professional development to world language teachers in the greater Sacramento area. We are an affiliate of the California Language Teachers' Association.

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO



The FLAGS Board

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Language Association of Greater
Sacramento

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reached at

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PAUSE II

Mark your calendars
for the FLAGS events
planned for this year!

Kickoff for the
year Zoom
meeting

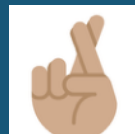
****RSVP here! ****

September 11th
4:30-5:15 pm

Fall Workshop
"Fostering the
modes in Distance
Learning" (Zoom)
Saturday, Sept. 26th
8:30 am - 12 pm

Winter workshop
"Introduction to
the World
Languages
Framework" (Zoom)
Saturday, Jan 30th
8:30 am - 12 pm

Spring Fling
Friday, March
29th 2021
Mimi's Cafe
Alta Arden





The President's Perch

In a year that has been as stunningly unexpected as this one, it is almost hard to know what to say in this first issue of the FLAGS Pole for the 2020 - 2021 school year. But let me start with some observations:

1. When the educational landscape suddenly shifted beneath our feet, you didn't fall into the crevice. You pivoted, and you did so amazingly well!

2. You embraced technologies that you hadn't used before in order to reach, connect, and engage your learners.

3. You actively sought means to continue to develop learners' communicative proficiency across the modes of communication, including interculturality.

4. You demonstrated compassion for the various situations in which learners found themselves as they and their families also struggled to navigate this new landscape.

5. You began to understand the intricacies of working from home, and the built in self-care routines as it became apparent that your home life and your work life could too easily become one and the same! Then, you started sharing some of those ideas and resources not only with your peers, but with your learners and their families so that they too could regain a sense of balance.

5. When, on top of everything else we were already facing, the country as a whole began to truly grapple with the complex and interconnected systems that perpetuate inequities and institutional bias, you didn't give up. You stood up, spoke out, and committed to anti-racist and anti-hate pedagogy. You added learning and dialog to the deep and vast plethora of reading, webinars, collaboration and planning you were already doing to prepare for multiple possible return-to-school scenarios.

So if you are tired, it is understandable. If you feel like you need a vacation from your summer "vacation," that makes total sense. If you feel like you learned so much last year that your brain was full and yet you insisted on learning so much more over the summer to start the new year, you are not alone! But if no one has told you yet that your work was seen and valued and mattered, let me be the first.

So what now?

There are many resources available online to help you at this time. So many in fact that it can be difficult to even know where to begin.

You probably noticed the email that you received from FLAGS in July with some curated resources specifically for World Languages. If not, you can find a copy of that message [here](#) . I also encourage you to check out our FLAGS [events page](#) to see what we have planned for you to support you this fall and spring. Also on the events page, you can find information about the new Capital World Language Project program for 20-21. This program, with options for eight to 40 hours of professional learning, is entirely virtual and starts in September. Its design will model some high leverage strategies for distance and remote learning. And of course, check out the rest of this issue for even more news and information.

Take care!
Nicole Naditz
President, FLAGS

FLAGS EVENTS and AWARDS



The new school year is here! It may not be in our classrooms, and nothing is like what we have ever done before. However, it did not stop the FLAGS board members to plan exciting events, workshops and get-togethers to help you through this unusual school year. **The board would like to share all this information with you at a Kick-Off get-together on September 11th at 4:30pm on Zoom. RSVP with this [form](#).** You will not only receive all the details about the exciting events we have planned for you, but we will also award door prizes to current FLAGS members. You could win a copy of “The Distance Learning Playbook” or a Teacher’s Discovery gift card!

COVID-19 disrupted many of our FLAGS events since March. We unfortunately had to cancel our annual student awards breakfast that would have taken place in May. Since we could not host a face-to-face ceremony and include photos from that event, here is a throwback photo from a breakfast in 2015.

Teacher Awards

We all know that one special teacher: the one that is organized, creative and just simply an amazing world language teacher. Why not honor this special teacher with a FLAGS Teacher Award? The teacher will receive \$200, and as a bonus the World Language department of the winning teacher will receive a \$100 gift card as well. The award, money and gift card will be presented at the faculty meeting in front of the whole staff.

It is really easy to nominate a teacher. All we need is the name of the teacher and three letters of recommendation which explain why the teacher should receive the FLAGS Teacher Award. The letters have to be from a principal, a colleague and a parent or a student. Only teachers who are current FLAGS members can be nominated for this award. Once you have collected all the letters you can email them to the awards chair, Inga Templeton, at ingatempleton@gmail.com.

Don't miss out for this great opportunity to honor one of your colleagues and win \$100 for your department because FLAGS will only give out 3 teacher awards per year.

So, what are you waiting for? Choose that one amazing world language teacher you know and nominate him or her today! You all work so hard and deserve to be awarded and recognized for all the things you do for your students.

Celebrate Success!

State Board of Education Adopts World Languages Framework

By Christine Lanphere

On July 8, 2020, the California State Board of Education unanimously approved and adopted the World Languages Framework for California Public Schools Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve. This action brought to a close the more than two-year process of revising the [World Languages Standards for California Public Schools](#). The Framework, now in place, will provide guidance to teachers and school leaders for how to implement pathways and programs that align instruction and practice to the Standards.

This is a historic event because it is the first time that California has had both Standards for World Languages AND a Framework based on those Standards. On July 8, State Board of Education President Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond noted that the adoption was “both unanimous and enthusiastic.”

I was very proud to have the opportunity to co-chair the committee that revised the Standards in 2018, and then to be the lead writer on the team of highly qualified writers (Brandon Zaslow, Tonja Byrom, and Svetlana Lazarova) that worked for 18 months to draft and revise the Framework multiple times for consideration by the Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee (CFCC) during 6 meetings in 2019. Local teachers who served on the CFCC included Rebecca Estes, Yuki Kozuma, and Jing Ren. FLAGS President Nicole Naditz also played an important role in both the Standards and Framework development as a member of the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC).

The *WL Framework* will now be edited and prepared for publication by CDE Press. This process may take some time to be completed. In the meantime, however, you can access the [WL Framework](#) on the CDE website.

On that same webpage, you will find links to online resources for distance learning in world languages, including the recorded webinar, “Going the Distance with World Languages”, presented by Nicole Naditz earlier this summer.

I encourage you to begin studying the *WL Framework*. A good place to start is in Chapters 6-8, which address the *WL Standards* and include snapshots and vignettes of how standards implementation may look in a variety of classroom settings.

Christine Lanphere, FLAGS treasurer

World Languages Curriculum Adoption: Finally! How Can You Help?

By Christine Lanphere

Now that we have both World Languages Standards AND a World Languages Framework in California, the process to adopt Instructional Materials (=Textbooks) begins. This is where we need your help!

The California Department of Education (CDE) is seeking applicants to become reviewers of instructional materials submitted for consideration by publishers in 2021. They need teachers of all languages to participate in reviewing the proposed instructional materials so that we can get the best possible curricula that align to our new *WL Standards*.

Reviewers who are approved will participate in a training in the last week of April 2021. The meetings for panels to deliberate about the instructional materials will take place July 27-30, 2021. You will need to be able to commit to both the training and deliberation dates in order to participate.

Here is a message from Alejandro Hernandez, Consultant at CDE who has been in charge of the Standards and Framework process:

“Please note that applications will be accepted through September 15, 2020. I would encourage everyone who might be interested to apply. If their availability changes by the time training takes place (in Sacramento on April 27–30, 2021) or when panels meet for up to four days of deliberations (on July 27–30, 2021), they may opt out. What is crucial is that interested parties apply NOW to be considered.”

So, if you apply, you're on the list for potentially contributing to the textbook adoption process, but if your situation changes, that's OK. But, if you don't apply, you won't participate. What's the harm in applying?! Go for it!

Here is a link to the application to become an [instructional materials reviewer](#) for World Languages. I encourage you to take part in this very important work that will likely be once in a career. It is your opportunity to have a say in the materials that the world languages educators in California will be using for probably the next 5-10 years!

Christine Lanphere, FLAGS treasurer



ACTFL Annual Convention & World Languages Expo

This year's ACTFL national convention will be completely virtual due to challenges posed to us with COVID-19. This means that cost of attending will be substantially lower than traveling to the conference venue, as is the case in most years. And if you weren't able to travel, this means that you can still attend! For the best deal, you will want to be sure to register by the early bird registration deadline of September 16th.

In addition to being able to attend the conference from everywhere, it is important to also note that all of the convention content will be available to those who have paid for the registration until December 31, 2020. So even if you can't make a session at the time it was scheduled, you will still be able to access the material. This is a fantastic opportunity to grow and get connected. Please see the link below for more information and registration.

<https://www.actfl.org/convention-and-expo>

FLAGS THROWBACK PHOTOS 2015



Membership Information

Greetings to our Members and Future Members!!! It's time to think about renewing your membership or joining FLAGS!

We all know how it is at the beginning of a school year. We didn't get paid all summer, money is tight, and now all these teacher associations want us to join their groups. You have to pick and choose wisely. **So, why should you become a member or renew your FLAGS membership?** The answer is easy. It is because of all the amazing membership benefits, in addition to gaining a whole support system of fellow world language teachers. If you are a member of FLAGS you will have the following benefits:

- Free or reduced rates for FLAGS workshops and the possibility to win a prize
 - Eligibility to recognize colleagues by nominating them for awards including \$200 for the winner and \$150 for the department
 - Ability to participate in the free annual Student Awards Breakfast
 - Access to small grants to fund special advocacy/outreach events with your students
 - Apply for a small grant to help defray the cost of attending CWLP Summer Seminar for Language Educators in Santa Barbara mid-July.
 - Ability to join us at the free fall member reception (Postponed to Spring 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions)
 - Instant updates on matters of importance to the profession
- Don't hesitate, [sign-up](#) today and join the FLAGS world.

CLTA (California Language Teachers' Association), the FLAGS Board created a Special Package Deal for membership last year. It was so successful, we are continuing it for this year's membership dues (2020-2021). The Package is \$30 for both CLTA & FLAGS standard/regular memberships. That's a \$15 savings (individually dues are \$25 for CLTA & \$20 for FLAGS). What's the Catch? You will need to sign up for both CLTA and FLAGS memberships at the same time through the CLTA Membership Form. One advantage for going through CLTA is that you can opt-in to have your membership dues renewed automatically every year in September. There are also discounts for students and retirees. To renew or join FLAGS <http://www.flagsteacher.com/membership.html> .

If you have a question about your auto renew, email Evelyn Bejarano at registrar@clta.net. As you renew, think about inviting that new teacher at your school/district to become a member or give them a gift of membership. They'll thank you later! There are lots of benefits to being a member of FLAGS.

We wish you the best for this year!