

FLAGS POLE

WINTER~SPRING, 2018

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.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO



The FLAGS Board

Published by the Foreign Language
Association of Greater Sacramento

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Membership

Evelyn Bejarano

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Marie Robb

French Teacher, Retired

At-Large Member

Tanya Zaccone

Executive Director, CLTA
Spanish Teacher, Retired

Newsletter Editor

Katherine Thornburgh

Spanish Teacher, El Dorado HS

**Board Members can all be reached
by email on the FLAGS website:**

www.flagsteacher.com/about

II PAUSE...

**AND MARK YOUR
CALENDARS! :)**

**CLTA
conference:
Ontario, CA -
March 8-11,
2018 - More
details on Page
5 of this issue.**

**Winter/Spring
Workshop @
Sac State: Sat.,
Sat., April 7,
2018 - More
details on Page
5 of this issue.**

**Student Awards
Breakfast: Sat.,
April 28, 2018,
9:00 - 11:00
a.m., @ Mimi's
Café, - More
Information on
Pg. 4 of this
issue.**

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The President's Perch

Happy 2018, FLAGS members!

As we transition from winter to spring, we have a couple of events that may rejuvenate and renew our collective professional practice. Check out this issue of the newsletter to find out more about this year's California Language Teachers' Association Conference as well as our own upcoming Spring Workshop, with a brand-new format that will feature multiple, short sessions focusing on the modes of communication. Later in the spring, you are invited to participate in our annual Student Awards Breakfast. But don't delay, because there is limited space available and we fill up every year. Remember, all FLAGS workshops and events (the Fall Festa, Student Awards Breakfast) are absolutely FREE to current FLAGS members. Speaking of which, if your membership is not current, you will find membership information in this newsletter as well.

Feel free to reach out to your FLAGS Board if you have comments, questions, or suggestions. You can find our emails at <http://www.flagsteacher.com/about>.

Welcome to 2018!

Nicole

Nicole Naditz

FLAGS President

ACTFL 2017 (NASHVILLE)

ACTFL, 2017

The ACTFL 2017 Convention returned to the great city of Nashville, TN, this year, and it was an exciting professional learning event once again. The brand new Music City Convention Center is a fantastic addition to the downtown area and provided a wonderful location for networking and learning. More than 6400 attendees were able to choose from over 800 sessions and 70 pre-convention workshops.

I had the opportunity to attend a pre-convention workshop that rolled out the new Intercultural Can-Do Statements that have been in development for the past few years. This is an important new resource for world language educators that will help us guide our students towards global competency. The Intercultural Can-Dos feature two areas of focus: Investigate and Interact. “Investigate” reflects what learners understand about cultural products, practices, and perspectives, and “Interact” allows learners to put their understanding into practice.

In addition to releasing the new Intercultural Can-Do Statements, ACTFL and NCSSFL have also revised the Communicative Can-Do Statements that were originally released in 2009. The new format is even more user-friendly, and includes Performance Indicators which serve as an important bridge from the Global Benchmarks and specific Can-Do Statements, providing educators with more guidance on what we can and should expect our students to be able to do. Check out the new Can-Dos for yourself: <https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements>.

Another highly anticipated part of the ACTFL Convention is the Opening General Session, when the ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year is announced. The 2018 ACTFL TOY is Ying Jin, who teaches Mandarin at Cupertino High School in the Bay Area. There were a lot of very happy California teachers in attendance, and (just to brag a little!) this makes 4 California ACTFL Teachers of the Year in the 12 years of the program. Congratulations to Ying Jin!

Some of the other unique activities available at the ACTFL Convention this year included:

- The return of the ACTFL TOY Talks, featuring TED Talk style presentations from 9 of the ACTFL TOYs (check out the videos [scroll down]:
- <https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo/2017-annual-convention-and-world-languages-expo>)
- Collab Zone, Social Media Lounge, and Confer-sation Corner
- ACTFL Central where you can view and purchase all of the ACTFL publications

It is always a pleasure to be able to attend the ACTFL Convention and see so many

friends from around the country. ACTFL 2018 will take place in New Orleans in November, so make plans to attend now. Hope to see you there!

Honoring Excellence...

Honor a Student @ the 2018 Student Awards Breakfast!!!

Every Spring, the FLAGS Board hosts the Student Awards Breakfast to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in World Language instruction. Teachers choose the student and the award - honoring students for anything from showing a special aptitude for languages to showing particular year-over-year improvement, to demonstrating a long-term commitment to language and cultural understanding. As a teacher, you decide who you are going to honor and why.

Twelve FLAGS Members may honor one student deserving of special recognition. FLAGS treats the student, two guests and the teacher to breakfast. In addition, students receive a certificate and a small award. Teachers must be present at the breakfast to introduce their student and speak about why the student is receiving the award.

This year's Student Awards Breakfast will be held at Mimis in Alta Arden, on Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 9:00-11:00AM. For more information, and to nominate a student, contact Inga Templeton at ingatempleton@hotmail.com. Remember, this event is limited to 12 FLAGS members (and their guests), so be sure to get your nominations in early!

Best to you,

~ Inga Templeton

Teacher Awards!!!

Teachers deserve recognition! The best way for language teachers to get recognized is to acknowledge the incredible work that your fellow teachers do inside and outside the classroom. In a world where class sizes (especially in World Language Classrooms) are big, budgets are small, and challenges to legitimacy require us to be ever more cognizant of the importance of World Language acquisition, it is on us to recognize each others' superb contributions to our students' futures.

As you probably know, language associations like FLAGS love the opportunity to recognize other language teachers. FLAGS also makes it really easy to nominate a teacher. All we need is the name of the teacher and three letters recommendation, 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@hotmail.com.

Best to you,

~ Inga Templeton

Winter Professional Development Opportunities...

The 2018 CLTA Conference!

The Quest for Proficiency

Coming March 8-11, 2018 in Ontario, CA!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! For registration information, visit: <http://go.clta.net/wp-content/uploads/REGPacketFinalNov.28.pdf>

FLAGS SPRING WORKSHOP

Topic: Exploring language à la modes

Join us for a new format: four mini sessions, each 30 minutes long. Each session will present a successful strategy or activity for building proficiency in one of the four modes (listening, speaking, reading, or writing).

Date: April 7, 2018

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: CSUS (room TBA)

•**Campus map:** <http://www.csus.edu/campusmap/> Campus map: <http://www.csus.edu/campusmap/>

Cost: FREE registration for FLAGS members. \$20 for non/expired members (includes 2017-2018 membership)

IMPORTANT NOTE: all attendees are responsible for paying for their parking at CSUS.

Find Registration Information on the FLAGS Website: www.flagsteacher.com/events

Santa Barbara, 2018

Are you looking for an outstanding opportunity for professional development during the summer, 2018? Have you heard of the Summer Seminar, hosted by experienced language instructors each summer in Santa Barbara! Keep your eyes on your email and on www.clta.net for details about this outstanding program!

Membership Matters!

Membership Matters...to more than just individuals!!!

The fall issue included an article about the impact of membership in Language Associations like ACTFL, CLTA and FLAGS. While there are lots of benefits to membership for us as individuals, the call to be part of a broader membership group is more important than independent members benefits. Please keep in mind the benefits available to us as members when you join, but also take some time to read about the importance of the power of membership. We have included the article from the fall issue of the FLAGS Pole in case you didn't get a chance to read it in the Fall Issue.

FLAGS Membership Benefits:

- You are part of an advocacy group for language acquisition everywhere.
- You get reduced rates for FLAGS workshops.
- You can nominate colleagues for awards recognizing them for their outstanding teaching.
- You can honor a student at the annual Student Awards Breakfast for FREE.
- You can apply for small grants to fund special Advocacy/outreach events with your students.
- And you get instant updates on matters of importance to the profession.

So, **how** do YOU take advantage of FLAGS this year? Fortunately, this is simple!!! **By renewing your professional memberships, you get all these benefits and participate in an organization that is driving change in World Languages.**

When is your membership up for renewal? NOW! The membership year is from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. If your label on this newsletter has 2016 (or earlier year) in the upper right corner, then your membership has expired and you need to renew. **Membership Dues are only \$20 (regular), \$10 (student), \$5 (retiree).**

AND, whether you're renewing or joining FLAGS for the first time, think about renewing or becoming a member of our mother Association – CLTA. **Furthermore, while 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.**

To renew or join FLAGS, print and send in the membership form on page 8 of this newsletter or visit <http://www.flagsteacher.com/membership.html>. To renew or join CLTA, visit <https://www.tfaforms.com/368575>.

Happy Winter & Spring, 2018!

Sincerely,
Evelyn

Membership & Advocacy...

This article is an edited reprint from Fall, 2016, highlighting the importance of membership as part of our advocacy of World Language Instruction in our schools.

Our Fall Festa is the first time back together after each summer, and it is always a great opportunity to talk about Language Association Membership. and the benefits of Membership. And, while individual benefits are drivers to join organizations, benefits do not show the entire picture. Tanya Zaccone, Executive Director of the CLTA, and FLAGS Member-at-large, eloquently reminded us that Membership means numbers, and numbers are key to... ADVOCACY!

Using Tanya's logic, let's talk about advocacy. When legislators and government officials think about the influence of groups of people, numbers speak volumes! World Languages are in constant competition with other forces, inside and outside the field of education, and World Language Leaders wage battles for legitimacy every year that we never see from our classrooms. And while these World Language Leaders are enthusiastic advocates for us, they need support - from us! One of the most impactful tools for these advocates is their ability to show a following for World Language Development. There is no group like the World Language teachers to provide that following, and we do this by becoming members and maintaining membership in organizations like FLAGS, CLTA and ACTFL.

So, when you are thinking about membership, it is a personal investment, but a low-cost, high-yield investment. Membership is not just about free workshops and collaboration time. It is also about making sure that students today have the opportunity to develop into effective, well-versed 21st Century Global Citizens. Our students need us to advocate for them, and we do this through our membership. #strengthennumbers

Sincerely,
~ Your FLAGS Board

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO
(A regional affiliate of the California Language Teachers Association)
Membership Application or Renewal

September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018

Circle One

New Renewal

Name (please print)
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

FLAGS dues* (\$20 Regular; \$10 Student; \$5 Retiree) \$_____ (A)

CLTA dues (\$35 Regular; \$10 Student; \$25 Retiree/Part-time) \$_____ (B)

TOTAL (A + B) \$_____

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

FLAGS Membership
9400 Trenholm Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95758

(A+B) If paying both FLAGS & CLTA dues, please make check payable to **CLTA** and send it with this form to: (or go to clta.net/membership to pay w/a credit card and/or join other affiliates)

CLTA Membership
1614 27th St.
Sacramento, CA 95816

