



Kansas World Language Association Newsletter, March 2007

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Central States Conference

We anticipate seeing many of you this week, March 8-10, at the 16-state regional conference in Kansas City, MO, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center on March 8-10, 2007. Even if you are not pre-registered and have not prepared for a substitute, walk-in registrations will be possible on Friday and Saturday. More information can be found at <http://www.centralstates.cc/> If you can not attend this year, sign up as an Advisory Council member (to ensure you get all the mailings) and plan now to attend next year in Dearborn, MI. This professional development activity should be a regular entry on your calendar.

Wanda Tilford awarded 2006 Kansas Foreign Language Teacher of the Year

At the KSWLA Conference in Overland Park in November the Kansas Foreign Language Teacher of the Year was awarded to Wand Tilford, German teacher and head of the Foreign Language Department at Bishop Carroll High School in Wichita. For over 20 years Wanda has built successful traditions including an open house for 8th graders, German club, coordinating a foreign language banquet and activities, Advent calendars and a gingerbread house competition at Christmas, sending advanced students to teach at a nearby elementary school, and semi-annual student trips to Germany. It is no surprise that combining these attractive activities with a respect and understanding of the Germanic heritage of many of her students has allowed her to protect her program from being eliminated. Congratulations, Wanda, on the Teacher of the Year award.

We need nominations for the 2007 Kansas Foreign Language Teacher of the Year. Procedures appear on our website, <http://www.kfla.lawrence.com/awards.htm#TOY> The nomination deadline is June 1. Watch for a feature on the ISE award in our next newsletter.

Spotlight shines on KSWLA conference VIP program

Each year the KSWLA President receives a \$250 travel stipend to attend ACTFL and represent the organization at the Delegates Assembly. This year, ACTFL President Paul Sandrock asked President Jerry Smartt and Executive Secretary Phyllis Farrar to make a brief presentation on our conference VIP program for new teachers, at the annual conference in Nashville in late November. The presentation drew a strong, positive response, allowing Jerry and Phyllis to personally share tips with officers of other state organizations. We are proud that other states are looking at our program as a model. (See page 34 of *The Language Educator*, January 2007.) In case you have not heard of the VIP program, it is outlined here: <http://www.kfla.lawrence.com/awards.htm#vip>

Kansas Summit on Strategic Languages

On December 19, 2006 more than 100 people gathered on the Washburn University campus for the "Kansas Summit on Strategic Languages" organized by the Kansas Committee on International Education in the Schools. Those attending represented schools, colleges, businesses, the Kansas Department of Education, Kansas Department of Commerce, state legislators, state school board members, Ft. Leavenworth personnel, and the media. While the term 'strategic languages' popularly refers to Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and other less commonly taught languages, the issues discussed were not limited to those languages. The event focused attention on the need for upgrading world language instruction at all levels, and began a dialog about how to solve the problems involved. With better-than-expected attendance, it was a success. The Lawrence Journal-World published an article about the summit on December 20, and an editorial on December 21. (To read it, go to www.ljworld.com and type "language summit" in the search bar.)

2007 KSWLA Conference Presentations

Another successful outcome of sending officers to the annual ACTFL convention is finding keynote presenters for our state conference. This year's search committee included President Jerry Smartt, Past President Karen Tritt, and Executive Secretary Phyllis Farrar. It is a challenging, yet inspiring task to survey and select the presentations we find most relevant to Kansas world language teachers. We 'landed' two outstanding presenters for 2007 and 2008. The 2007 keynote presenter, by return invitation (also keynoted in 2000,) is Peggy Boyles. She will shed new light on teaching Culture. Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters. The conference will be Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, at the Wichita Marriott.

A successful conference provides not only a good keynote topic, but a wide variety of smaller session topics as well. Where do we find presenters for those hands-on, practical, engaging, this-trick-really-works-take-it-home-and-try-it sessions? We ask all of you to volunteer. We ask that you invite any colleague from whom you have learned useful tips to present to a broader audience. We ask you to expand your professionalism by organizing, perhaps for the first time, your good work in order to share it with others. Never presented before outside of your own classroom? Have no fear; we will shepherd you through the process. Ever sat through a session thinking that some truth you have discovered is just as useful, or maybe even more useful, than the ones you are learning about? It probably is, and you need to be sharing it, to expand the capabilities of our profession. Do not let another year go by without speaking up!

Here is the procedure. Find the "Call for Presentations" form on our website: <http://www.kfla.lawrence.com/conferences.htm>. Fill it out, then copy it, and send it in. Use your own copy of the proposal as a guide for planning your presentation over the summer, getting feedback from us, if you need it. The organization does require you to be a current member, register for the conference, and to follow the proposal form assurances. Vice President Chuck Thorpe (cthorpe@ksu.edu,) will be compiling session proposals, organizing them into four time slots, and helping clarify expectations. Send him a presentation proposal before June 1.

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