



Our Mission is to Advance the Teaching of World Languages and Cultures in Minnesota

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Happy New Year from MCTLC!

It is a privilege to represent you as the 2015 President of the MN Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures. Every day, world language teachers in MN are teaching towards proficiency, creating globally competent learners, and ensuring that the needs of all students in our classrooms are met. It is an honor to work with you and advocate for you throughout this year.

As I reflect on 2014, one of the highlights of my year was attending the 2015 ACTFL Convention in San Antonio, TX in November. What an experience! I left inspired with great ideas for teaching and assessing language learning. During the convention, I met language teachers from around the country who had come together with a common purpose and the same passion of world language education.

As the MN ACTFL delegates, Mary Thron, Frances Matos-Schultz, and I learned about the struggles and triumphs in world language education in other states. Mary Thron and Jan Holter Kittok addressed the delegate assembly to share Minnesota's success in advocating for a Seal of Bi-literacy which recognizes heritage speakers and exceptional MN High School world language learners. MCTLC looks forward to educating MN world language teachers about the Seal of Biliteracy and how to use this seal to recognize the achievements of students. One of the resonating messages of the Delegate Assembly is that all politics is grassroots. What we do in our schools, in our state, and in our region can have a powerful impact nationally and

serve as an inspiration for other states as they move language programs to the forefront of the national agenda. We must all use our voice and advocate for language learning.

The ACTFL campaign to "Lead with Languages" has already reached Capitol Hill and is sending a clear message that learning languages is important for our economy, our national security, and our strength as a nation. As we begin a new year, it is the perfect time to consider how we can "Lead with Languages" in our schools and communities to promote world language education. To watch a video about this campaign go to this link: <http://vimeo.com/77166262>.

January is also a great time to start thinking about your professional development needs through workshops and other special events for world language teachers. If you haven't already registered for the Central States Conference, there's still time! With nearly 200 sessions and 34 workshops, you can be assured there is something for everyone including the best sessions from other states. As you make plans for this year, I invite you to join us in promoting world languages and celebrate the learning that goes on in our classrooms each day. I look forward to seeing you at future MCTLC events and I wish you a wonderful and prosperous 2015.

****Look forward to our next CCC on February 28th or April 18th at a location near you!****

Save the date for these language opportunities at the Minnesota Zoo:

- February 3rd, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm - French Language Day
- February 4th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm - German Language Day
- February 10th-11th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm - Spanish Language Days
- March 10th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm Chinese Language Day
- April 30th, 2015 - 9am - 12:30pm American Sign Language Day

Adult Learners Attend Language Camp in Minnesota

Bemidji, Minnesota — Apart from traveling to Europe for intensive classes, motivated Nordic language learners in North America need to be creative in their search for opportunities to acquire Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, or Danish as a heritage or second language. Learning in a camp setting is one option for children and adults. The Concordia Language Villages (CLV) headquartered in Moorhead, Minnesota offer summer and academic year programs for adult learners, families, children and youth, and for people especially interested in the focused content of music, folk painting, or genealogy. Driven by a common philosophy of language acquisition, the CLV Swedish program for adults offers a week packed with a variety of classes and activities that all support the goal of language acquisition. The villages of Salolampi and Sjölundén, on Turtle River Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota, are used every year in the autumn for both housing and programming. Teachers and learners have flown and driven in from around the country to create a community of learners for seven days. During those seven days culture, morning gathering, raising and lowering the flag, and evening programs provided the content. There were language classes three times a day using a variety of instructional strategies including Total Physical Response (TPR). Fika or coffee break, was an important item in the schedule, with the group drinking gallons and gallons of Löfbergs Lila coffee accompanied by rusks, cinnamon buns, and a variety of pastries put together during the baking classes. In addition, three delectable meals were offered, featuring culturally authentic menus.

Learners met in classrooms where they read and translated texts, where they had some grammar points refined. The class work was content-based and focused on immigration, and they planned meal presentations, which was a means of introducing the menu in the form of a skit using props and target vocabulary. The absolute newcomers in the beginning level class had scaffolded learning tasks that focused on the four modalities of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Their reading work followed the patterns used in Direct Instruction (DI) Reading, frequently used in Minnesota Public schools, with lots of opportunities for unique repetition, active learning, and partner work. The outdoor environment was used to facilitate assessment, particularly during a learning activity called Tips Promenad (pro-men-ODD). This is a popular cultural component of life in Sweden, where one combines nature and learning in the form of a scavenger hunt. In the case of the beginners' class, questions utilizing target vocabulary were posted along a walking path, with three



Concordia Language Village staff posed on the grand staircase just prior to inviting the camp participants into the dining hall for a banquet. Carro, Ingrid, and Isa, stand in front, with Karl-Anders, Sigrid, Viktoria, Sandra, and Jaime in the second row. Viktoria, aka Elise Peters, is the Dean of the year-round programs.

Photo by: V. S. Arrowsmith

possible answer choices offered. Learners had to deduce the correct answer, mark it on their Tips scoresheet, and then locate the next question on the trail. The group assembled in the end to discuss answers. The instructor was able to see how well students could use the vocabulary that they knew, and the participants had fun while applying what they had learned in an authentic assessment. The whole village was the classroom, and free choice activities were offered daily, incorporating the target language in nature walks, weaving, baking, choir, folk crafts, language games, geography, films, and the opportunity to go to the bastu for a sauna.

There is always a final banquet on the night before departure. This year, however, it was extra special as Elise Peters, Dean of the year-round programs celebrated her 25th year of service to the Swedish village. Christine Schultze, Vice President of Concordia Language Villages of Concordia College was in attendance to bestow the honors and the Evergreen Recognition Award. At this significant quarter-century mark CLV finds a unique way to appropriately acknowledge the individual and the work, and in this case Peters chose to have a scholarship fund established for adult learners in the Swedish program, the first CLV scholarship of its kind for the mature population. An evergreen tree was also planted in her honor at the CLV headquarters and international peace site in Moorhead. The banquet included language class group performances, presentations, and skits. There were toasts done Swedish style, some group singing, and the evening came to an end with everyone standing in a large circle, arms around each other, singing, "Hold my hand, my friend, hold my hand," in Swedish of course.

~Valorie Arrowsmith

Upcoming 2015 Events for Language Associations:

MN - AATF:

- Feb. 21, 2015: Mn AATF - **Cercle de lecture Peste et choléra**, Patrick Deville Location: Macalester College, 170 Rice Hall, at 10am. FYI: See building #16 on the [Macalester College Map](#) Info: [E-Mail to Laurent Déchery](#) ou [E-Mail to Françoise Denis](#)

• le Grand Concours du français - 2015

- **Feb. 14th - 28th**, National French Written Contest Grades 1 - 6 FLES
- **Feb. 21th - Mar. 22nd** Grades 7-12 Levels 01-5

Note: Contest dates are set by the local Chapter and should fall within this range of dates.

Information: [Grand Concours National webpage](#)

Information: [MN AATF Grand Concours webpage](#)

[E-Mail MN GC Contest Administrator, Carolyn Crane-Fisk*](#)

*Carolyn was named "2014 Grand Concours

Contest Administrator of the Year!"

- Deadline for the FLES Poster Contest 2015: **March 1st**

MN - AATG:

- German Studies Association Call for Papers for the Thirty-Ninth Annual Conference, **Oct. 1st-4th, 2015** in Washington D.C. Go to www.gsa.org for more information. **Deadline Feb. 15th, 2014.**
- 2015 Chapter Project Reports Due **February 15th.**

AATSP Conferences & Workshops:

- 2015 College Board Regional Forums: Midwestern Location: Chicago, Illinois **Feb. 9th - 10th**
- NAAAS & Affiliates 23rd Joint National Conference Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana **Feb. 9th - 14th**
- 2015 College Board Regional Forums: Southern Location: Atlanta, Georgia **Feb. 11th - 13th**
- II Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language Location: Lubbock, Texas **Feb. 12th - 15th**
- 22nd Annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference Location: Washington, D.C. **Feb. 13th-15th**
- 2015 College Board Regional Forums: Western Region Location: Newport Beach, California **Feb. 19th - 20th**
- Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition Location: College Park, Maryland **Feb. 19th - 21st**
- Cine Lit VIII Location: Portland, Oregon **Feb. 19th - 21st**
- Translation versus Globalization Location: Charlotte, North Carolina **Feb. 20th - 21st**
- Texas Foreign Language Education Conference Location: San Antonio, TX **Feb. 20th - 21st**
- 4th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation Location: Honolulu, Hawaii **Feb. 26th - Mar. 1**

Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

"Learn Languages, Explore Cultures, Transform Lives"

March 12th - 14th, 2015 Central States Conference (CSCTFL), the "Friendly Conference," will be at the Minneapolis Downtown Hilton. It is co-sponsored by MCTLC, with support from all the Minnesota language AATs. It is expected to bring over 1000 world language teachers to Minneapolis from all 17 states within our ACTFL region.

What does Central States Conference offer you?

- More than 190 sessions to choose from Friday and Saturday.
- 35 workshops ranging in language and topic throughout the conference including the ACTFL workshop-Planning for Student Learning: Effective Curriculum, Unit, and Lesson Design.

- Keynote speaker, Tove Dahl, Professor in the Department of Psychology at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, Norway and dean of Skogfjorden, Concordia Language Villages' Norwegian.

- International Dance Party Friday evening.

- Check out the program at <http://www.csctfl.org>.

Use the ideas from ACTFL:

(<http://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ACTFL2014/MakingYourCaseForAttending.pdf>) to convince administrators to allow you to attend.

Register today!

Continuing education credit (CEU) is available.

News from MN-AATSP

We are seeking nominations for President-Elect. The term of office is:

President-Elect – 2015

President – 2016

Past-President – 2017

For more information, contact: president@mn-aatsp.org.

We regret to announce that there will not be a Festival Quijote state contest this year. We hope to be able to offer a new and improved contest in 2016 and we are also looking for someone who would like to serve as Festival Quijote Coordinator – contact president@mn-aatsp.org for more information. Mark your calendar - the **National Spanish Exam Awards Ceremony** will be held on **May 16**. Watch your email for more information.



MCTLC Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 11926
St. Paul, MN 55111



2015 Central States Conference

A joint conference of the Central States Conference on the Teaching
of Foreign Languages and the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures

March 12 – 14, 2015
Hilton Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN

For more information:
www.csctfl.org



Join the discussion! www.facebook.com/groups/MCTLCTeachersCafe/

For ads, comments, and corrections to the newsletter, contact Lisa Perez at editor@mctlc.org.