

The IWLA Bulletin

A Newsletter for the Members of the Iowa World Language Association

Volume XIV No. 2

Winter 2007

From the President: Dawn Frye

Greetings to all! I am so honored and proud to be serving as the President of the Iowa World Language Association. I have served on the Executive Board for the past six years and have submitted a number of articles to the bulletin. I have found that writing this article, my first as President, is a bit more intimidating than others I have written.

I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to making the IWLA Conference 2007 a wonderful success. It takes so many committed people to help make an organization successful and we are lucky to have a very dedicated Executive Board, Advisory Council, Bulletin editor, Webmaster and membership. I feel there are many good reasons to celebrate the success of the IWLA.

And yet, there is also good reason to see the organization as being at a crossroads. Over the past six years of attending meetings, there have been numerous conversations about the future of IWLA. The conversations have addressed concerns for the organization: What is our role? Where are we headed? Are we financially secure? Why are so many good and so many young individuals hesitant to get actively involved? Are we attentive enough to the issue of quality?

What should we make of all of this? One could argue that we should not make too much of all of this – that the membership and

conference attendance totals are clear evidence that we are doing fine and we should simply keep “doing what we’ve been doing”.

In reality, I feel the posing of such questions about the organization is actually a sign of its health and vitality. I think that these questions and how the organization answers them in the next few years will determine our success in the future. I am dedicated to helping answer these questions as your president.

Lastly, I’d like to extend my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, both personally and professionally. May you continue to inspire your students and share the power of language with them.

Inside this issue.....

Conference wrap up

Advocacy report

UNI Exchange Programs

Tete a tete mentoring program

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR IWLA

Dawn Frye, President

1024 Blackwood Circle
Ames, IA 50010
515-290-8975
jmwest@mchsi.com
DMACC
Ankeny, Iowa
mhwest@dmacc.edu

Lora Appenzeller Miller, Treasurer

510 E. 3rd Ave.
Indianola, Iowa 50125
John2Lora@aol.com
Waukee High School
555 SE Univ. Ave
Waukee, IA 50263
515-987-5163 ext. 2361
FAX: 515-987-2784
lappenzellermiller@waukee.k12.ia.us

Patricia Calkins, President-Elect

Dept of World Language and Culture Studies
Simpson College
701 North C Street
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-1645
Patricia.calkins@simpson.edu
Home: 410 West Salem Ave.
Indianola, Iowa 50125

Mary West, Immediate Past-President

1024 Blackwood Circle
Ames, IA 50010
515-290-8975
jmwest@mchsi.com
DMACC
Ankeny, Iowa
mhwest@dmacc.edu

Sara Blanco, Vice-President

Price Lab School, UNI
sara.blanco@uni.edu
319-273-3002
www.pls.uni.edu/blanco

Julie Wilhelm, Editor, IWLA Bulletin

1185 Quail Avenue
Goodell, IA 50439
641-495-6161
farm5@frontiernet.net
Iowa State University
300 Pearson, Hall
Ames, IA 50010
jwilhelm@iastate.edu

Carrie Mulvihill, Secretary

1323 Victoria Circle
Norwalk, IA 50211
515-981-6474
cjmulvihill@dmacc.edu

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Notes from the Immediate Past-President

By: Mary West

I am now officially the past president of IWLA and I would like to put before you some of my observations of our organization from this perspective. IWLA is a great organization. Having served as president I realize now what a commitment many people have made to keep us on track with our mission of providing professional development opportunities for teachers of world languages. Our annual conference is a huge accomplishment. Take time to think what we, as an all volunteer organization, provide for our membership. It is the only content area meeting of its size in the state!! It is a huge job to provide and coordinate the quality program that we had last fall at our annual conference. There were about 75 breakout sessions not to mention good speakers. Congratulations and thank you to all of the conference committee who provided this opportunity for about 390 registrants. BRAVO.

Our next year's conference, with its theme of "in the shadow of the capital" points out a reality. We are going to have to become politically active and advocate for our own cause. It is our individual professional duty. Thanks to our advocacy chair, Tammy Dann and our technically astute secretary, Carrie Mulvihill, about 120 letters were hand carried to the Iowa State House to advocate for a full time foreign language consultant in the Department of Education. I was going through some old, in fact, very old minutes of the executive board during the time when our last foreign language consultant was in attendance. It was obvious how helpful he was in coordinating meetings, organizing staff development opportunities, and supporting the activities of the AAT organizations not to mention his presence in the Department of Education as an advocate for world language education. He kept an eye on legislation which impacted our organization. In short, he was a very valuable resource. We try very hard in our organization to do the job of a

paid executive secretary with a permanent office and a paid lobbyist even when we are all volunteers and have full time jobs to do. A full time consultant could help us procure grants and keep us up to date in our field. We have no representative from our state when other state consultants meet at ACTFL. You will notice that Tammy has some more information on our website for you to write or call your legislators. It is an election year and your senators and representatives will listen to you. Attend a local forum. They frequently have events in their districts and would welcome attendance at these "town hall meetings." IWLA has a huge voice if we speak in unison. Iowa is awakening to the fact that we are a more diverse state. We need people who are culturally and linguistically literate in more than just English!! Let the public know how valuable we are.

The other side of the coin of support is accountability. This brings up the topic of assessment. It is not a topic to be feared but an opportunity to demonstrate how good we are. How many of us have had countless in-service programs on assessment in everything other than second language education thanks to emphasis on science, reading and math. Most of us realize that many of today's students are not working to achieve a "good grade" anymore. We need other motivators. We need good assessment tools to document progress and we need a K-16 curriculum if we are going to have functionally bilingual adults. The workplace is crying for functionally bilingual adults and it is our job to produce them.

Therefore we have chosen the theme of assessment for our upcoming conference. Our keynote speaker is Ali Moeller from the University of Nebraska. Her exciting topic *LinguaFolio—Teaching for Learning*, is based on a long-term longitudinal study done at the University of Nebraska Lincoln using a portfolio which each student builds to self-

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assess and document his/her own learning. The AATG has been actively participating in educating its membership and it is time the rest of us are brought up to date. It can function as an intrinsic motivator for language learners and has exciting potential to document a student's real proficiencies. I have taught at the middle school, high school, community college and private college levels. I know that "how many years" of instruction a student has had is not an accurate predictor of proficiency. I also know that we have not identified very good tools to place students in classes at the university level. We need a better way.

In this bulletin there is a call for proposals. All of you assess and we need to share with each other what works. We need to have performance goals that are standardized and then a way to prove that our students have met them. I am asking you to share what you do that works to assess student proficiency in a classroom of 25- 30 students? It is my opinion that oral assessments are particularly difficult to develop. We have all heard about data driven best practices. Let's bring them forward to share and then when an administrator is hesitant to release you for our conference next fall, show him/her our program. It will be hard to deny your request.

Of course we welcome presentations on any topic which represents best practices and I don't mean to exclude anyone, but I admonish you, as you teach this year, to think about assessment and consider sharing your experiences with your colleagues.

To have another language is to possess a second soul.

Charlemagne

Exhibitor Liaison Report IWLA Conference 2007

By: Regina Schantz & Julie Wilhelm

There were 29 exhibitors, including four new ones. Three exhibitors who normally attend could not. There could be a serious space issue next year if there are more than 29 exhibitors.

The following positive comments were received from the exhibitors: location of the conference in Des Moines, the number of exhibit breaks, appreciation of the box lunches, the low prices of the exhibit spaces, Friday night security, most exhibitors were happy with the amount of traffic they had.

Negative comments from the exhibitors: upper atrium location did not receive as much traffic throughout the conference, some didn't like the hallway location, some prefer not to be by the waterfall because of noise, one exhibitor commented that music from individual booths should not be allowed, exhibit hours were too long both days, setup time on Thursday was too late.

Suggestions for next year:

- * Earlier setup time Thursday night
- * Prepare a registration packet for exhibitors with nametag and conference booklet
- * IWLA should be compensated for the double booking of the lobby area from 9-10 p.m. Thursday night
- * Rotate the location of vendors who were in the upper atrium and hallway to other locations
- * Shorten exhibit hours Friday to the end of the final exhibit break, or the beginning of the reception
- * Start exhibit hours Saturday a half hour before the AAT meetings or later
- * Post information for exhibitors on the IWLA website
- * Keep the conference in Des Moines for at least four consecutive years
- * Start AAT meetings at 8:00

A Central Focus

IWLA Conference, October 5-6, 2007

Un grand merci to all who contributed to the planning and carrying out of the annual Iowa World Language Association conference this fall. By all accounts it was a success and the fruits of our labor were delicious! It is truly astounding that a group of volunteers is capable of consistently providing such a quality professional development opportunity for its peers. I would like to extend personal thanks to the planning board, including the local committee, program chairpersons, exhibit liaisons, membership chairpersons, Des Moines area student marshals, fellow IWLA officers, and many other individuals for your hard work, diligence, and positive attitudes. You have served your language-teaching colleagues well and your contributions were noticed and appreciated.

With the state capitol as our backdrop, it was an opportune moment to get political with a letter-writing campaign for a foreign language consultant at the state level. I have already received a personal, written response from my representative on the subject. And what a stroke of luck to have the International Food Festival serving up tantalizing treats in the lovely East Village during our event. I am glad

that IWLA had the occasion to help celebrate the revitalization of downtown Des Moines and take advantage of its offerings in cuisine and commerce.

Our attendance numbers were up this year as well as the number of presenters on the program. It is refreshing to see new presenters giving it a run as well as many college students who will become world language teachers in the near future. This combination of old and new blood provided a well-rounded array of programming and varied ideas and points of view, both of which are valuable to the continued life of our organization.

The conference evaluations that were received were carefully noted and passed on to the 2008 committee for further improvement of next year's conference in the same venue. Thank you for your thoughtful, constructive suggestions and honesty in assessing the conference. At this time we already begin to look forward to next October's event. Please go to www.iwla.net to propose your fabulous session. It is never too early!

Merci encore et bonne continuation!

Elizabeth Zwanziger Page

2007 IWLA Conference Coordinator

SUMMER SEMINAR IN SPAIN FOR SPANISH TEACHERS

June 5-20, 2008
Cáceres, Spain



Program fee of \$1750 (estimated) includes the following:

- * Full room & board with a Spanish family
- * Transportation to Cáceres from Madrid
- * Weekend in Madrid (meals, hotel, entrances, guides, transportation)
- * Pre-departure orientation
- * University of Extremadura instruction, classroom space
- * 3 graduate credits available (estimated cost \$120)

Study Spanish culture and history, and the Spanish educational system. Visits to local schools as well as guided tours of historic Cáceres are also included.

Application deadline: April 1, 2008

For more information contact:

Julie Wilhelm
3102 Pearson Hall, Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011
(515) 294-8186
jwilhelm@iastate.edu



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Foreign Languages & Literatures
3102 Pearson Hall
Ames, IA 50011
(515) 294-4046
<http://www.language.iastate.edu>

IWLA Letter Writing Campaign

Dr. Carmen Sosa serves Iowa as the bilingual education consultant and has taken on the additional work of preserving the title of world language consultant. Iowa has been without a full-time world language consultant for 15 years. We are one of few states that do not have a consultant in this area.

The idea of a letter campaign to lobby legislators for a world language consultant began with the ISU World Languages and Cultures Teachers Advisory Council. Their idea was set rolling when Mary West, president of IWLA at the time, contacted Tammy Dann and Carrie Mulvihill. Carrie was the Secretary pro-term of IWLA and before entering the teaching profession, she worked at the Capitol as a scheduler to former Governor Tom Vilsack. Carrie had expertise in the area of letter campaigns because during her time at the Capitol, she saw various groups lobby legislators and the governor. Tammy is the Advocacy Chair for IWLA.

Over the course of the month of September, Tammy and Carrie worked to get the letter writing campaign ready for the conference. Carrie created a first draft which Tammy expanded into the two letters that were eventually sent to the Capitol. Carrie created a database of addresses of the IWLA members who had registered for the conference and searched with each address for the name of the member's legislators. Legislators' names were then added to the database so the letters would be addressed to them personally. With this work done in advance, it was much easier to merge the letters when the conference date arrived.

At the fall conference on October 5-6, the idea of the letter writing campaign was shared with the conference attendees at the opening session and the two letters were presented. Letter One focused on professional development and Letter Two focused on curriculum and assessment. Attendees supplied their contact information and preference for letter. After the opening session, Carrie went

back to her office and added information for any individuals not in the database, found their legislators, and merged all the letters in one large file. After a trip to a copy business, the letters were printed. By the afternoon all who had signed up in the morning had a letter to sign. More names were collected throughout the afternoon and Carrie made one final trip to her office and the copy center Friday evening.

Over the two days of the conference members signed their letters. Reminders of the campaign were given at the general session and again at the closing session. By the end of the conference about 120 IWLA members signed letters! Those letters were placed in IWLA envelopes and addressed to the correct legislator. A letter was sent to Judy Jeffrey, the director of education at the Iowa Department of Education, explaining the campaign and encouraging her to contact Tammy, Carrie, or Susan Sandholm-Petersen if she had any questions about the need for the world language consultant.

Unfortunately not all world language teachers are allowed to attend the fall conference. Those who were unable to attend the conference or did not make it to the letter signing table can still have your voice be heard. You can help support this campaign by going to the IWLA website, www.iwla.net, and clicking on the "Advocacy" tab. There you can choose, print off, and send a letter to your legislators. To find your senator and representative, go to <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/>. After downloading your letter of choice, change the text that is italics, sign, then send your letter.

In addition to the letters IWLA members can also make phone calls to their legislators to discuss this issue. It is only through repeated contact and reminders will we have any hope of getting a world language consultant. Remember, it is the legislators' job to respond to constituents. They will not realize there is a need unless we tell them.

Together we can make a difference!

Northern University High School Exchange Programs

By: Mary Doyle – Spanish and French Instructor & Lowell Hoeft – International Student Teacher Coordinator, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Students enrolled in world languages classes at Northern University High School, on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa, have a unique opportunity to participate in overseas school exchange programs.

They are much different from the majority of high school programs which focus primarily on travel and which include hotel stays. NU's program focuses on a family stay throughout the duration of the trip, school attendance, day excursions, and a return visit by the foreign students to be hosted by the NU students in Cedar Falls.

These exchanges are organized by the world language teachers themselves who also serve as chaperons during the stay in the foreign country. This helps to keep the costs down. Students interested in participating must be in their third year of language study. Travel to the country takes place during a two-week span in the month of March, which includes NU's spring break.

Elizabeth Zwanziger, French instructor, begins her yearly preparations during the first few weeks of the fall semester. This includes checking schedules and fares for air transportation between Cedar Rapids and Paris, France, and train schedules for excursions while in the country. The family stay, for students studying French, takes place in a Paris suburb called Bussy-Saint-Georges. Students are hosted by French families who have a student attending the high school in this city. The American students become a part of the family and follow the class schedule of their new brother or sister at the Lycee Martin Luther King. In addition, students will travel as a group by train with their chaperon for day excursions to visit other cities and sights in the country.

In April, during the French students' spring break, the American students host the French students in their homes and they attend classes with them at NU. While in the Midwest, the French students travel to Mall of America

and visit various Iowa cities and towns.

The exchange for Mary Doyle, Spanish instructor, begins almost immediately after the start of the school year in the fall. She is partnered with Colegio San Jorge in Arica, Chile, and for her, the Chilean students arrive in Cedar Falls in September due to the dates of the school year in the southern hemisphere. Each Chilean student is hosted by a NU student and a variety of culture excursions are set up for these students. They travel to the state capital in Des Moines, to the Quad Cities and to Minneapolis and St. Paul. The Chilean group stays for 4 weeks. The NU students still travel to Chile in March. Students are hosted by Chilean families from Colegio San Jorge. Each student has a brother or sister near his or her age. The NU students shadow their host at school for several days with the opportunity to be guest speakers in the English classes there. The school hosts a welcome reception for the NU students also. In addition the students visit the Universidad de Tarapaca in Arica with a campus tour and a chance to speak to the TESOL students there. During the stay in Chile Mrs. Doyle and the students take part in a number of cultural excursions including a two day trip to a national park in the Andes mountains, a trip to Peru, a regional tour with museums visits, a tour of an olive growing operation, etc. Many events with host families take place with students and families sharing experiences, new foods and cultural activities.

Prior to the elimination of the Russian program at Northern University High School, students studying this language exchanged with a school in St. Petersburg, Russia.

For further information, contact: Mary Doyle at mary.doyle@uni.edu or Elizabeth Zwanziger at elizabeth.zwanziger@uni.edu

Call for Session Proposals

Kerisa Baedke and Lisa Sobotka will again serve as program chairs for the 2008 IWLA conference "**In the Shadow of the Capital**". Keeka and Lisa served as program chairs for the 2007 conference and they look forward to returning to The Embassy Suites on the River in October, 2008.

With your help, the 2008 conference can be even better than the 2007 conference! Please submit your session proposals to Keeka by email (preferably) or to Lisa by regular mail. Session proposals are due June 15, 2008. As Mary shared in October, the emphasis next year will be on assessment. So please consider what you might have to share with your colleagues about assessment. We also welcome proposals about technology, reading, the standards, activities, etc. We hope to have a wide variety of sessions presented in the language again next year. Please submit a proposal and encourage a colleague to do the same! You are the IWLA and you make the conference a success!
¡Muchas gracias!

Kerisa Baedke **Lisa L. Sobotka**
kbaedke@mchsi.com l.sobotka@mchsi.com
515-223-8966 515 - 999 - 2508
1923 56th Street 2005 Oak St.
Des Moines, IA 50310 Granger, IA 50109



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2008 Central States Conference
A joint conference of the Central States Conference on the Teaching of
Foreign Languages and the Michigan World Language Association



March 6- 8, 2008
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For more information, contact:

Patrick T. Raven, Executive Director
Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
P.O. Box 251
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0251
Phone: 414-405-4645
FAX: 414-276-4650
E-mail: CSCTFL@aol.com
Web: www.csctfl.org

Articulation: A Challenge to Work Together

By: Patricia Calkins, IWLA President-Elect

I am writing this essay in San Antonio, where I am attending the ACTFL conference and representing Iowa at the AATG's Chapter Presidents' Assembly. Discussion at the meeting centered on an issue that I think poses both a great challenge and a great opportunity for the world language community in Iowa: articulation. Articulation is perhaps one of the most important issues in helping students develop real proficiency in a language. Students need to start language learning early, but they also need to keep learning the language for an extended period of time, and this is where articulation becomes most critical. Students need to be able to move vertically from one educational level to the next and horizontally within levels without having to repeat what they have learned or miss critical learning steps and be at a disadvantage compared to other learners.

Of course I am most familiar with the disconnect that some students feel leaving high school programs and entering college programs. Why do we find that some of our most promising high school language students don't continue language study at our colleges and universities, or why do they stop once they have completed the language requirement? At least part of the problem comes when students opt for an "easy A" or are placed too low by a placement exam: both scenarios lead to a stagnation of learning which results in boredom and demotivation.

Another problem is that some colleges and universities (including my own) allow students to fill their language requirement through high school study. We thus often find students who have had three or more years of a language in high school never even try a college language course. One possible reason for this is that they may assume that a college language course is always based on literature, that it will not

be fun, and that they will not find it interesting. All of these possibilities show that there is a real lack of understanding about what happens in the college classroom—and just as importantly, a lack of understanding on the part of professors about what happens in the high school classroom. These misunderstandings can only be cleared up through concrete discussions among all language teachers and other stakeholders.

A tool such as *LinguaFolio* can be very useful in such a discussion. *LinguaFolio* provides an easily understandable learning sequence that can be followed by students, parents, teachers, professors, and administrators. The "can-do" statements of *LinguaFolio* can provide a useful structure for discussion of state-wide performance objectives at each level, syllabus and curricular design, and assessment strategies. The portfolios developed as part of *LinguaFolio* can help students both to understand themselves as language learners and to concretely understand what they know, how well they know it, and what their next language learning step should be. The portfolios can also help with placement at the next language program: the teacher can see evidence of the student's achievement, and the student can more readily self-place into the correct learning level.

Moreover, a serious debate about articulation (and *LinguaFolio*) could provide our language community with an energizing focus across educational forms and across languages. When was the last time there was a galvanizing issue for teachers in all the languages that are taught in Iowa? And when was the last time we saw K-12 and college and university teachers equally involved in a language issue? Let's take up the challenge of tackling articulation and find our common ground.

PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM
2008 IWLA CONFERENCE: "In the Shadow of the Capital"
Des Moines, 3-4 October 2008
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THIS PROPOSAL: June 15, 2008

Please type or print clearly. We regret that we are unable to pay our presenters' expenses or registration fees. You will be notified in late July if your proposal has been accepted. Please send your completed proposals via email (**preferred**) or U.S. mail to:

Name: Kerisa Baedke
Position: 2008 Conference Program Co-Chair
Email: kbaedke@mchsi.com
Address: 1923 56th Street
City/Zip: Des Moines, IA 50310
Phone: (515) 223-8966

I. Contact Person for Presentation:

Name (as you would like it to appear in the program):			
Current Position/Title:			
Current School Affiliation:			
Preferred Mailing Address:			
Phone Numbers:	Home:	Work:	
Fax:		E-Mail:	

II. CO-PRESENTER(S) (these names will be listed as speakers under your presentation; however, only you will receive communication regarding this presentation):

SCHEDULE INFORMATION: Please check [x] all times that you are **AVAILABLE** to present
Please understand that we need presenters to be flexible about days and times. We want to have as full and varied a program on Saturday as we do on Friday. Thank you for your willingness to share with your colleagues. Your flexibility makes putting together the schedule much easier. ALL sessions are 50 minutes in length. If you wish to do two 50-minute sessions back to back, please indicate that below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday a.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

LEVEL:(check appropriate designation [x])

<input type="checkbox"/>	All	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-Secondary

LANGUAGE: (check [x] all necessary components):

A. **Presented in:**

B. **Examples given in:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>	English
<input type="checkbox"/>	Target language (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Target language (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Both	<input type="checkbox"/>	Both

EQUIPMENT: IWLA will provide the following equipment free of charge, subject to availability. Presenters will supply **ALL OTHER A.V. EQUIPMENT**

<input type="checkbox"/>	overhead/screen	<input type="checkbox"/>	TV/VCR/DVD	<input type="checkbox"/>	presentation table
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TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

DESCRIPTION: (Max. 70 words)

IWLA Conference Committee and Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, October 6, 2007

Meeting called to order at 1:43 PM

Present: Stacy Amling, Lora Appenzeller Miller, Kerisa Baedke, Sara Blanco, Patricia Calkins, Dawn Frye, Carrie Mulvihill, Cathy Paar, Holly Parmer, Susan Sandholm-Petersen, Regina Schantz, Lisa Sobotka, Mary West, Julie Wilhelm, Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page

Written reports need to be submitted to Mary West and copied to Elizabeth Zwanziger Page. **Reports are due by October 15. November 15 is deadline for IWLA bulletin. Mary will put a conference summary in the bulletin. Lora asks that folks get bills turned in quickly for reimbursement.

Conference Analysis

- There were great comments on the conference.
 - There were many compliments of the student marshals.
- Susan has suggestions for the conference evaluation form. Dawn and others should be involved in changes to this form.

Best of Iowa

- Confusion on question about how the session compares with other sessions you've seen. Didn't know what to put if they haven't been to others. Others didn't fill out the bottom to put it in context, so then group gets lower score. Will clean up language and talk to marshals about getting them filled out. Tell presenters to tell folks to fill out the forms and turn them in to student marshals.
- Usually send evaluations out to presenters, but we only ask for evaluations in order to select Best of Iowa. The purpose of the form is not to give feedback to the presenter. If presenters would like their own feedback, they should do their own form. Presenters this year will be expecting to get the evaluations back. Keeka could send a message to presenters to let them know they won't be getting back evaluations. In future years, presenters will be able to opt out of the Best of Iowa ballots if they aren't able or interested in attending the Central States conference. The language on the evaluation should be changed so that the purpose is known.

Community Outreach

- There were lots of positive comments about having the food festival so close. It was helpful to have someone come up front and explain where things were located. Prize drawings for opening lunch were popular. The prizes may likely be moved earlier in the program. Community outreach people should be served lunch first. Also, then the speaker wouldn't be

rushed. Betty's insert with restaurants and entertainment was very well done.

- The bags came from the Des Moines chamber, but not everybody got a bag, including all of those who registered on site. Some who pre-registered didn't get one either. There were 330 people pre-registered and Tammy may have only gotten 300. We'll just need to have more for next time. The committee would like to see 400 people registered, but would have to go to larger room, and likely need three rooms instead of two. This would result in more time needed to set up and take down walls between sessions and workshops.

Program

- There were a few mistakes in the program. This was made difficult by the fact that the last session proposal was submitted two weeks before the conference. The program had been all lined up, but then things needed to be moved around as more submissions came in. But overall, one cancellation and three room changes is certainly understandable and not very problematic.
- The variety of programs was exciting, especially those with the college students and college professors. Hopefully more college students will submit proposals. The committee was close to having to turn people away. Another room could be added, and there were more rooms available, but it will cost more. A decision on rooms used will need to be made before proposals come in. Unfortunately, if we have to back out, there is a high penalty fee.
- Keeka focused on variety and technology for the sessions. Clayton Mitchell from Drake is with IALLT (International Association for Language Learning Technology). He is interested in having a joint conference with a special technology strand. Likely won't be possible next year, but should consider for future years, as teachers' needs often are in technology. Perhaps his organization could cover the additional space that may be needed for the conference and provide equipment.
- All IWLA provided for technology was screens. TV/VCR's were rented at a charge to the presenter. Carts would have meant additional fees. Drake/ISU people requested internet, but could arrange to split the cost with other presenters.
- Internet was available onsite because two institutions paid for it. It was \$60 for the initial set up and then additional fees were included. At some hotels, one individual computer can be registered, but the Embassy Suites doesn't do that. In future years, could have all those who want internet split the cost. Some were disappointed that the list of session names was not in the newsletter, only the list of presenters. Also, some wanted the schedule to be listed in the newsletter; time of keynote speaker, start of sessions, etc. The At a Glance didn't list the keynotes. The

Conference Chair or Local Chair should submit them. Susan will work with Dawn and Mary to make this happen as soon as schedule is known. Once the time of the keynote is known, the conference schedule will be added. The At a Glance will likely need to come later.

Exhibitors

- Overall, exhibitors were very happy. They liked the schedule and all the exhibit breaks, and also the box lunches. The noise of the waterfall was a complaint, but it costs \$400 to get it shut off.
- One exhibitor commented that they liked IWLA best because it's driven by and is particularly for secondary teachers and public schools rather than colleges.
- Exhibitors commented that they liked that the conference was in Des Moines and liked the facility overall. There were minor grumblings in regard to locations of tables. Liaisons told the exhibitors that they would be rotating people from year to year so that they wouldn't have the same spot. This seemed acceptable to them.
- The conference is at capacity as far as exhibitors. If exhibitors from this year all return, and the three that normally come are able to attend next year, we will need more room. Conference organizers will need to talk to hotel staff about getting more space.
- Exhibitors who came to set up on Thursday night were not able to get packets for the conference. They want to look over the times of breaks, etc. Perhaps there could be someone handing out packets at that time, or even could be left on the table.
- The set up time on Thursday was late. The time was set for 9-12PM, but people in the atrium area couldn't begin set-up until 10:00 or 10:30, due to the hotel double booking the space. Exhibitors had to stay late setting up, and if they didn't stay in the hotel, had to get to their hotels. For next year, we should try to get the space at 7:00PM for no additional charge due to the change in schedule this year, when the space was already paid for. 7:00PM is a typical time for exhibitor set-up.
- Packets for exhibitors should include conference program, name tags, evaluation, explanation on raffle, and exhibit times, like for conference registrants. Need names of exhibitors in advance in order to make name tags.
- Exhibit hours were a little long. The morning time on Friday of 7:30 was fine. But on Friday evening, the exhibit closing was 7:00, at the end of the reception. But due to the reception, not a lot of folks were at exhibits. Plan to close exhibits at 6:00PM

instead of staying open until 7:00PM. Exhibits should open 30 minutes before first event, then when the final exhibit break is over, they should be able to tear down instead of staying until the very end.

- Exhibitors were happy that security was present. One exhibitor looked for exhibitor information on website, but it wasn't listed. Should submit exhibitor information to Julio for inclusion.

NOTE: When people send things to Julio for inclusion on the website, should copy Elizabeth and Mary to make sure they know what's going on. It helps them to know when things are done.

Food

There were concerns about all the food that was left out for long periods of time and whether IWLA paid for all the food that was taken, or up front for all of the food. For example, breakfast wasn't picked up until 11:15 when it ended much earlier. The plan is to pull the food faster once meal/soda/coffee breaks are over. But it was noted that we didn't run out of food.

Locale consideration

- Exhibitors commented that they hoped conference would continue in Des Moines, for 4 years, if not more. Executive board could make decision to stay in central Iowa. Numbers of attendees won't increase if the conference is moved out of Des Moines. People may like to know that it will always be in Des Moines. Other states do it year after year in the same city. It's easier to find workers and easier to handle billing, etc.
- Cathy and Holly reported that numbers are up a little bit, but don't believe that turning it into a Des Moines conference is the way to go. In Illinois, for example, there is a conference in Chicago, and then a smaller city conference. The conference in the larger city tends to oust the rest of the state.
- There were complaints about parking, but we have little control over that situation. For future reference, should include parking information, perhaps on website. Tell them what the options are and how much they cost. There are parking ramps nearby that are affordable and easily within walking distance. Could even include the City of Des Moines website as a link since it has parking ramps highlighted. Could also label the streets with 2-hour meters and 10-hour meters. We did lose quite a bit of parking for the Race for the Cure. The food festival did complicate finding parking also.
- Next year, may keep nametags separate from folders to make less hassle in finding right folder for right person. Then it would be easier to just leave folders out and available. Also, should put tickets in the nametags as they are easy to lose inadvertently,

and should note those with vegetarian meals on the back of the nametag. 500 folders were printed this year, as in the past in other Des Moines conferences. Plan to run extra At a Glance sheets. Some people take multiple folders over the course of the conference, but mainly they want the conference program and At a Glance. Perhaps having multiple copies available of these will help in the consumption of the folders, especially by those who already have them. It helped having the room session schedules on the doors, like in Dubuque. Discussed the possibility of posting a blown up At a Glance schedule somewhere so that people could see it.

Conference reports meeting adjourned at 2:35PM.

Post-Conference Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, October 6, 2007

Executive Board meeting was called to order at 2:45PM.

Present: Lora Appenzeller-Miller, Patricia Calkins, Dawn Frye, Carrie Mulvihill, Mary West, Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page

Upcoming events:

- Winter Executive Board meeting – January 19th or 26th. Saturday morning in Ames or Marshalltown area with a lunch included. Future location for conference will be announced.
 - Advisory Council meeting – late March.
- Conference Planning meeting/lunch – Wednesday, June 4th at the Embassy Suites.

Conference items

- There is a proposal from Waterloo for the next biennial. Also considering other venues in Des Moines area. Elizabeth visited the Marriott, but also should look in Jordan Creek area. Parking would be better there and also at West Des Moines hotel locations. Patricia and Dawn will work together on this and make announcement at winter meeting.
- Elizabeth will be reviewing conference evaluation forms. Need to begin fine tuning the conference for next year.
- Conference discussion went well. Folks kept comments short.
- Attendees wanted something in their mailbox to remind them of the date, and the bulletin was out late due to a delay of a large advertiser. Should use website to put information out for folks. But some teachers just don't submit for the time early enough also.

- The nomination form for Educator of the Year form is getting difficult to read with all the recipients. May be best to go to column format.
- Stacy and Beatrice Houston will be doing the registration form for next year. Need to tell people who checks should be made out to. The bank takes it, but a comment on the form would resolve this. Were some issues with RSVP's for the Advisory Council meeting being replied to Mary rather than sent to Carrie. In the future, Carrie will send out request for RSVP's to help resolve the problem.

Awards

- Wade Petersen believes he will be able to attend the Central States Conference in 2008. Patricia will send an e-mail to the principal and let him/her know that his presentation was selected as Best of Iowa. Dawn will get Patricia the form for guidelines on what IWLA will cover as for his expenses, so that she can follow up with him within the week. Dawn will send the letters of recommendation that were received to those who were awarded for Educator of the Year. Patricia will also contact their local papers for good foreign language public relations. School newsletter would be good to submit to as well, but IWLA needs to send it because these folks won't do it for themselves and "toot their own horn".

Bylaws

Dawn will work with Parliamentarian, Sherry Maubach, on revising bylaws. They were originally done in 2004 and were done very generally. This will be new business for the winter meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Don't forget

Please remind colleagues who were not able to attend the IWLA conference to join by sending their \$20 membership to

**Lora Appenzeller Miller,
510 E. 3rd Ave.**

Iowa World Language Association
Advisory Council and Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, October 4, 2007 7:00 P.M
Embassy Suites on the River, Salons A and B
101 East Locust Street, Des Moines

Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM by President Mary West.

Members present: Lora Appenzeller Miller, Kerisa Baedke, LueAnn Bregman, Patricia Calkins, Tammy Dann, Dawn Frye, Beatrice Houston, Sherry Maubach, Carrie Mulvihill, Sachiko Murphy, Cathy Paar, Holly Parmer, Shelly Power, Julio Rodriguez, Susan Sandholm-Petersen, Regina Schantz, Coralie Turner, Mary West, Esther Vieira, Julie Wilhelm, Elizabeth Zwanziger Page

Guest: Amy Schumann

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and were approved as read.

Treasurer's report

Total conference income for last year as \$26,446.00. Expenses include the conference - \$1,674.73, conference expenses - \$9,318.47, general expenses - \$35.00, insurance - \$599.00, newsletter - \$1,075.30, phone - \$166.32, postage and delivery - \$8.20, reimbursements (including ACTFL and Central States - \$1,835.09, taxes - \$250.00. Total expenses were \$14,962.11 and the overall total for the account is \$11,483.89.

\$7800 has been paid to Embassy Suites in advance.

For tax-exempt status, Lora files reports with the Secretary of State's office. Treasurer files every two years and Lora has already filed this year, so we should not need to file again for another two years.

It is estimated that after this year's conference, the account will roughly be at the same levels as last year.

IWLA is still on file as the Iowa Foreign Language Association. May need to secure attorney to file appropriate paperwork with the Secretary of State's office. Lora has been asked to look into what would be needed.

Advisory Constituency reports:

AATF – Sherri Condon

○ On April 28, 2006, the Iowa Chapter of the AATF held its third annual Tête à Tête at UNI. For the second year in a row the AATSP were included and next year the AATG will also be included. The unification of these three organizations is meant to

strengthen and unify our work as language teachers.

○ Nelle Kottman and Linda Quinn Allen, professors at Iowa State University, directed an NEH-sponsored three-week institute in July for thirty secondary school French teachers in Lyon, France called *Lyon's Cultural Heritage Living the Present in the Shadow of the Past*. The teachers stayed with French families, participated in daily classes led by native French teachers, took guided tours of Lyon and several museums, and a enjoyed week-end excursion to Aix-en-Provence. There were five teachers from Iowa: Gene Larson (Ankeny), Pamela Lund (Ankeny) Judith Strotman (Waverly-Shellrock), Susan Rekward (Iowa City), and Elizabeth Zwanziger Page (Cedar Falls). The other participants came from Missouri, Minnesota, South Carolina, New York, Ohio, Montana, Georgia, Michigan, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Maryland, Washington, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

○ The National Office of the AATF has just launched their National Initiative entitled "The World Speaks French". This coincides with their new website. Please visit it as many new promotional materials are available. www.frenchteachers.org

○ National French week: The AATF is pleased to announce its organization of the seventh annual National French Week. This week-long celebration of all things French will take place in schools and communities and AATF chapters across the U.S. from November 5-11, 2007. We are asking our members and any other interested Francophones and Francophiles to take French out of the classroom and demonstrate all the reasons to learn French.

The Iowa Chapter of the AATF is still seeking nominations for officers. Please send your name or the names of your colleagues you wish to nominate to conburn@mchsi.com.

AATG – Susan Sandholm-Petersen

The Iowa Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German held its Spring Meeting at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa on April 14, 2007. Gert Wilhelm, of the Goethe Institute presented and all the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to add his ideas to their repertoire of teaching and learning strategies. In addition Herr Wilhelm led the group in a discussion of ways we can continue to advocate for and support our German programs in Iowa, so that we can minimize the number of German programs in the state that might be cut.

Thanks to many superb German teachers in

Iowa, our Iowa German students continue to receive high scores on the German National Exam, which is taken by 25,000 German students in the US. Beth Martin of Iowa State University compiled the test results and coordinated the awards for the highest scoring students again this year.

In the afternoon, Dr. Marc Cadd of Drake University gave the participants an overview of the DULAP (Drake University Language Acquisition Program) as well as some of the culture connections and technological resources he uses in his teaching at Drake.

The Spring Meeting concluded with a brief business meeting of the Iowa AATG chapter.

AATSP – Esther Vieira

The AATSP has had several meetings this year. Café Latino is active in AEAs 15, 14, 1, 8, 11, 13. Groups meet with a variety of frequency and topics and discuss such topics as literacy, oral assessments, picture wording, inductive methods, favorite videos and websites, and an iPod project by Brenda Miller in Dubuque. There have been reports given on the Midwest conference.

The groups also develop service learning programs, work on sharing strategies, supporting colleagues, discussing resources, and distributing ready-to-use material from presenters.

The organization also was able to get a \$1,000 grant with Dr. Carmen Sosa's assistance in order to invite Dr. Kim Potowski, professor at the University of Illinois.

Japanese Assn. – Sachiko Murphy

O There are currently six teachers of Japanese in Iowa with about 500 students total. Overall enrollment is increasing. Several programs have sister school arrangements and make trips to Japan. Programs are also involved in the AP Japanese exam. One of the readers of the AP test is an Iowa teacher. A student of Sachiko's got 4 out of 5 on the AP Japanese exam.

AMICI – John Gruber Miller/Amanda Woodruff – no report

Consultant: Department of Education – Carmen Sosa – no report

Public College/University Representative – Linda Quinn Allen – no report

Private College/University Representative – Coralie Turner

O Coralie brought information on Grand View's Spanish language major.

O Coralie has made contact at several of the private colleges, but only has heard from Simpson, from Mark Bates. Mark Bates from Simpson. He would like to start a Spanish quiz bowl competition on the high school level and have Simpson host. Those who are interested should contact Coralie or Mark Bates and help spread the word.

O We should encourage high school teachers to get Master's degrees.

We need for IWLA to contact new instructors state-wide at all levels in order to tell them about IWLA. If there are ideas on how to contact them, let Coralie know. Perhaps there could be a line on form to identify new colleagues on campus, and could point them toward the website to find out more about the organization.

Community College Representative – Beatrice Houston

O Community colleges are starting to see more classes geared toward Hispanic speakers. Focus on grammar, sentence structure and syntax, and perhaps literacy skills. The image of Spanish is changing. Colleges need to develop classes that will work for them. Instructors are not telling them that they don't know Spanish, but need to work on grammar issues and get comfortable in the setting.

O Mary noted that on November 9, there will be a community college conference at DMACC in Ankeny and there will be a breakout session on foreign language education at the conference. Look for information in the mail. We could invite area colleges to come and have a conversation on the particular situation on each of our campuses..

O Esther suggested that those interested in the theme should attend the sessions with Dr. Potowski workshop on heritage learners.

Bea updated the group on a current project at Western Iowa Tech where college students help teach in Spanish elementary programs. Parent-teacher organizations are becoming increasingly active in encouraging their schools to support this program. Bea encouraged others to contact parents' organizations to have teachers come in and set up elementary programs. PTO charges parents 20 dollars. Classes are 30 minutes twice a week. Students get \$200 stipend at end of program. Doesn't solve the problem directly for elementary programs, but school district may eventually look at getting teachers in the school. College students are also getting interested in teaching.

Jr. High/Middle School Representative – Susan Sandholm-Petersen

O Susan has been trying to connect all middle school instructors, gathering e-mails and signatures, but has never gotten any response. She plans to network with people at the conference. It is difficult to unite them due to a very diverse set of programs. Some start with the high school sequence, while others are exploratory. She would like to identify the kind of programming they have and arrange a share session on middle school teachers. Talk to Susan if you have ideas.

Susan will look at the registration list for specifically middle school people. Though nothing will likely be possible for this conference, she will send e-mail out to all of the junior high middle school people to set up initial contact.

Elementary/FLES Representative – Shelly Power

O Lindsey Cornwell Rice, the last FLES Representative, serves as Central States representative at NNELL. Tammy is now its National Advocacy chair. Shelly has mainly been networking at the elementary level and trying to identify other teacher in order to share ideas via the Internet. Lindsey started virtual swap shop on NNELL site, and other elementary teachers have added materials.

Shelly would like the list of conference attendees to identify other FLES teachers. There are some FLES teachers, but not many. Registration folks may wish to collect more data to find out more about backgrounds, designate as FLES, Middle School, etc.

Central States Representative – Kerisa Baedke

No report, as it was given in spring. Central States information is in the program. Tells dates of conference, March 6-8 in Dearborn, Michigan. If folks want to go, there has been a push for the Thursday extension workshop. It's free and attendees just need to register. They only need to agree to come back to Iowa and do a presentation. If folks are planning on going, they may as well go to the workshop but Keeka is unable to go. There will be two keynote speakers and two mini programs, including Susan Gross, teacher of the year from Colorado.

ACTFL Representative – LueAnn Bregman

Encourages anyone to go and be representative and be a delegate to ACTFL. It is a wonderful opportunity.

Other Reports:

IWLA Bulletin Editor – Julie Wilhelm

November 15 and March 15 are next deadlines. The Bulletin was more expensive this year due to the fact that it consisted of more pages.

Historian – Juan Trujillo

Not able to come, not released from his duties.

Parliamentarian – Sherry Maubach

Dawn and Sherry have made plans to meet and review by-laws. They will take note of any needed revisions and will report at the next meeting.

Advocacy – Tammy Dann

At the spring meeting, Carmen Sosa mentioned that the IWLA needed to advocate getting a full-time foreign language consultant. Mary West contacted Tammy with some potential letters to consider. Tammy developed them into three complete drafts of letters. Letters one and two will be sent on behalf of conference participants, and attendees need only choose which letter they want.

Tammy drafted a third letter for members of the executive committee and advisory board to send to Education committee chairs and ranking members. The theme is about getting money from federal government through FLAP grants, etc. Iowa has missed out on grant opportunities, including \$200,000 over course of 3 years when other funds were given to surrounding states. Schools and programs couldn't apply for these funds without going through state Department of Education.

Professional development theme for letter one and letter two is curriculum and assessment

Tammy would like five minutes at beginning of the session tomorrow in order to tell attendees about the project and give them time to read the letters. Tammy will have examples out at the general session and have folks fill out sign up sheet and indicate what letter they would like sent. Carrie Mulvihill and Tammy will have a table to collect more signatures and get letters signed. Letters will be printed so that those who attend only on Friday will be able to sign letters before leaving in the afternoon.

Tammy will track down those who still have to sign letters during the AAT meetings on Saturday morning. Tammy can e-mail the letter templates to any of those

who were not able to sign letters on-site, and at that point, they can personalize the letter and send. People have best intentions to send letters on their own, but things just don't happen.

Tammy is glad to send template of the letter in case there are groups that want their own letter-writing campaign. Tammy will contact Director Judy Jeffrey at the Department of Education to let her know what we're doing. Susan, Tammy, and Carrie will be the contacts to answer questions from legislators.

Dr. Brad Buck is speaker at Friday luncheon. He will be becoming president of the School Administrators of Iowa. He is somebody we need to be sure knows how important the conference is. Susan has talked to him about looking into an official conference day in the state of Iowa when there would be no school, with all professional organizations meeting the same day. There would be no school that day. No excuses about not going. Brad on board with this idea.

One of your duties on the advisory board is to talk to legislators and teachers in the organization and get the message out. Tammy would like for executive board and advisory council to attend town hall meetings and legislator coffees. ISEA may have list of these. You may get the chance to speak to members of the House and Senate in the same spot through these coffees. Recruit people to go and bring up foreign language issues. Legislators need to hear the message besides just in the letters. In Executive board meeting, folks need to think of key points people should be talking about in order to have a unified voice.

If individual AAT's are interested in developing their own letter writing campaign, with a couple weeks notice, Tammy is happy to draft letters for your group and give them a template to use. If you will have a meeting where there is access to computers, teachers can then change the letter however they would like. Feel free to tailor letters to your own issues.

Again I recommend the organization seriously consider presenting at other conferences and conventions or setting up information booths: Iowa Association of School Boards due the end of May, 60 at

minute sessions, Nov 15-16, the School Administrators of Iowa, Aug 8-9 and the Iowa PTA, April 20-21, convention registration \$60.

Tammy continues to be uncomfortable with emailing the research articles to people. I am willing to post the bibliography and even contact the organizations to see if we could reprint the articles on our website, but I do not want to email the documents to anyone that contacts me.

Conference Exhibitor Liaison – Julie Wilhelm and Regina Schantz

Membership/Registration – Cathy Paar/Holly Parmer

- 330 registered and more will register tomorrow and Saturday.

- Groups of college students have been attending. Organization should target them, keep track of them and be sure they have information about IWLA. ISU students are required to come as part of methods course. UNI and Luther College people will attend and present.

- Organization needs to put information out ahead of time to inform people who to make checks out to. Holly regularly gets calls about this.

- The deadline is also problematic. Many teachers don't know if they will get the funds they need until after the deadline has passed. On the other hand, hotels need a final number for rooms three weeks in advance. This year, IWLA got an extension on room rates, but this is a recurrent bind. The deadline may be pushed back even further. Last year, deadline was the 10th, and this year was later still. All agreed that it would not be convenient to move the conference later in the fall, as it would be more likely to conflict with school conferences, Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc. There is not a better time for the conference.

Some people do not pay the five-dollar late registration fee. Holly has accepted people's registration until the Monday before the conference.

Also, if there are room changes or other information that others may need, the registration folks would like to be informed. Often they are considered the most likely source of information for conference attendees. Standing Committee Reports:

Awards: Grace Valdez

Nominating: Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page

The ballot of officers is short this year. There is no competition for Vice President nor for Secretary. It has been difficult to find people willing to run. All need to be out there trying to get people to get involved. Some competition for ACTFL, which is a

a two-year commitment. Next elected person will be going next 2 years.

Conference Update: Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page – Chair, Local Chairs: Susan Sandholm-Petersen / Kerisa Baedke/Lisa Sobotka

○ The 2008 conference is again in Des Moines, but need to be thinking about where the next two years conferences will be held. It is best to get a good handle on how conference goes this year in Des Moines before deciding where to do next biennial.

○ Keeka is very excited about the response to her call for presenters and thanked the Advisory Council for their help. There are a lot of new presenters. The schedule is essentially full with only one hole in the schedule, and that was due to a misunderstanding, and not for not having something to fill the space.

○ There are a couple mistakes in the program. Lisa Sobotka will provide them, with one room change announcement. Also, luncheon speaker is on Friday and not on Saturday.

○ This will be the first year of the Friend of IWLA award. Julio Rodriguez is the recipient. Many are very happy with the webpage, especially his speed in getting things put on the site, but also to have a place to unite all of us.

○ Jim Gerrans will have a table near registration to sign people up for Google groups. The final session on Saturday with announcements and information on Central States and next year's conference will be a box lunch instead of a sit-down lunch. People can stay and sit to eat or can take it on the road. Mary will talk about 2008 conference, keynote and theme and announce Best of Iowa.

Old Business

Reminder of the new way to choose "Best of Iowa"

○ Susan and Mary came up with method to choose Best of Iowa that would be more equitable to all types and languages of presentations. Mary will explain the process at the general session. Susan's marshals will hand out five evaluations, and the evaluations are more extensive this year. There is a rubric with 5 categories, including bonus points at the bottom. It will include options like "I would recommend this session for Best of Iowa", "I would recommend with these modifications".

They've included a paragraph so that the higher the quality of the evaluation, the higher the scoring of the session. Bonus points are given for different expressions used. This system should be a bit more fair to give some weight to sessions that don't get huge numbers of attendees. Will be piloting the plan this year. Evaluations will be picked up in each of the rooms. Susan will go through and tally up the points. If there

is a tie, there could be a problem.

New Business

○ Best of Iowa: Amy and Piet van der Meer, the Best of Iowa winners from last year will not be able to attend Central States Conference this year and would like to go in 2009 instead. IWLA needs to send name of folks going and alternate within about a week. This means that this year's winner would have to go this school year (in 2008) and may not be able to arrange with their school. This would be unfair to this year's winner.

○ After some discussion, Beatrice Houston made a motion that this year's winner should get first choice. If this person will be able to go in 2008, then Amy and Piet would go in 2009. If this year's winner is not able to go in 2008, then they will go in 2009 as planned. For this conference and future conferences, the second highest voted presenter will be the alternate. If the Best of Iowa winner to attend (beginning for the 2009 conference) is not able to for any reason, the alternate will attend the Central States Conference and present. LueAnn Bregman seconded and the motion was carried.

○ Reminder of the meeting of the conference planning board and the executive board immediately following our last session at about 1:30. We will have a light lunch. This meeting should not last longer than 45 minutes. Be prepared with constructive remarks. Meeting in lounge D & E.

Location of conference in 2009 will be discussed more in-depth after the conference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Deadlines:

Spring issue—March 1, 2008

Fall issue—July 15, 2008

REMINDER:

The winter and spring editions of the IWLA bulletin are no longer published on paper. To read those issues

Concordia Language Villages

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Join language teachers from across the United States for a ten-day summer graduate course at the Villages. Upon successful completion of the course, four semester hours of graduate credit are earned through Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Learn about and discuss current practices and issues related to second language acquisition.

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For more information, please contact:

Concordia Language Villages
Teacher Seminars
901 Eighth Street South
Moorhead, Minnesota 56562

800.222.4750 Ext. 2002
218.299.4179
educators@cord.edu