**Iowa World Language Association**

Meeting of the Advisory Council and Executive Board

Saturday, April 20, 2013

DMACC Urban Campus, Des Moines – Building 1, Room 124

**Call to Order / Welcome** – Call to order at 9:34AM by President Tracy Dinesen.

**Attendees:** Tracy Dinesen, Kat Akers, Kim Huegerich, Jason Noble, Erik Ladner, Kate Falvey, Carly Triplett, Carrie Morris, Stacy Amling, Coralie Turner, Christine McCormick, Kerisa Baedke.

**Approval of Minutes of last meeting –** Kat Akers motion to approve minutes, Kim Huegerich seconded. Motion carried, minutes approved.

**Treasurer’s Report –** $24,393.21 balance of savings and $30,517.33 balance of main account. $17,000 of that is PayPal balance, Stacy has been shifting it over. PayPal seems to be running well and looking forward to continuing use. Stacy has filed the biennial report, offers are updated. This is done to maintain non-profit status. Accountant will be looking at our books and help us file our postcard for tax purposes. Still looking to get name change process completed. Stacy plans to update her Quicken copy and get a new endorsement stamp. Shouldn’t have any further expenses to pay. Julie Wilhelm, Jason Noble, and Keeka Baedke all went to Central States with IWLA support, so though expenses are up for Central States, we are getting more involved. Carrie Morris moves, Erik Ladner seconded, motion carried, minutes approved.

**Conference Committee Reports:**

Awards/Grants update – There is one nomination for Teacher of the Year currently. Teacher of Promise award can still be nominated. We may want to send out to foreign language faculty at colleges and universities. Mini conferences may be a good idea for a grant idea. Deadline is at the end of the month, May 1 for grants. Distinguished Service award hasn’t gotten any nominations, may want to think of any who are retiring that merit recognition.

**Reports of Advisory Council Members:**

Japanese

NNELL – Information on NNELL workshop – April 27th.

Middle School – no report

Private Colleges – New structure with 2 deans and two departments at Grandview. Jason Noble worked with Coralie to do a Café Latino at Grandview. Grand View’s dean wants them to talk to Simpson and Drake for promotion, Pioneer wants to help and get involved, lots of community organizations are interested. Seeing a rise in community connections, companies pressuring executives to get involved. Thinking of having John Soper, researcher at Pioneer to do a presentation at IWLA and get involved. Would love to see greater involvement and greater connections with organizations. US Center for Citizen Diplomacy, umbrella for other organizations, and they would like to get involved as well. Wants IWLA to target all private colleges and 100% representation at IWLA. We want to know what they need in order to move forward. Have a lot of needs to build connections for students who don’t get to leave the state. Grandview planning trip to Cuba next year, did presentation at Drake, so there may be Drake students involved as well. Other private colleges should be more visible. Need to build supports with other organizations, help build connections and market. May want to consider direct communication with them for e-mail.

Public Universities – Pam Wesely is interested in contacts at ISU and UNI to get updates for her report. Linda Quinn Allen and Julie Wilhelm at ISU, Gabriela Olivares Cuhat and Elizabeth Zwanziger-Page. Credits from UNI for summer – Juan Carlos.

AATF – no report

AATG – meeting next weekend.

AATSP – Had a meeting on March 30th. US Bank does not allow people to sign a signature card unless you walk into the bank, Wells Fargo does, so they are switching banks. Need to have Executive Director on account. Talking about another Café Latino, had 10-12 involved. Offered graduate credit through Grand View and license renewal credit through AEA. Did two days like the Simpson program. Could make it a 3 time a year thing, spring, summer and fall. AATSP members got lunch paid for at el Salvador del Mundo. Election will be coming up, need to elect a President-Elect and Laura Catherine Green will be moving to President. Election at IWLA conference. Looking for more people to get involved. Jason sent on a foreign language standards document for all the colleges and universities, all together on a spreadsheet. May be interesting to also find out what they determine as proficiency or fluency. Some had proficiency tests, but others just use numbers of years of courses. Some required a placement exam to get out. Jason gets a sense that it’s changing, has noticed that requirements have gone down, except for Regents universities. Some programs have none to get in and none to get out. At traditional private colleges, requirements are dropping. Why the changes? Iowa students don’t naturally gravitate there as majors, need study abroad, minors don’t count toward numbers and programs are expensive. Seeing a decrease in some requirements, and seeing a decrease in numbers of languages. Some comes from HLC requirements and accreditation issues. If we don’t have support at state level, don’t have infrastructure for students, the numbers go down in programs, and then the programs are cut. At Grand View, would like to see it as skills that need to be included in the core. When students learning another language, what are they learning besides just how to speak? Until companies demand it and force governments to come along or take their business elsewhere. Coralie’s provost is going along to Spain to see what students really learn. Need to make the 21st century skills prominent in what we do.

Jason also talked about padrino/madrina program to pair up more experienced teachers with new or pre-service teachers. They e-mail Jason when they are interested, Jason contacts the methods teachers to let them know of available opportunities. Working with Coralie on how to put the P in AATSP.

AMICI – no report

ACTFL – Carly went to the Delegate Assembly, went through every movement and how foreign language is tied in, how we’re connected to the common core and STEM. Todaysmeet.com. Can login and type in quick comments that appear. Talked about cultural literacy and how that is the thing that isn’t valued when we don’t value foreign language education. We know what we contribute, but need to get everyone else on board to understand that they don’t know what we do. All tried to come up with a 30-second blurb that could be given to people in your building, administration, etc. that will listen to tell about what you do. Need to fit in as many buzzwords as possible. Suggested 6 contacts with legislators/Congress people even before you ask anything from them. They should already know who we are and already be listening. Could include 6 contacts with principal and other leaders and use the same strategy. ACTFL is starting new Discover Languages campaign. ACTFL is working with athletes, celebrities, who are bilingual to do quick PSAs. The conference was great, thanks to IWLA for sending her. She hopes to get to places faster next year, as there were 2 convention centers at the conference. Keynote was great. She went to 21st century skills and technology presentation, Asian language areas are doing a good job of getting people to present. 2013 conference is focused on technology as a means and not an end. New Spaces and Realities, Expanding Learning Anywhere Any place is the theme for 2013. Special thanks to Carly for sending in her report, and Stacy posted it on the blog. Position statement has been made for languages in the core, it was drafted in the delegate assembly, and the official one is posted on the website. Carly has pre-made letters to president Obama that could be sent about the common core.

Central States – Jason – at Delegate Assembly, listened to Bill Rivers JNCL-NCLIS, ACTFL’s lobbyist at the Capitol. The Department of Education says that the way we do languages is elitist in nature. People in lower socioeconomic/minorities aren’t taking languages, so they consider it elitist. He says real power is at state level for funding of foreign languages. Department wants global competence for all, but zero budget for FLAP and Fullbright-Hays. Right now, no champion for foreign languages in Congress. Some people are effective, but aren’t on the right committees. Need to bring the private sector into the debate. Language policy.org is on the ACTFL website. When there are language type bills coming up, you get a quick e-mail blast, there’s a call to action, and can go to a site and quickly send a note to representatives in Congress. It helps to get high numbers of letters to Congressional delegations. They encourage IWLA to do something like that. Marty Abbott, ACTFL Executive Director talked about proficiency, there are OPI videos on the website. Can see different levels there. Alignment between guidelines and Linguafolio, there is an advocacy link that connects to state pages. Noah Geisel, Central States member sends to Congress members a weekly 5 Did you Know? about languages. Some advocacy ideas involve getting retired teachers involved and regional rep. Minnesota has a north region and south region. We’re very centralized, but it would be good if we could have a point person in northwest or northeast Iowa. Juan Trujillo, Rosa Bailey, Pat Westphal, Jim Gerrans would be good people to get involved. At awards ceremony and luncheon, have people write down something that you do well. How could this be a presentation? We may contact you about the idea, could get presentation ideas. Missouri and Kansas do this presently. Workshops were really good, thanks to IWLA for sending him. He and Kim were able to share Google docs and compare notes from different presentations. Jason got some great teaching ideas. Made good connections with some Iowa people and people from other states.

Keeka – A letter will be sent out from Central States, going to send to state affiliates asking them to pay amount of advisory council membership and that would give access to things like delegate assembly, leadership program, CWEW, Central States teacher of the year. We already have one person going anyway, so it shouldn’t be additional funds. It could perhaps enable us to send an additional person. Next year’s conference is in St. Louis, March 20-22, Unlocking Gateways to Communication (look up), Hilton St. Louis at the ballpark. Session proposals officially just closed, if plan to attend may still be able to get a presentation in. Keeka won’t be able to go to many sessions, Keeka will be assistant program chair. 2015 will be in Minneapolis and Iowa will have a strong contingency. Need to plan presentations as well. No theme yet. Perhaps there will be an emphasis on Less Commonly Taught Languages. Central States hasn’t had a lot of presence for LCTL’s. Some of the teachers of these languages need to see that it can apply to their languages. Keeka will be calling on us to present. Proposals will be due in April, can send to Keeka early. It was great to have more people from Iowa.

Starting to see pressure at colleges and universities to get more ASL.

Historian

**Other Reports:**

Advocacy update - As the **interim advocacy rep**, I can report the following:

- We are investigating reports that Branstad has formed a committee about world languages in the state without consulting IWLA.

- I have concerns about the “Rosetta Stone”-ification of some world language departments (including Muscatine High School in Muscatine, Iowa, a great school for language that used to have very strong programs in Spanish, French, German, and Chinese). This is something that we should consider addressing as an organization.

- Progress on creating Iowa world language standards will undoubtedly help us greatly with advocacy.

- I am always looking for more members and/or someone interested in becoming chair!

Terry C (check on name from Keeka), made a comment about Tammy Dann being the best advocacy person ever and also promotion of Marcia Rosenbusch.

Muscatine – From board minutes, doesn’t seem like any languages have been eliminated right now, still have all the foreign language programs listed. Taking Spanish on Rosetta Stone is a transferable credit to universities according to their board minutes. Steven Krashen article on Rosetta Stone, Tracy sent to Jason Glass and school administrators. Jason found a survey of students, all levels of Chinese, French, German all offered traditional. Spanish I-IV traditional, but also have Rosetta Stone sections of it. Doesn’t know if they have cut any teachers or funds yet. Most of the students liked the Rosetta Stone version. There haven’t been very many independent dissertation-level studies of Rosetta Stone versus traditional language classrooms. Need to compare the proficiency. Out of 238 responses, many decided to take the RS version was to meet a college entrance requirement. Had students evaluate themselves on speaking, listening, pronunciation, reading, say that it improved. June 11, 2012 meeting minutes. Need hard core research.

Conference 2013 – Erik is still looking for a speaker. He will be resigning, willing to support in any way possible. Has not been able to focus on planning the conference and he apologizes. Will talk about the speaker at executive board. Need to make sure that we have duties all determined among the conference chairs, registration chairs. Noah Geisel ACTFL Teacher of the Year may be a possibility. Tracy will start contacting them. Cultivating Language through Teaching, Technology, and Teamwork. Marty Abbott good resource for names. Toni Theisen lots of technology experience. Noah Geisel is from Colorado. Conference emblem will be developed, Kate will come up with something. There is a block of rooms, information just updated on the registration. Need to have the link set up to get the rooms. Christine will make another contact with vendors in June and can include the hotel room link. Senator Herman Quirmbach, Jason Glass, Governor Branstad could be considered as well for speaking or to invite. Can talk to Rosemary Fayad (president of MLA), and determine audience and our ultimate goal. If you think of people, please e-mail Tracy. Would like to have a longer list. Tracy has a keynote planned for the 2014 conference. Bea told Erik in October that she would continue as registration chair.

Local Chair – no report

Conference Program Chair – Paulino just updated the form for her. Keeka will send out the link. She and Kate have looked at those who were nominated for Best of Iowa. No one has sent anything in as there is no current information on the website. The sooner it’s up, the sooner things can get moving. Have always asked that the advisory council help to shake the trees. Ask people in your department to present or have multiples in one department to present. May get more group presentations with teamwork in the title. No presentations yet, but have quite a few that may come from the All-Stars.

Exhibits – Exhibit letters went out, still want to find more people. Two have paid already, one wants to present. Want to determine if we want to allow retired teachers to sell items if space is available. It may not be fair to offer a reduced rate to members and anger exhibitors. Perhaps multiple teachers could go in together and pay the full price. Coralie talked to a Mexican jeweler about exhibiting. Laura Catherine Green, buy gift cards from exhibitors to get people there for AATSP, and that worked well. $185 for a booth, backdrops and electricity increase cost.

Registration – no report.

**New Business:**

IWLA is forming a standards committee to write standards for the state of Iowa. Jason Glass doesn’t know what a person would do at the state level as we don’t even have any standards. It is a ground up movement rather than top down. List of a dozen or so from a variety of backgrounds, levels, etc. Meeting again on May 4th. Tending toward a language portfolio type of format. Talking more about what levels our goals should be at by the end of high school, college, etc. FLES vs. middle school exploratory vs. high school vs. college. Meeting at Simpson. Looking at K-16. It’s a 2-year process, this next year will be writing and creating. The year after will be working at using it in our own classrooms, then hope to have reveal at IWLA and get a lot of buy-in. Want to focus on 21st century skills and all the ways that languages fit into the core.

E-mail blast is an issue as industry-wide, there is more and more crack down on spamming, we are running into network limits on private e-mail servers, and on Google’s server to be able to send out the blast. Some band-aid situations are being considered. We need to consider a more long-term plan to send out e-mails in a more instantaneous way.

**Reminders/Announcements:**

Conference session proposals, exhibitors, awards need to be nominated, grants. Need a T-shirt person. If you have ideas or resources, please pass them on. We will keep everyone up to date. Executive board will meet at least once in the summer in preparation. Anything needed by conference committee, need to determine what it is. Be sure to include Coralie in conference planning and she can bring in student volunteers. Conference planning committee meeting should be planned for mid-August tentatively. Email Carrie, Stacy, Kat, Kim, and Tracy as Tracy is on sabbatical.

**Adjourn**

Keeka motion to adjourn, Stacy seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 11:10AM.

Carrie Morris

IWLA Secretary