



**Board of Directors Meeting**

**December 6, 2008**

**10:24 a.m.-2:20 p.m.**

**Community Room, Carmel High School, Carmel**

**Attendance:**

**Officers:** Angelika Becker, Silvana Falconi, Nicci Saari, Julie Canady

**Non-Officer directors:** Jill Hickey (Exhibits), Molly Jeon (AITJ), Molly Murphy (IN-NELL), Mindy Zhang ( ICLASS), David Malcom ( IAATSP), Kathy Darnell (Exhibits), Kelly Sax (IAATF), Ricky Baron (IAATF-NW), Barb Seely (IAATF-NW)

**Ex-Officio:** Adriana Melnyk (IDOE)

**Special Guests:** Cathy Shoemaker, Edra Staffieri

1. Angelika called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.
2. Cathy Shoemaker was our Strasheim Scholarship recipient. She came and shared her experiences in winning the award and how she spent three weeks in France in Strasbourg. Cathy went and visited her sister school in Strasbourg through the French Embassy. She went to some of the art exhibits and was completely immersed in the target language and took courses in philosophy, storytelling, and using songs in the target language. The songs course focused on using songs to create grammar, phonetics, writing, and speaking activities. She was able to foster relationships with 19 new colleagues from around the country who had shared this experience with her. Angelika suggested that Cathy write an article for the upcoming IFLTA newsletter and send it to Carol as well to be placed on the IFLTA website. Angelika mentioned that the deadline for the Spring IFLTA newsletter will be Feb. 15, 2009.
3. Nicci Saari distributed a copy of the Aug. 9, 2008 meeting minutes to all in attendance as well as a copy of the Nov. 8, 2008 IFLTA Conference Business Meeting minutes that will go in the 2009 IFLTA Conference folders to preview. The August minutes were approved as written.
3. Julie Canady submitted the Treasurer's Report. There is \$7,021.88 in the checking account, \$21,207.82 in savings, \$199.00 in the Strasheim Fund (included in checking balance after paying Cathy Shoemaker) and \$23,000 invested in the CD. The Treasurer's Report was approved.
4. Silvana Falconi submitted the Conference Report on attendance, workshops, and evaluations. Attendance was down from last year to 543 from 713. The New Teacher workshop was quite crowded this year. Silvana acknowledged that Nicci Saari prepared the five finalists for Best of Indiana. IFLTA offers a stipend for Central States for Best of Indiana up to \$500 to go to Central States to present. Kathy Darnell suggested sending a letter to the five finalists for Best of Indiana in addition to selecting one final candidate for a stipend in order to allow them recognition as well. It was mentioned that in the past they did get a letter. Molly Murphy suggested letting the five finalists have a say-so in what time slots they would prefer for the following year's IFLTA conference as a

possibility. Silvana mentioned that it is not possible since we need to take into consideration many variables when preparing the program schedule. Laura Terrill was selected as Best of Indiana from IFLTA for the 2010 Central States Conference. Silvana mentioned that the answers in all the events/topics of the short questions, the answers were “very good” showing that attendees found it a very positive conference. Silvana also discussed the evaluation forms and summarized all of the comments. One comment was that there were not as many exhibits for Asian Languages, Latin, and German groups. Kathy and Angelika suggested that we reach out to vendors as we see them for other conferences (ACTFL, CSC) to see if we can get them for IFLTA. A common comment on the evaluation form was that there was a problem with the keynote speech being in the atrium because of the sunlight, sound, etc. Silvana summarized more of the evaluation comments and mentioned that comments show that the Saturday IFLTA business meeting was more efficient and effective. Several attendees appreciated that the raffle was done late. There were many comments that mentioned not to schedule business meetings against workshops and to allow more time for the business meetings of the constituent organizations. Silvana mentioned that since there were several two-hour workshops/sessions accepted it was impossible this year to avoid having the business meetings against a workshop. Silvana asked the presidents of the constituent organizations how long would be enough for the business meetings and most agreed one hour would be appropriate. Angelika suggested cutting out the cheese from the wine and cheese and having wine only because shortly thereafter we have University Night with appetizers and this would be a way to cut costs. The Creative Project Contest was not publicized nearly enough but the space was nice. Silvana recommended to send a message to the world languages listserv to get the word out for the creative project, poster contest, and scholarship opportunities. Nicci Saari suggested the addition of Thursday pre-conference workshops to be competitive with other conferences such as Central States and ACTFL. Angelika mentioned that they tried in the past pre-conferences but that they did not work. There was discussion and some of the members mentioned that schools might not allow teachers to come on a Thursday due to budget cuts. Adriana Melnyk gave insights from an administrative perspective by suggesting that we make sure that what we are offering is something that administrators feel is valuable in allowing teachers to go. Molly Murphy mentioned that by offering Thursday workshops that it would give teachers a choice and attract more professionals that way. Jill Hickey commented about the timing of the conference in November, because many conferences of different subject areas conflict with us. It was suggested by Angelika to have a one-day registration as opposed to a general registration if IFLTA decides to change and offer Thurs. pre-conference workshops. Silvana also agreed to offer one- day registration and added that since attendees liked the new mix and a variety of sessions added in the conference program, the future changes need to be applied gradually. After having added this year two-hour sessions/workshop and a tech workshop in the last conference, the next step would be to give more space to pre-workshops. Silvana recommended to start with only two pre-workshops that pertain to multiple languages. A suggestion was made to increase the amount of time between sessions to 15 minutes. Molly Jeon suggested that instead we should place time reminder cards in presider packets so that presidors can keep presenters from running over and to keep the current 10 minute time between sessions. All agreed that we would do this for next year but if this did not help we would reconsider increasing the length between sessions for the following year. Adriana commented on the New Teacher workshop and some of the feedback. Adriana said that it

has become even more evident that we need two separate workshops: one for actual new teachers (pre-service) and one for experienced but new teachers. Silvana mentioned that since both teachers have different levels they need to have their own workshop however, they could get together towards the end of the workshop to share some activities together. Molly Murphy mentioned that we need to make sure that new teachers are introduced to the constituent organizations. We want to get the word out earlier about the new teacher workshop but that this year ran more smoothly. For the first time in a long time there was a methods roundtable between students to talk about current trends in foreign language teaching methods. Suggestions were made by Kathy Darnell and Silvana about mentor-new teacher relationships. Silvana said that we need to find mentors for new teachers by cities but that this needs to start with the presidents of the constituent organizations. However, IFLTA would be in charge of adding resources in the website. Also, Angelika suggested that we have an annual session for world language department chairs. We will revisit potential changes to the conference format, such as one-day registrations and pre-workshops in March. Kathy Darnell gave the conference exhibits report. Of the 63 packets for exhibits sent to exhibitors, 32 actual exhibitors participated in this year's conference. Twenty-one of those exhibits were participants in the raffle. Regarding offering exhibitors lunches to go, a new idea implemented this year, not many took advantage. Name tags for exhibitors being provided by the Meeting Connection was suggested as a possibility. The main feedback from exhibitors was that staying after noon on Saturday was not worth their time and business. Kathy recommended that exhibitors give us their prize if they do not plan to stay until the raffle and that we need more exhibit breaks in the program (a usual comment). Silvana mentioned that an extra break was added on Saturday since they stayed longer and there were comments about attendees that they liked the idea that exhibitors stayed until later. It was suggested to do a registration area for exhibitors along with the conference attendees. Kathy summarized some of the expenses for the exhibits at the conference. The Conference Expense Report was given by Julie Canady. After all conference bills are paid, the balance in Checking is \$7,021.88, and the balance in Savings is \$21,207.82. The total conference expenses were \$39,196.93 but actually \$35,305.44 to reflect the final balance. Angelika suggested Laura Terrill as our keynote for next year because she said she would do our keynote for free. Silvana mentioned that first we need choose the theme of the conference and go from there. Since the prices at the Crowne Plaza (formerly Holiday Inn Airport) went up due to the renovations, Silvana distributed the hotel options sheet from the Meeting Connection so that the board could consider venues for the 2009 IFLTA conference. Several different options were discussed and the discussion was tabled for the near future. Silvana said to get any additional hotel suggestions via e-mail to the elected officers as soon as possible so that we can decide on this very soon and move forward with next year's conference.

5, Angelika gave the website manager's report in Carol's absence. There was lots of positive feedback regarding getting conference handouts on the website.

6. Angelika gave the IFLTA Newsletter information in Matt Miller's absence. The deadline for submissions is February 15 for publication in mid-March. Angelika stressed the need for articles from all constituent groups.

7. Adriana Melnyk presented the report from the Indiana Department of Education. They are preparing to welcome new administration at the IDOE. There are lots of swift, sweeping changes predicted once the new administration comes in on Jan. 12, 2009. Standards for Heritage Language Learners are going through reviewers-Guadalupe Valdez and Kathryn Ingold are the reviewers for this. Adriana said to ask your ESL teachers and weekend heritage schools to look at these standards. ASL state standards will be reviewed as well. Adriana mentioned that there is a new IDOE website with a more logical format. The site can be searched by keyword and is more user friendly. Adriana talked about options for dual credit. Adriana went to a meeting at Commission from Higher Education. Core transfer only being allowed for French and Spanish made Spanish and French enrollments increase as opposed to other languages. They now will be adding German to core transfer and a generic core transfer program for World Languages in general. Martha Nyikos at IU and Adriana are doing research to support teachers in using Linguafolio. Linguafolio is online-students must demonstrate evidence of proficiencies and can download documents, podcasts, webcasts, etc. Adriana wanted to set up a new listserv for IFLTA teachers and Nicci agreed to send Adriana all of the IFLTA membership information to set that up.

8. Angelika discussed Old Business items. Angelika once again asked constituent organizations to get her the documents from last May's retreat, titled "Focus on the Future". There will be a retreat at Valparaiso on either May 1 and 2 or April 24 and 25 of 2009 to follow up on last May's discussion. Julie Canady talked about giving suggestions to self-generate funds for the Strasheim Scholarship and bringing back prestige to the award. Adriana suggested maybe giving the award a title such as "The Tom Alsop Strasheim Award" or naming it for a publisher to get some sponsorship support. Angelika suggested that Nancy Loriaux and Lisa Calvin (grants committee) may help Julie with this. Julie proposed a temporary suspension on mileage reimbursement for meetings because of lower gas prices. Julie is planning to meet with the tax accountant to discuss the IFLTA Purpose Statement that reflects the mission statement of the various constituent organizations from the May retreat.

9. Angelika then presented New Business items. The first item was IFLTA Teacher of the Year requirements. The current requirement is that the teacher has to have been an IFLTA member for 3 years. A suggestion was made to change the wording that the person has to be a member in good standing—a current member. Adriana suggested making the nomination process more open and to also create a new award for beginning teachers (IFLTA Rising Star Award). Angelika suggested taking this back to the presidents of the constituent organizations to create similar awards among their organizations so that they can compete for the IFLTA Rising Star Award. The discussion was tabled until this can be discussed by the constituent organizations at the IFLTA May retreat. Ricky Baron suggested making the initial nomination form more simple to encourage more nominations to come in and to change the form to include more specifics as to why someone feels the person should be nominated. It was discussed by the group as to how to shorten the portfolio so that when the vice-presidents decide who will be chosen there will not be as much to sort through. The board also discussed how to make the teacher of the year selection process go more smoothly including an improved

- rubric, lengthening the time that the committee has to decide, and other options. Angelika tabled discussing the IFLTA Purpose Statement until the May retreat.
10. Meeting Dates for next year: Mar. 28, 2009 at Carmel High School  
 May Retreat: either April 24 and 25, 2009 or May 1 and 2, 2009 at Valparaiso  
 August Meeting: Aug. 8, 2009 at Carmel High School  
 December Meeting: Dec. 5, 2009 Carmel High School
  
  11. Angelika shared knowledge gained from her attendance at the ACTFL Delegate Assembly. Regarding giving numbers on national foreign language enrollment, Indiana was represented well at the assembly. Angelika brought back the National K-12 Foreign Language Survey results from the assembly. She also shared the position statement of using target language in the classroom: 90% of target language used in the classroom. She gave us the summary by Jay David-Edwards of JNCL.
  
  12. Julie Canady and Nicci Saari will be the Indiana delegates for the 2009 Central States Conference. Angelika Becker will represent Indiana at the Central States Conference 2009 Extension Workshop.
  
  13. Reports were given by the various constituent organizations
    - AATF-NW IN: There will be a workshop in Valparaiso in February—workshop for teachers and students.
    - AATG: There will be a German Immersion Day in January-German within the European Union.
    - AATSP: The Concurso will be April 18, 2009. Immersion Day was this past September and was wonderful-Edra gave a presentation on Ricardo Paloma.
    - ICLASS: There will be two workshops-a Chinese workshop for teachers on Mar. 14, 2009 and a workshop with IDOE partnership Jan. 23, 2009 for administrators and dept. heads for implementing Chinese programs in their schools-funding, sustaining programs, etc.
    - IN-NELL: Mar. 7, 2009 is the date of the annual conference –Marcela Summerville will be the presenter on Using Storytelling in the World Languages Classroom—applicable to all languages and all levels. IN-NELL is in a partnership with the IMCPL-IN-NELL needs help from IFLTA and the constituent organizations and the IDOE in organizing it with all of the different languages being represented for the bilingual story times each month. Helena Curtain will be presenting on Oct. 3, 2009 for IN-NELL's new annual Fall NNELL event.
  
  14. Molly Murphy proposed a fundraiser idea for IFLTA-maybe we could get stores or restaurants to partner with us and donate 2% or more of their sales to IFLTA. Angelika mentioned that we need to work on more newspaper publicity for our Teachers of the Year, etc. A suggestion was made by Angelika to dedicate someone on the board to act as publicity chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Submitted respectfully by Nicci Saari, IFLTA Secretary