

President's Annual report, 2010-2011, OFLA

This has been one of the hardest years ever for teachers in all disciplines– a period fraught with political turbulence and massive uncertainty everywhere – yet OFLA is as strong as ever. Conference attendance surpassed that of last year, and a number of professional development events were well attended as well. It is very obvious that Ohio 's foreign language teachers remain committed, passionate, and enthused in spite of trying times.

I have been honored to serve as your President.

This year the Board spent some time investigating foreign language advocacy strategies, and in light of the existing, overall turmoil enveloping the profession at large, decided not to hire a professional lobbyist for OFLA at this moment. Be assured that we are watching the legislative scene very closely, though, and will take quick action whenever appropriate to try to maintain current foreign language programs and also promote increased opportunities for our students. Please feel free to contact me and/or others on the OFLA Board at any time you feel the need for some help in your individual situations, and we will do our best. I believe that in sticking together and in continuing to feed and refuel our passion and love for what we teach, we will ultimately weather these trying times.

The listserv has been working well as a means of staying in touch with one another, and I am very happy to see so many useful exchanges going on as people share ideas and questions. I hope that members will continue to post throughout the summer as well as watch for important news and professional development opportunities that will be advertized. OFLA now ahs a Facebook presence, as well.

A great part of my OFLA related time this year was spent not only monitoring the advocacy scene, but in attending some outside conferences to maintain networking with those in other organizations and states. Along those lines, I will be attending JNCL in May, and will have appointments with our legislators at the Federal level.

I worked with Board members to revamp outdated Bylaws and reorganize the structure of the Board so as to streamline responsibilities and be as efficient as possible. As always, it was a great pleasure to work with fellow board members.

I will soon be turning over the gavel to next year's very enthused and capable OFLA President, Carol Eiber, but will remain on the OFLA Board, ready and willing to do all I can to serve the membership. Thank you to all OFLA members for helping to make the past year a good one for our organization, and for standing strong for what we all know is so important.

With sincere best wishes to all,
Sarah