

Early Language Learning

April 2014

This is my last report for this committee. My 5 years as committee chair have come and gone in what seems to have been the blink of an eye. I've enjoyed the opportunity to be involved with OFLA in the capacity as "chair" for the Early Language Learning community of Ohio. This opportunity has influenced me both professionally and personally. Thank you.

While OFLA has a tremendous high school membership, the elementary World Language teachers have been hard to find. In articles I've written for the Cardinal I encouraged members to communicate with me for help, only one individual did, wanting information on how to begin a NNELL chapter in northern Ohio! The biggest challenge for this committee has been recruiting committee membership and participation. I have brought this up at meetings in the past.

When I have asked individuals to join the first thing they want to know is "How often will I have to attend a meeting?" Then they want to know what we'll do! I liked Teri's theme for the year, "Teachers Helping Teachers." However, how can we help those that don't want to be helped? (I have said this previously, but it still holds true.)

Another huge challenge I have encountered is that the initials ELL have taken on another meaning in the language-learning world. Many refer to ELL as "English Language Learning!" This too is frustrating because it has taken away the focus that these initials actually reflect – the learning of World Languages before high school.

I plan on continuing being involved in OFLA and hope that I can be of service to the Early Language Learning committee. Thank you for the opportunity to have been part of OFLA. It has been a real pleasure working with individuals from across the state that truly have a vested interest in World Language learning and serve selflessly on OFLA for the sake of student growth!

Respectfully submitted,

Judy McCombs