

OFLA PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 11, 2014

TERI WIECHART, OFLA PRESIDENT 2013-2014

Teachers Helping Teachers has been the theme of the year. At the Executive Board Annual Retreat, the beginning of August, the first order of business was to determine what direction the board would take to fulfill that mission.

First, we continued to expand our Regional Professional Development offerings. Under the guidance of Martha Pero, chair, we analyzed what teachers in Ohio would need in light of SLOs and Student Growth Measures. We started with a series of fall workshops, after bringing in Arnold Bleicher, ACTFL presenter, to train our trainers, which we also offered to Ohio teachers at a greatly reduced price. This round of training was to familiarize teachers with IPAs, proficiency vs performance and how to create and use rubrics.

As the first set of schools and teachers were implementing SLOs and Growth measures, we contracted with another ACTFL trainer, Frank Troyan from Ohio State University, in February to prepare us to help teachers understand how to analyze and evaluate the data collected from the first round of IPAs. Other teachers were invited to attend this training as well. The regional workshops took place in March.

At this time, the committee and executive board are analyzing what can be done next in the series of workshops that will help teachers.

Second, each committee and officer was given the task to create a project that would continue the theme. Committees worked on finding good presentations for the conference, developed technology that would aid classroom teachers, prepared an evaluation tool to help non-language administrators effectively administer language teacher evaluations, updated university offerings and requirements for students at various Ohio institutions of higher education, and reached out to various constituencies under the OFLA umbrella. Many of these initiatives are ready to be unveiled and some are still works-in-progress.

There was also the ongoing work of the Advocacy Committee and the website and newsletter editors. The Scholarship committee made it possible to offer over 30 scholarships so pre-service and new teachers could afford to attend the conference or study abroad. We also worked with the liaisons of the various language associations, connecting to their memberships and offering assistance where possible. OFLA has recently reached out the Ohio Association of Arabic Teachers and the American Sign Language Association to see if future affiliations would be desirable for all.

Third, the board under the direction of the By-Laws Chair, Mark Himmelein, evaluated the OFLA By-laws and Policies and brought them up-to-date with current procedures of the OFLA team. This resulted in a proposed amendment which was voted in the affirmative.

Fourth, a new state of officers was nominated and elected.

OFLA also worked closely with the three Ohio Department of Education consultants to coordinate professional development for Ohio teachers and to further our understanding of the various mandates of the Ohio legislature.

And the largest project was planning the 2014 Conference—setting up the location, getting proposals, creating the schedule, choosing the menus, setting up committees and making it a three day extravaganza full of Teacher’s Helping Teachers.

Many board members and I represented and helped showcase the achievements of OFLA and Ohio teachers at the ACTFL conference in Orlando, Florida in November; and the Central States Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in March.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Wiechart