



**Minutes of the December 5, 2009 meeting
of the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter
of the AATF**

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
Brenda Crosby, Hostess

Present: Eileen Walvoord, Margarita Levasseur, Rosalee Gentile, Phyllis Perkins, Lynn Robinson, Jane Castle, Kristina Beck, Yvonne Fawell, Cathy Kendrigan, Brenda Crosby, Margot Steinhart, Ted Haldeman, Robin Jacobi, Donna Czarnecki Bobbie Keiffer, Mary Lindquist, Tom Sapp

Absent:, Marie-Simone Pavlovich, Gloria Maliszewski, Anne Hebert, Lisa Nordmeyer, Deb VanderWoude, Samantha Godden-Chmielowicz,, Todd Bowen, Kristin Aswell, Laura Schmuck,

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M.

Mary moved to approve the minutes. Lynn seconded. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

Eileen thanked our host.

Recognition of Rosalee being awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

Congratulations again to Margot as recipient of the Florence Steiner Award at the ACTFL Conference, held in San Diego, CA

Eileen encouraged us to take advantage of the new Attaché Culturel Adjoint Jean-François Rochard.

Our chapter is hoping for a \$1500 award from the Service Culturel.

ICTFL Conference in October: AATF had a table and the Service Culturel gave lots of materials. French Immersion Luncheon included mimes.

Eileen encouraged us to have a presence by attending and presenting at conferences such as ACTFL and ICTFL.

National French Week: Dîner de Vins was cancelled due to low registrations. This week should be devoted to activities to promote French for students. Phyllis said entries for poster context were down from last year. Marguerite and others suggested that we expand it to a Photo-story and poster conference. Donna suggested posting photos of the posters on our website. (See more below.)

Francofeuilles looks wonderful and Bravo to Cathy.

A memorial for Bill Roberts was held at Northwestern University.

Dec 15 deadline for proposals for AATF Convention 2010, Philadelphia, PA

Please renew your memberships now. Membership calendar is January-December.

Treasurer and Membership Report:

Bobbie reported that balance is just over \$1400, and a \$500 check will soon be deposited. Check received for \$1100. Our monies are a little low compared to this time last year. There were extra expenses this year. Thank you to Stevenson HS for the printing, making *Francofeuilles* cost under a \$1 an issue – saving us a lot of money.

Secretary's Report:

Brenda asked that everyone update and make changes to our chapter directory.

Program Committee:

Phyllis reported that Feb. 2010 program will be on the Holocaust held at Niles North and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie. We will have Janine Spencer and Martha Behlow as speakers, and a visit with a self-guided tour of the museum. Registration will be \$30, including entry to the museum.

Francofeuilles: Cathy reported that the fall issue was sent. Gathering materials is still a challenge. The Winter issue will include an interview with Jean-François Rochard, our new Attaché Culturel; Kristina will conduct interview. He has been sent the questions in advance of the interview. Winter will include Margot's reward. Also, Cathy will promote the newsletter as a place to be published if one never has before. Deadline is Jan. 20, 2010. Eileen encouraged us to help Cathy make her deadline.

National French Contest:

Ted reported and reminded us that NFC is celebrating its 75th anniversary, a good opportunity to create some promotions. Our chapter is just a couple hundred participants short of being number one nationally.

To promote enrollment: 10 free registrations for a school that have never participated, or have not in the past three years.

To encourage continued participation: Reduced price from \$6 to \$5 dollars per registration, if register before 01/15/10. We might lose \$, but we have the funds to cover it. Different approaches taken by teachers/schools: Yvonne said that at her school, they make it a festival recognizing each level with poster to encourage students. She observed that when students pay, they are more committed. Ted said that AP kids were required to take the test, so French club paid registration. Donna told kids that school will pay, but school will pay upfront and then reimburse kids if they take the test. Mary said test would take place during the day, getting kids out of class if necessary to take it. At end of year all-school assembly, highest winners are recognized. Phyllis said all kids participated, during class, and school pays. Highest rankers recognized at a school assembly. Bobbie said she tells kids that if s/he does not have \$, she will find it so can take test. Recognize top winners at NHS.

Marguerita asked about logistics when there is only one French teacher, re: proctoring.

Mary said having some sort of ceremony to recognize participation is good for our Advocacy. Donna suggested sending a letter about the NFC to parents as another way to encourage participation and for Advocacy reasons.

She pointed out the problem that our test does not require giving test during day and conflicts.

Elections:

Brenda reported that we need: a new president, new treasurer, new program chair, 7 new committee members, and 6 members who must run for a second term.

La Grande Dictée: Eileen reported for Marie Simone. To take place in February 27, 2010, at Northwestern.

National French Week: Eileen reported for Lisa about Dîner de vins. Phyllis said one poster followed national guidelines. Phyllis reported winners of today's vote.. Donna wondered what the guideline say about prizes and how many winners. Photos taken of winners to put on website.

Immersion Day: Donna reported. To be held Feb, 20, 2010, at West Leyden HS. Registration deadline is December 11. Four teachers working on program. Donna and Lynn are working on various activities for the day. They need a more accurate cost estimate. Some of the \$1500 from the Service Culturel can be used for the prizes. \$50 honorarium to each teacher, and hope to give something to the assistants. Participants will receive a t-shirt and a tombola prize. Teacher of participants does not have to attend.

Grants and Awards: Eileen announced that the deadline for nomination for the Prix du Chapitre and proposals for small grants is Jan 1, 2010. Two nominations received, but no proposals yet for small grants. We hope to get the \$1500 to help with this.

Feb. 1, 2010 is the deadline for nominations for the Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award: there are four levels. Forward nominations Jayne Abrate at SIU.

FLES Poster Contest: Eileen reported for Gloria. Feb. 24 is deadline

CEU/CPDU Documentation: Robin is taking over this work.

Advocacy: Eileen reported for Kristin. ICTFL session was well received. Some strong area FLES programs are being eliminated. Kristina Beck said for language magnet clusters at CPS could be cut. Margot reported the Advocacy work continues at Northwestern. Wiki work is continuing. She thought we should change the word “kit” to “Wiki” to better reflect what it is. Also, the front page redone with an envelope icon for questions, suggestions, etc. for the Wiki. Posts go to a gmail account and then to AATF, and a link to our chapter’s website. She requests feedback on this work from the council. The reward for this volunteer work is feedback and impressions, and what should be added to the materials. They will have a meeting to review work completed and to plan for future, because higher education PhD and masters programs are being cut. She reminded us that if a district, PTA, or principal says, “we are going to review a program”, that is a warning. Phyllis encouraged us to look at the website, especially the Bellringers. Robin asked for suggestions for the parent letter writing campaign when the principal tries to stop a teacher for doing so. Margot said get one or two parent allies who can contract the other parents. Eileen urged us to direct teachers/programs that are threatened to the website.

Mentoring: Jane reported she has not gotten any requests. She wonders if the Advocacy work and our programs is giving teachers what they need.

National Bulletin: Tom reported that he submitted info to the *National Bulletin* for the April issue..

ICTFL: Eileen reported that the Oct conference was good, but numbers are diminishing. Jane, Eileen, Kristin, Jean-François, Margot, Rosalee did a session on Advocacy.

SSFLN: No report

French Immersion Institute: No report.

Website: Robin reported that some changes in her district caused some difficulties but is now resolved.

Old Business: Marguerita said the Chicago Wolves francophone speaker will not happen this year. Group tickets for Chicago Black Hawks sold out, but go on sale in the summer. Wolves' games are more affordable and games are in a better location.

Facebook: Erin suggested putting a disclaimer on the page that privacy can't be guaranteed. Chicago/N. IL chapter profile, and one can become a friend. We could post announcements. Erin said can set-up Facebook mobile to receive updates by phone. Individuals decide how they receive updates. AATF national and All Fra are on Facebook. Marguerita motioned to approve, Erin seconded, and was approved. Marguerita will be in charge.

New Business:

Erin reported on the oral competition, Le Concours Oral/French Forensics Competition, proposed at the Sept 12 meeting. Good opportunity for students who are stronger speakers. WI and MN may be our models, as have been doing for several years. Regional competitions, and winners go to the state level. Divisions and levels similar to NFC. Costs are facility, breakfast for volunteers, and prizes. Self-supporting. Possible categories: poetry or prose recitation, extemporaneous, perform a song, extemporaneous conversation, DVD production (prepared in advance), memorized skit, readers theatre. We would have support from the WI and MN AATF and teachers who do the contest. They have them in April/May; must be 2nd semester. Two models: a two-tiered approach or just one day. Two-tiered would help those who live far from Chicago, so they can participate locally. The committee prefers the two-tiered approach. Erin has volunteered to chair the committee. 2011 will be the first. Tom asked about large schools

with big French programs; concern that large schools will dominate. Jane made a motion to create a committee lead by Erin, seconded by Mary, and approved. Mary, Cathy, and Marguerita volunteered to be on the committee.

Next meeting will be February 6 , 2010, at Niles North High School, following the Winter Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Submitted by,
Brenda Crosby