

John Baltrus

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The A.P.P.L.E. Seed

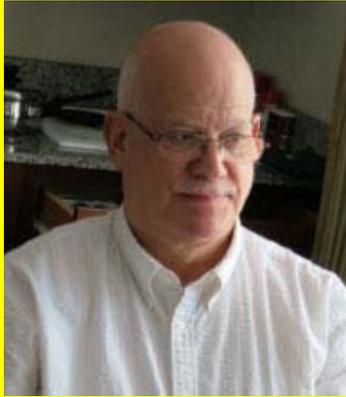
(American Professional Partnership
for
Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

Once again, we had an exciting, vibrant A.P.P.L.E. summer! It's hard to believe that it is over.

The University strand worked to set up higher education and other relevant partnerships involving regular and special education, and branched off into providing regional hands-on educational experiences in a number of kindergartens, regular and special schools in various towns throughout Lithuania.

A fascinating Oral History project was initiated, as was a Kindergarten and Primary writing project. These projects should continue in the coming school year. Watch for an article in the A.P.P.L.E. e-zine that provides more details on these exciting developments.

Teachers/lecturers from a variety of academic disciplines participated in the two-week seminar addressing this year's theme, "Real World Applications of What We Teach". These seminars were based in Prienai near Birstonas.

Special education-related topics were presented in Prienai as well as in Kaunas and Skuodas. Subsequent e-zine articles will profile the seminars and their impact on attendees.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the weekend of August 24-25, 2013. It will be good to see the Directors, take stock of the organization, and plan future initiatives.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Karl

Dr. Karl P. Janowitz
President

Mission Statement:

"The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) is a volunteer international non-profit educational organization. With the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, A.P.P.L.E. partners with Lithuanian educators to foster the implementation of innovative educational approaches that contribute to the development of a democratic society."



This month's profile focuses on an organization whose members have supported A.P.P.L.E. in one way or another since A.P.P.L.E. was founded. The reason that we focus on the Knights of Lithuania is because the organization is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The highlight of the celebration was their recently completed convention in Quincy, MA, which is close to their origins in Lawrence, MA.

The first organizational meeting of the K of L took place in St. Francis Parish Hall on April 27 and 28, 1913. The statutes proposed a group of young people in local chapters thereby bringing them closer together, to promote concerted activity, and to provide for development in Catholic and Lithuanian spirit. The organization went on to form over 150 councils throughout the U.S., with multiple councils in cities and regions that had concentrations of Lithuanian immigrants and their descendants. The numbers of councils and members have shrunk in recent years to about 1,500 members.

In addition to providing an outlet for social and religious activities for Lithuanian Americans, the Knights have supported political and humanitarian causes as well. Members organized letter-writing campaigns in support of Lithuanian Independence, and having achieved that goal, took on a multi-year effort that resulted in millions of dollars of medical supplies being shipped to post-Soviet Lithuania. They are a main supporter of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome, Italy. The Knights' dedication to support of Lithuanian religious causes was acknowledged by Vilnius' recently anointed Archbishop, Gintaras Grusas, who participated in the K of L's 100th National Convention.

The K of L's support for A.P.P.L.E. is no surprise given that A.P.P.L.E.'s origins and many of its early participants were from the New England area, where many of the K of L's active councils reside. The Bridgeport, CT Council made a special effort to collect funds for A.P.P.L.E. after masses at their parish for a number of years. The K of L's support continues today through its charitable arm, the Knights of Lithuania Foundation. The Foundation has provided grants of \$1,000 per year to A.P.P.L.E. for the last few years and this year voted to make a grant of \$2,500 in honor of the K of L's 100th anniversary.

A.P.P.L.E. congratulates the Knights of Lithuania on reaching this historical milestone and wishes them much success in the future. We also thank the Foundation for their generous donations and all K of L members who have supported A.P.P.L.E. throughout the years.

Real World Applications of What We Teach in School



Front, L to R: Audre Ruzga, Linda Brenneman, Carol Ramsey, Marjorie Pett, Aldona Vosyliute, Edita Liutkeviciene, Rimvydas Zailskas, Zivile Nemickiene
Back, L to R: Ed Topar, Ramute Zemioniene, Ausra Budriene, Roma Sausaitene, Giedrius Vaidelis, Edward Jakubauskas, Irma Sneideriene, Marilyn Edwards, Aidas Aldakauskas, Karl Janowitz, Daiva Kebliene, Algis Marcinkevicius

This month, we bring you the first of several reports written by U.S. instructors who participated in the A.P.P.L.E. Summer Program. Look for additional reports in the coming months.

by Marilyn Edwards

History was made for A.P.P.L.E. as three generations of Lithuanian-Americans team taught classes in Prienai, Lithuania on the topic of "Real World Applications of What We Teach in School". Dr. Ed Jakubauskas, his daughter, Marilyn Edwards and her son, Jack Edwards all came to Lithuania and had the experience of a lifetime.

Dr Ed Jakubauskas was the lead-off speaker. His lectures concentrated on research studies showing that family influences were vital in the pre-school years in determining success or failure of students in school performance in elementary school years and beyond. In the American system this critical age period of birth to age 5 has led to positive policies such as the Head Start pre-K programs. Also, policies of massive testing and teacher evaluations have had some political impetus, though of questionable value in many cases. Questions were raised by class participants on the structure of the American Educational System, so Dr. Jakubauskas spent some time outlining the history of education in the U.S., state and federal responsibilities, and some of the policies which have not worked in improving education. Two requests were received for lectures on the American System of Education by other A.P.P.L.E. strands.

Some international comparisons were presented on pre-K education and investment of other countries. A final note was presented urging the consideration of establishing closer family/teacher relationships through periodic conferences, and parent/teacher formal associations to increase educational investments for the pre-K years for poor and rural families.

Marilyn Edwards continued the elementary strand using hands-on activities from her 4th/5th grade classroom in Salem, Oregon. Each day focused on a particular subject and the activities to make the concepts become "real" for students. For example, on the Science day, the teachers created biomes out of liter bottles; for Math, they created Multiplication Array Booklets using arrays of items found around the Prienai Gymnasium as well as practicing hands-on algebra and numerous hands-on math games; for Writing, the teachers created stories from photographs; for Reading they explored examples of non-fiction text structures; and for Social Studies, they explored the concept of supply and demand by taste testing lemonade!

The students were encouraged to work together in pairs as well as small groups and were in different groups each day so that they could work with a wide variety of teachers. This turned out to be a really good idea because strangers became friends and they are going to keep in touch even after the courses!

Jack Edwards, age 15, came along to Lithuania to learn about his heritage from his Grandpa and because he is thinking of going into the teaching field when he gets older. He helped out enormously with technology issues and working with small groups. He helped create a "4th of July" PowerPoint presentation for the Lithuanian teachers and was helpful in creating a fun trivia game for teachers and presenters alike! It was an incredible 4th of July!

All in all, the summer teaching strand in Lithuania was an experience that we will never forget. We found that even though we may speak a different language, we all share more similarities than differences, and the bottom line, we all want to do what's best for all our students in Lithuania and America.

Lithuanian Students Win More Olympic Medals



The 45th International Chemistry Olympiad was held in Moscow, Russia from July 15-24. The Lithuanian team, composed of high school students, performed well and won one bronze (Violeta Stojalnikova, Vilnius Lyceum, teacher. Rasa Zemaitaitiene), and 3 silver medals (David Draksas Klaipeda Lyceum, teacher. Rima Grabauskienė; Vytautas Pečiukėnas and Antanas Radzevičius, Kaunas University of Technology Gymnasium, teacher Birute Maciulevičienė).

The team led by Vilnius University chemistry professor Prof. Rimantas Flushing, and the same univeristy's doctoral candidate, former International Chemistry Olympiad

winner Marius Jurgelėnas.

The four student team was formed based on the results of the Baltic Chemistry Olympiad. Typically, a team is composed of senior students, but this year one member of the team was Klaipėda Lyceum ninth grader, David Draksas, who won an Olympic silver medal.

Lithuania's team competed against the representatives of 77 countries from around the world. The Lithuanian students placed 76th, 78th, 87th and 108th out of 291 students.

A.P.P.L.E. Board to Meet

A.P.P.L.E.'s Board of Directors will conduct their "End of Summer" Board Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, on Saturday, August 24th. The meeting will take place at the Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA Hall. Contact [Vida Anton](#) for more information.

Fundraising Corner

Would you like to support future projects awarded through the Lithuanian Scholars' Fund? Now is the perfect time to make a gift to A.P.P.L.E.

You may click on the button below to make a donation using PayPal. Make sure to add a note if you wish that your donation be specifically used for a Lithuanian Scholars' Fund grant.

What will different levels of donations accomplish?

- For \$100, you can provide an ink cartridge and paper so that A.P.P.L.E. can distribute lesson notes to teachers.
- For \$200, you can provide a stipend for a translator.
- For \$450, you can underwrite the distribution of our newsletter.
- For \$500, you can sponsor a Scholar's Fund Grant. Lesser amounts will be combined to fund a grant.

A minimum donation of \$25-individual or \$40-family will enroll you as a member of A.P.P.L.E. for one year. Of course, donations are still welcome by mail: A.P.P.L.E., P.O. Box 179017, San Diego, CA 92177.



A.P.P.L.E. is a 501(3)c organization, which means that your gifts are tax-deductible. Our tax-exempt number is 23-2682202. Because of strict IRS regulations, we cannot accept donations intended for specific people. If you would like to support relatives or friends, please do so directly. The A.P.P.L.E. scholar grants are intended for Lithuanian educators who do not have contacts in the United States.

This electronic newsletter is designed for quick delivery of A.P.P.L.E.-related news to an audience that includes current A.P.P.L.E. members, friends of A.P.P.L.E. and interested potential members both within the United States and Lithuania.

Increasing communication and the exchange of ideas among our members increases the strength of our organization and our ability to be relevant to our Lithuanian constituents. Exciting and pertinent events occur all year round, and we want to keep all of you abreast of what is happening, when it's happening.

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