

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



(American Professional Partnership

for

Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

Greetings!

Congratulations to Ed, Gail and Vitas for moving us into the 21st. Century with this first e-letter. This should help keep the lines of communication open and keep everyone informed about the goings on at A.P.P.L.E. on a monthly basis.

We are hopeful that we will hear the good news from the Ministry sometime this month regarding our 20th. Anniversary Summer Programs in Lithuania set for next summer.

As soon as we hear from them officially, we will get the news out to you.

As we are quickly approaching the Christmas season, please keep all of our Lithuanian friends and relatives in your prayers as they struggle with the current hard economic times that will make this Christmas season especially difficult for them.

My wish to all of you is a blessed and joyous Christmas Holiday with your family and friends, Linksmu Kaledu!

Vida

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Organizational Development Update

Welcome to our inaugural monthly e-zine **The A.P.P.L.E. Seed**. This electronic newsletter is designed for quick delivery of A.P.P.L.E. 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.

In This Issue

Organizational Development Update

Heard in Lithuania

Summer Program Activities

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile

Committee Quarterly Reports

Quotables and Quizzes

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

[A.P.P.L.E. Site](#)

[Ed Topar e-mail](#)

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.

Each month you will receive a brief update from our President, a message about organizational development and changes within A.P.P.L.E., what's been heard from Lithuania and other members, updates about our summer programs, a profile of an A.P.P.L.E. member, and an applicable quote and/or quiz for each issue. A special section toward the end, REMINDERS, will help each of us stay aware of upcoming important dates and the deadlines associated with any assignments we may have.

We have a great organization with much to be proud of as we approach our 20th Anniversary in support of Lithuania's teachers, administrators, special education programs and library science initiatives. Why not spread the good news as far and wide as possible. We hope you will help us plant as many **A.P.P.L.E. Seeds** as possible.

Heard in Lithuania

LET US HEAR FROM YOU.....

With this first edition of **The A.P.P.L.E. Seed** we want to invite you, our readers, to feel free to contribute information that you feel may be of interest to us and other readers of our monthly e-zine. Especially welcome is information directly from Lithuania that is often so well received by our readers. This section of our publication is dedicated to providing an informal link that we hope will provide a small window on a variety of current issues that relate to Lithuania today. The information submitted does not necessarily have to directly relate to A.P.P.L.E. activities to be relevant.

Send us your current news from Lithuania. You may see it next, along with your name, in a future edition of **The A.P.P.L.E. Seed**.

Send all non-copywritten original articles, tidbits, anecdotes and pictures, (with written permissions for use) to one of our editors for review and consideration:

Ed Topar, edtopar@gmail.com; Gail Cassidy, gail@coachability.com; Vitas Underys, vitasu@msn.com.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & SCIENCE BUDGET.....

It appears we will have to wait another ten days or so to get official word from the Ministry of Education & Science regarding their support for all of our 2010 Summer Programs.

The first reading of the budget was held on November 24, and the Seimas is expected to vote on the final draft of the new fiscal budget for 2010 on December 10th. Let's keep our fingers crossed that our contract for 2010 will be approved.

LITHUANIANS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF A.P.P.L.E.....

Initial reactions from our early contacts with Lithuanian teachers and administrators have been extremely positive to our initiative to have Lithuanian Nationals become members of A.P.P.L.E.

Those contacted were primarily teachers and administrators who were especially interested in participating as Guest Lecturers, Team Teachers, volunteers and joining the A.P.P.L.E. Team as members. The most common sentiments expressed were those of appreciation for being given the opportunity to become an integral part of an organization that has done so much for their educational system and our recognition that they are willing and able to now begin to contribute as partners in that process.

For those U.S. based participants in the Summer Programs for 2010 who may be considering working with a Lithuanian counterpart as a Guest Lecturer or Team Teacher, etc. please note the following: The same guidelines will now apply to those Lithuanian partners as apply to us, ie, they must become official members of A.P.P.L.E. prior to participating in our programs. Look for the complete guidelines for this initiative to offer membership in A.P.P.L.E. to Lithuanian Nationals in the January edition of **The A.P.P.L.E. Seed**.

Summer Program Activities

The deadline for proposals for the Summer Programs has come and gone, but since we've had the Thanksgiving Holiday to celebrate, we will keep the deadline open for another few days. So, if your proposal is not in as yet or you have questions about the proposal process, please submit them as soon as possible if you are planning to join us in Lithuania next summer.

For those of you who are new to A.P.P.L.E. and who might be interested in participating in our summer programs in Lithuania, please go to our website, <http://www.applequest.org>, to get detailed information on how to apply.

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile

ANN PETROLIUNAS

Ann Petrolionas has her Master's degree in teaching special education and currently works with high school students with learning disabilities in the Chicago, Illinois area. At OPRF High School, she teaches science through the learning development program, directs the Orchesis Dance Company, and sponsors the Dance Club. In her often non-existent spare time, she enjoys dancing and taking pictures, and is working on learning the Lithuanian language."

My Lithuania has no present. It has a past and it has a future. It is my history and it is my potential. I am grateful to my father for connecting me to my past. I am grateful to A.P.P.L.E. for letting me into Lithuania's future.

Last summer was my second trip to Lithuania and my first work with A.P.P.L.E. I reconnected with a cousin, explored the many regions of the country, and ate a lot of saltbarscai and potatoes. Mostly though, my summer was spent falling in love with a group of kids with disabilities who were part of A.P.P.L.E.'s program at Camp Viltis. I struggled with not knowing the language and wanting to connect. I struggled with the teachers' rigid views and refusal to believe in these learners. I struggled with my own frustrations of belonging to a culture that I knew so little

about and was having such trouble accessing. At the end of it all, the smiles and the laughter of these children were looped on repeat in my brain, and there was never any doubt I'd be back.

This summer, I made it a point to address many of my prior frustrations. I called up my reconnected cousin and asked to live with him and his family. I enrolled in a Lithuanian language program at the University of Vilnius. I went to the family farm in Kacergine to visit my grandmother's last living siblings. I made connections I was desperate for in knowing my past Lithuania. And I got a glimpse into Lithuania's future.

At Camp Viltis, I was overjoyed to see some of the same faces as last year, play our favorite games, and see how they'd grown. The new students were just as precious and brought with them so much for me to learn. A teacher from our 2008 group came back with stories of acceptance and belonging as she navigated through her first year of including a child with cerebral palsy in her 2nd grade class. This year's group of teachers was creative, energetic, and optimistic. They believed a little bit more in each of the students and fit the Viltis (hope) name. Personally, I know a few more words, a few more stories, and have a better sense of where I came from. Collectively, the A.P.P.L.E. program at Camp Viltis created a community and these teachers have a vision for Lithuanian education that is welcoming to all. My past Lithuania is starting to take shape and future Lithuania looks pretty bright.

Committee Quarterly Reports

The 4TH Quarter Report of the Annual Fund Committee

Based on our last fiscal report, we all see the need to address our responsibilities to significantly address fund-raising. In this difficult economic time, we need a variety of fund-raising options that will attract broader groups of contributors and encourage them to support our cause.

In that spirit, we are asking all Members of the Board and Officers to commit to identifying innovative and creative ways to generate \$1,000 in contributions per Board Member or Officer over the next eight months. Some ideas to consider:

Become the best fund-raiser you can be! Be as creative as you can be! So many people are trying to raise funds in this difficult economic time that the more creative you can be, the better your chances of being successful. I like to try to break big projects into small parts. To raise \$1,000--1000 people can donate \$1 or 100 people to donate \$10.

Encourage A.P.P.L.E. Members to get involved in the Annual Fund. While members have made commitments to A.P.P.L.E. in the past, we want to be careful that we are not asking them to donate to this Annual Fund Drive in place of their membership or normal donation. This is something that we need to work on at this particular time, but it is another way to expand our base.

iGive.com and iGiveSearch.com. You can become involved with the [iGive Program](#) and identify the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education as the charity that will benefit from you on-line shopping. This time of year is a busy time for on-line shoppers, it can also be a time for A.P.P.L.E. to benefit from your shopping.

Invite friends and neighbors to your home to hear about A.P.P.L.E.! Many of us devote a lot of time to A.P.P.L.E., but we don't talk about it with our colleagues and neighbors when we return from our work. Find the time to have a meeting at your home and spread the word about our 20th Anniversary.

Use your friends' special talents or skills to host a "Special Fund Raising Event"? Do you have a friend who has a great collection of photos of Lithuania? Do you know someone who does Lithuanian Folk Dancing? Do you know some folks who might like to hear about the history of A.P.P.L.E. or about our Seminars?

Please contact members of the Annual Fund Committee for more information on any of these topics or to share other possibilities:

Vida Anton crolit@optonline.net
Karl Janowitz karl.janowitz@temple.edu
Giedre Stankunas giedrestankunas@hotmail.com
Blanche Woolls bwoolls@slis.sjsu.edu
Chair, Barbara Henriques bhenriques@sjc.edu

Grant Writing Committee Report:

1. We received a check for \$1,000 on 10/14/09 from the Lithuanian Foundation for our 2008 activities.
2. The Knights of Lithuania at their annual meeting in Chicago this August voted to support A.P.P.L.E. with a donation of \$500. A follow-up letter was written to the president asking her when we could expect to get these funds.
3. Giedre has agreed to write the 2010 Lithuanian Foundation Grant, which will be posted on their web page shortly.
4. Aldona has agreed to write the 2010 Tautos Fondas Grant.

Respectfully submitted,

Aldona Marijosius
Anita Scarborough
Giedre Stankunas
Vida Gavin

Organizational Development Committee

3RD QUARTER FOCUS AREAS:

· **JOB DESCRIPTIONS WERE FINALIZED.** They were presented at the August meeting and were accepted. They are available online.

· **DEVELOPED NEW INITIATIVE TO OPEN A.P.P.L.E.MEMBERSHIP TO LITHUANIAN NATIONALS.** Approved at August meeting. Guidelines were approved by President on 9/27/09; available for distribution 1/1/10.

· **STRENGTHENING A.P.P.L.E. THROUGH COMMUNICATION.** Developing a sense of team among our officers, Board of Directors and members has become an important point of focus for our committee. Most people would agree that communication is a cornerstone element within all successful teams. To that end, we will begin publishing an e-zine on a monthly basis to keep all members of A.P.P.L.E. informed about our plans, activities, works in progress, concerns and needs. It will be timely, informative and open to participation by all members. We anticipate the first issue to be published prior to December 15.

· We are working on the **FIRST DRAFT OF AN OFFICIAL ELECTION POLICY.** It will be available by February 15. The final draft will be available for use prior to the Spring Meeting.

· **CLARIFICATION OF "APPLE KAUNAS" RESOLVED** with the assistance of Karl Janowitz. It is a local Special Education Program supported by A.P.P.L.E. resources.

· The **BY-LAWS STUDY TEAM** has begun work on the first editing of the by-laws in 20 years. We expect to have a final draft available for review prior to the Spring Meeting. Anita Scarborough and Vida Anton have joined the team for this project.

Respectfully submitted,
Vidas Underys
Gail Cassidy
Ed Topar, Chairman

Quotables and Quizzes

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

-Winston Churchill

REMINDERS

· **President:** . . . "I am still missing a few of the Quarterly Reports from Committee Chairs. Please get these to me a.s.a.p."

· **General Reminder:** Push back from those turkey leftovers and get your proposals for your Summer Programs in that were due November 29th. It is still not too late to get your proposal in to Vida Gavin, Shirley Sabo, and Katie Dunlap.

· If you did not receive your copy of the recent Newsletter, contact Jim Brousseau, e-mail address: brousseau@milan.k12.mi.us.

· If you haven't signed up with iGive.com, please do it now before you make your Christmas gift purchases. Remember A.P.P.L.E. receives a much needed donation with every purchase made through the iGive.com website. Over 700 major vendors participate in this program. Join the 21st Century by making your purchases on-line.

Most important of all,

**HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!!**

Organizational Development Committee

A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)