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



(American Professional Partnership

for

Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

In This Issue

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Ed Topar

Heard in Lithuania

Quiz for June

Notice of Changeover

Summer Programs

Reminders

Quotables

Greetings!



Message from the President

JUNE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be my last president's message to our e-zine readers. My term as President of APPLE ends on August 1, and Dr. Karl Janowitz will be APPLE's President for the next two years. I've enjoyed our monthly chats, and I wish to thank Gail Cassidy and Ed Topar (co-editors of the e-zine) for giving me this opportunity.

We are finalizing our summer plans and getting ready for our trip to Lithuania. Dr. Barbara Henriques has developed an excellent roster of participants for our 21st summer in Lithuania. This year, we will again be housed in Klaipeda at the Klaipeda Tourism School; and the Special Education Program will take place in Kaunas and a variety of venues throughout the Kaunas and Klaipeda Regions. I'd like to thank Dr. Henriques for putting together an excellent summer program for APPLE.

We will have five strands in Klaipeda: Administration, Integrating Technology into the Curriculum, Computer Science, Elementary Mathematics, and Library Science.

In addition to the Dr. Grigonis Special Education Program, Dr. Nancy Hanssen will also be bringing a group of students from the University of San Diego to work in the Special Education Program.

The Summer Session will take place from July 11 to 22, 2011.

Our lecturers in Klaipeda will be Ed Topar and Dr. Kristen Ross in the Administration Strand. In Technology and Computer Science we have Amanda Muliolis, Sue Kohfeld, Vilija Tarnaviciute, Tatjana Kriuviene and Rasa Alaburdiene. Dr. Barbara Henriques will teach the Elementary Math Strand, and Dr. Blanche Wools will be assisted by Aldona Paulanskiene and Snaige Raguckiene.

Our lecturers in Kaunas will be Karl Janowitz, Vilma Narkeviciene, Virginija Duksiene, Snieguole Velickiene, and Dr. Nancy Hanssen.

In looking over our roster, it is very clear that we have reached a milestone as an in-service provider in Lithuania. Half of our lecturers are native Lithuanians. These lecturers were participants in our summer sessions, and now they have the expertise and knowledge to team teach with their American mentors. What an accomplishment!

I wish to thank all of our board members for giving me this opportunity to serve as President for the past two years.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Lithuania this summer!

Dr. Vida R. Gavin
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."



Ed Topar

I earned my Bachelor's degree with a double major in English and Physical Education from Montclair State University, where I played football, basketball, and baseball and was inducted into the MSU Athletic Hall of Fame. I received further training in Senior Management Development Programs from IBM Corp. and Accelerated Management Training Schools in Tokyo & Kyoto, Japan, while working for Canon U.S.A.

At the beginning of my career I taught in elementary, secondary and junior college in California and New Jersey, before entering the corporate world. I worked for IBM and held a series of sales, marketing, and sales management positions before moving to AT&T as Director of Strategic Planning and later, Director of AT&T the Communications Management Institute. I held the positions of National Sales Manager at Canon, U.S.A. and Savin Corporation, before retiring in 2000.

THE A.P.P.L.E CONNECTION:

My relationship with Lithuania began long before I was ever truly aware of it or of A.P.P.L.E. In my earliest childhood, growing up in the Lithuanian enclave of Scranton, PA, known as Keyser Valley, where everyone from the small store owners to the priests spoke Lithuanian, my non-English speaking grandmother ruled my world. Growing up, however, in New Jersey, my time spent in that earlier world soon faded, and I thought I had left it behind.

Upon retiring from business in 2000 and with a renewed interest in my Lithuanian heritage, I made my first trip to Lithuania in 2001. It was during that visit and the researching of my grandparent's birth places that I first learned the correct spelling of my grandfather's surname, Taparauskas, and the location of his birthplace, Trakai, Vilnius County. I was hooked!

Following my return and vowing to go back again, I met an original founding member of A.P.P.L.E., Julius Veblitis, who introduced me to the organization and suggested that I become a member. I did in 2005 and two years later volunteered, at his suggestion, to teach current management philosophies and methodologies to school administrators in Lithuania. He recognized that my curiosity about my Lithuanian heritage had the potential to become a passion. He was so right.

In that first summer, teaching the basic management methodologies of Time Management and

Performance Planning to those appreciative and genuinely accepting administrators, it became clear to me that I was exactly where I was meant to be at that point in my life.

This experience proved to be one of the most personally rewarding and motivating experiences of my life and led me to want to do more. Being the first in my family to return to Lithuania and to be supportive of its needs, I truly felt I was giving something back to the country that held such a strong bond for me and my family.

When approached by then A.P.P.L.E. President Barbara Henriques during my second summer with A.P.P.L.E. in 2008, about the prospect of filling a vacant seat on the A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors, I felt this was another calling to do even more to support my beloved Lithuania. I agreed.

Today, after serving on the board for the past 36 months, primarily as Chairman of the Organizational Development Committee, I look back on the issues I observed that confronted the organization and at my efforts to resolve many of them. While I am comfortable with my initiatives and work ethic in pursuing them, I am less than satisfied with the results.

Many of the initiatives I originally drafted have been implemented for the most part, such as formal Job Descriptions, formal Election Procedures, The A.P.P.L.E. Seed electronic newsletter, the Restructured Organization, and the Revised By-Laws.

Other initiatives that remain unrealized at this point include Membership for Lithuanian Nationals, an increased networking presence within Lithuania and a formal Annual Fund Raising Campaign to improve our financial profile. I believe that those initiatives as well as others yet to be addressed will enable the organization to not only continue our current programs, but also to expand our support of the educational and social needs of Lithuania. Time will tell if these initiatives will mature or not.

As A.P.P.L.E. enters this 21st year of support for Lithuania, I sincerely hope the board pursues its Mission Statement **as a community**, with a true sense of commitment to the goals and objectives contained in it and **without any indulgences to the individual agendas** that have only served to undermine the deserved success of the organization.

Heard in Lithuania

A positive assessment of Lithuania's financial future.....a recent quote in the *Baltic Times* stated that Fitch, an international financial ratings agency, has recently increased the outlook for Lithuania's fiscal future from *Stable* to *Positive*. This view was based on the strengthening of the public finances, a strong economic recovery and the increasing stabilization of expenses. "Continued fiscal consolidation and structural reform, combined with falling external debt ratios could lead to another upgrade," said Michelle Napolitano, Associate Director in Fitch's sovereign Group.

Have you ever wanted to attend a Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival.....? Make your plans now to visit Boston, Mass., next year and attend the largest Lithuanian folk dance festival of the year on July 1, 2012. The details and a preview of what you can expect to see at this outstanding cultural event are detailed in the attached video link.

Combine a trip to see this outstanding event along with the many attractions Boston has to offer and you will guarantee yourself and your family a very special and rewarding vacation.

If you can't make it, at least you can [enjoy this video](#) for a very enjoyable sample of the activities at this event.

QUIZ

QUIZ FOR JUNE

1. Who is the Minister of Education and Science in Lithuania ?
2. What is the country code to call someone in Lithuania ?
3. What is the internet country code for Lithuania ?
4. What is the largest international event to be held in Lithuania in 2011 ?
5. What famous site in Lithuania is pictured here: [Beautiful Lithuania](#)

ANSWERS: Can be found under the REMINDERS section.

Notice of Changeover: The A.P.P.L.E. Seed Electronic Newsletter

As a result of recent elections within the A.P.P.L.E. organization, the content, editing and publication of this monthly newsletter (e-zine), *The A.P.P.L.E. Seed*, will be the responsibility of the A.P.P.L.E. Director of Communications effective with the July issue.

This June edition, our eighteenth (18), will be the last issue under the direction of myself and Gail Cassidy. We trust that you all enjoy reading this original publication each month and have been enlightened, amused, challenged and rewarded as a result of your interest in Lithuania and your subscription to our ezine.

Ed Topar

Inquiries on future issues: Contact Jim Brousseau at brousseauj@milanareaschools.com

Summer Programs

It's back to the Baltic for our Summer Programs this year.....this July we will again be hosted by Headmaster Audrius Kurlavicius and his excellent staff at the Klaipėdos Turismo Mokykla in Klaipėda. The two weeks of classes will be held from 7/11 through 7/22. This year's group will be the smallest group of American lecturers A.P.P.L.E. has ever had travel to Lithuania.

Let's hope the weather in Klaipėda this year is a good deal cooler than the record heat we experienced last July, when temperatures flirted with the 100 degree(F) mark.

Reminders

For all those participating in our A.P.P.L.E. Summer Programs.....

To assist you with your financial planning for your trip to Lithuania this summer, here is a comparison of the current related values of the Lita, the Euro and the Dollar. The values are subject to change daily, and can vary slightly within exchange locations.

<u>DOLLAR</u>		<u>LITAS</u>		<u>EURO</u>
1	=	2.417	=	.7000

Answers to Quiz:

1. **Gintaras Steponavicius**
2. **370**
3. **.It**
4. **European Basketball Championships**
5. **Gates of Dawn**

To our Lithuanian readers.....as we announced in our February issue, you are now eligible to participate in our newly announced program to support Lithuanian citizens in becoming official members of A.P.P.L.E. Please contact our coordinator in Lithuania, Ramute Zemioniene, at obuolys.lt@yahoo.com with your name, address and email address for details.

Quotables

"When the character of a person is not clear to you, look at his/her friends."

- Japanese Proverb

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.

Editing for grammar, punctuation, and spelling of submitted materials is the responsibility of the authors.

Quick Links

<http://www.applequest.org>

[Quicklink 2 Ed Topar e-mail](#)

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