

## John Baltrus

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**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2015 3:05 AM  
**To:** jonaspb@comcast.net  
**Subject:** News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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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

March has arrived and Spring is right around the corner.

We proudly recognize March 11, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reestablishment of Lithuanian independence and the impetus for A.P.P.L.E.

A.P.P.L.E.'s annual Spring meeting will be held the weekend of April 24-26 in Washington, D.C. The weekend will begin with a reception for A.P.P.L.E. members and supporters at the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania on April 24th. Our Board of Director's meeting will be held on April 25.

Plans are in the process of being made for other events to be held this year for A.P.P.L.E.'s twenty-fifth and final year. Look for details within the next few months.

Thank you for your dedication and involvement.

Have a wonderful March.

*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."

## Save the Dates - A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th Anniversary Celebrations

A special reception recognizing A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th anniversary will be held at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, April 24th. Attendance is by invitation only.** For additional details and to secure an invitation, please contact Vida Anton at [celebrateapple25@gmail.com](mailto:celebrateapple25@gmail.com). A.P.P.L.E.'s Spring Board Meeting will follow on Saturday. Another celebration with our friends in Lithuania is also being planned for this Summer. We will publish more information as soon as it is available.

We hope you will be able to join us for one of these events.

## American Association of Chemistry Teachers

As A.P.P.L.E. winds down its activities in Lithuania, other opportunities have emerged for Lithuanian educators to receive continuing education in their respective fields and take advantage of educational resources for their classrooms. In fact, the continued growth of these resources and the ability of educators to access them is one of the reasons that A.P.P.L.E. can end its mission and claim success after 25 years.

One such new opportunity is through the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). The AACT was launched last fall by the American Chemical Society (ACS). While both of these organizations are labeled as "American" and based in the U.S., their membership is international.

Teachers play a central role in preparing K-12 students to be STEM -savvy citizens and consumers and inspire them to pursue careers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. AACT hopes to provide a support system for success. Through AACT, ACS is playing an important role in sustaining excellent teachers of chemistry by providing quality teaching resources in a centralized location, such as reliable information about "what works" in the chemistry classroom, and opportunities for networking and professional development.

AACT has already gathered a robust collection of teaching resources, many of them created by K-12 teachers of chemistry. In addition, the association's online periodical, Chemistry Solutions, offers a venue for teachers to share resources and ideas. Networking is already taking place through webinars and social media, with new collaboration tools being developed in the coming year. AACT plans to offer its first national conference in 2016 to provide an opportunity for face-to-face networking, resource dissemination, and professional development.

The significance of AACT is demonstrated by Dow Chemical's \$1 million commitment to serve as its sole founding partner. The goals of AACT are in full alignment with Dow's STEMtheGap initiative, which the company says is designed to "build the workforce of tomorrow by empowering teachers, motivating student achievement, developing careers, and collaborating with communities to transform STEM education into a driver for innovation, manufacturing, and economic prosperity."

Since AACT's launch, more than 1,600 people have joined the association; some 88% of them are K-12 teachers, and the others are people who believe that teachers hold the key to "Inspiring and Innovating for Tomorrow." They include individuals involved in chemistry education research and chemistry teacher preparation, along with members of the chemistry community who believe in the work of AACT.

More information about AACT can be found at the organization's website: [www.teachchemistry.org](http://www.teachchemistry.org). While many of the resources are only available to members, there are significant and valuable resources available to nonmembers. Those can be found by clicking on "[unlocked resources](#)" on the "[Learn More](#)" page. Membership in the organization costs \$50 (USD) per year. Anyone can sponsor a member. So it offers the perfect opportunity to sponsor a chemistry teacher in Lithuania. Visit the "[Sponsor a Member](#)" page for more information.

The AACT website is a valuable resource for chemistry instructors. It also provides links to other organizations with resources for science teachers. Similarly, free classroom resources, including lesson plans and multimedia resources, are available for middle school chemistry teachers at the ACS website [www.middleschoolchemistry.com](http://www.middleschoolchemistry.com).

## Lithuania Considers Military Education in Schools

Elective military education classes should be introduced in Lithuanian schools next year, the country's Education and Science Minister Dainius Pavalkis says.

"I don't think that it would be like during the Soviet times when schoolchildren used to dismantle rifles or similar things. (...) But the segment of patriotic education, informational awareness, civic education must clearly be strengthened and we are taking these steps. The secondary education programs should include basic military education classes as an alternative to the third physical education class or history class. At least that's the proposal of a special panel but no decisions have been made yet," Pavalkis told journalists last Thursday.

In his words, such classes could be delivered by national defense volunteers. "People from the volunteer national defense system should come and share their experience, knowledge, enthusiasm etc," the education minister said.

A survey of 657 schoolchildren from upper classes (Year 8-12) last December and January showed that two thirds of them lacked information about the country's security, national defense or army.

BNS and Delfi

## A.P.P.L.E. Acknowledges Donors

A.P.P.L.E. would like to acknowledge the generosity of our donors in 2014. The list below is only a partial list because of space limitations. Additional donors will be acknowledged in the next EZine.

### ***\$1000 or greater***

Walter & Anele Steponis LivingTrust  
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Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh  
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## Fundraising Corner

You still have an opportunity to make a donation to honor A.P.P.L.E. and the many volunteers who have served A.P.P.L.E. over 25 years. All donations will be expended towards 2015 programs including A.P.P.L.E. Scholar's Fund. You can make a direct donation to A.P.P.L.E. by [clicking here](#) and 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., 105 Sturbridge Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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. Note that because of compositional software constraints, we are not able to include proper Lithuanian characters in words and names.

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.

Consider passing this email along to a friend who you think might be interested in hearing about us.

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