

John Baltrus

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Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 9:02 AM
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E-Zine

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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

Can it be May already? A.P.P.L.E.'s Summer is right around the corner. We will be in

Lithuania next month!

As you know, I had a fantastic visit to Lithuania in late March/early April. It was wonderful meeting with Lithuanian colleagues, visiting schools, and seeing and hearing about how A.P.P.L.E. has positively impacted so many people.

We had a wonderful Board of Director's meeting in Belmar, NJ in mid-April. It was so good discussing plans for this summer and future A.P.P.L.E. endeavors with friends and colleagues. My involvement with A.P.P.L.E. is truly a highlight of my professional life!

Have a wonderful May.

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."

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Ritone Rudaitis



Ritone Rudaitis

Recently, while browsing through some old papers I came upon my resume which stated: "I hope to become a competent and innovative Early Childhood Special Education teacher..." At that time as a K-8 grade school teacher I was seeking an Early Childhood Special Education Type 10 certificate from Chicago State University College of Education to meet the requirements for reimbursement approval to teach Early Childhood Special Education classes.

Before my career as an Elementary School teacher, in 1957 I received a BS degree in Biology from Annhurst College, So. Woodstock, CT and worked as a registered Medical Technologist (ASCP) in Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, CT. After that, I worked in Chicago as a bacteriologist at West Side Veterans Hospital and later as head of Bacteriology Department at Englewood Hospital.

Having relocated in 1960 from Connecticut to Chicago, I became involved in many American Lithuanian Community activities and projects: I sang in the Lithuanian Opera

choir, served as a commissioner of Lithuanian Girl Scouts and as press and information director for the 4th (1972) and the 6th (1980) Free World Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Free World Lithuanian Days, etc.

By that time I had visited 45 States of the USA and more than a dozen countries abroad, including two short visits to Lithuania in 1975 and 1976. Lithuania - my native country was occupied by Russia in 1944 and former citizens of Lithuania were not welcome. When finally in 1990 Lithuania bravely regained Independence, I was one of the "first swallows" to fly back for an extended visit. How could I help this devastated land of my birth? It was separated from the rest of the Free World for more than 50 years by the infamous Iron Curtain!

I joined A.P.P.L.E. in 1991 as a Special Education volunteer teacher and translator. For more than 10 years I have served on the Board of Directors. Also, for 19 years I have written and published nearly 100 articles for American Lithuanian newspapers (mostly "Draugas") regarding A.P.P.L.E. input for the on-going Educational Reform in Lithuania. The compiled articles are presently kept in the American Lithuanian Culture Archives (ALKA) and the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center (Chicago).

Looking back I remember how difficult it was to learn about the sad situation of Lithuania's children who had special needs, especially after visiting some orphanages and institutions. However, the situation started to change and soon some of the children with special needs were ready to be included into the regular classes. The prediction which I made in one of my early lectures - is a reality today. Lithuanian educators are not only attending A.P.P.L.E. Summer seminars, but many are lecturing as well.

A.P.P.L.E. Flashback



As A.P.P.L.E.'s Board gathered in Belmar, NJ, there was time to reminisce and look at some photos from past summers in Lithuania. How many of the people in the photo above can you identify? Can you tell where and when it was taken? [Send us your guesses](#) and we will let you know what some of those guesses were in the next E-Zine.

A.P.P.L.E. Board Spring Meeting Recap



A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors

The A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors held its Spring Board Meeting and Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing officers during the weekend of April 14th in Belmar NJ. The meeting was arranged by Vida Anton. The annual financial report was presented and plans for the summer 2012 program were reviewed. In attendance were President Karl Janowitz, Philadelphia PA; Treasurer Jack Vellis, San Diego CA; Secretary Anita Scarborough, Chapel Hill NC; Director of Programs Nancy Hanssen, San Diego CA; and Directors at-large: Vida Anton, Howell NJ; John Baltrus, Pittsburgh PA; Sue Kohfeldt, Milan MI; Ilona Laucius, Union Pier MI; Amanda Muliolis, Cleveland OH; Giedre Stankunas, Cos Cob CT; and member Algirdas Muliolis, Cleveland OH.

The Board welcomes Dr. Anita Yuskauskas as a Director-at-large for a 3-year term. Also, Vida Anton was reelected to a 3-year term as Director-at-large.

Fundraising Corner

Algirdas Muliolis has created some posters to help with fundraising activities for A.P.P.L.E. Algirdas and his wife Amanda post these in their church hall in Cleveland when they collect donations during a social hour after mass on Sunday. You are welcome to [download a PDF copy](#) to print and hang where potential supporters of A.P.P.L.E. might see it. Perhaps you might even attach a few envelopes to the poster. This particular version is in Lithuanian. An English version will be available soon.

Find out more about donating to A.P.P.L.E. on the [A.P.P.L.E. Website](#).

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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