

John Baltrus

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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

It is autumn and the school year is in full swing on both sides of the Atlantic. The visit of the Pope to the East Coast of the United States has been a recent highlight.

Congratulations to all in recognition of World Teachers' Day which is celebrated in October. It is gratifying to see the contributions that teachers make publicly acknowledged.

We recently held our final summer A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors' meeting. It is hard to believe that our incredible twenty-five year A.P.P.L.E. journey is ending. However, we are planning to continue this EZine through January to keep you abreast of what is happening as we wind down our operations.

I want to thank everyone for the support you have given A.P.P.L.E. for all these years. It is truly appreciated.

Best wishes,

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."

A.P.P.L.E. Holds Final Board Meeting



A.P.P.L.E.'s Final Board Meeting

The final meeting of A.P.P.L.E.'s Board of Directors was held Saturday September 19th in Orlando FL. In attendance were Dr. Karl Janowitz- President, Philadelphia; Dr. Anita Scarborough-Secretary/Treasurer, Chapel Hill NC; Dr. John Baltrus, Pittsburgh; Giedre Stankunas, Cos Cob CT; Amanda Muliolis, Cleveland; Vida Anton, Howell NJ; and Ilona Laucius, Union Pier MI. Activities of the summer 2015 program in Vilnius were reviewed, including recognition of support provided by the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius, as well as the July 9th issue of Draugas, which reported on the July 1st reception in recognition of 25 Years of A.P.P.L.E. hosted by the Ugdymo Pletotes Centras (UPC), at Verkiiai Palace in Vilnius.

Final business included dissemination of a list of the archival files held in Putnam CT. The majority of A.P.P.L.E.'s documents generated since 2000 is archived electronically, and will be placed in an open online file system over the next few months. The main criterion for the dissolution of A.P.P.L.E. as a non-profit corporation, chartered in the state of Pennsylvania, is the expenditure of all funds. A significant portion of the session was used to discuss how any remaining funds should be dispersed. After thoughtful deliberation it was decided that awards will be distributed to six Lithuanian organizations; Viltis, the Lithuanian welfare society for persons with mental disability (27%), Lithuanian Chemistry Olympiad (27%), the mineral museum at Jonava. Initial seed money establish this museum was A.P.P.L.E. LMF award (9.3%), Klaipedos Prano Masioto Progimnazija Moykla (Catholic School; 9.3%), the library at Kaunas vaiku lopselis-darzelis Spindulelis (Kindergarten; 9.3%), and the Kaunas A.P.P.L.E

. Organization (18%). The actual amount in Euros that these institutions will receive will be determined in December, when all A.P.P.L.E. expenditures, including 2015-16 LMF grants have been decided.

Summer Program Reflection - Laurie Hendrickson



Laurie Hendrickson

The class of elementary teachers had just finished reading a touching memoir by Tomie DePoala about his grandmother and great grandmother titled *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs*. After several minutes of meditation, they were immersed in writing their own stories that the reading invoked. The mood was serene and silent with everyone quietly focused on their writing. The only sound in the room was the quiet tapping of computer keys. The lights had been dimmed.

I have used this activity many times with middle school students. I always get their best writing, because it comes from the heart. It is not uncommon to see tears during this time, which only affirms the idea that life writing is powerful and emotional. It often serves to bring up memories-both happy and sad-that may have been buried for a long time.

If we want students to write well, we must first start with what they know and care about. That's where writing workshop strategies come into play. Writer's workshop is a writing technique that can build fluency in writing through continuous, repeated exposure to writing. It is based on seven principles: 1) time to just write with no interruptions; 2) a comfortable space; 3) mini lessons at the beginning of the writing session; 4) the use of mentor texts, because students need to see how professionals write; 5) choice, as there is no better way to motivate people to write than to let them decide on their own topic; 6) conferences with teachers and with other students; 7) whole group sharing of their writing. The idea behind writer's workshop is that students generate many writing ideas by reading books, brainstorming ideas, and writing quickly. They keep their ideas in a folder and choose the ones they want to use as a base for longer pieces of writing.

The workshop began with the students drawing pictures and sharing stories about themselves as teachers. We read a book called *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneburg which surprised us at the end because it was the teacher who was nervous about the

first day of school and not the students. I asked if anyone was scared about their first day of this class and it turned out that I (the teacher) was the only one. I had them to do a quick write about their best first day of school or their worst first day of school. One of my favorites was about a new teacher who wasn't allowed into her classroom until the first day. She entered the room with her students following behind and found all of the materials for her class sitting in the middle of the room. In a very constructivist way, this teacher told the children to grab the materials and set up the room. I could see how she could easily turn this "worst day" story into a "best day" story as she took the quick write through the writing process to a finished story.

The week continued and we generated many story ideas. Students recalled memories that were warm, from long ago, made them cry, made them laugh, and were as precious as gold after reading the book *Wilfred Gordon, McDonald, Partridge* by Mem Fox. They interviewed other students and wrote a focused piece about their partner. We talked about having students give pieces of their writing to loved ones, and they created beautiful construction paper envelopes.

But, students didn't just write. They read their stories out loud, made books, presented skits, and shared teaching ideas. Along with another lecturer, I presented an inquiry project at a general session about a reading/writing teaching technique where the students create a presentation called C.R.A.F.T.S., which stands for Context, Role, Audience, Format, Theme, and Structure. When we came back to class, we read a book called *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey* by Maira Kalman. It's

about an old fireboat in New York City that had been put out for scrap until a group of people bought her and brought her back to life. She was used only recreationally until 9/11 when she was brought back into service. This was our **C**ontext. The **R**ole, or perspective for the story, was the fireboat; the **A**udience for the story was new (or young) boats; the **F**ormat was a tea party; the **T**heme was "You are never too old to be of use"; and the **S**tructure was problem/solution. As a group, they wrote their scripts and then presented them to the class. This was when I knew that this class was made up of thoughtful, creative, and very funny people.

We finished the week with an inquiry project about sharks. Students filled out an anticipation guide and then conducted research to see if their beliefs were correct. This led to writing about sharks. The week I spent in Vilnius this year was fun, rewarding, exhausting, and time well spent.

Lithuanian Scholars Fund - Proposals Due October 31st

The final round of Lithuanian Scholars Fund Grants will be awarded later this year. Application and eligibility information can be found on the [A.P.P.L.E. website](#). Summer program participants from 2011 to 2015 can apply. The maximum grant this year will be 500 euro. The deadline for receipt of proposals is October 31st. Winners will be notified by January 2016.

A.P.P.L.E. Video

At the reception for A.P.P.L.E. held at the Lithuanian Embassy, a short video with a collection of photos and media clips was shown by Amanda Muliolis. At that point it was, and still is, a work in progress. The DVD that she is preparing will contain several presentations - one will be all 25 years in pictures. Then she divided it up into 6 parts - five 5-year segments, and the sixth - closing year - embassy reception, last seminar and closing in Lithuania. She will also include a 10-year presentation prepared by

Romas Sakadolskis. She is not sure yet what else she will include, since she has a lot more information, like president Adamkus' speech during A.P.P.L.E.'s 15-th year celebration and some videos.

Amanda will be offering copies of the DVD to anyone who would like to purchase a copy. The cost is \$10.00, and the DVD will be ready this fall, (September or October). She will send it to all who order by end of September. They can order it from her by sending their address and \$10.00 to her at: 1820 Dansy Dr. Euclid, OH 44117-2010. Questions may be directed to Amanda at atmuliolis@gmail.com

Fundraising Corner

Thank you for your support of A.P.P.L.E. over the last 25 years. We are no longer soliciting donations. Feel free to support one of the many organizations supporting Lithuania.

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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