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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,



Message from the President

We have recently returned from our very successful 20th summer in Lithuania, and what a fantastic summer it was! Beginning with the much appreciated recognition events held in our honor by both the Minister of Education, Gintaras Steponavicius, at the newly renovated Ministry offices, and U.S. Ambassador Ann Derse, at her marvelous home in Vilnius, it was a whirlwind of spirited activities.

Following the planting of the 20th apple tree in Vilnius, each of our three (3) programs groups headed out to their assigned locations in Klaipeda, Kaunas, and Camp Viltis. The highlight of the opening ceremonies for our Klaipeda group was the address of appreciation for A.P.P.L.E.'s work on behalf of Lithuania's education community over the past twenty (20) years given by former President Valdas Adamkus.

Despite the record-breaking high temperatures throughout Lithuania this summer, each program received an enthusiastic reception from their Lithuanian participants in both their classroom and planned field activities.



We all returned emboldened by the continued enthusiasm and appreciation shown by our Lithuanian constituents and supporters. The contributions made by A.P.P.L.E. in support of Lithuanian education over the past twenty (20) years have not gone unnoticed.

Dr. Vida R. Gavin
APPLE 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."

Organizational Development Message

The primary focus for our committee over the past ninety (90) days has been directed toward three (3) projects: Revision of the A.P.P.L.E. By-Laws, Securing the support of the Kazickas Family Foundation for A.P.P.L.E.'s work in support of Lithuanian children with special needs, finalization of an official Election Policy for our organization.

Revision of the By-Laws:

Our final draft of the revised By-Laws was completed in July and posted to the APPLE Forum site for review by the A.P.P.L.E. leadership team. During the month following, there were four (4) comments posted by those receiving the final draft which we responded to immediately.. It is hoped that every one of our leadership team took the opportunity to read both the original and revised versions of our By-Laws. We, the members of the By-Laws Study Team, believe the final draft is ready for an approval vote at our next meeting.

An Organization Chart was also posted for everyone's review on The APPLE

Forum this past week to help clarify everyone's understanding of the organizational changes made at our Annual Meeting in April.

Relationship with the Kazickas Family Foundation:

Vitas Underys and I met with Jurate Kazickas at her invitation in New York during the last week in June. As a result of that meeting, we were invited to meet with the Foundation's Proposal Manager, Zenonas Bedelis at his office in Vilnius during July. We did, and as a result of that very successful meeting, we will be submitting a formal business case proposal to him prior to December. We are expecting a form from Mr. Bedelis during the first week of September to initiate the process. Both Vitas and I are optimistic about this outcome.

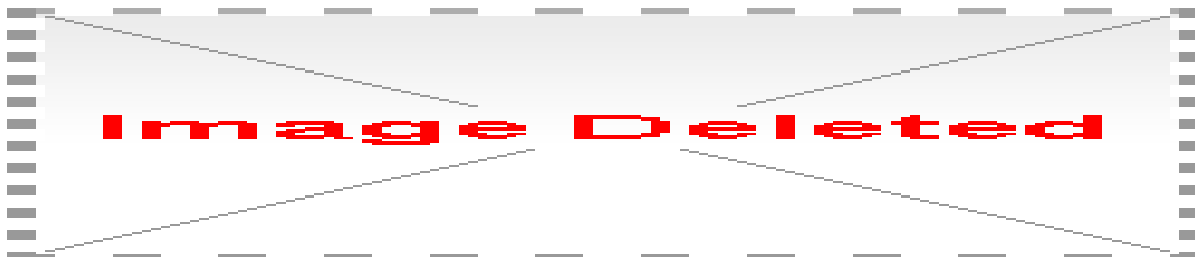
Official A.P.P.L.E. Election Policy:

We have a draft of an election policy that we believe still needs more work, especially in light of some of the changes associated with the revised By-Laws and Organization Structure. (See new Organization Chart posted on APPLE Forum). If possible, this policy may be ready for use at our September meeting.

ARTICLES

Additionally, we want to remind you that **you are encouraged to send articles** to us that you feel would be of interest to our readers. They can be items that you have authored or articles from others, including photos, from whom you have received permission to duplicate and to publish.

Heard in Lithuania



2010 Summer Staff

HOT, HOTTER, and HOTTEST

As Russian temperatures soared to 103 degrees the weekend we left Klaipeda and remained there well into August, the participants of A.P.P.L.E.'s Summer Workshop were sympathetic. With classrooms hitting the high 80's and dorm rooms hitting the high 90's, we knew what "uncomfortable" was.

While the celebration for the 20th Anniversary of A.P.P.L.E. was going on in Vilnius, Ed Topar and Gail Cassidy attended and were speakers at the high school graduation in Palanga. The graduation party at a nearby catering hall attended by students and their parents was a scene right out of *The Waltons*, an affair that made us nostalgic for days of yore. The celebration--the dining, dancing, and warm hearty laughter lasted

throughout the evening into the wee hours of the morning. The final celebration was a new tradition for this class--the lighting of miniature gas balloons at midnight which we all watched until they faded from view.

On Saturday, the busload of people, suitcases, and numerous boxes was a welcome site for those of us who had arrived early. We couldn't wait to see the expressions of those who had to climb multiple sets of stairs lugging their 40 lb. suitcases and other paraphernalia, e.g., no elevators! Although we tried to wrestle the bags from him, Algirdas helped by taking a couple of huge bags at one time and running up the steps two at a time.

The next challenge was finding a shower near our dorm rooms--no easy feat. The brand new shower on the second floor lasted less than a week. Many of us climbed to the 5th floor or went down into the classroom hallway to find and revel in this coveted treasure. The unisex bathroom found instructors shaving with students next to them brushing their teeth or washing their clothes.

The good news arrived when we went into the dining room--delicious, healthful, colorful fare awaited us three times a day. Being in a school which teaches culinary arts was certainly to our benefit. And, of course, our fourth and fun meal of dark bread, salami, cheese and of course the ever-present champagne and chocolate was found in the lounge the entire second week and a few times the first. Vida Gavin took good care of us, setting up and breaking down, and still being the first one downstairs in the morning. She may have been motivated by her 99 degree sleeping quarters.

For me, this year and last, the absolute best part of the program centers on the people--those we worked with and those we taught. Being together for a one- to two-week period in such unusual conditions, creates a bond of closeness that is difficult to describe. I developed an attachment to every single person teaching, managing, and supporting the A.P.P.L.E. experience. There was nary a slacker or non-contributor in the group. Everyone added to the outstanding, albeit, hot experience that we had.

The second special group of people, of course, consists of our students. They were as uncomfortably hot as we were, but they didn't complain, although one almost fainted. They appeared grateful for what they were learning, and they were a joy to get to know. The true gratification came from former students who told us exactly how they implemented what we had taught them last year and how pleased they were with the results. That made the entire experience worthwhile.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies, beautifully orchestrated by Barbara Henriques each week, were also highlights of the trip. Closing ceremonies at the end of each week end with everyone joining hands and singing a Lithuanian folksong touches my heart every time I hear it. Paulius Kaltauskiukas filmed this song at the end of the first week. [Watch and enjoy!](#)

Trekking back to Vilnius on Friday in a wonderfully air-conditioned bus for our celebration at the American Ambassador's home was a delightful respite from the heat. While there, a few of us found a nicely cooled spot in the library where the ambassador joined us for a fairly lengthy chat. I suspect her lovely linen jacket and the hot temperatures outside on the beautiful, spacious grounds may have been a motivator to find our conversation so stimulating.

To my friends I summarize this A.P.P.L.E. experience as (forgive me Mr. Dickens) as *the best of times*--the people and students, and *the worst of times*--heat, heat, and more

heat! Tsk! Tsk! Mother Nature!

submitted by Gail Cassidy

Join Our 20TH Anniversary Celebration

To congratulate A.P.P.L.E. on its 20th anniversary of on-going specialized volunteer work with Lithuania's educators, please join our celebration by contributing \$20.

We invite you to mark this occasion by writing a check to A.P.P.L.E. and mailing it to our treasurer, Jack Vellis, as follows: A.P.P.L.E., P.O. Box 179017, San Diego, CA 92177. Jack's reply will be an income tax receipt sent to every donor. As a token of our appreciation for your donation and to further acknowledge our 20th. Anniversary we will also send to each donor a commemorative pin displaying the joined flags of the United States and Lithuania.

With your donation, please indicate your name as you wish it to appear in our published list of contributors along with your residential location as well as the year in which your involvement with A.P.P.L.E. began.

Please also indicate one specific role relating to A.P.P.L.E. such as lecturer, donor, editor, etc. - all to fit into one line of print. Should you choose to double your donation to \$40, this fact will be included in the one-liner assigned to you. One-liner examples identifying two \$20 contributors follow:

1991 - Dr. Vida (Strazdaite) Gavin, Cape Cod, MA - President 2009-2011

1996 - Grazina Irena Ross, Toronto, ON, Canada - President 2003-2004

Submitted by Irena Ross

A.P.P.L.E.'s 20th Anniversary Celebration



Celebration at Home of American Ambassador

On July 10th, those of us who were in Vilnius made our way down to the Ministry of

Education and Science building in Old Town for a reception in honor of the 20th Anniversary of A.P.P.L.E. We gathered in the Rotunda Room used for special occasions and important meetings. In attendance were members of our A.P.P.L.E. 2010 Summer Team both from the United States and from Lithuania. Officials from the Ministry of Education and Science including the Minister, Gintaras Steponavicius, and Giedrius Vaidelis, the new Director of the Education Development Center. They welcomed us and talked about the work that A.P.P.L.E. has done over the last 20 years. Their comments and support were well received by all in attendance.

In preparation for the reception, staff at the Education Development Center had compiled a college of slides that documented our work throughout Lithuania, our work with teachers and administrators; our work with special education staff and students at Camp Viltis; and our work with members of the staffs of various schools and residences serving students with special needs. The slide show demonstrated the variety and excitement that has been part of the A.P.P.L.E. experience for Lithuanian teachers and their colleagues from America and Canada over the last 20 years.

At the conclusion of the speeches and presentation of certificates to Summer 2010 lecturers, we adjourned into the foyer for refreshments and a wonderful display of photos and other memorabilia prepared by our Lithuanian partners. It was a wonderful way to begin our 2010 Summer. Thank you to those who helped to make this summer a reality. Please go to our website to see pictures related to this event and our summer work (www.applequest.org).

submitted by Dr. Barbara Henriques

Reminders

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Washington D.C. during the weekend of Sept. 24-26. Please contact Vida Anton, crolit@optonline.net, with the details of your plans to attend or if you will be unable to attend.

Quotables and Quizzes

"You cannot change anything in your life with intention alone, which can become a watered-down, occasional hope that you'll get to tomorrow.
Intention without action is useless."

Caroline Myss

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.

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

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