

John Baltrus

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Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 3:04 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

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E-Zine



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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. The new school year has arrived and Fall is right around the corner.

We recently had a productive Board of Directors' meeting in St. Augustine, Florida, one of the oldest cities in the United States, and one of considerable historical importance. We discussed our Summer 2014 A.P.P.L.E. program and began planning our final year of A.P.P.L.E. seminars.

Next summer we will conclude our A.P.P.L.E. summer seminars with our 25th summer of in-service programs for Lithuanian educators. You will hear more about this as the academic year progresses.

Wishing you a wonderful September. Thank you for all you have done to support A.P.P.L.E.

Sincerely,

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. Board Reviews 2014 - Plans 2015 Summer Program



A.P.P.L.E. Board Members Meet in St Augustine, FL

The Board of Directors of A.P.P.L.E. met on August 23rd and 24th to review the 2014 summer program and make plans for 2015. The 2014 A.P.P.L.E. summer seminars were held in Kaunas for the first time in the history of A.P.P.L.E. The number of participants in each strand is in the table below.

Strand	Lecturers	Number of Participants 1st Week	Number of Participants 2nd Week
Administration I	Ed Topar, Kristen Ross	17	11
Administration II	Linda Brenneman	16	14
Elementary Education	AnneErbe, TracyMandara	37	25
Science	John Trimble	17	13
Information Technologies	Dea Conrad-Curry	12	12
Language Arts	Wendell Mayo, Laurie Hendrickson	18	
Total:		117	75
Grand Total		192	

Participants in the 2014 summer program came from 29 different cities:

Kaunas - 90	Trakai - 3	Silute-1
Vilnius - 14	Kelme - 3	Pasvalys - 1
Prienai - 11	Marijampole - 2	Lazdijai - 1
Siauliai - 10	Panevecys - 2	Rokiskis - 1
Kaisiadorys - 8	Taurage - 2	Birzai - 1
Klaipeda - 7	Druskininkai - 2	Ignalina - 1
Elektrenai - 7	Salcininkai - 2	Ukmerge - 1
Visaginas - 6	Jurbarkas - 2	Akmene - 1

Alytus - 6

Telsiai - 2

Gargzdai - 1

Raseiniai - 3

Jonava - 1

Overall, the Board believed the 2104 Program was a success and thank the lecturers who donated their valuable time and money to travel to Lithuania to be part of the program.

The Board was also pleased to announce that it believed that with current reserves and anticipated donations that there will be enough funds for A.P.P.L.E. to close out and complete its 25th year in Lithuania in 2015 with both a Summer Program and with another round of Lithuanian Scholar Grants. Look for announcements on the A.P.P.L.E. website soon concerning the Grants solicitation and a call for lecturers and proposals for 2015.

As A.P.P.L.E. closes out its activities in 2015, look for 25-year celebrations in both Lithuania and the U.S. during the coming year. We hope as many as possible will be able to participate.

Administrative Strand I Reflection - Kris Ross & Ed Topar



Ed Topar

This summer A.P.P.L.E., for the first time, had two administrative strands. One was led by Linda Brenneman and the other was facilitated by Ed Topar and myself, Kris Ross. Ed shared ideas on team building including team building activities that the administrators really enjoyed and ideas on planning and running effective meetings among other topics. I shared an in-depth look at Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching, which is used as a basis for teacher evaluation in over twenty states. The sessions covered the framework itself with all of its components and descriptors, and a look at the rubric used to identify levels of performance. We compared this with the Lithuanian evaluation tool and tried applying it to some videos of classroom instruction.

The two groups of directors and deputy directors were experienced and skilled administrators who were able to learn from each other during valuable sharing time. We were able to get to know them a little better due to the evening activities that were held. This was the first time that I experienced them, and I found them to be a wonderful way to get to know our participants and our colleagues. This year we also had more general sessions where lecturers and participants learned together. All of these experiences created a great academic camaraderie.

I felt privileged to be a member of the lecturers. We had Fulbright Scholars, authors, national presenters, and incredibly talented educators. Our location was in Kaunas in a newly remodeled school that had state of the art technology. Our hosts were very gracious to us, and A.P.P.L.E. once again brought a quality experience for the Lithuanian educators.

Administrative Strand II Reflection - Linda Breneman



Linda Breneman

This year I was fortunate to be selected as a lecturer for the administration strand for A.P.P.L.E. I say fortunate because I worked with some amazing Lithuanian principals, vice principals, and teachers this year in Kaunas. I am continually drawn to this beautiful country of my heritage. This is my eighth time visiting Lithuania. I have worked with the A.P.P.L.E. organization six times during their 24 years in Lithuania and came to visit relatives the other two times. Each time I have come away with a new appreciation of the strength, courage, adaptability, and warmth of these people who survived the repression of the Soviet Union for 50 years, kept their spirit of culture and country alive, and went on to rapidly evolve into the 21st century with grace, a focused intelligence, and optimism.

The educators I worked with this year were progressive thinking yet grounded in past and present research of best educational practices. They demonstrated a deep understanding of where the educational system in Lithuania needed to proceed. While I was there to teach about formal evaluation processes, I was also presenting a new model of supervision and coaching referred to as mini observations. School administrators are now, more than ever, needed to be more than managers of their schools and in fact they must become instructional leaders in order to move their schools forward and achieve successful school improvement. The school environment must become one of collegiality and trust, where leadership is cultivated among the entire teaching staff and the school culture provides opportunities for teachers to learn from each other. The administrators I worked with embraced this concept and indeed, many had already begun implementing such practices.

During my classes the administrators were truly engaged in my presentation and often offered their ideas to the discussions. There was true debate between them as well as with me. We discussed how the ideas that I was presenting would support the vision for their schools as well as how they would morph these ideas to best meet their needs. There was a true exchange of what "effective teaching" is and how to work with and coach teachers in order for them to become more effective teachers.

The administrators came from throughout Lithuanian and actually formed a support group where they would check in with each other throughout the year and/or be available for each other through email to ask and answer questions. This networking idea came from them. This is a great way to support one another as well as to sustain change.

While educational practices are being influenced more and more by well-founded research, they are also being affected by global influences. Many administrators were familiar with the latest research and were already practicing the methodology of coaching teachers throughout the year. While the formal evaluation process will still need to be in place and is necessary in order to have

a measure of standards of teaching, the mini observation coaching model serves to inform both administrators and teachers about best teaching practices in a more shared and ongoing way so that true teacher effectiveness will improve.

I look forward to hearing from administrators about the implementation progress and effectiveness of the supervision, evaluation, and mini observation strategies and techniques that were presented to them this summer.

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.

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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