

AATSP

Saturday April 9, 2016

Council Members Present: Gary Barnard (UNY Chapter President); Cynthia Flax (UNY Chapter Past-President); Gerardo T. Cummings (UNY Chapter Communications Coordinator/Secretary); Monica Abrams (UNY Chapter Central NY Representative); and Myriam Santos (Public Relations Coordinator).

Noche de película: Cynthia commented on the need to promote *Noche de película* by way of flyers to remind teachers, since this year only Buffalo State is holding an event in April. She suggested that perhaps holding it at a local Community College would generate more interest. [please insert information as you recall the conversation]

Poster Contest: This is a national contest that starts at the local chapter level. The process is simple: high schools have a contest and send in best work, the local chapter then judges them, issues prizes and then selects the best to compete at the national level. There are many categories. Our local deadline is March 1 and for the national competition is April 1. This was our first year and we didn't have any entries. We agree to disseminate flyers and to ask teachers to incorporate this into their classes in September.

Spring Outing: The deadline for teachers to sign up for the Spring Outing is April 20th, 2016. Five people have prepaid, and there are ten tickets still available. Ground transportation departs from Albany at 7:30AM. The immersion outing involves visiting the Hispanic Society of America, a ticket to the play "Get On Your Feet" and a meal at a Cuban restaurant.

Endorse a Career Day: Brianna and Emily are the leads in this project. They're coming together to work on it. The collection of videos is going to be released in the Fall. Myriam and Cynthia have 7 videos that they've worked on. Mónica's nephew—who works in Univision—will be sharing his experiences. Cynthia shares that the Ohio Dept. of Education gave us permission to use their website as long as we give them credit. Their website is rich in information about careers. We are still working on a date the program "Endorse a Career Day." It will be a day to highlight the importance of language. Cynthia said that the video is based on 5 questions. The video in Spanish will be the same in English. Some of the careers we're including among those seven videos are doctors, military, advertising folks and we're looking for someone to talk about engineering. Gary Barnard suggests that Endorse a Career Day should happen in the beginning of September, 2016.

Chicos Charlando: This is an event that started in 2015. It's a simple concept: a restaurant like Panera is chosen, and students from different schools come together to talk in Spanish. Gary shares his approach: he gives students the option of discussing small topics and students get to talk or get to know each other by using Spanish. Gary shares his experience as a student at Brigham Young University—where it was called "La Mesa Española"—and he remembers it being very successful. The next "Chicos Charlando" is Wednesday April 13, 2016. We agree that it is important to get the word out to different schools about this tremendous opportunity for students. We agree that Gerardo Cummings should explore doing this in Wells College. It is always a good idea to involve high school juniors/seniors in this event. Cynthia

shares the following dates for upcoming “Chicos Charlando” meetings: Wed. April 13, Wed. May 18 and none in June, but it starts back in September and goes into early November. Then April and May. Cummings asks about the months in the middle of winter, but our Chapter does not encourage students to drive during snow months.

Newsletter: The newsletter is digital. Gary Barnard asks ‘Who looks at it? How many people download the newsletter?’ Cynthia says she’ll ask. Gary believes she said last time that people had downloaded/opened it 15 times. Cynthia says that one of the things suggested to us was to send a reminder ‘flyer’ a week or two before events. Myriam and Cynthia have been contacting all teachers and letting them know ‘these things are happening, you’re more than welcome to participate’ Cynthia says they’ve also been inviting Spanish teachers by way of a informative letter to their principals.

Fall Outing: The “Fall Outing” for the Upstate New York Chapter of the AATSP is planned to happen in a resort in Lake George again. Last year, teachers who attended the fall outing brought enough food to the meeting that they ended up having to take food back home. Teachers have the opportunity for fellowship with other Spanish teachers, do yoga, experience massages and movies. It’s a relaxing way to talk Spanish. The participants rents the place. This year, the Fall Outing will happen the last week of September 30, Oct 1 and Oct 2. Gary feels we need to publicize this before hand. The price for 2016’s Fall Outing is estimated to be \$200. This is for people that are members of the national AATSP organization (i.e. those who have paid \$65 a year). The idea is to provide an immersion experience in the Spanish language, something that Spanish teachers welcome.

National Spanish Exam: Cynthia just received a list yesterday and Myriam and Cynthia are going to cross-reference the list shortly. Gary says “This is a good way to get people signed up with us.” Cynthia states that Evelyne Ledezma is willing to do workshops on the National Spanish Exam to promote more participation.

Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH): There has been discussion about organizing a conference, something Gerardo Cummings and Mark Warford (UNY Chapter Western NY Representative have shown interest. Mark is interested in technology and language so we’d have to work on it this year for it to happen next year. The other two members are Rosa Perifimos (rep of SHH) and Claudia Decker (regional director of SHH). Cynthia suggests an SHH Conference. Gary suggests the last two weeks of July or the last week in August; Cynthia feels last week of August may be too late for teachers to attend.

AATSP Nominations: Every chapter is supposed to engage in AATSP nominations every 3 years. Gary Barnard feels he needs someone with more experience to lead in this front. Cynthia nominated herself, but Gary offers that we should nominate her. Cynthia explains how the structure of the AATSP organization works. Cynthia was hesitant about running for office at first because she’s retired after teaching k-12 for 28 years. She explains that this is an AATSP election where the membership votes. This year the Annual AATSP Conference is in Miami. In 2017, the AATSP convention will be in Salamanca.

AATSP Convention: Cynthia explains that anybody on the UNY Council can represent us. Cynthia hopes that once we make progress and grow as a Chapter, we'll be able to have some local funds to provide financial assistance for representative of our organization to go to the AATSP Convention.

Tertulias: The concept behind "Tertulias" is similar to "Chicos Charlando" but with adults. There is a Tertulia on May 7th in a restaurant called "El Mexicano" and flyers for it have been distributed—as well as has been included in the newsletter. Cynthia Flax shares that she spoke to the owner and he's going to run it like cocktail hour. There will be a table and he's going offer appetizers on it. Cynthia tells Gary our Chapter will have to sponsor the tertulia somewhat. There will be chips, guacamole, salsa. Cynthia says she will communicate with the owner and tell him how many people we are expecting and how much budget is available. Cynthia states there are several dates for tertulias: May 7th (in "El Mexicano"), September 9th and November 5th (a Saturday).