

UNY Meeting--May 26, 2016

NOCHE DE PELÍCULA

Gary: Sounds like the attempt out west didn't go so well. That is a shame that there isn't more interest from students who are supposed to be taking the language of their own accord, for their own benefit. Any thoughts of making the next one mandatory?

Gerardo: From my experience, when you make it 'extra credit' or 'mandatory' there's a chance that students may attend. Nevertheless, there's been plenty of things I've made 'mandatory' and then students protest or end up not going to it. Any other opinions or experiences will be welcomed.

Cynthia: What if we hold it at a college, and then pair up the college students with upper level High School students ahead of time. The local High School students would love to have an event at the college, and the college student would feel more like mentors to the High School students. At the time of discussion we could mix the groups, so they become more of a cooperative group, instead of a competitive attitude of you vs. us. Perhaps, we could encouraged them with some academic incentive. What do you all think?

Evelyn: The idea of having it at a local college may work. At Bethlehem we offered extra credit, but the allure of the hockey game was too strong. Some kids asked me last minute, but by then we had already cancelled. By doing it at a college it'll be "neutral territory" as well, so no one will be visiting another school. Just like chicos charlando. How feasible is to find facilities in colleges in the region / regions.

Mónica: That sounds like a great idea. Not sure about colleges in the Syracuse area. I have access to Onondaga Community College and possibly Syracuse University. I will check with them.

Brianna: Great idea. My kids responded well to extra credit for Chicos Charlando this last time, but some were not there for the right reasons. However, it still got them involved and utilizing the language. We have a couple of options in this area that we could reach out to I'm sure. I am not sure that I would be able to make this mandatory for my HS students for a myriad of reasons.

Gerardo: I would love to explore the idea of collaborating with a high school and bringing the students to the college. That's been something I've wanted to do for a while. Perhaps we, the Upstate chapter of AATSP can come up with a flyer, rules/guidelines or a letter/instructions that high school/college professors could follow?

POSTER CONTEST

What can we do to get this ready so we aren't scrambling next year. I know this year it just kind of crept up on me.

Gerardo: I agree, the sooner it can be organized the better.

Cynthia: Two suggestions: 1.) Make a flyer to post in the local schools early in the school year, followed by e-mails to remind teachers to participate. 2.) Council members make a point on participating in the poster.

Evelyn: Agree with all ideas. The sooner the better. Email reminders will also be helpful. I think that a flyer would be a huge help.

Mónica: I agree, sending it early put it in the teachers' radar. I think a flyer is a must.

Brianna: I apologize that it seems like I dropped the ball on this, though we did have the outline (not the prettiest flyer though) that I thought we had ready for newsletter and website, etc... but I may be mistaken. I responded to a few teachers who had inquiries but still never received any entries from their schools. As soon as we get the info from the National level and the theme, I will create something to share.

Emily: The earlier in the year we can have something ready the better. I agree that the flyer would be helpful.

SPRING OUTING

Jen: Sounds amazing. Very tough time of year for me to get away. :(Looking forward to hearing about it.

Laura: Yes, sorry to miss it but have a great time and we'll do a whole report on it for the website and newsletter. TAKE PICTURES!!! They will be good for the website especially! Try and get a group photo and one at dinner!

Cynthia: We are excited! We have a small group, but we should have a wonderful time.

Mónica: Sorry to be missing it too. Between the end of year, my son's graduation and planning for my daughter to go in early July to study in Australia, I'm overwhelmed. Have a wonderful time!!

ENDORSE A CAREER DAY

Gary: Are the videos available for us to see yet? I know you have a few done, and I would love to see them.

Cynthia: Yes! We have several that can be shared. I will talk to Laura to figure out the best way to distribute.

Gerardo: I'd also like to check them out.

Emily: I have an outline of activities and guiding questions ready to go. Cynthia, we can collaborate when the videos are ready. I am prepared to create questions to accompany the videos.

CHICOS CHARLANDO

Gary: I had the same apathetic response from my students to this Chicos Charlando. I know there was a lot of other really pressing things going on that made it next to impossible for my students to show. I think we need to continue this effort, especially in the fall. I plan on making this event count for the speaking part on a test in order to encourage students to attend.

Gerardo: At Wells we've had different iterations of conversation opportunities among students but, like Gary's experience, a lot of times students don't go. When you make it mandatory, some go, some don't.

Jen: Emily has done a great job promoting this event by sending out emails out to other schools. This last meeting was a great showing for SGF and Hudson Falls (thanks to Jen Blanco and Brianna). **Thanks for all you did that evening Jen!** The previous gathering was only LG students and that was disappointing to us. I wish we could get Queensbury involved. Anyone have relations with Queensbury teachers? Really struggling to get them involved. I think a consistent week of the month might make it more likely that people will attend with more regularity.

Laura: Agreed with the above, Jen. Something like "The second Tuesday of each month" makes it regular and perhaps easier to schedule.

Cynthia: Good idea to make it the same date on a regular basis. Is it possible to set the fall dates now? In this way, we could let the students know early, and we could plan ahead of time on the activity and participation.

Gary: I have some contact with one of the teachers at Queensbury, but nothing ever comes of the attempts to get them involved. I would LOVE to have such a large school have a more prominent role in our organization. I also agree that having a set schedule would help. Once the kids get a taste for it, I am pretty sure they will want it to continue!

Mónica: I was not successful in getting this off the ground in the region this year. I think having dates set up ahead of time would help everyone plan better for them. We have many schools that are about 20 minutes or more from Syracuse. During the winter months I can almost guarantee not much involvement because of bad weather. Once we set up a calendar I will figure out what months might work better for this area.

Brianna: Several of my kids had great things to say about it, though next time they're not going to work with their buddies the whole time :) Some really enjoyed it and were telling their classmates how fun and helpful it was. Hoping to continue to recruit for this in the fall. Dates ahead of time help as so many of my kids are involved with sports and other activities and my coaching schedule is quite insane as you all know.

Emily: I am happy to set up dates ahead of time for Fall 2016 (Thursday, Oct. 20th and Thursday, Nov. 17th). September and December are notoriously busy months. I will make a commitment to being at at least one of the evenings. If some others could oversee the other night, as you did this Spring, that would be great. The LG kids really

enjoyed it as well, although it takes some selling when it is competing with sports and jobs. I do offer my students extra credit and that motivator helps.

NEWSLETTER

Laura: I am working on getting this out tomorrow, although I'm thinking it would maybe be best to wait until after the long weekend, as I know lots of people will be on vacation mode tomorrow. Thoughts? I will get it prepared for tomorrow either way and will send it out next Tuesday if you think that might help it to garner more attention.

Cynthia: I would suggest that you send it out as soon as you are ready. Most people will read it when they are ready. Perhaps, sometime late next week you can send a reminder, like " Do you know about our Fall Outing? If you haven't read the UNY Chapter newsletter..." (You can word it anyway you think it would make them see it.)

Brianna: Do we still need a Chicos Charlando writeup? (Sent to Laura...)

Emily: I have a write-up ready to go if we need one.

FALL OUTING

Gary: Sounds like things are getting off to a good start! Let's recruit early this year so we have a better turnout than we did last year. I remember last year getting people excited about this activity was difficult since we were all still trying to get our year started out. What can we do to get the word out?

Gerardo: I suggest selling the heck out of it in our webpage and, perhaps, mass e-mails to Spanish professors and teachers will also create a 'buzz.'

Jen: I have spent a great deal of time editing the document for the weekend. I haven't received a lot of feedback from members, so I will send it to Laura today to be added to the newsletter. I really hope we get a strong representation from council members. This will give other members confidence in the program and they will follow. There is a regular price of \$200 and a late payment price of \$245. Hopefully this will motivate participants to register early. We cannot guarantee late registration since there is limited availability. Currently we have the Saturday dinner scheduled as catered. If more people sign up, we could get some to volunteer to make Saturday's dinner. I have scaled back the food assignments since last year we had so much leftover food. Emily and I will be there for sure and I'm pretty sure Cynthia and Myriam will too. We need two more confirmations and we've got 1 unit booked!

Laura: Sounds great, Jen! I received your write-up and will get it on the website and in the newsletter. Hopefully we will get lots of people to sign up. Is there a deadline for late registration? Having a late-registration, limited-space deadline in the fall might give people who don't want to commit this early a chance to sign up when they have a better idea of their schedule.

Jen: Laura, I didn't put a late registration date. I will add that on and make it August 15 (pending availability). Thanks for catching that Laura.

Cynthia: Great team work! Yes, Myriam and I will continue to contact schools to let them know of our chapter and high-light this event as a great entryway to join us.

I think we are going to have to employ a multi pronged approach. Having a great website is great as long as people actually go there. My fear is that our site is not yet on most people's minds and we are simply forgotten. We gotta make some noise.

Brianna: I will continue to push at my PLC and send a couple of emails. I am hoping to change some things for tennis but will at least try to be there for what I can this fall. Can I link the AATSP site from my own personal site? I will also share with my Saint Rose Spanish alums FB group - many are Spanish teachers in the area.

Cynthia: Noise? Great idea. Let's think what will draw people to our website. Any ideas?

Emily: Can we make it a link from NYSAFLT? Not sure if they would be okay with that. Or advertise the Fall Outing on NYSAFLT's webpage?

NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM

Cynthia: I know that Evelyn has done a great job with the NSE.

Evelyn: Thanks Cynthia, it's been a lot of learning. Today we had our ceremony at Bethlehem. I have a picture I can share.

I suggest for next year we charge a chapter fee of \$1.5 because we ended up short with the money for the medals. I also would like to explore the possibility of having the teachers confirm the number of medals awarded because in a couple of schools I messed up the count and had to send more. We also had one teacher ordering her own before I had a chance to notify her, I suggest that when we announce the test in the fall, along with the chapter fee, we mention the fact that it counts for the medals.

Mónica: Evelyn, that's a good idea. Since we have to pay for and buy everything when students are inducted into the Honor Society, teachers would assume it is the same process for NSE.

Cynthia: Evelyn, Are you planning to hold any workshops about the NSE this year? Would you want to send out an interest survey?

SHH

I am still in the process of getting my chapter underway. My principal had told me that I had to get bylaws written up and a proposal for the board of ed. I did that, but he never got it to them. I asked him and he said to just get it going as an "unofficial club" to see if there is any interest in it, and then if there is, we can get it to the board. Does this seem odd to anyone?

Cynthia: Yes! Gary, there is something wrong. It is not about interest, it is about qualifying for the invitation to be SHH. Once you induct, those students are recorded in

the national office and your chapter is official. Usually, most schools have the board endorse it, and the principals are thrilled to offer it to their students. I would talk to Claudia Decker for advice. Call her on her cell at (603) 233-8632

Gary: Oh, there is interest! We made a preliminary qualifications form today and had the students sign if they thought they had the grades, had interest, and were going to be in Spanish 4 or 5 next year. We have lots of kids who have filled out the form. I think they are going to be quite surprised to see the number of kids involved. Our principal has his mind elsewhere since he is taking another position in July. I think he just wanted me out of his hair.

Evelyn: We got our chapter going at Bethlehem. We just started and I ended up being coadvisor. We have about 25 kids involved and hopefully there'll be more next year.

Mónica: I've had my chapter now for about five years. I agree with Cynthia, it is not interest but do the students meet the criteria for induction just like when they are being considered for National Honor Society. I did not need to get any permission from the Board, this is not a club either, it is an academic chapter. I have consistently inducted between 18 - 24 students.

Brianna: Great numbers! I struggle to just have that many students in Spanish 4 and 5.

Cynthia: It sounds like you have a handle on this Gary! Go for it! Congratulations Evelyn, you will love having a chapter. The kids get so much out of it if they participate in the chapter events Albricias and do some community work. I had mine for fifteen years and I was able to pass it on to the teacher who took my place. Nice job Mónica! And, Brianna, one can have any number of students in a chapter. As a matter of fact, check out Sociedad de la Amistad, the Middle School version of SHH. All project driven and also with many opportunities and rewards. Depending on potential changes... I may have to consider the SHH next year :)

Cynthia: One question?

Are we still planning an SHH workshop before school starts? Should we send out an interest questionnaire?

AATSP NOMINATIONS

Cynthia: I did get the nomination to be the 9-12 Representative. There are two of us going for the position. We will see how it goes later this summer.

CONGRATULATIONS CYNTHIA!!!!

Gerardo: our 'good vibes' are with Cynthia!

OTHER

Cynthia: I just received a letter from AATSP National Office notifying me that our Chapter application for AATSP Chapter of the Year Award was not selected for this year.

Needless to say, I am disappointed because we have worked hard in bring this chapter forward, in such a short time. I know that it takes a lot longer to get to where we are now, and it is too bad that there isn't a category to recognize such an effort. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together! Thank you all !

In thinking about where we could improve, I think we fell short in the area of guest speakers and professional development. Perhaps, in the next few years we can work on improving this area, and try again for this award.

Gary: Thank you so much for your efforts. Even though we weren't selected this year, they do know that we exist and are getting things going.

Evelyn: Thanks for writing up the proposal Cynthia.

Mónica: Yes, thank you so much for doing all that work and your leadership:)

Cynthia: It takes all of us to have an active chapter. So kudos to all!

Emily: Thanks Cynthia!

One more thing:I think this meeting would be a good one to share with all members by way of the regions. We said that we would facilitate a few general membership meeting this year, so that other members would get a chance to voice their opinion and give us input! It would also provide us with an opportunity to advertise the upcoming events and to inform members on what is happening.

I suggest that Gerardo summarize this meeting without using names, by just providing the main points discussed. then each of the Regional Representatives could hold their own electronic meeting with their regional members using the same format that we use here. All we would have to do is pick a date(s) to hold it in June, and notify the members via e-mail when it will take place. As you can see, it can be monitored easily throughout the day. What do you all think? If you go ahead with it, then require full name in the participation line when you hold the meeting, so we can clearly see who is talking.

Laura: Great idea, Cynthia!

Mónica - i like this idea, great way to share all the information.

Gerardo: Good suggestion Cynthia, I will eliminate using the names and I'll just do the main points. I'll get to this in the next few days: today I'm saying 'adiós' to my wife who'll be going to Europa for a month, and I've got a firm deadline on a document for Wells on assessment. They like asking us for 3-4 documents per year on this.

Emily: I think a summary document makes sense.