

UNY Chapter of AATSP
May 21, 2017
Meeting (via Google Hangouts)
8PM

Council Members Present: Jennifer Cornell (UNY Chapter President); Gerardo T. Cummings (UNY Chapter Communications Coordinator/Secretary); Monica Abrams (UNY Chapter Central NY Representative); Gary Barnard (Ex-UNY Chapter President); Emily Cooper (UNY Chapter Vice President); Brianna Dingmon (Poster Contest Representative); and Evelyn Ledezma (NSE Representative).

Welcome Remarks from President Cornell: President Cornell acknowledges those council members present and explains that other members may join us later or have communicated their inability to join this Google Hangout meeting.

Important 2017 Activities: President Cornell allows us to review and discuss the important activities and dates set up for the UNY Chapter of the AATSP in 2017. Namely, the future events are as follows:

- June 28 (Wednesday) date change - Spring Outing to NYC - Cuba Exhibit at Museum of Natural History
- July 29 (Saturday) - Meeting in Albany at 12:00-2:00 - Oaxaquena Triqui (click here for review and directions)
- September 14 - electronic meeting
- October - Immersion Weekend (Date to be confirmed -Friday October 6 - Sunday October 8)
- November 16 - electronic meeting
- December 7 - electronic meeting AND December holiday gathering in Saratoga at Boca Restaurant @ 6:30 PM followed by Latin dancing at Newbury's

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Hoetzer is not online, so she is unable to share her report. Nevertheless, in the January 26, 2017 electronic meeting, our balance was \$950.13. **I was unable to log-on in video chat as my desktop does not have a camera, but listened & wrote my comments in the sidebar. Our current balance - after our UNY Chapter reimbursement is \$1315.26.**

Spring Outing: It is taking place on Wednesday June 28th. President Cornell asks Council Members if we received the flyer for the NYC trip. Emily Cooper is planning to drive to

Poughkeepsie and then go by train to NYC from there. She is willing to take any Council Members with her.

Fall Outing: The suggested dates for Fall Outing are October 6-8 (date to be confirmed) and Jennifer Cornell wants feedback from all of us on her idea for a Fall Outing. Emily Cooper states that Jennifer, Myriam and her must get together and create the fall outing event and confirm dates.

Chicos Charlando: Emily Cooper states that it was a great year for the ‘Chicos Charlando’ event. Gary Barnard brought his students and even a school in Lake George participated. April 6th was one of the dates of the scheduled ‘Chicos Charlando’ event. Emily chatted with a professor from South Glen Falls. Chicos Charlando included food. Emily feels it was quite positive. The next ‘Chicos Charland’ is slated for Thursday October 26.

Update on SHH (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica): Jennifer discusses the idea about bringing Claudia Decker (from New Hampshire) to come and give a workshop about getting an SHH chapter started.

National Spanish Exam Update: Emily Cooper states that portion of the document was updated by Evelyn Ledezma. Evelyn shares the following:” Exam participation was strong this year, but most names of teachers seem to be the same as last year. I have to look more in detail and see if we got some new names. Cynthia pointed out to me that some of the participants are not UNY chapter members. They can offer the NSE without being members but have to pay a fee. It would be much better for them to have a membership and offer the test without fees. I suggest mentioning it in our next newsletter and again in the fall. Financially we’re in much better shape than last year, it was very helpful to raise our chapter fees to \$1.50 and also the store offered a discount for medals bought by the coordinators. As far as I know this was not available last year.”

Monica Abrams shares her thoughts on the National Spanish Exam: “It was a bit complicated practicing then taking exam.” She says her Spanish 5 students felt it was a bit hard; the practice exam took a lot of time, and then the exam itself also took time. Monica’s students felt there was a lot they didn’t know.

Jennifer Cornell asks: “How many students want to volunteer to take an exam?”

Emily Cooper states: “I would shy away from giving another test.” She doesn’t feel it’s very appealing; Emily feels teachers that give this exam may want to join us or become members of the Upstate chapter of AATSP.

Gary Barnard states that his students weren’t interested in another test.

Brianna suggests reaching out to Colleen; Brianna believes her students are not ready for the NSE.

Evelyn: It's important to keep in mind that this test is actually a contest and therefore it is designed to be challenging. It can be frustrating for some students, however it may also provide with a good point of reference for our classes. Similar competitions in other fields like science and math only include a handful of hand picked students (at least that's the way I think it is in Bethlehem). Ever since I offer it I make it voluntary and offer the kids that take it some sort of bonus for the last quarter of the school year in my subject. Qualifying students may also apply for scholarships later on, so all this should be considered. The first time it is administered it can be confusing, but it becomes easier and easier. Also, we always tell them when we hand out the awards that it is something that they should mention in their resumes for college application since it demonstrates motivation and dedication to the subject. Some of our students at Bethlehem complain of it being too difficult but we also get some surprises, such as the only level 4 gold medal (bilingual) in the region. Some schools have ceremonies or small celebrations to honor the kids, which they always enjoy (on the following link you may see ours: <http://www.bethlehemschools.org/2017-national-spanish-exam/>) In summary, I would say give it another chance, have the kids practice on their own by providing them with the links, and motivate them to participate so they can see how much they know.

Newsletter: Jennifer will be putting together a draft to put together; she'll e-mail us and wants us to get her a blurb with our area of expertise; newsletter will try to promote the Fall Outing (we're not really trying to promote Spring Outing because of the fact there is no bus anymore). The newsletter will go out later in May and will contain links to a Youtube video and will provide information about what we are planning for the rest of 2017. Jennifer Cornell wants input for the Newsletter; invites us to e-mail her.

Other business:

Immersion Weekend: Committee is trying to everything together and in order. This weekend will offer a similar experience as past ones: the opportunity to speak Spanish, eating of special dishes, exercise, bonding, etc. The place has not been booked yet, but it will probably be again in Lake George. The itinerary is intended to present an immersive experience for non-native Spanish teachers. President Jennifer Cornell informs us that the Immersion Weekend has been her brainchild. Gary Barnard mentions that going shopping together may also be a fun experience. Emily states that the immersion portion is great but the shared component is also quite attractive for folks who would want to attend. Gerardo Cummings and Monica Abrams met a number of new people in NYSAFLT in Liverpool in Fall 2016 and promoted the immersion weekend with them. Monica Abrams offers to contact LECNY to promote the immersion weekend happening in Fall 2017. Jennifer offers to make a flyer so that it can be sent

to Monica. Jennifer says she has a team now that will help us organize the Immersion Weekend for Fall 2017.

Banner: Gerardo explains that we may need 3-4 banners; Jennifer believes we'll have to probably purchase them with our treasury money; Emily suggested obtaining a banner for AATSP to hang up (instead of the SHH banner). Helps to clarify who we are and that we are a broader group and offer more services than just SHH. Jennifer Cornell states that there is no AATSP banner to promote us and that we indeed need one.

NYS AFLT: Monica had sent the dates for Fall's conference before; Jennifer suggests we attend it but also suggests we go to the presentations/sessions and not just stay to man our booth.

AATSP Convention: Next year it will be in Spain (around the first weekend in July or right after 4th of July) and President Cornell asks us whether any of us are planning to attend. Gerardo Cummings explains his willingness to go but explains that going to Spain in early July may be very costly. Jennifer Cornell is not too familiar with the conference so she cannot commit to go. No other council members volunteer to attend, but it is possible that Cynthia Flax may represent us there.

Scholarship: [Nothing noted, was this a meeting point that was discussed?]

Video: Cynthia shared a youtube video -topic health unit - to share with educators. Song by Juan Luis Guerra with video created by a doctor in Chile.

Endorse a Career Day kit: One more plug in the next newsletter.

Plans for the next meeting

- Get out newsletter
- Secretary will summarize this meeting and share with Cynthia F. to post on our website
- Clean up website
- Get others to participate in Spring Outing

Meeting ends at 9PM

