

Bonne Année 2010!

After a wonderful ACTFL Conference in San Diego, a College Board meeting about the new AP French Language and Culture Exam, Thanksgiving weekend with family and friends, a crazy review with my students, Final Exams, and grading, grading and grading – I had many days to relax and enjoy some peace over vacation. I hope your holiday was filled with joy, fun, rest and cheer.

Since the end of November, our wonderful Bulletin Magician, Diane Tabbott, has had nothing but difficulties with her appareils. She has been my Fairy God Mother, who takes the information that needs to go to our Chapter Members and makes it look like a real newsletter. Though she now has a new computer, she is still not really up and running with Publisher, so you will get information piece meal for a while.

Back in school for three days, I'm excited about trying out some of the ideas I picked up before break – some new Integrated Performance Assessments and White Board in the French Classroom ideas, culture from French Polynesia, and new units (being the geek that I am – I worked on them over break) based on the new AP French Language and Culture Themes to name a few.

I am enthusiastic too because I know that I'll get reenergized again at the end of next week at Séjour. (Friday evening, Jan. 15 through Sunday morning, Jan. 17) Registration was officially supposed to be sent in before Christmas, but please join us anyway. I MUST HAVE A FINAL COUNT THIS SATURDAY! You can get the check to us next week; just send an e-mail registration to me asap. We have people carpooling from the Miami and Tampa areas if you are interested in joining their group. The Swap Shop at Séjour is optional, but it is a great sharing time.

Heads up:

On January 1, 2010 the changes to the AATF Regional structure took effect. Information is found in the September National Bulletin and the www.frenchteachers.org website. Our Region IV Representative is Catherine Danielou.

Recruitment continues to be a top priority and we need your help more than ever. If you know of French teachers in your school, community, please give us their names. We will verify whether or not they are current AATF members and send non-members recruitment information to become members of the AATF. Any information is helpful, school (if you don't know the teacher's name), partial address and/or e-mail. Please use our new, user-friendly recruitment form at www.frenchteachers.org/Recruitment_From.htm if you like.

Remember that membership runs from January 1-December 31 each year. AATF membership materials and Outstanding Senior in French Awards may be purchased on the AATF On-line Store. We will also have available 2010 Convention in Philadelphia registration as soon as details have been finalized.

Annual awards for Outstanding Teachers at 4 levels are being offered again for 2010. The Dorothy S. Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award nominations must be postmarked by February 1, 2010. See details in the National Bulletin.

Register ASAP for the National French Contest!

The Advocacy Commission recently launched the French Language Advocacy Kit, which is a tool-kit to help French teachers who want build support for their program or who are experiencing a threat to the continuation of their program. The kit consists of a DVD and an extensive set of print documents. The DVD is a series of 13 short clips featuring testimonials of individuals who value the study of French for a variety of reasons, but particularly for its role in their studies, careers, and life experiences. The DVD is available to AATF members at no charge and can be ordered by contacting Darla at the national office. The print documents and many other resources are available at the Advocacy Wiki: (<https://frenchadvocacy.wikispaces.com/>)

The 2009-2010 Francophone Calendar is now available and is selling fast. They are available at the on-line store.

The World Speaks French and so should you! is the slogan for the AATF's promotional campaign. See it at www.theworldspeaksfrench.org.

Follow the AATF on Twitter! View our tweets by going to <http://twitter.com/aatfrench>. Please send fun and interesting stories about French or the Francophone world to Amy a staff@frenchteachers.org

Is it time for you or another AATF member you know to immerse yourself in French? AATF members can apply for one of our summer scholarships to study in France, Quebec, and Belgium. Details are available on the Web site and in the National Bulletin.

The AATF is pleased to announce that Intercultural Student Experiences (MN) (ISE Award) will again recognize an outstanding high school teacher of French at the AATF annual convention in Philadelphia in July. The nominee's dossier must be postmarked by February 1, 2010.

Get ready for Congrès! <http://www.palmertrinity.org/podium/default.aspx?t=48948&rc=0>

Be brave (it really doesn't take courage and the price is lower than ever) – come to Séjour!

Amicalement,

Deanna

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