

Alaskans for Language Acquisition
Saturday, September 26, 3:30pm-5:00pm
AFLA Annual Business Meeting
Talkeetna, Elementary School, Talkeetna, AK

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:58pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- **Nicole Ayers** (President-Elect): Bartlett - French **–present**
- **Carla Swick**(Past-President): Palmer High, Matsu - Japanese **–present**
- **Will Kimball** (Treasurer): West High, ASD - German **–present**
- **Charles Beattie** (Webmaster): Dimond High, ASD - German **–present**
- **Betsy Watson** (PNCFL rep): World Language/ASD Education Center **–absent**
- **Victoria Gellert** (Secretary): Dimond High, ASD - Japanese **–present**
- **Kristin Dahl** (South Central): South Anchorage High - French & Spanish **–present**
- **Andrea Dewees** (Southeast): Juneau - UAS-Spanish **–present**
- **Chisato Murakami** (Interior): UAF– Japanese **–absent**
- **Michele Whaley** (At large): Pacific Northern Academy, ANC - Spanish & Russian **–present**
- **Nancy Boxler** (At large): Pacific Northern Academy - Spanish **absent**
- **Rebeca Maseda Garcia** (At large): UAA - Spanish **–present**
- **Cara O'Brien Holen** (At large): West High - French **–present**

2025 AFLA Awards:

Janice Gullickson Friend of World Languages Award given to the NSA Alaska for internship with **Gabriela Olmos of Sol de Medianoche**

Wolf Hollerbach Award for an Outstanding University World Language Educator was awarded to **Natasa Masanovic Courtney**

Jo Sanders award for a Language Teacher of Energy & Passion awarded to **Will Kimball**

Terry Highly Award World Language Teacher of Excellence for Outstanding K-12 Teacher awarded to **Nicole Ayers**

TREASURER'S REPORT (Will Kimball)

- Total Revenue: \$6658.20
- Total Expenses: \$6163.85
- Revenues Less Expenses: \$484.35
- Will reports we still need to pay the Hangar for the Friday evening event, as well as miscellaneous items (ice, coffee, etc). We should be ending the conference approximately \$900 ahead; as well as bi-annual fee for tax exempt status. The PNCFL grant money has yet to come in.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

- SOUTHEAST (Andrea Dewees of UAS): Juneau recently consolidated 2 high schools into 1; offering German, French & Spanish. Southeast also offering Tlingat, Haida, and Tsimshian
- MAT-SU (Carla Swick of Palmer High): cutting the ELL department teachers was a loss—these teachers (approx 15) were members of AFLA over the last few years; even though some of the funding was restored after positions that were cut, the retraction of the action did not retract the consequence (teachers already had moved on.)
 - Public comment regarding the release of funds for ELL & indigenous education that were already appropriated; just 3 more days—until Sept 30. [Michele recommends the app “5 Calls” and suggested Charles email information to our organization.
 - No other regions reported; Fairbanks teachers did not attend AFLA this year due to poor weather expected in the Denali area.

PNCFL REPORT:

- Summer Engagement Series—10 zoom webinars held over the summer was new engagement initiative; \$100 for all (have recording access) or \$20 each; webinars by the PNCFL affiliates' TOYs.
- Advocacy Tool Box is a new initiative
- Regional Conference: “Bridging & Beyond” in Portland on April 10 & 11 (CoFLT will be holding their conference (optional for attendees) on April 09; featuring 2018 ACTFL TOY Ying Jin; award & scholarship opportunities available for outstanding educator, student scholarship for future language educators (due 2/15), and scholarship related to travel expenses for teachers in 1st-3rd years (also due 2/15; applying early is recommended.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thank you's:
 - Carla: bringing Kei Tsukamoto to Alaska
 - Carla & Cara: coordinating conference food
 - Charles & Andres: handling conference proposals
 - Nicole & Betsy: determining award winners and awards
 - CHARLES: A huge thanks for picking up the President responsibilities these last 2 months—lots & lots of work done on the conference schedule, various emails, and more emails! Thank you for taking this conference over the finish line.
 - ALL: great work. Thanks to everyone for seeing the needs and filling in the gaps.

ELECTIONS for AFLA BOARD : (Charles)

- President-Elect (3-year term): Solveig Rogers— Elected!
- President (running monthly+ meetings): Nicole Ayers
- Past-President (coach the current president; filling in for this role): Charles Beattie —Elected!
- Secretary (appointed by president): Victoria Gellert – 3rd year
- Regional Vice Presidents(3): Interior/Western/Northern, Southcentral, Southeast (spread the word in your region—
 - Southeast: Andrea Dewees
 - Interior: Helga Wagenleiter* (*awaiting confirmation as an inabsentia nomination*)
 - Southcentral: Daniela Saez of West High School
- Treasurer (1-year): no nominees; Nicole (president) can help find someone
- PNCFL Representative: Marisol Bundtzen
- Webmaster (oversees the website): Charles Beattie
- Ad-Hoc/ Ad-Large (up to 5 positions; share the load)
 - Michele Whaley
 - Fauna Reynvaan
 - Cara O'Brien-Holen
 - Carla Swick
 - Rebeca Maseda Garcia

Next Meeting Date is :

- PENDING (scheduled post-conference meeting on Sunday did not happen)

Adjourn: At 5:19

Potential Items for Post-Conference/Upcoming Meeting :

- Reflection on 2025 conference—what worked well? What can we improve?
- Information/input from post-conference survey of attendees (if we have a survey)
- Treasurer's report
- Timeline for major tasks for the upcoming year, such as : determining next venue, conference theme, keynote speaker, session proposals, registration, etc.
- Discussion/referendum on nomination/election changes
- Membership recruitment ideas
- Advocacy Ideas
- Schedule for this year's meetings—what day/time works?; can we plan out the upcoming meetings for this year?
- Winter event/professional development?
- Advocacy for AFLA through AFLA t-shirt: design & sales?