

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
National Council of State Supervisors of Foreign Languages (NCSSFL)**

**November 19-20, 2003
Philadelphia Marriott Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2003

The NCSSFL members joined the NADSFL members for a breakfast sponsored by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. at 7:30 A.M.

Opening Session:

NCSSFL President, Janis Jensen (NJ) called the 44th annual NCSSFL meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. Pam Kolega, our host from PA, welcomed the members to her state. Janis introduced our seven new members: Anita Bruce (HI), a returning member, Charles Conway (OH), Rendy Devlin (OR), Helga Fasciano (NC), Brenda Lee (FL), Ursula Lentz (MN), James Schindler (UT) and Peggy Wenner (ID). Other members in attendance were: Joanna Crane (AL), Susan Grier (AK), Duarte Silva (CA), Dagmar Haney (CO), Mary Ann Hansen (CT), Shuhan Wang (DE), Elizabeth Webb (GA), Anne Marie Fuhrig (IL), Kristin Hoyt-Oukada (IN), Jacque Bott Van Houten (KY), Carolyn Taylor-Ward (LA), Debbie Fernald Roberts (MA), Frank Edgerton (MD), Fran Hoch, (NC), Vickie Scow (NE), Carolyn Horn (NH), Janis Jensen (NJ), Debbie Robinson (OH), Carolyn Horn (OK), Pamela Kolega (PA), Don Reutershan (ME) Ruta Couet (SC), Karen Cardenas (SD), Maria Treviño (TX), Paul Sandrock (WI), Ann Tollefson (WY), Debbie Harki (WV), Walter Bartz (retired), Inés Garcia (retired), Carl Johnson (retired) and Vittoria Cifone (Italian Consulate, CA). Cynthia Wierzbicki, (JNCL-NCLIS Policy Analyst) attended both days as an invited guests.

Business Meeting

Minutes

NCSSFL Secretary, Jacque Bott Van Houten presented minutes from the 2002 NCSSFL Annual Meeting. Corrections were made to page 11, where the name of researcher will now read "Petito" and to page 7, where the term "representative" will be used in lieu of "state coordinator." **Don Reutershan made a motion to approve the minutes; Mary Ann Hansen seconded the motion; and they were so approved.**

Jacque reported that she sent letters to the 15 state Departments of Education, who were not represented last year in the membership, to solicit new members. She received 4 responses and 7 new members joined the organization.

JNCL Delegate Report

Janis Jensen, who attended the JNCL Delegate Assembly in May, 2002, highlighted the events and speakers, focusing in particular on the new Sesame Street toolkit that is being piloted in Dearborn, Michigan. She also noted the materials created by ACTFL for the Year of Languages, which will be discussed in depth at the ACTFL Delegate Assembly.

Janis reported that she had received an email from JNCL-NCLIS president Rebecca Kline concerning work that is being done with an advertising company to develop a brand. The rationale for this was that a common brand should be visible on all language campaign materials in print or media, and that this brand should be upbeat in order to generate enthusiasm. The final decision was to adopt "Discover Languages."

- Duarte Silva asked why the brand read "Discover Languages" and not "Discover Languages and Cultures." Cynthia Wierzbicki said that they were trying to find something short, a phrase with a common denominator that would appeal across the spectrum to ACTFL, NABE, and others.
- Janis Jensen announced that the House addressed the Higher Education Act (title VI), and created a controversial international education advisory board. The House is reauthorizing the bill through piece mill bills. The Senate is expected to reauthorize it in a single bill in January.
- Fran Hoch represented NCSSFL at the Conference on Global Challenges and US Higher Education sponsored by the Coalition for International Education. This meeting was held at Duke University, January 24-25, 2003. Fran was the sole k-12 representative, with most attendees coming from Title VI funded projects. She reported that Under Secretary Hickok's speech received a very cool reception, showing evidence of hostility toward Republicans, and allowing politics to get in the way. Generally, state representatives tend to be cognizant of political changes and to react in a bipartisan manner knowing that change in backing can happen any time.
- Cynthia Wierzbicki said that the JNCL website has continuous updates and she advise us to check it often as this promises to be a long year politically. She will keep us informed.
- President Jensen reported that the ERIC Clearinghouse received notice of 3,500 letters sent from the field to Congress to keep the centers open. Nonetheless, the centers will close in December and their resources will be combined into a single database.
- Janis said that there is currently 8 million dollars in funding next year for NSEP. This money is currently in the Defense budget. Defense wants it moved into Education, but it will likely remaining at the Pentagon for the moment.
- Elizabeth Wells reported on the MLA projects that dealt with 2002-2003 trends in enrollment, and reported a substantial (12%) increase. Elizabeth also announced a Language Map project, to show where certain languages are spoken in the U.S. and their density by zip code. She says this map is available free of charge from their website.
- Vicki Scow, NCSSFL vice president, who arranged for the sponsored dinners during our NCSSFL meetings, handed out information about this year's NCSSFL/NADSFL social events, reception and dinner. Vickie asked that the membership please acknowledge and thank the various sponsors for their generous support. This year, NADSFL is presenting plaques to all sponsors.

Treasurers Report:

NCSSFL treasurer, Ruta Couet, presented the treasurer's report. She will email an updated list of members to the membership. Ruta asked that members check the list to verify that the information is correct. She announced that one new expense item is a membership in NASBE. All members received a copy of the NASBE report, *The Complete Curriculum*, which Janis Jensen said reflected, sometimes verbatim, many comments sent by NCSSFL members. **Fran Hoch made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Don Reutershan seconded the motion; and with no discussion the motion carried.**

Election of new members:

Janis Jensen thanked the Election Nominating Committee: Faye Rollings-Carter, chair, Don Reutershan and Debbie Fernald Roberts. Janis announced that paid members would vote by voice. **Debbie Robinson moved to approve the slate of officers and Duarte Silva seconded the motion that carried unanimously. New officers are: President, Don Reutershan, Vice-President, Mary Ann Hansen, Secretary, Elizabeth Webb and Treasurer, Ruta Couet.**

Mary Ann Hansen introduced a new NCSSFL member, Vittoria Cifone, from the Italian Embassy. Victoria expressed her happiness to be at the meeting and thanked us for inviting her. Mary Ann shared the published report on the state of foreign languages in Connecticut and said that it has been tremendously helpful as an advocacy tool. Janis thanked her for this wonderful work.

Janis announced that Elizabeth Webb is NCSSFL's 2003 delegate at the ACTFL Delegate Assembly.

There was discussion about the role of the immediate past president and whether or not that person should attend the JNCL Legislative Days. Until 2005, Janis will represent NCSSFL in D.C. as a member of the JNCL Executive Committee. Janis asked for a volunteer to attend the JNCL Legislative Days in her place as past president. Mary Ann Hansen volunteered to represent Janis as NCSSFL's 2004 JNCL delegate.

Old Business:

Debbie Robinson, editor, reported on the status of current position papers. The new process for developing papers seems to be working quite well. Both the Middle School and Teacher Preparation papers came through this process, with the inclusion of action steps. Earlier in the year, Janis asked Debbie to contact other organizations in regard to dissemination of these papers. Debbie presented a grid of the organizations, listing their presidents and newsletter editors, and their mixed reactions. Many want us to reformat the papers to their specifications. Some replied by saying their organization would not benefit from our papers. Still others welcomed our papers.

There was discussion about who our audience truly is for these papers. We may have naively assumed educators within and outside of the foreign language arena would be interested in our papers. Following the discussion of a need to look at the format of the publication of position

papers, it was suggested that we change the term *position papers* to *papers* or *brochures*. In the interest of time Janis tabled this point of discussion to be discussed later.

While timelines are in place for our publications, no new papers came through the process for this meeting, so it is difficult to discern if this time line is just or not.

Janis raised the question about what new publications we want to shepherd. Paul Sandrock reported that we have been asked to write an article for NASBE. This will be a “what do we do now” response to the Complete Curriculum report, addressing the areas of teacher preparation and programs. Maria Treviño, Shuhan Wang and Paul Sandrock have begun this paper and sent to few people for preliminary comments. Paul reviewed what was discussed in the paper: Shuhan stated the case for languages as opening piece, national mindset, research and initiatives that have helped determine where we are today; Maria gave a glance at the current initiatives in Texas as they relate to teachers, programs, etc.; Paul concluded with what SEAs can logically do, i.e. have state boards create priorities. Paul said NASBE has asked us to have this piece for them to publish in their journal. This is the first time NCSSFL will have an article published in a non-foreign language journal. Debbie Robinson suggested we postpone the discussion on communications and publications until this afternoon.

Janis formally announced that she had created a new position of editor and appointed Debbie Robinson to the post. This was done to facilitate the paper development process and because Debbie was willing to spearhead the effort. In the future, however, members will elect someone to this post. Shuhan wrote guidelines to detail the responsibilities of the editor.

Janis complemented Debbie on the wonderful job she has done as editor so far and moved to accept her as nominee for this elected position. Mary Ann seconded and the motion carried. Debbie Harki asked if there would be a committee to work with Debbie. Debbie Robinson said that in theory there should be one. Debbie will manage the process, and post papers to the general membership for comments. If volunteers commit to read for this next paper, Dec. will be the time. Debbie asked for volunteers for this to see her after the meeting.

Surprise agenda item:

Maria Trevino and Inés Garcia had the happy task of recognizing Carl Johnson on his retirement from the Texas Department of Education. Maria spoke about the joy of working with Carl, a gentle man, with so much patience, to whom everyone comes at the office. She expressed thanks to Carl for all he did for the teachers of Texas and for his leadership in NCSSFL.

Inés told us how Carl came to Texas in 1977, via SC, OH, and France, as a foreign language consultant in French and German, and stayed in that role until two years ago when he became director, retiring this year. She said that Carl was part of a triumvirate of visionaries who carried the state through some rocky times, to the reform movement, to develop Texas’ first state Essential Elements and eventually their standards. Carl was instrumental in helping write the important federal grant that got Texas involved in looking at standards from a broad perspectives with implications for teacher training and professional development. Carl has a legacy of many milestones of contributions to foreign language education for the state of Texas as president of the state’s foreign language teacher association and DOE consultant. Inés alluded to his role in NCSSFL including some humorous stories about a trip to Montreal that he organized; an

occasion involving a flaming menu, and another event built around an episode of the Golden Girls. Inés said that Carl has in own his quiet way, with a keen dry wit, lent a perspective to NCSSFL meetings that we will always be thankful for. Speaking for the membership, she wished him a happy retirement and all the best.

Janis presented Carl with plaque honoring him for his dedication, commitment, and contributions to NCSSFL and said that we expect to see him in attendance for many years to come. Carl thanked everyone, preferring to sit quietly, slip in a few jokes and not be the focus of too much attention. He let us in on the secret to a successful retirement – naps, and said that he is trying to learn that art. He hopes to be part of NCSSFL for a long time to come.

Janis announced that she asked Joanna Crane and Inés Garcia to take on new roles as NCSSFL historians. Inés voiced her preference for the term “archivists”, rather than “historians”. Joanna agreed that it is better to be an “archivist” than an “old historian.” Inés described the contents of an archive box shipped to Texas, as a first step. The archivists want us to suggest things to be kept together as part of the NCSSFL archives. They also asked that the members consider the possibility of using an institution of higher learning that is influential in foreign language teacher education, such as Ohio State University or University of Tennessee, to house our archives for purpose of research by future scholars. Fran expressed her opinion that it was a good idea to search for an institution to house these archives. Janis agreed. It was determined that no vote was needed to proceed with this action. Ruta suggested putting information on the website about the archives.

Announcements:

- Debbie Harki commented about the inconvenience of International Education week being held at a time when many of us are at NCSSFL/ACTFL meetings. She asked if we could request a change of the celebration week’s date. Cynthia Wierzbicki said the date had to do with legislators’ availability and would be difficult, but not impossible, to change.
- Janis announced that Vivien Stewart and Dr. Marie Ferrier, Deputy Undersecretary of Education, would speak to us tomorrow and suggested we ask the Undersecretary about a change in date. Janis also announced that Undersecretary Hickok had wanted to speak with foreign language supervisors at the States Institute meetings in Washington, D.C., but it was reported to him that most of the supervisors would be at the NCSSFL meeting and not in attendance at the States Institute.

A break was taken at 10:15 A.M.

The morning break was sponsored by Tandberg Educational, Inc. and Language Learning Systems.

The meeting resumed at 10:30 A.M.

- Jacque Bott Van Houten presented a Power Point report on the state of FL education in KY, providing a historical context and geographic, population and enrollment data, and presenting information about:

World Language-Related Legislation:

-- 13 KAR 2:020. 2-year precollege curriculum requirement

--704 KAR 3:340. Commonwealth Diploma Program- AP courses in English, Science or Math, Foreign Language, & other

--KRS 158. Elementary School Arts and FL Integration Grant

--SCR 142. Promotion of International Education

The state FL teachers' organization:

--new website

--annual September conference and university foreign language department chairs' meeting

--annual Foreign Language Festival

--involvement in Central States Conference and Southern Conference on Language Teaching, and

Recent and Current Projects:

--Development of a World Language Frameworks

--Foreign Language Teacher Academies,

--M.O.U.s with France, Spain and Bermuda

--Elementary School Arts & FL grants,

--International Education grants and summit,

--Kentucky Educational Television elementary Spanish program, and

--*Linguafolio KY!*

• A Discussion followed concerning FL graduation requirement, proficiency versus competence and where LEP students fit in.

Paul Sandrock voiced an opinion that 2 years of FL instruction in inconsistent manner across the state/nation is not enough and not equitable. He feels we need to take a stand on this but the challenge is writing what NCSSFL believes, not just examples of what is, or lists of requirements. What do we believe? Do we create change with requirements that are administrable, such as seat time, graduation requirement, diplomas, and college entrance requirement? That's one way to do it; the other is by competency. Paul feels that puts the assessment piece on the states as their responsibility. What does NCSSFL stand for?

Fran Hoch thinks we need to bring the heritage language speaker into this discussion.

Ann Tollefson brought the members attention to an article in Ed Leadership this month. She suggested we think about things that are doable and that people can go around.

Debbie Robinson said that NASBE criticized us for not assessing our students, but we can't all assess because of some states' regulations not to.

Anita Bruce told about the difficult situation of native speaker students taking the exam for their languages, but their not having exams in all languages, thus creating an equity problem.

Anne Marie Fuhrig said that testing is one thing Illinois can do well. Illinois has a test with fixed rubric based on multiple levels that would probably arrive at reliabilities above 0.7. It is language independent. Readers know the languages but the rubrics are generic. It could be as short as 5 minutes long. Illinois has been using this test with LEP students. This would give us a performance piece for a national example. Illinois uses raters from North Carolina, but a

contractor would do it for a fixed amount per student. There needs to be buy in because of the expense, but it would give us a nation wide assessment of proficiency/performance.

Maria Treviño added that when Texas they tried to assess a few years ago, orally, they found they had only 20% that didn't reach the levels they were looking for and this fueled them to continue to assess on a regular basis at the district level.

Debbie Harki said that West Virginia has no district FL supervisors. She said that in talking about a summative assessment we run the risk that teachers will teach to the test and that then feeds into the professional development format we use to build capacity of teachers to deliver performance based assessments. We use the *plural (assessments)* in WV now for formative/summative. If we talk about doing some sort of assessment as opposed to seat time then we need to talk about training teachers to not let assessment drive instruction.

Caroline Taylor-Ward said the rushed time frame takes away from the element of culture. She believes we need assessment and Louisiana is using online assessment through Language Learning Solutions for 8th grade. Long term, we need to explore programs that can sustain accountability programs.

Luncheon Meeting

NCSSFL members met with NADSFL members for a luncheon sponsored by Prentice Hall. NCSSFL gave a recognition award to Christie Brown and Marty Abbott for their work for ACTFL and the field during 2002-03. Paul Sandrock was the first recipient of the State Supervisor of the Year Award sponsored by Prentice Hall.

The meeting reconvened at 1:35 P.M.

State Reports

For a second year in a row, NCSSFL members used the round robin activity to present state reports. Member groups circulated among seven stations and recorded on chart paper their respective status on various topics. Janis asked one person from each topic to summarize the information.

A. New Legislation:

- Development of standards (access vs. opportunity)
- Professional development for FL teachers
- Funding for materials
- Development of web-based curriculum models
- FL requirement being delayed
- Texas FL requirement of 2 years for all students
- West Virginia's Governor's commission on international education
- Louisiana developing a commission on French
- Wyoming proposal for funding for K-6 FL programs
- Question of equity and adequacy

B. Graduation Requirements

Nine states listed no graduation requirement, many saying it was a local decision

Two years of FL study is required for certain diplomas, exceptions for certain students with IEPs

Six states have addressed proficiency-based approach and in some states, districts have chosen the test.

Some states have districts that whose requirements are in seat time, vs. proficiency

By 2006 all students in Wyoming must demonstrate proficiency; districts must determine the level.

Required Access

South Dakota has a qualification of *Regence Scholar* that requires 2 years of the same language.

C. Data

Some have comprehensive data disaggregated many ways

Accuracy is questioned

Usable data is questioned

D. Grants

Many have FLAP grants, some old, some new

Other states have Asia Society and Longview Foundation International Education grants

Title II monies are being used in Wyoming and Maryland for professional development

Advanced Academic Grants

Teacher Quality Enhancement

Advanced Placement

state funds, LEH – LA

21st century grants

Florida has grant with Mexico for distance learning

E. Teacher Recruitment

Retirement is a looming problem, not much money coming in to deal with the problem

Vermont's programs are expanding

Some states have agreements with France and other countries, foreign teachers are becoming a solution

Another trend is getting people with degrees and no education training into the classroom.

Troops to Teachers

North Carolina is planting seeds early in classrooms

Ohio has a recruitment website

Career ladder

Trying to tap native speakers or people with degrees from other countries

F. Assessment:

Fourteen states have no student assessment; some have district level assessment, one has legislation allowing no FL assessment; many are developing assessments (4 with Language Learning Solutions)

Assessment is an area states should collaborate on.

Teacher quality: Praxis, institution tests, voluntary tests.

G. New Initiatives:

Shared characteristics: revise and revisit standards

International Education initiatives are common

North Carolina has a balanced curriculum initiative, writing across the curriculum

Oregon: k-16 articulation content, instruction and assessment

Content-based instruction

New FLES standards

K-2 Italian initiative

Connecticut has a resource center for French at Yale

Revising teacher certification

For a more complete state by state report, please see Appendix A (chart of states' reports).

- The members discussed the current states' report format and deadline. Janis proposed organizing the report in a table. Ann suggested using Excel spread sheets. Mary Ann suggested putting the charts up by state and having us revise them each year. Paul seconded that and added that he feels it is very useful for all to detail the information state by state under heading of topic (i.e., graduation requirement). Fran felt the chart made sense so that all web viewers could have access, but disliked losing the pieces that are specifically useful for our (NCSSFL) needs. She wanted to see a section for narrative as well as chart data.

Janis suggested a members-only worksheet or narrative done for and by NCSSFL members, and one for general public plug in. Inés wanted to know Jody's take on this because she is the one in charge. Mary Ann, wondered why we needed a secret section. Charles said implementation might depend on the kind of electronic delivery we currently used. Janis recalled being asked 5 years ago to write a report, then switching to an electronic form. Currently, because of the format, it is difficult to get quick access to a particular piece. Ann suggests a hot button.

Charles, who maintains Ohio's state FL website, said we should consider where our site is being housed, and ask if they can they provide the new service for us. He suggested we consider the costs, and highly suggested avoiding a separate section for members because it raises concern of others—it should be transparent to others. Ruta informed us that we pay \$160 a year for our site and thought that Jody would be very agreeable to all suggestions. It was suggested that we might need a summary and a more substantive report. Janis said having one detail-oriented report and one summary with all the information going into a database might work best. It was also suggested that we use *state* as one of the data elements so we can then get detailed individual state information.

- Janis told everyone to make sure they were on the email list that Ruta passed around. She reported that the NCSSFL website moderator says sometimes the messages to be sent are too big, so Janis has to go to the distribution list for a way to send it. Victoria emphasized the importance of our information to outsiders and volunteered to lend her outsider perspective and advice.
- Janis introduced some newly arrived members: Peggy Wenner from Idaho and Ursula Lentz from Minnesota.

Organization evaluation:

Last year we used the ASCD framework to look at our organization, focusing on significant and effective influence and broad and frequent communication. For a review we looked at what was reflected in the minutes (p. 18), then in groups referred to the reflection questions to prepare for discussion about revising our constitution. Finally, we used ASCD rubrics to rate NCSSFL in a variety of organizational characteristics and determine at what level NCSSFL was performing as an organization.

Guest Speaker: Bret Lovejoy, ACTFL Executive Director

Janis introduced Bret Lovejoy, ACTFL's new Executive Director. Bret welcomed us to Philadelphia. He said he had had a hectic and busy first 6 months, working to transition ACTFL from Yonkers to D.C. and reported that he will be sending out information about ACTFL's new headquarters. Bret looks forward to working with us.

Adjournment

NCSSFL president, Janis Jensen, ended the day with a few announcements about the evening activities and Thursday's meeting, before accepting a motion and second to adjourn the meeting.

A Reception with NADSFL members at the Philadelphia Art Institute was sponsored by EMC Paradigm Publishing.

Thursday Nov. 20, 2003

NCSSFL membership joined the NADSFL membership at 7:30 A.M. for breakfast sponsored by SRA/McGraw Hill and Glencoe/McGraw Hill Companies

The NCSSFL meeting was reconvened at 9:05 A.M. Janis greeted everyone and introduced our first speaker, Vivien Stewart, Asia Society Executive Director, National Coalition on Asia and International Studies.

Vivien opened by saying she hopes to learn through us the language aspect of International Education because she does not consider herself a language expert. She described the current state of international studies and skills, saying that our high school teachers and graduates know far too little of the world around us. Our teachers are not prepared, foreign language teachers being an exception. Most teacher candidates do not take international affairs courses while in college. Teacher prep programs are the least internationalized of all programs.

Language programs, however, are also not in tune with the current needs. Students are not as proficient as they should be. Asian languages are taken by only a handful of students. All of our young people will need to acquire international skills to be successful in the global work force. Access to good jobs will increasingly require these skills. Minorities are underrepresented in the fields of international economics. U.S. State and Defense Departments have issued strong calls to increase proficiency in languages, particularly in those less commonly taught languages. We need, too, to address the great misunderstanding of America throughout the world.

Vivien stated that the "Asia in the Schools" report which came out in 2001 was the starting point for our work. Since then, we have created the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools. The principle point is to raise awareness of important stakeholders. The first activity was to create the States Institute of International Education in the Schools, cosponsored by several other educational agencies. The States Institute brought together teams from 22 states to look at why it is important to increase international skills in our schools. Fifteen of those states have been undertaking activities in this area. Another very visible activity is the awarding of the Golden Saks prizes in International Education, 5 prizes of \$25,000 each year. This years award winners were announced in the New York Times yesterday. They received 300 applications from 33 states. Another new activity is to start taking state commissioners of education to China to raise their awareness.

Finally, they are trying to focus on people interested in high school reform. They have just received funding from Gates Foundation to create a number of International High Schools. The schools chosen will:

1. have to make international education a policy priority
2. have to focus on teacher preparation and PD
3. have to increase the numbers of students taking languages, increase languages, make instruction more effective
4. need to be not just teaching about international education, but interacting with schools throughout the world.
5. need materials and resources (i.e., textbooks, assessments, etc.)

Most states that have been involved at this stage are in the initial phase of implementation. Vivien noted some of the activities in which states have been involved:

- creating a states advisory commission or task force.
- holding statewide conferences, or summits. WA, KY, OK, MA.
- surveying what is going on in districts around the state to show models and gaps. NC, KS, RI, DL
- creating focus groups of teachers to find out what it would take to get International Education in the schools.
- identifying and pulling resources together. Governor Hunt was quoted as saying that most of these are categorized by victory gardens when we need amber waves of grain.
- building state websites.
- giving recognition awards.
- reviewing standards, generally in social studies. WI was featured for its work with designing their guide to International Curriculum.
- designing teacher professional development. Many states are using universities, but the key is to build it into the state professional development RI, DL, OK.
- focusing on administrative leadership. NC, IL, DL are all planning to have state wide meetings for school leaders to motivate them about international education. IL has developed a seed program (1/2 million \$) for granting schools funds for increasing curriculum.
- building up number of exchanges and strengthening sister cities relationships.
- using technology to build bridges.
- lobbying actively with legislators. The important Higher Education Act is coming up

next year.

- surveying big multinational corporations about what they do to train their employees for international work. Michigan did this.
- involving the state language associations in these activities.

Vivien encouraged us to see what our states are doing toward international education and get involved. Debbie Robinson asked if the States Initiative meetings could be scheduled at a different time than ACTFL and the social studies conferences. Vivian said they set meetings during International Education Week and we should try to get them to move it.

Duarte Silva asked how states got involved, because CA was not among those Vivien mentioned and this concerns him. Vivien said that they try to get governors and education commissioners involved, sometimes contacting them directly. In CA they have contacted the new education commissioner, but that doesn't always work as in the case of Texas where neither the Governor nor education offices have been able to encourage involvement. Debbie Fernald Roberts said that in her state no FL person was contacted to be involved. She sees FL educators being marginalized throughout the US. Vivien responded that there are turf battles between FL and social studies that have to be overcome.

International education content needs to be infused and we need to strengthen foreign languages. Broadening the range of languages is one issue we need to address. Debbie stated that we need to advocate for our states to be involved. Janis asked how we can involve ourselves to work with Vivien's office to further world language literacy. Vivien said it would be very appropriate to include us in the Initiative and in the coalitions, although she was not at liberty at the moment to extend that invitation.

Janis said she'd very much like to have a NCSSFL representative on the committee.

Fran Hoch asked if there has been any talk about NCLB's reauthorization in 2006, as that has been to us the greatest obstacle to internationalizing education. Vivien agreed, saying that the need to focus on testing of narrow skills has been a great obstacle. It is not impossible to internationalize education with NCLB, but it is a hindrance. Fran Hoch stated that NCLB is driving education more than any other legislation and that the planning for change need to begin in 2004. While Vivien agreed, she wondered what specific recommendations we would suggest, remembering that the Asia Society is not a lobbying organization.

Paul Sandrock asked Vivien to expand on her idea that NCLB offers an opportunity to internationalize education, and wondered if was it through the literacy approach? Vivien stated that this was correct, that we have to be reading about something, so why not international topics. But she admitted that she didn't come across too many agencies that think that way.

Karen Cardenas reminded us that our foreign language standards stress integrate of social studies and other disciplines and she suggested that perhaps our colleagues in social studies are not aware of this. She said that never have our teachers been more aware of languages and the context in which they are spoken. Vivien said that she was talking more at the organizational level. Winners of the awards made those connections.

Inés noted that a large part of the Asia Society's focus is at the state level, and wondered if they had thought involving some key urban district superintendents or state board of education members to get in through the back door of the large states where we've lost a lot of ground in international education. Vivien responded that theirs is a 2-person operation and they haven't been able to contact everyone, although she saw this as a good idea. She said they have worked with New York City and suggested that perhaps their work would be going in that direction. It certainly is a question of capacity. In Texas, for instance, you have to get the Texas Business Council to sponsor you.

Ann found the coalitions they've put together are very impressive and wondered if Vivien could do a workshop on how to organize a coalition. Vivien answered that these things could be learned. In Jim Hunt, she noted we've found a true mentor. She says she does have extensive networks that she's been pulling on shamelessly. She ran into closed doors, too, but has been persistent and finally others have begun to come to her. She said they use different language and different networks to bring in different people. Duty comes from the outside, business or government, but the workers come from the inside. Debbie Harki said she went to West Virginia's Governor and saw how effective the Asia Society's organizational work can be.

Calendar

• **Fran moved and Don seconded to have next year's meeting on November 17th and 18th. The motion carried unanimously.**

• The membership questioned if \$70 dollars was enough for registration. Because it was determined that this discussion was tied to reports on the constitution, the matter was tabled.

• The notion of the registration fee originally came into play because members didn't want officers to be determined on the basis of the state being able to pay the officer's expenses. The vast majority of members pay their own registration fees as well as dues. **Dues are currently \$40. Pam Kolega moved and James Schindler seconded a motion to retain this fee. The motion carried unanimously.**

Other Business

• It was announced that anyone who wanted to meet Angelika Groning, representative of the Goethe Institut Inter Nationes, could do so at breakfast on Friday.

• Shuhan shared her reflection on 2-years involvement with the States Institute on International Education. People are unclear as to what International Education is, so this is a chance for NCSSFL to take a lead. People first think of culture, world geography and history. The other angle is world languages but we are the weaker leg. These are the identified content areas, but it is recognized that we need to integrate an international education perspective across the curriculum. Shuhan believes we need to share the Institute's participant list with NCSSFL members so they can see with whom they can get in touch. There is obviously some lack of communication because when Vivien mentioned that one of the G. Saks award went to NC, Fran was surprised because she hadn't been informed.

Mary Ann asked who determines the States Initiative team. Shuhan said the Asia Society sends a letter to governor's office and education commissioner's office. She suggested we write a position paper connecting World Languages to International Education.

Inés asked how much recognition of the need for foreign languages was in their promotion? Shuhan responded that there is a good deal, but that we need to take the lead on determining the perspective. The U.S. Department of Education is also planning to write a report on International Education. Lenore Garcia is looking for data on how to measure International Education. The need to establish a strong working relationship with Rafael, Joanne Livingston and Lenore Garcia was stressed as they are implicit policy makers because they write the speeches for others, the invitations to functions, etc. They fought for one whole year to get the Secretary of Education to write this report.

Morning Break

Miguel MartInés sponsored the morning break to which NCSSFL and NADSFL members were invited.

We reconvened after the break to hear Dr. Maria Ferrier, the Deputy Undersecretary of Education, who opened with a quote from Goethe: "He who knows no FL does not truly know his own." Dr. Ferrier said that at OELA they really count on their international partners. She thanked ACTFL for being out there for OELA. She said that Secretary Paige is one of the advocates for language and there is no arm-twisting there.

Dr. Ferrier said, that if she could be a superintendent again, she would make FL part of the core curriculum starting at the elementary school. She acknowledged that research confirms the best way to learn is to start in the early years; that we need more than ever to nurture relationships with other countries; and that we must give our students a global view of the world. Our children need to manage more than one, maybe two, maybe three foreign languages, like they do in Europe.

She brought to our attention that recent report showed American students lagging far behind counterparts in other parts of the world in languages and in awareness of the world. 38% of American surveyed could not find Afghanistan or Israel on a map.

What better way for our American students to gain a better understanding the world than by studying a foreign language? NCLB requires a highly qualified education for each child. She said that Secretary Paige believes that all future measures of a solid quality education must include a grounding in other cultures, languages and the history of other countries. She believes we must see English Language Learners as an added value to our schools and that we should strongly promote dual language programs. She highlighted a visit she made to a San Antonio's dual immersion school and how she was so impressed by two young bilingual girls. Research shows students in bilingual schools not only become bilingual but they also score high in all areas.

Dr. Ferrier spoke about the Department of Education's E-language project with China, that aims to teach American children Chinese, and Chinese children English. There is a new project

planning to do the same in Mexico. She said we need Mexican teachers to come here to work in our language programs. She said, "I think if you're going to teach a language you need not to have an English accent, you need to have a pure language."

In the past people who were not prepared, who did not have command of either language (Spanish or English), were put in classrooms in early bilingual programs. This was a disservice to those children. NCLB demands highly qualified teachers, and that is why we need to bring more Mexicans here, more foreigners here to teach. We want to continue to work with other countries with initiatives for mutual benefit.

We're looking to expand elementary and high school foreign language programs. OELA has sponsored a task force to cut some of the red tape to bring foreign teachers to the US. Nurses have a special category because it is such a special need. Dr. Ferrier said they're working to get that for foreign language teachers. She was told "You're going to rape Mexico of its best teachers." But something like this is mutually beneficial, and kids on both sides of the border win in this venture. There have been recent studies on the less commonly taught languages (Korean, Russian, etc.,) by the IDRA Intercultural Development and Research Association. In San Antonio there is a program, *Alianza* to help place people. Qualified people who come from other countries are often working in lower jobs such as dishwashers. *Alianza* has found these people, gotten them certified and put them in Texas schools. Dr. Ferrier said that the Department's focus is to teach foreign children English, but we are very interested in fostering their heritage language.

Ann Tollefson said her state has run into a problem with placing paraprofessionals in the classroom. They were denied permission from the federal government to do this. They and other states are running in to a roadblock with NCLB in trying to get native speakers in the classroom.

Dr. Ferrier says this should not be the case and asked Ann to email her directly at maria.ferrier@ed.gov. There are many misrepresentations of NCLB. For example, Title III does not prohibit states from having foreign exchange students. This will become clearer during Secretary Paige's ACTFL address.

Debbie Robinson asked a question about immersion programs and accountability, saying that because it takes until about 4th grade when kids come up to par with others on the state tests, our programs are in jeopardy. "We don't want to give up the language intensity in these grades, but it takes some time for bilingual skills to meet monolingual skills in regard to testing." She asked if the Department was doing anything about this.

Dr. Ferrier said that it is true that NCLB looks for outcomes, but that the situation Debbie described is totally new to her, and if it's true then we need to work with the law. Dr. Ferrier said that she needed the situation clearly explained to her because we're working on options to give states. We know we need to give better options to states. She said that if someone could prepare something in writing for her and for the secretary, that that would help move it along. Debbie volunteered to craft a letter.

Maria Treviño asked if we would be receiving any news about new credentialing for foreign teachers. Dr. Ferrier said that her agency has sent out guidance saying what is needed is “fluency in the language they’re speaking.” If the teacher is teaching in Spanish, the language in which they must be highly qualified is the language in which they are teaching--Spanish. Fran Hoch said that the memo that came out from Secretary Paige last spring was very helpful in explaining this. Dr. Ferrier noted that it should be on the website. She reminded us that NCLB is totally bipartisan. Three republicans and 3 democrats voted against it. It is all about kids and it’s time for them to be counted.

Discussion between sessions:

- Debbie Robinson suggested that perhaps NCSSFL could do some of the International Education survey work, so that we would all be working toward the same goal. Debbie Harkie asked what Janis what her role was on the committee. Janis said she was representing NJ, but was asked to speak as part of a panel with Shuhan and others. Janis feels NCSSFL does need representation in the effort. Paul described the role we could play as that of providing empowerment to our state partners. He said that we need to ask how we can help, to say that we are there to lend our expertise and to help the governor and/or state commissioner of education to put our state’s best foot forward.

Shuhan asked Janis if we could get Vivien to send each of our members the States Report. She explained that Delaware is actively involved, because she got her counterparts in social studies, arts, and technology to work with her and together they create noises. Shuhan serves on the Longview Foundation Board, specifically looking for programs on international education. They generally give up to \$15,000 in grants. They are keen on student-teacher activities. The States Institute report, an article by Vivien Stewart, and a powerful video can be accessed on the States Institute website. Video cost is \$12 or \$15 for the video kit. Ruta said that SC does quarterly town meetings via SET with FL teachers. She was able to get a master tape for \$150 to broadcast over educational TV. It was very successful.

Important Websites are:

Longview Foundation: longviewfoundation.org

Asia Society: Asiasoc.org

States Institute on International Education: international.ed.org

- Janis addressed the issue of letting Dr. Ferrier know about our issues with partial immersion and confirmed that Dr. Ferrier does answer her emails regularly. Fran had concerns about Debbie’s question on partial immersion backfiring on us, because research shows that kids do perform at a higher level. Anita suggested that one person craft the question and we provide comments before it is sent. It was decided that Debbie Robinson write the letter and distribute it for comments via the listserv.

Concerns were voiced about how states were dealing with certification for highly qualified native speakers. Fran, who wrote NC’s Title III component for certification, says she has a pipeline that she’d be glad to share with members on how NC deals with their foreign teachers and certification. She suggested those who need help look at the Department of Education’s website where they can find the consolidated application other states have used. She agreed with

Dr. Ferrier's statement that the federal government has allowed more flexibility than the states' law.

President's Report:

(Janis will supply text from her overheads.)

Susan Greir suggested that we post the President's Report on the NCSSFL website.

Constitution

There were several questions about the difference between bylaws and constitution.

Joanna said that an organization could have either or both. The constitution is stronger in some ways but not as detailed. Constitution, Bylaws, Rules of Order, Standing Rules: According to Joanna: In some societies all the rules are found under these headings and are called either the constitution or the bylaws or the standing rules. Provisions that are of a temporary nature should not be placed in the constitution. An incorporated society frequently has no constitution, a charter taking its place.

- Constitutions should contain only the following articles: (1) name and object of the society, (2) qualification of officers, (3) officers and their election, (4) meetings of the society—only what is essential leaving more specific details to the bylaws, and (5) how to amend the constitution.
- By laws should define the duties of the presiding and recording officers of a deliberative assembly.
- Rules of Order should contain rules relating to the orderly transaction of business in meetings and to the duties of officers - be uniform as possible in order to follow a standard procedure.
- Standing Rules should contain only rules that may be adopted without notice by a majority vote at any meeting.

Susan asked if there was a difference in the adoption or input of members for change.

Joanna said that the by-laws allow for a little more leeway. Paul's view was that the constitution is that enduring document that sets up procedures that you want to endure. Joanna assured everyone that the bylaws and constitution are very similar. Any change to them is done in the same manner. The main difference is that bylaws are more specific. **Anne Marie moved that we change from constitution to by-laws. Anita Bruce seconded the motion that was voted upon and carried.**

Ruta thanked Mary Ann, Frank, and Debbie for their work preparing these changes.

It was explained that we avoided the words "foreign" and "world" because different states refer to it in different ways. **Paul moved that we change the name of our organization to NCSSL.** Ann said ACTFL voted 75%-25% to keep "foreign" because it was more accepted in the outside community. Debbie wondered what the ramifications of changing the name would be in terms of the website, bank account, etc. Paul noted that we are trying to change the image that we present and the mindset of people. **Because there was still no clear agreement concerning the change of name, the first motion was removed and Ann moved to table the decision about a name change. The motion carried.**

In a related issue, Ruta asked if we should we add a vision statement to our bylaws. Walter provided clarification by explaining that a vision is a philosophical statement of what we envision; mission is what we will do to reach or achieve that vision. Don explained that the

vision is the preferred future, a bold statement. **Ann moved to approve the suggested changes to the first vision statement (in red). Paul seconded. During the discussion Debbie (MA) suggested that “will be” should be changed to “are.” With this addition, the motion carried.** Janis suggested that we put this on the distribution list. Joanna says that we must do it collectively in the meeting. Janis tabled this until next year.

The meeting broke for lunch and for the membership to attend the ACTFL Delegate Assembly meeting.

Post ACTFL meeting:

After the ACTFL Delegate Assembly, members used organizational rubrics adapted from ASCD to discuss future NCSSFL goals and the development of a strategic plan. Janis Jensen led us in an activity in which we worked in groups to look at the NCSSFL organization in terms of “Where are we now” in the overall continuum, in influence or policy, and in communications. After reflection and discussion it was decided that in all three areas we placed in the “emergent” category.

We then discussed how we can build our strength in the areas of “Influence and Policy” and “Communications,” and, finally what our strategic plan and goals would be.

1. It was decided that we could build our strength in the areas of influence and policy by:

- speaking as one voice on such important topics as Year of Languages and Literacy
- collaborating with other organizations, such as: NABE; SREB; ETS, etc.;
- becoming visible and heard at important meetings, such as the Embassy Forum, education conferences, other content area conferences, and regional FL conferences.

2. The membership found that we could build our strength in the areas of “Communications” by:

- better utilization of our website
- communicating to others through “NCSSFL News” and advocacy
- working more closely with regional FL organizations and AAT’s
- collecting data
- video conferencing
- fostering new networks

Outcomes of our discussion on developing a strategic plan and goals centered on the fact that we can and should be a player in national foreign language policy. In order to realize NCSSFL’s potential we first need to recognize the organization’s uniqueness and find our particular niche.

•The Position Statement Sheet is one area where we can show our strength and influence future decision-making, by responding to every important issue, such as: NCLB, literacy, international education, etc.

• Being engaged in continuous collaboration with other organizations such as: NABE, SREB, Asia Society, ETS, etc., will allow the NCSSFL’s voice to be heard and influence to spread.

- The suggestion was made to hold mini-NCSSFLs by organizing meetings of our members at regional foreign language conferences.
- Data collection is something that we can do that other organizations cannot, in terms of NAEP and its implications, and assessment.
- NCSSFL's policies and practices can be shared through communication with and representation on different organizations such as: ACTFL, NADSFL, regional foreign language organizations, and other content areas organizations' conferences, such as the national social studies, science and math teachers organizations.

There might be certain aspects that we have expertise in, more so than ACTFL, and we could develop those and send them to ACTFL rather than wait for them to take a stand. Susan said that when she was president NCSSFL recommended items for ACTFL to discuss and that perhaps we should take this approach. Frank also thought it would be beneficial if we find some time to work together with NADSFL. Fran added that it might be helpful to survey state supervisors of other disciplines to see what they do in regard to their national teachers organization, where they get their money, etc.

Shuhan suggested we apply for Longview Foundation money and offered to take the lead.

Ann proposed charting the prioritized activities when the strategic plan was determined. Inés said we could explore ways to work closer with the AATs. According to Elizabeth, some things will emerge logically if we improve the website and do the one-page position statements as a starting place. Don thinks we need to look at the mission and based on that determine some goals, followed by action steps, not develop the activities first.

Janis wants to make sure our Asia Society and US Ed Dept. relationships are maintained.

Fran expressed the importance of determining the role of the past president. She said that someone has to keep watch over the strategic plan, and perhaps that could be the role of the immediate past president, the "long-ranger."

Janis will share this information with Jody and talk with Charles, who has agreed to work with the website.

Issues for 2004 NCSSFL

- 1) International Education: NC, WI, DE, KY, WV, CT
- 2) Collaboration for Language Learning: Models that Work
- 3) *Linguafolio USA!*: SC, IN, KY, NE, MA, VA

NCSSFL-sponsored sessions for ACTFL 2004 will be: Internationalizing Education and *Linguafolio USA!* Paul will write up a presentation for a panel of states that have International Education Grants, such as: DL, SC, WI, and KY. He and Shuhan will make the submission. Ruta will help-Jacque with the NCSSFL proposal submission on *Linguafolio USA!* to ACTFL.

Ginny Ballinger sent her regards to all. Building on the New Visions, models that worked for NCSSFL, Ginny would like us to nominate a model curriculum from our state. The deadline for this project is ongoing and we should respond to Ginny. Vickie provided everyone with a handout that detailed specifics.

Jacque suggested we include in our next year plan presenting at other important educational and non FL conferences to advocate for FLs. Fran will chair that committee: Janis, Elizabeth, will also be on that committee.

Fran moved to raise NCSSFL registration to \$100, \$125 after the October deadline. For retirees it would be half that amount. During the subsequent discussion Paul suggested a three-tiered registration rate: \$100 for those who get reimbursed, \$75 for those who don't, \$50 for retirees. Fran voiced the opinion that her agency would react negatively to that policy. **After further discussion, the motion was voted upon and carried with no nays and 2 abstentions.**

It was decided that the *Linguafolio USA!* is be a natural project for us to take up as NCSSFL's focused contribution to the Year of Languages. Contact information will be placed on the NCSSFL website for those interested in learning more about or participating in the project. Jacque, Ruta, Kristin and Faye will respond to inquiries.

Janis said that to support ACTFL's efforts we should read pages 33-34 and determine how our states will proceed with activities for the celebration. NCSSFL has been asked to submit a summary of states' activities to ACTFL. We might want to put a link on our website to ACTFL's Year of Languages website. Fran suggested we try to get clarification from ACTFL as to whether we or other organizations, such as the state FL teacher organizations, are to be the clearinghouse for these activities.

Vittoria Cifone thanked us for allowing her to participate in NCSSFL's meetings.

Uwe Rau joined us from the Goethe Institut. He thanked us for our enthusiasm. Next year will be the third and last year for the transatlantic dialogue program in Dusseldorf, so he urged 15 people to apply. levitt@goethe.ny.org April is proposed for the 2004 trip.

Don Reutershan, newly elected president, presented Janis with a gift, recognizing her for her tremendous leadership of the NCSSFL organization over the past two years, and echoing the thoughts of the membership in his words of praise and appreciation.

There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jacque Bott Van Houten, secretary.