2008 The International Year of Languages!  
Information available from the Internet at www.un.org/news

Lettre de la Présidente

Colleagues,

Approximately twenty sponsors and guests attended the SHF breakfast session at the AATF convention in Baton Rouge. Networking and an exchange of information about chapter structure and activities took place as attendees visited during the meal prior to the informal business meeting.

Executive Secretary Todd Knox sent a financial report indicating a balance on hand on June 30, 2006, of $8,624.22. Most of these funds will be invested in supplies. During the 2006-07 school year, 105 charters were recorded, 1245 schools participated, and 21,972 student memberships were awarded.

There was general consensus that the establishment of a Junior Société Honoraire would offer great incentive to encourage continuing on with French and that, since Spanish has an honorary at this level, we should also. The following suggestions were offered: cords available only for the senior high level; a separate tee-shirt in a different color and a different logo; a separate category for the writing competition; and, the travel award available only to senior high.

If you would be interested in serving (or if you can recommend a colleague who would be interested) on a committee working toward the formation of a junior SHF, revising the national by-laws or creating a new set to provide for the new organization, making decisions about pins and tee-shirts and/or adding new logo products, please contact me.

Requests were made for a return to the blue, white, and red cords with tassels of the three colors and to clarify the identity of the two seals, perhaps with pictures and/or dimensions. It was suggested that we delay consideration of an outstanding chapter award because of the variety of configurations and sizes of chapters. Sponsors supported revocation of student membership because of disciplinary action by the school (reasons and processes should be outlined in advance in the local bylaws). Many chapters include a service requirement. An enlarged statement on eligibility and grades was requested (see page 7).

You will find details in the September issue of the National Bulletin, page 34, for nominating a student for the AATF Outstanding Senior in French award and page 19 for an Academic Palms summer scholarship. The AATF Small Grants program is described on page 8, with an example on page 49. Deanna Scheffer, Episcopal High School of Jacksonville, Florida, has an article encouraging National Board Certification on page 43. You will also find several articles about, and resources for, advocacy. As you can see in bold letters above, 2008 will once again provide a theme on which to hang language visibility.

We welcome each of the chapters new since the fall of 2007 which are listed in this issue. You will find your chapter number on the first line of the address on page 8 preceding the sponsor name/s. If the chapter number is missing or if your new chapter has not been identified in print, please let me know at the address below.

Sharon B. Rapp  
1817 South Blvd.  
Conway, AR 72034  
Tel: 1-501-327-4216  
sbrapp@conwaycorp.net
Nouveaux Chapitres

4099 Twinsburg High School, Twinsburg, OH, Jeannine M. Gurnack
4100 Midland High School, Midland, MI, Amy Rankin
4101 The Bullis School, Potomac, MD, Janet Gerson
4102 International School of Arizona, Indianapolis, IN, Frederic Allamel
4103 Manatee School for the Arts, Palmetto, FL, Mary C. Turner
4104 Robbinsville High School, Robbinsville, NJ, Guy Dippolito
4105 J. R. Masterman High School, Philadelphia, PA, Kristin Russo
4106 Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox, IL, Brock Austrums
4107 Ridgeland High School, Ridgeland, MS, Linda Hegwood
4108 Hackensack High School, Hackensack, NJ, Eric Fahrenkopf
4109 Colorado Academy, Denver, CO, Bridgette Debord
4110 Absegami High School, Galloway, NJ, Faye S. Wilcox
4111 Bayard Rustin High School, West Chester, PA, Gloria F. Schwenk
4112 Hagerty High School, Oviedo, FL, Pamela Lynch
4113 Lehman High School, Kyle, TX, Dawn Davis
4114 Santa Fe High School, Santa Fe, TX, Kathryn C. Woods
4115 Pioneer Valley High School, Santa Maria, CA, Alicia Ekberg
4116 Cosby High School, Midlothian, VA, Emily Bentzen
4117 Enterprise High School, Enterprise, AL, Candace Thomason
4118 Alvirne High School, Hudson, NH, Gilbert Lachance
4119 Cedar Grove High School, Cedar Grove, NJ, MaryAnne Henry
4120 Plainfield North High School, Plainfield, IL, Milly S. Trahey
4121 Villa Victoria Academy, Ewing, NJ, Jennifer Nelson and Sr. Mary Ann Geicina
4122 Sinagua High School, Flagstaff, AZ, Shelly Witman
4123 South Iredell High School, Statesville, NC, Bonnie J. Estes
4124 Belleville High School, Belleville, NJ, Jules Palmieri
4125 John Carroll High School, Fort Pierce, FL, Julie Fitzgerald
4126 Windsor Forest High School, Savannah, GA, Betty S. Hickox
4127 John Hersey High School, Arlington Heights, IL, Kate Chandler
4128 Saint Francis Catholic High School, Gainesville, FL, Matthew Fredericks

4129 Thomas County Central High School, Thomasville, GA, Chris Smith
4130 Wiregrass Ranch High School, Land O Lakes, FL, Erin Clendining
4131 Maclay School, Tallahassee, FL, Pascale Shaffet
4132 Fishers High School, Fishers, IN, Cara Clippinger
4133 Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, NJ, Marie F. Jacques
4134 St. Margaret's School, San Juan Capistrano, CA, Robert Giannasi
4135 Southbridge High School, Southbridge, MA, James Kenney
4136 Beth Av Academy, Croydon, NH, Mary Cushman-Roisin
4137 Laguna Hills High School, Laguna Hills, CA, Elena Nelson
4138 Geneva High School, Geneva, IL, Martha Behlow
4139 Seven Lakes High School, Katy, TX, Teresa Langford
4140 First Colonial High School, Virginia Beach, VA, Jennifer A. Inglis
4141 The Katherine Anne Porter School, Wimberley, TX, Adele Wilbur
4142 Coventry High School, Coventry, RI, Christine Hoskins and Cynthia Teixeira
4143 Woodcreek High School, Roseville, CA, Cheryl Anderson
4144 Mesquite High School, Mesquite, TX, Tad R. Kirkendoll
4145 Columbus East High School, Columbus, IN, Melanie Enkoff
4146 Orange Park High School, Orange Park, FL, Cheryl A. Thingvold
4147 Turner High School, Kansas City, KS, Bret Klankey
4148 St. Joseph's Catholic School, Greenville, SC, Kim McGrath
4149 Lima Central Catholic High School, Lima, OH, Michelle Garlock
4150 Freedom High School, South Riding, VA, Susan Courtenay
4151 Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA, Gary Mackiewicz
4152 Norcross High School, Norcross, GA, Meghan Primm
4153 Spring High School, Spring, TX, Jill Barrow
4154 Grimsley High School, Greensboro, NC, Laura Wolf
4155 Neptune High School, Neptune, NJ, Barbara Brucolieri
4156 Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, AR, Jan Nixon and Pam Peace
4157 Sachse High School, Sachse, TX, James Sennette
4158 Monroe-Woodbury High School, Central Valley, NY, Hiria Kojtari

(continued on page 3)
Félicitations!

Congratulations to these SHF sponsors who have been honored this year for their teaching and service:

AATF Dorothy Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award—Secondary Level
Tracy Lambert, Lafayette HS, Lexington, KY
ISE Language Matters Award
Donna Czarnecki, Lyons Township High School, La Grange, IL

AATF Summer Scholarship to Québec
Jane Weaver, Martin Luther King, Jr., Academic Magnet High School, Nashville, TN

AATF Summer Scholarship to France
Tina Ocone-Ramirez, Stratford High School, Stratford, CT

Jacqueline Rapke, Royal Palm Beach High School, Royal Palm Beach, FL
Sue Slaughter, Searcy High School, Searcy, AR

University of Québec, Chicoutimi/SCOLT
Tracy Rucker, Stratford Academy, Macon, GA

Arkansas Lifetime Service Award
Barbara Ransford, Retired from Camden-Fairview High School, Camden, AR
Retiring Vice-President AATF

2007 Regional STAR Award Student Natlie Crnosija
Maria D’Amore, Harborfields High School, Green lawn, NY

AATF Vice-President 2007-2009
Ann Sunderland, Truman High School, Independence, MO

Check out the deadlines for nominations and applications for scholarships on the back cover of the September, 2007, issue of the National Bulletin! If you, or your colleague, have won a statewide or national award or recognition, please let us know at sbrapp@conwaycorp.net.
Concours - SHF Travel Awards

In recent years, up to ten (10) awards have been made, each in the amount of $750.

1. Each chapter may submit no more than two applications and the teacher of the student applicant must be a member of AATF by Feb. 1, 2008.

2. The applicant must be a member of the SHF by the application deadline, currently studying French, and possess a good knowledge of the language.

3. Awards must be used for travel, not tuition, course fees, etc. Proof of registration by May 1st in the program described on, or attached to, the application form and/or travel reservations may be required before disbursement is made.

4. The applicant must be registered in, or able to register in, a program approved by the SHF sponsor. Although independent travel is discouraged, exceptions will be made if the applicant and sponsor provide a detailed program of travel/study and justification.

5. Travel must be completed within 12 months of the award deadline (by 2/1/09).

6. Only applications which are complete will be reviewed. The sponsor must mail all the following items in one envelope:
   - Completed application form
   - Student essay, hand-written in cursive, signed and dated by student
   - Official transcript through first semester 2007-08
   - Letter of recommendation, signed and dated, from current French teacher
   - Letter of recommendation, signed and dated, from another faculty member of the school the applicant is now attending
   - Paper copy of travel/study program prospectus (or justification)

Postmark Deadline: February 1, 2008
Sharon B. Rapp, President SHF
1817 South Blvd. Conway, AR 72034

Remerciements

Mr. Knox,
Je sais que cette lettre est un peu tard, parce que mon année terminale est très chargée, mais j’aimerais vous remercier beaucoup pour la bourse que vous m’avez donnée l’année dernière pour aider me payer mon voyage en France. Il m’a aidé extrêmement, et nous nous sommes bien amusés. Nous avons appris beaucoup de la culture et de la langue françaises que nous n’avons pas connues, et nous gardons beaucoup de beaux souvenirs que nous n’oublierons jamais.

Merci,
Ashley

Dear Committee,

I would like to thank you sincerely for the scholarship I have been given. Ever since my first year of French I have been looking forward to traveling to France. I have studied earnestly and was thrilled at the opportunity to use my knowledge for a scholarship. The award I have received through your scholarship will help to fund my trip to France, and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you again for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,
Lori Rothermund

Dear Ms. Rapp,

My wife and I would like to thank you and your committee for selecting Samantha as one of the Travel Scholarship winners. We are extremely proud of her and excited that she has the opportunity to travel to France this summer. A goal she has had since her first year of taking French.

To celebrate our children’s accomplishments, we like to mount and post their accomplishments in our family game room. While we have Samantha’s essay on the computer (in English), we did not think to make a copy of her submitted essay [in French] before she sent it in. We would like to get a copy (electronic would be fine), if that is possible.

Thank you for your consideration,
Brian Hallman

Dear Mrs. Rapp,

I am writing to thank you for the incredible opportunity that you and the SHF made possible for me with the Travel Stipend Award. My experience in France was even more amazing than I could have imagined, and I find that a desire to learn more about the world’s cultures has risen inside of me. I thank you not only for the opportunity to travel abroad, but for igniting my passion to continue to learn.

Merci encore,
Marlee Dippolito
Application for an SHF Travel Award

This completed form (which may be copied) and all supporting materials (see page 4) must be sent by the sponsor in the same envelope, postmarked no later than February 1, 2008, to the address below. The applicant must be a member of SHF and the applicant's sponsoring teacher must be a member of AATF by the application deadline.

Sharon B. Rapp, President SHF
1817 South Blvd.
Conway, AR 72034-6205

Applicant's name __________________________________________

Home address ______________________________________________
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Date of birth ___________ ; Age on 2/1/08 ___________ ; Date inducted into SHF ___________

Grade point average: Overall ________ ; In French ________ ; Rank in class ________ of ________

Class (circle): 9 10 11 12 Current French course (circle): I II III IV V VI Is course? (circle): AP IB

Activities and awards: ______________________________________

A. Have you participated in the Le Grand Concours (National French Contest)? (circle) Yes No Year/s ______

B. Have you ever visited a French-speaking country? (circle) Yes No Year/s ______________________________

If A or B above is YES, give details: ____________________________________________________________

On a separate sheet of paper, state in your own cursive handwriting in French your reasons for applying for this travel award. You must present your own ideas, but a teacher may correct your grammar.

Information below to be completed by the SHF sponsor:

(sponsor must be member of AATF by 2/1/08) (sponsor signature)

Sponsor's name __________________________ Home phone __________________________

School name __________________________ E-mail __________________________

School address __________________________ (street) (city) (state) (zip)

AATF region (see first page French Review) ______________________ SHF chapter (see address label) #

Does the school have a travel/study program? (circle) Yes No If YES, date next trip ______________________

If NO, what alternative program has been chosen (*)? __________________________________________________

Describe briefly on the back of this page and/or attach a prospectus for the school travel/study program the student will be joining (* or for the alternative program chosen and the justification for which an exception is requested). The program described must be the trip to which the stipend will be applied.
Concours - Creative Writing

Voltaire

François-Marie Arouet ou Voltaire a laissé une oeuvre immense. Il a tout essayé, la poésie, y compris l'épopée, l'histoire, la tragédie, et la comédie (où il s'est arrangé pour être ennuyeux, lui le plus divertissant des humains). Dans la tragédie, il suit péniblement et de très loin les traces de Corneille et de Racine; mais comme la passion de l'amour l'agit plus, il essaie de donner du mouvement à ses pièces en y introduisant plus d'action extérieure, en faisant, sinon des pièces à thèse, du moins des pièces «à idées», philosophiques et autres. Au fond, la tragédie n'est pas son genre, pas plus que l'épopée ou que la poésie, même descriptive. Là où il excelle, c'est dans la prose vive, l'égare, spirituelle, qui est restée comme la marque de son génie. Ses contes, "Candide" et autres fines satires des hommes et des choses, du monde comme il va, sont de petits chefs-d'oeuvre. Sa vaste correspondance, presque européenne, est une merveille de grâce et d'élegant, souvent d'ironie et parfois de méchanceté. A part ces écrits, on ne le lit plus guère.

Donc! Candide de Voltaire.

François-Marie Arouet, best known under his pen name Voltaire, is such a historical giant that some scholars, like Ariel and Will Durant, call the eighteenth century the "Age of Voltaire." Voltaire was unrivaled in stature as an author. He criticized everyone and signed his works with "Ecrasez l'infâme" or "down with infamy."

Candide parodies the philosophy of optimism put forth by Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibnitz. This philosophy states that since God created the world and God is perfect, everything in the world is ultimately perfect.

Human Condition

The grand theme of the novel is the human condition. The quest of Candide centers on whether the doctrine of optimism taught by Dr. Pangloss is true. Taking seriously the old adage that the entire world is a stage, Voltaire employs that idea in his novel. Much the same way science fiction does today, Voltaire placed ideal societies and backward societies in obscure parts of the world. The rest simply needed to be exaggerated. The philosopher Pangloss, Candide's tutor, insists that they live in "the best of all possible worlds" and maintains that view through various sophistries, but reality tells a different story. In Voltaire's world, as in ours, soldiers are not always heroes, priests are not always godly, and philosophers are not always very helpful in guiding us away from human folly. Indeed, much of the fun of reading Candide lies in applying Voltaire's ironic wit to the pretensions and hypocrisies of our own age.

Donc, cette année, partagez vos impressions sous forme de poème ou de narration vos sentiments concernant l'impression de Voltaire sur nos politiciens, nos Prêtres et la culture intellectuelle et artistique de nos jours.

Catégorie A = Niveaux I-III

Catégorie B = Niveaux IV-VI

☐ Chaque école peut présenter trois œuvres par catégorie au concours.

☐ Le professeur de chaque candidat doit être membre de l'AATF par le premier février 2008.

☐ On peut envoyer une seule sélection par élève (pas de travail de groupe).

☐ Veuillez indiquer sur la feuille le nom de l'élève, le nom et l'adresse de son école, le nom de son professeur, et le niveau.

☐ Il faut que le texte soit tapé à la machine, 250 mots maximum.

☐ Les présentations ne seront pas rendues.

☐ Un T-shirt SHF et une épingle SHF seront accordés aux lauréats qui seront annoncés dans le Bulletin National. Nous pourrons tous les lire dans le prochain numéro de L'Elan.

☐ Please note: Submission of student writing constitutes permission to publish and permission to edit the submission to meet space requirements of L'Elan.

☐ Date limite: 1 février, 2008, à

Sharon B. Rapp, President SHF
1817 South Blvd.
Conway, AR 72034-6205
Lettre du Secrétaire Général

Dear Sponsors,

Hello and here's hoping you all have a successful year at your respective schools across the nation. SHF has had several local problems with rules and regulations. The constitution does not speak to all possible problems that can occur on the local levels. For example: what does one do with students who do not maintain a grade average deemed necessary for an honor society? What does one do with an unruly student? SHF can only speak to what is in the National Constitution and cannot and will not deal with local problems not mentioned in the constitution. So, SHF encourages you as sponsor to give some thought to adding local rules and regulations that best fit your local situations, such as what grade average is needed to remain a member of SHF. What happens when this isn't met? An interesting situation arose this year when some members decided that they didn't like their president and held a clandestine meeting and voted out the president. Last I heard this happens in some countries but not in the US. So, some thought should be given to elections. What happens when there is a tie for candidates? A runoff election? Surely it seems to me! What happens when some officer cannot fulfill their duties?

Here is what the national constitution says (II,2): The SHF sponsor, however, may exercise the prerogative to revoke a student's membership for reasons of failure to maintain a high scholastic average, of behavior inappropriate to an honor society, irregular participation in SHF activities, insufficient service hours, failure to attend the induction ceremony, etc. Seems to me this should be elaborated upon considerably. SHF could, of course, make a long list of regulations which may not be acceptable to local chapters and this is why we don't. But, I do think it would be a very good idea for local chapters to give it some thought. Perhaps some discussion with the Math, English, History and other departments participating in National Honor Societies would be beneficial.

And equally as important, don't forget to send in your End of Year Report which updates your school's sponsors, addresses, e-mail changes and what you have done over the year. This is especially important when there is no activity for it keeps your school chartered. After two years of no end of year reporting or induction the charter expires after a two year silence. This means you will have to re-charter the school. Also, remember to keep records of your student members and any important things you've done so this information can be passed along to the next sponsor. National Headquarters does not keep these records. This information is lost if not passed along to the next sponsor.

Hoping you have a great year.

Todd

Question et Réponse

Question: How are grades to be handled in determining eligibility for invitation to membership?

Réponse: Time can be saved by working in this order: semester grade of "A-" in French; average of "A-" over last three semesters of French; average of "B-" in all other courses over last three semesters.

If your school uses a numerical grading system, the minimum grade in French for the semester prior to invitation, as well as the average for French courses in the three semesters prior to invitation, must equal or exceed the lowest number for an "A minus". If averages are calculated on a 4-point system (A = 4, B = 3, etc.), an "A minus" would begin at 3.5. Also, if your school awards a 5-point "A" for AP or IB classes, it is permissible to include the "bonus point/s" in the calculation.

The words must have maintained a "B average or higher" (section 3.b. in the by-laws) mean that when all subjects other than French are averaged, the average must reach or exceed the lowest "B minus" in the school's grading system, both for the semester prior to induction and for the three semesters of high school work prior to invitation.

There is nothing in the national document which disallows a grade of "C" or lower—unless it pulls a student's average below those listed above. Course work includes all work transferred to the high school transcript for academic credit, whether from middle school/junior high years or from post-secondary work.

If your school provides an interim grade for the block semester (roughly equivalent to a semester grade for a year-long course), use the two grades for French I plus the interim grade for French II to determine eligibility—while the French II block is still in progress. Advanced students would be eligible based on final grades (or interim, if available) for previous courses.

Suggestions for your local by-laws: State the way the minimum average ("A minus") in French will be determined. State the method for determining the minimum average ("B minus") in all other courses. Include a statement about continuing membership both from an academic and an honor code standpoint, even though older copies of national by-laws do not mention that. Lastly, the national officers accept the sponsor's decision on student eligibility.

Sharon
Recipients of *L'Elan* can help SHF by updating addresses. Please see *Lettres et chiffres* below.

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**L'Elan** is a nonprofit publication of the Société Honoraire de Français which operates under the auspices of the American Association of Teachers of French. It is published in the fall and spring as a service to its members and sponsors and other world language professionals. Readers are encouraged to send items of interest to: Sharon B. Rapp, Editor *L'Elan*, 1817 South Blvd., Conway, AR 72034-6205. Items may also be faxed to 1-501-327-4216 (with prior notice). Deadline for the spring issue is February 1, 2008.

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**Lettres et chiffres**

H. Todd Knox, Exec. Sec. SHF  
500 Monteigne Drive  
Lafayette, LA 70506-6308

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E-mail: htknox@juno.com

AATF Web Site: www.frenchteachers.org
(Click on National Headquarters, then SHF)

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