December 2022 President's Message

Dear MaFLA members,

It is with sadness that I write my last message to you this December. At MaFLA, one is president for a single year and that has now culminated with a successful convention as a partner to ACTFL in Boston and my last act as President will be to close the December 10th board meeting as I pass the gavel to Pat DiPillo, next year’s president. On the docket for the board meeting is recommending a name change, zipping up our operating procedures from the by-law change, and planning for 2023.

Two things were clear to me during Convention: that our profession must center non-normative narratives and that we must take the time to see each other. In many sessions, folks spoke of decolonizing, unpacking privilege, representing your students in the curriculum, engaging in equitable practices, crafting accessible curriculum, going beyond the non-binary. While it feels like “just one more thing”, I am convinced this is the most essential thing after target language use. Regardless of the incredible learning in the sessions, my favorite part of conferences is connecting. I didn’t walk three steps in the expo hall without running into an old friend, someone who wanted a selfie, a board member, a colleague. And, despite the fast pace of the weekend, we all took a moment together to connect. That was the wealth of ACTFL, because language connects.

Being in person brought such energy as so many amazing sessions informed and inspired participants. From Catherine Ritz and Christina Toro’s book signing to Past Presidents Tim Egan & Nicole Sherf’s session, from our booth in the Expo Hall to my welcome speech to the ACTFL Partners, from our commemorations to our election of new board members at our luncheon, it is clear that MaFLA continues to be strong and a leader in our field. I am satisfied with that legacy and look forward to working with the board over the next few years as the Conference Coordinator. As always, MaFLA sees you. We heard you. We support you. Let me know what you need from me to feel welcome, connected, seen.

Beckie Bray Rankin

MaFLA Leader in the Spotlight

Newly joining our board this year is Portuguese teacher Mia Correia of Global Learning Charter Public School in New Bedford. @miasilva (Twitter) joined us just before ACTFL’s convention and jumped right into our booth, connecting with folks in her region and other teachers of Portuguese. I brought a lonely teacher over to her and within 2 minutes, Mia had found a family connection and brought her into the MaFLA family! As if being a mom and board member and teacher isn’t enough, Mia is continuing her education at Northeastern where she is pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership. Here is Mia (right) with our incoming President Elect, Vilma, at ACTFL!

Upcoming Events

Every year, you can count on MaFLA to line up excellent workshops and presenters to keep you boosted and educated on high-leverage practices and important inclusion work. While all the dates and details will be posted as they come up, here are the links to the pages where you will find our virtual and in-person lineups. Follow us on social media and read our emails for just-in-time updates on our offerings beyond PD!

Virtual: Winter Workshops & M/OPI
In Person: Core Practices Institute, Proficiency Academy, Summer Institute