

MAFLA Conference 2023 FAQ

Can you explain the schedule?

Thursday, we have 6-hour and 4-hour workshops with well-known presenters. You can sign up for [Thursday registration](#) and workshops only or in combination with the whole weekend. [Friday and Saturday](#), we have 3-hour workshops and concurrent hour-long sessions. Your Friday / Saturday registration gets you into the Expo Hall Friday and any session on both days. If you'd like to attend a workshop that day, you must be registered for the day and also for the workshop. You can go to any session during the day; there is no need to sign up ahead of time. We call them "concurrent" sessions because these 60-minute session blocks have multiple options. You won't want to miss out! Here is the [schedule at a glance](#).

What is the difference between a workshop and a session?

A workshop is a longer opportunity for an in-depth look at a particular topic with an invited speaker of national renown. We chose the workshop presenters in coordination with our theme. Workshops have a fee additional to the conference registration. A session is a shorter snapshot of a topic; the presenter submitted a session and was chosen by our conference committee. These are teachers and professors who have volunteered to share their experience and research with you for an hour. All 60-minute sessions (but not workshops) are included in your registration.

What is the fee structure?

For your convenience, we offer a Thursday-only registration as well as a Friday / Saturday combined registration. You must be registered to enter the exhibit hall and attend sessions. There is an additional cost to workshops since we have invited nationally known presenters to work with our attendees. We offer Presenter and Early Bird Registration discounts. You can register onsite at an additional cost. For 2023, check this [pricing document](#).

What food is included? What if I have dietary restrictions?

Coffee and tea are available in the exhibit hall at specific times. Thursday, 6-hour workshops and 4-hour workshops include a meal. You can and it is strongly recommended that you do purchase a buffet lunch ticket for Friday, a Networking Breakfast for Saturday, and/or a ticket for our Awards Luncheon on Saturday. Our member's reception on Friday night includes hors-d'oeuvres and is included with your registration. If your registration includes a meal, you will be able to select if you are gluten-free, vegetarian, or vegan. If you have other food concerns, you can contact the [Membership Chair](#).

What are the other events?

Our conference is known for its raffles, keynote speaker, members' reception, and awards luncheon. These are opportunities you will want to attend! Raffles happen in the expo hall between sessions. The Keynote is on Friday in the Ballroom. Our members' reception is on Friday evening in Mahogany. These three highlights are all part of your registration. The awards luncheon is an extra cost but allows you to hear firsthand who our award winners are and the theme for next year's conference. The business meeting, which happens directly before Saturday's luncheon, is open to all and gives our members the chance to vote on the MAFLA Board of Directors Slate.

What is the app? Why should I use it?

EventMobi, available through your app store, makes conference participation easier. We think the top best parts of the app are gamification, agenda builder, handouts, and messenger. Did you know you can win great prizes by meeting people? Or that you can build an agenda ahead of time with multiple sessions at the same time so you can take advantage of as much as possible? Also, if you meet someone and start collaborating, use the app to get in

touch and exchange information. Presenters are also requested to put their presentation and any handouts in the app instead of printing them out. It is ideal to bring your own device to access all these great opportunities.

How do I get to the Conference?

For directions, if you are driving, click on the [map](#) and click on directions. [For Hotel Registration.](#)

Extra hotel room for Moms:

We are happy to announce the availability of our dedicated "Moms" hotel room designed to provide a comfortable and private space for pumping breast milk during your stay with us. Ask the front desk for the "Moms" hotel room.

Where do I park?

Daily parking is currently discounted for \$10.00 per day. Overnight guest parking is \$19.95 per night. Both are subject to change. Buses and large trucks are not allowed to park next to the hotel. The off-site 91 North Parking Garage is located at 1870 E Columbus Avenue. The nearby lot is not monitored by security. There will be parking lot attendants in front of the hotel to direct you to these lots, which are close to the hotel. Attendees must keep their ticket (from the hotel garage) or coin (from the 91 N and 91 Slots) and present them for validation or payment at the Coat Room located on the 3rd floor of the hotel or at the front desk in the hotel lobby. Under no circumstances should attendees park at the Tower Square Hotel (former Marriott) across the street from the Sheraton. They will be charged outrageous hourly rates. Please note that neither MAFLA nor the Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel are liable for any damages to your vehicle, stolen property, or lost personal effects. Remember to lock your car!

Where do I register? If you have pre-registered online, follow these directions:

Main Registration (pre-registered, check-in) will be on the second floor near the central stairwell. From the lobby, take the stairway at the end of the lobby to the second floor or take the elevator. You will see Registration across the atrium. Click on the Maps Tab in the app menu for more information. Upon checking in, you will receive your badge and your tickets for all of the extras you signed up for, such as the Friday buffet lunch, the Saturday business meeting, etc. It is that easy! If you do not have access to a mobile device, you may request a printed copy of the agenda and sessions. Each registered attendee will have a badge with a unique QR code. This code will allow you to check into and out of sessions for verification of your attendance and participation. Once you've registered, the sessions and workshops are on that floor and the two above.

What do I do if I did not register online or I want to add an extra on-site?

Go directly to Member Services, located on the second floor. The treasurer and the Membership Coordinator are there to help you join or renew your membership and to register onsite. We accept credit cards, checks, or cash onsite at Member Services.

Is WIFI available?

Yes, all attendees have access to WIFI. We use the log-in section of the Sheraton's wifi, under the conference section, and the code is **1mp**.

Dongle

Presenters need to bring a dongle to connect the projector/tv to their computer. Be aware that the projector end is an **HDMI**, so make sure you bring the correct dongle to attach to the HDMI.

Who is in charge?

Each year, the entire MAFLA Board supports the Conference Chair and Coordinator. MAFLA is an all-volunteer board; everything that surrounds the planning of this conference is taken on by current and retired world language

teachers like yourself! We have an incredible amount of people who volunteer to facilitate sessions and present; if you'd like to help out next year, let us know.