



# Chicago Area AATSP

## Fall 2013 Newsletter

[chicagoaatsp.org](http://chicagoaatsp.org)

### RECENT EVENTS



San Antonio River Walk,  
AATSP Conference 2013

#### POETRY PRESENTATION AT ICTFL CONFERENCE

Chicago AATSP participated in the October ICTFL Fall Conference: Diversity is Delicious. The Executive Council sponsored a session entitled “Poetry: Getting From a Taste to the Main Course.” The purpose of the session was to encourage the use of poetry at all levels. Specific poems were suggested for vocabulary, grammar, memorization, choral reading, writing, and cultural connections. The presenters also made connections to the chapter website as a source for many poems for teacher use and encouraged attendees to participate in the upcoming Poster/Poetry Contest. Thanks to Elia López, Susan Ranft, Laura Jacobson, and Barb Pietroski for sharing with colleagues.

### COMING UP



Kiana Shin

Hinsdale South H.S.  
Winner of the 2012-13  
Poster Contest

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Poster/Poetry Contest will be held at 9 a.m. on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at Niles North H.S. The Poster Contest is open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish students of our members. The goal is to tap our students’ interest and artistic talents to advocate for Spanish or language learning. The specific instructions are available online: [chicagoaatsp.org](http://chicagoaatsp.org)

The Poetry Contest is a very special opportunity for students to memorize and interpret a selected poem. The quality of presenters is always very high. Our Chicago Council is joined by area teachers to judge the presentations. Afterward, there is a ribbon ceremony; the posters are also displayed and a winner is announced. All poems and specific instructions are on our website.

**ELECTIONS FOR OUR CHICAGO CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** are just around the corner. We'll be trying something new in November. Instead of sending ballots and candidate information via the US postal service, we'll be using emails for candidate bios with a link to Survey Monkey for the voting. Our goal is to greatly reduce postage costs so we can put more money into servicing members and their students. In addition, we're happy to make more environmentally friendly choices and improve communication. Please make sure you keep us informed of email address changes.

#### NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

The national AATSP has recently expanded their FLES poster contest so that students in grades 1 – 12 can participate. New this year is a digital poster category as well. Since their requirements are different from the Chicago chapter's, our students' poster entries are not eligible for this contest. However, we encourage our members to look into this opportunity for their students. The deadline is April 1, 2014. Please contact Crystal Vicente: [cvicente@athensacademy.org](mailto:cvicente@athensacademy.org)

### WINTER WORKSHOP

at Barrington H.S.

February 18, 2014:

SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE!

More information to  
come.

**NSE REGISTRATION** for the 2014 National Spanish Exam opens on November 1, 2013, and closes January 31, 2014. You must be a current member in order to have the \$75 teacher fee waived. Please identify your chapter as 017 to be included in the Chicago Chapter awards. Our chapter has the largest number of student participants in the nation, and we are happy to honor them with our prize structure. Last year we awarded 352 monetary prizes totaling \$18,500 in prize money. We also sponsored two \$1,000 senior scholarships for the third time from the Chicago Area Chapter - following the national guidelines. Three additional Chicago Area students who applied for Senior Scholarships were awarded \$500 each. The registration fee remains at \$6 per student. Please review general information online: [www.nationalspanishexam.org](http://www.nationalspanishexam.org). Also, if you are new to the Chicago Area Contest or have questions, please contact NSE coordinator Mary Jo Aronica at [mjateacher@aol.com](mailto:mjateacher@aol.com)

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#### SHH

From our Chicago Area Secretary and Illinois State Director of the SHH, also recently appointed Region III Director of the SHH—Susan Ranft

### Does your school have a Spanish Honor Society chapter?

There are so many benefits for students when they become members. Not only do they earn the recognition of having been inducted into a national honor society, they are also given opportunities to serve their communities and to grow as leaders. Students who are members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica are encouraged to submit their original Spanish poetry, prose or their artwork for publication in *¡Albricias!*, the national magazine of the SHH. There are also wonderful scholarships available to your students who are members. Each year your SHH chapter can select one of your junior students to apply for a travel scholarship and a senior to apply for a college scholarship. For more information, please visit the SHH website at [www.aatsp.org/?SHH](http://www.aatsp.org/?SHH), or contact the Illinois State Director, Susan Ranft at [susran@d219.org](mailto:susran@d219.org)

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## SPRING AND SUMMER 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

### 95<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AATSP CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO

Susan Ranft, Chicago AATSP secretary, and president Barb Pietroski traveled in July to spend 5 days attending sessions, representing the council in meetings, and thoroughly enjoying the city. The River Walk was a delightful place to catch a boat ride tour of the waterway, but it also offered a variety of eating spots, an escape from the heat, and entertainment. The conference itself was well-organized and well-attended. The sessions focused on a variety of topics, with AP and tech being at the forefront. One of the most beneficial sessions was given by past president Christine Campbell – who shared tips and information about using the National Defense Language Institute lesson templates, online diagnostic tools, culture and country capsules, and phone conversations. Check it out! [www.dlifc.edu](http://www.dlifc.edu)

### JUNE LUNCHEON

We always end the year with a luncheon gathering at a popular restaurant. This year we met at Las Tablas on Irving Park in Chicago. We also honored Fran Mirro, council member and Department Chair and teacher at Hinsdale South H. S. Fran was nominated because of her continued dedication to teaching and her varied professional contributions. She joined the AATSP in 1975, and she has been a member of the Executive Council of the Chicago Area Chapter since 1992. She took over the responsibility of handling the Poster Contest years ago and maintains this successful event for the council. If you'd like to nominate a colleague for the Chapter Achievement Award, please go to [Chicagoaatsp.org](http://Chicagoaatsp.org) to review the criteria.



**¡FELICIDADES!**

**FRAN MIRRO  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD  
2013**

### NEWS YOU CAN USE: awesome apps

Apps for your ipad that were recommended at the ICTFL conference:

Puppet pals: create shows with animation/audio

Bitstrips for schools: instant comics starring you and your friends (Individual or school site license)

Imagechef.com: design app \*Free

Story bird: app to make visual stories in seconds