

OWLA Proceedings Report: Spring Meeting of the Ohio Chapter of AATG

Date & Location

The OWLA Spring Meeting was held on April 5, 2025, at Columbus State Community College, Room 412B, Center for Workforce Development, located at 315 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, Ohio.

Attendance

The meeting was attended in person by Kevin Richards, Sarah Zabka, Darlene Lyon, Nikki Moore, and Maria Herman.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report presented an account balance of \$4,299.33. The discussion included considerations regarding reimbursements from the Fall Conference.

New Business

Officer Updates

- **President:** Kevin Richards will transition the presidency to Sarah Zabka in Fall 2025.
- **Testing Chair & Webmaster:** Darlene Lyon reported successful participation in the national competition, with 31 Gold awardees from 650 applicants and one national finalist among six nominees. Committee members assisting included Kevin Richards, Dennis Boyd, Jeff, and Kristina Wassman.
- **Treasurer:** Dennis Boyd submitted his report in absentia.
- **OFLA Liaison:** Nikki Moore will continue in her role.
- **First Vice-President:** Sarah Zabka will transition from this role into presidency this fall, current duties in managing membership and editing the newsletter would move to the next first VP.
- **Second Vice-President Search:** Budimka Uskokovic from OSU was proposed, with nominations and voting scheduled for Fall 2025. She would then move into the First VP slot in the Fall and our search for a HS officer for the 2nd VP continues.
- **Recruitment:** interested in becoming officer - Berni Beringer (OSU)

Initiatives

Summer Camp for High School Students

The proposed pilot project titled "Tiere" was discussed, with further meetings planned to finalize details.

High School and Higher Education Outreach

- The OSU Outreach Committee highlighted requests from teachers for professional development opportunities.
- Outreach materials including OSU classroom posters, laptop stickers, and flyers were proposed.
- Updates to the outreach database and resource links on the OWLA website were discussed.

Upcoming Conferences

Fall Conference 2025 – "Stereotypes"

- **Dates:** August 22–23, 2025
- **Location:** Toledo Area (previous conference held in Dayton)
- **Agenda Overview:**
 - **August 22:** Dinner Stammtisch and hotel check-in, with considerations for accommodations at Cannaley Treehouse Village or alternative hotel venues.
 - **August 23:**
 - Morning sessions from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at Maumee High School or University of Toledo.
 - Professional Development sessions:
 - Budimka Uskokovic: "Breaking the Mold: Teaching Stereotypes with AI-Generated Images."
 - Maria Herman: "Connecting Classrooms to Community: Advocating for Language Programs through Community Events."
 - Lunch and Business Meeting from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

- Afternoon cultural event at the Toledo Art Museum featuring a glass-making workshop (\$50 fee) from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
- Rest period from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, followed by *Toledo Germanfest* at 6:00 PM.

Future Conference Planning

- Winterfest in Dublin, 2026, with at least one proposed PD by Berni Beringer focused on intercultural competence through authentic materials.

Connected Events

- **German Day WM Coordination at OSU (October 9, 2025):** Competitions in creative arts and linguistic skills, with consideration for AATG project funding.
- **Mobile German Day** proposal discussed.
- **Immersion Day: Weibersnachtfest at Cleveland Hofbrauhaus:** Date and time to be determined, along with potential AATG funding support.

Closing

The meeting concluded successfully, with plans for continued follow-up on initiatives and upcoming events.