

## WITESOL Newsletter (Winter 2017)

### Highlights of this Edition:

- President's Message
- WITESOL Writing and Art Contest
- Call for Judges
- Funding for Regional Conferences

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## President's Message January 2017

Tim Dalby: WITESOL President

Welcome to WITESOL's first newsletter of 2017. My hope is that WITESOL can help to make this year a rewarding and professionally successful one for you.

I'd like to begin by recognizing and paying tribute to Maureen Garry, our treasurer for the last

seventeen years. Our first board meeting of the year was her last as Treasurer, with the baton now being passed to Kathy Stamos. In recognition of her many years of service, the board awarded Maureen with a lifetime membership of WITESOL. Thankfully, she will stay involved as our official archivist, helping to steady the hand of the younger and newer board members (like me). Thank you Maureen for looking after WITESOL's finances for so long!



*Tim Dalby presents Maureen Garry with a lifetime membership of WITESOL.*

I'd like to welcome three new members-at-large to your board. You can read more about Pam Dennis, Adela Larson and Amitha Gone below. Their enthusiasm and varied experience will be very much appreciated this year as we plan ways to better serve you, our members. Kari Johnson, remains as our website, social media and newsletter guru. Both Melanie Schneider and Katie Vernezze stepped down after their terms ended. Lori Menning, after an extended two-year stint as president, moves into the past-president role, and Sheryl Slocum takes up the president-elect role in preparation for her 2018 WITESOL presidency.

Our conference this year will focus on teacher training and development with the theme: *Reflective Teaching, Teaching Reflection: Meeting the needs of language learners*. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Thomas S. C. Farrell, an acknowledged expert on the topic. Dr. Heather Linville, our Conference Program Chair, will be issuing a call for proposals in April. Whether you are a seasoned presenter, or just starting out, please consider sharing your expertise with your colleagues this fall.

On the theme of conferences, congratulations to Jennifer Hornbaker, Rhonda Petree and Sarah Mankowski, who will each receive a \$1000 travel award to the TESOL convention. You can read about their experiences in the next issue of your newsletter. If you are attending the

TESOL Convention, watch for an invitation to the WITESOL reception in Seattle. This is a great opportunity for travelling WITESOLers to get together and share their convention experiences. Congratulations also to Kristin Dalby, Jeannine Geiger, Sarah Mankowski and Xiaoqi Wang who each received a complimentary TESOL membership – just one of the many benefits of being a WITESOL member.

Finally, WITESOL is very much more than the board; it is all about you, our members. If you have an idea, suggestion, or you want to be more involved, please contact me, Tim Dalby, at [witesol.president@gmail.com](mailto:witesol.president@gmail.com).

## **WITESOL Writing and Art Contest 2017**

**Theme: What does the world need more of?**

**This year's theme tackles a very important question, and students have a lot of options when it comes to giving an answer. Students can take an environmental spin or explore social avenues for a better world. Teachers can encourage thoughtfulness and creativity to approach this theme any way they see fit.**

**WITESOL will be accepting submissions from December 16, 2016 until February 17, 2017. Any Wisconsin teacher who is a WITESOL member can enter up to 3 ELL entries per category. Student work from the 2016-2017 school year is eligible. We look forward to viewing artwork and reading personal essays and poems from students of all ages.**

<http://witesol.com/contests-and-awards/contests/>

### **Call for Judges for WITESOL Writing and Art Contest**

Brianna Deering, our 2017 WITESOL contest judging coordinator, is looking for judges for the 2017 Writing and Art contest. If you are interested in judging, please contact Brianna Deering at [witesolcontest@gmail.com](mailto:witesolcontest@gmail.com).

In the subject, write "Judging 2017" and include the following in your email: Name, school or

affiliation, email address, physical address, and phone number. Teachers cannot judge the same age groups that their students are entering, but they can judge other age groups. Please let us know which categories that you CANNOT judge. Please contact Brianna by February 10th if you are interested.

Note: Judges will receive entries toward the end of February or early March and will have approximately 10 days to two weeks to return them. Judging can take one to three hours of your time (evaluating essays, poems and art with our rubric), depending on how many categories you are judging.

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## **Guidelines for Funding Regional Conferences**

### **Requests for Funding for WITESOL Regional Professional Development Events**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

- March 1: for PD events April – June
- June 1: for PD events July – December (check date of WITESOL annual conference)
- December 1: for PD events January – March

Wisconsin TESOL (WITESOL) welcomes requests for regional mini-workshops, mini-conferences, or other professional development (PD) events organized by WITESOL members to provide PD opportunities for teachers, administrators, other staff who work with English learners (ELs) and their families. Individuals or local teams of WITESOL members may develop proposals for these events using the following guidelines.

WHAT IS FUNDED:

WITESOL will support funding for a regional workshop, mini-conference, or other PD activity (up to \$500 total for any calendar year). This amount is subject to approval from a committee of the WITESOL Board and the availability of funds from WITESOL. The purpose of this funding is to support efforts by WITESOL members to provide smaller PD opportunities at the regional level in Wisconsin outside of the annual

conference.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

Those who submit proposals must be members of WITESOL. Individual WITESOL members or local teams of members are eligible to submit a proposal for funding.

Visit <http://witesol.com/funding-opportunities/guidelines/> to learn more!



**THANK YOU!**

The WITESOL Board would like to extend a special thank you to Maureen Garry for her 17

years of service as treasurer for WITESOL. We are thankful for all of your service and dedication to the organization. We also would like to thank Melanie Schneider and Katie Vernezze for their work on the board. We are excited to have Melanie serving as a committee chair for updating the WITESOL constitution.

## Meet the New WITESOL Board Members: Pam Dennis, Amitha Gone, and Adela Larson!



**Pam Dennis** teaches ELLs at Washington Elementary School in the Whitewater Unified School District. Pam started her ESL teaching career working with refugees and adults in Philadelphia and in Madison. She then taught Spanish at Edgewood Elementary and Middle Schools followed by Monona Grove Middle and High Schools. She has a BA in English Lit and Spanish from Dickinson College and a MA in Educational Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. Pam taught in the intensive language program at Beloit College, where she also taught Spanish, TESOL Methods, and earned her certification to teach in WI public schools. (No mere emergency licenses!) Pam loves her vocation and continues to stretch as a

teacher in the ESL field. Her newest adventure is teaching 4K ELLs. Pam is looking forward to being on the WITESOL Board as Member-at-large.



**Amitha Ruth Gone** has been an ESL Instructor in an IEP at the Milwaukee School of Engineering University since 2014. She was an Assistant Professor and a teacher trainer at the Osmania University and the English and Foreign Languages University in India prior to moving to the United States with her husband and two sons. She holds a Doctorate in English

Language Education from EFLU, India. Her areas of interest are Language Education, Language Assessment and Teacher Education.



**Adela Larson** is pursuing an M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages with an initial K-12 teaching license and a Spanish minor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She has been an ESL tutor at UWRF for the past three years and taught an adult ESL course to dairy farm workers near her home in Glenwood City during the summer of 2016. Adela holds a B.S. in International Business from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and studied in France and Spain in 2003. She worked at the United Nations Children's Fund in New York City for three years. Adela is looking forward to being a WITESOL board member and being a voice for the Northwest region of the state.

## **TESOL Travel Award Winners**

**WITESOL awarded three TESOL Travel Awards for \$1,000.00 each for three members to attend the TESOL 2017 International Convention & Language Expo in Seattle, WA, from March 21 - 24.**

### **The Award Winners were:**

**Jennifer Hornbaker**

**Sarah Mankowski**

**Rhonda Petree**

## **Complimentary TESOL Membership Winners:**

**WITESOL is able to award up to seven members with a complimentary TESOL membership.**

### **The Award Winners were:**

**Kristin Dalby**

**Jeannine Geiger**

**Sarah Mankowski**

**Xiaoqi Wang**

