

Anne Fountain

AATSP President's message, April 2016

In my January letter I asked members to tell why teachers of Spanish and Portuguese should belong to AATSP. If we want fellow teachers to join we need to know how to persuade them!

Below are responses I received and I thank all those who wrote to me. There are many good ideas in these comments, and it is clear that chapters are a great resource for recruitment.

1) Linda Villadoniga of Florida sent a succinct and convincing rationale:

“This is what I would tell persons to convince them to become members of AATSP: it's the oldest organization representing teachers of Spanish and Portuguese; there are many scholarship opportunities available to you and your students; members can sponsor a Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, a high school honor society specifically for students of Spanish and Portuguese; students can compete for awards by taking the NSE and NPE. Above all of these "perks" is the ability to network and meet other teachers, exchange ideas and attend a yearly conference. It's the best \$65 per year you'll ever spend.”

Linda Villadoniga,
Florida Chapter AATSP
President Elect

2) Sandra García Sanborn of the Northern California Chapter described what AATSP means for professional development and opportunities:

“Professionalism, academic expertise, generosity, are the first words that come to mind when trying to define my experience with AATSP. Through the Northern California Chapter, AATSP has recently reached the California Central Valley region offering free workshops, the poster contest, and the opportunity to network at the local level while feeling recognized by one of the most prestigious language associations in the country. Enthusiasm is building fast among teachers and students, and the very first SHA Chapter in the region has just been launched. Whether enjoying a scholarly article from one of its journals or witnessing the involvement growing in my community, I can only be grateful to AATSP for being such a constant and formidable companion in my professional endeavors.”

Sandra García Sanborn
President Elect
Northern California Chapter

3) Claudia Vestal of North Carolina noted the importance of regional conferences: Her comment about the SCOLT (Southern Conference on Language Teaching) meeting underscores the value of AATSP sessions at regional conferences where members from chapters from throughout a region can meet, get acquainted, and learn more about AATSP.

“It was great to be at the SCOLT Conference to meet our new President and members of other chapters at the AATSP session. The presentation made by Kelly Scheetz, the Spanish Honor Society Director was outstanding.”

Claudia G Vestal,
President–Elect,
North Carolina Chapter

4) Jason Noble of Iowa sent examples of their innovative chapter activities, Café Latino and Spanish Quiz Bowl, and their web presence. I have included a brief summary of the activities here, but follow the links for complete information. Both Café Latino and Spanish Quiz Bowl show detailed planning and creativity and coordination between K-12 and higher education teachers.

“Café Latino is always the 1st weekend in March. <http://iaaatsp.org/cafe-latino/>

That weekend, the Iowa chapter of the AATSP and Grandview University in Des Moines, IA, team up to provide this wonderful professional development opportunity for our teachers. / 2016 Theme: **El Amor Dominicano** / Cost: \$30 (\$20 for students) / Graduate credit is offered for \$100 through Grandview University and License Renewal credit from AEA for \$25.

Quiz bowl is end of April. <http://iaaatsp.org/spanish-quiz-bowl/>

Every Spring, the IA AATSP works with Central College in Pella, IA to offer high school students from around the state the opportunity to compete in a Spanish Quiz Bowl. For more information on this wonderful opportunity, please visit www.spanishquizbowl.com Tuesday, April 26th, 2016, Central College, Pella, IA.”

We are @aatspia on Twitter and <https://www.facebook.com/aatsp>

Jason Noble
Treasurer and webmaster/social media person
Iowa Chapter

Many thanks to the chapter leaders whose responses are included in this message. I hope to see all of them in Miami. In my next message I will highlight grant opportunities for teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Anne Fountain