The English language is nobody's special property. It is the property of the imagination: it is the property of language itself.

Derek Walcott

Greeting
Happy New Year! We hope this correspondence finds you well. 2015 promises to be a year of new opportunities and experiences for NMTESOL. This newsletter is packed full of updates and new events for the new year, so don’t delay, check it out...

Board of Directors Election Results
Back in November we asked you to vote for your board members. Thank you for voting. Your 2015 Board Members are:

Bill Ancker
PRESIDENT

Colin Large
VICE-PRESIDENT

Penny Mortier
SECRETARY

Dean Sundberg
TREASURER

Melanie Mullen
WEB COORDINATOR

Ruth Cisneros
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We look forward to further establishing New Mexico TESOL as a source of professional development for our membership.

Personal note
Hi, my name is Ruth. I’m happy to join the Board of Directors as the Newsletter Editor for the next two years. Find out more about me starting on page 5.

Vision Statement
NMTESOL envisions bringing together and supporting English language educators throughout New Mexico, strengthening instruction for English language learners at all levels, and providing leadership and advocacy for both.

Mission Statement
• To promote networking and collaboration among NMTESOL members and colleagues.
• To provide professional development opportunities for English language teachers, tutors, and administrators.
• To represent our teaching and learning community to policy makers and the general public.

Annual Lunch
NMTESOL’s 8th Annual Meeting took place on Saturday, January 31 in Albuquerque, NM. Find a recap here, and review the decisions we made throughout this newsletter.

In This Issue
• Greeting
• 2015 Board of Directors
• Annual Meeting Recap
• Upcoming Events
• Spring Workshop
• NMSU in May
• TIRF Grant Deadlines
• Meet Your Editor
• Membership Update
It was a rainy afternoon on Saturday, January 31 when the NMTESOL membership met to discuss current issues and new developments. Our most exciting news was announcing that New Mexico TESOL is now an affiliate member of TESOL International. This is a significant step in advancing the mission of NMTESOL. A list of affiliation benefits is included below. We also discussed changing the membership dues structure. Look for an upcoming email from the Board of Directors to confirm your membership, and learn the details of the new membership plan. In addition to these items, the membership also heard about an opportunity to expand NMTESOL events by visiting New Mexico State University. Overall, it was a productive meeting that reflected the current trend of expanded services to our membership and the state of New Mexico.

TESOL International Affiliate Benefits
For the recently additions to the organization, such as your kind newsletter editor, as well as a refresher for those of you who may not remember, I’ve listed below the benefits of being a TESOL International affiliate member, kindly provided by our Secretary, Penny Mortier.

- 7 complimentary TESOL International Individual Memberships for each affiliate.
- Access to national speakers; Affiliates can request speakers such as a TESOL Board of Director Member, Affiliate Leadership Council Member, or staff member for their local events or conferences
- Subscription to the Affiliate News
- Access to the TESOL Worldwide Calendar of Events, a monthly calendar used to promote affiliate conferences and other professional development events. Affiliates may also request complimentary TESOL publications to display at their conferences
- TESOL Label Requests: Affiliates may request mailing labels of TESOL members who reside in their region. This feature is helpful for increasing affiliation membership
- Meetings and workshops at Annual Convention for Affiliates: The Affiliate Leaders’ Workshop, Affiliate Colloquium, Affiliate Assembly, Orientation for New Leaders, and Newsletter Editors’ Workshop
- Best of Affiliate sessions at the Annual Convention: An opportunity to showcase presentations from affiliates
- Online Professional and Social networking

And more! Email info@nmtesol.org with any questions about our affiliate membership with TESOL International.
Event: Spring Workshop

It’s time again for the Spring Workshop. Every year, we bring together TESOL experts from around the state to connect and share. This year is no exception! Read below for some details on our upcoming workshop.

When & Where?
This year’s Spring Workshop will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2015. We will meet at the CNM Main Campus.

What can we expect?
The one-day event is a perfect introduction into the field of TESOL for newcomers, as well as a great way to showcase the depth and breadth of knowledge if you’re a long-time instructor. Whether you’re looking to establish deeper connections within the community or enrich your own professional life, please consider saving the date and attending.

> > CONSIDER THIS OUR CALL FOR PAPERS! < <
EMAIL YOUR ABSTRACT NOW! DEADLINE: 3/31/15
INFO@NMTESOL.ORG

Coming up in May...

Event: Roadshow Workshop: NMSU
One of the great benefits of NMTEOL is to bring together the experiences of programs across the state. In May, the Center for English Language Programs (CELP) at New Mexico State University will host the first NMTESOL Roadshow Workshop. CELP is currently hosting a group of 54 Ecuadorian English as a Foreign Language teachers who will be attending the Roadshow Workshop. This Roadshow is a new opportunity for the organization, and one we hope to establish as a long-term tradition throughout the state. Consider joining us at NMSU at a networking reception for our Ecuadorian colleagues on Friday, May 29 and the workshop on Saturday, May 30, 2015. Look for more information in upcoming emails.
Scholarship Opportunity: TIRF
Deadline: Wednesday, April 22, 2015

The International Research Foundation for English Language Education

The International Research Foundation for English Language Education is currently holding its Doctoral Dissertation Grant Competition. TIRF is currently focusing on the following topics:

- Bilingualism/Plurilingualism in Business, Industry, and the Professions
- Language Assessment
- Language Planning and Policy
- Language Teacher Education
- Optimal Uses of Technology in the Delivery of English Language Instruction
- Students’ Age and Effective English Language Education in Schools

This competition will award the Russell N. Campbell Award to the highest-rated dissertation. Below is a general outline of the eligibility guidelines:

- be enrolled in a legitimate doctoral program;
- be advanced to candidacy and have had a research plan approved by a faculty committee at their university;
- write a proposal which is clearly related to TIRF’s research priorities;
- follow specific instructions located in the call for proposals; and
- have their research supervisor submit an official letter of support attesting to the applicant’s readiness to complete the doctoral dissertation.

**Applicants do not need to be U. S. citizens.**

Please review the call for proposals carefully before applying. Visit www.tirfonline.org for more information.

Submit Your News
Do you have news to share with the NMTESOL community? Send it in! We are currently accepting contributions relating to:

- Professional development
- Events
- Job openings
- Scholarships
- Photos of New Mexico to share in the newsletter

Submit stories or photos to editor@nmtesol.org. Include as much info as possible, a preferred contact method, and any related logos or images.

Look for our next issue in June!

Special thanks to Emma Jane Photography for the images throughout this edition.
Meet your Newsletter Editor

So, usually new board members are interviewed by the newsletter editor, and have their answers posted in a feature. This becomes a little trickier when the new board member *is* the newsletter editor! Below I’ve included my answers to a few of the most often asked questions of the past. So hi, I’m Ruth. You can always reach me directly by emailing editor@nmtesol.org.

**What is your background in TESOL?**

I’m a very new adult ed teacher. I had the opportunity to teach ESL in 2013, and I jumped at the opportunity. I found the work very rewarding. Currently, I’m teaching GED classes at ABQ-GED, and I look forward to teaching English as a second language again in the future.

**What got you interested in teaching English to speakers of other languages?**

My degree is in Linguistics but my interest in language is rooted in my childhood. My dad was an English teacher in Mexico. As a native Spanish speaker who grew up in a highly bilingual household, I’m familiar with the experience of learning a new language. I like sharing my knowledge with others, and creating bilingual speakers.

**What are your goals and research interests for TESOL?**

I find the work done in bilingualism to be very compelling. I am interested in the cognitive aspect of language learning. I also focus on grammar. Being aware of the deep systems within grammar helps me make it more accessible to my students, because I can show them relationships that contextualize the new grammatical structures. My goals include educating people about bilingualism, and encouraging people in their language-learning experiences.

**What skills do you bring to your position on the board?**

I’ve worked in a variety of environments, from corporate to small business, to non-profit. This gives me a good sense of how to help out the best I can in this organization. I’ve attended many and helped host academic events in the past, and it’s something that I enjoy doing, very much. I’m happy to bring my tech and design skills to the newsletter. I look forward to making it informative and interesting to read. I’m a very open individual, and I look forward to working with, hopefully, everyone who reads this, to continue sharing and distributing news that’s relevant to the interests of the membership. RC
NMTESOL Membership Update

Dean Sundberg, Treasurer

I’d like to thank all of you who braved a rather damp and cold afternoon to attend our January 31st annual membership meeting at Bravo’s in ABQ Uptown, and particularly for the ideas and support regarding the financial state of NMTESOL. At this meeting, the members in attendance overwhelmingly supported reinstating the collection of annual dues and endorsed assessing a modest registration fee for participants at our workshops. More on the specifics will be forthcoming soon.

Since 2008 when NMTESOL was incorporated, new members have paid $15 (student/volunteer) or $20 (“regular”) dues upon joining, but were not required to pay annually. Therefore in reality, membership was a one-time fee rather than “annual dues.” Last year, NMTESOL collected a total of $230 from new membership dues, far less than what is required to maintain and expand the services we provide. From 2010 to 2013, NMTESOL made enough money from joint NMTESOL/NMAEA (New Mexico Adult Education Association) conferences held each fall to cover the expense of conferences, free workshops, annual membership meetings/luncheons, and to help fund future projects. Last year, by mutual agreement, NMTESOL and NMAEA decided not to hold joint conferences in the foreseeable future.

Concurrently, to expand the services we offer our members, NMTESOL has affiliated with TESOL International Association and is adding our first Regional Workshop this May in Las Cruces, in addition to our regular spring and fall workshops in Albuquerque. Of course, all this costs money. Happily, your support for collecting dues and minimal workshop registration fees will allow NMTESOL to provide these services and more as our organization grows. Thank you.

> > > NEXT STEPS > > >

Look out for our emails! In the next few weeks, we’ll contact you to confirm your current membership status. Then, look for an email that will provide you with our updated membership guidelines. Thoughts? Questions? Email us! Info@nmtesol.org.

Contact Us
We’d love to hear from you. We welcome your comments, questions, suggestions, and most of all, submissions!

For newsletter-related items, please email: Editor@nmtesol.org

For memberships and organization-related enquiries, please email: Info@nmtesol.org

Have you received our newsletter from one of our members and would like to join NMTESOL?

Click here for info.

Visit us online:
www.nmtesol.org

Mailing Address:
NMTESOL
1101 Bryn Mawr Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM USA
87106

New Mexico Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

March 2015