

AATG MARYLAND / DC METRO CHAPTER LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

WINTER – SPRING 2023

Dear Members,

It has been quite a while since the Chapter put out a Newsletter! Our Chapter is in the midst of change and I am writing to catch you up, as well as to **motivate your engagement** at the local level. Please check in at our website for full details on events and initiatives:

aatgmddc.weebly.com

First a bit of **news**:

In **May 2022**, we celebrated the accomplishments of local high schoolers on the **National German Exam**. 120 students took the exam and together with the German Society of Maryland (GSM), we honored 60 students scoring above the 85th percentile with an Awards Ceremony, medals, certificates, swag and a monetary gift to acknowledge their hard work and success. Two of these high achievers were also chosen for the **AATG/PAD Summer Study Trip**. In addition, the GSM presented their **College Merit Awards** to five local German majors and minors and the **Gerhard Meinzer Summer Trip Award** to Skylar Brown. Last but not least, the Chapter highlighted the amazing contributions of two members to our profession with the **Chapter Teacher Merit Award**: Rick Jones (Fallston H.S) and Marcia Hackett (Liberty H.S.). Testing Chair Dr. Mohamed Esa (McDaniel College) was our expert Master of Ceremonies and Susanne Sutton (UMBC) our gracious host. It was a lovely event! I invite you to view the program and the pictures from the event on our website. We will be honoring the **2023 winners on May 7**.

The planned inaugural Fall *Sprachfest* did not garner the level of participation needed to hold the event, but we quickly pivoted and organized a wonderful day for 150 local German learners at the **Baltimore Christmas Village** in December. The excitement and energy from the students were a joy to experience and kudos to the teachers who managed the logistics. Once again, our eyes were opened to the hoops these dedicated educators go through to give their students opportunities for cultural engagement outside of the classroom. This was our 2022 Chapter Project supported by the national AATG with funding from the *Bundesregierung*. Pictures on our website.

Upcoming Events:

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|--------------|--|
| May 7, 2023: | Awards Ceremony, NGE & GSM Award Winners, UMBC |
| June 2023: | Chapter Board Election |
| Fall 2023: | Teacher Professional Development Workshop |
| Fall 2023: | Chapter Summit on the Future of German in our Region |

Now for the **motivational plea**:

The Chapter Board will undergo a change with the upcoming election set for June. Current board members Cerue Diggs, Antje Krüger and Susanne Sutton will be leaving the board and I will be stepping away from the president's role. We are so grateful to each of them for their service and commitment. Happily, several board members will continue in their positions which will ensure a smooth transition.

Volunteering for service in the AATG at any level is incredibly rewarding. **We are looking for new vigor, ideas, energy! We are asking you to get involved** and accepting self-nominations:

President: OPEN

This position is responsible for facilitating a functioning chapter, liases with the national AATG and works with the full board to plan events.

Vice-President: Annette Budzinski-Luftig, Towson University

Treasurer: Marilyn Murphy, DeMatha Catholic High School for Boys

Secretary: Amy Rill, Wayside Publishing

Testing Chair: Mohamed Esa, McDaniel College (2023); **OPEN 2024**

At-Large: Will Funk-Heiser (Centennial/Long Reach), Kerstin Hopkins (GLC),
Deborah McGee Mifflin (Johns Hopkins)

We need 2-3 more at-large members. Each is asked to take on a responsibility (committee work, newsletter, communications, membership, etc.).

General Information about Board:

- 2-4 Board Meetings per year, usually held via Zoom.
- Planning of two major annual events: High School Awards Ceremony and Chapter Project
- Maintenance of website, listserv and archive of events.
- Board Members must be up-to-date on their AATG dues.

*******PLEASE EMAIL ME YOUR QUESTIONS AND INTEREST IN SERVING ON THE BOARD IN ANY CAPACITY! mifflind@jhu.edu *******

Warmest wishes,

