

# **WISITALIA**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **6/5/10**

**Present:** F. Alfano, T. Bruno, D. Cicero, P. Feira, R. Prigioni

#### **Website Update:**

- Web statistics – from May 4-June 3, we had 1,207 visitors to the website, with 2,796 page views. We averaged 50 visitors a day. During this time period, 82% of the visits were new visits. The most popular pages are the Events page, the Home page, the Clubs page, the Jobs page and the Italian Webs page.
- Facebook – as of June 3, we had 251 fans.
- The conversion from the PC Windows to the Mac operating system went well. The website is up and running again. The online web album software that was used previously for creating web albums is out-dated and no longer supported. Rita found a new software program (jalbum) that is free that works with the Mac operating system. She created two web albums: Memorial Day Parade with the Festa Italia Queen and the WisItalia Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet.
- The members at the meeting suggested that WisItalia be mentioned more in the WI Italian-American Club newsletters, with a link to the website.
- It was also suggested that we need more articles from the Italian teachers to put on the website, as well as encouraging alumni from the Italian programs/schools to tell us what they are doing now with their Italian language skills.

#### **Board Reports:**

- Madison – Giovanna Miceli Jeffries was not able to attend the meeting; however, she provided the following information to be entered into the record.
  - 7,500 Euros from the Italian government and Chicago Italian Consulate will be arriving at the end of June. This is the total contribution for the 2010 school year, which equals approximately \$9,300 (1.24 conversion as of the middle of June).
  - The Wright Middle School program will be discontinued for the 2010 school year. The Spring Harbor Middle School program may not receive funds this coming school year from Italidea in Chicago (they had been previously providing the majority of the funding for this school). As a result, Italian classes for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades will be discontinued, but classes for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will continue so these students can finish out their middle school language program.
  - The proposed WisItalia budget for 2011 will be ready by the middle of June and then sent to Eleonora Cammareri of the Italian Consulate's office.
- Milwaukee – Eleonora Cammareri will be attending Victory Elementary School's end of year ceremony for their Italian language immersion program on June 14.

- Green Bay – (Pete Feira) Their annual survey results on student preferences for foreign languages will be due soon. There are approximately 112 students signed up for Italian at Preble and East High Schools for next school year. They will be pursuing different textbooks for the first two levels of Italian from EMC Publishing – see their website for details on Italian textbooks at [http://www.emcp.com/product\\_catalog/index.php?GroupID=14](http://www.emcp.com/product_catalog/index.php?GroupID=14).
- Racine – (Don “Cheech” Cicero)
  - Still working with Prairie K-12 School (private school) to start an Italian program in the fall 2010. Bill Pucci is the contact person. Also pursuing a possible interest in an Italian language program at Lutheran High School and St. Catherine’s High School.
  - Cheech will send Rita the survey format that was used to gather interest in starting an Italian language program so it can be added to the website.
  - There will be a booth for WisItalia at the Roma Lodge Italian Festival. Rita will send Cheech the WisItalia logo image.
- Kenosha – no report this time period.

**Proposed Board/Committee Changes:**

- Treasurer – Elizabeth Mitchell will assume the responsibilities of the Treasurer as of July 1.
- Madison Area Representative – Frank Alfano will assume the responsibilities for Madison. Giovanna Miceli Jeffries will continue as chair of the Education Committee.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Roma Lodge Italian Festival in the Green Room at Festival Hall, Racine Lakefront Festival Grounds, 501 Lake Avenue, Racine, WI 53403. The meeting starts at 10:00 am and ends at 12:00 noon.

Notes by Rita Prigioni