

WISITALIA

Meeting Minutes

9/19/09

Present: F. Alfano, G.M. Jeffries, A. Rolandi, T. Bruno, R. Annina, R. Prigioni, S. Pucci, T. Balistreri, J. Dentice, L. Zizzo, C. Kleczewski

Reports/Discussion:

Frank Alfano gave the Treasurer's Report, and indicated the amount we have from the Italian government.

Grant requests from Kenosha Bradford High School and Kenosha Bullen Middle School were approved, as were the requests for tuition assistance from S. Falsetti, A. Muller and L. Meli. All K-12 schools and children/adult Italian language programs should apply for the grant funds from WisItalia. Applications are on the WisItalia website at <http://www.wisitalia.org/pages/grants.html>. Also, these Italian programs may want to submit a grant request to NIAF as the deadline is November 27, 2009. You must apply online at <https://www.niaf.org/grants/2008/2008-user/about.asp>.

Giovanna Miceli Jeffries gave a report on the 2010 budget. Rita Prigioni asked people to be sure to send her student enrollment information for inclusion on the website, as well as for Giovanna to use to put together the budget documents. Rita also would like reports on the activities each school is involved in to add to the website on each area's "Novità" page.

Giovanna gave the Education Committee Report. She described the UW-Madison's outreach and development initiative and reported on the upcoming WAFLT conference in November. She also discussed some changes being proposed for the biannual "Italian Day" held at the UW-Madison for high school students enrolled in Italian classes. This proposal involves having the program be more academically oriented where students would read a book or play in the Fall and then discuss it in the Spring at the Italian Day event. Visiting the Piazza Italia, an Italian-oriented dorm living arrangement, would also be part of the program.

Frank gave out copies of the recently revised lists of the State Commerce Department's list of businesses that do business with Italy, or are partially or entirely owned by Italians. Tony Bruno will draft a letter to be sent to these businesses asking for funding assistance for the Wisconsin schools teaching Italian language classes. WisItalia members will be asked to make phone contacts with the businesses after the letters have been received.

There was discussion about the Milwaukee Victory K-8 School's Italian Immersion Program and developing a strategic plan with goals. Sandra Pucci volunteered to assist Victory with this plan, and Giovanna will contact Eleonora Cammareri, Director/Dirigente of the Ufficio Scolastico, Education Office of the Consulate General of Italy located in Chicago for ideas/advice. Giovanna also mentioned that when she was in Washington this summer at a conference, she learned there is another Italian immersion school in New Jersey at the elementary school level.

The Kenosha St. Therese/Mt. Carmel grade school issue was discussed briefly, as it seems to have been resolved. Ralph Annina will contact the school to determine if anything further needs to be considered.

Milwaukee Rufus King High School Italian class is down to one student. Tom Balistreri will investigate and make recommendations.

There was also some discussion on the possibility of having an Italian class at Marquette High School. Tom Balistreri will be making a presentation to the Marquette administrators to promote this idea.

A website offering virtual classes in languages was discussed, and will be further explored.

The 2010 Teacher of the Year materials were revised and distributed for review. The nominations for the Teacher of the Year will be due by March 13, 2010. The Teacher of the Year event will be held on May 22, 2010. Dinner/event reservations are due by May 1, 2010.

Frank Alfano mentioned that there will be a resolution by the State Legislature recognizing October as Italian-American Heritage month. Columbus Day is October 12 this year.

Next Meeting Dates:

Meeting dates for 2010 were discussed and it was suggested they be held in May, June, September, and October. Cities and dates will be designated at a later date.

The 2009 Green Bay meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17.

Notes by Tony Bruno and Rita Prigioni