

In this Issue:

A Letter from the
President - 1

3R TESOL Spring Meeting
Information - 2

International TESOL
Conference - 3

TESOL Supports Katrina
Victims - 3

Professional Development
Opportunities - 4

A Letter from the President

Dear Three Rivers TESOL members:

I cannot believe that a year has passed so quickly since I assumed the presidency of our affiliate. I am very proud of the 3RT Board and all the members who have contributed in so many ways to 3RT. In particular, I would like to thank all the members who have volunteered to be a contact person for one of the interest groups that were organized at the fall conference.

I hope all of you continue to be active and supportive members, and I encourage all members to contact the Board whenever you have questions, ideas for improving our affiliate, or concerns about any aspect of our organization. We need to hear from you so that we can work for you.

As the weather is finally warming up, it is, of course, time for our annual Spring Meeting. This year, we have several openings for our board. What better way to share your ideas and make a positive change in 3RT than to serve as a member of the board?

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Spring Meeting!

Peter Kolenich

E-Mail: president@3rtesol.org

2006 Three Rivers TESOL Spring Meeting – **Please R.S.V.P!**

When: Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: The Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council's Downtown Office, 411 7th Ave., Suite 525 (in the Chamber of Commerce Building, just down the street from the Post Office).

Nearby parking is underneath the Mellon Parklet across from the William Penn Hotel. Many bus lines stop on 7th Ave.

On the agenda: A panel presentation on refugees and immigrants.

Speakers from various organizations, including the Welcome Center for Immigrants and Internationals, Pittsburgh Public Schools, the University of Pittsburgh, and Catholic Charities, will discuss their particular ESL situations.

Also, **3R TESOL elections** will be held - experience your affiliate from the inside by becoming the new vice president, secretary, treasurer, webmaster, or newsletter editor.

Finally, **eat and mingle** with your fellow ESL teachers, researchers, and students!



IMPORTANT NOTE: **PLEASE R.S.V.P. and bring a photo I.D.**

This is required by building security. Even if you are not 100% sure that you will be able to attend, we must put your name on the list for you to enter the building. Thank you for your cooperation! R.S.V.P. by emailing:

president@3Rtesol.org or vp@3rtesol.org.

International TESOL Conference

by Allegra Elson, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council

Attending an international TESOL conference is a bit like going to a tempting buffet. The offerings are quite varied at a reasonable price; you are able to choose from networking with educators from all over the world to exploring new techniques to use in your classroom. You can attend discussion group sessions with like-minded colleagues or highly academic sessions that give you detailed information about the latest research in the field. You will find that being away from your classroom or academic environment in a new location will give you a chance to recharge, learn more and return to work with a new sense of excitement.

From March 15-17, I was able to have this experience at the 40th annual TESOL

Conference in Tampa, Florida. I attended as a Three Rivers TESOL affiliate delegate and also as representative of my agency, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.

As an affiliate, 3R TESOL is your conduit to the national organization. Affiliates, independent, autonomous organizations of English language teachers, have been a part of TESOL since 1969. Your affiliate connects you to a global network of regional English language organizations. There are opportunities to improve language teaching and learning by fostering the exchange of ideas, resources information and reflective experiences through online discussions, conferences and workshops. 3R TESOL ha

Spring and Fall conferences with opportunities to for you present your ideas, techniques, and research.

TESOL 2007 will be in Seattle, WA. Please consider reserving your place at the buffet and even presenting a dish or two. Proposals are due by June 1, 2006. Look for more information at

TESOL Supports Katrina Victims

A request has gone to all TESOL Affiliates in the regions affected by recent flooding asking what TESOL and its members can do to be of assistance. To date, the Alabama/Mississippi TESOL Affiliate has responded with the following requests:

The **Mobile County Public Schools** has an immediate need for the following items: Notebook Paper, Composition Books, Construction Paper, 3 Prong folders, Pencil boxes, Backpacks, Primary tablets, and Red pens.

Any of the items above need to be sent directly by the individual donor to the following address:

**Mobile County Public Schools
Student Support Services
ATTN: Denise Riemer
504 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602
(251) 221-4279**

The I
hood

37 -
75 -
23 -
15 -



Cost for these are around \$20.00.

Items need to be sent directly by the individual donor to the following address:

**Principal Larry Mouton
14001 Hurricane Blvd
Irvington, Alabama 36544
(251) 824-3213**

For more information, please contact the schools directly.

Professional Development Opportunities

by Claire Bradin Siskin, University of Pittsburgh

All ESOL educators have an interest in growing professionally, and TESOL offers many options to help in this process.

TESOL's Professional Development Committee (PDC), made up of 16 members with diverse backgrounds, is responsible for overseeing a wide range of activities. Two members of Three Rivers TESOL, Dr. Dawn McCormick of the English Language Institute, University of Pittsburgh and I, are currently members of the PDC.

The PDC plans pre- and post-convention institutes (PCIs). These are 4- and 6-hour workshops that are held in conjunction with the annual TESOL Convention. We also sponsor TESOL Academies, 10-hour workshops which will be held this year in Chicago and in Seoul, Korea.

We are also responsible for TESOL's Leadership Development Certificate Program (LDCP), in which administrators and organizational leaders learn about TESOL as an organization, advocacy, policy and governance, leadership skills, communication strategies, and meeting planning.

The above programs represent marvelous opportunities for those fortunate enough to be able to attend them, but now, thanks to the Internet, there are professional development opportunities for everyone. The Principles and Practices of Online Teaching Certificate Program is taught entirely online. This program consists of several 4- to 6-week hands-on courses which can be taken as a package or as individual courses. The curriculum consists of foundation, content, and online

teaching courses. New online courses are being developed and will be available in 2006-2007.

The TESOL Virtual Seminars represent yet another chance to participate in professional development via the Internet from the convenience of your office or home. These sessions center around key ESL/EFL issues. For a nominal fee, you can hear the live event and play it back later. These events are free for student members and for Global Electronic Members.

In 2005, over 2000 educators participated in PDC-sponsored programs, which are implemented by the TESOL Education Programs Department. For more information about these programs, please get in touch with this department at edprograms@tesol.org.

Three Rivers
TESOL

Questions?
Comments?

Contact information
for all officers can be
found on our website!

Visit us at:

www.3rtesol.org