

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The proposed following slate of candidates for office for 2012-2014 was presented to the LILT Executive Board by the LILT Nominating Committee, and was approved by the LILT Executive Board.



Anahí Walton-Schafer – LILT President (BA History, University of Buenos Aires; MA Latin American History, MA Hispanic Language and Literature, ELA Graduate Certificate, all from Stony Brook University). Anahí is presently a Spanish teacher at Northport High School (levels 2, 3 and 5), and teaches FLES at Norwood Elementary School. In the past six years she has presented workshops, served as a judge at the LILT Students' Competition, and contributed articles to the LILT Newsletter. Anahí has also served LILT as First and Second Vice President, Secretary, has chaired the Professional Development Workshops Program, and co-chaired the 2011 LILT Annual Conference. She is also NYSAFLT NYC-Long Island Director.

Candidate's Statement: I will be honored to serve LILT as its President. Having served in progressive positions as a LILT Officer for the past six years, I have demonstrated my commitment to work for the good of the organization in various functions. Thus, aspiring to become President is, for me, a natural evolving desire to continue to serve LILT. As president, I will strive to ensure that LILT continues to grow, offer its members excellent professional development opportunities, and establish solid relations with other LOTE organizations to advocate for the study and teaching of LOTE.



Richard Zawislak – LILT First Vice President (BA French and Italian; MS Ed, TESOL, both from Queens College, CUNY, and studied at Università per Stranieri, Perugia, and Université Laval, Québec) Richard was the 2001 recipient of LILT's Lucille DiPietro Lambert Student Award for Excellence in Second Language Studies, and presently teaches French and Italian in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, high school and middle school. He has served as LILT's Secretary, Submission Coordinator for LILT's Student Foreign Language Competition, has presented workshops on Middle School Techniques and Microsoft Photostory at the LILT Annual Conference and LILT's Professional Workshops. In addition, Richard teaches conversational Italian in the Language Center of Lifelong Learning, Nassau Community College.

Candidate's Statement: As a foreign language teacher I have found LILT to be an invaluable resource, especially in these changing times in the field of education. Through the programs and conferences it offers, and the networking it has allowed me to do, LILT has contributed to making me a better, more effective foreign language teacher. LILT's goal to provide members with professional development, information on current events in LOTE, and opportunities for our students, is a goal for which I would like to continue to help develop and achieve.



Elizabeth Buralassi – LILT Second Vice President (BA, Italian; MAT Italian and Education, both from Stony Brook University) I am presently a teacher at Beach Street Middle School in the West Islip School District. I teach 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Italian.

Candidate's Statement: I am honored and excited to become a part of the LILT Executive Board. I am very passionate and enthusiastic about language teaching, and I have always found LILT to be a fabulous organization that has helped me progress as a World Language teacher. I feel it is so important to promote language learning, and to unite together to keep language programs on Long Island strong. I hope to help continue LILT's strong commitment to the professional advancement of World Languages on Long Island.



Krystal Asher – LILT Secretary (BA in Spanish, SUNY Geneseo; MA Spanish, Middlebury College) I have been teaching Spanish at Valley Stream Central High School for the past four years. I currently teach levels 1, 3, and 4. Twice I presented workshops at the LILT Regional Conference, and judged four years at the Student Foreign Language Competition.

Candidate's Statement: *I look forward to the opportunity of serving as Secretary on the LILT Executive Board.*



Ron Taub – LILT Treasurer (BA Spanish, SUNY Stony Brook University; MA Secondary Education and Certificate in Administration and Supervision, both from Hofstra University, CAS Certification). Ron retired from the Kings Park School District where he taught Spanish 7-12 and was the Department Chair. Later he became Director of Foreign Language Student Teaching Pedagogy at SUNY Stony Brook as an Adjunct Professor. His career accomplishments include the following: NYSAFLT Long Island Regional Director, NYSAFLT

AV Chair, NYSAFLT Registration Co-chair, organizing and leading student trips to Spain, selected to participate in a Suffolk County Rotary Group Study Exchange Program Team to Bolivia, taking on and training as many student teachers as possible as a way of giving back to the profession, and expanding the LOTE offerings in the Kings Park LOTE Department to include Italian. In addition to Ron's many years as Treasurer, he also serves on the Awards Committee, is currently the Judge Coordinator for the LILT Student Language Competition, and is the Chief Administrator of Online Services. He has also served on the LILT Executive Board as 2nd VP, 1st VP and President. He has co-chaired three LILT/NYSAFLT Regional Conferences as well.

Candidate's statement: *I pride myself in making sure that the monies in the Treasury are accounted for down to the penny, are spent wisely with receipts accompanying each expenditure, and have done so since 2008. I have seen the LILT Treasury grow from an operation that handled its dues, Conference and Professional Development Workshops with only mail-in money orders and checks, to one that now processes all of the above transactions via PayPal, VISA, American Express or MasterCard from a computer terminal. As the Chief Administrator of Online Services, I have taken great pride in watching LILT's financial operations grow into the 21st century, and look forward to continuing that progress as Treasurer in the future. Hopefully, LILT's next step will be to accept credit card payments via iPhone at our future meetings and conferences for membership payments.*



Matt Drucker – LILT Member-At-Large (BA Secondary Education, Italian, NYU; MA Language and Literature, Middlebury College) Matt has been teaching all levels of Italian through AP, including a college level course at Comsewogue HS, for the past twelve years. Every other year he brings students to Italy to spark their interest, show them first hand his passion for all things Italian, and to encourage them to continue studying Italian in college. With his wife he founded Italian Language Littles, a program for children to learn Italian on weekends.

Candidate's Statement: *I have been a member of LILT for some time now, and I'm always looking for ways of getting more involved. I believe now, more than ever, we need to advocate for ourselves as language teachers, and as teachers as a whole. We need to show what we do is as important as other subject areas.*