



February 5, 2020

Dear Language Colleague,

My name is Alice Nation, and I am the Past-President of the Montana Association of Language Teachers (MALT). I teach Spanish at Billings Senior High, and I have been active in the organization since I first began teaching 25 years ago. I have always enjoyed the great sense of collegiality that exists among the language teachers in our state, who are so committed to sharing their language skills with students. Every year MALT brings in a nationally recognized speaker for the MEA-MFT Teachers' Convention in October, and we hold a spring conference with another speaker to promote best practices in our classrooms. At these conferences I have seen presentations by both Blaine Ray, Jason Fritz, as well and Kara Parker and Megan Smith who have developed the Creative Language Class website. Most recently Laura Terrill who wrote *The Keys for Planning for Learning* was our guest speaker.

I am writing to you today for three reasons. First, I would like to invite you to explore our website: www.montanalanguageteachers.org. The website was completely renovated by our current President, Blakely Hay Edgington of Dillon and is maintained by our current Secretary, Dana Pierre of Bozeman. We add new information to the site on a monthly basis, so check it out and let us know what you think.

Second, we also have a Facebook group that our members are using to share useful websites, teaching tips and inspirational ideas. If you would like to join that feed, it is simply called, "MALT Group."

Finally, we are trying to build our membership and reach out to our colleagues across the state who are often the only World Language teacher in their district. Attached you will find an application for a scholarship that will pay your dues to our organization for two years, the conference fee for our spring conference in Helena on April 17th and 18th, and pay for two nights of lodging for two lucky educators. Completed applications can be e-mailed to me at nationa@billingssschools.org, or mailed to my school address, 425 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59101 before March 5, 2020. At our March board meeting we will select two winners. Our presenter will be Jon Cowart, who wrote the book, *Classroom Management for the CI Classroom*. He is finishing his second book as we speak and has offered to share it with our attendees at the spring conference..

The members of the board and I are very excited to be able to share this opportunity with you. We hope to see you in Helena!

Sincerely,
M. Alice Nation
MALT Past-President