

**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF RUSSIAN  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - ZOOM**

**February 27, 2021**

**5:15 PM – 7:15 PM**

**Submitted by John R. Rook, ACTR Secretary**

**1. Opening / Review and Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2020 Membership Meeting, San Diego, CA – Nataliya Ushakova**

Natasha opened the meeting at 5:15PM and extended a warm welcome to everyone. The meeting was very well attended this year with a record number of participants. The meeting minutes from last year's ACTR membership meeting were accepted unanimously by all members in attendance.

**2. Membership Committee Report – Irina Dubinina**

Irina Dubinina reported that ACTR Membership is growing. There are 457 active members since February 2020. 67 new ACTR members have joined the organization since 2/15/2020. 88 ACTR members are currently active but have renewal of membership overdue. 265 members are currently lapsed. She also provided a breakdown by membership category. Irina also reminded all members to update their contact information and profile regularly, which can easily be done on the ACTR Website. Members should ensure that their email and mailing addresses are up to date. The Newsletter is also available online and if you do not wish to receive it via email - members should mark that preference on their profile. Irina also asked that members enter their current position in their ACTR profile. The Membership Committee would like to be able to track this type of data more so in the future. On this same profile page, members can also choose to make donations. On the ACTR Website, members can visit <https://www.actr.org/your-actr-accountrenew-membership.html>.

Membership is now based on 365-day cycles and not on calendar or academic year. This change was made based on feedback received by ACTR members. Institutional Membership within the ACTR organization has been reinstated and is intended primarily for colleagues at institutions that do not permit individual memberships. Such memberships start at \$90 as a base fee, in addition to \$10 per year for each instructor who will also enjoy one vote in general elections. Adjunct instructors and graduate students are not covered under institutional

membership. Please reach out to Irina should you have any questions or concerns with your membership.

As a closing note, Irina invited all colleagues to explore the ACTR website and to pay special attention to the section “resources.” This section has a lot of useful links and materials that are posted from our regular Teachers Lounges (<https://www.actr.org/teaching-materials.html>).

### **3. Report from the American Councils Board of Trustees – Nataliya Ushakova**

The American Council’s Board of Trustees had a couple of meetings thus far this year and the last meeting took place on January 28, 2021, which Natasha attended. The president of American Councils for International Education presented a report about the general status of American Councils, noting that the organization is doing well despite the current obstacles to international travel and study abroad, and that program planning is underway. ACTR made a presentation, showing information regarding summer programs that will be available at the next AC Board of Trustees meeting in March 2021. Natasha is a new participant to this meeting and finds the leadership and efforts of American Councils to be extremely impressive.

### **4. Report on ACTR programs – Dan Davidson**

#### **Program Office Report by Dan Davidson – American Councils**

Dan dedicated the start of his presentation to the late Russian scholar, Vitaliy Kostomarov (1930-2020). Starting in the late 1960s, the fate of ACTR and Mr. Kostomarov, the Olympiadas establishment of our study programs in the mid-1970’s at the Pushkin Institute, international conferences, textbook projects and our relationship with MAPRYAL were very closely intertwined. ACTR members observed a moment of silence in his honor.

#### **ACTR and American Councils – A National Strategy**

ACTR is pleased to be part of a new national strategy, announced by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2017, to increase access to language study and increase language competencies in the US. Only 12.1 million Americans (not ELs) study a foreign language in school or college. Only 1 in 5 Americans has access to K-12 world language education. Access to language study is so very important and needs to be increased on a nation-wide basis.

## **K-16 Foreign Language Enrollment by Language**

Statistics were mentioned for Russian language study only and taken from the latest enrollment survey.

- K-12 Enrollment in Russian = 14,875
- Undergraduate Enrollment in Russian = 21,353
- K-16 Enrollment in Russian = 36,228

It was also recommended that ACTR members look at the most recent issue of the *Russian Language Journal (RLJ)* for more detailed information about enrollments. From the survey, it was also determined that in many US states, access to FL education is as low as 10-15%, per combined FL enrollments by state. There are some encouraging trends in Foreign Language enrollments, with some states requiring or recommending FL study for students.

## **Dan's report and updates also concerned the following American Councils programs:**

- RLASP- Moscow, SPB, Almaty
- NSLI-Y – Russia, Moldova
- CLS - Nizhnij Novgorod, Bishkek, Tbilisi
- Flagship - Almaty
- Research Scholars: Russia, Eurasia, SE Europe
- Teacher Exchange (US-Russia Bilateral) SPB
- МАПРЯЛ
- JNCL, Alliance, Title VI/F-H Consortium, Flagship Group
- AC/ARC Work on a National Strategy
- NEWL- Russian

This is the 46<sup>th</sup> year of the program office reports made by American Councils (AC). All AC programs this year have shifted to Online Study, provided by teaching faculty from the long-standing AC overseas institutional partners. While online study can hardly replace the breadth of cultural and linguistic learning that is possible in a full overseas immersion context, the COVID-year “virtual study abroad” students have made good use of the online learning modes of learning, have enjoyed regular meetings with their virtual homestay families and language partners, and have made good progress with their language in the process. It is generally expected that on-site AC programming in Russia and other countries abroad will be resuming in September with the possibility that some study location may also be operational as early as the summer of 2021. The Title VIII/Carnegie Grants for scholars and dissertation fellows Russia are once again available for research scholars to encourage on-site research, collaboration, etc.

As previously reported, the Summer Teacher Exchange with Russia with the Herzen Institute was deferred from 2020 to 2021; the program expects to announce in early April whether it will operate face-to-face or virtually in 2021. The program did accept some additional applications in 2021 for alternates and vacancies. Beginning in 2021, a counterpart program for Russian Teachers of English has been established and will be hosted at the University of Texas Language Center in Austin, TX ).

Following a very successful international Congress in Almaty in 2019, МАПРЯЛ is working virtually with conferences and workshops in many parts of the world; the next congress will be in St. Petersburg in 2024 and planning for this has already started. The theme concerns the teaching/study of Russian in a changing world. In December of 2020, the Presidium of MAPRYL awarded the A. S. Pushkin Medal to Nataliya Ushakova. Details regarding the formal ceremony and award presentation are forthcoming. ACTR Members are encouraged to consider participation in the 2024 Congress in St. Petersburg, presenting a paper or participating in a roundtable. Suggestions for panels or presentations from ACTR members are welcome at any time over the coming year. A first draft of the Congress program is expected to be available in early 2022.

Dan also discussed the Joint National Committee for Languages and its effective support of the US Department of World Language Funding Act; AC also carefully monitors federal funding of the Title VI, Title VIII, Fulbright Hays, State Department and Flagship Programs.

**Report on NEWL (National Examination in World Languages) – Russian**  
The National Examinations in World Language (NEWL) is a joint project of American Councils for International Education and the College Board, and carried out with the support of language-specific institutions and organizations. NEWL is a functional language-based assessment for high school students wishing to demonstrate and gain recognition for their foreign language skills, whether in the form of college credit or placement (university dependent). NEWL is offered in the following languages: Arabic, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian. The skills tested by the NEWL Assessment are: Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking. All four components contribute equally to the aggregate score. The Proficiency Level Range is Novice High to Intermediate High (Reading, Listening), Advanced Low (Speaking, Writing). The target student population is heritage and non-heritage learners seeking

college credit and/or placement.

Score reports include numerical grades, analogous to AP® grades, and four skill-specific sub-scores based on the ACTFL proficiency scale. NEWL scores are composites of the equally weighted sub-scores for each skill. The NEWL score reports are analogous to AP® scores, and include three skill-specific sub-scores based on the ACTFL proficiency scale. The NEWL Test is proficiency-based and useful to students for college admission. Dan urged that all board members who might have students with NEWL proficiency consider this test.

Endorsement of NEWL by The College Board. The College Board has endorsed NEWL, which is an exception. “The College Board recommends to all our member institutions that they accept NEWL exam scores for credit and/or placement in languages for their students, as they would accept a comparable score on an AP exam. We heartily support American Councils as they expand their NEWL offerings and provide more valuable opportunities for heritage speakers and language learners to earn recognition for their language studies.”

#### **2021 Testing Schedule, Fees and Information for NEWL Test-takers:**

- Registration: December 1 2020-April 1, 2021
- Computer Setup: April 19-26, 2021
- Exam Administration: April 20, 2021 (various start times)
- Late Testing: May 15, 2021 (various start times)
- Fees: Standard: \$94. Reduced: \$53. Late \$139
- Testing from home – what test takers need:
  - A quiet room in their home where they will be alone for the entirety of the exam
  - An Internet-connected desktop/laptop that is configured to type in the target language
  - A set of working computer speakers or headphones/earbuds
  - A working microphone

#### **5. ACTR Newsletter Update – Elena Farkas**

In 2024, the *ACTR Newsletter* will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is one of the oldest newsletters in the field of Russian studies. The winter issue plans to bring back the potpourri feature based on STARTALK curricular and instructional practices. The deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup> to submit all articles for regular columns, reports, and ACTR Service Award. The editors are also planning to continue the front page dialogue feature on issues of inclusivity in the winter

and spring/summer newsletters.

Elena encourages members to write about their Russian programs as a continued feature to be included in future newsletters. There is a preference for material utilized during COVID, interesting activities.

Jane Shuffelton added that diversity and inclusivity are very timely and important topics now. She encourages others to contribute articles about diverse populations of learners. Members can also forward to her names of people who might be able to contribute on this topic and she will get in touch with them. Her email is: [janeshuffelton@gmail.com](mailto:janeshuffelton@gmail.com).

## **6. Russian Language Journal Report – Jennifer Bown**

Colleen Lucey provided a general report about *RLJ*. The following report represents the full report that was made by Jennifer Bown at the ACTR Board Meeting on February 20, 2021.

*Russian Language Journal* is now working with Brigham Young University scholars and archives to obtain DOIs and indexes. The printing and mailing of the journal has been transitioned to the BYU Press. There are three (3) special issues planned for 2021. The issue concerning digital humanities will be mailed out in March 2021. The December issue is a special issue on diversity. Colleen is editing this issue at present, and collecting abstracts. The contributors are very happy with ACTR's decision to allow only a two - month embargo going forward, which was helpful in getting the abstracts for the issue.

Another special issue was proposed about online teaching pedagogy during COVID. It was decided that this will be online only and not mailed out due to printing costs. Once it is ready, it will be uploaded to the ACTR website. The *RLJ* received another proposal from Laura Janda for a special issue in 2022, "Research Based and Student Active – Special Issue of the *Russian Language Journal*" in which contributors look at the development and use of digital teaching materials, but those that are co-developed with students. Jennifer added that in Laura's proposal students are to be designated as coauthors. A suggestion was made to broaden the topic somewhat, as a means of avoiding too much cross-referencing, which Jennifer will address with the editorial board.

## **7. Reports on Contests, Awards, Webinars and Lounges – Various Presenters**

### **National Olympiada of Spoken Russian – Mark Trotter**

Mark Trotter reported that the Olympiada, similar to other ACTR contests was

impacted by COVID. The number of registrations are lower this year. Two (2) regular competitions did take place last year – New York City and the Carolinas. This past fall, a hybrid-heritage event occurred. There were 181 participants in 2020, representing more than ten schools. Mark also reported that Michele Whaley is working on expanding participation in the Olympiada on the west coast. In anticipation of the 2021 Olympiada season, regional chairs met twice (August, October 2020) to brainstorm ideas and challenges to administering the contest this year. Mark concluded that for this year, it looks as if most if not half of the regions from 2019 will be moving forward with online competitions.

### **Materials Revision Committee – Mara Sukholutskaya**

The committee is currently finishing its work on the level 4 materials. There was a round table at the AATSEEL Conference with a report from Heather Rice, the regional Olympiada chair from Texas, on how to organize and run an Olympiada contest. One region will be making its debut this year in Wisconsin. Ruth Edelman has stepped down as Chair of the New Jersey Olympiada and has been replaced by a representative from Rutgers.

### **National Russian Essay Contest – John Rook**

The NREC was conducted at the end of January 2021, rescheduled from November 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and difficulties in organizing and administering the contest in the fall. Schools offered NREC either in-person or supervised online. All essays were handwritten. This year's topic was: «Моя жизнь онлайн». Registrations for the NREC were also considerably lower this year, with 565 against a 5-year average of 1,375. There were 35 participating teachers against a 5-year average of 52 and 29 participating schools against a 5-year average of 44. Of the 35 schools, 15 were public and 14 were private, with 8 out of 14 being “Saturday” Russia schools. For this year, there was a 17% drop in public school registrations and 17% increase in private schools.

New participating schools and teachers this year were the Language Link Center (NY, Olga Gotta, instructor), the Madison Russian School (WI, Inna Reinfeldt) and the Whitehaven High School (TN, Lyudmila Mitchell). Ten (10) US judges are reviewing the essays for the first round, with one (1) reader from the Pushkin Institute-Moscow. First round judging is scheduled to be complete by mid-late March 2021, with second round judging completed by May 1, 2021.

Compensation for 2020 judges is pro-rated based on the reduced number of essays that they are reviewing (45-50 essays, as opposed to 120-130 normally). An increase in the NREC fee was voted on and approved at the February 20, 2020

ACTR Board Meeting – an increase from \$4 to \$5, in order to cover increased costs associated with the contest for medals and postage.

### **National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest – Alla Smyslova**

The National Post-Secondary Russian Essay contest is run by a team of three committee members, and the contest usually runs in late winter to early spring every year. This year, the last day of the contest is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Initially, there were concerns about whether or not to run the contest this year so the committee surveyed ACTR members and decided to run the contest. The topic this year was: “My favorite place.” Registration numbers went down this year. In 2020, there were 56 participating universities and in 2021, there were 50 universities. Some of the challenges facing the contest this year concerned the variety of modes and teaching and just how to conduct the contest. A new development this year was the inclusion of accommodations for students with special needs, including additional time. Alla also showed the breakdown by the various levels.

### **Post-Secondary Russian Laureate Award – Alla Smyslova**

Spring 2020 marked the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program. In 2020 there were 78 laureates, in spite of the start of the pandemic and distance learning. For teachers who would like to nominate their students, information can be found on the ACTR website for the various laureate programs via the following link:

<https://www.actr.org/post-secondary-russian-scholar-laureate-award-psrsla.html>

### **News from SLAVA – Olga Gotta and Betsy Sandstrom**

ACTR member teachers should consider opening a chapter at their high school if they have students who would meeting the eligibility criteria. This year, Olga Gotta has joined the Slava Committee, working closely with Betsy Sandstrom. In 2020 there were 81 inductees in 9 schools, as opposed to 174 from 21 schools in 2019. Slava also has a new email: [actrslava@gmail.com](mailto:actrslava@gmail.com), as well as updated forms for chapters and membership.

### **ACTR Webinars and Teacher’s Lounge: Pre-College/College – Evgeny Dengub**

This year, the ACTR Webinars and Virtual Teacher’s Lounges have continued to be offered to members. The K-12 lounge occurs monthly on the first Friday, hosted by Lee Roby and John Rook. The college lounge also occurs monthly, but

on the third Friday, hosted by Irina Dubinina and Evgeny Dengub. A schedule of upcoming lounges & webinars is as follows:

March 5 (Topic: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Resources and Practices for Teaching Russian / Pre-college); March 19 (Topic: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Resources and Practices for Teaching Russian / College) and March 25- ACTR Webinar on Intercultural Competence.

Resources that are presented and shared at the Teacher's Lounges are posted on a Padlet, created by Lee Roby. A link to this and the dates for the lounges for the remainder of this current academic year can be found at the following ACTR Website: <https://www.actr.org/teachers-lounge.html>

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Nataliya Ushakova reminded those present that all ACTR members are invited to serve on ACTR Committees.

## **8. ACTFL Assembly of Delegates – Jane Shuffelton**

Jane reported that the ACTFL Assembly of Delegates took place on November 19, 2020 via Zoom, and that the topic was inclusivity and diversity. Attending organizations were asked to reflect on how they are incorporating this topic, as well as just how to tap diverse voices, research opportunities, and learning opportunities. Participants were placed into various focus breakout groups, which Jane reports worked very well. Her breakout group discussed pronouns and self-identity.

Jane also informed her breakout group that *RLJ* and the *ACTR Newsletter* will focus on this topic as well. The Standards Collaborative did not meet this year, however the revised *Standards for Learning Russian K-16* has been published and is available through the ACTFL website. In conclusion, Jane wanted to thank everyone who had contributed to the Standards revision in one way or another.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Nataliya Ushakova extended a special thanks to those board members who are leaving the ACTR board after many years of service and dedication: Tom Garza, Peter Merrill, Cindy Ruder, Jane Shuffelton.

## **9. 2021 Nominations Committee Report – Lee Roby**

[At the ACTR Membership Meeting in February, Lee Roby reported on the work of the Nominations Committee, which she chaired. Ruth Edelman, Colleen Lucey, Betsy Sandstrom, and Mark Trotter served on the committee.

In 2020, there were 23 directors serving on the Board, representing eight pre-college and fifteen post-secondary institutions. Eight directors' terms expired as of the meeting: they were Robert Channon, Evgeny Dengub, Irina Dubinina, Cynthia Ruder, Jane Shuffelton, Alla Smyslova, Nataliya Ushakova, and Irwin Weil. Cynthia Ruder and Jane Shuffelton chose not to stand for reelection. Two other directors, Tom Garza and Peter Merrill, whose terms would expire in 2022 chose to step down from the Board. The directors who chose to stand for reelection reported their involvement as follows:

Robert Channon (Charter member, ACTR Board of Directors; Chair, Bylaws committee; former 2-year member of the Nominations Committee)

Evgeny Dengub (Website and social media design and maintenance; Co-Organizer of Friday Virtual Teachers' Lounges and Summer 2020 National Conversations Series; Submission Reviewer for Russian Language Journal)

Irina Dubinina (Membership Secretary; Co-Organizer of Friday Virtual Teachers' Lounges, and Summer National Conversations Series)

Alla Smyslova (Current ACTR Vice President; Chair, Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate Award; Co-Chair, National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest; former Chair, Nominations Committee)

Nataliya Ushakova (Current ACTR President; former Vice President; Member, Olympiada Revisions Committee; Member, International Olympiada Committee; Chaperone US delegation to International Olympiada.

Irwin Weil (founding member, ACTR Board of Directors; member of Board of Trustees)

The committee invited nominations, including self-nominations, from the membership at large through an announcement in the summer and the fall *ACTR Newsletters* and an announcement sent by email to the ACTR Membership List. They received nineteen nominations for the open positions on the Board. All nominees were requested to submit a brief description of their involvement with ACTR programs and of ideas and initiatives they would like to bring to the Board.

Four candidates were presented for election to serve a three-year term (2021-2024):

Lauren Nelson: an experienced and enthusiastic high school teacher at Pritzker College Prep, a public charter school in Chicago where all students take Russian; teaches 190+ mostly minority students, primarily Hispanic; tireless advocate for her students who participate in NREC, Olympiada, and Scholar Laureate programs; has built successful partnerships with post-secondary colleagues through a summer STARTALK program at University of Pittsburgh and the Pushkin Summer Institute (UW-Madison); alumni of her program enter University of Wisconsin-Madison Russian Flagship program; was featured in the ACTR National Conversation on Equity and Inclusion last summer; interested in working with ACTR on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity issues and high school to college articulation.

Raquel Greene: Prominent scholar of African American and African engagements with Russia, as well as Russian attitudes theretowards. As Associate Professor and Chair of the Russian program at Grinnell College, she represents one of the strongest and longest standing Russian programs at a leading liberal arts college in the Midwest. Has been very active in public scholarship on Black Lives Matter and its Russian reverberations; is interested in providing leadership in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity work, particularly in the area of study abroad and the ACTR Summer Teachers' Program, a program that she knows intimately as a two-time participant herself.

Olga Klimova: Lecturer and Director of the Russian program at University of Pittsburgh with a broad scholarly profile (film studies, popular culture, political culture, Russia, Central Asia, Byelorussia, instructional technology); has been a pathbreaker in generating curricular materials for Russian language teaching that incorporate perspectives on and views of diverse groups traditionally underrepresented in textbooks and the classroom. Inaugural chair of the newly created ACTR Olympiada for Western PA which she continues to chair. As an Olympiada Chair and STARTALK Director, she has developed vibrant and fruitful relationships with high school teachers in her locale and served as a featured presenter at ACTR webinars in 2020 and 2021. She proposes to serve the ACTR Board by introducing innovative K-16 collaborations; by promoting and increasing the visibility of ACTR and its services; by expanding ACTR presence on social media platforms through Instagram and Twitter in addition to Facebook; and by assisting with the organization of more professional development opportunities on the use of instructional technology for language instructors.

Susan Kresin: Senior Lecturer in the UCLA Russian Flagship program. She

provides West Coast and Flagship representation. She has been serving on the ACTR International Olympiada Committee since 2019. She is interested in working toward building bridges K-16 and is UCLA's representative for the national "Working group on joint national recruitment and outreach," which includes all eight Russian Flagship programs and representatives of NSEP, IIE, and American Councils. Susan may serve as a bridge between ACTR and various government-based institutions. A recipient of the 2017 AATSEEL Distinguished Service Award, Susan has an excellent track record of engagement and service to organizations that she has served.

Two nominees from the membership at large were added to the slate for a one-year term (2021-2022) to finish out the unexpired terms vacated by Tom Garza and Peter Merrill:

Lilia Doni: Representative of dual-language immersion programs at all levels ES-HS in Portland Public Schools where she has worked in conjunction with the Portland State Russian Flagship program to provide professional development for West Coast dual language immersion programs from Portland, Utah, and Alaska. Has created a coordinated curriculum for DLI programs that merge state subject matter standards with ACTFL proficiency guidelines and National Standards. She is interested in increasing our membership outreach to dual-language immersion programs, serving as a liaison and providing a mechanism to learn more about the needs of the dual-immersion programs, and envisioning how ACTR might serve this constituency.

Kaylin Land: a graduate student from McGill University with specific ideas for increasing outreach to and serving a currently underrepresented graduate student constituency. Her dissertation topic and work with databases suggest a strong connection with the STEM field, where the Board of Directors, and ACTR in general, could use better representation.

The slate was approved by the ACTR Board of Directors on February 20 and by vote of members present at the Membership Meeting February 27.

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected and re-elected directors!

## **10. ACTR Service Award – Betsy Sandstrom**

Betsy presented this year's ACTR service award to Alla Smyslova by reading a memorable and thoughtful statement about Alla. In her dedication, Betsy

mentioned that Alla is totally devoted to the initiatives of ACTR and that she has been generously serving on the board since 2010. She also serves on the Post-secondary Russian Essay contest and is now the Vice President of ACTR. In the past, Alla contributed significantly to prototype AP Russian Exam and has developed a wide variety of courses at Columbia University for her students.

In response, Alla thanked ACTR for the warm words of congratulations, stating that she will hold on to them and work harder to meet even higher expectations. She concluded that it is an honor and ultimate delight to work with ACTR colleagues in our great field of the Russian language.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Evgeny Dengub also wanted to congratulate those ACTR members and board members who received publication awards from AATSEEL.

## **11. Final Remarks, Survey for Members, Adjournment – Nataliya Ushakova**

At the end of the 2021 ACTR Membership meeting, members were asked to complete a survey in which they could express preferences for participation in ACTR Committees, make suggestions and offer ideas to the organization so that it might better serve its members moving forward. After this, the meeting was officially adjourned.

## **Questions and Answer Session / Zoom Chat – Betsy Sandstrom**

1. How can we nominate someone for the Russian laureate award? (Katya Ratushnyuk). Her question was addressed and answered by Alla Smyslova in the Zoom chat.
2. Can technology and distance learning help Russian Programs survive? Ben Rifkin recommended that this be a topic for the ACTR Webinar.
3. How is the NEWL test different from the AP? How is it considered differently by colleges? Betsy Sandstrom addressed this question – it is open to any student who speaks Russian and/or studies Russian, especially those in their Junior or Senior year. Information was also added from Lee Roby: The NEWL exam tests functional proficiency in the four skills and provides both an AP-style exam score (1-5) and a proficiency rating in the four different skills. See link for more information. The exam is also a useful gauge for teachers to assess their program - which skills are students stronger and weaker in. Teachers receive a report with not only the AP score, but also the proficiency ratings in the discrete skills.

The NEWL website: <https://www.americancouncils.org/newl>

A clarification was made by Ben Rifkin that there is no AP exam in Russian.

There is only the NEWL. <https://www.americancouncils.org/newl>. Dan

Davidson added that any questions regarding placement in college for Russian can be directed to American Councils. Lastly, Ben suggested that the topic of NEWL and AP would be another great topic for an ACTR Webinar.

4. Structural Racism – How can we communicate to students of color? Lee Roby responded that the Nominations Committee discussed ways to increase representation in our programs. There are large schools in Chicago and Pittsburgh where students of color are enrolled in Russian programs and where they hope to increase participation.