

Multilingual Association of Regina

APRIL-JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER



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President's Message



May is drawing to a close and this means that the heritage language school year is also drawing to a close. I hope that each one of you have had a successful year in teaching your youth their "mother tongue" language.

On May 4th, MLAR held its annual Volunteer Teacher Award Night which was a little more intimate this year. I once again had the privilege of emceeing the event for this year. Mr. Russ Marchuk, Legislative Secretary for the Minister of Education, the Honourable Michael Fougere, Mayor of Regina, Mrs. Renu Kapoor, SaskCulture Board of Director, and Mr. Girma Sahlu, President of SOHL brought greetings on behalf of their organizations.

The gathering was entertained by Ms. Meenakshi Manocha and the Ranch Erhlo Powwow Club. Both entertainment pieces were colorful and lively, raising the pulse rates of both the performers and the audience! MLAR introduced the awarding of service pins last year and continued with this format this year. Bronze service pins were awarded to 4 teachers who have taught for 3 or 4 years, silver service pins were awarded to 3 teachers who have taught between 5 and 9 years and a gold service pin was awarded to 1 teacher who has taught 10 or more years.

We were also pleased to present the Honorary Life Membership award to Mr. Girma Sahlu, a past MLAR Board member. While serving on the MLAR board, Mr. Sahlu had the vision and implemented a year-end celebration for the volunteer heritage language teachers which has become the annual Volunteer Teacher Award Night. Thank you to all Board members of MLAR for organizing yet another fantastic celebration for the great volunteer teachers within our membership.

The Volunteer Teacher Award Night did not feel quite complete with the notable absence of Mr. Ved Arora and his wife Santosh. Mr. Arora, a long time MLAR past President & Board Member, was in the ICU at the General Hospital with an undiagnosed breathing condition. Ved was one of the recipients of last year's MLAR Honorary Life Memberships. As of today's writing, I am happy to report that over the past 26 days of hospitalization, Ved is now breathing more on his own and less on a ventilator and is walking on his own. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

In closing, I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer holiday. Please note that all Principals, Coordinators, Teachers and even involved parents are invited to attend **MLAR's Heritage Language School Kickoff to be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 31st at the Travelodge on South Albert Street.** This meeting is very important to all of these individuals as information pertinent to a successful school year will be discussed at this meeting.

Have a great summer and we will see you all on August 31st!

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Leskun, MLAR President

MLAR AGM and Teacher Award Night 2015

Following are some of the highlights of this 2-part event held on May 4th, 2015



This year's Interim AGM and Teacher Award Night was attended by a very delightful and clearly appreciative and responsive group too numerous to identify everyone in this brief newsletter. However, some highlights of this evening are included in the following pages.



President Jim Leskun again ably performed the function of Emcee for the entire evening.

The AGM portion of the evening was first on the Agenda and took very little time as the usual reports as well as the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2014-2015 were all contained in a printed Annual Report which was made available to the membership in attendance.



Treasurer Iftekher Kahn was the only one to address the AGM portion of the meeting and following his address the audited financial statement was approved by motion and

the Award Night program then followed.

Russ Marchuk, Saskatchewan MLA brought



greetings on behalf of Saskatchewan. He gave recognition to the important work done by the Heritage Language Schools as well as by Saskatchewan's regular teachers and was glad to see them represented at

this meeting by two teachers from Balfour.

Regina Mayor Michael Fougere fortunately



was able to take some time off from the usual Monday Council Meeting to bring greetings on behalf of the City of Regina. He made reference to the fact that Regina is now home to people

from many parts of the world, and also reminded us as, in his words, "most of us in a sense are Immigrants" as our ancestors came to this country from many other parts of the world, but we are all equal citizens of Canada.



Renu Kapoor brought greetings on behalf of SaskCulture and said SaskCulture is fully supportive of the work of MLAR and its work with Regina Heritage Languages as well as Culture in Regina.



Girma Sahlu, SOHL President was last to bring greetings, from Sask. Organization of Heritage Languages. He is not unknown to MLAR as he has been a President of MLAR.

Following the above addresses, a Buffet –style meal was enjoyed by all, and a variety of door prizes donated by various organizations were drawn. Below, photos of some lucky recipients.



Above, Mitch Wolfmueller, Balfour Teacher, is one of the lucky recipients of a door prize. Below, Kelsey Dayman, also a regular Balfour Teacher, receives the annual Mustang Prize.



Cornelia Taschow-Graupe and Indu Jaiswal, above, were two other lucky door prize recipients of the 12 door prizes awarded.

Two on-stage cultural performances followed the buffet, the first a dance by Meenakshi Manocha, Principal of the ICA Hindi School



Below: Pow-wow dancers and drummers from the Ranch Ehrlo Powwow Dance Club.



Language Teacher Awards

Bronze Service Pins were awarded to the following four teachers for 3 or 4 years of experience teaching a heritage language:



**Dharmesh Dave, Gujarati Language School
Jaskirat Josan, ICA Hindi Language School
Ali Zhang, City East Chinese School
Peter Liu, City East Chinese School.**



Silver Service Pins were awarded this year to the following for 5 to 9 years of experience:
**Snehal Nimbark, Gujarati Language School
Harmeet Sidhu, Punjabi Language School
Akiko Shibuya, Queen City Japanese School**
who was unable to attend because of family responsibilities, so the award was received on her behalf by Principal Madoka Otani.



Petros Aiginitis of St Paul's Greek Language School was the only one to receive a Gold Service Pin this year for 10 years of Service as the school's Principal

Honorary Life Membership Award

Every year at MLAR's Heritage Language Teachers' Award Night always held on the first Monday in May, an individual who has been significantly involved with services to the Multilingual community of Regina and district is selected for the award known as the Honorary Life Membership Award.



This year's award went to Girma Sahlu, one of MLAR's Past Presidents who is still very much involved with Heritage Languages as President of SOHL, as well as president of Saskatchewan Multicultural Centre Assoc.

IMPORTANT REMINDER
MLAR Memberships must be renewed annually before the start of a new school year.
Please take care of this soon.

The Multilingual Association of Regina (MLAR) gratefully acknowledges **funding assistance** from **SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages, (SOHL) Saskatchewan Education.**



**Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education**



**Saskatchewan Organization
for Heritage Languages**