Arabic SIG Officers - December 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair: Mr. Georges Chahwan

Vice Chair: Mr. Fadi Abugoush

Secretary: Mr. Abdelkarim Mouhib

The Arabic SIG officers held their first meeting on Thursday, December 22, 2016. They started the meeting recognizing the efforts of the previous SIG officers in supporting Arabic teachers and promoting the teaching of the Arabic language and culture across the nation. They also expressed their appreciation for the members' trust and faith in them and they reiterated the importance of and need for collaboration between the Arabic SIG and its members. The new SIG officers will do their best to serve the Arabic teachers community and to meet the expectations of the members. Please read the enclosed detailed version of the letter in Arabic.

During the meeting the following items were discussed:

- Hold a monthly SIG officers’ meeting to discuss related topics, disseminate information from the committee to the members, review project timelines, and provide feedback and advice on proposed project plans and communications. Members are welcome to share any questions, concerns, and/or good news by email arabigsig@gmail.com or through the Arabic SIG Community space on ACTFL website.

- Reach out to Arabic teachers who are not ACTFL/SIG members. The Arabic SIG currently has 249 enrolled members; our aim for this year is to expand the number of the Arabic SIG members as well as the number of ACTFL attendees.

- Communicate with the Arabic SIG members and deliver meeting minutes and information through the Arabic SIG Community space on ACTFL website to make sure that all members are receiving the information in timely manner.

- Continue the yearly tradition of recognizing a veteran teacher of Arabic and a promising teacher of Arabic in addition to giving the Educational Technology Award during the annual Arabic SIG Business Meeting at the ACTFL conference.

- Hold three yearly webinars related to the teaching of Arabic. The Arabic SIG members are encouraged to share ideas and suggestions of topics that address boosting student proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through different types of instruction. Also, the Arabic SIG members are encouraged to inform us if they would like to lead or co-lead one of these webinars.

Announcements:

2017 ACTFL Proposals Deadline

The Arabic SIG Officers encourage you to submit a proposal for the 2017 Convention in Nashville. The submission process can be found here online: https://ww5.ai evolution.com/tfl1701/

Each SIG is allotted two sessions and a business meeting (which can include a paper presentation), so we hope you submit your proposal and join us!
The submission guidelines have changed a little this year, please note that you may only submit one proposal as lead presenter, and be listed as co-presenter on only two other proposals. When submitting your proposal, please make sure to select our SIG as the sponsor under the “Other” section.

Here is more information about the Submission Guidelines – all submissions must be received by ACTFL by 11:59 pm EST on Friday, January 13th. You are able to “save” your submission so you can return and continue at a later date, but must complete the submission by the deadline.

If you have any questions, please reach out to ACTFL at conventions@actfl.org

Thank you for your continued support of ACTFL and the Arabic SIG and we look forward a successful 2017 and to seeing you in Nashville!

Collaboration Opportunity

Mr. George T. DeBakey, President of DeBakey International which focuses on assisting U.S. education firms to develop business in the Middle East and partnerships, will be reaching out to you regarding some collaboration opportunities in the field of teaching Arabic.

Please share with us any announcements you would like to make to the entire Arabic teachers' community.

The Arabic SIG Officers will be meeting in January 2017 to discuss your webinars proposals and to continue planning for this year. Until then, we wish you Happy Holidays for you and your families and the best of everything in 2017!

Salam,

Arabic SIG Officers

Georges Chahwan, Fadi Aboughoush, Abdelkarim Mouhib

Arabic SIG Officers - December 2016 - Thank You Letter