

THE AATF ANNOUNCES FUTURE LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

When: July 17, 2018

Where: Hôtel Bakoua, Martinique

Proposed Schedule:

July 16 or earlier: Arrival in Martinique, Welcome Get Together with Executive Council

July 17: Breakfast/Lunch/Leadership Sessions, Working Dinner

July 18: Introduction of Fellows at Opening Session of the Convention.

July 18-21: Fellows attend entire Convention.

The equivalent of one day of the leadership program will take place virtually prior to the convention.

Application Process: Each AATF Chapter may nominate one candidate who has been a member for at least three consecutive years and is willing to serve as a chapter officer in the future. The Chapter must be willing to contribute to the cost of lodging (double occupancy) and meals for the candidate. Chapters should budget approximately \$200-\$400, the exact amount to be determined by the size of the chapter and chapter resources. The amount should be specified to the candidate and National Headquarters in writing. The application form can be found at [www.frenchteachers.org/hq/leadership.htm].

Each candidate should address the following topics: (1) Describe your past and current involvement with the

AATF; (2) Describe the ways in which you would like to provide leadership within your AATF Chapter or at the national level; and (3) Describe why your participation in this program would be valuable to you and to your AATF Chapter.

Time Line:

December 15, 2017: Deadline for fellows Applications
Announcement of fellows selected as applications are approved

Requirements for Applicants:

1. Must be willing to attend the entire AATF convention in Martinique
2. Must be a member of AATF for at least three years.
3. Must be willing to join the board of the local AATF chapter and serve as an officer at a later date.
4. Must write an article for a state newsletter and present a session at a state conference.

The AATF will partially waive the cost of registration for the Martinique convention and will reimburse two nights hotel accommodations (double occupancy) during the Leadership Program. Participants will be expected to pay a reduced rate for non-registration related expenses. The cost of meals during the one-day Leadership Program will also be covered by the AATF. Direct any questions to Janel Lafond-Paquin [madamep51@hotmail.com].

REFLECTIONS OF A FUTURE LEADER

When my chapter president asked if I were interested in applying for the Future Leaders Fellowship Program, I was hesitant. I wondered if that meant she was going to ask me to take on more responsibility or even take over as president one day. As a relatively new teacher, I wasn't convinced that I had the leadership qualities or experience that our organization is looking for. However, after a few days in Saint Louis, under the guidance of Janel Lafond-Paquin, and a great cohort of other future leaders, I can confidently say that my opinions have changed. I am excited about the opportunities the AATF offers and am looking forward to taking a more active role in my chapter.

I initially joined the AATF because my colleague told me about the *Grand Concours*, and as a new teacher, I was looking for a space where I could learn from more experienced colleagues. I joined the committee for National French Week a few years ago, and have since become the secretary of our chapter. I admire the work of the individuals on our board and have enjoyed meeting other teachers at our events.

Participating in the Future Leaders training taught me so much about the AATF and introduced me to a network of other members all working to promote French and Francophone cultures in their classrooms and communities. We spent two days looking at the guidelines that lead us, meeting the executive council and administrative personnel that make everything happen, and sharing both our successes and challenges at the local and regional levels. I felt comforted in knowing that I am not alone and that I have a strong and supportive group of engaged and talented members that would be willing to offer advice or a helping hand. I can't wait to see all of my new friends in Martinique and am looking forward to meeting the next cohort of future leaders.

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