



**American Association of Teachers of French Rhode Island**

**President**

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Dear AATF-RI members and Rhode Island teachers of French,

**Bonne Rentrée !** On behalf of the chapter board, I wish you an excellent 2009-2010 school year.

As you may be aware, the Rhode Island chapter board has been working diligently to promote the study of the French language and francophone cultures over the last two years. The past two-year cycle has brought easier communication to its membership via the AATF-RI email distribution list, a regularly updated website and newsletter «Le Bulletin», several advocacy initiatives, sponsorship of francophone concerts for our students, an easier registration procedure for *Le Grand Concours* and a more festive ceremony for our students, as well as forming new alliances with other francophone groups in the state.

For the next two-year cycle, the board will continue these activities. There will also be increased coordination with *Francofone RI and Southeastern Massachusetts* in the form of festivals, etc, as well as professional development opportunities for credit. For these activities to be successful, the participation of Rhode Island French teachers is vital.

In addition, the board has a **new goal**, that of increasing the participation of students of French in the National French Contest (*Le Grand Concours*). The present administration of the contest has served us well over the last 10 years. However, we teachers have seen increasing conflicts for students vis-à-vis the one test date, one test center administration. Therefore, the board has voted to have the contest administered in the participating schools over a two-week window of time in March. Please see accompanying **Powerpoint** for a preliminary explanation of the new procedures. A more detailed and finalized explanation of the 2010 contest will be available on-line in November.

On behalf of the board, I thank you very much for your support and wish you an excellent new school year.

Amicalement,

Michael Hébert  
Président, AATF-RI

