



October 18, 2011

Alliance Française

Dear Members and Friends:

I feel exceptionally fortunate to, once again, be the bearer of good news.

First, I must note that this has been a year with many momentous changes - both our Executive Director and our Marketing Manager have moved on to other projects. But I'm pleased to report that our replacements are going smoothly.

I would also like to note that this is my last term as your board president. Let me thank you for your confidence in allowing me to guide this wonderful organization for the past three years.

Financials:

Our financial position is strong. That's due, in large part, to our 2010-11 school year, which was even better than the prior year. We are heartened that learning French and being involved in French social and cultural activities seem to be as relevant as ever. For that reason, we are truly growing in importance as a resource center for all things French in the Rocky Mountain region. Our cultural, artistic, educational and social programs are continuing to flourish.

Governance:

The support for our organization is so strong that our board is at full capacity. We will be creating subcommittees to allow other members to participate in the development of new programs and the oversight of our existing programs.

Our Alliance was selected by the Fondation Alliance Française in Paris, and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for an in-depth quality assessment, which took place October 2010. We were one of only ten organizations chosen for this review. In visiting our facilities, the Fondation concluded that we are meeting or are above standard expectations in our procedures, policies and activities. This honor was particularly timely for us, as it helped us obtain a new director for 2011, Philippe Marsé, who will be directing our organization until 2014.



School:

I would like to thank our teachers for continuing their marvelous work with the Alliance Française students, as has been reflected in both increased class attendance and the very favorable reviews they received.

Let me also note that Alliance Française de Denver has integrated a new program to expose its members and students to the greater French-speaking world. This program has been an enormous success and attended to full capacity. This past year we introduced our members to Quebec and West Africa through culture, language and food.

Events:

AFD was again able to maintain high visibility and offer all participants a large and diverse assortment of activities. The monthly Ciné-club, in collaboration with the Denver Film Society, the monthly "5 a 7" conversation nights and the monthly Café-Philo, where philosophical topics are discussed in French, are continuing to be very popular. We have also introduced a monthly European Book Club, which promotes contemporary European literature in translation. By doing so, we are increasing awareness of, and appreciation for, other cultures, as well as the exchange of ideas in this era of globalization.

Our new Marketing Manager, Emily Kyle, has developed a three-part series of Educational French Wine Tasting Classes for the fall. We are proud to announce that they are already sold out!

Fund-raising:

With more than 300 guests in attendance, our annual fund-raising gala was, once again, an enormous success. In addition, our third French Film Festival, J'adore, in collaboration with the Denver Film Society, included the participation of the cultural services of France, Quebec, Belgium and Switzerland. On Bastille Day, AFD organized its second "breakfast à la Française" where attendees were treated to café and croissants. For our wine tasting events this year, we partnered with galleries for cultural interaction and social cheer.

Resource Center:

The gallery space in our building now features a completely new art exhibition, every other first Friday, and each show is presented to the public in partnership with Denver's Art District on Santa Fe. The Alliance's philosophy is simply to give local artists an opportunity to present their work, and to provide our members, students and the general public with a place to view them. We are also very pleased to announce that Mr. Tom Sutherland has made a very generous donation to the renovation of our Art Gallery.



The spirit, energy and dedication of our administration, faculty, volunteers, members and students have resulted in another superb year. I know I speak for our full Board of Directors when I compliment all of you, and thank you, for what you have contributed to the Alliance Française de Denver. I know that the next year will bring fresh ideas and reach new heights under the leadership of our new director, Philippe Marsé, and our next board president.

Thank you for letting me be your Board President these past three years. Now, here's to continued success!

Sincerely,

Linette Hayat
President