

Message from the President

Dear Urutesolers,

My name is Solange Espina de Annuitti and in November last year I became the new President of Urutesol for the period 2001-02.

I want to share with you some insights as on how the new Board envisages the future development of our Association and some considerations and assumptions underpinning our decisions.

When the new board first met in February this year, we began with a belief that the best policy was to retain rather than discard and we decided to bring to our own plan of work all those actions which had proved successful and which our predecessors had achieved with so much hard work, commitment and talent.

One of them was to move the conventions to the regions; everybody seemed to agree that decentralization was highly desirable as an instrument to democratize teacher development in the regions and to understand, in all their multiplicity, the contexts in which EFL takes place in Uruguay.

We are planning to hold three major events outside Montevideo ; we count with the invaluable help and counsel of Linda and Julio, now members of the Board and , ever since its creation, staunch supporters of Urutesol in the regions.

Another issue is that of international networking and our relations with international associations.

From the moment of its creation- becoming an affiliate of Tesol International first and an associate of IATEFL later on- Urutesol firmly showed its strong conviction as to the desirability of extending the benefits of international membership to its own members.

In 2000, Urutesol and IATEFL signed an agreement which made IATEFL membership more widely available to our members under the Wider Membership Scheme.

This year, we signed the agreement again and we hope to be able to offer our members more subsidized memberships, adding more grants to the 50 we received last year.

Another issue is that of communication - which has often made Urutesol a target of criticism- either because of the difficulty in reaching all our members, or because of not being able to reach them in time. Massive mailing is still financially inaccessible for Urutesol and it would have certainly been impossible to advertise our events hadn't it been for the unconditional and generous support of publishers

and booksellers , who have always been very sensitive to Urutesol 's needs and development .

We acknowledge, though, the need for better and more efficient communication between the Board and the regional representatives and we have drawn up a document which will regulate our mutual obligations in the future and will improve the circulation of information.

Apart from events, the most tangible benefit for a member of an association, is certainly the newsletter.

Our newsletter has deserved a lot of discussion and attention, and again we have tried to revive some "old hits" and also to introduce changes. But I will leave to Juan Andres, our Vice-president and Editor, to explain what changes have been introduced and what plans we have for the newsletter in the future.

There are some projects still in draft form: strategies to revitalize the initiative taken during the past administration on the creation of the SIGs, more fringe benefits for our members, a lending library of resource books for teachers, round tables on professional issues, regional links, more publications and Urutesol's web page.

To conclude with, I would like to invite all those members who are interested in participating more actively in the activities of Urutesol, to contact us.

We need all our members so that we can together take Urutesol forward into the new millennium!!