



2024-2025 Sonia de Lama

First Year FREE MEMBERSHIP TO AATSP

The Chicago Area Chapter of AATSP will pay for a free membership to be awarded to a first-year Spanish teacher in Cook, Lake, DuPage or Will counties. The applicant must meet these criteria:

- Has a letter from employer verifying first-year Spanish teacher status.
- Has expressed interest in this professional organization by completing the attached form.

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2025

The Chicago Area Chapter sadly notes the passing of one of our leaders and past presidents, Sonia de Lama. Sonia immigrated to the United States from Cuba when she was 18. While she raised two small children in Chicago, she went to night school, eventually earning three degrees - including a PhD from Northwestern University. This led to her teaching at the City Colleges of Chicago. Sonia was very involved in AATSP. She was the Director of the Spanish Immersion Weekend Programs for George Williams College. In addition, she taught at Benedictine. Sonia passed away on October 7, 2015. These scholarships were established to honor her service and passion for teaching.

Please attach a statement from employer on school letterhead (or via school email) verifying first year Spanish teacher employment.

Applicant name: _____

School: _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

What do you see as the importance or benefit of joining a professional organization?

Please reference any connections that you have made recently to the Hispanic culture or language, whether at school or in the community.

Please send this form and requested materials to: Barb Pietroski, 188 Timber Hill Rd., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 or scan and send to chicagoatsp@gmail.com by June 1, 2025.