

NETAns support fellow NETAn

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up for the 3 children of NETAn Petra Schweitzer who is now their sole caregiver. Any size donation is welcome.

For more information and to donate, go to Gofundme.com/KeironHjordisTove.

Please spread the word.

*Thank you from the friends of
Petra, Kieron, Hjördis and Tove.*

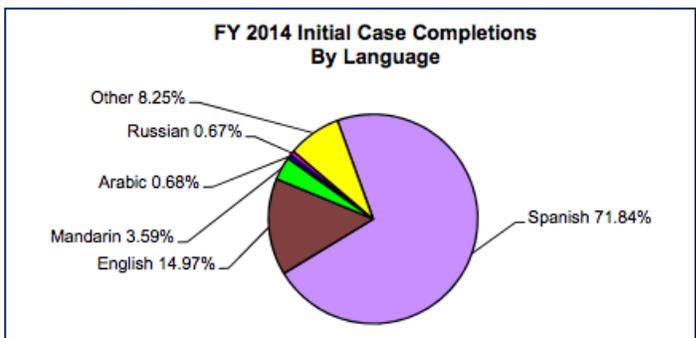


Interpreters Refuse Low Pay

by Sarah Heller

The big news in interpreting is the pressure from government entities to reduce court interpreter payments and the countering push back from interpreters. The latest involves the U.S. Immigration Courts. [Approximately 300 contract interpreters a day](#) work in immigration courtrooms. The Department of Justice switched contractors in July 2015 and awarded the interpreting contract to SOS International. However, many interpreters working for the previous contractor, Lionbridge, have been unwilling to sign with SOSi. As of October, [Buzzfeed.com reported that 100 interpreters](#) had refused to work for SOSi, citing unacceptably low pay and poor working conditions, as well as insufficient travel reimbursement. The start date of the SOSi contract has received extensions due to this situation. As of the beginning of November, Lionbridge, the previous contract holder, was still advertising for immigration court interpreters.

According to the Department of Justice in their [FY 2014 Statistics Yearbook](#), less than 15 percent of immigration court cases were completed in English in fiscal year 2014. Out of 267 languages in FY 2014 completed cases, the top five languages – Spanish, English, Mandarin, Arabic, and Russian – accounted for approximately 92 percent. Below is a figure of the primary languages used in 2014 from the DOJ report.



Language Education Policy in Massachusetts

Review of the October 2015 Monthly Meeting

by Marian Comenetz

Consider the following statistics:

- About 150 languages are spoken in Massachusetts.
- 18.5% of Massachusetts households speak a language other than English at home.
- Overall student population has declined in recent years, but the number of English Language Learners (ELLs) has increased.
- ELLs are the fastest growing group of students in Massachusetts (there has been an 81% increase since 2002).
- More than 1/3 of ELLs fail to graduate from high school in four years (2104 cohort).
- Only 3% of ELLs have the opportunity to participate in language acquisition programs (such as dual language programs) that develop proficiency and literacy in English and their native language.
- Meanwhile, only 24% of K-12 students study a foreign language.

Consider, too, that the achievement gap between ELLs and their peers persists, and ELLs lag behind their peers in college readiness and college attendance.

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Marian Comenetz

2016 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

ConferenceInformation@netaweb.org Co-chairs: Lesley Andrews and
 Montserrat Zuckerman.

NETA thanks one treasurer and welcomes a new one.

The treasurer of an organization plays a crucial role. For the past three years, NETA has been extremely fortunate to have had the services of **Roma Jachtowicz**. Roma has done a magnificent job: she is helpful, responsive, and fully responsible. She has made payments, filed required reports, and provided the board with accurate, detailed quarterly updates. While Roma has done some translation work, she is by profession an accountant, so we have been especially fortunate to have her on board. It should be added that she is gracious and charming!

Roma's accounting career has taken off of late such that she decided that she could no longer serve as our treasurer. She was kind enough to give us advance notice and rounded out our financial year as of the last board meeting on September 19.

NETA put out a call for a new treasurer this past spring, and we were delighted to hear from **Xiao Ying (Crystal) Zhong**, a Chinese translator who also has training and experience with financial matters. Crystal became our new treasurer on September 1, having received material and guidance from Roma for the sake of a smooth transition. She has already filed our annual report with Massachusetts and now is a signer on our credit card. We look forward to working with her.

Sincere thanks, Roma, and welcome, Crystal!

NETA News

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Fall 2015

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Editor

Terry Gallagher

Layout

Sarah Heller

Submissions

Submissions, comments and letters to the editor are welcome. Articles are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, and space limitations. Upon request, a proof will be sent to you for review.

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NETA website contact:

webmaster@netaweb.org

NETA general online Forum

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NETA/>

To post messages to the Yahoo! Group:

NETA@yahogroups.com

NETA political "off-topic" Forum

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altmeta2/>

Look for the NETA Group on LinkedIn at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ovehyp>

Membership information

NETA accepts individual members only. A one-year membership is \$50. NETA also offers a \$30 membership for students of translation and/or interpreting. If you need a membership application or have other membership questions, contact: membership@netaweb.org. Subscription to this newsletter is included with your membership.

NETA Picnic held on July 18

by Marian Comenetz

Did the “iffy” weather on July 18 stand in the way of NETA’s annual summer picnic? Not in the least! Some local areas experienced heavy rain early that morning. It let up before noon, and intrepid NETAns gathered with a few of their significant others and children in Maria Vazquez’s back yard. Grey skies prevailed but did not dampen the good spirits. For a time the roll of thunder accompanied the animated conversation, but it soon subsided. The number of raindrops that then fell was almost countable, with any and all allusions to rain disappearing within 5 minutes or so, after which, in the latter part of the afternoon, the skies cleared and the sun greeted us.

No, this is not meant to be a weather “recast.” Rather, it is a commentary on NETAns’ determination to enjoy a relaxing and pleasant afternoon together despite the muggy weather and to do so with gusto. Maria Vazquez hosted our picnic two other times in the recent past, and this year again she was a warm and gracious hostess who made everyone feel right at home. She grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, and corn to accompany the food offered by picnic attendees. The children cavorted happily. And every indication is that a good time was had by all.

A solid number of people emailed in advance to express regrets at not being able to attend the picnic this year. We missed you! Hopefully an even larger group will gather for this traditional event next summer.

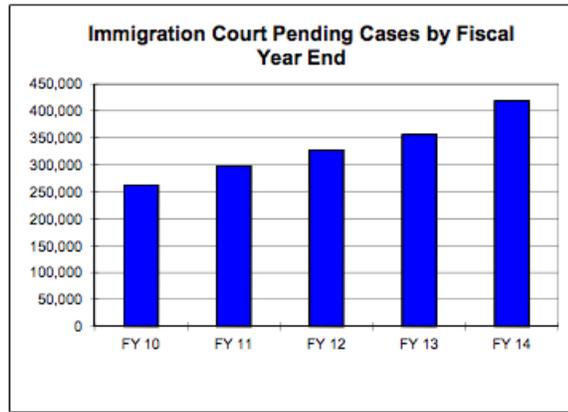
Thank you for your fine hospitality, Maria, and thanks to all who attended.

Interpreters Refuse Low Pay

Continued from page 1

Immigration Courts had over 400,000 pending cases as of September 30, 2014. Between 2009 and 2014, pending cases nearly doubled. Therefore it is probable that the backlog is even greater by now. Below is a chart of pending cases taken from the DOJ’s 2014 Statistics Yearbook.

Long before the current problems developed, a 2011 report by the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) at New York University found that the Justice Department was consistently failing to offer meaningful language access in immigration courts. It can only be expected that this situation will worsen given the growing pressure to reduce payments for interpreters.



Immigration Court Pending Cases	
End Of	Pending
FY 10	262,681
FY 11	298,088
FY 12	327,506
FY 13	356,030
FY 14	418,861

A related article can be found at the [ATA Interpreter Division website](#).

NETAns at the ATA Conference

Bruce Popp once again organized a lunch for NETAns attending the American Translators Association conference. The 56th Annual ATA conference was held in Miami from November 4-7, 2015. Bruce relates: “This wonderful tradition goes back to the ATA 50th Conference in New York City.”



NETA Lunch at the ATA Conference in Miami, November 2015. In the photo, from Left to Right: Diego Mansilla, Lebyz Gonzalez, Steven Volante, Bruce Popp, Alice Wolfe, Sarah Baiz, Judy Lyons, Mary Lou Bradley, Elena Langdon.

Photo Courtesy of Diego Mansilla.

2015 Translation Bash

Review of the September 2015 Monthly Meeting

by Marian Comenetz

For the last 10 years, NETA has been celebrating International Translation Day with a translation workshop that we call a “translation bash”. International Translation Day originated as a tribute to St. Jerome, the bible translator and patron saint of translators and interpreters, born on September 30.

Beginning in 1953, when the International Federation of Translators (FIT) was established, St. Jerome’s Day—as it was then called—was marked in ad hoc fashion. In 1991, the Public Relations Committee of FIT launched the idea of an International Translation Day to promote the translation field.

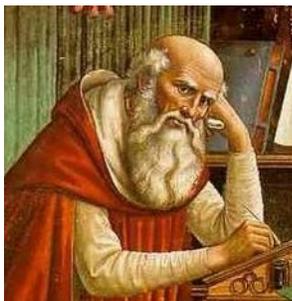
At first, for reasons fully unknown and unpredictable, NETA’s 10th annual translation bash proved to be a far bumpier adventure than ever before. Despite weeks of preparation, we experienced lower response, delays, six no-shows, and curious timing issues. Yet all indications are that those present—translators working into Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Croatian—had a very good time!

Rudy Heller, an ATA board member and into-Spanish grader, provided an excellent introduction by focusing on some inner workings of the ATA’s struggle to reach the point of offering keyboarded certification exams, followed by an explanation of the grading categories and practices. Attendees clearly were interested and posed a number of questions. The involvement of attendees was even more active, of course, when we split up into groups and began the bash per se.

Participants had prepared their translations in advance and launched into an engaged discussion of every detail—beginning with the title and subtitle of this year’s text. Those three lines presented plenty of challenges in and of themselves. Forty-five minutes later, the Spanish group was still batting around points in paragraph one of the text (there were five paragraphs in all) when the Croatian and Portuguese translators arrived at the door, happily proclaiming that they had finished their entire review! Rudy, who had been facilitating the Spanish group, shifted gears oh, so flexibly, welcomed them into the Spanish group, and began to guide a discussion which engaged all language pairs—which discussion took off on its own before long. Somewhat later, the French translators appeared, joined in smoothly, and the discussion proceeded seamlessly. It actually seemed to pick up steam as time passed. It clearly could have gone on well past 4:30!

When all is said and done, this year’s bash—however nonstandard and unusual it was—evinced full, enthusiastic involvement, good spirits, and plenty of laughs.

Great thanks go to Rudy and also to Lesley Andrews, our hostess at CELOP, who had just chaired the morning’s board meeting and is now gearing up to serve as chair of NETA’s 2016 conference committee—which (by the way) will welcome your participation.



Language Education Policy in Massachusetts

Continued from page 1

During her talk, our October monthly meeting speaker, Helen Solorzano, executive director of MATSOL explained that current Massachusetts law mandates one single default program type for ELLs, Sheltered English Immersion, instead of giving school districts the flexibility to choose the best ELL programs based on students’ educational needs (English as a second language, transitional bilingual, dual language/two way immersion, etc.). She also pointed out that Massachusetts likes to brag about being a leader in education but currently lags way behind a number of other states, fourteen of which have already enacted Seal of Biliteracy legislation.

Given a strong desire to promote dual language education in the Commonwealth, MATSOL, working with a group of organizations united by common interests, founded [The Language Opportunity Coalition](#) in the summer of 2014. Their intention is to create opportunity for all students, and to close the achievement gap for ELLs.

The Coalition’s goals are to

- Increase language learning opportunities for learning English, developing and/or maintaining a native/heritage language, or learning a foreign language.
- Ensure that all learners have equal access to a high quality education and professional opportunities.

Visit their [website](#) for a fuller statement of their mission.

At this time The Language Opportunity Coalition is looking for support as they advocate for two major bills waiting for committee action in the Massachusetts legislature in March:

--H.498/S.262 (LOOK): An Act Relative to Language Opportunity for Our Kids, which “encourages programs that help all students—both English Language learners and native English speakers—to build their language skills, a valuable asset in the 21st century global economy; and

--H. 422: An Act to Establish the State Seal of Biliteracy and S. 336: An Act to Promote Global Trade and Economic Development through Biliteracy.

For ways to take action and pertinent articles, visit <http://languageopportunity.org/legislative/>.

NETA thanks Helen Solorzano for alerting us to this initiative.

A Look Back at NETA's First 40 Years

by Ken Kronenberg

This is the final in a series of articles to commemorate NETA's 40th Anniversary. This article was originally remarks given by Ken as moderator of the 2015 conference panel "NETA past, present, and future".

NETA began in 1975 at the American Translators Association (ATA) convention, when three translators from the Boston area met in a hotel checkout line and the idea of a local chapter was born. **Bill Grimes**, **Isabel Leonard**, and **Alice Berglund** were those early visionaries. They recruited a fourth, **Alicja Kawecki**, and then sent out notices to local translators inviting them to an organizational meeting on November 14, 1975. [See a reprint of the invitation on page 8 of this newsletter.] Shortly thereafter there was a new group in town, and it called itself the New England Translators Association.

At times like these, the "Big-0" birthdays, we tend to look back at where we've come from, even as we peer forward toward the future. It could be useful, as we embark on our next forty years, to refresh our memories about why we needed a NETA, what purpose it was designed to serve, and how it has tried to serve it. As you know, NETA has charted a unique and distinctive course as an independent association of translators and interpreters. NETA's independence is one of its most important properties, and is likely to become even more so in the years to come.

Looking at how people have dealt with challenges in the past can often afford useful perspectives on the present, and sometimes even on the future. In particular, there's the matter of technology and what it means to all of us, for good or ill. One of my own particular interests is the fate of translation -- and translators -- in a world where translation technology and culture are changing so rapidly. Today's technology is a complicated and ambiguous reality, and it makes little sense to embrace or dismiss it indiscriminately. Each piece of it is a very mixed bag. For instance, although many

translators swear by translation memory technology, I am troubled by its potential to undermine translators' autonomy, and ultimately our revenue. And some new technology is clearly not in our interests no matter how you slice it. This skepticism has given me a reputation in some parts as a Luddite and technophobe, but in fact I was one of the very first around here to use Dragon dictation software for translation. I had one of the very early websites in the field, in early 1996, the moment that HTTP 1.1 became available. NETA's site began as a page on my own site, although it has grown into the impressive resource that it is now thanks to the hard work and vision of Diana Rhudick and Marian Comenetz. And I started the NETA listserv back in 1999 (NETA's online forum <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NETA>). So I have no argument with technology per se, as long as it serves translators' interests. But that's not always an easy call.

"Mutual benefit" was the goal of the original NETAns when they banded together in 1975. Specifically, they wanted to be able to share scarce and expensive resources like dictionaries and glossaries. They wanted advice about working with typists, about handling accents on American typewriters, about using dictation equipment and microcassettes. They wanted to network to get jobs. They wanted to pool their experience with agencies—then also called bureaus. Some of their solutions might puzzle us—"library retrievers," for example, one idea that never panned out. But while the "mutual benefits" we seek today may be different, we can understand completely how much the early NETAns wanted to be able to talk with other people who understood the realities of a translator's life.

We don't have to physically cut and paste our translations together anymore, thank goodness. But some of us still need help choosing and setting up our software, and others of us can—and do—provide that help. We still have to deal with agencies—some of which are learning to use our own favorite technologies against us, as when they claim ownership of the translation memories that we have developed. We still need help and advice from our colleagues

when a knotty problem of interpretation comes up, or an arcane reference. In short, we need an organization of peers who will be there for us when we need them.

Electronic tools and digital networking have liberated us from typewriters, Wite-Out, cut-and-paste, and linear yards of expensive dictionaries. But lately we have not been so fortunate financially. NETA's early years coincided with a kind of golden age of commercial translation. Starting in about the 1970s, the process of globalization sped up. Companies needed translators to transact their business, and translation rates began to rise. Even while companies were shipping

While the "mutual benefits" we seek today may be different, we can understand completely how much the early NETAns wanted to be able to talk with other people who understood the realities of a translator's life.

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A Look Back at NETA's First 40 Years

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factories overseas, and overall per capita income in the United States was stalled or worse, decreasing, translators began to see their incomes grow.

That halcyon period did not last. The digital advances that free us from drudgery have, as we all know, a downside. Technologies are available today that many employers insist—usually disingenuously—are acceptable substitutes for human translators. Linguistic and cultural nuance is not high on their list of priorities. And when human translators are necessary, a corporation whose aim is to boost profits by trimming costs can find plenty of cheaper places to get the job done than the United States.

Furthermore, the agencies we work with have more and more information about us, our abilities, and our rates. But we translators possess no comparable information about them. When we don't know how much an agency grosses on a project, we can't assess whether it is paying us fairly for our contribution. Nor can we evaluate an agency's stated reasons for decreasing translator rates. This information asymmetry, as it is called, has allowed agencies to set the terms of our employment unchallenged. The playing field is not level, and the result is a seemingly inexorable attrition in translation rates that is not likely to stop anytime soon.

Individuals can't stop a trend like that. We are atomized in our offices. Most of us work alone, usually at home, day in and day out. Unless we seek them out, we can go for months without encountering colleagues.

So we need more than ever the fellowship and professional support that NETA has given us for so long. But in these increasingly difficult times we need more than that. We need to find ways to support each other actively in the face of proliferating threats to our professional—and our financial—status. I can't tell you exactly what these ways should be; no single one of us can invent, never mind implement, them alone. But together, our powers of imagination and persuasion far transcend our limits as individuals. That is why it is time for us to begin studying our new situation together, and looking together for ways to understand it and shape it to guarantee ourselves fair, appropriate, and secure livelihoods.

To invoke a powerful old term, I will call this togetherness "solidarity." I offer it in contrast with the corporatized vision of translators as isolated and competing small businesses. In fact, we are professionals and colleagues: independent perhaps, but able to cooperate in our common interest. It is time to move the current conversation about translation in a new direction, establishing a clearer perspective on the coercive economic structures that are increasingly molding us to their own ends, and finding ways to stand together in the face of the pressures that now face us.

In my opinion, solidarity should be NETA's watchword for our next 40 years.

In fact, NETA and its Board have been making strides in this direction already, establishing the template for a new tradition. Let me give three examples:

When Massachusetts threatened to reduce per diem court interpreter services and incomes, NETA stood with the interpreters through a letter of encouragement that recognized their right to a secure income—and the right of limited-English speakers to competent and adequately compensated court interpreters.

And we've heard from Moussa Abboud, Michael O'Laughlin and Norma Rosen-Mann of the [Massachusetts Association of Court Interpreters](#) (MACI) about how these same interpreters are beginning to organize, the better to resist the cutbacks and ensure their rights and those of the people they serve.

When the president of the [International Association of Professional Translators and](#)

[Interpreters](#) came under legal threat by an Argentine agency owner for allegedly authoring or disseminating an anonymous blog post critical of his agency, NETA "stood tall," in the words of blogger [Kevin Lossner](#). We sent IAPTI a strongly-worded letter of support against this bullying. IAPTI itself is committed to solidarity with other T&I organizations.

It is one of the sponsors of the 2015 NETA conference, and Maria Karra, one of IAPTI's founding members, has spoken at the conference about the pressures that we face in our work, and how we might counter them.

Several years ago, [NETA](#) became the first—probably the only—translator or interpreter association in the United States to condemn as unethical knowing participation in or

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A Look Back at NETA's First 40 Years

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cooperation with the cruel treatment or torture of prisoners and detainees, while at the same time supporting “the rights of Interpreters and Translators to be protected from retribution for refusing to participate or cooperate in abuse or torture.”

This dual solidarity—with the victims of torture and with translators and interpreters in combat settings—is doubly protective, even though the condemnation has not yet been enacted in law. It makes patent and defends the human rights of torture victims, and it helps to ensure that linguists are not viewed as co-torturers, thereby—as Maya Hess made clear in her presentation—adding to the dangers that they already face.

Connections like these are becoming a new tradition in NETA. It is no accident that contributors at three sessions at the conference have in one way or another touched on solidarity among translators and with others. Solidarity builds on itself. It breaks down isolation. It makes people confident. It emboldens them to stand up. It feels good to receive real support and it feels good to give support that matters. And it feels better still to realize that together we can accomplish goals that individuals operating in isolation cannot. People together are a powerful force, and solidarity is the experience that brings them together.

So by all means let us set out to become the best translators and interpreters that we can. Let us seek out the areas of specialization that interest us most, and hunt for opportunities that are consistent with who we are and who we seek to become. But as we do, let us all—NETA, its Board, its committees, and, above all its members—look beyond professional support and fellowship to the more active togetherness that I am calling solidarity. Let us dedicate the coming years to defending other translators and interpreters in whatever ways seem useful and sensible. Let us find creative ways to support the beleaguered members of our professions, who in the coming years may be ourselves. Let solidarity become our reflexive response as we enter our second 40 years.



NETAn receives Translation Prize

On October 1, 2015, the recipients of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature were announced and among the winners was NETA's own Terry Gallagher for his translation of Toh Enjoe's *Self-Reference Engine*.

The jury for the Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature met on September 25th, 2015, in New York City and decided on the winners of this year's competition. The prizes for 2015-2016 will be awarded to the following translators, listed in alphabetical order by last name:

Steven D. Carter for *The Columbia Anthology Of Japanese Essays* (Columbia University Press, 2014)

Terry Gallagher for his translation of Toh Enjoe's *Self-Reference Engine* (VIZ Media, 2013)

Stephen D. Miller and Patrick Donnelly for their waka translation in *The Wind From Vulture Peak* (Cornell East Asia Series, 2013)

An awards ceremony will be held at Columbia University in New York City on Friday December 11th, 2015.

The Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature was established in 1979. The prize is awarded annually to outstanding works of translation into English from the Japanese language.

The Japan United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) was established as an independent agency by the US Congress in 1975 (P.L. 94-118). The Commission administers a US government trust fund that originated in connection with the return to the Japanese government of certain US facilities in Okinawa and for postwar American assistance to Japan. Income from the fund is available for the promotion of scholarly, cultural and public affairs activities between the two countries.

The award has been administered by the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture at Columbia University since the center was founded in 1986. The Donald Keene Center is named in honor of Professor Donald Keene, internationally renowned scholar, Columbia University teacher, and interpreter of Japanese literature and culture to the West. The center is dedicated to advancing the understanding of Japan and its culture in the United States through university instruction, research, and public education. In addition, the center seeks to encourage study of the interrelationships among the cultures of Japan, other Asian countries, Europe, and the United States.

On behalf of the membership, the NETA Board of Directors offers its sincere congratulations to Terry for this prestigious award.

Invitation to NETA's first meeting in 1975

We are fortunate to have this letter from 1975 which shows that some things may be different 40 years later, but the urge to pool our resources and collaborate professionally has not changed.

October 30, 1975

Dear Colleague:

We are contacting you as an ATA member and translator. We four attended the ATA Convention in Washington D.C. on Oct. 10-13 and found that as translators, particularly those of us that work "alone," we have a lot to say to one another. For this reason, we would like to get all interested translators in this area together, perhaps on a once-a-month basis, for purposes of common interest. Some of the mutual benefits we may be able to derive from such an association are along these lines:

- (1) Working out an inquiry system. All interested would provide a list of their own specialized dictionaries and reference works; translators can then call or write each other for hard-to-find words.
- (2) Working out a circulation system for periodicals (Actualité terminologique, Lebende Sprachen, etc.); passing around xeroxes of glossaries; pooling bibliographic information.
- (3) Hiring a "library retriever", say an MIT student on retainer whom we could call, have look things up, send us xeroxes of journal articles in the subject area of our translation. Reference legwork slows our translation productivity considerably, but in most cases a single translator would not have enough of this type of work to pay an outsider to do it.

Other ideas include limited and voluntary pooling of work, loaning/selling books, cooperative buying of dictionaries, ditto of stationery at bulk prices, and perhaps even publishing some of our own special projects, i.e. a glossary of legal terminology, or what have you. In addition we could sponsor special entertainment or perhaps a lecture series.

These are some ideas - we want to hear yours too. Think about them, and come to our first meeting on November 14, 8 p.m., at the Harvard Club, 374 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (see map). Cost approximately \$1/person. The meeting will open with a brief report on the ATA convention and continue with discussion of the above and other ideas. We must know in advance whether you are coming so that we can have the room set up for us. Please call in your response - positive or negative - to the name checked off below, by Nov. 7.

We look forward to seeing you in two weeks, and working out a program of mutual benefit.

Sincerely,

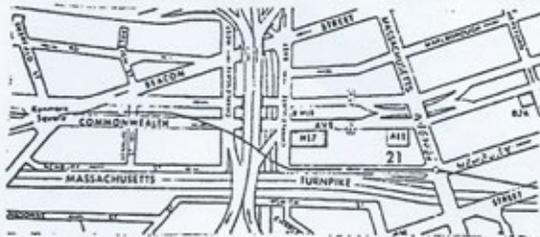
____/ Alice Berglund (535-2140
Peabody)

____/ William J. Grimes (749-0772
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____/ Isabel Leonard (749-0772
Hingham)

____/ Alicja Kawecki (272-3833
Burlington)

(ALL IN MASSACHUSETTS. ALL CALLABLE DAY OR EVENING.)



Harvard Club is marked by square labelled All. Off-street parking available at Somerset Hotel garage (Newbury between Mass. Ave. & Charlesgate East). Nearest MBTA subway stop is Auditorium (Green Line), Mass. Ave. and Newbury St.
ON ARRIVAL LOOK FOR "ATA MEETING"

NETA Board Meeting Minutes, September 19, 2015

Attending in person:

Board members **Lesley Andrews** and **Diego Mansilla**; President **Diana Rhudick**; past and new treasurers (respectively) **Roma Jachtorowicz** and **Crystal Zhong**; NETA members **Ken Kronenberg**, **Ellen Elias-Bursac**, **Jose Carneiro**, and **Marian Comenetz** a bit later

Attending Remotely:

Board members **Petra Schweitzer**, **Antje Ruppert**, and **Elena Langdon Fortier**; NETA member **Adel Faitaninho**

Treasurer's Report

Roma was good enough to attend this, her final NETA board meeting, in person. The highlights of her reporting for the fourth quarter (June-July-Aug. 2015):

End of year bank balance: \$34,109

Our total income is at \$12,405 at the end of the year, which is relatively normal.

A couple of unusual expenses were for sponsoring Mass AHEC and the IAPTI European conference; total sponsorship for the year was \$817.

Total expenses: \$11,927, higher than the last fiscal year, mostly due to the fact that the board paid for the conference luncheon buffet.

Roma noted that she had paid our member coordinator more last year; Antje will review her invoices to make sure she has submitted them all.

We are roughly in the same financial position as last year, even considering the conference lunch.

Our new treasurer, Crystal Zhong, was also in attendance.

Roma had previously recommended that NETA switch to an online version of QuickBooks for our financial records, but today she recommended against this move because it is more expensive than buying a desktop-based version of the software. Roma had been using software from her company so she cannot give Crystal her version. The board agreed to purchase the software for Crystal.

Crystal has all our financial records now, and she will arrange with Roma to replace her as a signer at our bank.

Diana changed our PayPal account address and phone number to Crystal; she still needs to figure out how to change to Crystal's email in our Google forwarders.

Roma will need to update to the new address with the Visa card company.

Amendment of Bylaws

Elena, Alice Wolfe, Joan Sax, and Lesley had a productive meeting on reviewing the membership categories and qualifications in our bylaws. They came up with some new wording, which they will submit for board approval before the next board meeting, then submit to the membership. They have decided not to pursue the idea of a "sponsor" membership category.

Conference-visit to UMass Boston

(Diego, Ellen, Adel, Lesley)

These four visited the UMass-Boston conference site on Sept. 14. They reported that it is a beautiful space with an enormous ballroom that can be split in three, easily accessible by public transportation. The conference date would be May 14.

For 2017, the board is considering having two conferences in one, our regular conference plus presentations of UMass student papers.

Diego is working with the UMass Latin American Studies Dept. to cofund the conference and help with publicity. Our partnership would get us the lower member rate.

Ken is considering a pilot project with students reading papers to professors for 2016.

Ellen noted that having a theme for papers helps, and that we need to be clear about our framework for the academic piece of the conference.

Jose said one portion of NETA's involvement is to promote translation as a career to these students.

Adel said there is usually a panel that calls for papers on a topic to guide students.

Ken explained that the next step is to get together to discuss ideas in the next few weeks.

We need to accept the UMass contract by the end of September, so a vote was begun on approving UMass as the 2016 conference site.

Diana requested that the board get conference committee input before signing any contract.

Since five members attending were in favor, Ken suggested getting conference committee input and if there are no objections, the contract can be signed by Diego without submitting the issue to the board again. Lesley will talk with the confcom.

Diana pointed out that if we have more students at the conference, the cost will be greater since the student price is subsidized.

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The board discussed having lunch paid for separately so it's attendee choice.

Marian arrived and had some questions about the new potential venue. She asked whether there was a space for registration and the response was yes.

She was told that exhibitors would be in the main ballroom, where lunch will be.

Marian also confirmed that class would not be in session on the conference date, so students must return to present their papers.

Lesley said we want only the most committed students anyway.

Antje asked if we can use the UMass website for publicity. Diego said yes, but cautioned that we want to limit the number of students, and that it will be publicized as a NETA/UMass Boston conf. He said the school has a strong online presence to reach across New England.

Marian wondered whether all publicity must include the UMass name. Diego thought this would apply only to online advertising, but he will talk with UMass about it.

Ken stressed that NETA will not become a satellite of UMass or lose its separate identity. Adel felt that this effort will strengthen NETA's image.

Ken expressed concern about the exhibitors being in the same space with the lunch buffet, panels, keynote, and endnote.

Diego explained that this is only one option, and the exhibitors could be in their own space.

Regarding the notion to have an option to buy lunch in advance when registering for the conference or arrange for your own lunch on conference day, Marian reminded us that this had proven problematic at past conferences. Diego suggested that we make this option available only to students to save them the cost if they prefer, and to save us the cost of subsidizing student admissions. Others seemed to like this idea.

Marian asked if we need to make a down payment. Diego will ask about that, and noted that we have three months to cancel the contract after signing.

Programming

Marian reported that for unknown reasons, we had far fewer participants for the day's bash (September Monthly meeting) than usual, and that only about half of those signing up actually came.

The Spanish group, traditionally the largest, had only five or six participants this time.

Marian has scheduled the Language Opportunity Coalition to give a presentation on Oct. 24, as requested by a few board members. She was unsure of their relevance to our group, but Lesley says their mission to ensure language access for all is of interest to members, and we should support them.

This group may want a conference call with NETA board members to familiarize us with their mission and see if NETA wants to be associated with their upcoming language bills.

Lesley agreed to take part in the call; Diego and Antje will as well, depending on the date and time.

Marian is still planning the November talk, and she has already finalized meetings for January through March.

NETA News

Petra tried to contact Terry, but has not heard back yet. She will email him again.

Diana suggested that Petra ask Sarah when the next issue will be coming out.

Website, Yahoo Groups, Social Media

Diana said there are a few website issues that she and Marian need to ask Scott about, but nothing major. Overall, the site is working well.

Diana said she would try to replace Roma's contact info in PayPal with Crystal's. (This has since been done.)

Roma said we need to change PayPal payment notices to Crystal as well. This is a Google function, so Lesley and Diana will try to figure this out.

Petra reported that we have nearly 600 Facebook followers, and that she would like to have some standard images to go with text to post Facebook events.

Membership

Antje is all caught up on processing memberships. We have a total of 248 members, including seven new people.

She is following up on a few problem cases.

Marian asked if we should automate our welcome messages. Lesley said she has tried, but it just doesn't work.

Marian reminded us that we used to use templates of messages for various membership situations and asked whether Antje could update the template to adapt it to Wild Apricot.

Lesley said we could use Templates in WA and that WA has its own messages for various member situations (incomplete membership, lapsed, etc.)

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Antje will send the list of messages to Lesley to update together. She will also update the membership procedures document and post it to our Yahoo archives.

Marian said she had been very impressed with the five NETA members who volunteered to help exhibit at the Mass AHEC conference. She had asked the board if it would like to thank them formally for their efforts and now wants to know who will write the thank-you.

It was decided to ask Joan as board secretary to write the letter; Marian will write an outline for Joan.

Sandra Henry-Álvarez, one of the five volunteers, wrote a report on the Mass AHEC conference and recommended that NETA buy a tablecloth with our logo to replace our aging banner. The board agreed, and Lesley will find a company that sells tablecloths in a standard six-foot size.

Miscellany

Antje will resend her GBANE letter to the board for comments, then send it out.

Marian asked what to do about a former NETA member who continues to display the NETA logo on her website, giving the impression that her agency is a member. (It was noted that this person's membership actually expired in January, too.) Marian wanted to know if the board would continue to ask her to remove the logo. Diana will ask Maiyim to talk to the former member. Diego suggested a strongly worded letter, which Diana will write if Maiyim achieves no results by the end of September.

Outreach to other T&I groups (Mass AHEC, IAPTI)

Lesley noted that we've been doing more sponsorship, but the issue was postponed till the next meeting as our time had expired.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Rhudick

NETA Gathering Held in Vermont in October

by Eric Bye



The Marina Restaurant, Brattleboro VT. Photo from [Trip Advisor](#), which ranks it at #18 out of 101 restaurants in Brattleboro.

On Saturday, October 24, a small group of NETAns gathered at the Marina Restaurant parking lot in Brattleboro, VT – two hikers (Antje Rupert and Carmen Berelson) and two bike riders (Eric and Barbara Bye). We spent an hour or more on the southern stretch of the West River trail. Leaves covered much of the trail, but there was still a surprising amount of color left in the trees. We regrouped at noontime at the Marina for a delightful lunch overlooking the bay where the West River joins the Connecticut River. The group was small but congenial, and as we always do, we brainstormed about translation. This type of meeting can be replicated pretty much at will – the location, frequency, and activity level can be tailored to the group's preferences. Let's talk about some more outdoor adventures once the weather turns nice again! Now it's time to store the bikes and break out the snowshoes – and that's another tantalizing possibility...

Over the years, NETAns have happily gathered for restaurant outings, picnics, hiking, and bicycling in various locations throughout New England. Should you wish to sponsor an event, please write to info@netaweb.org. A NETA Board member will help you get started. NETA can also publicize the event with an email to NETA members.