

NEW ENGLAND
neta news
 TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

NETA Needs YOU!
 Volunteer to make the
 conference a success.
 Go to page 5 for details.

Volume XVIII, No. 70

Spring 2017

A quarterly publication of the New England Translators Association

The NETA Annual Conference is almost here!

Join us May 6 at the
**UMass-Boston
 Campus Center
 100 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125**



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See [page 2](#) of this issue for directions to UMass and how to register for the conference.

The 21st annual New England Translators Association conference is just a few weeks away, on Saturday, May 6, and online registration ends on April 29. Held in collaboration with and at UMass Boston, the theme of the conference is *Translation & Interpreting as Access: What We Provide Matters*. We are pleased to welcome Christopher Larkosh from UMass Dartmouth as our keynote speaker and Barry S. Olsen from InterpretAmerica as our endnote speaker. The conference itself will cover four different tracks: translation, interpreting, auxiliary/technical services and student presentations. The varied sessions will offer opportunities to hear speakers address current, industry-relevant topics and engage in discussions in and out of the presentation rooms.



Professor Elizabeth Martin's session at the conference will explore techniques for translating and adapting advertisements for the francophone market.

In this last of our three conference preview articles, we would like to highlight two distinguished speakers, Professor Elizabeth Martin and Attila Piróth.

Elizabeth Martin, of California State University at San Bernardino, teaches courses in business French, French advertising, commercial and technical French translation, and Francophone business cultures. Her main areas of research are global marketing and localization strategies used to market products to audiences of various Francophone cultures. In her presentation at the conference, she will use a case study from Québec as an example to explore translation practices in international advertising and illustrate the challenges faced by translators, including the cultural references and play on words (e.g., puns, rhyme and alliteration) featured in advertising, differences in humor, as well as respecting the tone and spirit of the original concept.

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NETA News

Volume XVIII, No. 70

Spring 2017

NETA News is a quarterly publication of the New England Translators Association. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of NETA. We reserve the right to refuse submissions.

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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Summer issue: June 15. Please send all

correspondence, including requests for

permission to reprint articles, to

newsletter@netaweb.org.

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<http://www.netaweb.org>. NETA News is

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are available upon request.

Change of Address

If you move or change e-mail addresses,

please update your profile on the website

or send to the Membership Coordinator.

membership@netaweb.org

NETA website contact:

webmaster@netaweb.org

NETA general online Forum

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

To post messages to the Yahoo! Group:

NETA@yahoogroups.com

NETA political "off-topic" Forum

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

Look for the NETA Group on LinkedIn at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ovehyp>

Conference Information

Find speaker bios, session abstracts and the latest information about the May 6 conference at the [NETA website](#).

Registration

Register online until April 29. If you are a member, register by logging in at netaweb.org. Non-members can [click here](#) to register. After April 29, you must register in person at the conference. Please note that only cash or checks can be accepted on May 6. The conference is open to anyone with a passion for language. We hope to see you there!

Getting to the conference

The UMass Campus Center is located at 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston MA 02125. For detailed information and directions, visit the [UMass Boston website](#).

Public Transportation

Take the [MBTA](#) Red Line to the JFK/UMass station. From there, take the Route 2 shuttle bus which runs from the station to the Campus Center every 20 minutes on Saturdays, 7:30 am to 7 pm.

Parking

Parking is available in Lot D. The fee is \$6 for the day. In the event of inclement weather, shuttles will be available from Lot D to the Campus Center.

Professional Credits.

Certificates of attendance that can be submitted to employers are included in all conference folders. If you are certified as a translator or interpreter and need a certificate of attendance in order to apply for continuing education credit, please fill out the form entitled Conference Attendance Certificate Request, which you will find at the bottom of the [NETA home page](#) after the conference. The certificate will be sent to you by email.

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.

21st NETA Annual Conference UMass-Boston Campus Center

Held in cooperation with the Latin American and Iberian Studies Department and the College of Advancing and Professional Studies' Translation Program of the University of Massachusetts Boston

Saturday May 6, 2017 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

To register and for the latest information on the conference, go to netaweb.org.

Visit NETA's website for [Session Abstracts and Bios](#). In addition to the presentations listed below, the conference includes exhibitors all day and student panel presentations at 10:15 am, 12:45 pm, 2:00 pm and 3:15 pm.

Included in the registration fee is lunch at mid-day and a networking reception at the close of the conference. Be sure to seek out a language table of your choice at lunch.

The Queerness of Translation: In New England and Beyond

(9 am) Keynote Presentation by Christopher Larkosh
Associate Professor of Portuguese, UMass Dartmouth

Palliative Care and End of Life: Challenging Conversations

Jessica Goldhirsch, LCSW, MSW, MPH
(10:15 am)

Translating Palestinian Documentary Al Nakba in the West: A Linguistic Confrontation

Alma Milisic (10:15 am)

Translating Legal Contracts

Paula Arturo
(10:15 am)

You Sure About That? Three Problems in the Translation of Legal Terminology

Steve Sanford (12:45 pm)

Translation Practices in International Advertising: A Case Study of Québec

Elizabeth Martin (12:45 pm)

Linguists Who Code: The Value of Technically-Savvy Localization Pros

Keely Byron (12:45 pm)

"Justice-Seeking Interpreting Ethics" for a More Just Ordering of the World:

Moira Inghilleri,
Deirdre Giblin, Ester Serra Luque,
Lissie Wahl-Kleiser (2 pm)

Not Just a Labor of Love: The Rewards of Literary Translation

Michael F. Goldman (2 pm)

Computer Tricks for Translators

Eduardo Berinstein
(2 pm)

"I need a repetition": How to Develop Your Short-Term Memory

Margarita S. Bekker (3:15 pm)

Producing a Translation of the Ayotzinapa Report in Record Time with Limited Means

Jaime Fatás-Cabeza et al (3:15 pm)

How to Ace the ATA's New Computerized Certification Exam

Rudy Heller and Diego Mansilla
(3:15 pm)

Technology & Interpreting:

The Good Ol' Days Weren't Always Good and Tomorrow Ain't as Bad as it Seems.

(5:30 pm) Endnote Presentation by Barry S. Olsen
Associate Professor, Middlebury Institute of International Studies

May 6, 2017: NETA's 21st Annual Conference

Continued from page 1

Attila Piróth is a freelance scientific and technical translator with a PhD in physics. In 2007, he set up a translation team for the French humanitarian NGO Solidarités International, and to date has mentored 14 early-career translators (including two NETA members) in a paid internship setup. His presentation, "The stakes of internship programs," will focus on the major challenges early-career translators face – from receiving useful feedback on their work in real-life projects to avoiding exploitative schemes and building their own relational capital. As a basis for this, he will use the findings of a survey on the early-career transition period and analyze a number of different working environments, including the paid internship program set up by the speaker and the French humanitarian NGO Solidarités International in 2009 and explore the possibility of scaling up this program through a collaboration among professional associations, universities and nonprofits.

The conference will feature a variety of planned sessions as well as more informal activities for both translators and interpreters, including

- Presentations with topics aimed at translators, such as:
 - computer tips and tricks for translators using a Window/Mac PC's features to facilitate work;
 - localization as a valuable addition to a translator's set of professional skills;
 - problems in the translation of legal terminology;
- Presentations with topics aimed at interpreters, such as:
 - strategies and approaches for interpreters to navigate challenging palliative care issues and end-of-life discussions between patients and healthcare staff;
 - short-term memory development workshop
 - strategies for and the individual core canons, skills and approaches needed in order to interpret effectively in community, medical and legal situations.
- A variety of hands-on training and information sessions to help attendees learn more about work opportunities and new technology
- A book table showcasing NETA members' published works, both original works and works in translation
- Ample time and opportunities for networking with colleagues and companies who are interested in meeting and working with translators and interpreters and other freelance language professionals



Conference Presenter Attila Piróth will speak on "The stakes of internship programs", focusing on the challenges early-career translators face.

- A special auction featuring items of interest to language professionals; all proceeds from the auction will be donated to local immigrant aid organizations
- An informal social gathering on Friday night, right before the conference, for those staying at the nearby Doubletree Bayside Hotel and elsewhere in the local area; email netaconference@netaweb.org if you are interested in attending.

If you are interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the conference, there are still a few limited spots open. Go to <http://netaweb.org/Exhibitor-and-Sponsor-Information> for more information. This year we'll have a room dedicated to exhibitors, as well as time slots for demos or other small group "flash presentations" by exhibitors.

Online registration for the conference ends on April 29; after this date, only registration at the door on the day of the conference will be available. Please note that registration rates at the door are slightly higher than online registration rates. The link to register online is <http://netaweb.org/event-2394936> and make sure you scroll to the bottom left for the "register" button.

More conference information is available at www.netaweb.org/2017-conference. Please visit and like NETA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Netaweb/> for updates as the conference draws closer. We look forward to seeing you on May 6!

Read Session Abstracts, Speaker Bios and other information about the conference at NETAweb.org.

The 2017 NETA Conference Committee

**Elena Langdon-Fortier, chairperson
Montserrat Zuckerman, Adel
Fauzetdinova, Sybil Gilchrist,
Suzanne Owen, Rochelle Sweeney,
Milena Vitali-Charewicz,
Ellen Elias-Bursac, Ken Kronenberg,
and Diego Mansilla**

Call for Conference Volunteers!

Just a couple of weeks remains until NETA 21st Annual Conference, ***We need your help!***

We are calling for about 35 volunteers to help our conference run smoothly this year. Volunteer for 2 hours and receive a discount on your membership renewal or, if you have not already registered for the conference, we will honor the early bird conference registration of \$105 for members and \$140 for non-members.

The following volunteer spots are open:

- Conference Reporters for all sessions
- Write up a session for the summer issue of *NETA News*. We'd like to cover each session, if possible. Deadline for submitting the article is May 20. You can specify which session(s) you would like to cover. The conference schedule is on page 3 of this newsletter for your consideration.
- Election Monitor 9-10
- Greeters from 10-11 and 11-12
- Registration help from 12:45-2:00
- Photographer (afternoon)
- Clean up crew

[Click here](#) to volunteer and help us to make the Conference a success.

Full Conference details including abstracts and bios can be found on NETA's website, <http://netaweb.org/2017-Conference>

QUESTIONS about volunteering or issues with the Volunteer Sign Up page?
Email: Ines Fusco, Volunteer Coordinator at ines@inesfusco.com

QUESTIONS about the conference?
Email: netaconference@netaweb.org

Help to make the 21st Annual NETA Conference a success!

Calling all NETA Published Translators and/or Authors

Come showcase YOUR published work in our NETA retrospective at the May 6 conference.



*Authors Table at NETA's 2016 Conference.
Photo by Leslie Andrews.*

At last year's annual conference, for the second time NETA sponsored a table where our association's published translators and/or authors displayed their works. Entitled a "A Retrospective of NETAn's Work and Works by Conference Speakers", it covered over 30 publications translated/authored by 9 NETA members and by the keynote speaker. Due to its popularity, the 2017 conference committee decided to have the book table again this year.

All NETA members are invited to display their publications at the conference on May 6.

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in our book exhibit! Please contact Milena Vitali-Charewicz at milnavitali@comcast.net to submit the names of your titles or for further details.

NETA signs the Brennan Center Statement

by the NETA Board of Directors

Dear NETA members,

On February 24, 2017, NETA along with 81 other groups and organizations took a principled stand and signed on to the Brennan Center's statement of "Serious Concerns Regarding Harm to American Muslim Civil Society from Terrorism Designation."

Sponsored by The [Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law](#), the statement is available on the [NETA website](#).

At issue is the current administration's plan to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. As the statement makes clear: "For several years, fringe anti-Muslim voices have called for the designation of the Brotherhood as a terrorist group, and framed American Muslim civil society and leaders as suspect or criminal through guilt by spurious association."

Predictably, this sort of guilt by association has real effects short of mass detention, as two examples reported just that week demonstrate:

First, Muhammad Ali Jr. was detained in Florida on his return from vacation in Jamaica and questioned for more than an hour about his name and religion:

[Muhammad Ali's son may sue after being detained at Florida airport and questioned about his religion](#)

Second, based on "derogatory information," a blanket term that can be used to exclude anyone, the director of Academy Award-nominated film *The White Helmets* was denied a visa to travel to Los Angeles for the Oscars ceremony. This "derogatory information" appears to imply connections with organizations that the US government deems to have terrorist ties. Here the blanket term falsely implicated not only Syrian civil defense units, but also by association this director, who was making a documentary about the violence being perpetrated in Syria against civilians:

[He braved a war zone to film an Oscar-nominated documentary. He can't travel to the ceremony.](#)

Along very similar lines, during the presidential campaign, candidate Trump called Mexicans coming across the border "rapists and killers," and promised mass deportations of undocumented aliens. Whatever one thinks about his intentions, it is clear that his defamatory tone has mobilized dangerous instincts and forces in our own society. In fact, the first violent incident against Hispanics may have occurred right here in Boston in August 2015, by perpetrators inspired by Trump just as

his campaign for the Republican nomination was ramping up. "Donald Trump was right, all these illegals need to be deported," one of them allegedly told the police. When informed, candidate Trump responded, "They love this country and they want this country to be great again. They are passionate."

[South Boston brothers plead guilty to brazen beating](#)

The rhetoric of vilification and hate that characterized the campaign has now matured into the intensified deportations of Hispanics that we are now seeing across the country:

[Immigration Agents Discover New Freedom to Deport Under Trump](#)

We now hear increasing reports from interpreters of immigrants not going to work for fear of deportation, and even not going to the hospital when they are ill. We hear of courts

proceeding with cases without the interpreters who are required to be present. We hear of hospitals' rudeness and dismissiveness towards immigrants.

Given the way that the current administration vilifies certain ethnic, racial, and religious groups, the NETA Board of Directors felt that it could not stand by and do nothing. To the extent that it is able, NETA will continue to advocate for translators and interpreters and for the vulnerable communities that they serve. We invite members to get involved in this effort.

NETA will continue to advocate for translators and interpreters and for the vulnerable communities that they serve. We invite members to get involved in this effort.

Remember to Vote in the NETA Election

This year, there are five candidates for four seats on the Board of Directors. You can learn about the candidates at [NETAweb.org](#). Log in and go to Members Only>2017 Candidate Bios and Statements. The ballot is also in the Members Only area of the website. Vote by mail or email by April 26, or at our May 6 conference. Votes will be tallied and the winners announced at the end of the conference.

To learn more about the duties of board members, review [Article Five of NETA's bylaws](#), "Board of Directors."

Google Tools For Your T & I Business

NETA Monthly Meeting, February 2017

By Marian Comenetz, with helpful editing from Noah Lynn

Unseasonably warm and beautiful weather did not deter a group of people interested in learning about Google tools from gathering to hear our speaker, Noah Lynn, highlight the basics of three of the tools that he uses on a daily basis both professionally and personally. To use Google tools, you must have a Gmail account. You do not need to use it as your primary email account, but you must at least register one in order to proceed.

Google Drive (drive.google.com) is free and safe cloud storage for your documents. It makes documents reachable from any smartphone, tablet or computer. The question as to why to use Google Drive instead of Microsoft Office arises immediately. The two big reasons, said Noah, are to be able to share documents with others and to access your documents from any device. Google has made its own version of Documents, Sheets, and Slides, which are parallel to Microsoft's Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. If you're working on a joint project for work or collaborating on any endeavor, Google tools makes it possible for different people to view a document, comment on that document, or edit it. They can even edit a document simultaneously, watching each other's keystrokes as they happen. The person setting up the work plan decides which settings to use, granting permission as he or she sees fit. The document lives in Google Drive rather than on any one person's computer, making it possible to collaborate on a project readily assuming, again, that all participants have a Gmail account. Moreover, if several documents are being collaborated on at once, they can be filed neatly into a folder, and the entire folder can be shared with the group.

Within Google Drive, any files you create or upload from your computer (including Word documents, PDFs, photos, videos, etc.) are on My Drive, which is the default setting. Shared With Me is separate and includes files other people provided to you (you'll get a notification email if someone sends you something). The superficial appearance is about the same, so

you have to be attentive to where you are. If you drag an item from Shared With Me into your My Drive, a copy will be made there. Changes are automatically saved every five seconds, so there's no need to save. There's an Audit Trail, which allows you to see the progress of all edits that have been made. Google uses different colors to show the edits made by different individuals and the time when they were made. If you wish, you can use the audit trail to restore a document you are working on to any point in the history of edits.

If you're working on a joint project for work or collaborating on any endeavor, Google tools makes it possible for different people to view a document, comment on that document, or edit it.

Noah provided two additional special tips worth noting:

- In Settings, make sure that Convert Uploads is selected so that you can edit documents right away. If you don't do this, the documents will upload like PDFs, and while you just need a few clicks to open them in Google format, it's best to just convert them automatically.
- When you have finished working on a given document, you can download it as a Word doc, a PDF, etc. so that it's back to its original form.

Google Voice is an entirely different Google tool (voice.google.com)

designed to give you a free business phone in your pocket. Once you tell Google the area code you would like to use, they will assign you a random phone number within that area code. You then only need to tell Google Voice your real cell phone number, and all calls to the random number will be instantly sent to your cell phone, and to your office or home, too, if you like. You are thus linking your actual phone number to a new number, and you may never notice that there's a middleman. (Save your Google Voice number on your contacts so as not to forget it!) To make a call from your Google Voice number, you will need to download the Google Voice app to your phone. Although incoming calls and messages look and feel like they're going through your regular phone service, they really are not; your service provider has no connection to the Google number so you need the stand-alone Google Voice app to initiate calls.

Just know that these calls are connected over the Internet, just like Skype and FaceTime calls. This means that the calls are always free, but it also means that you'll need either wifi or a data connection for the calls to reach your cell phone. If you happen to be in a dead zone when someone calls your Google Voice number, you will only get the call/voice mail once you connect to data again, much like you get 20 text messages as soon as you step off of a plane.

Besides being free, another benefit of Google Voice is that you can access missed calls, voice mail, and text messages online without

Google Tools

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picking up the phone or opening messages. This is great for avoiding telemarketers or other nuisance calls. You can either listen to voicemails or send a text message back. You can even have Google transcribe your voicemails and send them to you like text messages, allowing you to decide whether to respond without even listening to the message. You can also set up notifications via email, text message, etc., to announce when you've missed a call or received a voice mail. You may find the notifications to be overkill, but if you're the kind of person who has a full voicemail box and 100 text messages waiting to be read, then the email notification may be your best chance to know someone called!

One tricky thing about Google Voice is that Google is in the midst of a transition from an older, "legacy" website of the service (found at google.com/voice) and the newer, sleeker web service (voice.google.com), which is the version you are shown by default. While you can do most everything from the newer version, there are still certain important settings that are only in the legacy version. Strangely enough, you can't yet initiate a call from the newer website, so you must do it via the older one (or through the Google Voice app, of course). So keep in mind, as you try to figure out where everything is, that some buttons and functions may only be on the legacy site.

Noah briefly referenced a third tool provided on Google Drive. It is Google Forms, which is used for creating surveys. You come up with questions and then provide options for how people should answer. The options range from yes/no answers to answers on a 1-5 scale and boxes for opinions, among others. As you devise the survey, you can preview your work or add questions. You can even limit responses to one per person. Then once the survey has been administered, Google automatically presents the respondents' answers in graphs of various kinds. Alternatively, you can download responses to an Excel sheet. You can share the responses in different ways by using the Send button. Google Forms is useful for formal surveys or for far more informal purposes, for example, to schedule a meeting.

Noah's bottom line: the more you want to do, the more you can do. Just experiment with the numerous options available thanks to Google Drive. And if you come up with a dilemma, just Google to find a response!

McGill hosts Colloquium on Gender and Genre in Translation

Professionals and researchers from around the world will come together at McGill University, Montreal Canada, April 27-28, 2017 to reflect on the challenges that gender and genre represent for students of translation, practicing translators and analysts. At issue will be the distinction between sex and gender, one being a biological fact and the other being a social construct.

FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM: www.mcgill.ca/scs-colloquium

Producing Top-Notch Translations: Romance Languages >English NETA Monthly Meeting, March 2017

By Marian Comenetz

"Good enough." That phrase has sometimes been used to describe the results of machine translation—results that some clients may deem sufficient for some purposes. However, for many, if not most purposes, "good enough" is definitely not sufficient. There's a market for excellent translations out there, and we can distinguish ourselves from machines by producing them. So said Diana Rhudick, NETA's president and a French/Spanish>English translator with 30 years of experience dealing with a large range of texts, most particularly for legal and business purposes. Diana's early training at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey has served as the basis for her highly successful career. She has built on the basics by pursuing professional development and by caring greatly about producing a top-notch result on each assignment.

Having prepared a clear and attractive PowerPoint presentation for NETA's March monthly meeting, Diana proceeded to set the stage for what followed by presenting some ground rules for what constitutes good English.

1. Use action verbs—verbs that are more colorful than "be," "have," or "walk," for example, "trot," "grasp," or "sputter."
2. Use the active voice, not the passive—not "the project was completed on time," but rather "staff completed their assignment on time."
3. Use concise phrases—avoid "pair of twins," "excess verbiage," and "caused injury to"; the first two are redundant, and the third can just as well be rendered with "injured."
4. Use two sentences instead of one in cases where the source text tends to string segments together with commas.
5. Simplify. Romance languages like long, complex sentences to demonstrate intelligence and command of style. In

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Top Notch Translations

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English it is better to simplify, thereby achieving clarity.

Diana then moved on to present five pitfalls to be avoided when striving to produce an excellent translation. For each pitfall she presented a French or Spanish text, showed attendees an “adequate” translation that covered the content but tended to be quite literal, and then revealed one or more versions that all present acknowledged were decidedly better.

1. Bureaucratic Style: The first example was a French passage in a business document. Diana asked an attendee to read the first English translation out loud. It reflected the long and convoluted nature of the formal language that is entirely appropriate in French; however, in English, it just didn’t work. The reader needed to breathe at least three times just to get through that passage! The improved translation that was shown was decidedly clearer and lighter. The translator’s goal should be to avoid leaden, bureaucratic style and to facilitate things so that the text in question is no longer heavy or redundant. As always, the purpose of the translation must be respected—for example, legal texts may need to hew more to the source text—and all meaningful elements must be included. Still, it is generally not necessary to render each element of the source text.

2. Getting Stuck in Romance conventions: Romance languages are bound by their own grammar and style, which do not apply to English. Diana provided several examples of a French text that used two different words or phrases to allude to the same notion. She then illustrated via the better of the two translations she presented how use of the exact same word, or a slight variation of it (“trend” and then “such a trend,” for example, instead of the French use of “celui-ci”) works extremely well in English and results in greater clarity. It is also advisable to shorten phrases, when possible: “cruzar la calle a pie” should not be rendered as “cross the street on foot” but

rather as “walk across the street.” Furthermore, it is important to be attentive to verb tense usage. One example: “Digo la verdad” in Spanish could be “I tell the truth” but depending on context, may well be “I am telling the truth,” possibly with extra emphasis on “am.”

3. Accepting the Easiest Solution: Translators should reach higher than commonplace renderings. It may be adequate to translate “crianza de los niños” as “raising children” or “child-rearing,” but isn’t “parenting” even better? A text may refer to a company’s “manque de personnel,” but instead of saying that it lacks personnel, it’s surely more effective to write “they are short-staffed.” “El resultado de la evaluación” is certainly “the result of the evaluation,” but “the final score” captures the meaning and is certainly more pithy. In a theater context, instead of “production team,” how about translating “equipo de producción” as “production crew”? Diana provided a number of other examples as well.

The translator’s goal should be to avoid leaden, bureaucratic style and to facilitate things so that the text in question is no longer heavy or redundant.

4. Use Specific Terms: Romance languages can be vague. By contrast, English prefers precision. Beginning with “on dit,” which is better rendered as “people say” than “one says,” and “se sabe,” which rather than “it is known” is better rendered as “we know,” Diana moved on to words for which a wide range of translations are possible, depending on context and emphasis. Rather than “realize,” “réaliser” (French) or “realizar” (Spanish) could be “achieve,” “accomplish,” “transact,” “carry out,” “undertake,” or “perform.” The French “intervenant” could be “stakeholder,” “audience,” “actor,” “person,” “member” or “participant.”

Diana provided a link to Grant Hamilton’s excellent website, www.anglocom.com/fyi.5, where among many other things, one can find much more elaboration on the last term.

5. Punctuation: Each language has its own conventions regarding punctuation. Translators clearly need to be aware of differences, including those beyond the obvious distinction in use of “guillemets” and quotation marks between French and English and the additional use of upside-down question marks and exclamation marks in Spanish. Diana alluded to three other distinctions—the difference in the use of em-dashes, the use of brackets ([...]) in French and Spanish but not in English, and decidedly different practices as regards capitalization. There can also be differences in the way paragraphs are presented. And much more.

As must be clear by now, Diana’s talk was rich in content. This write-up doesn’t cover everything she said. If you like, feel free to write to lesleva@bu.edu to request a recording of this session, which in real time actually reached 15 more people—so great was the interest in her topic. Diana is truly a pro, and that was amply reflected at this monthly meeting, which was presented with style and was decidedly better than “good enough.”

The Massachusetts Association of Court Interpreters responds to the State's OCIS Audit



MACI

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF COURT INTERPRETERS

March 6, 2017

Hon. Suzanne Bump State Auditor
Office of the State Auditor
1 Ashburton Place, No. 1819
Boston, MA 02108

RE: A Response to the Audit of the Office of Court Interpreter Services.

Dear Ms. Bump:

The Massachusetts Association of Court Interpreters (MACI) wishes to comment on the recent audit of the Office of Court Interpreter Services (OCIS) undertaken by you and your office. The audit covers the period from July 1, 2013 through May 31, 2015, that is, the period after the removal of the Manager of the OCIS, the transfer of the OCIS's billing and financial control to the Fiscal Department, and the beginning of further efforts to reduce the autonomy and operational scope of the OCIS.

MACI is an organization of per-diem court interpreters, which was formed as a result of these recent actions by the Trial Court that reduced payments to interpreters and the availability of interpreters in the courts. The Trial Court wishes to cut costs, in part because the need for interpreters is increasing due to demographic changes, and because of an order from the Department of Justice to increase language services beyond the courtroom, which will require the commitment of further resources. MACI has filed suit against the Trial Court and filed a complaint with the Department of Justice.

You use as a benchmark the OCIS Standards and Procedures (S&P), a procedural manual last updated in 2009. You find that the Trial Court is in violation of significant provisions of the S&P. MACI agrees with this finding. In fact, the current reduction of services and payments, which is not mentioned in the audit, is a wholesale departure from the S&P. The S&P, apparently, have been replaced by a simple rule of thumb: "reduce the cost of interpreter services."

Other than one meeting in June 2014, there has not been a single email or any other acknowledgement from the Trial Court administration to per-diem interpreters or to the public explaining, or even announcing, the removal of the manager and this complete change in policy. The current "manager" of OCIS has not been identified, nor has she introduced herself to the per-diem interpreters. Nothing is in writing. The result of this hostile and silent takeover has been the significant reduction of interpreter services in the courtrooms of the Commonwealth, as well as the demoralization of the small group of experienced and hard-working specialists who provide these essential services. This is the real story of the OCIS. Interpreters are often sitting at home, knowing that they are needed in court. Each day in the office has been described by members of OCIS staff as running a "marathon" to meet requests and deal with complaints, all with fewer resources and with no experienced management. We realize that these problems are invisible to you as an auditor, because you are reviewing only the work done. There is no record of the many litigants that the OCIS now fails to serve.

There are several points made in the audit with which MACI must take exception. The first concerns authorization. You correctly note that the verification process for interpreter payment, as outlined in the S&P, no longer takes place. You also find it concerning that 42% of interpreter encounters are not reflected in assignments and, therefore, are unauthorized. You did make an effort to understand this discrepancy, and included this explanation in the report:

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OCIS schedules the interpreter assignments and provides the assignment schedule to each court on Thursday evening for the upcoming week. OCIS's scheduling staff told us that after the weekly assignment schedules are prepared and distributed, court locations typically submit an additional 40 to 60 daily requests for interpreting. These daily requests, which could represent up to 15,000 additional interpreting requests a year (60 per day multiplied by the 250 days court is in session), are not always added to the weekly assignment schedule.

This is accurate. The Trial Court does not know, prior to arraignment, who will need an interpreter; in some courts interpreters are simply assigned for All Morning Coverage, and some defendants and witnesses opt to use an interpreter only after their case has begun. Interpreters are not assigned on a case-by-case basis, but to a court. It is never possible to know in advance how many new people will need an interpreter. The solution to this problem you propose is ex post-facto recordkeeping: adding all the names and docket numbers which come in on the Daily Service Records to the assignment record, thus "authorizing" work which is already completed. MACI disagrees and wishes to note that the concept of "authorization" is due in part to now-outdated legal standards. When the interpreter statute, MGL 221c, was written, interpreters were still, in theory, appointed to cases just as attorneys are. The language of 221c reads: "A non English speaker, throughout a legal proceeding, shall have a right to the assistance of a qualified interpreter who shall be appointed by the judge... . 11 The appointment of Interpreters is also discussed in the older professional literature. However, since the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was interpreted to apply to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals, and this was reflected in Executive Order 13166, the appointment of interpreters has evolved into the provision of interpreters to all litigants who desire them. This evolution in legal standards is the reason that the "appointment" of interpreters is not mentioned in the 2009 S&P. As there is no longer a need to appoint Interpreters, MACI believes there is little justification in requiring OCIS to engage in ex-post-facto bookkeeping. We also note that

current staff can barely keep up with their main task, which is the daily provision of interpreters, so additional staff would need to be hired to do this work.

Of course, the number of interpreter encounters must be tallied for statistical purposes. These should be taken, as they previously were, from the interpreter generated Daily Service Records, which are the most complete record of service.

There is a further problem with ex-post-facto authorization: no interpreter, or any other worker, will accept work that is not already authorized and, therefore, may not be paid.

Of greater concern to per-diem interpreters is the suggestion by you that we should be paid less. Interpreters have not had a raise in twelve years. We are paid for a full or a half-day, as is the practice in federal court and in many other state court systems. Much of the time that an interpreter is in court is time spent waiting, because there can be as many as 100 people all waiting to speak to a single judge, and interpreters are not treated differently than anyone else. You suggest that this time that interpreters spend waiting in court should be discounted, as it is for bar advocates. This suggestion reveals a basic misunderstanding of the work of bar advocates and interpreters. A bar advocate in Massachusetts can bill up to eight hours in a single 24-hour period, and can bill for more work if a waiver is obtained. If any lawyer wants to work on a case, that lawyer need only open their file and start working, even at midnight. By contrast, for an interpreter to actually do paid work, there must be two parties present who require the interpreter's services, which means that the encounter must be scheduled. Scheduling is normally possible at two points during a day---either at nine or ten in the morning, or at two in the afternoon. Therefore, per diem interpreters have two opportunities-two slots-in any given day when they may be scheduled and work. How long an assignment lasts is of little consequence to an interpreter trying to make a living, because there is no other opportunity to work and be paid until the next time slot is reached.

Therefore, an interpreter, normally, works a maximum of two jobs a day. An interpreter who finishes a deposition, or any other job, early cannot, "go on to the next job." In the case of a per-diem interpreter in the court system, the S&P require that interpreter to remain available (i.e., not take on other work) because the Trial Court has purchased that slot of time in the Interpreter's day. Most interpreter assignments are in the morning, so, for all practical purposes, an interpreter's normal day is to go to court (1 hr.), remain in court or on call (4 hrs.) and return home (1 hr.). In exchange for this commitment of the six best hours in the day, a certified interpreter is paid \$200, the same amount that has been paid for twelve years. To suggest that interpreter payments be reduced to account for waiting time reveals a misunderstanding of why interpreters are paid a four-hour minimum, and seems quite misguided.

MACI has brought suit against the Trial Court, mainly, because many per-diem interpreters are in fact misclassified as contractors,

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when in fact they are de-facto employees. They work for the Trial Court almost every day. They do the same work as staff court interpreters. They do not set their own rates, choose their own assignments, or enjoy any of the other freedoms or benefits of being true contractors. The fact that per-diem interpreters have not been given a raise in twelve years has already been mentioned. Staff court interpreters, by contrast, have benefited from steady increases to their salary. Travel time for per-diem interpreters was reduced dramatically as a temporary measure during the recession and never restored. As Auditor, you should understand that per-diem court interpreters are subject to improper and illegal labor practices in Massachusetts, and that the Trial Court is in violation of our contract, which is the S&P.

In conclusion, MACI agrees and disagrees with the audit. We first wish to communicate to you important facts which were not included in it: Facing increasing demand for interpreter services, the Trial Court has decided to downsize the OCIS and reduce services to LEP litigants. The core of experienced interpreters, which was carefully assembled over a generation, is now facing a hostile administration that will not communicate with us, and seeks to reduce payments to per-diem court interpreters by any and all means. There have been many complaints from the courts and litigants over the reduction of services. The S&P have all but been forgotten.

While MACI wishes to thank you for shedding some light on current practices, MACI respectfully disagrees that ex-post-facto recordkeeping is a priority in an agency that is barely able to function due to reduced funding. MACI also finds very inappropriate the suggestion that underpaid per-diem court interpreters should be paid less than the minimal amount they are currently receiving.

The MACI Board of Directors



Norma V. Mann, President

Cc: Hon. Paula Carey
The Committee on the Administration of Interpreters
The Mass. Bar Association
The Boston Bar Association
Maria Fournier
Harry Spence

NETA Board Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2017

By Diana Rhudick

Attending: Lesley Andrews, Diego Mansilla, Alice Wolfe, Maiyim Baron, Diana Rhudick, Attending remotely: Elena Langdon-Fortier

Guests: Ken Kronenberg, Marian Comenetz

Treasurer's Report

The board reviewed Crystal's first quarter report covering September-November and everything looked to be in good shape. Diana had previously approved Crystal's first quarter invoice.

Election

The Board must nominate candidates to the board by late February, which is before the next board meeting. Of those whose terms will expire, Lesley and Alice have agreed to run again, Elena is considering it, and Joan has bowed out. A total of four slots are open.

We must recruit new candidates. Elena urged the board to recruit interpreters and suggested a few names. Ken felt that nominees need a sense that the board is moving toward greater interpreter participation.

Elena raised some concerns about how the board is operating and a healthy discussion followed. Ken said the board needs more focus and thanked Elena for bringing up the issue. Most members felt that if recruiting interpreters were a major effort of NETA, we could get some energy in it, and programs to back it up.

Board members should be asking these questions: Why do we have NETA? Do we have goals?

Maiyim agreed to talk with other interpreters when she's in court and look for recruits.

Diana will email all active members asking for nominees during the first week in March and collect any replies. Nominations are due by mid-March, including candidate statements and bios.

By late March, election info and ballots must be made available to members on the website. All active members are also emailed a ballot.

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Sadly, the board will need a new secretary once Joan steps down.

Membership

The board decided not to pursue the idea of a survey sent to members who have left NETA because we are unlikely to get many responses and we don't want to pester people.

Diana said the conference committee should ask people to join NETA as part of conference advertising.

Ken brought up a public list of court-certified judicial interpreters in Massachusetts, and suggested we should email them once and encourage them to join. However, we do not want to be spamming so Elena will see what the law says on this, and mentioned that there are lists of medical interpreters too.

Antje has updated the "membership messages document" to reflect practices on our website and processed all outstanding accounts, among them seven new members.

NETA currently has 243 members in total, and 239 active members.

She has also started to compile the membership management procedure document. Her invoice for membership services rendered from April 2016 until today is 29 1/2 hours.

Kelly Lynch Request for Translation Presentation

Alice said we should put together an outreach presentation for these groups. We can contact groups and offer to give presentations.

Maiyim will check available ATA outreach documents. Alice pointed out the message should be that the more members we have, the more power.

Lesley will work with Alice and Diego on an outreach presentation. Elena will send a presentation she made, and will also check on the rates charged by these interpreters at Found in Translation to make sure they are standard.

Website

From now on, members will be reminded

annually via the fall issue of NETA News that having your name and email in our directory could expose you to email mining, with an explanation of how to hide email addresses in our online directory.

Diana and Marian continue to submit questions to Scott as needed. Scott floated a design template upgrade for \$300, to a mobile-ready format. The board approved the \$300 expenditure. Diana and Marian will see what new templates are available. Opinion was divided as to whether or not our current site is user-friendly on smartphones.

We have been reviewing and correcting bad links.

The board gave its approval to change the board discussion group email to the Google platform and include board members only (Diana to change).

Conference

We have a signed contract with UMass for May 6; payment will be later. Price is the same as in 2016.

There will be two tracks (T and I), and a third for accounting, tech, marketing, etc.

The committee is meeting once a month, and trying to meet face-to-face to get more done. The current focus is on getting registration up; the early bird date is not likely to be extended.

EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS

The committee is seeking sponsors for coffee breaks and reception; we currently have one sponsor and one exhibitor.

To attract exhibitors, they will have dedicated time slots and a room just for exhibitors, which is the room used for coffee breaks. They can do demos to present their company.

Elena floated a new idea from an exhibitor to have a silent auction. Someone can contribute items, attendees bid on these items, and the money goes to NETA. We could donate the proceeds to a charity. Examples of donations: interpreting program donates a training program or textbook, or folklore item, membership to ATA. So companies can promote themselves but they don't have to be present. The auction would occur as a closing event, to keep people there.

Diego reported that the conference committee needs more initiative because Elena is doing too much. The group is small, but enthusiastic.

LOGISTICS

Diego said access to campus will be better and the access road will be clearer.

- **Signage:** More signs are needed at the garage entrance, in the garage, at the top of the stairs leading to the 2nd floor. Signage is also needed for conference rooms. We have the two easels we need to display signs.

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- **Language tables:** There were no language tables at lunch in 2016. The board opts for the tables this year, or some other grouping.

- **Appearance:** Sodexo provided skirting for the tables on which food and drink were presented; but there was no skirting for any tables where food was consumed or at registration tables.

The board will use a skirt for the registration table. We have one and UMass does too.

- **Hotel:** In general, the hotel is not in easy or pleasant walking distance to the campus; also, last year it offered imperfect service. But the confcom does not have extra resources to explore other options.

PUBLICITY

The board approved a photo banner, at \$105, for use in publicity materials. Maiyim suggested we print the banner on signs at the conference.

Diego said that UMass has easels, and he will ask UMass if we can use this image.

Elena will inform the board of the price to have a designer print flyers, a large sign, and posters.

CEUs

Last year, people submitted their CEUs for approval from CCHI and CMI themselves due to an onerous process. Marian said that we should get CEUs for CMI, too, if we're doing CCHI. Elena explained that the IMIA grants CMI credits and she is reluctant to work with them. Elena will try again to ask what it costs for CMI credits, but they do approve any credits that CCHI approves.

If members submit the talks they attended, that system works pretty well. But if we get the credits preapproved, it's easier for members, and we can use this in our promotion. The cost for CCHI is \$50 for one year's approval, plus \$15 per presentation. Elena estimates a total of \$110 to \$140 for this conference, and pointed out that we could get monthly meetings approved for \$15 after the conference.

Marian informed us that interpreter-focused monthly meetings are very well attended, and we should encourage them, but any number over 75 is too much for our space. Lesley said the fate of CELOP is uncertain, and we shouldn't use the lobby for larger gatherings.

ATA credits will be preapproved as well.

Elena will decide at a later date whether to hand out a form for credits, or use the online system.

OTHER

Maiyim asked whether UMass might contribute more than \$15 per UMass student. We had about 12-15 students last year. Diego will ask if the school can increase its contribution.

Marian reminded us to send conference publicity to archived members on our website. Lesley will send Elena the list of archived people so she can do a MailChimp email.

Monthly Programming

Remaining 2017 dates: 2/25, 3/18 (with board meeting), 4/22.

February: Noah Lynn on Google platforms,

March: Diana on translating into English from Romance languages

Lesley explained that she asks presenters if she can record them. Many say no, mostly it's Netans who say yes. The recording is accessible by email invitation only, on Lesley's Vimeo account. The recording is for those who can't attend, or if the remote connection doesn't work. Diana will announce this option on the NETA discussion list and include a mention on the website Meetings page, with a list of topics and speakers and instructions on how to access them.

Lesley uses her school Vimeo account but Marian suggested NETA have its own Vimeo account.

Lesley said that NETA could have a free account, up to a certain number of uploads per week. She will create that account.

Marian wondered whether Ines will handle all volunteer aspects of the conference. Elena said she hasn't been in touch with her, but that is the plan.

Social Media

Elena is handling most of the social media lately, and will post a link to NETA news. Rochelle is helping also.

Publicity Initiatives

Sponsoring conferences/events

--NETA exhibited at MassAHEC conference again June 10. The board agreed that exhibiting at MassAHEC or other conferences is a good thing for NETA to do.

Elena talked at length with Lisa Morris from MassAHEC. One idea they had was to have a joint conference next year, on separate tracks. She felt we should have a conference in

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central Mass. NETA needs to decide what we want out of it and what our goal is.

Elena posed one question for the next board meeting: Where do we want our conference next year? We couldn't do a Friday event because the location is a deterrent. Diego said we should pick another location for a Friday event.

Diana said we had built up a lot of goodwill with UMass.

Ken said we should work with Mass. medical interpreters, but we need to get more interpreter members so they can take it on.

He said they should be invited to attend our monthly meetings, but we don't have room at CELOP. Since we may need a new meeting space, Diego said he would see what is available at UMass.

Elena said the council on interpreting and healthcare will have a national conference in Portland, Maine, which would be a good opportunity to publicize the conference. Elena will look into having a NETA table and who else is going in order to man the table.

Ken said we need materials for these. Lesley displayed the draft brochure from Catherine Howard. The board determined that the audience for this brochure is potential NETA members. Elena said her designer charges \$35/hour, and we can ask her to polish it up. Alice suggested photos of interpreters at work, technology and industry, to show the modern aspect of our trade.

Other

Antitorture resolution

Ken proposed an initiative to publicize NETA's antitorture resolution to other T&I groups nationally to encourage them to emulate NETA's example.

He said we have the strongest antitorture resolution of any T&I group in America. Ken will write an open letter about torture to the president, to be approved by the board. Then we can put out a statement on social media.

Presentations under NETA's aegis

Joan had previously requested some guidelines on who we allow to present at NETA meetings because anyone presenting

under our aegis could be considered as endorsed by us. Alice said that the board decides case by case, so there's no need for guidelines.

IAPTI

Currently NETA has an open letter to IAPTI posted on our website. The consensus was to leave it there, despite recent controversy surrounding this organization.

Potential collaboration with language communities "that will come under attack"

Ken says this issue is changing form now and we should keep our eyes open.

Ascertaining who opened a given email

Ken was concerned about what information is being revealed by our website after it sends out emails to members. Scott, our developer, assured us there are no privacy issues to be concerned with, and it is also a nice tool to let you know if something was rejected, but the tracking feature can be shut off.

The board opted to keep this feature as is.

Guidelines for posting job ops

Alice said she receives very few emails about jobs, but wondered if she should post low-ball offers to the membership. She decides case by case, and sometimes informs the sender if their rate is too low.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Rhudick

NETA News needs you!

Please sign up to write short articles (500-1000 words) of a conference session along with some reflection on it so that people who were unable to attend can get a good sense of what the session was about.

This will be published in the Summer issue of NETA News and the deadline for submission is May 20.

Review the list of presentations on page 3 of this newsletter and select one that interests you, then [Click here](#) to sign up. Contact volunteer coordinator Ines at ines@inesfusco.com with any questions.

Thank you!

NETA Board Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2017

By Joan Sax

Present: Monserrat, Lesley, Maiyim, Diana, Joseph Brockway, Diego, Alice remotely, Elena, Joan

Conference Report: Elena

As of this meeting, 125 people have registered of which 35 are non-members, and 4 people registered at the regular price, (with volunteers total attendees so far is 140). We have 5 exhibitors and 3 sponsors.

Student registration is still low. We estimate that we will have 140 to 150 people, including speakers, volunteers and the ConfCom members who get in free. The Keynote speaker, Christopher Larkosh, has not yet given us an abstract, but he is speaking in Paris on the same topic. He will be paid an honorarium of \$500. We do have the abstract for the Endnote speaker, Barry Slaughter Olsen.

As for the Friday night event, there was not enough interest, so we might organize something informal for people staying overnight. That will be worked out by April 1st. We are not sending postcards.

We need approval to place an ad in ATA online news brief, sent every two weeks: prices for members: on sidebar \$100 run twice, for \$150 in body of it. We will use a graphic already created,

Joan moved and Alice seconded to authorize up to \$400 for publicity at ATA & ProZ if desired. The motion passed.

We plan an auction at the conference during the ending reception, with items being auctioned to be displayed on a table. A company, organization, or agency can contribute items, attendees bid on them, and the money goes to NETA. We could donate proceeds to local immigrant assistance group. Examples of donations: an interpreter training program or textbook, a folklore item, membership to ATA. Diana has secured a free CD of The Translator's Toolbox as one auction item. So companies can promote themselves but don't have to be present. The auction would occur as a closing event, to keep people there. People can pay for items in the auction using Paypal. Elena will create a category available on the day of the conference for the auction.

Presenters need to provide learning objectives for CEUs.

Volunteers: Inez Fuscolo is coordinating volunteers with Marian's help.

Payment for the conference is due one week before the event..

Lesley has an account with UMass catering through NETA, so she will order the food.

Parking should not be problem. \$6.00, can be waived for a certain number of people. Check with Diego about security. President Obama will be speaking at UMass Boston the next day. Diego will check about security issues for the conference and for our ATA exam session on May 7.

Elena asked for approval for printing banners so that they will have them at UMass. Diego will see if UMass can print them.

There will be a link on the website for filling out the survey with a deadline.

IMIA and other interpreter organizations have not responded about CEUs,. There will be no paper CEU forms at the conference. Instead we will use Lesley's system that was very successful last year where people, go to the website and sign up.

Elena will send the schedule to Teresa Kelly at ATA for CEUs. The welcome letter will include information about the process for receiving CEU's.

On site registration will use website. Lesley will bring a computer during registration for the morning. She also has a card reader for Paypal. There should be a person to fill in for her as needed. We need an extra chair and an outlet.

We need to find someone to take photos.

UMass will pay NETA for students attending \$15 to \$25 per student. Will know a week before how many students attending and then deduct that amount from space and AV. Total will be about \$4192.50

We need to be sure that the doors will be open at 6:30 a.m. Diego will check on this. We also need a cart and signage. There will be more signs this year and we need easels and they must be requested in advance. There is a fee for them.

Photo banner in the publicity can use UMass image.

Treasurer's Report

Income up, attributable to an increase in prices.

Election: Diana

The following are candidates for 4 seats: **Rokaya Smith, Alice Wolfe, Lesley Andrews, Joseph Brockway, Erika Schultz, Elena Langdon**

Ballots have to be posted by March 25th. We need bio and statement from Rokaya,

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NETA March Meeting Minutes

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Membership: Antje

As of 3/9, we had 269 active members (19 new members in the last 30 days). Antje contacted lapsed members sent to her by Marian. As of last night, some renewed, Joan will ask Antje for people who haven't renewed after being contacted, so that they can be removed from the list serve. Antje will catch up next week.

Found in Translation: Alice

Sybil and Alice's spiel about NETA was very successful. They enjoyed presenting and people seemed interested.[where did this presentation take place?]. Alice worked on outreach. New brochure will be a great springboard for outreach talk. Lesley could have it on the website with PP presentation.

Website

Scott, with board approval, added a new website template with mobile ready format.

Brochure

It was decided that we should stick with Catherine's brochure that she has put a great deal of time and effort into creating. Everyone should look at it and make comments. When we get a final version, we should have Staples print 500 copies of it. It would be great to have it by the conference. We could also use it for meetings that NETA attends as an organization. Elena had some suggested changes, such as not mentioning the current conference site with the idea that we might change venues. But it was felt that the cooperation with UMass was a positive. She suggested printing the name of our Facebook page. We would keep our Twitter account in it and find ways to make it more active.

Venue for meeting

We can no longer use CELOP. Adele booked a room for the April meeting, but she is only here until the end of the academic year.

Diego is looking for options at UMass. We need high speed internet available. Other possibilities are other public buildings, such as libraries.

Lesley is willing to continue remote conferencing depending on our venue.

Monthly Programming

Frank Geoffrion will speak at the April meeting.

It is becoming more difficult to schedule monthly meetings. We need to establish a date and venue for our June meeting.

We will choose a date for the June board meeting, using Doodle.

Social media

Facebook, 957 likes. Alice asked why do people like us on FB? Ask about activities Joseph Brockway attended in Texas?

Mass AHEC again?

They only give access to 1 person when you exhibit. Conference will be 2 days this year, and therefore twice the amount. \$300, and we need to provide people for 2 days. We received very few members from them. Does the board approve of the expenditure. Marian will ask Monserrat what she thinks, since she represented NETA at previous conferences.

Elena asked whether we might want to do a joint conference with Mass AHEC.

Ilse Andrews Award

This year it will be chosen by Diana.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sax

The exhibitors and sponsors of the 2017 conference include:

Interpreters Associates, Inc.

Mass AHEC

Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI)

Boston University

Cross Cultural Communications