

NOTIS NEWS

Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society

P.O.Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2201

November 1988


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[Editor's note:] In case you wondered what happened to your October NOTIS NEWS . . . this is it! Although we intend to publish the newsletter at least every other month, publication was postponed for this issue because of the ATA conference in Seattle last month (see letter below). The conference was attended by 580 individuals from all over the U.S. (and some from abroad), including 34 NOTIS members!

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Alexandria, VA 22302
Dr. Deanna L. Hammond, President-Elect

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american
translators
association

October 28, 1988

To the members of NOTIS:

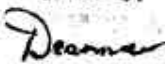
There are no words to thank you for all of your many contributions to what turned out to be the largest ATA Annual Conference ever. It would take many lines just to describe your many activities, such as research, sharing of ideas for speakers, advertisers, special events and registration, the special information on Seattle and its restaurants, your invaluable assistance in preparing the registration packets, and the unprecedented publicity given to the Conference. You also made the participants feel truly at home in Seattle. I could not be more pleased that in the process of planning for the Conference a local group was formed and that ATA membership in Washington State grew by impressive numbers. The fact that two years ago there were just 15 ATA members in the State and that more than 50 Seattle area translators registered for the Conference is one example of how far you have come.

I know that with the end of the Conference a major goal has been accomplished. However, I know that with your energetic members you will continue to hold very successful meetings, including workshops, tests, and gatherings with your Canadian neighbors. I encourage you to submit summaries on your meetings and on your group regularly to the Chronicle and the Chapters Committee so that others will continue to learn of your existence.

Please know that you have a great supporter here in the 'other Washington' and that I will always be willing to do whatever I can to be of assistance to your group. Without your many efforts and support the Conference could never have been the success it was.

I look forward to hearing of your continued success as a group and to seeing you whenever I am in the Seattle area. I would also encourage you to think towards the next Conference, which, as you know, will be in Arlington, Virginia.

Again, my most sincere thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,

Deanna Hammond
ATA President-Elect

NOTIS Calendar:

November Meeting: Saturday November 19, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: 325 Sieg Hall, Univ. of Washington (Note: free parking in UW lots after 12:00 noon)

Topic: Court and Conference Interpretation

Speakers: H  l  ne Greissler, a technical conference interpreter and industrial translator, will speak about her experiences as a consecutive interpreter at international technical conferences and discuss the ways in which she continually updates her knowledge in her specialties, including some highly advanced industrial/technical areas.

Sandra Frady, a certified court interpreter, will speak about court interpreting methods, the federal court interpreter examination, and proposed legislation for certification of foreign language court interpreters in Washington state.
(See also Jan. 15 entry below.)

December: No meetings. HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO EVERYONE

January 14: WITS all-day workshop on legal terminology.

WITS-Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society-has recently incorporated in Washington State. Its purpose is to unite qualified professional court interpreters and translators into a society which represents their ideals and interests. WITS is currently working to establish communication with the Legislature and Judiciary of the State of Washington to protect and promote the interests of its members. Further information on WITS or on the workshop may be obtained by writing to: WITS P.O.Box 993, Seattle, WA 98111, or by calling (206) 547-1888.

January 15 Application deadline for the U.S. Court Interpreter Spanish/English written exam which will be given in Seattle on March 4. For detailed information and application form, contact:
Federal Court Interpreter Certification Project,
Mod. Lang. Bldg, Rm 456, Univ. of Arizona,
Tucson, AZ, 85721. Tel: (602)621-3687

January 28 NOTIS Meeting-translation workshop and accreditation test practice in various languages. See page 4.

Also in January: NOTIS ELECTIONS (See below).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOTIS ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

According to our Bylaws, elections are to be held in January of each year for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The current officers, who have been serving as interim officers since June 1988 when NOTIS was established, are all willing to serve for the coming year in their present positions, and therefore they will be candidates for the formal election in January, as follows:

President: Judy Langley
Vice President: Susana Stettri-Sawrey (Current Program Chair)
Secretary: Jean Leblon
Treasurer: Laura Parma-Veigel

Additional nominations if any, for any of the above positions must be sent to: NOTIS Election, P.O.Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2201, postmarked no later than December 15, 1988. Elections will take place by ballot (which voting members will receive early in January), and the results will be announced at our January meeting and in a subsequent newsletter.

NOTIS Doings:

Our last general meeting, on August 31, featured ATA President Elect Deanna Hammond who previewed the October Conference and talked about areas of endeavor a local translators group might engage in. She also stressed the advantages for individual translators and interpreters of belonging to such a professional society. After her presentation, a general question-and-answer period followed which included a discussion of the terms "certified," "accredited" and "licensed." A certified court interpreter is someone who has passed a test administered by a federal or state court whereas the term "ATA-accredited translator" refers to a translator who has passed an accreditation test administered by the American Translators Association in one or more language combinations. Federal or state certification does not exist for the field of translation. "Certification" therefore, usually applies to interpreters in the United States, whereas "accreditation" refers to translators accredited by the ATA. At the present time no licensing of either translators or interpreters exists in the United States.

On Sept. 30, NOTIS was represented at the Washington State International Forum (the International Dedication of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center) by Ron Granich, who handed out 200 copies of our newly developed brochure for local businesses. (Brochure will be on display at our Nov. 19 meeting.)

On Oct. 5 the NOTIS Board voted in favor of joining the Council of International Organizations, a newly established council whose membership will consist of a number of organizations and firms with international-type interests. Membership in the council will help promote our group's visibility.

Also on Oct. 5, fifteen NOTIS members attended KING TV's "Celebrate the Difference" show and another fifteen attended the "Seattle Today" show on Oct. 6 in support of NOTIS President Judy Langley's public service message, taped on those occasions, which announced the ATA Conference.

On Oct. 9, the NOTIS board members met on the Winslow ferry and presented a welcome ceremony to 80 ATA conference participants who were starting out on a pre-conference tour that day.

Currently, a professional services directory is being compiled by the Membership Committee. See Chairman Chaouky Kaboul's report below.

Furthermore, an electronic bulletin board for use by NOTIS members is being set up by Michael Broschat, Co-chairman of the Computers in Translation Committee (see article on page 7).

Membership Committee Report

As of October 31 we have 60 members, including 40 applicants for Active status, 12 Associate members, 4 Institutional members, and 4 Corporate members.

We have received several calls from members and corporations inquiring about the publication date of the NOTIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY. While we have not set an exact date, we plan to publish the directory in February or March. The directory will serve as a resource for the local business community and will be widely circulated in the area. We are certain that it will help advertise the professional qualifications of our members, who will be listed by language pair(s) and membership category. Members who have paid their 1989 dues by January 31, 1989, will receive a directory listing form early in February. Applicants for Active status must submit proof of eligibility for that category by January 31 in order to be listed as Active members in the directory. (Note: If you have already applied for Active status but neglected to submit adequate proof of eligibility, you can still submit it until Jan. 31)

Chaouky Kaboul
Membership Chairman

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ATTENTION NON-MEMBERS - Due to the high cost of printing and postage, we will stop mailing newsletters to non-members after sending two complimentary copies. For the convenience of those who wish to join NOTIS a membership application form for the 1989 calendar year is attached.

Summary of a Conference Session:

by Laura Parma-Veigel

"The Nuremberg Trials Experience," presented by Professor Siegfried Ramler of the Punahou School in Hawaii, emphasized the essential role played by interpreters and translators in major historical events. Mr. Rambler, a native of Austria, was the Chief of Interpreting at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg from 1945 to 1949. He first discussed the extensive preparations for the trials. Recruiting of simultaneous interpreters was a great challenge since no criteria existed at the time to evaluate qualifications for that job. Individuals who had lived for many years in the countries of both the source and target languages performed better in this task than others who only had extensive academic backgrounds in those same languages. Moreover, the interpreters had to have a suitable personality, allowing them to control their emotions while translating testimony of an often shocking nature. In order to prepare themselves, the interpreters practiced in advance at mock trials. Some could not adapt to the demands of simultaneous interpretation and left the job at an early stage. The interpreting tasks included interpreting various regional dialects and being able to understand witnesses from all walks of life. When lawyers first began to read from lengthy documents, the interpreters jointly demanded that copies would be made available to them in advance. Each session required a team of twelve interpreters, three in each language booth (English, German, French and Russian). Each interpreter worked only in one language pair. When an interpreter could not keep up, an orange or red light was flashed to warn the judges and counsel to slow down the witnesses or to halt the proceedings temporarily.

Mr. Ramler also revealed of the incidents which occurred behind the scenes and required translation, such as Hermann Goering's attempts at gaining some control by sending secret messages to various witnesses and the dramatic private confrontation between Goering and Rudolf Hess over the latter's alleged amnesia.

The Nuremberg experience was the forerunner of modern-day simultaneous interpretation. Soon after Nuremberg, the system was implemented at the United Nations and, since then, simultaneous interpretation has become standard practice for international conferences.

January Meeting: TRANSLATION WORKSHOP/TEST PRACTICE

For our January meeting, NOTIS Program Chair Susana Stettri-Sawrey is planning a translation workshop in which former ATA tests (actually administered in the past by ATA) will be used for practice purposes. ATA materials will be used for the following language combinations: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Polish and Portuguese into English and vice versa (in commercial/legal-, general scientific- and literature areas). Additional language combinations will be offered (using non-ATA materials) if enough interest is expressed. Susana would like to hear from all members who want to participate in the workshop. Please sign up at this month's NOTIS meeting or call her at (206) 632-6712 to indicate the language pair you're interested in.

An ATA accreditation-test sitting will be given in February or March in all the above-mentioned language pairs plus Dutch/English, English/Dutch and Japanese/English. (Note: only ATA members can apply to take the actual test). The date and location will be announced in the January issue of NOTIS NEWS

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Computer Talk - NOTIS Computer Bulletin Board in the Works

By Michael Broschat

Having long been both a computer hacker and a frequenter of local (and long distance) computer bulletin boards, I know what such a system could mean to the translators in our area. I plan to install such a system in my home shortly, and I will dedicate much of it to use by NOTIS members. "So what?," you say. Well, let's talk a little about what a computer bulletin can mean.

First of all, let's get rid of the term "bulletin board." My little corner of the computer world (too obscure to even mention) has a special name for what I am discussing here—RAS (Remote Access System). We'll use that. But the bulletin board concept is important too. The way it will work is that anyone with a computer (yes, "anyone") can call the RAS number anytime (it will be a 24-hour system). When the RAS answers, it will ask you your name. You give it. RAS either knows you or it doesn't. What you see next depends upon that condition. If it knows you and someone has left a message for you, it will tell you that you have mail. You can then read that, and respond if you choose to do so.

From the initial log-in, users may then go to one of several "rooms." Each room will have a specific topic, but there will also be a "general" room. For example, Macintosh users could go to the Macintosh room, where someone might have asked a question about Mac equipment or pointed out some interesting information about Macs and translation. The number and nature of the "rooms" we have will depend upon our interests. Everything is changeable.

Another feature of the RAS will be free software. The available space on this system will be quite limited, but I hope that the managers of each "equipment room" (probably knowledgeable members of the Computers Committee) will be able to supply one or two significant pieces of free or "shareware" software. Perhaps more importantly, I hope to have demonstration files available that show translator computer users how a particular translation-related software program works. For example, there are several word processing programs that allow one to write in one or more foreign languages. Most have a demonstration disk available so that potential customers can try out the software on their own machine. We can be a distribution point for that sort of thing.

The RAS can also serve as a collection point for information to be presented in our newsletter. While some might argue that it could be the newsletter, that would presume that all NOTIS members have computer access, and of course that is not correct. But it can be a very handy means of passing along "written" information, either for public or private use.

The message feature is probably the function most used on a US. You may leave a message for anyone who has an account (any NOTIS member, at the beginning, anyway). That message can be either private or public. A public message to a particular person can be a very helpful means of communicating and educating. We all get to "read along," often learning things we never realized were there to be learned.

So, more in the next issue of the newsletter, when I would hope to provide the phone number of the US and more specific instructions on how to use it. Until then, 'BYE'.

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The next issue of NOTIS NEWS is planned for early January, 1989.

Submissions (Letters to the Editor and short articles of interest to the readers) are invited Deadline: December 30.

Editor: Willy Evans