

## BETTER THAN A ROOT CANAL? NOTIS BOARD SEEKS MEMBER INPUT ON BYLAWS REVISIONS

ANN G. MACFARLANE, NOTIS PRESIDENT

The NOTIS Board admits that usually the thought of "bylaws revisions" has all the appeal of a root canal. And since it's an election year, we'll be hearing the cry, "Your vote counts." But look at it this way. NOTIS has been working on behalf of translators and interpreters in the Pacific Northwest for close to a decade. As NOTIS grows and changes, we need your input to chart our course for the future. This includes revising and updating the bylaws to reflect the changes that have already taken place, and to prepare for our future.

Your board of directors has already spent some months examining the current bylaws, reviewing how other groups have handled

Board" conference on the BBS. We need to hear from you, and hope to see you in person.

The NOTIS Annual Meeting will be held from 2 to 5 pm on Saturday, October 12, 1996 at Gowen Hall, the University of Washington, Seattle. The Huskies will be out of town that day, reducing traffic. Parking is free on campus after noon.

**RESERVE THE DATE!**  
NOTIS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12  
2 - 5 PM  
ROOM 201, GOWEN HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

4) Simplifying the provisions on Officers of NOTIS, to give the Board more flexibility and reflect our current practices (new Article 4).

As in the past, the NOTIS Board will continue to elect the NOTIS Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) from among the Directors. The maximum number of directors is increased to twelve.

### Summary of Proposed Major Revisions to Bylaws

- 1) Redefining the NOTIS purposes to reflect more closely our actual, current activities (Article 1). Article 2, listing NOTIS activities, has been abridged; a full listing is given in a new "Policy Document."
- 2) Establishing a new category, "Policy Documents," which set out NOTIS policies and procedures, but are more flexible than the bylaws. Policy Documents will be established and amended by the Board of Directors, who will seek the membership's input informally. The Directors have prepared Policy Document #1, Activities through which NOTIS Furthers Its Purposes, and Policy Document #2, Duties of Officers. (To request a copy of the Policy Documents, call the voice mail.)
- 3) Changing the method of filling vacancies on the Board of Directors (new Article 5). In recent years NOTIS Directors have been named by appointment. The Board believes that with our growth, and our increased activity, it is appropriate to select Directors by election. In keeping with this change, we propose an entirely new article on "Conduct of Elections," to cover elections to the Board of Directors, and other issues which may arise (new Article 6).
- 5) Consolidating several articles on membership into one (Article 3). This article also adds the state of Montana to our membership area, and declares specifically our practice that the membership status of members who relocate outside our membership area will lapse. While the Board has considered increasing our membership area beyond the Pacific Northwest, this would demand administrative resources which we do not now command, and

*Continued on page 4*

**NEXT NOTIS MEETING!**  
CASCADIA  
4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 27 - 28, 1996  
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

particular questions, and drafting revisions. Now it's your turn to act. If you want to help chart the course NOTIS will take in the next decade, your views and your vote are important. If you cannot join us at the meeting, please take the time to review the material and send in your ballot (enclosed). Otherwise we hope you'll join us, for reports from your officers and directors, bylaw edification, and light refreshments, which we are sure will be most welcome by the time we have finished!

All your board members welcome questions and comments about these revisions before the meeting. Give us a call, drop us a line, send us a query on the "Talk to the

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

NOTIS Notes ..... 2  
Upcoming Events ..... 3  
Tell Us by E-mail ..... 3  
Directory Advertising  
Reminder ..... 3  
Meeting Review ..... 4  
Helpful Resources ..... 4  
Virtual Office Manager  
Sought ..... 5  
Calendar ..... 6

**Northwest Translators  
and Interpreters Society  
(NOTIS)**

**OFFICERS**

President Ann G. Macfarlane  
 Vice-President Caitilin Walsh  
 Treasurer Jean Leblon  
 Secretary Willard Wood

**COMMITTEES**

Computers & Translation Membership Michael Broschat (206) 328-6138 BBS  
 Caitilin Walsh (206) 382-5642  
 Program Nancy A. Thiele (206) 462-9537

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Literary Willard Wood (206) 284-5336  
 Slavic Karina Watkins (206) 562-7156

NOTIS News is published six times yearly in odd-numbered months. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Submissions become the property of NOTIS News and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Society or its Board.

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 Individual & Institutional \$35.00 a year  
 Corporate \$50.00 a year

For membership information write to NOTIS or call NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 382-5642.

NOTIS is a Washington State non-profit organization

**NOTIS NOTES**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Robert Anderson and Igor Panov and corporate members Columbia Language Services, Foreign Bridges Cooperative, and Andalex, Inc.

**WELCOME BACK TO MEMBERS**

Miguel Carmona, Michele Venables and Pacific Interpreters

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Greg and Irina Stevenson had a baby son, Alexander Mark Stevenson, on July 26, 1996.

**BOARD CHANGES**

Due to the press of professional responsibilities, NOTIS Director Alfred Hellstern has resigned his position. The NOTIS Board of Directors thanks Alfred for four years of faithful service. We are glad to know that he will continue to be an active part of NOTIS. Katalin Pearman, who also serves as a member of the Editorial Board, has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Welcome Katalin!

**THANK YOU**

A hearty thank you to Karina and Wayne Watkins as well as Katalin and Charlotte Pearman for helping with the *Directory* mailing. Extra hands are always welcome.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CASCADIA - 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Friday - Saturday, September 27 - 28. The Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia will host, for the first time in Vancouver B.C., the Cascadia Conference, jointly sponsored by NOTIS, WITS and SOMI. This will be a unique opportunity for the association to welcome its Northwest colleagues to the beautiful Library Square in Downtown Vancouver, located by the new Ford Centre for the Performing Arts and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Playhouse complex.

### NOTIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 12, 2 - 5 pm. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the University of Washington Campus, Gowen Hall, Room 201. Important changes in the structure of NOTIS will be presented. Join the effort to improve your organization and meet your colleagues.

### ATA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The American Translators Association will hold its 37th Annual Conference Wednesday - Sunday, October 30 - November 3, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The theme is Translation and Cultures: A Global Vision. Information is available from ATA Headquarters, (703) 683-6100; fax (703) 683-6122. This is the major event of the year for members of the national organization.

### NOTIS MEETING

Wednesday, November 13, 6:30 - 9 pm, Downtown Seattle Public Library, Spring St. and Fourth Avenue, Auditorium. Recap of the 37th Annual ATA Conference. Hear the summaries, handle the materials and enjoy the successes and discoveries of your colleagues.

## TELL US BY E-MAIL

**H**ave something you've been wanting to tell us? Keep meaning to send us your change of address or tell us about your new dedicated fax line? But you haven't found the time to find paper and pen, write the note, find an envelope, look up the NOTIS address and stamp the envelope? Can't find that scrap of paper with the NOTIS voice mail number? Then try our new e-mail address! No envelopes, no stamps, no tangled phone cords, just your message whizzing through cyberspace!

NOTIS can now be reached via e-mail at [104770.2715@compuserve.com](mailto:104770.2715@compuserve.com) (CompuServe members substitute a comma for the period in the numerical address). If we have your e-mail address, you will be receiving "e-mailings" for meeting reminders, etc. If you would prefer not to receive such e-mailings, please let us know, and we'll remove you from the general e-mail distribution list. Hope to hear from you soon!

## DIRECTORY ADVERTISING THANKS

**T**he 1997 *NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters* will be published this autumn and distributed to over 600 users of language services across the country. The number of advertisements has tripled this year. The revenues will make a substantial contribution to the cost of publication. The NOTIS Board thanks all who advertised for supporting NOTIS in this vital aspect of our member services.

## MEETING REVIEW

### FOURTH ANNUAL NOTIS PICNIC: MULTILINGUAL IN EVERY WAY

SANDRA BURNS THOMSON

On July 28th, language professionals gathered at Magnolia Park, to catch a few breezes sweeping up from Elliott Bay, and to share tips, language jokes, and delectable potluck dishes. This was the first picnic without barbecuing, likely due to the July heat wave. Sitting, crawling, skipping and jumping were more children under five than I had ever seen picnicking before, perhaps reflecting the growing nature of NOTIS. As always, a wide variety of language families was on the picnic menu.

During her official welcome, President Ann Macfarlane acknowledged the accomplishments of several NOTIS officers. Ann announced that Alfred Hellstern has stepped down after four years of insightful service to NOTIS. Also departing is NOTIS Secretary, Willard Wood. His move to Connecticut will be accompanied by the appreciation of the members for his many contributions to the Society. On a cheerful note, Ann introduced a welcome addition to the NOTIS team; Karina Watkins, who now chairs the Slavic Special Interest Group.

Noting that the success of NOTIS de-

pends heavily on volunteers, Ann encouraged all the picnickers to assist in mailing the NOTIS Directory or in updating voice mail announcements. Ann reminded us of the September Cascadia Conference and of the October 12th NOTIS meeting at which revision of the by-laws will be an important agenda item. The input from NOTIS members will be greatly valued. Ann then led everyone to stand proudly beneath an elegant blue-white NOTIS banner for a photograph to be used on our web page.

Courtney Searls-Ridge, NOTIS past president and currently an American Translators Association board member, brought greetings from the ATA, which recognizes the unique contribution of our Society to the profession of translating and interpreting. She welcomed everyone to attend the 37th annual conference of the ATA this fall in Colorado Springs where a broad selection of practical sessions will be offered.

As a two year member of NOTIS, I asked a few people what they found valuable about NOTIS membership. A Spanish translator cited the importance of the NOTIS Directory and of sharing resources. A German translator noted

how pleasant it was to share experiences and to learn that "There are other people like me out there." Another Spanish interpreter, who had recently returned from Cuba, found the picnic a useful stepping stone back into the NOTIS community.

A multilingual theme ran throughout the festivities. In a crossword puzzle entitled, "Toulously-translated," a father of twins was a *pas de deux*. There was an article about an interview with Madonna involving English-Hungarian interpreting with rather amusing results! Even the attire was multilingual, including a Russian Hard Rock Cafe t-shirt, and a shirt worn by two children expressing "baby" in fifteen languages. The napkins on the serving table were in Latin. While not a Latin scholar, I have sung in liturgical choirs for many years, so can recognize some word roots. Prominently on the napkins were *OCULOS* and *LUCE*. That must mean, Toulously-translated, that "Mine eyes have seen the light." Net-working at the NOTIS picnic is fun, and being a NOTIS member is another word found on the Latin napkins — *splendida!*

*Continued from page 1*

"Better than a Root Canal?"

would diminish the scope of services we provide to our members. The Board believes that NOTIS can function best by working as a regional organization within the five-state Pacific Northwest area.

- 6) Deleting the reference to "ATA By-laws" in the article on expulsion (new Article 3).

#### A New NOTIS Position

You will see from the announcement in this issue that the Board is undertaking another important change in our way of doing things. The burden of administering our mail and recordkeeping has increased substantially as our organization has grown. We are inviting applications for a new position, "virtual" Office Manager, and hope that some of you who might enjoy helping NOTIS grow will apply.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES:

### Getting the Most from your Local Printshop

If you have struggled with points and picas, spot versus process color, or choosing the best dpi output for a project, a course offered by the Experimental College of the Associated Students of the University of Washington can clarify many issues for you. I took Dennis McKeown's "How to use your Local Printshop" this summer and was delighted at the useful information I received. McKeown defines printing terms, paper terminology, and input and output devices. He then goes on to explain, with vivid examples, how to

build a "responsible page"—a page which, once prepared on your computer, will print out at the shop with a minimal amount of time and labor going toward fixing problems. If you have moved beyond photocopying as your method of choice for reproducing documents, but need to know more about your options, this inexpensive and interesting course will enlighten you. It is offered every quarter, takes two sessions of three hours each, and costs \$40 total. Registration available through the Experimental College at 543-4375.

*Ann G. Macfarlane*

## “VIRTUAL” OFFICE MANAGER SOUGHT

The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society invites interested candidates to apply for the position of “virtual” Office Manager. The Office Manager will be responsible for handling certain day-to-day functions that keep NOTIS running smoothly, to include processing of mail and some data entry. The position will offer a modest honorarium and the chance to help NOTIS give the best possible service to its members.

The Board of Directors recognizes that the honorarium proposed is indeed modest. The board hopes, however, that some members of the Society will offer their services, both to assist the Society and for the benefits they may receive. It may become possible in time to expand both the requirements of the position and the size of the honorarium. NOTIS continues to depend extensively upon the generous efforts of volunteers for its endeavors.

### Specifics of Position

#### Honorarium:

Proposed at \$1000 per year, to be paid quarterly. Honorarium will be pro-rated during probationary period, to March 31, 1997.

#### Duties:

- 1) Obtaining and processing NOTIS mail at least two times per week
- 2) Sending out responses to miscellaneous inquiries as necessary.
- 3) Maintaining a record of finances for the treasurer’s action.
- 4) Maintaining several small databases (not to include NOTIS membership database).

#### Qualifications:

- 1) Detail-oriented, conscientious person

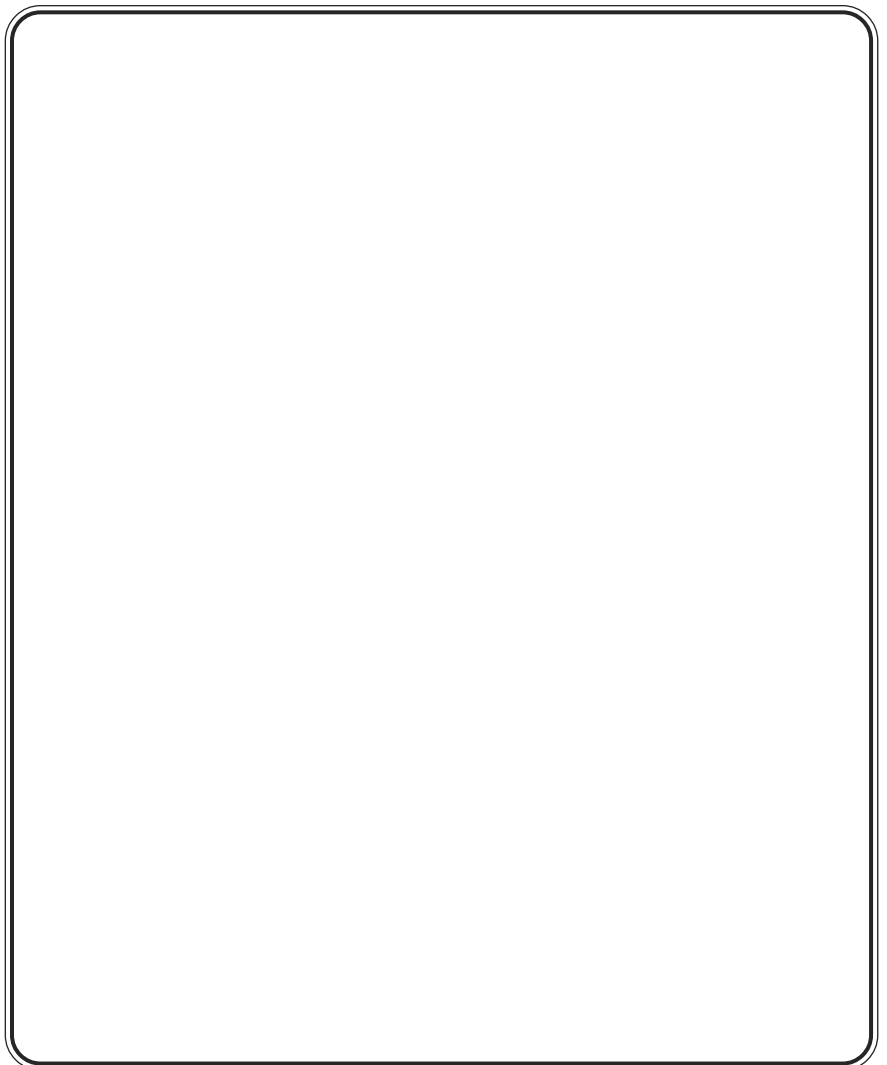
- 2) Computer skills; modem for BBS access
- 3) Fax - a plus
- 4) Residence or office reasonably close to NOTIS mailbox in Lake City
- 5) Preference given to members of NOTIS

#### Starting Date:

Upon acceptance of probationary appointment. Duties and performance will be reviewed by the Board during the month of March, 1997, in consultation with the Office Manager, and any adjustments necessary will be made.

#### Procedure for Appointment of Office Manager

Candidates for the position of Office Manager are invited to send a letter describing their background, suitability for the position, and reasons for seeking it to the NOTIS Board of Directors at P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, Washington 98125-2201. Candidates’ applications will be reviewed by a committee and presented to the Board of Directors. A brief interview will be held and the candidates informed of the outcome by mail. Preference will be given to members of the Society.



## CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
September 27 - 28	Cascadia '96 NOTIS, STIBC, WITS, SOMI	Fourth Biennial Joint Conference for Northwest Translators and Interpreters	September 27 - 28, 1996 Downtown Public Library Vancouver, B.C.
October 12	NOTIS Annual General Meeting	Bylaws Revisions - New Directions for NOTIS	2 - 5 pm University of Washington Gowen Hall 201
October 30 - November 3	ATA Annual Meeting	Translation and Cultures: A global vision	Colorado Springs, CO
November 13	NOTIS Meeting	Recap of ATA Conference	6:30 - 9 pm Downtown Public Library Seattle

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