T

he 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

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 Docu-
ments, 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).

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 (Presi-
dent, Vice-President,
Secretary and Treasurer)
from among the Direc-
tors. The maximum
number of directors is
increased to twelve.

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 con-
sidered increasing our membership
area beyond the Pacific Northwest, this
would demand administrative resources
which we do not now command, and

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
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.

NOTIS NEWS
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

Have 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 (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

The 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, 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 depends 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, “Toulousely-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 oculi and luce. That must mean, Toulousely-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.
“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).
5) Preference given to members of NOTIS

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

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

NOTIS
P.O.Box 25301
Seattle, WA  98125-2201
Voice Mail: (206)382-5642
BBS: (206) 328-6138