NEW ENGLAND neta TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION news

Volume XVII, No. 65 *Winter 2016*

A quarterly publication of the New England Translators Association

The 20th Annual NETA Conference

will be held

Saturday, May 14, 2016

at the UMASS-Boston Campus Center

Mark your calendars now for the 20th annual New England Translators Association Conference! It will be an all-day event on Saturday, May 14, 2016, held at the UMass Boston Campus Center in Boston, MA.

Over the years, the conference has grown to become the premier regional professional development event for translators, interpreters, and language professionals in general, with ample opportunities for continuing education and networking.

The day will begin with a keynote address given by Maria Gonzalez-Davies of the Faculty of Education and Psychology at the University Ramon Lull in Barcelona, Spain. She will speak on "Collaborative and Situated Translator Training-Moving towards the Profession." Her professional areas of interest include translator training, the role of translation in foreign language acquisition and children's and young adult literature.

Other highlights of the Conference will be presentations by

- Julie Tay of the NYU Program in Translation and Interpreting, who will speak on the issue of who translates what - subjectivity and other sustainability issues for practicing translators
- Ken Kronenberg, who will present case studies relating to collaboration on book and other translation projects
- Wang Jie, who will speak about her experience working as a Mandarin-Arabic interpreter in the Middle East and North Africa during the Arab Spring
- Ted Wozniak, president of the Payment Practices website, which enables translators and interpreters to share their experiences with agencies and

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The UMASS-Boston Campus Center,
100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125

A Comparison: Translation at a War Crimes Tribunal and Literary Translation

Saturday, March 19, 2 - 4 pm

At BU's CELOP Center

Our speaker, **Ellen Elias-Bursac**, has been translating fiction and non-fiction from Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian for thirty years. Her translation of David Albahari's novel ***Götz and Meyer*** was given the ALTA National Translation Award in 2006. She taught for ten years in the Harvard University Slavic Department, worked for six years as a language reviser at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, and is a contributing editor to the online journal ***Asymptote***. Her book ***Translating Evidence and Interpreting Testimony at a War Crimes Tribunal: Working in a Tug-of-War*** was awarded the Mary Zinn Prize in 2015.

"What do translation at a war crimes tribunal and translating fiction have in common and what distinguishes them? I worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. I also translated novels on weekends and vacations. I found the two activities complementary and contradictory in interesting ways."

See page 5 for directions to CELOP.

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Marian Comenetz

2016 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
NETAconference@netaweb.org
Co-chairs: Lesley Andrews and Montserrat Zuckerman.

NETA Monthly Meetings

Meetings are usually held once a month from September to April on Saturdays in Boston at BU's CELOP Center. Visit the NETA website, www.netaweb.org, for current information on meetings. For detailed directions via car or mass transit to BU's CELOP Center, turn to page 5 of this newsletter.

ATA Certification Exam Sitting

Sunday, May 15, 2016

In Somerville, MA. Pre-registration is required! Visit http://www.atanet.org/certification/aboutcert_overview.php for details.

New Senior Membership

In January, NETA's Board happily approved a new $30 membership rate for seniors—that is, individuals 65 years of age or older. Current members who are seniors should feel free to select that category when renewing their memberships.

To join or renew, please visit www.netaweb.join

NETA News
Volume XVII, No. 65
Winter 2016

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.

Schedule of deadlines:
Fall issue: Sept 30, Winter issue: Jan. 15, Spring issue: March 15, Summer issue: June 15. Please send all correspondence, including requests for permission to reprint articles, to newsletter@netaweb.org.

Delivery
NETA News online edition available at http://www.netaweb.org. NETA News is e-mailed to all NETA members. Print copies 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 at membership@netaweb.org

NETA's website
www.netaweb.org

NETA general online Forum
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NETA/

NETA's Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/Netaweb

NETA political "off-topic" Forum
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altneta2/

Look for the NETA Group on LinkedIn at
http://tinyurl.com/ovehyp

Membership information

NETA accepts individual members only. A one-year membership is $50. NETA also offers a $30 membership for seniors as well as for students of translation and/or interpreting. To join or renew, please visit www.netaweb.join. Subscription to this newsletter is included with your membership.

NETA Held a Festive Party in December, 2015

by Marian Comenetz

On an unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon in December, NETAns gathered for our holiday get-together, which for the second successive year, was held at the home of Lesley Andrews's mother in Woburn. Mrs. Andrews is an utterly gracious hostess, and her condo affords us a perfect setting for the event. Before long the dining room table groaned with a variety of healthy, attractive offerings, while the kitchen offered forth chowder, chili, and drinks aplenty. Meanwhile the coffee table was the focal point of the Yankee swap items, which came into play around 5 pm: a hand-knitted cap, a lovely scarf, some hand lotion, bath salts, a couple of books, and a holiday candle were among the wrapped items—not to mention a children's telescope, an unusual Shakespeare-inspired insults book, some liqueur, and various types of chocolate candy. In addition to a number of NETA regulars and some NETAns who join in from time to time, several brand new faces were present, making for an excellent mix. Animated conversation abounded, and good spirits prevailed. What's more, Woburn's food pantry will benefit from the contributions NETAns made to their cause.

NETA is grateful to Mrs. Andrews for her hospitality and to Lesley, who ran the show (so to speak), calmly and happily addressing her guests' every wish and need. The result: an excellent annual holiday party!

Photos of the 2015 Holiday Party taken by Marian Comenetz and friends.

Calling all NETA Published Translators and/or Authors

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

At last year's conference, coinciding with our 40th anniversary and with Freek Lankhof's closing of InTrans Books, NETA sponsored a table where NETA published tanslators and/or authors displayed their works. Entitled a "A Retrospective of NETAn's Work and Works by Conference Speakers", it covered 12 members and 1 presenter displaying over 50 publications.

Due to its popularity, the 2016 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 14.

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

Nominations are open for NETA Board seats

Three seats on NETA's Board of Directors must be filled this spring. If you are interested in getting more involved with NETA, please consider running for office. Or if you know someone you think would make a good candidate, please nominate him or her after the person has given approval. Candidates must be paid-up NETA members by April 1.

People can nominate themselves or others by submitting short bios (one paragraph or less) and candidate statements (just a few lines are sufficient) to Diana Rhudick at info@netaweb.org. Nominations must be received by Tuesday, March 8, and online voting will begin on March 28. Voting will also be conducted at the annual conference on May 14, and the election results will be announced at the closing session of the conference.

Board members' responsibilities include attendance at four scheduled board meetings a year plus occasional Skype meetings, as needed. At our meetings we oversee the planning of the many activities that NETA sponsors as well as attending to many NETA functions, from membership to website to finances, and more. Board members serve two-year terms, beginning on June 1 following the May election.

For more about a director's duties, please review Article Five of NETA's bylaws.

The more you put into NETA, the more you'll get out of it, so please consider giving some of your time to make NETA even better. We welcome your involvement.

— The NETA Board of Directors

The 20th Annual NETA Conference

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address issues in receiving timely payment for their services

- Panel Discussions given by experienced translators and interpreters on Getting Started as a Translator and Getting Started as an Interpreter

The theme of this year's Conference is "collaboration" and the day will continue with a series of talks, discussion panels and breakout sessions. These sessions will cover a range of engaging themes of significance and interest to translators and interpreters, veterans and novices alike, as well as anyone with a passion for language. They will be led by expert translators and interpreters from both within NETA and beyond our organization. At lunchtime, a buffet lunch will be served.

In addition to scheduled sessions, the Conference is always an ideal opportunity for networking with colleagues, agencies, exhibitors and sponsors who are interested in meeting and working with translators and interpreters and other freelance language professionals.

Finally, the Conference will close with an endnote address by Cristiano Mazzei, the director of the Translating & Interpreting Program at Century College in Minnesota. He will speak on the topic of "Interpreters, Identity and Performance." Afterwards, all conference registrants, presenters, sponsors and exhibitors are invited to a closing reception to end the day.

Certificates of attendance will be provided for certified translators and interpreters to apply for continuing education credits from their certifying associations. Professional development opportunities will also continue the day after the Conference with a sitting for the ATA accreditation exam (time and location to be announced; please visit http://www.atanet.org/certification/upcoming_exam_sittings.php to register).

Please visit www.netaweb.org for all of the latest updates between now and the Conference, including early-bird and regular registration deadlines.

For questions about the conference, please contact netaconference@netaweb.org.

If your organization is interested in exhibiting at or sponsoring the Conference, please contact Lesley Andrews at lesleya@bu.edu for more information.

Directions to BU's CELOP

Location of many of NETA's Monthly Meetings

BU's CELOP (Center for English Language and Orientation Programs) is located at 890 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. It is on the 2nd floor of the building at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and St. Paul Street. Enter using the first door on the left on St. Paul Street.

Below are general directions. Go to www.netaweb.org to link to an online map and get directions from your beginning location.

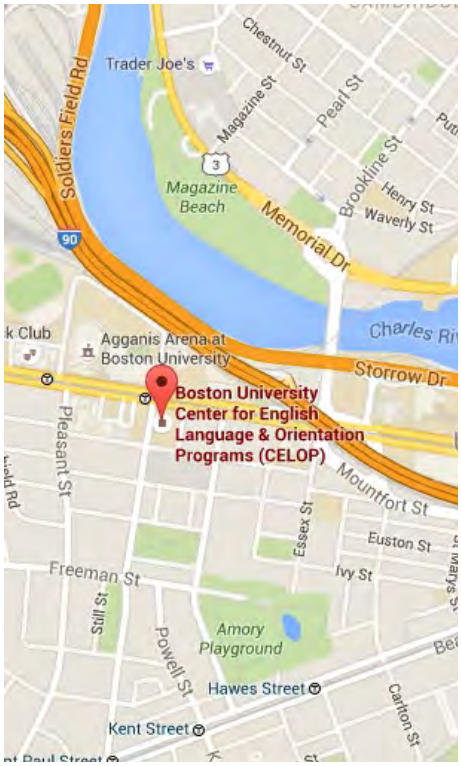
BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:
Take the Boston College "B" MBTA train on the Green Line to the St. Paul Street stop.
It is the 5th stop after Kenmore Square.

BY CAR FROM THE WEST:

- Take the Mass Turnpike East to Exit 18, Brighton/Cambridge.
- Exit left. Follow signs to Cambridge to the second set of lights.
- Turn right at the lights onto Soldiers Field Road/Storrow Drive.
- Exit Storrow Drive at University Avenue and turn right at the intersection onto Commonwealth Ave. (you have no signal, so look out for pedestrians and cars coming from the left and directly across)
- Turn left at the third set of lights and CELOP is on the left.

BY CAR FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH:

- Take I-93 to Boston and Exit onto Storrow Drive.
- Continue on Storrow Drive to the Kenmore Square exit. At the first set of traffic lights, turn right onto Beacon Street.
- At this point, the road forks. The left fork takes you into Kenmore Square.
- Bear right at the far end of Kenmore Square onto Commonwealth Avenue.
- Continue on Comm Ave over the BU Bridge and turn left at the second set of lights after the bridge (St. Paul St.) CELOP is on the left.



PARKING:
The best option for parking is at two-hour metered spots on the street in Brookline, such as St. Paul Street, Amory Street (one block east), or Pleasant Street (one block west). Metered parking on Commonwealth Avenue costs twice the rate in Brookline, and cars parked on Dummer Street by the apartment block will be towed. A parking garage is available at Agannis Arena (take Buick Street and go around to the back of the arena).

Photo taken at a prior NETA Conference by Jill Orenstein.

OmegaT: A Versatile CAT Tool

NETA Monthly Meeting, held on November 21. 2015

By Marian Comenetz

On a crisp November afternoon, Terry Gallagher, an expert Japanese>English translator and long-time NETAn, gently introduced a group of interested colleagues to OmegaT. This is a CAT tool he has been using for five or six years and the only one he has ever used. He discovered it, learned to use all of the features he needs, and finds it very useful. It can do just about anything other CAT tools do. Why pay a lot for a tool when you have one that is free and works well on Widows, Mac, and Linux. A number of CAT tools that cost good money cannot even deal with Macs!

Only two of the attendees physically present at this meeting had used CAT tools before. Another couple had tried to and retreated. At least two interpreters curious about what CAT tools are about also were present. Terry made a point to encourage people to test the water, which might be cold at first, and to swim short distances before embarking on longer expeditions.

The OmegaT people proclaim that one can learn to use the program in 5 minutes—which is just a bit far-fetched (!) although guidelines are right there for perusal.

CAT tools are great for some jobs and not for others. If it will help, use it. Otherwise, don't. CAT tools are useful for their memory components (they suggest previously used solutions), for consistency of terminology (they make use of glossaries which users create, or may be supplied by the client, or discovered on the Internet), and to ensure that no passage is omitted (they break source texts up into segments, one at a time). OmegaT in particular can handle Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents, and outputs them in the same file format. Then, when finished, you can open any target file in Word and edit it that way. If you like, you can incorporate the use of machine translation (for example, Google Translate) through Omega T. Note, too, that OmegaT likes TMX translation memory files.

To begin, Terry suggested going to OmegaT.org, where there is a large amount of information, just to get an initial sense of what this CAT tool is about. The OmegaT people proclaim that one can learn to use the program in 5 minutes—which is just a bit far-fetched (!) although guidelines are right there for perusal. You download, install, and open the program, and then customize it to your language pair by choosing the source and target languages. You want the standard version, not necessarily the latest. Terry recommends checking the "remove tags" box (tags are used to specify formatting)—or leave it unchecked, if you prefer: that's a personal decision. You can leave other things just as they are, or change them to control things the way you want them. (Terry is very content to not understand things he doesn't need!).

Then click OK. You'll have an empty project with empty folders OmegaT created. A source folder will be there, but not a source file—until you input it. So put in a new project to be worked on, using File, Save As in the source folder, which is one of the empty ones provided. (You can actually have multiple documents in a source folder, treating them as a single project.) You're just about ready to begin work, but it may well be desirable to create a glossary first. Terry explained the process for doing that (it entails starting with a new Word file and creating a three-column table—source, target, comments—with tabs between entries, then converting table to text using the UTF8 encoding that OmegaT likes). The glossary you created will be in the glossary window on the right. You can also create new glossary entries on the fly by highlighting a word and doing Copy & Paste, or using Create Glossary Entry from the menu. The only terms you will see in the glossary window at any given time are those that appear in the specific segment you are translating just then. OmegaT can show more than one option for any given word. On a related note, OmegaT's dictionary function uses dictionaries only for spellcheck, so you only need to use a dictionary for the target language.

Now proceed to translate. As you type the translation under the source text, one segment at a time, the source disappears, leaving only the target text showing. The segment you are working on appears in bold and is highlighted. Press Return to go forward to the next segment; if you want revisit text you have worked on, use Control-Return (on a PC) or Command-Return (on a Mac) to go back one segment, or just click on the earlier segment. There is a Find & Replace function, too. Segments are marked 001, 002, 003, etc. As you work, TMs accumulate. You build them going forward. You can also incorporate clients' TMs into OmegaT; OmegaT can incorporate as many TMs as you feed it.

Save when you're finished. Note that the translated document generated four TM files,

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OmegaT: A Versatile CAT Tool

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with different features, but you probably won't need to ever open them.

A few of Terry's own practices:

• He does not give agencies his TMs. They get the translation, not the memory!

• He creates a new project for each client, treating each client as a project. The TM should reflect each client's style guidelines and specifications. All future files for the same client will go into the same "project." He keeps clients entirely separate. The TM is used for one client only.

• He trashes old source and target files: clients often want him to destroy those files anyway.

• Terry does translation, not formatting. Formatting should entail an extra charge.

• Terry keeps his work right on his computer, not in the Cloud, though OmegaT also can be used for team projects involving collaboration, so in that case, the Cloud would come into play.

• Without going into detail, Terry said he puts PDFs through OCR software such as Abbyy Fine Reader or Iris, to turn them into Word documents.

Terry made clear that CAT tools are just that: they do not translate for you! If they help, use them. They will do great things for you, he said. And OmegaT has a Yahoo group, too—a nice community with developers and users. Feel free to ask questions there!

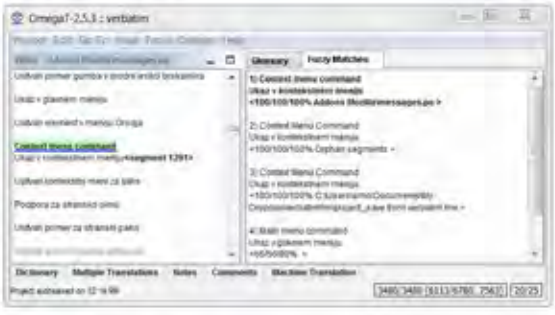
Lastly, Terry created a PowerPoint about OmegaT. You can request a copy at terry.gallagher@gmail.com.

Screenshot, OmegaT_for_Beginners.pdf.

Figure 4.1. OmegaT main window

Figure 4.4. multi-word entry in the glossary

Figure 4.2. Matches pane



Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 are from an online OmegaT Tutorial.

Preserving the Quality of Patient Care While Using Technology in Medical Interpreting

NETA Monthly Meeting, January 23, 2016

By Marian Comenetz

January 23 was not a pleasant day weather-wise, but over thirty interpreters nonetheless made their way over to CELOP in order to take in the presentation by Isabel Pinto Franco, a CoreCHI medical interpreter whose focus was on the increased role of telephone and video modes in medical interpreting over the past five years. Twelve other interpreters joined in remotely. Interestingly, when Isabel asked the attendees how many of them were currently working with phone and video interpreting, very few responded in the affirmative. Isabel's presentation thus filled a need.

Isabel began with a very general overview of the purpose of interpreting in the first place, namely, to convert thought or expression in a source language to comparable meaning in a target language, including register, intention, and feeling. As they serve a range of patients from birth to death, medical interpreters often need to educate other members of the healthcare team about the medical interpreter's duties, requirements and ethical standards to be met. All hospital employees are to welcome, inform, notice, express care and concern, and support colleagues, and the medical interpreter is very much part of that ethos. The overall goal is better patient experiences of care, which actually result in better financial results for the institution, too.

Per diem interpreters working in person may already be challenged by virtue of having less of a sense of the whole. Telephone interpreting is even more challenging in this regard.

Many different roles have been suggested for the medical interpreter. Whereas it is sometimes thought that she should be invisible in fulfilling her mission, in reality she can be a moderator, a language facilitator, an educator, a bridge, a filter, a cultural broker, and even a patient advocate. When interacting with a given patient, the interpreter always needs to be attentive to confusion and ask for clarification and feedback from all parties concerned. Interpreters are forever going from one role to the other. Each role can be valid, depending on the context.

In fact, context is key. Ideally the interpreter will have a context for each encounter. She will have spoken with the doctor or other staff members in advance and taken note of patient condition, age, personality, level of education, hearing issues, and so forth. Per diem interpreters working in person may already be challenged by virtue of having less of a sense of the whole. Telephone interpreting is even more challenging in this regard.

Telephone interpreting began as early as 1973 in Australia as a fee-free service. During the two decades that followed, it came to the United States and England. Demand increased, with more and more companies adopting it in the 1990s. As faster connections became possible and consumer demand increased, telephone interpreting has become one of the major modes for interpreting encounters.

Recognized experts Nataly Kelly and Holly Mikkelson have written articles regarding the need for efficiency and effectiveness in phone interpreting. Attention to sound quality is of the essence, and extraneous noises will certainly affect the quality of interpreting. Special staff training is advisable if phone interpreting is involved. Who is in the room? How old is the patient? What is going on when there is sudden silence? Is the doctor there at all? Are family members speaking? How urgent is the situation?

A third approach, video remote interpreting (VRI), bridges the gap between in-person and phone interpreting. For both telephone and video interpreting even more than for face-to-face encounters, memory is of the essence as it is harder to interrupt the person speaking. Both modes must be consecutive, so interpreters need to develop note-taking skills for accuracy and for the flow of communication.

Now that three approaches to interpreting are increasingly used for medical encounters, a key question is which one is most suitable under which circumstances. In-person interpreting is best for initial appointments, high-risk situations, sharing critical news, family meetings, clarifying confusion, and for anyone who is hard of hearing. Telephone or video interpreting is best for encounters shorter than 20 minutes, for urgent situations, pain assessment, scheduling, directions, and quick needs. Technology should be used to maximize quality, and providers need guidance as to how to use them. There's a balance to be struck between the three approaches. Naturally, if an in-person interpreter is available, that is ideal.

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Preserving the Quality of Patient Care

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Isabel referenced the standards and codes of ethics promulgated by the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care, the Joint Commission, and the IMIA, as well as more general requirements regarding the provision of language services by any agency that receives federal funds as well as the HIPAA privacy policy. Such rules and regulations initially resulted from the 1964 Civil Rights Act and have evolved over time. They underlie the delivery of medical interpreting services and emphasize the importance of patient satisfaction and the essential goal of reducing suffering through passionate and connected care.

Each of the three approaches—in-person, telephone, and video—has a role to play depending on the specific circumstances of any given interpreting encounter. Isabel's goal was to increase interpreters' awareness of the range of situations that should ideally suggest one mode or the other and to suggest that medical interpreters should ideally not be walking the tightrope of a tightly circumscribed role, but rather that their path should be broader as they fulfill a variety of functions, always exercising judgment and calibrating services based on whichever interpreting approach is in use.

Throughout her presentation, Isabel shared accounts of her own experiences, revealing the potential for significant misunderstanding during medical encounters and highlighting the need for context, clarity, caring, and alertness. It was clear that attendees appreciated those anecdotes since they could relate them to their own experiences.

Bad News & Good News

By Alice Berglund, veteran translator and operator of a technical translation firm, Intransco. Alice is also one of the founders of NETA. This article was adapted from posts to the NETA Online Discussion Group. To join the discussion, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NETA/

The bad news…

I've been working with a medium-size pharmaceutical company for over 30 years. Although they are a good customer, there have been a lot of red flags the past year or so: going from a 30-day to 60-day payment schedule; demanding faster turnaround; outsourcing their accounting department to India, etc. The latest is that they are now issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for translations. They have a budget of about 1-2 million dollars per year for translation, shared among 10+ suppliers. Their RFP is designed by a consultant organization and requests a great deal of information from the translation vendors, but mostly to do with costs and discounts. It looks like they want to answer the question: "How much money can we save over 5 years by going to a Content Management and TM system?" Although I definitely agree that part of their work would be very suitable for such a system, certainly the majority of it is not. Nowhere in the RFP does it ask for translator CVs. Its "quality" criteria includes only ISO and the EN standard. The absolute kicker is that after they get the information from the translation suppliers, they are going to have an e-auction. (Really?) Well, I wish them luck, but we have decided that we want no part of it!

The good news…

While obsessing about this RFP, there landed on my desk about $3-4,000 worth of new rush work, at a rush rate that I shared with the translators (win/win). The company with the rush work had been dabbling in MT. Perhaps they see the difference! So, although there is a lot of pressure out there, I think it best that we keep our quality and prices up. Good translators DO NOT have to accept bad deals. By keeping small and nimble, we can take advantage of greener pastures!

Reflecting on my 50 years of experience with translators: I've seen the work of probably thousands of translators, and my own opinion is that only 2% or fewer can perform at a top level. And it does not matter whether these excellent translators are PhDs or high-school only. Some individuals have the knack, the interest, and the drive to become excellent translators. In my opinion, these are the translators who have or will be successful in the translation business. For example, will an MT program EVER produce good marketing copy?

For many years, government agencies and a few low-price, high-volume translation companies covered the low end of the market, where both the less-than-excellent and beginner translators could work. But the translation market is huge. Individual translators, who only have to support themselves (and family) but not an office of salespersons, project managers, administrators, and especially CEOs, can always find a market. Sure, it may take a while to build it up, but who said that any successful experience is easy?

Our best success will lie in not working for the "slave" organizations—TP et al. If these companies do not supply good translations (and it appears that this is starting to be recognized), then their clients will look elsewhere. Excellent translators may have a "ripening" market. Keeping quality and prices high is not just an individual, at-the-margin effort, but something all of us should do to educate clients that there are differences in translators and translation suppliers. Translation is not a commodity!

NETA Board Meeting, January 23, 2016

by Joan Sax

Present in person: Board Members Alice and Lesley; Treasurer: Crystal; Past Board Member: Marian

Present remotely: Board Members Elena, Antje, and Joan; President: Diana

Absent: Board Members Petra and Diego

Treasurer's Report: Crystal

With the support of our former excellent treasurer, Roma, Crystal has made a very fine transition into her new role. She presented her first quarterly report at this board meeting.

Crystal notes there are checks not cashed from as far back as 2013, amounting to $650. The payees are: Ken Kronenberg, Eve Golden, Lesley Andrews, Terry Gallagher, Arthur Liebl and Mary Shillue. Crystal will get in touch with those people and offer to reissue the checks. She needs the email addresses of the payees. Joan will send her Terry's and Lesley, Ken and Arthur Liebl are taken care of. Lesley will find Mary Shillue's email.

Crystal knows that this is the time of year to prepare and distribute any 1099 forms for tax purposes.

Website:

Fortunately there are no pressing website issues at this time.

Milena is organizing another book table for NETA translators to display their work at our conference. Diana recently created a page on our website (under Conference) to highlight that table.

Membership: Antje

Antje is pretty much caught up with processing new members. As of now, we have about 257 members, including 13 students, with 6 new ones. Marian has been very helpful with membership and has sent Antje a list of specific items to attend to. Antje will get to that list soon.

Marian, with Diana's input, has updated the Membership Messages document to cover various scenarios now that we have transitioned from Joomla to our Wild Apricot website. The number of messages declined from 20 to 13.

We still are in need of a Membership Procedures document explaining the numerous aspects of the membership coordinator's role now that we are using Wild Apricot. That will be a significant project for Antje.

Conference: Lesley

The conference date is May 14, 2016.

From recent discussion on the Yahoo Groups NETA board discussion group, the consensus seems to be not to raise fees for members or exhibitors; rather, we'll wait and see how the new venue works financially.

All sessions will be reduced from 75 to 60 minutes, both because 60 minutes seems to be a good length and because UMass staff needs time to divide the large ballroom space as we go from plenary sessions to breakout sessions and then remove the dividers for lunch and the endnote session.

Lesley described the layout of the new venue, and it turns out that exhibitors will be in the same rooms as the sessions. We will see how that works.

The ConfCom is going see if the luncheon can be held in the food court rather than in the meeting rooms so as to eliminate the need to remove room dividers at lunchtime.

Elena agreed to organize a "getting started" interpreters panel distinct from the now-traditional "getting started" translators panel. Those two panels will not be scheduled at the same time, so people can attend both of them if they so choose.

Session abstracts and bios need to be sent to Diana by mid February in order for her to post them on the website for potential attendees. Elena would also like promotional material, including photos, to be sent to her as soon as possible, too, so that she can post them on our Facebook page.

We need a tablecloth and possibly new NETA banners for the conference. Lesley will see to their purchase.

Diana will try to contact Ted Wozniak about the possibility of his being our endnote speaker. The question was raised about what he should be paid since he actually asked to speak and will be promoting his Payment Practices. As far as we know, he lives in Louisiana.

Bylaws revision: Alice

We went over the proposed revisions and made a few changes. Thanks are due to Alice, with help from Ken and her husband, for pulling the revisions together. She will send the revised version of bylaws to Joan and Lesley on Feb. 1st. As per NETA bylaws, Lesley will send out the notice of bylaws changes to all members, who will have 30 days to vote. The amendment must be adopted by two thirds of those voting.

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NETA Board Meeting, January 23, 2016

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Yahoo Groups: Marian

Twice a year we take stock of people who have not renewed their memberships and send them a reminder, giving them a week to renew. If they do not respond, they are removed from NETA's Yahoo Groups discussion lists, which are a benefit of membership. Marian will provide Antje with the names of 12 people who need that reminder. The text is one of the items in the Membership Messages document.

Monthly Programs: Marian

Today's program is geared to medical interpreters. We are expecting a full house, plus 27 people signed up to attend the meeting remotely. Medical interpreters eagerly attend pertinent programs and are happy to earn their CEUs.

Feb. 20th:Bruce on iPad use for interpreting and translation

March 19th: Ellen Elias-Bursac [title TBD], also board meeting

April 16th: Steve Sanford, on the work of the MA trial courts translation subcommittee (Elena is part of that group). [title TBD]

June 18th: board meeting

NETA News:

We need information about the conference for inclusion in the winter issue. It should ideally be submitted, by the first week in February.

Diana will ask Sarah if she is able to do the newsletter now, and if not, what she suggests. We will also ask what we can do for her and Rudy.

Regional groups:

There have been a couple of regional gatherings in Vermont this past fall. Elena will send out a notice about a local meeting in northwestern Massachusetts. We are happy to post regional gatherings on our website.

Social Media: Elena

Our Facebook page has 739 followers.

Alice noted that she receives a lot of phishing emails about supposed jobs, and Diana even receives resumes. They can delete those. But there is a pertinent text in the Membership Messages document if they choose to respond.

Lifetime memberships:

It was decided to provide a discount for senior members, over 65, the same as for students, namely $30. Diana will add language on the website membership renewal page to reflect this.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

The next board meeting is March 19th, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sax, Secretary

NETA News needs YOU!

Submit your article or letter to the editor by April 1, 2016
to newsletter@netaweb.org
for inclusion in the next issue of NETA News.

Discount Available for Subscription to Payment Practices List

All paid-up NETA members are now eligible to receive a 25% discount on a one-year subscription to Ted Wozniak's online Payment Practices List, for a total, tax-deductible price of $14.99.

The list contains information on 11,412 translation agencies and clients worldwide: contact info, payment history, freelancer comments and experiences, and more. It often has information on agencies that are missing from other payment practices lists, and Ted also summarizes reports from sites like ProZ. Just go to our website and log in, then look under *Members Only* to the far right. To get an idea of the site, go to: http://www.paymentpractices.net/