

NEW ENGLAND
neta news
TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

NETA'S HOLIDAY PARTY is Dec 16.
Please come and join the festivities!
Check your email. If you did not receive an
announcement, email Programs@netaweb.org.

Volume XIX, No. 72

Fall 2017

A quarterly publication of the New England Translators Association

The 2017 NETA Translation Bash

By Marian Comenetz



International Translation Day originated as a tribute to the patron saint of translators, St. Jerome, who died September 30, 420 AD and is best known for his translation of the Bible into Latin. In 1991, the International Federation of Translators (FIT) launched the idea of an International Translation Day on September 30 to promote the translation field. For the last 12 years, NETA has been celebrating International Translation Day with a translation workshop that we call a "translation bash".

On Saturday, September 23, gray skies gave way to bright sunlight as participants gathered for NETA's 12th annual translation bash. Our new meeting room at Boston University's Engineering Product Innovation Center features many large windows, so the sunshine provided a perfect backdrop for the proceedings.

Three languages were represented this year. Understandably, and as always, the Spanish group was the largest and was aptly guided by Montserrat Zuckerman; meanwhile, the three participants each in the Portuguese and the German groups held their own with vigor. Each group first struggled with the title of the text under discussion and then proceeded to debate the ins and outs of the text itself:

What is the nature of that text, and who is its intended audience? In which cases are two options for one word basically the same, and when do subtle distinctions prompt the choice of one term or phrase over another? Should a given preposition be repeated in the translation, or is that not necessary? Can the use of the singular be justified in the target text if the plural is used in the source text? How can one best contend with ambiguous passages in the source text? Can the translator legitimately choose to omit redundancy in the source text? Such challenges abounded.

Each group had a scribe, who noted that group's jointly agreed-upon decisions as the bash unfolded. After two hours of spirited discussion, the three groups joined together, compared notes, and presented particular challenges that

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NETAns at the ATA's 2017 Annual Conference

NETAns made their presence felt at the American Translators Association conference in Washington D.C. this past October. Among other things, several members received prestigious awards and Elena Langdon was elected to the ATA Board of Directors. Read on for details.

Two NETAns received the ATA's Financial Presentation Award

Congratulations to Mary Lou Bradley and Judith Lyons for receiving the ATA's [Marian S. Greenfield Award](#) for outstanding presentation of a financial translation session. Judy is an ATA-certified French>English translator with many years experience in commercial and retail banking. Judy served on the NETA Board of Directors from 2003 until 2007. Mary Lou is a French>English financial translator with 17 years of commercial banking experience. She lived in Paris and Milan from 1997-2014, and now shares her time between western Massachusetts and Paris.

Bruce Popp received the S. Edmund Berger Prize

Congratulations to NETAn Bruce Popp for receiving the ATA's [S. Edmund Berger Prize](#). This prize was established to recognize excellence in scientific and technical translation by an ATA member. Bruce received the prize for his translation from the French of Henri Poincaré's classic work *Sur le problème des trois corps et les équations de dynamique* (*The Three-Body Problem and the Equations of Dynamics*). The translation was published this year by [Springer Publications](#).

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Marian Comenetz

2018 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

ConferenceInformation@netaweb.org Chair: Elena Langdon

Save the date!

NETA's Annual Conference will be April 28, 2018.

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NETA News

Volume XIX, No. 72

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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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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>

Membership information NETA accepts individual members only. A one-year membership is \$50. NETA offers a \$30 membership for students of translation and/or interpreting and individuals aged 65 or older. If you need a membership application or have other membership questions, contact: membership@netaweb.org. Subscription to this newsletter is included with your membership.

NETAns at the ATA's 2017 Annual Conference

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Bruce is an ATA-certified translator for French into English with a BA in physics from Cornell University and a PhD in astrophysics from Harvard University. He is also a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office registered patent agent.



Terry: How do you view the relationship between ATA and NETA?

Elena: NETA is a strong regional association, whereas the ATA is a national association with over 10 thousand members, many of whom are interpreters. I think the relationship between the two is strengthened when NETAns are in the ATA leadership (not just the Board of Directors, but committees, graders, etc.). Both organizations can learn from each other, despite NETA's strong commitment to stay independent from the ATA. For example, NETA needs to attract more interpreters and could benefit from increasing its general membership

base, something the ATA has successfully done.

Terry: You are on both the NETA Conference Committee and now the ATA Board. You run your own business, you teach, and you have small children at home. How do you do it all?

Elena: LOL. I am not quite sure how I do it all, and I certainly need to say "no" more often. I have a very hard time standing still and want to learn more, help more, engage more. I stay organized by using multiple calendars and productivity measures, and I sleep at least 7 hours a night, which really helps. Exercise reduces the stress associated with having too much to do. Most importantly, I have a very strong support system through my husband and partner of 18 years. I could not do any of it without him.

Elena Langdon is elected to the ATA Board of Directors

Elena agreed to be interviewed by NETA News Editor Terry Gallagher.



Terry: What are your goals for the ATA? What are the main issues facing the organization (and the profession) that you wish to address?

Elena: My goals are to increase interpreter participation and

engagement within the ATA, continue to build and strengthen a national network for interpreter trainers, and advocate for our profession. You can read my full statement [here](#) and listen to an [interview](#) about that I hope to accomplish. Basically, I think that professional associations such as the ATA and NETA are crucial for our field. There are many changes that seem threatening, and others that can negatively impact our bottom line, especially if we do not understand our wider context and strength in numbers. We need to be flexible, open to change, and nimble. Members are ultimately responsible for joining and actively participating in an organization, whereas leadership provides the space to exchange ideas and develop strategies to improve conditions for all. I want to keep an open mind and listen to members' feedback and ideas. The ATA is very mature and well-structured; I hope to operate within this framework, approving and generating positive change when relevant to members.

NETAns Adel Fauzetdinova, Diego Mansilla and their baby, Adrian, attend the ATA Conference

Congratulations to Adrian, an honorary NETAn, for being the youngest attendee at the ATA Conference! It is never too early to start learning about our profession.



NETAns attend their annual ATA luncheon

Thanks to Bruce Popp for once again organizing a well-attended NETA lunch at the ATA conference.



How to Edit Your Profile Fields on the NETA Website

by Diana Rhudick

If your name and contact information are included in NETA's online directory, be aware that these may be harvested by anyone using the web. The instructions below explain how to hide specific fields in your profile, which will of course also become hidden to potential clients.



Click on your name to show the menu.

Click on "View profile".



Click on the gray box to left, "Edit profile".



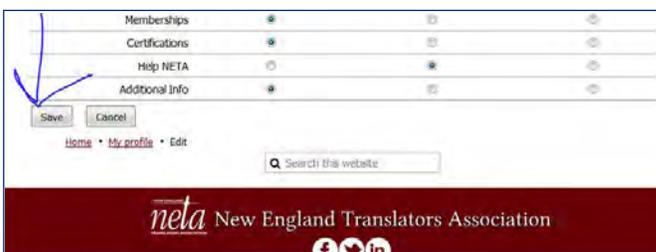
Click on "Privacy", in the middle.

This page lists each field of your profile, and gives you the option to make each field visible to anybody, members only, or nobody (No access).

You can also click or unclick "Show profile to others" near the top.

The email field is about 9 down on the list. You can select "No access" for it.

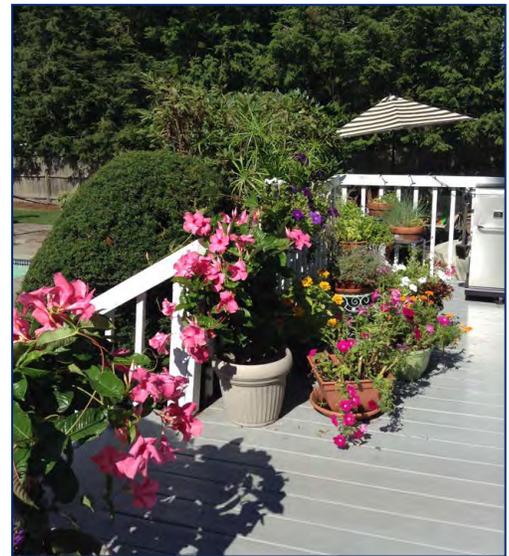
To save changes and exit, click "Save" at the bottom.



The annual NETA picnic was held in August

NETA Board member Alice Wolfe was our hostess on Sunday, August 13 for this year's summer picnic. It was the perfect setting on a beautiful summer day by the pool in Alice's glorious backyard.

Family and friends took full advantage of the opportunity to swim, socialize (no doubt a little "shop talk" found its way into the discussion), partake in a variety of excellent food and drink offerings, and just plain relax. NETA thanks Alice so much for graciously welcoming us into her home again this year!



Pedro's Plea

Original words misplaced
 I find myself dissolved in life,
 like an Indian without reservation,
 otherness running through my veins,
 request you imagine my past,
 broker my future,
 interrupt my death,
 translate for me
 the levels of my care,
 help me through this
 cold, colorless horizon of fear.

Maya Evans
2017

NETA Translation Bash

Continued from page 1

had been encountered. It's always interesting to see the extent to which certain passages challenged each group and the solutions that were found. On the other hand, the nuances of particular words or phrases may differ from one language group to another. Following the joint session, either the scribe or another group member read the translation that each group had devised. Each group had been thoroughly ensconced in the debate, and the results were impressive!

NETA's translation bash, which was approved for 3 ATA CEUs, continues to serve as a most appropriate way to begin our programming year. It gets at the process of translation, which is, after all, what underlies the professional mission of both translators and interpreters. And good spirits prevail throughout!

NETAns lobby for the right to health care

Tuesday, November 14, was Right to Health Care Lobby Day in Boston. Supporters of single payer health care, or "Medicare for all", went to the Massachusetts Statehouse to meet with legislators. Among the several hundred activists were at least three NETA members. NETAn Maaïke van Westen reported, "We beat our goal and ended up making six lobby visits with our legislators today. The lineup of speakers for Lobby Day was impressive and included State Senator Eldridge, the lead sponsor of the Massachusetts Medicare for All bill (S. 619), and tireless single payer advocate Dr. Donald Berwick."



At the State House (L-R), Savannah Champion, Maaïke van Westen, and Ken Kronenberg

NETA Conference Debriefing

A group of enthusiastic NETAns met on July 10 at the home of Montserrat Zuckerman to discuss the 2017 conference and begin planning for next year. We are off to a great start with Elena Langdon-Fortier agreeing to chair the conference once again. The conference date has been set for April 28, 2018 and everyone is anticipating another successful conference. If you would like to get involved in any capacity, please send an email to ConferenceInformation@netaweb.org.



From left to right: Erika Schulz, Marian Comenetz, Lesley Andrews, Montserrat Zuckerman, Elena Langdon, Suzanne Owen, Adel Fauzetdinova, Inés Fusco, Joseph Brockway, Diego Mansilla (Attended but not pictured, Maiyim Baron)

Best Wishes to NETA member Frank Geoffrion

Michael O'Laughlin and Karen Murphy of Boston University organized an 80th birthday party in September for longtime BU instructor and NETA member Frank Geoffrion. Andy Klatt and Eduardo Berinstein, among others, offered words of praise and humor about Frank to the group. NETA President Diana Rhudick and Michael presented Frank with a plaque to honor his contributions to interpreter instruction and to NETA. Best wishes, Frank, and thank you for all you have done to advance the profession!



From left to right: Marian Comenetz, María Clemencia (Mencha) Ramírez, Diana Rhudick, Frank Geoffrion, Andy Klatt, Erika Schulz, Sandra Henry-Alvarez

Translation Strategies for the Publishing Industry

NETA Monthly Meeting, October 2017

By Marian Comenetz

On the beautiful afternoon of October 21, NETA's board member Erika Schulz waxed eloquent on the topic of the role of the translator in the world of publishing devoted to the production of bilingual books primarily intended for grades K-8. In so doing, she couldn't help but speak far more broadly about what goes into the publishing of such books. In wonderfully spirited fashion, Erika presented a prodigious compendium of topics, each with examples aplenty. Below are just a few of the many points Erika referenced.

Context

The publishing world for K-8 books has changed significantly in recent years. Between 2008 and 2014, the budget for such "basal" programs went from \$3,000,000 to \$800,000. At the same time the expectation was that preparation of such books would take 60% less time than before, with fewer steps involved and fewer reviewers. Everything has been digitized. Apart from the mergers in the industry, there's far more competition with foreign markets, even to the point of having Spanish translation undertaken in India.

Publishing has become more of a business than a public service; accordingly, there is less attention given to quality.

Common steps to every process

Each project has its own process, but there are some common steps, both prior to and after translation, and most, if not all, need to be discussed and reviewed with the client.

- Content must be written;
- The need for translation must be established (state requirements? demand?);
- Pre-translation steps include design files, the creation of manuscripts including compositor directions, a book map (equivalent to an architect's blueprint); translations of sample lessons (amount of space taken up by the translation into different languages, size and placement of photos, images, etc.); the creation of program-specific glossaries (For example, Should "Sermon on the Mount" be rendered as "Sermón de la montaña" or "Discurso del monte"? (Should the metric system be used for numbers? Which conventions should be used for punctuation?);
- Translation (better when the client has weighed in on such decisions);
- Editing (for completeness, grammatical correctness, appropriateness of content, grade level; consistency, and much more)

- Proofing and production (proofing may happen before or after files of translated material are poured into design files);
- Several more rounds of proofing (though less of this than in the past);
- Client or external reviews (by the state, consultants, etc.), first of student editions and then of teacher editions – such reviews can take months!);
- Final QC;
- Digital packaging of printer-ready design files;
- Creation of archival editions.

The publishing world for K-8 books has changed significantly in recent years. Between 2008 and 2014, the budget for such "basal" programs went from \$3,000,000 to \$800,000.

Ancillaries such as vocabulary cards, posters, big books, practice exams, tests, CDs, and audiovisual material are all part of the final package.

Parts of a book

Erika reviewed the parts of a book as a whole (ex. front cover, flaps, spine, kinds of binding, etc.) and the parts of the inside of a book (ex. title

page, acknowledgment page with or without CIP, table of contents, introductory pages (Examples: marketing pages for a teacher edition), resources, glossary, index, etc.). Erika's comments made attendees focus on how to work with elements that we normally take for granted.

To translate or not to translate (including transadaptation)

- In a bilingual book, should grammatical lessons be translated or transcreated? How about quotes, math formulas, or text in graphics or tables (For example, in stained glass windows), or headers and footers? Erika discussed those scenarios and a number of others.
- Also, "photos are money," said Erika. Might a photo possibly be offensive to

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Translation Strategies for Publishing

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another culture? Be sure to discuss any and all cultural sensitivity and diversity issues with clients so as to avoid entirely anything insensitive.

Toolkit

- Erika addressed approximately 10 items under this rubric. One example only: In the case of bilingual books, interaction with graphic design files is crucial since spacing and placement on the same page might differ significantly in the two languages.
- A tip: Be sure to document all project history and research (Examples: guidelines, terminology and quotes) with great care. In publishing, processes may take months, editors may change, and editorial decisions may change. Documenting will always help you to stay on target.

Strategies for success

- Maintain clear and fluid communication with clients and team members;
- Secure malpractice insurance;
- Plan for each step of the process, building in cushioning time;
- Create a team with specialized skills; then know your team and use each member's talents.

Conclusion

Even though translation is only one step, the translator's role is remarkably diverse in the process of book publication. Aside from the actual work of translating, the translator might be a terminologist, a researcher, an editor, a proofreader, an indexer, a writer, a voice talent, and/or a cultural consultant. Flexibility is key!

For those interested in more specifics, and to see Erika in action, email Lesley Andrews to request the recording of this monthly meeting.

Translation Workshops at UMass Boston

Preparing for the ATA Certification Exam

Saturday, January 20, 2018

NETA members who are also ATA Graders will be presenting two ATA sponsored translation workshops at UMass Boston on January 20. Translators can sign up for a morning workshop for English into Spanish translations as well as an afternoon workshop for Into English translation. Participants will earn 3 ATA Continuing Education Points for each workshop.

Overview of the morning workshop: English > Spanish

Workshop: 9:00am-12:00pm Onsite Registration: 8:15am-9:00am
Presenters: Diego Mansilla and Rudy Heller

- Attendees will be given a sample practice test to translate. Those who submit it by January 1st will receive their reviewed translation at the end of the workshop. The presenters will customize the workshop to present analysis of the translations submitted. All errors will be kept completely anonymous.
- There will be a discussion of ATA grading standards and strategies, including how graders assign error points based on severity. Strategies for improving one's prospects in the exam will be discussed.
- Ample time will be provided for questions and answers.

Overview of the afternoon workshop: Into English

Workshop: 2:00pm-5:00pm Onsite Registration: 1:15pm-2:00pm
Presenters: Andy Klatt, and Bruce Popp

- This workshop is designed for and will be useful to all potential into-English certification candidates, whatever their into-English language pair.
- Topics will include passage selection, how to maximize your potential on exam day, and how the exam is evaluated. The speakers will also provide an overview of ATA's newly updated "Into-English Grading Standards."
- Overview of the ATA Certification Program, grading standards, practices, and priorities, including many background details about the exam based on the presenters' decades of experience in selecting and evaluating exam passages, preparing them for use, and grading exams.

Early Bird (sign up before January 10): ATA Members: \$200 for one session, \$380 for both sessions. Non-ATA Members: \$250 for one session, \$480 for both.

After January 10: ATA Members: \$250 for one session, \$480 for both. Non-ATA Members: \$300 for one session, \$580 for both.

Seating is limited to 25 participants per workshop. To learn more and to register, go to the [ATA website](#).

Note-Taking for Interpreters

NETA Monthly Meeting, November 2017

By Marian Comenetz

When it came time for NETA's November monthly meeting, the room was chock-full of interpreters eager to pick up pointers related to the retention that is essential to their craft. Another dozen participants joined in to this session remotely.

Our speaker, Andrew Jerger of [Cross Cultural Communication Systems, Inc™](#), came fully prepared to tap into their eagerness. By combining a PowerPoint presentation, white board activity, and a healthy dose of small-group exercises, he succeeded in conveying the essentials of the FAST Method of note taking created by CCCS, providing ample opportunity for various forms of practice and encouraging attendees to do what works for them.

Why take notes in the first place? There are several reasons. One is that remembering more than three items in a list is challenging, and accuracy is of the essence. The challenge is even greater when bilingual family members and/or doctors who are not trained interpreters are present and seem poised to judge the interpreter's performance. Taking notes relieves pressure. The goal is to hear a particular message, convert it to notes, and render it accurately and completely shortly thereafter. The actual effort itself to convert an utterance to notes helps with retention. Furthermore, when an interpreter takes notes, that action conveys a professional impression. Andrew was careful to emphasize that even though the notes taken may be fully indecipherable by others, it is important to remember HIPAA and dispose of notes properly soon after a given encounter. Lastly, taking notes can certainly help when one takes a certification exam!

In general, numbers, names, and dates are the most standard essentials in any interpreting encounter. They must be rendered with full accuracy and completeness. Beyond that, the goal is to focus on main words and key ideas rather than connectors.

The FAST Method acronym, which should definitely not be confused with the same acronym referencing responsiveness to stroke victim needs, stands for First letter(s), Abbreviations, Symbols, and Time.

- For lack of any other approach, one can use first letters or leave out vowels (ex. fvr = fever) when taking notes. Andrew proved, by demonstrating a scenario with the attendees, that the meaning of words noted with first letters alone can be retained for far longer than is needed in any real-life interpreting encounter. Two separate capital letters should be used for each of two words; on the other hand, one capital letter and one lower case letter should be used to signify one word (ex. Ch = cheese, not CH).
- Andrew distributed sets of flash cards containing words and phrases that are common in the medical context on one side and abbreviations for them on the other. Groups of attendees practiced

**The FAST Method
acronym stands
for First letter(s),
Abbreviations,
Symbols, and Time.**

by working through a set two or three times, then changing partners, then trying to pick up speed, and finally flipping the cards around so as to go in the other direction. Andrew led further practice using the white board. Then he read off phrases quite quickly, each using two or three abbreviations, encouraging participants to jot down on a sheet of paper the abbreviations within the phrases he read while keeping pace as best they could. One hint: It's important to respect and be consistent with upper and lower case. For example, pt = patient, PT = physical therapy.

- Andrew then distributed a list of symbols, reviewing each one and elaborating, as needed. One example is the use of short vertical lines to denote intensity (regarding pain, one line would indicate "a little bit," two lines "a solid amount of," and three "intense" pain). This point and others underlined the notion that modifiers can easily get missed in the course of listening for main ideas, so it's important to have a system for conveying them. A different example: a question mark can be used before a word to suggest doubt and after a word to show that the patient has a question. And one more: use a capital R or L to signify right or left, with a small E or L for ear (or eye) or leg. It's useful to group like ideas when taking notes. Andrew read off a number of sentences, asking participants to practice using the symbols he had reviewed.
- First letter(s), Abbreviations, and Symbols are of the essence because if the interpreter isn't on top of every utterance, time passes and essentials can be missed.

In conclusion, no one system works for everyone. Use what you know. For example, if you know standard medical abbreviations and can jot them down readily, so much the better. Abbreviations and symbols are what you want them to be. Above all, be consistent with yourself. Andrew likened learning note-taking to learning typing. Practice is key. At first you might proceed slowly, but over time, your pace will pick up. Ending on a positive note, Andrew assured those present that confidence, competence and retention will increase with experience.

TRANSLATORS READ!

December 13th, 6-8 pm
Cambridge Public Library

Efe Murat Balikcioglu
Mary Berg
Jennie Chu
Francisca Gonzalez-Arias
Yefim Somin
Barbara Thimm



Sponsored by Zephyr Press

Translators will read from their English-language translations of poetry and prose from the **Turkish, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, French, and German.**

Cambridge Public Library is located at 449 Broadway, Cambridge. The reading will take place in the Community Room. For more information, call 617.349.4040.

NETA Board Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2017

By Erica Schulz

Board members attending: Lesley Andrews, Maiyim Baron, Rokhaya Smith, Erika Schulz, Antje Ruppert (remotely)

Also attending: Diana Rhudick, Crystal Zhong, Ken Kronenberg, Maaïke van Westen

Membership report

Antje Ruppert, Membership

Antje was able to catch up on membership. To this date, out of the 253 members, 218 are active, 33 are student or senior members, and 2 are inactive. A total of 63 members with lapsed memberships were contacted, and 4 of them renewed. More to come on this. Also, the membership procedures document is in the works.

The presentation for Kelly Lynch (of Found in Translation) was moved to December 14th.

Treasurer's report

Crystal Zhong, Treasurer

There was a presentation of balance sheet, fourth quarter report, and Year To Date comparison, also with conference financials included. Crystal explained the fiscal year runs from September till August of the following year. She will attend the January meeting.

Crystal and Lesley will work together to match data exported from Wild Apricot and PayPal regarding conference financials. The balance items were discussed. Different costs for domain, hosting and licensing were clarified by Diana and Crystal. Crystal reported that two conference presenters had not cashed their presentation checks yet. Erika to contact them. Another presenter's fees were approved to be wired, given specific circumstances. Conference silent auction details were discussed. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Some housekeeping topics

Erika will take notes for the minutes. Lesley will check on electronic voting options. We will still keep paper ballots for on-site conference voting. Since CELOP is no longer available for board meetings, some suggestions for other locations were discussed.

2018 Conference

Diana will ask Diego if the contract for the conference location was signed. The conference budget was approved with an option to increase it by 10%, with prior board approval.

It was discussed whether to charge non-members for monthly meetings, and it was decided not to charge at this time.

Website

Diana explained about moving to yearly fees for web hosting and renewal of domain. Montserrat had previously provided information on medical interpreter training programs.

Other Discussion

Ken Kronenberg made a presentation on the possibility of changing NETA's mission to be more politically involved. Information on agency practices and current political issues affecting immigrants were shared. Maaïke van Westen also provided her input. Different approaches were considered, such as reaching out to students, academia, training linguists, and the possibility of unionizing, as in the Freelancer's Union for NY residents.

Topics for future agenda

- Organization of professional webinars
- Elena to write blog on WordPress for NETA
- Social media presence

Collecting lost words from around the world



*Robert Macfarlane in the Cairngorms
Credit: BBC*

British writer Robert Macfarlane has hiked the world. During his travels, he noticed that words describing nature are changing and some are disappearing. So he started collecting them. Hear Macfarlane explain how he does it:

bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05kqg79