

**Oregon Society of Translators and Interpreters
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
March 28, 2018**

In attendance:

Lois Feuerle - President
Jessica Dover – Vice President
Sarah Symons Glegorio - Treasurer
Susanne Kraetschmer - Director
John Wan - Membership Committee

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:49 pm
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The minutes of the last board meeting dd. 02/28/18 were approved unanimously.
4. Old Business
 - a. **Treasurer's report:** Sarah reported that there were no new expenses. Quickbooks reconciliation and tax issues have been discussed with Ben and will be updated accordingly. We have access to our PayPal account again since John was successful in contacting Jazmin and finding out the login credentials. Some member dues came in. Other than that, our financial status is unchanged.
 - b. **Membership Report:** John reported that we have 61 active members in total. In March 2 new members applied: Christina Pfister (German translator) and Martin Conta (Spanish translator and interpreter).
2 members renewed: Jess Kincaid, Lowell Alik (who had participated in the last online board meeting in January).
 - c. **Conference Report:** Danna has sent out a call for papers using the template from Jazmin. She has a few interesting leads, but repeatedly gets asked how much we can pay the speakers. We did not pay the speakers anything last year; we only paid one hotel accommodation for one speaker who had to spend an extra night because he/she gave a presentation on Sunday. ATA does not pay their speakers either, but gives them a \$100 discount off their registration fee (18%). Option to be discussed at the next board meeting. We will have two rooms at the venue so we can have two presentations at the same time. We were in a comfortable position financially last year, but we will not receive the \$2000 in sponsorship from OHA. D'Artagnan is interested. Two other speakers want a fee. Helen is willing to do a presentation. Danna suggested to have speakers present on general business topics, e.g. a tax person which the board welcomed.

John said he ran into two speakers from last year at the OHCIA job fair; both seemed interested in the conference again. Maybe they would be willing to present again. John will send contact information to Danna for follow-up.

Another possibility is for Danna to contact NOTIS to see if there are volunteer speakers. Sarah will forward email from the next NOTIS event to Danna for reference.

Loie mentioned that Jazmin had a lot of her students help with preparing the conference. Susanne suggested that we could contact the iTech Preparatory School for conference volunteers. John agreed to contact the teacher there and inquire.

The Nominating Committee needs to get going. Heidi Schmaltz will be on the committee, but in an assisting role. Possible candidates to be contacted: Helen Eby, Jess Kincaid, the two new members.

d. **Website Report:** John reported that Emily's blog post regarding the school outreach at iTech Preparatory School in Vancouver has been published on the OSTI website. He also posted pictures of past events (under the Calendar menu). John suggested to put the conference page back online since a date and a venue have been selected in the meantime. Everybody agreed.

John mentioned that Toby is helping with Memberpress which looks promising.

e. **Calendar:** Not a lot of events are on the calendar. The Russian ATA-prep course has been added. Nothing from the form came in. Svetlana used the form to submit her workshop. Susanne will host a social in April. Lois will host a social event in May.

f. **Advocacy Update:** Jessica sent out a couple of updates in the past few weeks. Worker's comp rules came in and the new rules with some of the changes that Joan and Jessica had advocated for were approved. Insurers may not use family members or employers/supervisors as interpreters anymore for insurance-billed medical visits and must choose from the OHA's list of qualified and certified Health Care Interpreters before looking elsewhere.

As far as public defense is concerned, Adrian had been in close contact with Stephanie Peterson, who supported the dollar raise in line with OJD at the PDSC/OPDS board meeting, and it went through. Overall it was a good meeting with good people on the board, several of them new. Adrian attended and was told that while there are several groups seeking rate adjustments from OPDS/PDSC, interpreters have been the only ones showing up and advocating for it. Still working on travel time and mileage. Need to coordinate between OJD and OPDS so that OJD can communicate rate increases with OPDS ahead of time so that they can synchronize and we do not have to keep advocating after the fact.

Loie commented that it is impressive that with all the different advocacy issues, we are making progress on all fronts. She suggested that Jessica writes a short blog post for the OSTI website.

g. **Trifold review:** Svetlana will send the last round of edits to Ivonne. Ivonne may add "Design by Ivonne" to the brochure. The quote from the graphic designer

that Emily had contacted was discussed. It was decided that OSTI will not be pursuing a postcard with the graphic designer at this point. Instead, Loie will contact Mason Hiatt who had previously mentioned that he had artistic inclinations to check if he might be able to support us with this.

h. **ATA certification exam prep panel:** It would make sense to put this in the calendar for May. Loie, Sarah and Susanne volunteered for being on the panel. John will look at the database and let Lois know who is ATA-certified. Loie will send email to other ATA-certified members to find out whether they would be willing to be on the panel. After that, we will pick a date convenient for the panel members.

i. **501(c)(3) vs. 501(c)(6):** The definition of 501(c)(3) organizations are charitable organizations and the category that would fit OSTI is as an educational organization. 501(c)(6) organizations are business leagues/trade associations, to improve business conditions of one or more lines of business. Regarding becoming an ATA chapter, it doesn't matter to the ATA whether the chapter is a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(6). Fundraising would be easier as a 501(c)(3) because donations are tax deductible. John found out that as a 501(c)(3) we would get free email hosting service through Google which could potentially save us about \$20/month in fees. Contributions or payments to a 501(c)(6) could possibly be deducted as a business expense by the payor rather than as a donation. Regarding advocacy, a 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but risk losing tax-exempt status with too much. The IRS is not specific about how much advocacy is permitted, just that it cannot be a "substantial part" of the organization's efforts or funds expenditures. A 501(c)(3) organization cannot be in favor or against specific candidates. Sarah suggested that we could track time and effort spent on advocacy vs. educational or other efforts as proof or consult with an attorney for suggestions. There are still other aspects to look into and perhaps other members have insights.

a. **Bylaws Discussion** will be handled by email. Other suggestions please share in email exchange.

b. **ATA affiliation:** It is easily done, no duties, no obligations. The ATA looked at our bylaws and found them acceptable. As a sign of solidarity we are in for the long haul and not an isolated local organization. It would not change things much for us. ATA chapter: NOTIS claims Washington, Oregon and Idaho and it is not possible that the same constituency is claimed by two different ATA member organizations. Also, we don't have enough certified members to become a chapter anyway. Loie will send out an email; please everyone read through and decide whether affiliation is a good idea or not. It needs to be a majority decision, if not unanimous. An idea well worth considering. Adds a certain amount of credibility to us.

c. **Future events:**

- Social event on April 6 in Lake Oswego.

- Social event at Thai restaurant in May, possibly after the ATA exam prep panel.
- The medical writer wants to present, so we need to figure out another date and locale.
- The person organizing the literary translation series of events is working on finding space for a kick-off event in Portland.
- Lisa Carter (Willamette Writers Conference) is confirmed to offer a workshop for translators on August 2. Sponsorship package is almost ready, the lowest level of sponsorship is \$300.

6. No other new business.

7. Next meeting **April 25. Space has ben reserved at Fire Station #9**, 1706 SE *Cesar E. Chavez* Blvd., Portland, OR 97214, where the February OSTI Board of Directors meeting was held.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.