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ISSUE: February 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016. We have had a lot of changes in NOTA – some are apparent and some are still in the works. The first change is that I have taken back the leadership for now. I want to thank John Shaklee for his hard work as president over the past several terms. You've done an admirable job and breathed new life into our organization.

We have had several changes in the Board, which are still in the process of switching over. Catherine Arrieta Pina has agreed to take over as Membership Chair. I have been working with a web designer to design a database that is fairly automatic, which will make her job much easier. I moved our communication to exclusively through e-mail after Lee Wright passed away. I don't know how he found the time to print everything out, double check it, address and stuff envelopes, and head to the post office. Thanks to our switch-over to electronic communication, it has saved our organization a lot of money, and we are in very good shape financially. I am still looking for a PR chair and have a few feelers out. If you feel you have the skills to help NOTA grow please let me know.

Another big change is in the newsletter. First of all, we have one again. I would like to thank Boris Bosnjak and Christine Mack Joyce for agreeing to work on a newsletter. This will hopefully keep you notified of what we are doing on the Board as well as educate you to changes in the industry. We hope to send one out several times a year. If you would

like to write an article or contribute to the newsletter please send an email to Boris (bbosnjak09@jcu.edu) or Christine (clmj@runbox.com).

I hope to have the new website up and running soon. Things have not run as smoothly as I would like. I originally wanted it finished by the end of September, and it is still not finished. I am excited to have a website that we have a little more control over, so I have made getting it finished the first priority for 2016.

We also have some interesting ideas for programs in 2016, and I would like to thank Vitaliy Plinto for all his hard work in the past few years. As everyone who attended the holiday banquet can attest, he does an excellent job. The banquet at Balaton in December was delicious and will be a fond memory for everyone who attended for years to come. We decided to do it earlier in the season to avoid the bad weather, and I think the decision was a good one. We enjoyed a cozy evening and did not have to worry about snow piling up outside for our drives home.

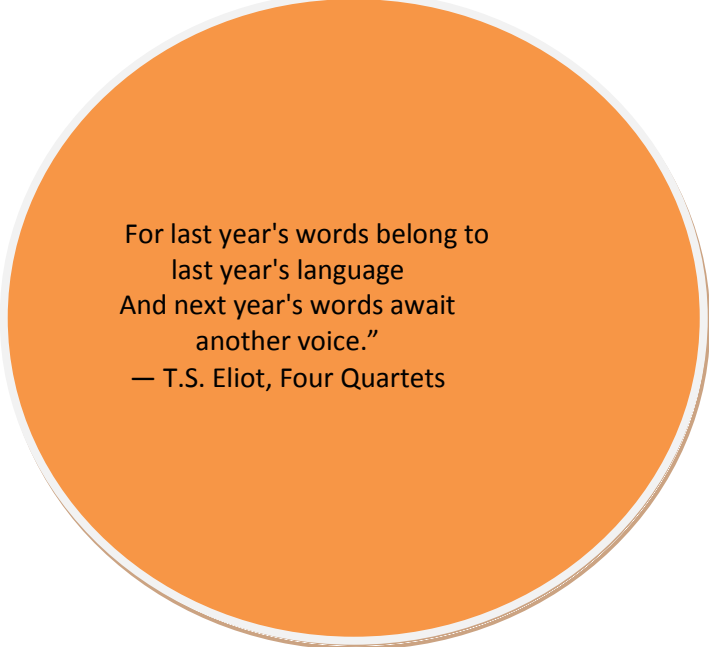
Our stalwart Secretary, Silvia D'Amico, and trusted treasurer, Reinhold Federmann, also deserve our thanks. Silvia takes the minutes at every board meeting and does so accurately every time. Reinhold also keeps accurate records of NOTA's finances, and we are aware of the every penny we have in the bank. Thank you both for your hard work.

I would also like to thank you, the members, for renewing your membership with NOTA. We on the Board hope to continue leading you in 2016 and beyond. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. We haven't switched over the president's email to forward to me yet, so if you need to reach me please contact me at gertoeng@jill-sommer.com. I wish you all a successful 2016!

Sincerely,

Jill R. Sommer

NOTA President



For last year's words belong to
last year's language
And next year's words await
another voice."
— T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets



Program Report

It's that most wonderful time of the year again, when we all see the sparkling, colorful lights on the houses and evergreen trees, listen to joyful Christmas carols that are playing everywhere, reflect on the most wonderful things and events that took place in our lives in 2015, and fill our hearts with love and hope for all the beautiful things that will come in the New Year 2016! The holidays are upon us and we are ready to reunite with our family and friends to dive into this festive atmosphere and celebrate! And as you all know, NOTA is always ready to celebrate when it comes to the holiday season.

NOTA hosted the 2016 Holiday Banquet on December 4, 2015 at Balaton Restaurant, a traditional Hungarian restaurant situated at Shaker Square, one of the most popular areas of Cleveland. The event was well attended, and everyone enjoyed lots of various delicious Hungarian cuisine served family style, holiday gifts as well as opportunities to network, make new connections and reunite with old friends and colleagues. Also, as you all may have noticed, this was the first time in the last three years that NOTA hosted the Holiday Banquet in December (instead of January or February, as it was in the previous years), and the first time when wintery weather did not get invited to our event! It was therefore much easier for our guests to commute to this year's event, as the roads were dry and snow and sleet were not in everyone's way. But most importantly everyone had a great time at our event and enjoyed the friendly social atmosphere of Balaton restaurant.

As the programs and events chair I often get questions from members about what goes into planning our events, criteria based on which I select a particular restaurant or workshop venue, or what inspires me to choose a certain holiday theme design. I really think that as an association of linguists that consist of translators, interpreters, school teachers, college instructors, etc. we like nobody else appear to be the best advocates not only for the clarity and accuracy in the communication process but also for peace, friendship, mutual understanding and fruitful collaboration between all nations and cultures of our world. What inspires me in organizing holiday events such as this one is that all of us, the representatives of different cultural backgrounds have this unique opportunity to unite together as friends and share the faith and hope for making the world a better place to live.

On behalf of NOTA, I would like to wish all of you happy, healthy and joyful holidays and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Your end of year bonus by Corinne McKay

One of my golden rules of freelancing is “Be the best boss/employer you’ve ever had.” Those of us who worked in the salaried world before going freelance are familiar with both sides of this coin: an employer can enhance your quality of life, and an employer can make your life a waking nightmare. As a solopreneur, you get to pick which of those employers you want to emulate.

Hopefully, you’ve had a good year work-wise. If you reached most of your freelance goals, it’s time to think about your end of year bonus, and I’ve got some ideas for you. Let’s focus on a bonus that will improve your quality of life. Such as:

- **Redesign your office.** Get the clutter out; paint it a color you love; get a new desk or workspace; buy some plants. This doesn’t have to be super expensive. Hit Craigslist or a thrift store! Depending on your budget, pay someone to do some or all of this for you. Or give yourself a day off from translating and do it yourself.
- **Outsource your most-hated office task.** Two years ago, I decided that I had categorically, undeniably had it with doing my payroll taxes myself. So my end of year bonus was to hire my accountant’s bookkeeper to do them for me. It’s not the sexiest gift ever, but in terms of quality of life improvements, it was a huge winner!
- **Rent yourself an office.** This was on my “I’ve had it with...” list a year ago. I seem to have “had it” with a lot of things lately, although I assure you I’m actually a very happy person! But I had officially had it with being home alone all day, with very little separation between work and home. Enter a desk at a co-working office, which has very tangibly changed my life for the better. Completely worth every cent of the \$4,000 it cost me for the year.
- **Give yourself a new hobby or skill.** Having crossed two “had it” items off my list in the past two years, this year I focused on something totally different. I’m a lapsed piano and recorder player, and for a few years I’ve been searching for a new instrument to play. Our house is small so a loud instrument might cause family discord (scratch the trumpet, tuba, etc.) and we don’t have space for a large instrument (scratch the piano, harp, etc.). My daughter plays classical guitar and I’ve always really loved early music. A few months ago, we went to a lute concert sponsored by the guitar studio at the university where my daughter takes lessons and (call me weird...) the lute really enchanted me! Lute is a niche instrument and it took me a while to find a combination of a lute and a teacher, but I’m very excited about my 2013 end of year bonus.

Here it is:



Side note: no, this lute is not broken! Until we saw this concert, I never knew that lutes have a 90-degree bend in the neck. Between the bend and the shape of the body (kind of like a watermelon cut in half), the case is not much smaller than a harp, but it's certainly a beautiful instrument!

This also brings up a couple of tangential topics:

I would never have persevered with my lute ambitions were it not for a friend who I met in our local translators association. She's a Dutch translator and avid early musician (recorder) who knew exactly where to point me in my search for a lute and a teacher. She also encouraged me that it was totally possible to learn a new instrument over 40. Yet another benefit of being active in your local association! Also, I find that after translating for a whole day, I love the work but I'm just so tired of words. I might listen to a podcast instead of reading, but sometimes it's just too many words. Music is a totally different neurological activity, and even when I'm really tired of translating...or maybe especially when I'm really tired of translating, music really does the trick! If you feel the same, think about a completely word-free bonus for yourself, whether it's something sporty, musical or artistic.

Other ideas for good end of year bonuses???

Copied with permission from <http://thoughtsontranslation.com>



Thank you, John Shaklee

The NOTA board selfie makes it apparent that John Shaklee has one foot in the photo and with the other in step towards new horizons and new territories in the world of language.

We as members are going to greatly miss John and his direction that has paved way for a foundation which was very visible at the last turnout of older and many new faces at Balaton Hungarian Restaurant in the Historic part of Shaker Square.

John has transferred his role to Jill, who is in the top left of the photo, but as many of you know John writes like the wind so that while he may be pursuing other endeavors he is always an email away ready to brain storm a hurricane of ideas and improvise most any answer to questions encountered by translators and others connected to the profession.

Jill, who is now presiding over NOTA, has been a long time active and important part of NOTA in various leadership roles and functions. We welcome Jill as the presiding face of NOTA and know that she will continue the legacy that has placed us on the map regionally, nationally and beyond when it comes to providing top expert language services to organizations across the board, be it technical, medical, legal or tailored to meet specific needs of clients, through collaborative efforts with area partners like the Court and Community Interpreters of Ohio and others.

If you have not had a chance to say thank you and make future suggestions to Jill and the board or go over past projects and programs that worked great, we welcome you to email Jill (gertoeng@jill-sommer.com). Your comments and suggestions are most welcome as we make progress based on our clients' needs and our translators' expertise a constant priority.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

If you are ready to take your translations to the next level, consider one of these events to be presented in Spring 2016!

Translation Tools Conference (MemoQ and SDL):
Date TBA (March 2016), Location: Kent, OH

ATA Certification Exam: Date TBA (May 2016),
Location: Kent, OH

VIDEO LINK CORNER, ENJOY!!

She Fluent in 7 Languages

<https://youtu.be/DcJVqj0Tjb4>

Deaf Interpreter

<https://youtu.be/72VezYf1ZxQ>

Hilarious Dance Interpretation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=putz_R9xJn4

English vs German

<https://youtu.be/Gz2S9iggdzM>

HANDY DANDY LINKS

<http://thoughtsontranslation.com/>

BY CORINNE MCKAY

<http://translationmusings.com/>

BY JILL SOMMER

<https://www.atanet.org/>

**AMERICAN TRANSLATION
ASSOCIATION**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_translators_and_interpreters_associations

**WORLD WIDE LIST OF TRANSLATION
ASSOCIATIONS**

The **American Translators Association (ATA)** was founded in 1959 and is now the largest professional association of [translators](#) and [interpreters](#) in the [United States](#) with more than 10,000 members in 90 countries.^[2]

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in translation and interpreting as a profession or as a scholarly pursuit.^[3] Members include translators, interpreters, teachers, project managers, web and software developers, language services companies, hospitals, universities, and government agencies.

ATA offers certification examinations for its members in some language combinations^[4] and is affiliated with the [International Federation of Translators](#) (FIT). The association is headquartered in [Alexandria, Virginia](#).

MINUTES

NOTA Board Meeting
Saturday October 31, 2015
Time: 1:20 p.m.
Jill's residence

Meeting starts at 1:20 pm

Present: Reinhold Federmann, Jill Sommer, Silvia D'Amico. Vitaliy Plinto joins via Skype

President's update: John has stepped down and Jill is now the new president.

Treasurer's report: Reinhold reports that since NOTA last balance (\$13,968.29) we've had revenues of \$861.76 and expenses of \$2.50. As of today our balance is \$14,827.55.

Membership update: NOTA currently has 27 members. We expect some members to renew as soon as they receive reminders. Note: membership now stands at 71.

Newsletter update: Silvia volunteers to step in for the Newsletter until we find a more permanent solution. The Board discusses new ideas to include in NOTA BENE, to be issued around January.

Programs report: The workshop on business practices was attended by 27 people, most of which were students. The annual dinner had only 6 participants; a few who RSVPed didn't show up.

Future events

- The workshop we wanted to have in December will be moved to the spring due to license issues at Kent State University.
- Holiday banquet: Vitaliy suggests Hungarian restaurant in Shaker Square. As for the date we are tentatively going for Dec. 5. Jill suggests asking the member if Fridays work better than Saturdays.
- Jill is willing to give her presentation on Word formatting sometime in the future.

Next meeting

The next NOTA Board Meeting will take place around the beginning of February.
Location tba.

Meeting ends at 2:05 pm.