

Nota Bene

Winter 2020 Issue

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Contact NOTA

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Newsletter Editor: Victoria Chavez-Kruse

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Volunteers

- Help with NOTA's first conference
(contact notatranslators@gmail.com)
- Help with social media
(contact victoria@vcktranslation.com)

President's Message

January 28, 2020

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of NOTA's Executive Committee, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope it brings each one of you health, joy and success both on a personal and professional level.

NOTA concluded 2019 with a fun holiday potluck at the [Akron Exchange House](#), where close to 30 interpreters and translators representing a dozen countries gathered to share some delicious international dishes and many laughs. I was particularly impressed with one of our out-of-state members who drove 3 hours to be with us that evening, as well as one of our board members who—despite a knee injury—still attended! I tip my hat to these two ladies. Some of you generously gave to the Exchange House's cause that night, and NOTA added a \$150 check to the donations. Many thanks to Olga Shostachuk, our Event Chair, for organizing the festivities, and to Mario Morelos for his help in setting up.

The board is working on finalizing the 2020 calendar, and the year seems to be off to a good start! We are currently:

- designing a new banner that will feature our updated logo;
- finalizing the details for a 2-part training to be held at the beginning of April; and
- coordinating with Kent State University to hold our annual [ATA Certification](#) Exam sitting on May 2 [[register here](#)].

Brainstorming is also underway to create a brochure to reach out to potential members and the community at large. Lastly, we are aiming to organize a one-day conference in the Fall, which will incorporate a networking event (substituting our Annual Networking Event usually held in April). This would be NOTA's first conference and we are excited about it! We know that it will require a lot of work, coordination, and motivation, so if you would like to help us tackle the challenge, don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

In the spring, we will be renewing 3 board positions—President, Membership Chair, and Treasurer. Celeste Malone has agreed to be head of the Election Committee again, and we thank her for that! You should hear from her soon.

I would like to conclude this message by encouraging you, once again, to volunteer for your colleagues and the profession through NOTA. A lot of behind-the-scenes work goes into organizing any event, and the Executive Committee needs your support and participation for our association to thrive. In this regard, I find Mahatma Gandhi's words very inspiring: ***The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*** No contribution is too small.

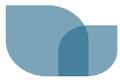
Thank you for reading these lines.

Happy translating & interpreting to all!

Hélène V. Conte
President of NOTA



Hélène V. Conte is an ATA-certified English>French translator with 13 years of experience in the T/I industry, specializing in the medical, judiciary and technical fields. She is certified as a judiciary interpreter in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Hélène is also part of the small and carefully vetted team of translators currently contracted by the U.S. State Department for the EN>FR language combination, and an ATA-Conference speaker. Before being elected as NOTA's president in 2018, she first served as the association's secretary and then as membership chair. Born and raised in the South of France, she has been living in the U.S. for more than 20 years and currently resides in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



FEBRUARY RESOLUTIONS

By Victoria Chavez-Kruse

A new year is an exciting and often busy time for freelancers. The holidays are over, and you are back in the office feeling refreshed and ready to take on the year (I hope!). This is also a great time to assess how business is going: Are you on track to meet goals you set last year? Do you need to restructure and reassess? What new goals do you have for yourself or your business this year? Perhaps you have already made some goals for the new year, or maybe you are still in denial that it is already February (like me) and you are just now getting around to it. Whatever the case, these resources are intended to help you in your goal-setting journey.



GET CERTIFIED

Are you considering any new certifications this year? NOTA is hosting an ATA exam sitting on May 2. Even if you think you are prepared linguistically, here are some tips for preparing other test-taking skills:

[12 Extra-Linguistic Skills You Need to Master before Taking ATA's Certification Exam](#)

If you are an interpreter, perhaps you would like to add a new certification or retake a test. This [post](#) about the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination has tips that could apply to any certification exam.

PROTECT DATA

Privacy is a concept translators and interpreters should always be mindful of. The start of the year is an appropriate time to reassess how you are handling your clients' data on your devices.

[10 New Year's Resolutions in the Field of Privacy for Freelance Translators](#)

BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

Are you seeking new strategies or tools to boost your productivity?

Here's an [article](#) I wrote for Savvy Newcomer with some tips for keeping your inbox clear.

Another NOTA member, Silvia D'Amico, talks about [working smarter, not harder in the Marketing Tips for Translators podcast](#).

PROMOTE THE PROFESSION

[School outreach](#) or community outreach is a great way to inspire the next generation of translators and interpreters and reach potential buyers of translation and interpreting services.

[The Translators and Interpreters of Tomorrow: OSTI School Outreach](#)

[Public Outreach Presentations Change Perceptions Outside our Industry](#)

You can also promote the profession by getting involved in your local translator association (wink, wink). NOTA depends on volunteers like you, and volunteering is a great way to demonstrate your commitment to the profession.

[Volunteering: Making Your Investment of Time Worthwhile](#)

Whatever you decide to do, on behalf of NOTA, I wish you a very happy new year!

What goals or resolutions have you made this year? We would love to continue this conversation in our [Facebook group](#).



Are you primarily a translator or an interpreter?

Work-wise, I am primarily an interpreter. Spiritually, and in what I like to do, I am primarily a translator. That said, something that was told to me by someone with a lot more experience in our field than myself, and that I find to be absolutely true, is that practicing both aspects of the profession bleeds into, and improves your abilities in the other one. I think of bringing a translator's approach to interpretation—focusing on terminological specificity—and an interpreter's approach to translation—focusing on the communicative goal of the text, not just faithfulness-or-not to the source.

How did you decide to be a translator/interpreter, and how did you choose your language combination?

I discovered, in the 8th grade, that I had a passion for languages, and as I studied languages other than English for the first time, I began translating the lyrics

of my favorite songs as a learning exercise. When I was in high school, I went abroad as an exchange student to Spain, and it was sometime around then that I found out that being a translator was something I could get paid for. After another year in Spain in college, I came back to Columbus and approached a local translation/interpretation agency, applying for work as a translator. The owner's response was, "That's great. How about you interpret?" And the rest, as they say, is history. It became clear to me that I was much more capable and likely of earning a living (in the US, at least) as an interpreter than as a translator, so I followed the path of professional improvement in that sub-field, but never gave up the dream of being a translator. I eventually got an MA in Translation Studies and have maintained a small but meaningful side business in translation essentially from 2008 until now. Spanish has always been my strongest B language, and so I have developed it most. I was planning on adding Arabic to that, but life (and some major socio-political revolutions and geopolitical shifts) have prevented me from immersing long enough in the language to develop my skills sufficiently.

What do you consider to be your native tongue and how did you learn your second language?

English is definitely my native tongue; Spanish is a strong second. I can pass, for about five to ten minutes, as a native Spanish speaker, sometimes longer. My dominant dialect is Peninsular (from Spain), but my accent and usage has strong influences from various American dialects (Puerto Rican, Mexican, Colombian/Venezuelan). I learned as an exchange student, mainly, and through massive amounts of rote memorization. I'm a big flash cards guy.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.



Do you have a daily or weekly routine that helps you maintain a healthy work-life balance? What is it?

I think most of us do this profession with a lot of passion in our hearts, but my working life has always been about providing for my family. So, the demands of my family pull me away from work pretty strongly. I don't get as much exercise as I would like, but I'm doing better than I used to. I find that doing things that don't involve intense thinking can help—I like working on my car, and I like chopping wood.

In your experience, what are the most important qualities in a translator/interpreter?

Long-term, a translator and interpreter needs to have passion not just for linguistics, but for the field, their colleagues, and advancing the profession. This is something that I have learned not from myself—not from my studies, not from my research—but from my colleagues showing me the value of thinking of others first.

If you could go back in time and choose a different career, what would it be?

I don't think I could do something different—language is inseparable from who I am. But if you made me choose, computer programmer. As a programmer friend put it, "It gets you closer to the money river."



What has been one of your favorite projects this past year?

I have had the honor and pleasure of being assigned, at my current workplace, with reviewing and revising the staff interpreter's reference glossary. The research and work of it has been great; we'll see how I feel about it once all my colleagues begin critiquing my work and asking for explanations behind my terminology choices.

What advice would you give to a translator/interpreter who is just starting out?

Seek out certifications and qualifications. They set you apart, and even if you don't believe it at first, you learn from them! Don't trust forums on the internet, bilingual dictionaries and glossaries at face value; more importantly, understand the source text and the target will follow. Look for mentors and be ready to see them where you don't expect them. Most importantly—don't engage in the drama; think of the profession.

Oliver J.L. Renwick has been translating and interpreting since 2008. His main language combinations are Spanish>English translation and Spanish/English interpretation. He also speaks conversational Catalan and Arabic. He holds a BA in Arabic Language and Culture from The Ohio State University, an MA in Translation Studies from the University of Birmingham, and a certificate in Full-Stack Web Development from Case Western Reserve University. He holds NCSC Certification through the Ohio Supreme Court, and currently works full-time as a staff interpreter for the Executive Office for Immigration Review. His personal translation business is Quid Pro Quo Translations, and his first published book is *God by Any Other Name*. He lives near Cleveland, Ohio, with his wife Elizabeth, children Apollo and Atlas, and three cats, Moustache, Goat, and Grizzly.

NEWS

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Samr Airout

Marjan Ghourchian

Daina Olson

Akiko Fujikawa

George Koussa

Stephanie Huffman

Lauren Cammenga



ATA61 CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Boston, Massachusetts | October 21-24, 2020

The American Translators Association is now accepting presentation proposals for ATA's 61st Annual Conference.

Proposals must be received by March 2, 2020.

The Conference Organizer is looking for relevant, original content that will provide attendees information they can use to build, grow, and manage a translation or interpreting business.

[SUBMIT PROPOSAL](#)



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK!



THE EXCHANGE HOUSE THANKS NOTA FOR DONATION

Thank You!



Dear NOTA,

On behalf of all of us at the North Akron Community Development Corporation, we would like to thank you for your amazing donation and generous support. Your gift ensures we can continue our mission of celebrating cultures and cultivating community capacity through programming, partnerships, and built environment.

Your gift of \$150 made on December 8, 2019 for the Exchange House in Akron did just that.

We thank you so much for your support.

We hope you'll continue supporting our mission, and for more information, please visit us on Facebook and Instagram, or on our website at theexchangehouse.org.

Lastly, the North Akron CDC is a 501(c)3 corporation, and your contribution is 100-percent tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Our tax-id is 82-1696531.

Thank you,

Katie Bed

P.S. We hope you can join us for our 3 Year Party on Saturday, February 29 from 6 to 10 pm!

MINUTES

NOTA Board Meeting

Monday, January 6, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m. (Remote: Google Meet)

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.

Present: H  l  ne V. Conte, Julia Villasenor, Victoria Chavez-Kruse, Olga Shostachuk, Christine Joyce, Mourine Breiner

Absent: Gwendoline Bocher

Treasurer's report: Financial documents were discussed. The status of the PayPal account will be determined. Our balance is \$15,612.12 (revenue was \$225.64; expenses were \$1047.16)

Membership update: NOTA currently has 75 active members. There is 1 new member pending. New members from the last quarter will be recognized in the upcoming newsletter.

PR update: The newsletter will be issued in late January or February 2020. Victoria proposed the development of promotional materials highlighting the activities of our chapter to be distributed to prospective members and conference attendees. Samples are stored in Google Drive.

Event Chair Report:

- 1.) NOTA 2019 Holiday Banquet: 27 signed up / 3 cancelled, plus several attendees who did not sign up prior to the event, for a total of 32. Seating was tight at the Exchange House (max. 30 to 35). Options for requiring RSVPs or free tickets were discussed.
- 2.) Tim Malone sent a proposal to Olga for a financial training in March 2020. An emphasis on financial principles, industry trends, and terminology is preferred by the Board.

President's update: 2020 Calendar

- 1.) Proposed end of March 2020 Training Event: (a.) UH doctor on medical & cancer research terminology, and (b.) Tim Malone, financial principles & terminology.
- 2.) Elections (April 2020) – Positions on the ballot: President, Treasurer, Membership Chair. Bylaws state that the incoming President must be a member of the NOTA board. H  l  ne is willing to extend to Spring 2021, if need be.
- 3.) ATA Exam session (early May 2020) – Olga will coordinate.
- 4.) Fall 2020 Conference – Yes; Olga to establish a Conference Committee.
- 5.) Networking Event – Integrate into Fall 2020 Conference.
- 6.) New banner (w/ new logo) – Yes, board approved, est. \$80. Julia & H  l  ne to work on it.
- 7.) Coffee/tea maker investment – Discussed.

Next meeting: The next NOTA Board Meeting will take place in person on April 25, 2020 at 12pm (location to be determined).

Meeting ended at 8:29 p.m.