

# NOTA BENE

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## Special points of interest:

- Now is the time to get involved!
- Host a networking event
- Share your expertise with fellow members
- Reach out to your schools and share the joy of language

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow NOTAnauts\*:

Greetings from the corner of Parkview and West Maple, my humble office. NOTA promises changes for 2011. The board met last December and plans to host informal coffee hours and workshops this year. Vitaliy has worked hard to bring us together soon.

Let me introduce you to the NOTA Board once again:

**John P. Shaklee**, President, [jshaklee@att.net](mailto:jshaklee@att.net)  
**Jill Sommer**, Secretary, [gertoeng@jill-sommer.com](mailto:gertoeng@jill-sommer.com)  
**Vitaliy Plinto**, Programs, [vvp13ster@gmail.com](mailto:vvp13ster@gmail.com)  
**Lee Wright**, Membership, [lwright3@gmail.com](mailto:lwright3@gmail.com)  
**Reinhold Federmann**, Treasurer, [rfedermann@aol.com](mailto:rfedermann@aol.com)  
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I encourage you to attend the coffee hours and workshops. Ours is by nature a solitary profession. The more we know who you are and what you do, the better NOTA can serve you. This newsletter provides a springboard for you to join other linguists, be it by text, Skype or a simple phone call.

What is your area of expertise? Would you be willing to prepare a presentation for fellow NOTAnauts? Please contact Vitaliy, the Program Chair. He would be happy to consider your proposal.

This brief note of introduction is a calling for you to communicate with us and other NOTAnauts. Forgive me for coining a new word and please don't report me to the Real Academia or the Alliance Française. I'm a linguist, as are you, and "paint" new words each day.

Let us know your ideas and suggestions. This is your organization.

Best,  
John, The Interpreter Guy

\*NOTAnauts: NOTA members who communicate electronically



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee was held at Noon on December 11, 2010 at Jill Sommer's residence. In attendance were John Shaklee, Jill Sommer, Vitaliy Plinto, Lee Wright, Reinhold Federmann, and Natalie Chubb (via Skype).

The board discussed the decrease in membership and ideas to reinvigorate the association. Ideas for future networking events and NOTA seminars were also discussed. Reinhold Federmann presented the treasurer's report, reflecting a balance of

\$9,291. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 19th.

## Calling All Future Language Professionals!

Who knew that Germany is located right next to China? Or that it's only a hop, skip, and a jump from Iran to Sierra Leone? Well, this may not be true if you're looking at a globe, but at an elementary school in Ohio's fastest growing school district, these countries are just down the hall from each other.

Alum Creek Elementary, in the Olentangy School District, held its second annual EPCOT Day in December 2010. The goal of this burgeoning program is to educate children on the customs, foods, languages and traditions of foreign countries. The all-volunteer event is the brain-child of one dedicated mom, Tanya Angel. Tanya's husband is from Iran. She started introducing the customs of his country in her son's classroom. The kids really enjoyed learning about another country, so she figured it might be fun to add other countries and share it with the whole school.



An exchange student spoke about his native language and home.

This year's event featured a World Market set up in the gymnasium and filled with craft-making, traditional clothing, maps, flags, pictures and translators. Each hallway featured a different country and classrooms were transformed into foreign lands boasting native speakers, traditional foods, games, and slideshows. An exchange student from Argentina spoke about his native language and his home. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade Chinese-American student at the school introduced her peers to China and then students made traditional Chinese "good luck" necklaces.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:



**ATA Certification Exam:**  
Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
2011 in Kenton, Ohio.  
Log on to  
[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org) for more  
information.

**Social Networking  
Event:**  
Saturday, March 12,  
2011 from 4-6pm at  
Panera Bread. Located  
at 9587 Mentor Ave.,  
Mentor, OH 44060.  
Contact Vitaliy Plinto for  
more information.

## THREE RANDOM TAX TIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND SOLE PROPRIETORS

***“Remember, with the IRS you are guilty until you prove your innocence”***

Benjamin Franklin is credited with lamenting the only two certainties in life, death and taxes. And while there's a chance the first may land you in a place on high surrounded by heavenly hosts, the latter will merely toss you into a state of utter frustration. So here are some tips to help language professionals who are sole proprietors or small businesses get started on their taxes.

1) If you are having a tax professional prepare your taxes, be sure to give him or her ALL the information in an organized manner. This may sound like a no-brainer, but tax preparers are bombarded with paperwork this time of year—in notebooks, files, binders and, yes, even shoeboxes. For individuals (sole proprietors) most professionals send out an organizer (accountants are not known

for their creativity), a packet which covers all pertinent questions your accountant needs from you. **Fill it out!** And as you fill it out, gather the appropriate documents together in the same order as they are listed in the organizer.

2) 1099s: They are required for several reasons, but the 1099 most applicable to

Story continued page 3

## TAX TIPS (CONTINUED)

small businesses and sole proprietors is the 1099-MISC. You must report if you have made payments in the course of your business of:

- \$600 or more to a non-corporate payee for rent (for example, if your business leases a small space in a non-corporate owned building),
- \$600 or more to a non-corporate payee for non-employee compensation (for example, this would include payments to individual contractors who have helped you edit or proofread translations),
- \$600 or more for attorney fees, **whether or not the firm is incorporated** (hopefully no one has had to hire an attorney-no offense to our lawyer friends),
- \$10 or more in royalties.

If you have contracted with an editor in the U.K or other foreign country, issue a 1099 anyway. The purpose of the form (from the taxpayer's perspective) is to protect his/her deduction. It gives you something to hang your hat on when/if the IRS comes knocking and wants to see backup for your deductions. Remember, with the IRS you are presumed guilty until you prove your innocence.

Important Note: 1099s issued to unincorporated businesses in a person's social security number must also be issued in his/her name, not in the name of his/her sole proprietorship. For example, a 1099 issued to 'John Doe's' social security number must be issued to 'John Doe', not to 'Doe's Speedy Editing Services'. If you are using the federal ID# of the business, be sure to use the correct business name when listing the payee.

3) Even though it's 2011, it's not too late to reduce your tax liability. Sole proprietors have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to contribute to a Traditional IRA. If you're under age 50, you can contribute \$5,000 to an IRA for 2010 (check the IRS website for income thresholds which may limit contributions) and those age 50 and over can contribute an additional \$1,000 (for a total of \$6,000) as a "catch-up" provision. If you are in a 15% tax bracket, for example, a \$5,000 traditional IRA contribution can reduce your tax bill by \$750. And since the IRA contribution reduces your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), your state tax liability in Ohio may also be reduced by making a contribution.

With tax season in full gear and the current arctic winter we're experiencing, it seems proper to leave you with a quote from a Weather Channel viewer; when asked to finish the sentence "It's so cold that..." the winning submission was "It's so cold that the politicians have their hands in their own pockets!"

*Disclaimer: The information contained herein should not be used in any actual transaction without the advice and guidance of a professional Tax Advisor who is familiar with all the relevant facts. The information contained here is General in nature and is not intended as legal, tax or investment advice. Furthermore, the information contained herein may not be applicable to or suitable for the individuals' specific circumstances or needs and may require consideration of other matters. NOTA assumes no liability for any information contained herein.*

***"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."  
~Ludwig Wittgenstein***

## FUTURE LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS (CONTINUED)



Students carry flags of the United Nations, the United States and several other countries in the opening ceremonies

Other featured countries were Ireland, Russia, Poland, Sweden, the Polynesian Islands, Sierra Leone and Germany. Each child was issued a passport and received a stamp after learning about a country. The event ended in an exciting closing ceremony which featured local Chinese performers bringing to life a large dragon. Events like these help to educate children about diversity and the larger world around them. It inspires future generations to travel the globe and seek out people and countries with rich cultural heritages. The ATA has designed a School Outreach Program to accomplish these same goals. They believe it's about "...educating the next generation of language professionals..." Visit the ATA website at [www.atanet.org/ata\\_school](http://www.atanet.org/ata_school) to find out how to reach out to your local schools...and possibly win a free trip to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual ATA Conference in Boston!