

NOTA

NORTHEAST OHIO TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

T&I Spotlight

Meeting Minutes

News



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President's Message

October 13, 2021

Dear NOTA members,

I am both honored and humbled to serve as the interim president of our local ATA chapter for the 2021–2022 term, and I pledge to work steadily to help set the stage for the next visionary leader who will assume the presidency following the 2022 election. This fall we said goodbye to two board members: our President H el ene Viglieno Conte and PR chair Victoria Ch avez-Kruse, and welcomed two newly elected board members: Isabel G alvez, our new PR chair; and Sybil Collier, our new event chair.

I have had the privilege of working closely with exceptional members as well as the dedicated, engaged, and devoted leadership of this organization—our current and former board members—and I can assure you that we will continue to work together, pooling our efforts and energy to promote our organization and advance and advocate for our profession.

The last several years have been challenging to say the least, and most of us have had to adjust to a post-COVID world, create new workflows—maybe even new revenue—and witness a myriad of new regulations pertaining to our profession and to the world affairs overall. NOTA's primary mission is to support and promote the interests of professional translators and interpreters as well as advocate for our profession. Alongside our committed board members, I will focus our work on strengthening and increasing quality education for our members and promoting their interests.

That said, all of NOTA's work is 100% volunteer-based (volunteers like you, our board members, and me); and we strongly encourage our members to get involved, whether just by emailing us to say hello or by contributing their ideas regarding future trainings, providing their feedback on past trainings and events, or volunteering their time and effort to help the board run the organization. As a nonprofit organization, NOTA is only as strong, effective, and successful as the members who participate in its operation and activities and are committed to its success. We urge you to become involved and continue to support your local professional organization. Together we will continue to strive to fulfill our mission through quality initiatives and mindful practices.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic is temporarily changing the way we celebrate the holidays. The safety of our members is of the utmost importance to us, and thus, the board members made the difficult decision to postpone our annual holiday banquet till spring 2022 or later, but we hope you have a great 2021 winter holiday season, and we will see you at our next event! In the meantime, stay well and healthy.

Olga Shostachuk
NOTA Interim President

Olga Shostachuk is a Ph.D. Candidate in Translation Studies at Kent State University, Kent, OH, where she previously completed her M.A. in Translation degree. She also holds an M.A. in Education and Linguistics from Lviv National University in Ukraine and a paralegal degree from the Academy of Court Reporting in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Shostachuk served as the Vice Chapter Chair for Ohio IMIA and currently is a Ukrainian into English grader for the American Translators Association and New York University and a Ukrainian editor for SlavFile, the newsletter of Slavic Languages Division of the ATA.



T&I Spotlight



Sybil Collier

"The most important qualities in a translator/ interpreter are: to strive for excellence, to love the language, and to be honest and ethical in work, with colleagues, and with the community you serve".

Read Sybil's interview [here](#).

Executive Committee News

The Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, October 4 at 7:00 PM. You can find the meeting minutes [here](#).



Welcome, New Student Member!

Janessa Somerville (Kent State)



NOTA holds its Annual Dinner and Meeting

*By John Shaklee, MA
EN<>ES Translator and Interpreter
Ohio State Certified Court Interpreter
CHI Certified Healthcare Interpreter
MA in Translation*

*In essence, the Renaissance was simply the green end of one of civilization's hardest winters.**

Our community emerged from the COVID-19 lockdown to meet once again. After months of isolation and meetups through pixels, the Northeast Ohio Translators Association held their Annual Dinner and Meeting on a sunny Friday, nestled in the Katydid Lodge at [Frohring Meadows](#). A linguistic entourage's renaissance, perhaps. Over thirty interpreters and translators convened to re-establish friendships face-to-face.

What a relief. On a personal note, I reactivated my networking skills or as Jill Sommer says, "Let's work the room." I had met a young Guatemalan woman, fluent in K'iche' and Spanish, through the Victim Assistance Advocate in New Philadelphia. Ana wished to serve her community through interpreting. What a serendipitous moment. Soon after this NOTA event came to be. Ana agreed to attend and there she met Yrene Stark, a kind colleague who sat and shared tips and tricks to begin her journey in our field.

Network #2: Laura Verbiski, fellow RU<=>EN interpreter, and I chatted for a brief time, no more than five minutes. What came out of that encounter? Later that week Laura contacted me about a translation into English for a local entrepreneur. Green, in the form of currency, filled my pockets once again. It was not my intention to hustle up work, but certainly, the meet-up with Laura turned into another assignment.

Now food. You can depend on adventuresome food at any NOTA gathering. No third-rate cuisine for this crowd. [Trifles Catering](#) fueled the crowd who continued to schmooze, chat with old friends, and meet new.

Hélène Conte passed the torch to our new president, Olga Shostachuk. Olga steps up to continue NOTA's legacy and bring our community together as it has since the group's inception.

Much like the green katydids that populated the surrounding corn fields, voices continued to bounce off the walls and ceilings for over two hours while the sun set. Thanks again to Hélène, Olga, Julia, Hannah, Victoria, Christine, Yrene, and Sybil for a smashing evening. Till the next time.

*John Fowles (1926 - 2005) British novelist, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, Ch. 10





NOTA Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed every year from September 15 to October 15, celebrates Hispanic heritage, culture, and history. Started in 1968 by Congress as Hispanic Heritage Week, it was expanded to a month in 1988. NOTA joins in this celebration to acknowledge and reflect upon the vibrant historical, cultural, social, and societal influence of Hispanic and Latinx people in the United States. Interestingly, not all Hispanic people are Spanish-speakers, and their race and origin, U.S. born or foreign, is very diverse too.

With a current population of nearly 60 million, roughly 1 in every 6 persons in the U.S. is of Hispanic descent. Hispanics are driving our country's growth, accounting for 51% of the total population growth. At the national level, 8 of every 10 new businesses are Latino-owned; and in Ohio, over 16,000 Hispanic-owned businesses are generating economic growth and employment and providing goods and services.

For us, translators and interpreters, in our role as cultural bridge builders, it is important to recognize the impact that the Hispanic culture is having on U.S. food, music, sports, beauty, fashion industries, politics, and much more. Hispanics embody the American dream and their contribution to our linguistic diversity adds to the richness of the multicultural experience of Ohio.

Sources:

www.census.gov

www.hispanicstar.org

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ATA Membership: Support, Education, Networking and More for Translators and Interpreters

By Meghan Konkol

ATA director and an ATA-certified French>English freelance translator

Have you been keeping up with professional development, networking, and the latest technology solutions for translators and interpreters? As a language professional, you can find all this and more through NOTA's parent organization, the American Translators Association (ATA). ATA offers several membership categories, with most individuals joining as an Associate or Student member. After joining, members can obtain Active (or voting) status through a quick and easy application process.

ATA is the largest professional association in the United States for translators and interpreters, counting over 9,000 members. ATA members need not be located in the US; they can be based anywhere in the world. There's truly something for everyone in ATA, whether you're a student or recent graduate of a T&I program, a career-changer, or a longtime translator or interpreter.

Below are some of the benefits you can enjoy when you join ATA. When you become a member, be sure to check out our member orientation session, a livestreamed event offered every few months, to learn more about these benefits and how to take advantage of them.

- ♦ **Division membership:** [ATA Divisions](#) are groups of ATA members working in specific languages or areas of practice, such as the Italian Language Division and the Educators Division. ATA currently has 22 Divisions, and members can join as many as they wish. Divisions offer resources including message boards, social media groups, webinars, podcasts, and newsletters.
- ♦ **Language Services Directory:** ATA members can set up a profile on the [ATA Directory](#) showing their language pairs, ATA certification, interpreting credentials, education, areas of expertise, and contact information. Clients seeking your services can find you here and send you requests.
- ♦ **Business Practices:** The online Business Practices community, facilitated by the [Business Practices Education Committee](#), provides a space for ATA members to discuss business questions and the latest technology and industry developments relevant to professional translators and interpreters.
- ♦ **Free and discounted webinars:** ATA has an active [webinar schedule](#), and many are offered for free or at discounted prices for ATA members. The Back to Business Basics series, free for members, provides business tips for translators and interpreters whether they are experienced or just starting out. ATA also releases a free on-demand webinar recording for ATA members each month. You can access the webinar anytime throughout the month and catch up on hot topics you may have missed.
- ♦ **Mentoring Program:** ATA's [Mentoring Program](#) offers matching services to members at different stages in their career. Mentees set their specific professional goals and work with their mentor over the course of six months, with the option of extending to one year.

- ♦ **Discounts on services, tools, and software:** ATA members can enjoy [discounts](#) on essentials such as CAT tools, financial services, and professional liability insurance.

Your ATA membership pays back with direct local support to NOTA, too. Remember to indicate that you are a NOTA member on your ATA membership application. ATA calculates the number of members who have indicated membership in their local chapter and issues each chapter a rebate check.

With all these benefits and more at your fingertips, you'll find a wide range of support, education, and networking within a community of thousands of other language professionals. We hope you'll join us—and when you do, register for an upcoming [member orientation](#) and say hello!

Learn more about ATA membership: <https://www.atanet.org/member-center/join-ata/>

Hear directly from ATA members in this video: <https://www.atanet.org/video/5-reasons-to-join-ata/>

ATA's mission is to promote the recognition of professional translators and interpreters, to facilitate communication among its members, to establish standards of competence and ethics, to provide its members with professional development opportunities, and to advocate on behalf of the profession.

Meghan Konkol, MA, CT is an ATA director and an ATA-certified French>English freelance translator specializing in international development, marketing and communications, and human resources. She received her MA in French>English translation from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 2010. She serves as chair of ATA's Membership Committee, and also serves as the coordinator of ATA's School Outreach Program. meghan@fr-en.com

DEALING WITH SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Some members informed us to have received scam emails regarding potential jobs supposedly offered by local companies. While those might be potential assignments, we trust that you will verify the credentials of an individual or a company that has contacted you before engaging with them. Please do not click on any links or email addresses contained in the email if this email seems suspicious; instead find that company or individual through your browser, or simply text/call/email them if you know them. You may also forward this suspicious email to notatranslators@gmail.com for further investigation. The board members have also been targeted with scam emails, so please be vigilant and do your research. Below you may find a few useful ATA articles on how to avoid scams.

<https://www.atanet.org/business-strategies/scams-and-default-to-truth/>

<https://www.atanet.org/business-strategies/ata-members-and-internet-scams/>

<https://www.ata-divisions.org/SLD/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SlavFile-2019-1-Winter.pdf>

COVID-19 Language Resources

Translation Commons

Translation Commons has made a multilingual interactive poster-maker to help communities combat COVID-19. You can view the poster-maker here: [Covid-19 Multilingual Poster-Maker](#)

Translators Without Borders

TWB's COVID-19 glossary is currently available in 23 languages to help field workers and interpreters raise awareness about COVID-19. You can view the glossary here: [TWB COVID-19 Glossary](#)

Cuyahoga County Multilingual Resource Center

Resources are available in Arabic, Chinese, Nepali, Russian, and Spanish. You can view the resources here: [Cuyahoga County Multilingual Resource Center](#)



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This newsletter is edited by Isabel Gálvez. All members are invited and encouraged to contribute news or stories to our NOTA Newsletter. For contributions to this Newsletter please email ig_global@yahoo.com.