INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President’s Message: PG. 2
- ATA Conference Review: PG. 3
- Upcoming Events: PG. 5
- Executive Committee Positions for Reelection: PG. 6
- T&I Spotlight: Celeste Klein Malone: PG. 7-8
- Holiday Banquet Photos: PG. 9
- Board Meeting Minutes: PG. 10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SPRING ELECTIONS:** Four Executive Committee positions are up for election or reelection. See page 6 for descriptions.
- **HELP WANTED:** If you are interested in helping with social media posts or the quarterly newsletter, please contact Victoria (victoria@vcktranslation.com).
Dear NOTA members,

NOTA is getting the new year off to a great start, and we have some exciting news to share with you!

First, as you can see in this newsletter, we’re happy to announce that we have a new logo. Aimee J. Creative—the designer we selected—did a very nice job and we hope that you’ll like it. We are grateful to Lee & Sue Ellen Wright for designing NOTA’s very first logo; it served us well over the years.

This past December, the board started transitioning NOTA to a new website and we hired Michael O’Flaherty to set it up via Wild Apricot. By the time you read this message, our new platform should be up and running, and you will soon receive an email invitation to visit it. (Note: You are welcome to send us your feedback, as a website is always a work in progress.)

Our annual elections will be held in the spring. This year we are renewing the following positions: Secretary, Programs Chair, and Public Relations Chair. Also, for the first time on the ballot: the brand-new office of Vice-President. Our current Secretary, Silvia D’Amico, is expecting her third child and has informed us that she will be stepping down. If you wish to contribute to the profession and serve your colleagues, please consider running for one of the above-mentioned positions. Celeste Klein Malone has agreed to serve as head of the Elections Committee and will soon contact the membership with more details. As a reminder, each board member is elected for a renewable two-year term.

As you will see in this publication, your Executive Committee has also been working hard to prepare a rich calendar of trainings and events for 2019. We hope you will join us for as many of them as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank in advance all those who will generously invest their time in our association this year! As you know, NOTA cannot function without board members and helpers. So don’t hesitate to contact me to be added to our list of volunteers.

I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year!

May all your translation/interpreting endeavors be fruitful and rewarding in 2019.

Sincerely,

Hélène V. Conte
NOTA President
notatranslators@gmail.com

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.
#ATA59 NOLA: A CONFERENCE WELL WORTH IT!

All roads led to New Orleans for the 59th annual conference of the American Translators Association (#ATA59, #NOLA) in October 2018. About 1,600 participants (linguists, language service providers, companies/organizations, government agencies, etc.) attended from across the globe, representing every major language or culture one could think of. As always, it was diversity at its best and cross-cultural communication in action. I’m yet to be a veteran attendee but can safely say there’s no better place to network, meet and make friends who “get” you, acquire much-needed skills in the ever-changing translation and interpreting industry, expand your horizon and grow your business than at the ATA conference. The atmosphere of camaraderie and intensive, yet relaxed, advanced training and educational sessions make the ATA conference the place to be. It is essentially a family reunion!

From newbies to seasoned attendees, there’s always a place for everyone. The events never disappoint, and the sessions are very educative and cover a wide variety of topics in different specializations. They’re so many and varied it’s hard to prioritize. #ATA59 wasn’t any different. The presenters (at least for the sessions I attended) were very knowledgeable in their various topics.

Apart from an official mentorship program, attendees had access to high-profile, yet very humble, industry gurus who are always ready to listen, share experiences and provide advice and guidance. This year, I had the opportunity to talk to a few of the crème de la crème of the industry, and I’m so humbled by their willingness to spare time and genuine interest in assisting me.

Participating during the annual meeting of voting members and exercising my voting rights in the election of new board members constituted both an honor and a very rewarding experience.

Networking opportunities abounded: at breakfast, in the hallways, at the hotel bar, in the elevator, brainstorm networking session, exhibition hall as well as the very popular job fair.

It is true my desire to become a full-time freelancer was fueled by my background, experience in the field, quality of work and feedback from clients, but what neutralized that initial cold feet (which I believe every freelancer experiences) was my first ATA conference. It paved the way, providing me with the rest of the resources and tools I needed; and it’s only getting better.

The City:

NOLA is unique in so many ways: the friendly and incredibly happy people (smiles on everyone I encountered, even the homeless), the infrastructure, culture, and much more. What I saw and experienced in the seven days I was there may not be representative of NOLA, but the city is starkly different from any American city I’ve visited. It almost feels like a different country.

It’s hard for me to say what I liked better; the local food or the conference! I was intrigued by the savory local food: gumbo, jambalaya, crawfish étouffée, beignets, grits, red beans and rice. The city is blessed with a combination of African, Caribbean, Cajun, Creole, French, Italian and
Spanish cuisine. I never really knew I had a foodie side until I tasted NOLA Cajun and Creole food that balances spicy and tasty and almost always tastes like homemade food. You just can’t go wrong!

As a French-English translator, I was definitely interested in the influence and the presence of French in NOLA. French isn’t simply part of the city’s history, it is very much alive both linguistically and culturally. This is evident in the famous Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), the imposing Joan of Arc statue, French words for food (beignet, étouffée...), café/restaurant (Café du Monde, Café Beignet...), hotels (Hotel de la Monnaie) and other signs (Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré), just to name a few. The French Quarter is so vibrant that I believe the city must have inherited some savoir-vivre from the French. An elaborate post on French presence and influence would constitute a blog post on its own.

From the St. Louis Cathedral, the National World War II Museum to the renowned plantations, there’s quite a lot to see and do in NOLA. I couldn’t brave a visit to any of the plantations as it hits too close to home, but you could easily spend a sleepless day or night wandering the streets of the French Quarter: Bourbon Street that never sleeps Decatur with the various performances, (my favorite of which was the raw but light-hearted racially-inclusive street performance by The Street Masters at Jackson Square), the French Market. Today’s America could really use some of the positivity and genuineness I experienced in NOLA.

It was evident in both outdoor and indoor performances that NOLA is indeed the birthplace of jazz. Kermit’s Tremé Mother-In-Law Lounge immediately comes to mind. I was spellbound by the authentic, down-to-earth and unpretentious performance by the legendary Kermit Ruffin’s award-winning band. Yes, these mostly solitary, workaholic freelance linguists like to party, too, and the Big Easy made it easy!

I already look forward to #ATA60 in exotic Palm Springs California!

Mourine B. Breiner (DBA Beyond Words Solutions LLC) is a full-time freelance French-English translator specializing in technical, medical and IT. She holds a Masters in Translation from the Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters, University of Buea, and certificates in Computer-Assisted Translation and Website Localization and Translation from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Prior to becoming a full-time translator, she worked for a US Embassy, a Swiss International Development Agency as well as 2 private companies.
Mark your calendars for these upcoming NOTA events. You will receive emails about each event with the relevant registration information as each event approaches.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS UP FOR REELECTION

Please consider volunteering and supporting your local translators association! You will be hearing more about the elections from our Elections Committee soon. In the meantime, take a look at the descriptions to see if you might like to run.

The following descriptions are found in the NOTA Bylaws, with additional descriptions added for clarity:

**Vice President:** The Vice President shall attend meetings of NOTA and the Executive Committee and shall act as President in the absence of the President. The Vice President must be a voting member of ATA. *The Vice President will assist the President with all relevant duties, as needed.*

**Programs Chair:** The Programs Chair shall be responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating all programs of the Association. To this end, the Programs Chair shall be fully authorized to designate one or more persons from the Association’s membership to form an ad hoc or permanent committee which will assist in such planning and implementation activities.

**Public Relations Chair:** The person elected as Public Relations Chair shall prepare all publicity, public relations, and other such materials to be released or otherwise produced by the Association. To this end, the Public Relations Chair shall be fully authorized to designate one or more persons from the Association’s membership to assist, individually or as a committee, in the aforesaid activities.

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall give notice of and attend all NOTA business meetings and keep minutes thereof. In the absence or disability of the Secretary, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Secretary pro tempore.

Check out “[Volunteering: Making Your Investment of Time Worthwhile](#)” by Jamie Hartz and published in the ATA Chronicle.
Are you primarily a translator or an interpreter?

I am a translator. I have only done interpreting at a migrant clinic, which is one of the few places where I feel comfortable practicing interpreting. I am open to trying interpreting in community, medical, or social settings, but even though I have extensive training and experience as a legal translator, I feel I do not have the required interpreting training to interpret in legal or other more technical fields.

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

My native tongue is Spanish. As for my second language, believe it or not, I never really took English classes officially. I had had basic English classes in school and learned some more from my mother. Again, my decision to become a translator was kind of random, so, when I shared my interest with my mother, she actually expressed her concern that I did not have the required English level to pursue a translation degree—and she was right! I had to do a lot of self-learning to catch up with the level required for the English entrance exam. I registered for the first-year law courses and then spent that whole year studying English on my own on the side, from a book I will never forget: Advanced Language Practice, by Michael Vince. Once I passed the entrance examination, I continued studying advanced English in the program’s English and law classes, as well as from reference materials (legal text samples) provided by the instructors. It was a lot of hard work, but here I was in a legal translation program, yet had never studied the language seriously!

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

My decision to study translation was actually unexpected and almost random! Since I was 8 years old, I had always said I wanted to be a veterinarian, but I changed my mind after learning you had to kill animals in the biology labs to study them in vet school. Then, when I was in my last year of high school, I developed a strong interest in the English language...because I was a huge fan of the Backstreet Boys! My mother is an English teacher, so I would ask her to translate or explain songs for me. I started liking the language more and more, but I also loved Spanish, so that led me to think about translation. In my home country (Argentina), translation programs are usually divided between legal or sworn translation, and literary, scientific and technical translation. I wanted to attend the University of Buenos Aires, whose program focuses exclusively on sworn translation, so I ended up enrolling without giving it much thought. In hindsight, I really did not do thorough research on the options available, which was perhaps a bit careless and definitely not like me. I loved the program, though, and never regretted the decisions I made career-wise.

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

Because of the many different things I am doing right now—freelancing, teaching part-time at KSU, working on my Ph.D., staying at home with my baby, and very slowly settling in our new house—the last thing I have is a daily routine! I must admit, however, that having a child has forced me to be productive like never before! (For more on this, check out Silvia’s article “Work smarter, not harder” in the Nov/Dec 2018 issue of the ATA Chronicle). That said, there are two things I certainly do on a daily or weekly basis to keep my sanity: I go to the gym religiously to work out 3 times a week, and I cook a lot. In a few months, I also plan to resume a weekly volunteering job I’ve been doing for the past two years at Forever Amber Acres Animal Sanctuary, in Medina. You may notice that the few things I do routinely involve activities other than intellectual work—this helps me balance the other roles and responsibilities I have and which take up most of my time.
What has been one of your favorite projects this past year?

I translate a lot of dependency petitions and related documents for minor children who have been neglected or abused by Latino parents, and I always feel a very rewarding sense of completion when the document ends by stating that the children have been living with a family that is now trying to adopt them. I also routinely translate a lot of patient recruitment materials for clinical trials, and my favorite one this year was an activity book for a clinical trial involving kids. It certainly required a lot of creativity and transcreation!

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

A veterinarian! Based on my first answer... or an actress. I still dream of resuming drama lessons someday.

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

The ability to work well in teams, especially, to provide constructive, professional feedback, and the ability to change with and adapt to industry trends. Providing good feedback to colleagues and clients alike, especially on (what in your personal opinion is) not-so-good work, as well as being open to and accepting translation choices from others and being willing to compromise with clients and other linguists when creating the final product, even when you may not agree 100% with the finalized text. I have worked with people that were extremely hard to collaborate with because they would always want to have things their way, and even translators that were too emotional and not professional when critiquing others’ (including clients’) choices. There are few things a project manager hates more than a “drama queen”-type of translator! I think a good translator should always critique another’s work as if the initial translator or client was his/her friend: you don’t want to be rude. After all, people don’t know what they don’t know, and it is our job as professionals to educate them! So, approach client education in a friendly and professional matter.

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

This is one of my favorite questions! I could talk about this all day, but I’ll try to summarize my main ideas...

1. Once you have a graduated, if you have an idea of what specific field you want to go into, focus on that to build your expertise (NOT to be confused with experience! Look up the difference under “expertise studies” if you don’t know it).

2. If you are going to freelance, or even work in-house as a translator, create and have ready-to-send what I call a “recruitment package:”
   
   i. Resume/CV
   
   ii. Scanned copies of all your diplomas and certificates
   
   iii. Rate sheet with your rates for different tasks, translation-memory-adjusted prices, hourly fee, and a minimum rate
   
   iv. One or more sample translations, side-by-side, with a translation brief (if you don’t know what a translation brief is, look it up now!)
   
   v. Letters of reference. If you do not have any experience whatsoever and are just getting started, you can ask your translation professors for such letters.

3. Network! Register with a professional organization such as the American Translators Association or one of its chapters (NOTA, anyone?), and start actively participating in its activities (local workshops for chapters, webinars, meet-and-greets, annual conferences).

4. Be patient! Especially if you are trying to build a freelance business. Be prepared to contact literally hundreds of agencies (yes, you read that right) or potential employers through their preferred form of contact, fill out forms, do translation tests, and go through at times very long recruitment processes that will take you many hours with no promise of actual work... That’s the cost of being a freelancer.

5. Always read and follow your potential employer or agency instructions on how to apply. I cannot emphasize this enough. You need to make a good impression by showing them you can follow instructions from the get-go. PMs hate when people don’t follow instructions.

Celeste Klein Malone is an ATA-certified, sworn English<>Spanish translator from Argentina. She has been working as a freelance translator for 11+ years, specializing in legal, education, government, healthcare, and pharma. Her industry experience also includes 3 years of project management. She holds an MA in Translation from Kent State University, where she is currently in her third year of the Ph.D. in Translation Studies and where she also teaches both MA-level and undergraduate translation and culture courses. She has worked as a TA in the University of Buenos Aires Sworn Translation Program and as a legal English instructor in Argentina.
Holiday Banquet Photos
MINUTES
NOTA Board Meeting
Saturday January 5, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Skype

Meeting started at 2:04 pm


President’s report: Hélène reported that the website is almost done as well as the logo. By the end of January we will have a new issue of the newsletter and we can announce both website and logo to our membership. The Board agrees that our yearly cost for Wild Apricot could be made up by raising dues of individual and corporate members by $5. We will have elections in the spring for the following positions: Secretary, Event Chair, PR Chair and the newly established Vice President. Hélène suggested that we put in place a committee of three people to take care of the election.

Treasurer’s report: Mourine reported that since NOTA’s last balance ($18,691.84) we have had revenues of $0. Our expenses included website, logo, holiday potluck, etc. for a total of $2,447.32. As of today, NOTA's balance is $16,858.85 (Huntington Bank) and $142.80 (PayPal).

Membership update: Christine reported that we currently have 75 members. Hélène suggested that we remove the members who didn’t renew from the database.

PR update: Victoria informed the Board that the new NOTA logo has been recently received. In terms of our newsletter, the last edition went out on October 19, and our upcoming edition is scheduled for January 25. As for social media, Victoria reached out to a couple of people to help with maintaining our social media presence, but we are still looking for volunteers.

Event updates: Vitaliy reported that the holiday banquet was a success with about 28 people attending.

Future events
- The Localization Training will be on March 23rd at the Akron Main Library. Time TBD. The Board agreed to set the attendance fee at $20 for members, $30 for non-members, $10 for students.
- ATA certification: We are looking at a date in early May.
- The Networking Event is scheduled for April 27th. Attendance fee is set at $25.
- Annual meeting: Date is set for Sept. 14, 2019.
- Holiday Banquet: We set a tentative date for December 7, 2019.

Next meeting

The next NOTA Board Meeting will take place on April 6th at lunch time.

Meeting ended at 3:00 pm.