

# AURORA BOREALIS

## Nordic Division plans 5 sessions at the ATA Annual Conference in San Francisco 2007

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### Improving the Quality of Technical Medical Translation: A Review Based on 15 Years of Experience

Thursday, 3:30 pm-5:00pm – Kaj Rekola

Kaj provides tips and recommendations for working with medical and technical documents and improving the style and language to make them read easier in either language. Presented with examples in Swedish, Finnish and English.

### Scandinavian <> English Translation Workshops

Friday, 1:30pm-3:00pm - David C. Rumsey

Back by popular demand! As in the past, we are offering the popular Nordic > English translation workshops again.

Source language texts will be distributed in this edition of *Aurora Borealis* in advance of the conference. Translators have the chance to prepare their translation ahead of time and then come to conference and exchange their suggestions with other translators in the group during the 90 minute session. We normally allow 20 – 30 minutes per language combination (Da>En, No>En, Sw>En) and vice versa. This also helps to highlight the commonalities and differences between the Scandinavian languages.

It is always a great learning experience in terms of style and strategy. Although the passages are only about 150 words long, there are usually

about 300 different translations provided. All of them good!

This is also an excellent practice for translators wishing to take the ATA Certification exams, as we may be able to look at past exams and talk about errors commonly made in this language combination and how they were graded.

### Annual Meeting

Friday, 3:30pm-5:00 pm – Thor Truelson

Join us at the annual meeting to meet the division administrator and assistant administrator. Topics will include the status of the Eng<>Swe exams, future planned excursions and mid-year conferences, suggestions for future speakers, as well as various other items. Feedback from the membership is crucial to ensuring a happy, long-lasting membership. We want to hear from you!

### Changing Words in a Changing Reality: The Example of Sweden

Saturday, 1:30pm-3:00 pm – David Kendall

This fascinating session from Sweden-based translator David Kendall examines the changes in the Swedish language as old words die off and new ones appear. The impact of Anglicisms and slang and how translators should deal with these issues.

## Update: Swedish Literary Translation in the US

Saturday, 3:30pm-5:00 pm – Laura Wideburg

This session is a follow-up to Laura's session 2 years ago in Seattle on the state of Swedish literary translation in the US. Learn how to

break into this exciting and enjoyable market. Laura is the Secretary/Treasurer of Swedish Translators in North America.

## Non-Nordic Session Suggestions

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*There are also dozens of other, non-Nordic sessions that are equally interesting and relevant for translators, both newcomers and veterans. Here are just a few of my picks:*

### Tips and Techniques for Learning Medical Terminology

Thursday, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm – Janet-Erickson Johnson

Regardless of the language combination you are working in, this session helps you figure out how to identify and use proper medical terminology. A must for medical translators.

### Taxes Translated: Federal Forms and Schedules for Professional Translators and Interpreters

Friday, 10:00 am-11:30 am – Amanda Ennis

Taxes are a fact of life. Understanding the forms and process will help them seem less intimidating. Those of you who prepare your own taxes are sure to learn an extra tip. Those of us that dump that task on our bookkeeper will have a better understanding of what they submit. It's also an excellent way to get questions answered about home-office deductions, medical deductions and travel and expenses.

### Trados: Beyond the Basics 3

Saturday, 8:00 am-9:30 am – Tuomas Kostianen

Our own Tuomas Kostianen leads this hugely popular session that takes you beyond the ordinary commands in Trados. Learn advanced features such as concordance searches, attributes, etc. et. If you use Trados, this session is invaluable. Get a seat early. This session will be packed!

### Business Practices Discussion Panel

Saturday, 10:00 am – 11:30pm

Should you translate sample texts for free? How do you handle problem clients who never pay? When is an edit job more like a retranslation and how do you get paid for this? All of these questions can be asked at this panel discussion focusing on the business-side of translation. Come and join this panel to hear other people's problems and solutions!

### Best of Both Worlds: Combining Windows and Linux

Saturday, 1:30 am – 3:00pm Topi Junkkari

Frustrated by Windows Vista and the constant need to upgrade your software. The Nordic division's own Topi Junkkari will be examining the open-source Operating System (OS) Linux, which can be a free and easy complement to Windows or even a replacement for it! Come and learn more about open-source software.



# Scandinavian>English Translation Workshop Sample Texts

*The passages this year may look short, but in years past we have never managed to complete all 3 sample passages within 90 minutes. So I cut them short this year. Please bring other troublesome sentences that you would like to share with the group if we have extra time.*

*Come join us at the Conference on Friday from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. The more people we have the more ideas and solutions!*



## **Swedish > English Sample Text** (Dagens Nyheter 8/24/07)

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DET ÄR ETT ABSURT skådespel som vi nu bevittnar. Likt teorin om fjärilen som med sina vingslag startar något som utvecklas till en orkan i en annan del av världen, har en svensk konstnärs skisser på en rondellhund lett till hotfulla internationella protester.

Proportionerna är så förvridna att man skulle kunna skratta åt det. Men det är inte roligt. Det obehagliga är inte bara att krafter satts i rörelse som kan leda till att människor skadas eller dödas. Vi bevittnar ett slags kortslutning i gamla beprövade mänskliga modeller för konflikthantering.

Religionsfriheten är mycket äldre som praktik än som demokratisk princip. Historien är full av bakslag, av pogromer och religionskrig. Men successivt har fler och fler länder gjort erfarenheten att ett visst mått av tolerans inte bara minskar antalet våldsamma konflikter utan också ger bättre förutsättningar för handel och välstånd.



## **Danish > English Sample Text** (Politikken 27/8/07)

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Danske søfolk i større risiko for nye kapringer.

Det er ingen skam at være blåøjet. Men at gøre en dyd af det kan koste dyrt. Lige nu må internationale sørøvere i hvert fald se sig om efter blonde søfolk på danske skibe.

De pirater, der forleden afsluttede deres kaping af skibet 'Danica White' med fem danske søfolk, har efter 83 dage i hvert fald scoret et net millionbeløb.

Det er ikke første gang, at der er forhandlet med gidseltagere eller politiske terrorister. Men både Sømændenes Forbund og Udenrigsministeriet har svigtet en primær forpligtelse: at holde bøtte. I stedet har de nærmest stået i kø for at bekræfte, at der både er forhandlet og udbetalt penge ved kasse et. Dermed har de formentlig opnået at få de danske søfolk hjem. Men de har også gjort kysten ud for Afrikas Horn mere risikabel at besejle for andre danske skibe og søfolk.



## **Norwegian>English Sample Text** (Aftenposten)

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Sjokkerende lesning.

Tilsynssaken fra Helsetilsynet i Oslo og Akershus denne uken er sjokkerende lesning, selv for dem av oss som umiddelbart mente å se konturene av en skandale som ikke bare knyttet seg til en konkret hendelse, men til systemer og strukturer i det offentlige helsevesen.

For det første dokumenterer rapporten grovere forhold rundt behandlingen av Ali Farah enn det som til nå har vært kjent, noe som blant annet gir seg utslag i at det åpnes tilsynssak mot ytterligere én ansatt.

For det andre bør den gi grunnlag for et skjerpet søkelys mot Ullevål sykehus' ledelse.

Rapporten er på 23 sider vond lesning. Én passus i teksten gir imidlertid et godt utgangspunkt for det viktige arbeidet både helsevesenet og resten av oss står foran.

## **2007 Nordic Division Annual Meeting Agenda**

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As usual, the conference is our annual chance to get together and meet each other and exchange ideas. If you have other issues you'd like to add to the agenda, please email Thor Truelson at [ttviking@yahoo.com](mailto:ttviking@yahoo.com). Please come and join us!

### **Tentative Agenda**

- 1 Call to order
- 2 Review of last year's minutes
- 3 Old business
  - a) Introduction of division and administrator and assistant administrator
4. New business
  - a) Status update for Swedish<>English certification exams
  - b) Potential interest in Norwegian<>English certification exams
5. Suggestions for overseas excursion or mid-year conference
6. Suggestions for future conference sessions. Review of current sessions.
7. Comments/questions
8. Closure

## **California Cuisine – Friday November 2**

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After the Nordic Division Annual we will be organizing a dinner in the San Francisco-Bay Area featuring the best in Californian cuisine. Kaj Rekola, Thor Truelson, and Tuomas Kostiaainen are organizing this effort, but have yet to agree on a place. There are too many to choose from! Contact them with suggestions! (Kaj at [krekola@pacbell.net](mailto:krekola@pacbell.net); Thor at [ttviking@yahoo.com](mailto:ttviking@yahoo.com); and Tuomas at [tuomas@jps.net](mailto:tuomas@jps.net).)

## **Swedish<>English Certification Report**

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We are happy to report that our application to create a set of Swedish<>English certification exams has been approved by the ATA Certification Committee! Hurray! Grading committees have been formed and they are in the process of selecting appropriate passages for the tests, which will probably be ready in 2008. The test passages are selected according to very specific criteria so that all certification exams are equally challenging regardless of the language combination, be it English >Dutch or Danish > English. If you are

interested in offering your services as a back-up grader or a passage finder, please contact me at [ttviking@yahoo.com](mailto:ttviking@yahoo.com). Thank you all for your help!

## Meet a translator

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**Tiina Fallini**

1. Where are you based?

Currently I live in the Dallas Metroplex. We moved here from Seattle for two years - seven years ago - and do not yet consider ourselves as Texans. The coast is still calling...

2. What got you started in translation?

Already at school I was interested in languages but I did not want to follow in my mother's footsteps and become a teacher. Therefore I started to study Translating and Interpreting - and never regretted!

3. Language combinations and specialties?

Mainly I translate English>Finnish, even though my Major at the University was German. I have worked many years in Tourism (hotels, airlines, cruise ships, travel agencies), so I love to translate texts related to Tourism.

4. What is the best thing about being a translator?

The freedom! As a freelancer, I can choose when I work and what I want to translate - and have a seven week summer vacation :-)

5. What is the worst thing about being a translator?

Can't really think of anything... maybe the need to learn all kinds of computer stuff that I otherwise have no interest for.

6. What is the toughest assignment you have had?

Normally I forward all the tough assignments to my colleagues who can handle them with ease and concentrate on the easy stuff myself. ;-)

7. What would you say to beginning translators or people interested in the profession?

Get to know your colleagues and form a working network. Go to the ATA conferences where you will get a load of information and meet your colleagues, all in a fun atmosphere. You will find out that the conference will pay for itself within a couple of weeks, due to all the contacts you have made.

8. What do you see as the benefit of the Nordic Division of the ATA?

It is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow Nordic translators and to promote our small part of world both within the ATA and outside of it.

9. What would you like to accomplish as the assistant administrator?

I would love for the Nordic Division to become more visible and for the members of our small division to get to know each other better.

10. Do you have any outside interests and hobbies?

I am addicted to exercise: I go to my gym daily, even if it is just for a yoga class. Other than that, I love to read and spend time with my friends and family. And to go to Finland every summer - which is where I am right

now, enjoying a beautiful, sunny summer day. :-)

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## **Bits and Pieces**

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### **Seeking Finnish and Norwegian Speakers**

Language Line Services is seeking to increase its European interpreter personnel.

For over 25 years, Language Line Services has provided telephone interpretation and document translation services to all cultural communities in over 175 languages, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Other language speakers are also welcome to apply. If you would like to work from home and have a strong proficiency in English and a second language with excellent customer services skills please apply online at [www.LanguageLine.com/careers](http://www.LanguageLine.com/careers). You can check the list of all current positions opened.

#### **Requirements:**

Excellent English proficiency along with the second language proficiency.

Strong listening and comprehension skills & outstanding customer service skills.

Eligible to work in the US.

#### **Contact Info:**

Diana Anderson

[danderson@languageline.com](mailto:danderson@languageline.com)

T: 831-648-5894

### **Idea for submission?**

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We welcome any and all submissions. This newsletter is written for and by all of the members of the ATA Nordic Division. [david@northcountrytranslations.com](mailto:david@northcountrytranslations.com)

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