

AURORA BOREALIS

Annual Conference in Orlando, Nov 5–8 2008



A Message from the Division Administrator

Hello everyone! Hopefully you are all having a wonderful summer. Tiina and myself would like to invite you all to Orlando to take part in the 49th ATA Annual Conference to be held from November 5th to the 8th. There should be something for everyone's taste including the Annual Meeting of the Nordic Division and the always-popular Scandinavian>English Translation Workshop. On Friday evening there will also be a wine, cheese and dessert event instead of our customary group dinner. The cost is \$33. Since many of you may be coming to Orlando with your families, and there are no Scandinavian restaurants in the area, this provides people more flexibility for us to break off and go out with whomever we choose.

On a more somber note, we had to say goodbye to a couple of friends over the last year. Both Margareta Ugander and Christina Jensen passed away. Our deepest sympathy goes out to both of their families.

This is also the election year for the Nordic Division. Tiina and myself would like to carry on for another two years (your permission granted). The election is uncontested and the "ay" vote in Orlando is simply a formality.

Thank you so much for your support of Scandinavian translation and we hope to see you all in Orlando this November.

Recap: 2007 ATA Conference in San Francisco

I would like to thank everyone who came to the annual conference this year in San Francisco and supported our strong Nordic language program. We had more offerings aimed specifically at Scandinavian translators than we have ever had, as far as I can recall. We have to start planning soon for next year's conference in Orlando, so if anyone has any suggestions for speakers or presenters, or even topics, please let me know immediately.

I would particularly like to thank Kaj Rekola, Toumas Kostainen and Tiina Fallini for all of the help they pitched in help make the event enjoyable for everyone.

Minutes of 2007 Nordic Division Annual Meeting

We discussed several different items. The biggest question was one of certification exams in a variety of languages.

The Swedish<>English exams are already in the works and can hopefully come into being in January of 2009. The graders have been selected. Tess Whitty is the leader of the English>Swedish grading group and Thor Truelson is the head of the group from Swedish into English. The ATA is implementing a new system for graders to submit passages and collaborate in their efforts, thus saving a ton of time and simplifying their lives. Passage selection is the next hurdle for both of these grading groups.

The possibility of a Norwegian<>English certification exam was discussed. Several people were interested, but somebody has to actually jump up and get it going, preferably someone who works with Norwegian.

There was even talk of getting an English into Danish test going, to complement the Danish>English test which we currently have. Diane Manown was on hand to field questions in this regard since she is one of the graders of the Danish into English test.

We discussed the possibility of a mid-year event someplace, which would only be possible if we could tie it into some other sort of ATA event, and then only if we did this in the early summer or late spring, and then preferably have it somewhere in the west so that more Nordic specialists can take advantage of it, if they choose to do so. We'll see what happens with this, but at this point it doesn't really appear to be very feasible.

Finally we talked about potential speakers and presenters. Some things people would like to see include: EU Standards, Bank representatives, Telecom speakers (Nokia?) Software presenters

Please submit any suggestions at once regarding potential speakers, since it sort of takes a while to get everything going. We will be looking into this very shortly regarding next year's conference in Orlando.

2008 Nordic Division Meeting

Tentative Agenda

- 1 Call to order
- 2 Review of last year's minutes
- 3 Old business
 - a) Election 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. Newsletter editor needed
6. Suggestions for overseas excursion or mid-year conference
7. Suggestions for future conference sessions. Review of current sessions.
9. Comments/questions

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. Please come and join us!

Nordic Division

Wine, Cheese & Dessert Fest

Friday Evening: November 7, 2008
Cost \$33.00

Since so many conference attendees are bringing their families to the conference, a cocktail hour with wine, cheese and pastries has been set up so that people could meet, mingle and organize group dinners on their own.

Check the bulletin board for the time and location! See you there!

2007 Scandinavian > English Translation

Workshop Sample Texts Answered

Here are the answers that the group came up with for last year's texts:

Swedish > English

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.

We are now witnessing a scene from the theater of the absurd. Like the theory of the butterfly flapping its wings and starting a hurricane in another part of the world, a Swedish cartoonist's sketches of a "traffic circle dog" have led to threatening international protests.

The scale of the reaction is so out of proportion that it is almost laughable. But it's no laughing matter. The disturbing part, however, is that forces are unleashed that can lead to people being injured or killed. We are witnessing a breakdown of the old, tried-and-true, humane methods of conflict management.

Freedom of religion is much older as a practice than as a democratic principle. History is replete with backlashes, pogroms, and religious wars.

Over time a growing number of countries have learned from experience that a measure of tolerance not only reduces the number of violent conflicts, but also provides better prospects for trade and prosperity.

Danish > English

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 kapring 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.

Increased risk of hijackings for Danish sailors

There's no shame in being naïve. However, turning it into a virtue can be costly. Right now, international pirates may be on the look out for blond sailors on Danish ships. The pirates who recently ended their 83-day hijacking of the Danica White with five Danish sailors, scored a cool million kroner. It's not the first time that negotiations with hostage-takers and political terrorists have taken place.

But both the Danish Seaman's Union and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs have failed in their primary obligation: to keep their mouth shut. Instead, they practically lined up to confirm that they negotiated and paid in cash, ostensibly to bring the sailors home. However, they made sailing the Horn of Africa riskier for other Danish ships and sailors.

Norwegian > English

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.

Shocking reading.

The investigation report from the Oslo and Akershus Health Authority this week is shocking reading, especially for those of us who saw a scandal brewing that wasn't just connected to a particular event, but to systems and structures within the public health system.

Firstly, the report documents more serious issues in terms of the treatment of Ali Farah than had previously been known, reflected by another investigation being opened up against another employee.

Secondly, it should form the basis for focusing the spotlight on the administration at Ullevål Hospital. The report is 23 pages of grim reading. One passage in the text provides a good starting point for the important work that both the Norwegian healthcare system and the rest of us are facing.



4th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

Orlando, Florida November 5 – 8, 2008
Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort

Quick Links:

- [Register Online](#)
- [Book Your Hotel](#)
- [Contact ATA](#)

2008 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.



Swedish > English Sample Text (Dagens Nyheter 7/07/08)

För första gången kommenterar ÖB Håkan Syrén den omdiskuterade FRA-lagen. Det var dock en försiktig Syrén som kommenterade turerna om den klubbade lagen i TV 4 på måndagsmorgonen.

Debatten har blivit lite olycklig och lite vilse, det är en form av målkonflikt där vi å ena sidan vill ha försvarsunderrättelser, i andra änden personlig integritet. Det har blivit så digitalt att det går inte finna svaret i endera lägret, det behövs någon form av jämkning, säger han.

Syrén pratade också om Försvarsmaktens behov av information som kommer från signalspaning.

- I detta ögonblick flyger svenska Herculesflygplan i Afghanistan och för att våga uppträda där måste jag veta vad som kan förekomma där i form av missiler och dylikt.

- Den kunskapen bygger ofta på resultat av signalspaning. Jag är helt beroende av de kunskaperna. Man behöver dem för att ha uppfattningen om att något är på gång, så att man kan höja beredskapen.



Danish > English Sample Text (Politikken 15/8/08)

Dansk Folkeparti går vi ind for hårde straffe, når nogen begår personfarlig kriminalitet. Det gør vi fordi vi er af den opfattelse, at mennesker, der kan finde på at begå voldelige kriminalitet skal vide, at det ikke betaler sig. Det er ikke sjovt at blive fængslet og miste sin frihed og hverdag. Det skal det heller ikke være.

Når vi går ind for hårde straffe for barske forbrydelser er det for at tilfredsstille det naturlige behov for retfærdighed som offeret eller i de værste tilfælde de efterladte til offeret har. Samtidig sidder der ofte store dele af befolkningen og forarges med rette over, hvor stupidt og afstumpet nogle mennesker gebærder sig. Det giver en enorm tryghed, når disse sociopater, som der til tider er tale om, bliver lukket inde.



Norwegian > English Sample Text (Aftenposten)

Debatten raser om StatoilHydros fremtidige navn, men heller enn å diskutere barnets navn, bør vi diskutere barneoppdragelse. «Alle må gjøre litt. Vi må gjøre litt mer,» slår StatoilHydros helsidesannonser fast, og forteller om selskapets engasjement innen blant annet fangst og lagring av CO2 og vindmøller til havs.

Bortsett fra at ordet «litt» burde vært skiftet ut med «mye», slutter Bellona seg helhjertet til budskapet. Dette er sentrale teknologier i kampen mot global oppvarming. Annonsene presenterer et bilde av det selskapet vi trenger for å løse de globale utfordringene, men dessverre tegner kampanjen et falskt bilde av hva StatoilHydro er og vil bli. Det skapes et inntrykk av et oljeselskap i endring, men dessverre går endringen av selskapet i motsatt retning. Selskapet sikter mot å bli en fossil dinosaur.

Other ATA Conference Sessions

Although the pickins' are relatively slim this year in terms of Nordic sessions, there are still many other sessions during the conference that are helpful for old and new translators alike:

Seminar K: Making the Most of Your Freelance Translation and Interpreting Business

Wednesday, 2:00-5:00pm

This 3-hour seminar will cover a range of topics to help freelance translators and interpreters maximize their productivity, including marketing, client management, workflow organization and, accounting.

IC-6: Resolving Commercial Conflicts

Thursday, 4:00-5:00pm

Another session from Dorothee Racette addressing, non-payment, nonpayment, quality complaints, or noncompliance with contract terms.

IC-8: Editing Translations: Revision for Freelancers

Friday, 11:00am-12:00pm

More than simple proof-reading, long-time translator Jonathan Hine explores the nuanced skills needed for good editing. It's a session that benefits both translators and editors.

LT-4: Free and Open Source Software for Translators

The ever popular Dierk Seeburg reveals where to find free and easy software that can help raise your bottom line.

IC-9: Accounting 101 for Freelancers: Keeping the Books Straight and the IRS Happy

Friday, 2:00-3:30pm

Still paying someone else for bookkeeping? Learn how to set up a basic accounting system and streamline the paper trail. Find out what you are doing right...or wrong.

LT-5: How to keep your PC in Tip-Top Shape

Friday, 2:00-3:30pm

Learn simple things you can do to prevent computer crashes and extend the life of your computer.

LT-12: Best of Both Worlds: Combining Windows and Linux

Saturday, 2:00-3:30pm

Our own Topi Junkkari from Finland will demonstrate that it is possible to enjoy the

benefits of both worlds in the small translation office.

IC-16: Social Networking: How to Practice One of the Most Effective Marketing Tools Today

Friday, 11:00am-12:00pm

Meet a translator



Laura Wideburg

1. Where are you based?

I'm based in Seattle, Washington. I am also the editor of the Northwest Linguist, the newsletter put out by NOTIS, our local ATA chapter.

2. What got you started in translation?

I began translating in 2001, and translated a number of poems by Swedish author Niklas Rådström, which were accepted fairly quickly for publication in a number of different literary magazines. Since getting poetry in translation published is difficult, I realized that I may be on to something, that is, that my skills were perhaps worth developing.

3. Language combinations and specialties?

Saturday, 4:00-5:00pm

Learn about the typical networking complaints and how to avoid them, as well as the top 10 requirements for successful networking.

I translate from Swedish to English, especially in the literary realm, and German. But lately, I've been doing less and less German, as my Swedish projects have been booking my time up, especially since I have been receiving entire books lately.

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

I love being a literary translator. Every page is different. I also like the fact I can adjust my schedule around raising children, since my kids are still fairly young. And, by the time they have flown the coop, I still expect to translate for another two decades.

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

The hardest thing about being a translator is that sometimes people expect miracles, and that includes agencies which should know better. I often have to decline jobs when the deadlines are too short, and a 24-hour deadline is too short for me, even if it may be offset by a rush fee. I also just laughed when someone asked if I could translate a longer project for two cents a word. I don't like to let people down, nor do I like to miss deadlines, so lately I've just been declining assignments which are due yesterday.

6. What is the toughest assignment you have had?

A series of four mutual bond fund annual reports from German to English due yesterday. My whole family life went on hold as I did five 14-hour days and still did not make their deadline (the document had 10,000 more words than they had estimated). It was a nightmare. The only

thing which made it at all palatable was that I was receiving my maximum rate. On the other hand, it was an incredible learning experience, too, and now I am translating an economics book from Swedish, and all that finance vocabulary has come in handy.

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

I often have beginning literary translators come to me for advice, and I tell them to consider broadening their horizons to other fields of translation, since literary translation is the most underpaid field in the entire profession. I recommend the ATA to those who have not heard of it, and tell them to take a look at the long list of translation specialties and see if there isn't something there for them as well as literary translation. Also, I tell folks to be patient, since it takes time to build up both skills and connections.

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

What I enjoy most is the dinner at the annual meeting, since there I meet translators from all the Nordic languages (I often connect to other Swedish to English translators through other means, such as

the Association of Swedish Translators in North America, where I am the Secretary-Treasurer).

9. What would you like to see the division accomplish?

I would like to see the Swedish > English certification exam be up and running, and since I don't intend to take it myself, I'm happy to be one of the many graders needed.

10. Do you have any outside interests and hobbies?

What? Isn't translation everything? Just kidding. I read a great deal, especially books on history and culture. I love to travel, and would spend all my time circling the world if I had the monetary resources (hmmm, have I been doing too much economics translation recently?)

Bits and Pieces

Seeking Finnish and Norwegian Speakers.

Language Line Services, the world's leading over-the-phone interpretation provider 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 . 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

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T: 831-648-5894

Idea for submission?**Aspiring editor?**

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.

On a personal note, I have been working on this newsletter on my own for over 5 years now. I'm starting to run out of ideas and it's affecting the regularity of this newsletter. I would welcome help from anyone who could submit an article of interest or has ideas for regular columns, features or editorial content...or even consider being the newsletter editor.

