

# Aurora Borealis

ATA Nordic Division Newsletter – Autumn 2003

The fall is over and we are all recovering from an always-too-short summer and gearing up for a busy fall season, including the ATA Annual Conference in sunny Phoenix, Arizona from November 5-8, 2003. Just returning from a meeting with the other division administrators at the ATA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, I and was happy to hear that we all share the same problems, in terms of too many ideas and not enough time or volunteers. However, many of the other administrators were able to provide insightful ideas for future newsletters, speakers and division activities. I hope to be able to follow up these in the future.

## Agenda for the ATA Conference

Come and let yourself be heard! There are a number of issues at the ATA Nordic Division's annual meeting that need your input. The tentative agenda for Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:45-3:00 pm and includes:

- 1) Division financing. There is rumor of a new financing structure for the divisions.
- 2) Danish accreditation reciprocity. Since we haven't had much luck getting 50 signatures to create an English>Danish Accreditation exam, we may want to investigate asking the ATA board for reciprocity for people with Eng>DK certification in Denmark – it's a long shot, but the president-elect is willing to listen.
- 3) Swedish>English accreditation exam. There has been a lot more interest shown in creating this exam. Find out how you can help join the initial committee.
- 4) Accreditation requirements. Find out what you need to do to maintain your accreditation status.
- 5) Mid-year conference in Milwaukee 2004. This is the perfect opportunity to accrue continuing education points to maintain accreditation.
- 6) FIT conference in Helsinki 2005. Help design the itinerary for this excursion.
- 7) Newsletter editor/webmaster - if you are interested in helping out, let us know!

## Helle Frandsen to speak at ATA Conference

Save your legal linguistic squabbling for Helle Frandsen's seminar "*Pitfalls in Legal Translation between English and Danish*." Ms. Frandsen teaches at the Copenhagen Business School and she is also the author of a number of Danish<>English legal dictionaries.

The 90-minute workshop is scheduled for Thursday November 6, 3:30-5:00 (after our meeting). She will examine some of the common mistakes in legal translation through a number of hands-on exercises, and discussing specific problems/translations submitted to the instructor prior to the conference. *Submit your questions or suggestions to her: Helle Pals Frandsen [helle.pals@get2net.dk](mailto:helle.pals@get2net.dk)*

We hope she receives a warm welcome to encourage others to follow her.

## 8 Reasons to go to the ATA Conference

### Interesting Non-Nordic Seminars

“Why bother?” Many people glance at the ATA Conference program and see only one or two Nordic seminars and decide the conference isn't for them. Well, the ATA Conference offers plenty of other seminars available that don't necessarily deal with the Nordic languages, but do provide valuable knowledge related to medical, legal or medical topics as useful insights into working in the translation business. Consider these:

- 40 Ways Translators Drive Project Manager's Crazy. Fri 10:15  
*Presented by Leah Ruggerio from Eriksen translations.*
- Theory and Experience: Should you live in your target or source country? Fri 4:15  
*Give yourself another reason to write off that vacation...*
- Taking Care of Business: The non-language Side of Freelancing Thurs 1:45-3:15.  
*Jonathan Hines perennial favorite. A real energizer.*
- Why Don't More Translators (and Companies) Specialize? Thurs 1:45-2:30  
*This is particularly interesting to our small pool of Nordic translators*
- Linux and Open Source in the Freelancer's Office Friday 1:45  
*Hate Windows? Find out about this alternative operating system.*
- Web Design Made Simple for Language Professionals: Sat 3:30  
*Spruce up your website!*
- The Nightmare of Translating Politically Correct Terms: Sat: 9:15  
*Gain translation strategies from other language professionals*
- You Know You're A Translator When... Fri 3:30  
*Bitch, bitch, bitch...your chance to blow off some steam...*

#### **Roommate Matching Service**

The Nordic division is offering a roommate matching service. If you are interested in finding someone to share the cost of the hotel room, send your name, email, phone and preferences to [drumsey@wwt.net](mailto:drumsey@wwt.net) and I will try to provide you with a list of interested matches.

#### **ATA Accreditation Requirements**

As of January 2004, accredited and active members need to complete at least 20 hours of approved continuing education over a 3-year period to maintain accredited and active member status. "Approved" continuing education involves attending ATA sponsored workshops and both at the ATA Annual Conference and regional seminars, and workshops conducted throughout the globe during the year. Volunteer work can include being a grader for the Danish>English test, presenting a seminar or joining an ATA committee. You can also take courses at local community colleges in your fields of specialty, e.g. basic anatomy course, technical editing, legal courses, etc.

### **Swedish>English Exam**

Although we haven't had much success gaining sponsors for the English>Danish accreditation test, there has been some interest expressed in a Swedish>English accreditation test. We are looking for Nordic members who would be interested on serving on a committee to formally collect 50 signatures from ATA colleagues, academic students and faculty, and other people who might be interested in taking such a test.

### **Swedish Translation Booklets Available (SFÖ)**

There are still copies of two booklets from the Swedish Association of Professional Translators (SFÖ) entitled: "*Translating Names in Swedish*" and "*Common Pitfalls in Swedish Translation*". Contact the ATA headquarters [mary@atanet.org](mailto:mary@atanet.org), if you are interested in receiving a copy of these booklets.

### **AURORA BOREALIS LIVES!!**

I am sure many of you thought the newsletter breathed its last breath last year, but I revived it. I am looking for any small articles on the topics below to help keep it going!

- Working from home
- Working with children at home
- Dealing with Scandinavian clients
- Dictionary Reviews
- Tax and accounting tips
- Software reviews
- Troublesome translations
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*Submit ideas to [drumsev@wwt.net](mailto:drumsev@wwt.net)*

### **FIT Conference in Helsinki 2005**

At last year's Nordic dinner at the ATA conference, the Finnish members at the end of the table were eagerly discussing the possibility of organizing a conference in Helsinki, Finland, in conjunction with the FIT conference in 2005. Anyone interested in attending and/or coordinating the effort should contact Tuomas Kostianen at [tuomas@jps.net](mailto:tuomas@jps.net)

### **Nordic Mid-Year Conference at UW-Milwaukee July 12-16, 2004**

The Nordic Division is planning to offer a follow-up meeting to the conference held in Madison, Wisconsin in 2001. This 5-day conference will take place on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus and will include low-cost housing. Milwaukee is just over an hour's drive from Chicago, and we may be able to arrange for a little sightseeing.

The conference has the sponsorship of the Graduate Certificate Program in Translation at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is being organized with assistance from the newly formed chapter of the ATA: The Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI).

Conference seminars for Scandinavian language translators are being planned:

- Medical translation standards
- Dealing with historical translations
- English syntax/grammar for technical docs
- Software localization
- Trados/SDLX (with Helene Wimmerlin from Iverson Translation).

To submit a suggested conference topic that you would like to see or host or to propose a speaker/instructor, please contact Edith Matteson [emmatteson@worldnet.att.net](mailto:emmatteson@worldnet.att.net)