

The Interpreters VOICE



Official Newsletter of the Interpreters Division

American Translators Association



Summer 2010

Editor's Note

Dear Colleagues;

Welcome to our combined Summer edition of **The Voice** in its new format and look. We tried in this issue to depart from the ordinary in order to provide you with a colorful and vibrant document with useful information.



As you might well know, putting a newsletter together is not such an easy task, so please allow me to share with you some information from the backstage. First, together with the Administrator and the Assistant Administrator, we set target dates for publication using ATA's divisions calendar, then announcements are sent out through several channels, calling for articles, news and photos; these don't always just flow in.

Once received we sift through the material for its suitability. If we have a shortage, we start looking around (around the world) for clippings, news, photos etc. The next step will be to ensure that the selected material is free of copyright restrictions. At this stage, we convert the material to word or similar format and begin our artistic task of designing the layout hoping that all we had gathered will fit. What does not fit becomes a thing of the future and gets labeled under the heading: "In the Next Issue".

This last step takes from one week to ten days then the final draft (as we call it) is sent to HQ for their final review and distribution.

This is in short my story about the journey of **The Voice**, your voice, please keep it loud and clear by contributing material of interest to our profession, the profession of Interpreting.

Nabil Salem

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In the Next Issue: Call Centers Returning to Ireland, Register with GSA, Courtroom Events, Learn ASL, Scams, Cross Cultural, Licensing, Certification, Outsourcing, Division's Elections, from the Kiosk to the Bench, and more

Administrator's Corner



Dear Colleagues,

It was a pleasure seeing many of you last October at ATA's 50th Annual Conference in New York.

There are three very important Division goals under consideration:

1. Adding the word "Interpreters" to the organization's name;
2. Revising, updating and publishing a booklet for interpreting similar to that published for translating titled "*Getting it right*";
3. Introducing a "model contract" for interpreters.

I like to take this opportunity to thank my assistant Ms. Thelma T. Ferry, the editor of *The Voice* Mr. Nabil Salem, Ms. Esther Klug for recording the minutes and Ms. Esther Diaz, former Administrator of the Medical Division for her cooperation with Ms Thelma Ferry in organizing last year's ID/MD Mid Year Conference which was held in Washington, DC.

I urge YOU (all the members) to be active in the pursuit of furthering our goals and achievements for our Division.

Please feel free to contact me as and when needed.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Brana,

Administrator-Interpreters Division, American Translators Association

Assistant Administrator's Corner

We like to thank Ms Thelma Ferry for supplying us with the schedule of **sessions of interest to interpreters** which you will find at the end of this issue with color codes for ease of use.

DENVER VISITOR GUIDE [\(click to access\)](#)

Learn about all the sights and attractions, getting to and around town, dining and shopping options, and much more!



Ron Ruhoff for the Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

> [Colorado Translators Association's Blog](#)

More Useful Links:

- > [Visit Denver](#)
- > [Denver Interactive Maps](#)
- > [Denver International Airport](#)

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Bus. Card: \$25, ¼ p \$35, ½ p \$65,

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For more information [Click Here](#)

Division's Conference Dinner

This year's social event will be held at a Downtown –Denver restaurant.

Maggiano's Little Italy is just a block and a half from the conference hotel.

Book early.

[Click here for details and payment.](#)

Register by Sep 24 & Save



Thoughts.....



What's in a Name? Your opinion counts



ATA or **ATIA** or ?

Recently, there has been a lot of talk about adding the word “interpreters” to the organization’s name but no action so far has been taken, one way or another. So, we decided to survey the members of the Interpreters Division about this matter.

Please [click here](#) and vote your choice before September 30th. You can only vote once and the results will be published on the Division’s website and in the next issue of the Voice.

Which Arabic Dialect?



Why do most government employees, in the US and Europe, always rush to learn the Egyptian Arabic dialect?

Some claim that Egyptian Arabic is the most understood in the Arabic speaking World. But, is their purpose to learning Arabic so they can simply give lectures and speeches or so that they can understand what others from the different Arabic speaking regions such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Morocco, Algeria, etc... are saying!

Break or Break-Down...

Have you ever wondered why sometimes you show up at the airport for an intercontinental flight to find out that it has been delayed due to weather conditions en-route or at the destination? Finally, when the captain gets the clearance to fly, the airline suddenly decides to cancel the flight; the reason being: crew rest restrictions.

Still, some clients want interpreters to work solo for long periods without breaks. All studies show that an interpreter could start to lose focus after 35 to 45 minutes.



Notes.....



Private or Public - Associate or Voting

- If you need exposure and are looking for additional business, make sure that your ATA online profile is public unless you want to restrict its access to members only.
([login to update profile](#))
- The American Translators Association Board voted to simplify the process to obtain Voting Membership through Membership Review. The process, which was approved at the ATA Board's March 13, 1999 meeting, opens up several routes to become a voting member.
([Check details](#))

English a Rare Language?



A MEMO from the [European Commission](#) in Brussels.

The European Commission is facing a serious language interpreting shortage over the next 5-10 years

The European Commission's interpreting service faces a potential succession crisis for linguists for a number of languages - and a shortage in several others. Without an increase in the number of qualified graduates from interpreter schools and universities, the EU Institutions will lose at least one third of their English language interpreters by 2015 due to retirement – and about half in a ten-year perspective.

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Interpretation wants to make sure that young people know that interpreting can be an attractive career choice for university graduates with a good knowledge of languages. In collaboration with sister services in the European Parliament and The European Court of Justice, DG Interpretation has produced a video clip to help young English speakers learn more about the interpreting profession. "Interpreting for Europe ... into English", addressed chiefly to a British and Irish audience, is launched today on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA2fWvtMPDU> and on a number of EU and national websites. It will be followed later this year by productions for French and German speakers. In 2008, the first such clip - for Latvian - was produced by the European Commission. (See http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cS9yDc0o0ig&feature=channel_page).

Large numbers of native-speaker English linguists were recruited from the mid 1970s to the mid 1980s after the United Kingdom's and Ireland's accession to the then EC in 1973. As they reach retirement age, they are not being replaced at the same rate. Thanks to continuous on-the-job training, retiring interpreters leave with more languages than can be provided by young colleagues coming in, which – combined with similar age-profile issues in other key bridging languages like French, German, Italian, Dutch – may create difficulties for the European Commission's interpreting service in making available all the many different combinations of languages that need to be covered in meetings.

The growth in the use of English as a means of communication worldwide has been accompanied by a corresponding belief that being able to speak English is enough for international contacts, both for one's work and for one's personal or social life. This applies to those who are not native English speakers as much as to those who are. However, it is safe to say that this perception has gained particular dominance in the English-speaking countries, where young people can see no advantage to themselves in learning another language.

There has consequently been a marked decline in the numbers of young people learning languages. This has been particularly apparent in the UK and indeed in English-speaking countries in general, but is also true of many countries throughout the world where learning English is considered essential but other languages are neglected.

The knock-on effect has been a worldwide shortage of languages graduates. This is felt perhaps most keenly by the international institutions where there is a continuing demand for translators and interpreters, with both the EU and the UN institutions finding it ever harder to fill the posts falling vacant as the wave of staff that joined in the seventies and eighties reaches retirement age. The UN has been actively seeking candidates in Europe to fill its posts in New York, demonstrating that this is a global market in which various national and international bodies are competing for high-calibre staff. At the same time, the number of meetings is increasing and English is a key language in most of them.

English is not alone

Over the next ten years, the numbers of French, German, Italian and Dutch interpreters retiring are also substantial. Awareness actions for these languages are in the pipeline, starting already in 2009 with French and German. Now, 5 years after the 2004-enlargement and 2 years after adding Bulgarian and Romanian, there is still a shortage of Romanian, Latvian and Maltese interpreters. For the Council of the Union, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, DG Interpretation can fill the need for interpretation into the most well-known EUR-15 languages (FR DE EN IT ES NL PT) at near 100%. Demand for Greek is satisfied at about 97%. Swedish, Finnish and Danish have satisfaction rates between 91% and 81%.



In the News

FIT Representation at UNESCO

(re-printed with permission from FIT)



The International Federation of Translators (FIT) is represented as an NGO at UNESCO by FIT Vice-President Miriam Lee (Ireland), and Rupert Swyer (France), on an unofficial basis.

Since 2007, FIT has been aiming to maintain its presence and be recognized as an active participant in UNESCO work, either through a physical presence at the major UNESCO events and meetings, or by expressing its views through emails and other communications.

These efforts have started to yield positive results: FIT now features on the UNESCO portal (<http://tinyurl.com/FITGC35> +); moreover, a call issued by FIT has been taken up in the resolutions of the 34th General Conference.

The FIT scientific publication *Babel* is also on the UNESCO website <http://tinyurl.com/IndexTransFIT> and <http://tinyurl.com/FITngolist>

Addressing one of the concerns of FIT member associations, our action focused on the defense of translators-interpreters ("fixers") operating in conflict areas and colleagues who experience harassment in their country because of their professional activity. We asked UNESCO to remind member countries of their duties and responsibilities under the various conventions to which they adhere.

Similarly, we asked UNESCO to remind parties to conflicts of their duty to ensure the safety of the persons that assist them as translators or interpreters, both during and after their service.

We stress the non-political nature of FIT, with more than 100 member associations operating in some 50 countries with diverse political regimes. FIT was involved in several UNESCO events, either through a physical presence or by contributing to motions.

Moreover, the role of translation and the representation of translators are mentioned several times in the preparatory materials for the 35th General Conference that opened in October 2009.

Rupert Swyer

*Opening of the 35th General Conference at UNESCO headquarters.
Ouverture de la 35ème Conférence générale au siège de l'UNESCO.
Rupert Swyer and Miriam Lee at the 35th General Conference.
Rupert Swyer et Miriam Lee lors de la 35ème Conférence générale.*

"Bridging Cultures"

[Join FIT in San Francisco, August 1-4, 2011 for the XIX World Congress which will be hosted by ATA](#)

Focus on the Profession's Future – by Nicholas Hartmann, PhD

Translatio 2010, N°1 IN THE NEWS

Focus on the Profession's Future

The Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer

(BDÜ, Germany's national association of interpreters and translators) held an event of unprecedented size and scope on 11–13 September 2009, attracting over 1,600 participants to an international conference in Berlin. The venue was the Henry Ford building of the Freie Universität, located in the pleasant suburb of Dahlem only a few minutes by *U-Bahn* from the city center.

True to its title and theme: *Interpreting the Future*, the conference addressed a wide range of topics related to the future of translation and interpreting in Germany and beyond. Attendees at the plenary sessions heard **Prof. Dr Jutta Limbach**, President of Germany's Federal Constitutional Court, discuss the prospects for German as a global language; **Mario Ohoven**, president of the German Association of Small and Medium-sized Businesses (the *Mittelstand*, one of the essential driving forces of the German economy), commenting on the economic role played by language service-providers; **Juhani Lönnroth**, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, giving an often humorous insider's outline of how his organization deals with almost two million pages of translation work every year; **Donald A. DePalma** of the research and



consulting firm Common Sense Advisory, discussing the effect of globalization on the volume and structure of the translation market; and a thoughtful address by FIT President **Marion Boers** that was one of the high points of the conference closing session. Almost a hundred specialized presentations were also offered (visit www.interpreting-the-future.com for a complete overview of the program).

A number of FIT member associations were represented, including ATA (American Translators Association), ITI (Institute of Translation and Interpreting, of the UK), ITIA (Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association), SFÖ (Swedish Association of Professional Translators), and SFT (Société Française des Traducteurs). Most of the attendees, however, were individual translators and interpreters working in a wide range of subject specialties at many different experience levels. Exhibitors included book and dictionary publishers, software developers, and translator and interpreter service organizations, and a 'speed networking' area allowed practitioners to connect with potential customers. *Interpreting the Future* was an outstanding opportunity for collegial interaction with other members of the translating and interpreting profession, with many opportunities for informal discussions both at the conference itself and during after-hours events organized by the conference planners.

Nicholas Hartmann, PhD

President, American Translators Association

(re-printed with permission from FIT)

Is NLSC right for you?

NLSC Interpretation is a huge part of the National Language Service Corps (NLSC), a new organization positioned to bridge short-fused foreign language gaps for the Federal government. It is recruiting individuals who speak more than one language who are willing to be available should a government agency have a sudden or temporary need for language skills, including interpreting. These needs include such things as supporting first-responders during a disaster that affects a non-English speaking community or assisting agencies in training exercises or drills that involve more than one language.

If you become an NLSC Member, you're saying "I want to help others" and "call me if you need me". And if you are tapped for an assignment and agree to go, the NLSC and the agency needing your skills pays you for your time and travel expenses.

When an assignment comes to the NLSC, the NLSC searches its Member rolls to identify potential candidates that meet the criteria of the client agency. You could be selected as a primary participant or a backup. Being a backup is just as important as being the primary. Backups go through the same training as the primary participants, and commit to going on the assignment if a primary has to back out.

Because you as a Member you are a volunteer, you are in control of your schedule. You tell the NLSC in advance how much notice you need, what types of assignments you are interested in, and the length of assignments you're able to manage. Passing on an assignment is not a problem, and if you need to put your availability on hold, for career or personal reasons, that's not a problem either.

What does the NLSC offer when you're not involved in an assignment? It sponsors informational meet-and-greet sessions in cities around the country, which allow Members to meet one another and learn more about the NLSC from its staff. It offers online community and language skill support tools via Facebook and its Members-only extranet. You can also contribute relevant stories to the NLSC's Member newsletter, *The Language Compass*.

Past assignments have included assisting the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta with their non-English communications, assisting the U.S. Army in humanitarian exercises in Indonesia and a training program in Thailand. Regarding the Thailand exercise, NLSC Members were assigned in teams of two to support multiple training classes. "I thought (the experience) was fantastic," said Aliza Kimhachandra, a Thai-American living in Malaysia and one of the six participating Charter Members. "I have a deeper sense of appreciation of what soldiers do, and appreciation for America for reaching out." She added that, as both a Thai and an American, she was happy to have chance to offer her skills and "give back" to both countries.

Find out more at nlscorps.org. They are also on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

<http://www.nlscorps.org>



Recently NLSC's hosted a reception in Miami where a handful of guests (charter members) enjoyed snacks and soft drinks with 4 NLSC representatives. Brochures and giveaways were distributed while some members shared the stories of their lives with the audience. After asking some questions to which some answers were cautiously withheld, I asked the chief officer for a small article for our newsletter. Indeed, we got the article which is published above. Now, it is up to you to decide if you want to become a "charter member" of NLSC. I registered and recently received a certificate confirming me as a chartered member.

The Editor

IN-HOUSE INTERPRETERS vs. OUTSOURCING in the 11th District of Florida



This paper will examine the cost of operating the existing in-house court interpreters department in Miami-Dade County versus the cost for outsourcing this function while maintaining the existing organizational goal of the Administrative Office of the Courts, which is to provide qualified interpreters and excellent service to our customers. During the past ten years the office of interpreter services has received a steady increase in demand for services with no increase in staff. In order to cover all assignments the department has had to come up with innovative solutions to resolve this problem. For example, in the mornings, during regular court calendars, interpreters are assigned simultaneously to cover more than one assignment.

Needs are met with the collaboration of the judiciary, with judges passing cases until an interpreter becomes available and with the assistance of freelance interpreters who are contracted out to handle the work overload. Decisions to expand the number of existing staff court interpreters, cut back on services provided, out source this service in its entirety, or develop a hybrid program (with a core of staff interpreters to cover emergencies and pre-selected work assignments and the rest of the work contracted out to freelance interpreters) will be considered. The outcome of this research paper will aid the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida in determining which model will be more efficient and cost effective.

The Miami-Dade County Office of Interpreter Services has two main objectives: first, to assist the judiciary in providing equal access to justice for all non-English speaking defendants, witnesses and victims by providing qualified interpreters who can render a true and accurate translation of all proceedings. Second, to deliver these services promptly and with minimal disruption to the judicial process. The department consistently re-evaluates its day-to-day operations, provides regularly scheduled seminars dealing with specific terminology (i.e., legal, medical, weapons, etc.) and provides workshops to sharpen interpreter skills to meet these goals. Continuing education at local colleges and universities is strongly encouraged by the Administrative Office of the Courts in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

To analyze the cost of running the present in-house office of interpreter services, a random sample of raw data was collected from one of the nine courthouses within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. Naturally, the location selected was the one with the highest concentration of interpreters – the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building. Twenty-eight interpreters and two translators are assigned on a permanent basis to provide assistance to forty-six judges, twenty-five hearing officers and four general masters in this location. A database was designed in Microsoft Excel to track the number of assignments, the length of each assignment and the specific location where that assignment took place. The data was collected from each interpreter's daily log, which describes in detail that interpreter's activities (the individual interpreter providing the service fills out a daily log of services performed).

A comparative analysis of the data collected reveals that the rate of cost per appearance for in-house interpreters is \$2.04 less and more cost effective than outsourcing this service in Miami Dade County: even when compared to the unrealistic current rate of twenty-five dollars per hour paid by the courts to freelance interpreters. The rate of twenty-five dollars per hour was agreed upon in the late seventies and early eighties when the office of court interpreter services was created. This negotiation was consummated between the providing agencies and the court. The rate in the private sector has increased through the years to a current rate of **ninety to one hundred and thirty-five dollars per hour**.

Although, the circuit has experienced increases in every other area, it has neglected to revise the outdated twenty-five dollar freelance interpreters' rate. As a result, the pool of qualified freelance interpreters willing to work at this rate has fallen to a dangerously low number.

This research paper is available in its entirety in portable document format. To access, you must first [obtain and install the Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

To obtain a copy of this research paper, please access: Knowledge Information Services at www.NCSC.org

Future Trends in State Courts

**NCSC releases 22nd edition of Future Trends in State Courts
Publication explores process of court reengineering**



Williamsburg, Va. (June 30, 2010) — The evaluation and adjustment of court operations to improve processes and save money while increasing efficiency and maintaining service levels to the public — a process known as court reengineering — is the central theme of Future Trends in State Courts 2010, the latest edition of the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) annual "Report on Trends in State Courts" series. This is the 22nd edition of the series, which is dedicated to making courts aware of key trends that affect not only court operations, but also the role of courts in society.

Future Trends 2010 also includes an article by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that stresses

the importance of civic education in improving public understanding of the judicial system. In her article, Justice O'Connor highlights www.ourcourts.org, a Web-based education project that uses games and other interactive materials to teach students about the importance of the rule of law in our society.

*In an ongoing effort to help the nation's courts weather the current economic storm and prepare for an uncertain financial future, NCSC either has worked with or is currently working with 10 states to reengineer their court systems, and the experiences of seven of those states — Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, and Vermont — are outlined in *Future Trends 2010*. Additional articles explore areas examined during the court reengineering process, including court culture, specialty courts, e-filing, and social-networking tools.*

*A special section of *Future Trends 2010* is dedicated to international court-administration topics, such as the [International Framework for Court Excellence](#) and the promotion of judicial reform in developing countries. A limited number of free copies of *Future Trends 2010* are available by contacting the National Center at 1-800-616-6164. In addition, the National Center is offering a CD containing electronic versions of this year's edition as well as the 2000-09 editions. The publication can also be accessed online at www.ncsc.org/trends2010.*

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit court reform organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.

NCSC International

Formed in 1992, NCSC International assists counterparts abroad in reforming and modernizing the entire justice sector, including:

- management and administration
- education and training
- justice system organizations and governance
- judicial independence

NCSC serves institutions and organizations worldwide that are seeking innovative solutions to justice system problems. NCSC International's approach is results-oriented and highly participatory, involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders in analyzing problems, setting priorities and selecting sustainable solutions.

NCSC International has implemented projects funded by individual governments, as well as by:

- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- U.S. Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL)
- World Bank
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- British Department for International Development (DFID)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

It has worked in over 30 countries, engaging in comprehensive rule of law projects in Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes countries with civil-law and common-law systems, Shari'a-based systems, and traditional settlement systems. Increasingly, its projects are located in post-conflict and fragile state environments.

Shhhhhh.....

The Administrative Office of The US Courts (AOC) is considering extending the cancellation period from 24 to 48 hours according to whispers during last May's National Association for Judiciary Interpreters & Translators' (NAJIT) conference in Orlando.

Books for You

We are looking for book reviewers and suggestions of titles to review. [\(Click to submit\)](#)

Your Health First

Please send us your articles on health issues [\(Click to Submit\)](#)

What is ?

- **TIP:** Telephone Interpreting Program providing remote interpretation in short proceedings
- **NVTC:** National Virtual Translation Center
- **LEP:** Federal Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency
- **AOC:** Administrative Office of the US Courts

Letters to the editor.....



My 10 point Input -by Maria Cecilia Lawinski



Hello Nabil,

I am sending you my input on some of the topics raised during the Powwow Luncheon at "Bijans" Restaurant on January 30th, 2010.

1. The gathering was a very good start to promote a network of Interpreters in Miami. We, interpreters are very fragmented. The venue was adequate both in service and location, accessible for both who live North and South Miami.
2. State of the Profession: Further Public Relations with the Media and professional using our services such as lawyers, insurance companies, etc. to do some Client Education Annual Forum with Interpreters and improve the image of our profession.
3. Concerns: Global shortage of translators and interpreters assure us a constant flow of work in this 17 billion dollars annual industry. In European Union countries it amounts this industry to 12 billion.
4. Certification: It would be advisable to create a certification program for Interpreters probably in conjunction with some university to avoid certifications done only by one or two organizations nationwide in this industry that are very corporate-friendly and not doing much for free lance translators and interpreters.
5. Licensing: Action may be related to item 4 herein.
6. Outsourcing: is a problem for us working in the USA. How to resolve this problem. This matter should be tackled soon with joint efforts and suggestions and surveys, etc.
7. Future events: Social. Suggest at least once a year a social gathering in a venue accessible to interpreters from the Trio-County area.
8. Educational: Suggest at least once a year a Forum or Seminar for Interpreters.
9. Organization Type: Suggest Incorporate. (For Profit) There is more incentive. Nowadays is difficult to find Volunteers for any activity, including Charity.
10. Future Date: Meeting Type: Luncheon or daytime. Saturday is adequate. Preferably in the winter months in Florida.

Enclosed please find my letter(*) to the Executive Director of ATA with some suggestions emanating from my recent interpreting Polish into Spanish and English last week in Miami Florida for Lech Walesa, 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, founder of Solidarity Union and former President of Poland on the issue of crediting interpreters for their work particularly in high profile assignments involving the media. So far interpreters work is minimized if not anonymous. I also suggested that ATA maintains a Registry of Interpreters and Translators who have rendered services to Nobel Prize winners in different fields. This could benefit ATA and enhance the interpreting profession.

I hope my modest input above will be useful to contribute to improving our profession in the Interpreting industry.

Kind regards,

Maria Cecilia Lawinski, ATA-certified
Miami Florida USA

(*) For a copy, please contact Ms Lawinski @ lawinskimc@bellsouth.net



The 1st North American Summit on Interpreting -by Katharine Allen, MA

Comedian Lily Tomlin once said, “We are all in this together, by ourselves,” a statement that accurately describes the state of the interpreting profession today. Our field is growing by leaps and bounds. New agencies seem to pop up daily, more interpreters are enrolling in training programs and conferences are proliferating across the country. Yet all too often our respective sectors work in isolation, recreating the wheel and duplicating efforts as we all strive to move our corner of the profession forward.

The 1st North American Summit on Interpreting, a one-day event held on June 17th, 2010 in Washington, DC, had a simple goal: bring leaders from every sector of the interpreting field together in one place, provide them with a broad overview of our industry, and let the conversation grow from there.

We believe that when professionals from every branch of interpreting meet and see what the others are doing, it will spark positive change for interpreting as a whole.

Each sector is pushing the profession forward in unique and important ways, whether it be the development of video and telephonic interpreting technology in medical interpreting, a full-scale certification structure in signed language interpreting, federal and state-level testing available in legal interpreting, or the advance curriculum and degree programs available in conference interpreting. Yet all too often, the benefits, and sometimes disadvantages, of these innovations go unperceived by other sectors, which often start their own parallel efforts from scratch. How can we “all be in this together” but not “by ourselves?”

With the success of the 1st Summit, planning for the 2nd North American Summit on Interpreting is already well underway.

Next year’s theme, Interpreting and Technology: Providing Quality Interpreting Services in a Push-Button World, acknowledges the profound impact new technology is having on the interpreting profession across the board.

How is our profession reacting and adapting to these rapid changes? What kinds of technology are being utilized in the different sectors? What are the implications for interpreter ethics, wages and working conditions? From legal interpreters providing courtroom services via video, to VoIP calls for international meetings, to Google and electronic access to dictionaries and term bases from handheld devices, technological change is a constant in all corners of our profession.

Check back often for conference updates as we select our topics and speakers. We look forward to seeing you in Washington next June!

Author’s Bio: Katharine Allen, Co-President of InterpretAmerica, LLC and owner of Sierra Sky Interpreting and Translation, is freelance English>Spanish interpreter, translator, trainer, and language access consultant. She specializes in health care, education, and international environmental issues. A past president of the California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA), she currently edits the CHIA Insider monthly e-newsletter and continues to participate in national collaborative efforts toward medical interpreter certification. She served as the Assistant Administrator of ATA’s Interpreters Division from 2005 to 2007. She has an MA in translation and interpretation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Contact: sierraskyit@gmail.com

A Lens for Achieving Deeper Understanding of Decision Latitude as Applied by Sign Language Interpreters —by Anna Witter-Merithew, M.Ed. - University of Northern Colorado- DO IT Center

Decision-making by interpreters involves application of decision latitude. Decision latitude refers to the discretion permitted the interpreter (or any worker) in deciding how to meet the various demands associated with her work (Dean and Pollard, 2001). Effective use of decision latitude requires professional maturity and an understanding of professional autonomy—both represent a condition that results from a profession’s deep conceptualization of the professional acts and professional practices of its members and the agreement of its members to behave and act in a manner that is similar to each other (Kasher, 2005). This article proposes that the autonomy of sign language interpreters is in fact *relational* as a result of the very social structures upon which it depends for its existence—a unique bond to the Deaf Community, legislative mandates that create the demand for and requirement to provide sign language interpreting services, and the systems within which interpreting services are delivered.

Note: The full article will be published in the next issue of *The Voice*

Useful Links.....



- Limited English Proficiency Group www.LEP.gov
- General Service Administration www.GSA.gov
- National Virtual Translation Center <http://www.nvtc.gov/>
- FreeLanceLaw, Inc. <http://freelancelaw.com/>
- (ALM –Integrated Media Company) www.lawjobs.com

If you come across a useful site, please send us the link to share it with your colleagues; we will post it with your name. [\(Click to submit\)](#)

Give me a break

Socializing for Freelance Interpreters

"Being a freelance telephonic interpreter working from home could become quite lonely sometimes", says Ana Chavuz-Tafur owner of ACT Translations. During a normal working day, Ana socializes through exercises twice a day on her own and week with a group of about twenty people, takes a break and chats online with family and friends using Facebook, Google Chat and others. She belongs to several professional online social groups and from time to time, she takes a walk to the local coffee shop to have a snack, a drink and watch the people.

Interact with fellow interpreters by joining ATA's Interpreters Division ListServ @ Yahoo Groups
[Subscribe Now](#)

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Announcements.....



CCHI Launches A Medical Interpreter Certification Pilot

The Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) has opened its Pilot Exam. Those who pass the pilot test will be the first healthcare interpreters to earn a CCHI credential. There is a full test (written and oral) for Spanish interpreters, who can earn certification. Interpreters speaking languages other than Spanish take the written test only, to earn the CCHI Associate Healthcare Interpreter credential. Restrictions and prerequisites apply. There is a special lower fee and no registration fee if you are accepted for the pilot examination. To learn more or to apply, [click here](#).

Mark your calendars: International Translation Day

The theme for the forthcoming International Translation Day - **30 September 2010** - was proposed by the *Union of Translators in Russia* (UTR), will be **Translation Quality for a Variety of Voices**.
([click here for ITD Press Release](#))

International Translation Day : [Origin and aims](#)

Fun Stuff.....



- Why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor when you can't drink and drive?
- Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii? ([check this](#))
- Why are there floatation devices under airplane seats instead of parachutes?
- If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?
- Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it is called shipment, but when you transport something by ship it is called cargo?

10 Tips for working with court interpreters

(For your clients)



By [Carmel A. Capati](#), Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program Manager

The demographics of Wisconsin are changing. Immigrants from Somalia and Latin America can be found working in turkey processing plants in Barron and in dairy farms in rural Buffalo County. Wisconsin ranks third in the nation for its Hmong population, while refugees from Bhutan, Myanmar, and Iraq are the most recent arrivals to our state. Given this population shift, the legal system has seen a dramatic increase in the need for interpreter services. Below are 10 recommendations for practicing attorneys to consider when working with court interpreters.

1. Being bilingual is not enough to ensure the quality of a court interpreter.
2. Attorneys don't have to rely on personal referrals to locate court interpreters.
3. Don't ask interpreters to provide "word-for-word" interpretation.
4. Court interpreters should abide by the Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters.
5. Don't ask interpreters to be attorneys.
6. Clarify abbreviations and minimize legal jargon.
7. Be mindful of how you pose questions through an interpreter.
8. Don't ask interpreters *not* to interpret something.
9. Expect most interpretation during a court proceeding to occur simultaneously.
10. Wisconsin statutes allow parties to object to an interpreter for good cause and take into consideration any delay arising from the inability to locate a qualified interpreter.

Carmel A. Capati, U.W. 1998, is the Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program Manager for the Director of State Courts Office of Court Operations, Madison.

[Click here for the full article](#)

Volunteer

Among the many benefits from volunteering to help the less fortunate is the opportunity to meet new people, discover new places and get exposure.

- [Red Cross: ATA-ARC Partnership](#)
- [FEMA](#)
- [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#)

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK: The Editorial Team would like to hear from you with your comments, views and suggestions about this and future issues. We are already soliciting news, articles and photos for our pre-conference / Fall issue with a target publishing date of September 30th. To be considered for publication, all material must be received by September 10th. ([Feedback](#))



REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions are what keep the Voice ringing, so do send them to the editor @ nabilsalem@gmx.net. Articles should include the author's name, a short biography and a photo, any appropriate copyright notes and other observations.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Interpreters Division or the American Translators Association.

previous Issues

To access previous issues of
The Voice
[please Click here](#)

51st Annual Conference Denver, Colorado – October 27th to 30th, 2010

INTERPRETING RELATED SESSIONS

Ref	Title	Speakers	Day	Date	Times	Period	Lang.	Level
I-1	Moving from Community Interpreting to Conference Interpreting	Marilia V. Vinson	THU	28-Oct	11:30a-12:30p	60 min	ENG	Interm
I-2	Language Coaches: the Missing Link for Excellence in Interpreter Training	Zarita Araujo-Lane, Amanda Duross	THU	28-Oct	2:30-3:30p	60 min	ENG	All
I-3	Note taking for Dialog Interpreting in all Settings	Katharine Allem	THU	28-Oct	4:00-5:00p	60 min	ENG	Interm
I-4	Certification for Healthcare Interpreters: What's the Buzz?	Mara Youdelman	THU	28-Oct	4:00-5:00p	60 min	ENG	All
I-5	Booth Relationship Management. Putting out Fires in the Booth Before They Happen	Ewandro Magalhaes	FRI	29-Oct	10:00-11:00a	60 min	ENG	Interm
I-6	Interpreters Division Annual Meeting	Robert K Brara	SAT	30-Oct	8:30-9:30a	60 min	ENG	All
I-7	Extreme telecommuting: Telephonic Interpreting and You	Armando Ezquerra Hasbun, Stephanie Vine	SAT	30-Oct	10:00-11:00a	60 min	ENG	All
I-8	Beyond Control: Interpreting the Spanish No-Fault Se Construction	Madalena Sanchez Zampaulo	SAT	30-Oct	11:30-12:30p	60 min	ENG	All
I-9	Building the Interpreting Profession: Practical Contributions from the 1st North American Summit on Interpreting	Katharine Allen, Barry S. Olsen	SAT	30-Oct	2:30-3:30p	60 min	ENG	All
I-10	HELP: Health Enabling for Language Professionals	Francis Agyakwa, Kathi Fanning, Cathy Phelps, Janice E Rhyne	SAT	30-Oct	4:00-5:00p	60 min	ENG	All
	<u>PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS</u>							
Seminar F	Community Interpreting: Ensuring Language Access and Compliance to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice	Thelma Ferry	WED	27-Oct	9:00-Noon	3-hour seminar	ENG	Adv
Seminar O	New Technique for Conference Interpreters Outside the Booth	Armando Ezquerra Hasbun	WED	27-Oct	2:00-5:00p	3-hour seminar	ENG	Interm

➤ **ID's Annual Dinner @ Maggiano's Little Italy. [Please click here for details and to book](#) .**

➤ The Division Open House networking event, with a variety of desserts and coffee available, will be held Wednesday, October 27, from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Free and open to all ATA conference attendees. Details here: <http://www.atanet.org/conf/2010/special.htm#division>

Photo Gallery

In the absence of photos from the last ATA conference in New York, the following were taken during a proz.com Powwow gathering in Miami which was mostly attended by ATA members. **Try to identify those members.**



Figure 1 Food, drink and chat



Figure 2. Where is the waiter



Figure 3. Busy eating



Figure 4. Let me think about it



Figure 5. The menu is so big

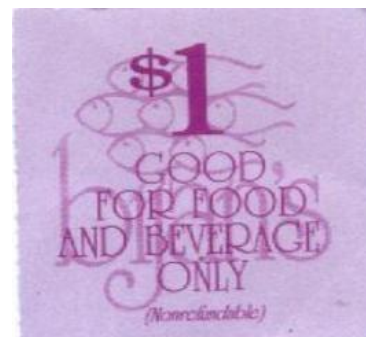


Figure 6. The prize for guessing



Figure 7. Happy crowd having fun



Figure 8. Identify the towns x 2



Figure 9. Guess who is giving the lecture

Please send us your photos of unusual moments with captions identifying the persons in the photos, the date taken and the occasion

[Click to submit](#) (make sure you attach photos)

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Colleagues with ATA certification as translators who publish an article on translation or interpreting will earn two (2) points of Continued Education per published article, with a maximum of eight (8) points allowed per reporting period.