ATA LTD Virtual Annual Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2026

Meeting Details and Attendance

The American Translators Association (ATA) Language Technology Division (LTD) held its 2026 Annual Virtual Meeting on Friday, October 16, 2026, at noon Eastern Time on Zoom. Administrator Viktoryia Baum led the meeting, which was not recorded. Sixteen members attended.

Leadership Council members present (5): Viktoryia Baum (Administrator), Anne Chemali (Interim Assistant Administrator), Carola Berger (Webmaster), Jose Palomino-Perez (Consultant), Flor Russo (Consultant).

Leadership Council members absent: Bridget Hylak, Carlos Fasola, Claudio Cambon, Danielle DeCruz-Sanchez, Jessie Doherty, Karen Leube, Safira Amazan.

Other LTD members present (11): Konstantin Lakshin, Gabriela Nagy, Jennifer Ottman, Danielle Maxson, Lana Rachkovskaya, AJ Translation, Yasha Saebi, John Ellis, Oksoon Dang, Katherine Shivers, Fabiana De Oliviera Roxo.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM ET.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes

Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of the 2025 annual meeting (held September 26, 2025): approved.

Overview of 2026

The division reviewed its 2026 activity, which centered on a leadership transition, a lighter webinar schedule and a refreshed website.

Leadership

- Danielle DeCruz-Sanchez stepped down as Assistant Administrator earlier this year. Leadership Council (LC) member Anne Chemali is serving as Interim Assistant Administrator until the next election cycle.
- Flor Russo joined the LC. Several other members are stepping down, and a call for volunteers will be issued after the ATA67 conference in San Francisco.

ATA TEKTalks

- Pace was slower than in 2025, with two episodes: one in May and one in October. They featured LanguageCheck AI and EZ Docu AI.
- Both were free to all ATA members and drew about 600 registrants combined. Recordings are available on the ATA website.
- A document answering 17 audience questions from Roberto Rodriguez's recent presentation will be published on the division website.

ChatLTD

- **Digital Socials:** none were held this year, owing to a shortage of volunteers.
- **Networking Dinner at ATA66:** 30 people attended, including speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and board members.
- **Breakfast Club at ATA67:** the division will continue the tradition of holding it on two mornings of the conference.

Conference Programming

LTD leaders were not involved in vetting session proposals this year. ATA headquarters managed the Technology for Language Professionals track directly.

Website and Social Media

- New Webmaster Carola Berger completed a six-month effort to update the website. Work included security improvements and better searchability of archived content.
- The site carried articles on the TEKTalks episodes and ATA67 content, plus announcements of events throughout the year.
- All social media channels are listed on the website. LinkedIn was the most active, thanks to LinkedIn administrator Anne Chemali, with some activity on Groups.io.

Looking Ahead: ATA67 in San Francisco

The division has a full slate of sessions and networking events at ATA67.

Programming

- The Technology for Language Professionals track lists 19 sessions. The conference also includes 4 AST workshop sessions and no distinguished speaker sessions.
- **Thursday:** Anne Chemali and Jose Palomino-Perez will present "Mapping Out the Language Industry Shifts: What's Dying and Where Language Professionals Can Find New Opportunities."
- **Friday:** Carola Berger will present a session on “Translation Scams in the AI Era”.

ChatLTD Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club will meet on Thursday and Friday mornings at a designated table in the general breakfast area. It is free for all attendees, and Anne and Jose will lead the table discussions.

ChatLTD Networking Dinner

- **When and where:** Thursday, October 29, at Fogo de Chão, continuing the division's tradition.
- **Cost:** $85 per person, food and gratuity included, charged separately from conference registration. A cash bar will offer happy-hour prices, and guests pay for their own alcohol.
- **Registration:** open until three days before the event. A flyer was posted in the meeting chat.

Leadership Council, Nominations and Elections

The division needs new volunteers, and the nomination process has changed.

- **Joining the LC:** members interested in joining should contact Viktoryia Baum (vbaum00@gmail.com) or any current LC member.
- **Administrator succession:** Viktoryia's term ends at the close of 2027, so a new Administrator must be elected. The Assistant Administrator position is filled on an interim basis, and a formal election may follow. Several departures from ATA headquarters staff have slowed communication on these processes.

- **New nomination procedures:** there will be no nominating committee for division elections, and self-nomination is now permitted. Members who wish to run should email divisions@atanet.org.

2027 Conference Planning

The division discussed topics for ATA68 and the search for a distinguished speaker.

ATA68 (Henderson, NV, October 26–29, 2027)

- **Proposed topics:** the impact of AI on language jobs; translating for immigration; and insider views on education and evaluation, drawn from those at institutions that receive our translations.
- **Call for speakers:** to be sent in early February 2027, with a deadline around March 1.

Distinguished Speaker

- LTD is eligible for a distinguished speaker at ATA68.
- Candidates should not be ATA members and should preferably live near Nevada. The LC aims to have candidate ideas by the end of December.
- Members should send suggestions to Viktoryia Baum and Anne Chemali (vbaum00@gmail.com and intofrench@frenchlink.com).
- A proposal was raised to pool budgets with the Science & Technology Division for a joint speaker, to maximize attendance and resources.

Open Floor

Discussion focused on reviving member engagement through socials, webinars and articles.

- **Digital Socials:** after a hiatus caused by volunteer shortages, the division aims to resume these informal virtual meetups. Proposed topics are human creativity in the age of AI, and using AI for business development and marketing. Lana Rachkovskaya proposed hosting a social on human creativity and AI.
- **Future TEKTalk:** Konstantin Lakshin suggested a speaker on custom Trados add-ons.
- **Savvy Linguist blog:** a potential "Tech for Business" article series was raised, to be coordinated with Danielle.

- **ATA67 presentation webinar:** Anne and Jose may be asked to give a webinar version of their conference presentation for members who cannot attend San Francisco.

Action Items

Action	Timing
Publish these minutes on the LTD website	Soon
Send the Roberto Rodriguez Q&A document to Carola Berger for website publication	Soon
Email the speaker Konstantin suggested on custom Trados add-ons about a future TEKTalk	Not set
Follow up with Lana Rachkovskaya on hosting a digital social on human creativity and AI	Not set
Coordinate with Danielle on a "Tech for Business" article series for the Savvy Linguist blog	Not set
Coordinate with Anne Chemali and Jose Palomino-Perez on a webinar version of their ATA67 presentation	Not set
Collect distinguished speaker ideas for ATA68	By Dec 31, 2026
Issue a call for LC volunteers	After ATA67

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM ET.