

The AATIA Letter

Published by the Austin-Area Translators Association

March 1992

Mark Your Calendars

In 1992 membership meetings will be held on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months in the Reception Room of the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe at 1:00 p.m.

David Jones, VP for Professional Development, offered the following tentative schedule of topics for the meetings:

IN AUSTIN

- MARCH 14 A panel of UT-Austin librarians discusses resources for translators
- MAY 9 Literary translation, Dennis Kratz of Dallas
- JULY 11 Translation workshops
- SEPT 12 Interpreting skills program and workshops
- NOV 14 1992 ATA conference reports
- NOV 21 ATA accreditation exams

BEYOND AUSTIN

- MAY 27-29 1992 FIT North American regional conference in MONTREAL
- NOV 4-8 33rd ATA Annual Conference in SAN DIEGO

Any comments, requests, or suggestions concerning the program schedule should be directed to Jones in Austin at 451-4381.

Congratulations...

...to **Christina Helmerichs** and **Raquel DeRoo**, now certified federal court interpreters.

...to **Edith Biondi** of Houston and Debrecen, Hungary, appointed to Kossuth University for 1992-1993 to teach English Language and Childhood Song to fifth-graders at the university's elementary school.

...to **Vivian Carmona-Agosto**, newly-elected ATA Sci-Tech Division Administrator. The division plans process and terminology workshops with field trips at the next ATA conference. For further info call Vivian in Austin at 794-0484.

...to **Michel Meunier**, **Mike Stacy** and ATA president **Leslie Willson**, participants in the 1992 Dallas Winter Seminar of the Society for Technical Communication. Meunier helped organize the seminar. Willson's keynote speech touched on computer languages, desktop publishing, and multilingual standards (or lack thereof) in the computer industry. Speaking on "Writing for Translation," Stacy admonished technical writers to write simple, short sentences, limit each sentence to one idea, and minimize jargon, defining terms when "insider" words cannot be avoided. Amen!

March Member Survey Topic: Hallmarks of a Professional Organization

"In addition to providing a formal means of networking and referrals, a professional organization not only provides certification, but it also provides and requires continuing education. The members of a professional organization subscribe to a professional code of ethics and the organization has the power to hold hearings, and if necessary, mete out appropriate disciplinary action to members who have committed infractions."

Any opinions or comments (anonymous, eponymous, or otherwise) on this statement? How effective are professional organizations for translators and interpreters (ATA, AATIA, NAJIT, etc.) in accomplishing this mission? Please send your response to the editor. Results will be reported in a future newsletter.

January Meeting Recap

New and returning officers reported on 1992 plans at January's meeting.

David Jones (VP Professional Development) outlined programs for the 1992 meetings (see Calendar).

Pat Thickstun (VP Communications) called for volunteers for Career Day presentations, the mentor program, community interpreters, and newsletter contributions (member news, meeting announcements and software and dictionary reviews).

Marian Schwartz (Secretary) is heading the Literary Translation SIG. Howard Simms (VP Finance) distributed copies of the projected budget for 1992.

Stan Rappaport (VP Membership) announced plans for a supplement to the 1991-1992 Directory and a mailing list database for Macintosh and IBM-compatibles.

Patricia Bobeck (President) led a discussion of what the members want from AATIA in the future. The many topics included Special Interest Groups (Interpreters, Technical), translation and interpretation workshops targeting specific subject areas, and recruitment of members working in languages other than Spanish.

Albert Bork announced that due to increased job demands he will be unable to

coordinate a regional conference. A call for volunteers went unanswered. (After considering the project in a later meeting, the Board decided to move the conference to spring 1993.)

From the Editor

Starting with this issue, *The Letter* has a new look and a new editor. We are grateful to all the members who responded to the questionnaire by offering suggestions, and especially to the many members who submitted articles, story ideas, and information. You may communicate with the editor in any of the following ways: (1) fax--512-396-4835, (2) telephone--512-396-8887, and (3) mail--PO Box 1474, San Marcos, TX 78667.

Harvie Jordan, the previous editor of *The Letter*, performed an invaluable service for AATIA from its inception to the end of 1991. We wish Harvie all the best in his new post as the assistant director of the International Office at the Texas Dept. of Transportation.

Thanks to Mike Conner for his generous offer to publish The AATIA Letter, and to Vivian Carmona-Agosto, Michel Meunier, Mike Stacy and Jack Pointeau for providing material and moral assistance in the production of this issue of *The Letter*.

Pat Thickstun, Editor
The AATIA Letter
PO Box 1474
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Member Meeting
1:00 pm, March 14 1992

**Topic: Library Resources for
Translators**

