



*Melissa Jameson, Member at Large  
Ruth Warner, Member at Large  
Molly McIntosh, Member at Large  
Naomi Todd Reyes, Member at Large*

*Lisa O'Grady, President  
Louis Ollivier, Vice-President  
Michael Kagan, Correspondence Secretary  
Gwen Triay Samuels, Recording Secretary  
Tikie Hodges, Treasurer*

### **Membership Meeting Minutes-January 16, 2016**

On this day Melissa Jameson NMTIA President presided over the meeting and (24) twenty-four members and guests were present. The meeting was held at APS in the Rio Grande Room. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m., first with welcoming attendees and then proceeding to introductions and distribution of the agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting.

After some time given for reading the agenda, Ruth Warner moved for approval. Elizabeth Price seconded and it passed unanimously.

The meeting continued with reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. Then Rosa Maria De Leon Garcia moved to approve them. Carola Sena seconded and it passed unanimously.

#### **I Old Business:**

Michael Kagan stated the mentorship program continues alive and well in his court. He is working with Amy Lovekin. He said that they need to work a little more on the structure for observations and practices to organize the mentorship.

Margarita Montalvo suggested the same be done with translations to promote the mentorship practices, which opened up many comments from attendees. Rosita Leyba, CT Spanish, offered to participate as a mentor. Margarita Montalvo also offered to be a proctor for the next ATA translation exam if her knee surgery is successful.

Ruth Warner updated us regarding the NMTIA website issues which are not fixed yet. She apologized for the inconvenience and mentioned that the cyber team workers from India are charging even more money, now \$1200. So probably NMTIA may look for someone else to do the maintenance of the website later on.

Naomi Todd Reyes spoke regarding sending a second letter to the AOC because the response to the first one signed by Paula Couselo Findikoglu, Senior Statewide Program Manager of Language Access Services, did not clarify several specific points regarding JSIs and VRIs as was requested.

Melissa Jameson, Ruth Warner, Lisa O'Grady and Norma Norcia expressed gratitude to Dinorah Gutierrez and her husband Jim for allowing us to celebrate NMTIA's holiday party in their beautiful home and there were comments on the delicious dishes and the wonderful time that was had that day.

#### **II NEW BUSINESS**

Melissa Jameson read the Financial Report. See Attached.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR NMTIA NEW BOARD CANDIDATES

Molly McIntosh, retired lawyer and NMTIA collaborator was suggested for Member at Large position. Melissa Jameson would like to be Member at Large.

Lisa O'Grady gave us a short bio of her professional trajectory, to become next NMTIA president.

Rosa Maria De Leon Garcia proposed Amy Lovekin as candidate, but Amy declined respectfully.

Gwen Triay Samuels gave us a short professional bio to run for Recording Secretary

Rosa Maria De Leon Garcia also gave us a short professional bio to become Member at Large.

Ruth Warner also gave us a short professional bio to become Member at Large.

The other positions will remain the same for the next period: Vice-President-Luis Ollivier; Michael Kagan-Correspondence Secretary; Tikie Hodges-Treasurer; Naomi Todd-Reyes-Member at Large.

Ballots were distributed and Cecilia Chavez Beltran and Amy Lovekin were assigned to count the votes.

After a short break for refreshments and before the voting results were announced, there was an open discussion regarding the importance of certifications for interpreters and translators.

Margarita Montalvo proposed discussing the scheduling of the next ATA exam and stated that she would proctor contingent upon her health status. She also expressed disappointment that no one from Albuquerque sat for the exam and inquired as to why. She stated that certification is a big asset and is important as it demonstrates our seriousness, and will help to move the profession forward and make it stronger. Members recounted that there are many translators who are not qualified. Uwe Schroeter stated that of the 10,500 ATA members only 20% are certified and mentioned that with certification one can stand out among the rest. Lisa O'Grady stated that as a non-native speaker [of Spanish] she is constantly challenged by others regarding her abilities, so she needs the certification. She mentioned that there is a false group on the internet that is "certifying" people and that this is a concern. Naomi Todd Reyes stated that certification is "worth it".

One member stated that she respects others who are certified but that she is financially challenged at this point and can't pay the fee. She stated that she does not accept translations that she is not familiar with and looks for revisers on her own. There was discussion of the costs for ATA membership and whether this and the exam fees are worth it. Uwe Schroeter stated it was \$195 for membership. Another member mentioned that after age 60, it is \$100 for membership for life. Gwen Samuels mentioned that she was a long time member of the ATA and was very active in the past but that she experienced some problems with the way ATA handled the practice exams. She found membership costs were prohibitive and for her not worth it, so she eventually let her membership lapse because she had other credentials in translation and was able to get plenty of work on the east coast without the certification. She said that this year when she turns 60, she will rejoin. Maria Montalvo stated that ATA certification was not the only way to become qualified but that it is good way.

Melissa Jameson brought up the possibility of having NMTIA assist some members with paying for the ATA exam and asked if we should set the date now or wait until March. Naomi Todd Reyes moved to table it and Lisa O'Grady seconded. The vote was in favor of tabling. Melissa mentioned that tabling was a good idea because by then we would know the date for the federal oral exam. Melissa mentioned that in the past NMTIA paid for a representative to go to the ATA conference and stated that we should make ATA exam prep a priority.

Amy Lovekin announced the election results which were as follows: Lisa O'Grady-President; Gwen T. Samuels-Recording Secretary; Melissa Jameson, Molly McIntosh, Ruth Warner-Members at Large. It was decided to give the ballots to Gwen for safekeeping. Cecilia Chavez Beltran cautioned members

to follow instructions when voting stating that some people voted for 4 members at large when there were only 3 slots.

Melissa Jameson stated that for 2016 we would expand the mentorship program to include translators. She also brought up career fairs and that Academy and La Cueva HSs have had NMTIA members come to their fairs. She expressed that we should be proactive about asking schools to attend their fairs, that more volunteers are needed, and that we can get CE credits for this.

Lisa O'Grady asked if an ATA certified person could do a workshop and Rosa Lopez Gaston, Claudia Ross, and Manuel Gonzalez were mentioned.

A member asked about the possibility of having meetings at other locations around the state and Lisa responded that considering she travelled so much for work she would rather use "Go to Meeting". Uwe Schroeter stated that when meetings were held in other places, for example Santa Fe, attendance was very sparse. Naomi Todd Reyes suggested that some place halfway between Albuquerque and Las Cruces might be plausible.

Melissa Jameson mentioned that things we want to see in the budget should be identified right away.

Naomi Todd Reyes mentioned a visit to the Police Crime lab as a possible PD training. Other PD trainings that are in the works were mentioned. Melissa mentioned Ines Swaney, "Depositions and Improv for Interpreters" (non-language specific) for April 23. Miguel mentioned Heidi Cases "Business Basics for Freelance Translators/Interpreters. Melissa Jameson mentioned collaboration with Professor Barbara Creel at the UNM Law Clinic who has used JSI's and also NMTIA should have a professional relationship with the clinic, which uses 3<sup>rd</sup> year law students whom we can provide training on working with Interpreters. Melissa also mentioned collaborating with Esther Yazzie Lewis of the Navajo Interpreters Association and that perhaps we can get CE credits for these trainings.

Melissa reviewed the situation concerning Argelia Palomares stating that the AOC decision was that she must resit for the certification exam. NMTIA offered her support but was not really involved with her case because she had hired a lawyer. She was given one year to retake the exam and can continue working as a JSI in the meantime while she prepares. The whole situation was unclear in terms of questions regarding her performance, but her case with the AOC is important in terms of its implications for other interpreters.

Naomi asked for a volunteer for snacks for next meeting but no one volunteered to bring them.

Gwen suggested that we buy nametags for the next meeting since she is new and does not know everyone's names. She will need to know when taking the minutes in the future. She agreed to buy the reusable ones.

The next meeting date was set for March 12, 2016. The next LAAC Meeting is March 11. The new Board will meet before that date.

The meeting came to a close at 3:15 PM.