



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

General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Lisa O'Grady, President. There were 24 persons present. Everyone introduced themselves.
2. The agenda was reviewed by all. Ruth Warner moved to approve the agenda, Amy Lovekin seconded her motion, and the motion was approved.
3. Next the minutes were reviewed by all. Naomi Todd Reyes added that she wished to highlight the fact that a volunteer was requested to bring snacks at the last meeting and no one volunteered. Amy Lovekin moved to approve the minutes, Lou Ollivier seconded and the motion was approved.
4. Tikie Hodges presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted that the balance as of November 2015 was \$3333.66. \$3525.05 of that was from memberships, a \$20 seminar fee came from a non-member and expenses were \$1161.68, giving a total balance of \$5717.03 as of March 2016. Tikie noted that more money would be coming into the treasury. She reported that as of this date she has posted \$777.08 and said that Michael Kagan also has more checks.
- 5A. State Court Interpreter issues were then discussed. Lisa O'Grady thanked Melissa Jameson and Naomi Todd Reyes for their work with the Language Access Advisory Committee (LAAC). Naomi also recognized Lou Ollivier's support for their work. Naomi then reviewed the state of remote interpreting, the lack of protocol therein, and the fact that these issues were brought to the LAAC and its Subcommittee on Remote Interpreting. She explained the history of communications between Paula Couselo-Findikoglu, Language Access Services Statewide Manager and the NMTIA stating that Paula's first response to our September memo did not address the major issues. Melissa added that many problems have arisen in court. Naomi elaborated and mentioned appeals that are currently taking place because of these problems. They both reported trying to take a positive stance at the last LAAC meeting and said they based their recommendations on the recommendations of NAJIT and practices in federal court. She summarized four important points regarding remote interpreting: 1) the need for proper equipment; 2) the need to determine the types and length of proceedings that are appropriate for remote interpreting; 3) the need for training for Judges, Interpreters, Lawyers, and other court personnel; 4) the need to create a clear protocol, including the interpreter having the right to discontinue the proceeding if there are problems.

Melissa emphasized that point 4 is a last resort after the interpreter has tried everything to make the proceeding run smoothly. Then she spoke of the LAAC subcommittee that was formed and mentioned that they had their second meeting just the day before, and also that there were Judges at that meeting who are on board with our recommendations. Mara Bachicha said that she felt she needed training even in the use of regular interpreter equipment. Lisa O'Grady described a scenario where she had recently stopped a remote hearing. Then Melissa and Lisa clarified that they were referring to telephonic interpreting. Naomi stated she is in agreement that arraignments and status conferences are appropriate for remote interpreting, but when a status conference turns into a plea or when it becomes evidentiary, remote interpreting is not appropriate.

Manola Colter inquired as to whether there were numbers to substantiate when this is happening. Melissa responded by referring to the survey that was sent to members who reported a high

incidence of this occurring. Melissa also stated that NMTIA is urging LAAC to follow the state guidelines and stated that she is sure things will improve, especially since Judges are on board with this.

The next topic that was discussed was the use of JSIs. Melissa explained the importance of the JSI category and that the use of JSIs is definitely justified. She reminded that NMTIA supports the JSI status but has asked that the courts follow their own guidelines. That is, to make every effort to find certified interpreters first before employing JSIs. She stated that this is also a protection for the JSIs because NMTIA would not like to JSIs become fodder for appeals. She stated that JSIs are being used when certified interpreters are available and they are being sent to proceedings that they should not be sent to. NMTIA addressed JSIs in our September memo to Paula Couselo-Findikoglu and her response was along the lines of 'the Coordinators are doing OK with this', so the matter was brought up at the LAAC meeting yesterday.

Then Melissa raised the issue of another item that was addressed at the LAAC meeting. That is, video and audio recordings and the proliferation of their use in court. Also, Melissa stated that written evidence in another language that's given to the Interpreter 'on the fly' is problematic. She mentioned that the Interpreter has the right to decline to interpret/sight translate on the record until he or she has time to review these media. NMTIA supported a rule change on this issue in March 2015, which was sent to subcommittee last May. The subcommittee then submitted recommendations on this topic to the LAAC, which forwarded them to the AOC last November. In January of this year, Artie Pepin, AOC Director, promised for the next LAAC meeting (yesterday) that he would present new guidelines in response to the changes proposed by the subcommittee in November, but he was not present at the meeting. The problem of audio/video/ written evidence in English when interpreting for NES jurors is also in the process of being reviewed.

Lisa moved for the NMTIA to ask the AOC to send out an advisory to the courts regarding the guidelines on the issue of remote interpreting that would say that the AOC is working on the it but meanwhile advising of the interim protocol that is currently in place. She said that the advisory should also be sent to the Public Defender's Office and to pertinent court personnel. Ruth Warner seconded her motion and it was approved. Finally, Melissa clarified that the difference between the Supreme Court rule and the AOC guidelines is that the Supreme Court rules 'have teeth' but there are no consequences if the AOC guidelines are not followed.

Following this discussion there was recognition of Melissa Jameson for her continued dedication to NMTIA and to the profession and a gift and card were presented to her from the board and the membership.

5B. Lisa O'Grady stated that NMTIA requested help from the ATA in getting the exams here to Albuquerque then mentioned that the no one shows up from Albuquerque when the exams are given. She emphasized the need for NMTIA to support Translators as well and proposed that ATA practice exams be held here, after which participants would receive feedback and could ask questions of reviewers. There would also be a preparation workshop beforehand and this PD training would be for offered for a cost. Some who expressed interest in this training were Dinorah Gutierrez, Manola Colter, Naomi Todd Reyes, Lisa O'Grady. Manola suggested sending out a survey to the membership regarding this. It was decided to ask Margarita Montalvo, Rosita Leyba, Claudia Ross, and Rosa Lopez Gaston for assistance with this program. We will possibly bring back the ATA exam next spring.

Myrna Samson and Tiki Hodges inquired about how Asian Translators can participate in this since there is no ATA test for their languages. When asked if there was an ATA exam in Tagalog, Myrna clarified that Filipino is the official language of the Philippines, and that Tagalog is a dialect. Lisa suggested possibly bringing in Asian language people from other states that are not necessarily part of the ATA process and they could offer training.

Next there was discussion about the NCSC practice test for JSIs. Manola Colter reminded that the test is not a joke and that we need to train ourselves to translate well. She brought up bringing Virginia Valencia here from Interprettrain to do the consecutive interpreting workshop. Dinorah Gutierrez offered Virginia's contact information. The NCSC test will be in June and perhaps there will be a training for it, or a practice test in April.

5C. Ruth Warner gave an update on the NMTIA website saying that she has given up on the original people from India who were supposed to repair the website. She will be looking for local people from

the United States and asked for recommendations.

5D. Next Ruth Warner described the upcoming professional development with Ines Swaney saying that the AM workshop was full but that she may do another one on the Sunday following. She mentioned that there is still room in the depositions workshop in the PM on Saturday.

5E. Michael Kagan explained the basics of the mentorship program and stated that people simply have to approach him to have opportunities for observation and discuss feedback with him. He said that over the years he has worked with Lou Ollivier, Manola Colter, Liudomila Alexeenko, and others, all of whom stated that it is a really helpful process.

5F. Lou Ollivier discussed the cooperation with UNM Professor Barbara Creel of the Native American Law Clinic. He emphasized the need to educate Lawyers and Judges and said that Professor Creel will give us three of her class slots in order to train law students. Our members will also be able to attend those classes and get CEUs and people who give the classes should also be able to receive CEUs. This will be further discussed at our next board meeting. It was also suggested that we contact Dr. Suzuki as well who works with the law students who are already practicing under supervision. Mara Bachicha mentioned that she is volunteering as an Interpreter this program and said her experience has been great. Lou also mentioned that Attorney Brian Colon is giving a summer camp for bilingual students. The idea of career fairs was raised and it was stated that there isn't much interest at La Cueva High School, but Dinorah Gutierrez said there was quite an interest at Academy High School. Lisa O'Grady said we will continue to address these matters at the next board meeting.

6) Ruth Warner mentioned that the listserve was recently changed to Mail Chimp and asked members make sure they are getting their emails. Then she asked for volunteers to review the print directory saying that it was about 10 hours worth of work. Mara Bachicha and Ruth Lopez volunteered to assist.

6A) Lisa O'Grady reviewed the budget expenses for the year and Ruth Warner said the expenses maybe higher. Myrna Samson moved to approve the website expenses, Gwen Samuels seconded and the motion was approved.

7A) Lisa O'Grady reviewed the calendar of meetings and mentioned that the date for the potluck hosted by Molly McIntosh is to be announced. Calendar is as follows:

General Membership

March 12

May 7

July 30 (Picnic)

September 10

November 12

December (Potluck) (TBA)

Board Meeting

February 8

April 18 or 20

June 13 or 15

August 8 or 10

October 17 or 19

7B) Lisa O'Grady then reviewed upcoming professional development events, including the flyer received for an informational session on FBI Contract Linguist Work. She mentioned that Paula Couselo-Findikoglu announced that on September 14 and 15 there would be a simultaneous interpreting workshop with James Plunkett who is also a NAJIT presenter. It was also mentioned that there are three webinars given by AOC monthly.

Mara Bachicha volunteered to bring snacks for the next meeting on May 7, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 PM.