

**NMTIA
GENERAL MEETING
May 30, 2020**

Meeting Title:	General Meeting	President	Lisa O'Grady
Date/Time:	5/30/2020	Minutes	Nicole Pennebaker
Location:	Online through Zoom		
Distribution List:	To be posted on NMTIA website.		
Attendees:	(See attached sign-up sheet)		
Call to Order			
Called to order at 10:10 p.m. by Lisa O'Grady			
1. Introduction of Meeting & Attendees:			
(See attached sign-up sheet)			
2. Review & Approve Agenda:			
Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve by Lisa Pinceloup. Manuel Gonzalez seconded. Motion passed.			
3. Review & Approve Minutes from 1/11/20 Meeting:			
Minutes from the 1/11/20 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Melissa Jameson. Oksana Vivchar seconded. Motion passed.			
4. Treasurer's Report:			
<p>Uwe Schroeter gave the Treasurer's Report. The last report was given at the board meeting on 4/28. The Spring 2020 Conference financials are all accounted for. There were no expenditures during the reporting period. The only income was from membership dues through PayPal. There is currently \$13,934.54 in the checking account and \$599.08 in the PayPal account for a total of \$14,533.62. Uwe occasionally transfers money from PayPal to checking so we don't have too much sitting in that account. Lou Ollivier moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Delfina Diem seconded. Motion accepted.</p>			
5. Old Business:			
<p>A. Review and Approval of 2020 Budget – The annual budget is normally created at the first board meeting of the year and presented at the next membership meeting. The membership meeting for March was canceled due to the Coronavirus, so the budget is being presented at this meeting. The first line under assets is the checking account. Expenses for 2020 are fairly small except for conference/workshop fees. Some of the other larger expenses have to do with the website hosting and maintenance fees. The Juan José Peña Continuing Education Scholarship has been added to the annual budget now. The first column is what the board budgeted to spend for 2020. As the months go by, Uwe adds what we've spent to each category. Column O adds up what we've spent for the year. Ruth Warner asked if we had budgeted \$18,000 for the Spring 2020 Conference and if we actually spent more. Uwe explained that we actually spent \$20,253.86. The board will be discussing how to manage conference expenses and income at a future meeting. The board approves the budget, but it is presented to the membership so that everyone knows where the dues are going and how the organization is advancing the profession in New Mexico. Lisa asked if anyone didn't approve of the budget. The budget was approved by the membership.</p> <p>B. Conference Committee Recap – There were three full days of training for translators and all of</p>			

those sessions were full. The goal was to make the conference more accessible to those who didn't have many options at the last conference two years ago. A survey was sent out recently to attendees through Survey Monkey and many people responded. The responses were overwhelmingly positive in terms of presenters, food, and opportunities to network. The board is considering doing another conference again next year depending on what happens with the pandemic. The board is also looking for more opportunities for training for members. The total income from the conference was \$17,440. We had budgeted \$18,000, but expenses were \$20,253.86 so we lost \$2813.86, but we had more income than expenses from the previous conference, so between the two conferences we've broken even. Two years ago, we had one speaker from out of state, but this year we had four speakers from out-of-state which increased our expenses, but the quality was great and we had the money, so we were happy to do it. Going forward, we need to bring expenses down, but maintain the options and quality. The board will be discussing the conference with the organizing committee and can give a report by posting it on the NMTIA website. Lisa opened it up to feedback, comments, or suggestions. No one had any comments. Lisa thanked the board and the conference committee. Lisa asked that if members can present or have ideas for presentations to please share them.

- C. **Juan José Peña Continuing Education Scholarship** – The deadline was postponed until the end of March. The board has received two applications. The board has decided that the person who receives the scholarship can use it for online training (i.e., webinars, etc.) because of conference cancellations due to the Coronavirus. We know that NAJIT has been canceled and are still waiting to hear about the ATA Conference. In the next month or so the board will get together to select the recipient and will contact them to let them know.
- D. **Court Interpreter Issues Follow-up** - This item was moved to the end of the meeting so Lisa O'Grady could recuse herself. Lisa left meeting at 11:20. Lou Olivier took over as meeting moderator. Melissa Jameson is the board member in charge of this issue. She gave a brief explanation of the State Court interpreter issues. Concerns had been raised about some recent decisions which would effectively lower court interpreter standards. Metro Court in Albuquerque hired a non-certified interpreter setting a potentially concerning precedent. NMTIA's board sent a letter to Metro Court about these concerns considering there are many certified interpreters. The CEO, Robert Padilla, responded quickly and the board has now responded to his letter. Ruth will put that correspondence on the NMTIA website. The board made it clear that the organization was concerned this could lower standards and that these concerns were not personal about the person hired. Mr. Padilla made an analogy that it was like hiring a law student waiting for bar exam results. The board disagreed, but offered assistance helping the interpreter to prepare for the certification exam which will take place next month. Also, the statewide body announced 5 new interpreter coordinator positions (4 Spanish-English and 1 ASL) and they also didn't require certification. The board brought this to the attention of the Language Access Advisory Committee. The response from the committee chair was that he had retired. He then forwarded the message to the Supreme Court and cc'd the board. Since then, they have hired for 3 of those positions including some of our NMTIA members who are certified. One position has not been filled and it has been reposted, again without the certification requirement. Melissa also gave an update on a second issue. A group called PCIP (Professional Court Interpreters Project) was formed by 40-45 interpreters who are contractors with the state at the beginning of the year. They requested a meeting with AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts) back in February. AOC responded that they couldn't meet because of coronavirus, so PCIP sent a letter proposing an online meeting. AOC acknowledges they've received the letter, but there hasn't been a response. A new contract set to start in July was sent 8 days ago with a deadline of this coming Monday (6/1) and no opportunity for dialogue. It includes a reduction in pay for travel time and several other unfavorable changes for contractors. PCIP sent a letter to the Supreme Court and AOC

requesting that either interpreters be able to continue with the current contract for 3 months, or at least given a 2-week signing extension with negotiations to take place in the interim. PCIP would like to ask the NMTIA board will write a letter to AOC and the Supreme Court asking AOC to engage in meaningful conversation with PCIP before contract interpreters have to sign the contract and to also use certified interpreters when they are reasonably available. Delfina Diem moved. Susana Chaparro seconded. Motion passed. Melissa brought up another issue that was raised by one of our members with 10-years of experience and no complaints during that time. This member just found out that one judge on one occasion back in March complained that she asked for too many clarifications (which is part of the standards of being a court interpreter) and she's been told she may not be allowed to work in that courthouse anymore. There is a concern about the precedent that would establish, that one complaint from one judge (about behavior that was actually correct) can result in interpreters no longer being able to work in a specific courthouse. Lou said it should be discussed at next board meeting. Lou invited people to weigh in if they had anything to say. There were no comments.

6. New Business/Upcoming Events:

- A. **UNM Translation Course Fall 2020** – Dr. Lois Meyer attended the meeting to announce that the UNM graduate level translation course will be offered in fall 2020. This will be the third time she will offer Intro to Translation Studies at UNM. UNM's Language, Literacy and Socio-Cultural Studies program attracts international students from around the world who wish to obtain an M.A. or Ph.D. in bilingual education or teaching English as a foreign language, etc. However, because of their student visas they are only allowed to work on campus. These students have tremendous bilingual skills and it would be great to hire them on campus at the translation center, but they need academic training and sophisticated skills in both languages. While the course offered in the fall will be language-neutral with a serious focus on academic translation, other translation fields will be included as well. It's still up in the air how much will be face-to-face vs. online. Students who are not graduate students are welcome. Dr. Meyer is interested in the possibility of collaborating with NMTIA in the future. They would like to set up sessions virtually in various parts of the world and in New Mexico. The UNM Excellence in Translation Center is the commercial center that will actually employ the graduate students and the course is part of the training. The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs is very concerned about lack of language access around New Mexico (i.e., museums). The program is specifically focused on translation, not interpretation. Dr. Meyer would like the board's input about a graduate transcribed certificate in Translation Studies. Her email is lsmeyer@unm.edu. The flyer will be made available on the NMTIA website.
- B. **Future Membership Meetings** – We will still have meetings, but how they are held will depend on what happens in the next few months with the pandemic. When it's safe to hold in-person meetings again we will, although it's nice to see people from all over the state at our Zoom meeting. We will look for ways to incorporate Zoom more into our meetings, possible as a hybrid. We'll keep members posted as to what will be happening in the future.
- C. **Continuing Education** – We'll try to continue to offer trainings online. The training that was offered from Arizona is still available on the Facebook page until June 2, so check it out if you haven't already.
- D. **Summer Potluck** - Dinorah has offered her home again, but it's up in the air whether or not we can hold a large gathering. We have a tentative date of 7/11 at 2:00 p.m. and will let everyone know if we're not going to have it. People are encouraged to bring something from their cultural tradition, if possible, but it's more important that people attend, so please don't feel obligated to bring something. The board will supply non-alcoholic beverages.

E. **Membership Check-In** – There was a check-in to see how people are doing. Uwe remarked that he is still receiving 80-90% of his normal English > German translation business, but it's almost all medical. Sent out information to membership from Takesha Rhodes about small business assistance. Melissa added that she knows some interpreters in central New Mexico and a lot of folks who have either gotten on unemployment assistance or have successfully received PPP loans.

7. Announcements:

n/a

Adjournment: Melinda Jameson motioned to adjourn. Peter Katel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: 9/19/20