

Annual Meeting of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society

Minutes of the Meeting of Saturday, December 12, 2020, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Online via Zoom

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by President Shelley Fairweather-Vega with a quorum of members.

II. President's Remarks

President Shelley Fairweather-Vega welcomed the meeting attendees. The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved. Shelley noted that we at NOTIS are glad to be saying goodbye to 2020. She congratulated NOTIS members and officers for having had a successful year in spite of the obstacles (in particular Covid). She pointed out that this was the first annual meeting and holiday party ever held remotely. We will miss each other's immediate company and the delicious potluck meal that has become our holiday tradition but hope to be able to gather in person once again next year. She asked attendees to stick around for the party.

III. Approval of minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting

No comments were made. The minutes were approved at 1:09 and will be recorded in our records.

IV. Brief Summary of the Annual Reports of the Committees and Divisions

The following reports were summarized at the meeting.

1. **Legal Division:** Chair Luisa Gracia Camón reported that the Legal Division had planned a large event but was forced to cancel it. All activities were moved online. The division moved to support the membership and the community by providing a significant number of online trainings at a low cost, since it became clear that many members were experiencing financial hardship. In December the division responded to a letter concerning medical interpreters published by *Crosscut*.
2. **Finance Committee:** Chair Melody Winkle presented the annual Financial Report and stated that NOTIS remains in good financial standing. The Covid crisis has taken a toll on the Society's income, so we may not be able to replicate the large "annual" conference held in 2019 – which now seems like a long time ago. Total assets are \$68,710.40. Net revenue was down by \$1,055.30, but NOTIS can comfortably absorb this. We still need to put our funds to use in order to retain our non-profit status. Like last year, we intend to continue offering scholarships and finding ways to offer a rich program of continuing education to benefit the membership.
3. **Web Committee:** Chair Lindsay Bentsen observed that, whereas webinars in the past were used as a complement to in-person events, virtually all NOTIS activities are now held online, making us all unofficial members of the Webinar Committee for now and leaving the committee itself in flux. Lindsay added that her time on the Board has been very meaningful and that she is sorry to leave.

4. **Scholarship Committee:** The committee continued its work of providing financial support to members to help meet their continuing education needs. Elise reported that two rounds of scholarships were held in 2020. NOTIS's strong financial position enabled it to award a total of 25 scholarships in 2020 through a blind selection process. Elise is stepping down as chair of the committee.
5. **Membership Committee:** Olga Cuzmanov reported that NOTIS had maintained a strong membership, with a net loss of 27 members. She expressed a strong commitment to support the members in every way possible and hopes that the members are satisfied. Shelley added that membership renewal will take place in January.
6. **Community Interpreting Division:** Yvonne Simpson is taking over as chair, replacing Cindy Roat after a long tenure. Yvonne reported that, while most trainings in the past have been held in person, in the form of workshops, the division has now quickly pivoted to training by webshop, a new form introduced by Yuliya Speroff. Webshops tend to be smaller, more interactive, and less unidirectional than webinars. The program was a success, with all webshops offered in 2020 sold out.
7. **Translation Division:** Division Chair Shelley Fairweather-Vega reported that most of the year's activities were held online, like those of the other divisions and committees, the last in-person meeting having been run by Helen Eby. Since moving online, the Northwest Literary Translators have actually met more frequently than in the past. A six-part series called "Meet the Translator" was presented together with Folio, featuring six translators from Washington and Oregon. The sessions were fun and educational. In January Veronika Demichelis is scheduled to hold a workshop on localization. In February we hope to join with recent and returning Peace Corps alumni for an introduction to language careers.

IV. Presentation of Board Candidates and Election by Acclamation

Three Board members are continuing their two-year terms: Melody Winkle, Laura Friend and Yasemin Alptekin.

Four current Board members are running for re-election: Shelley Fairweather-Vega, Olga Cuzmanov, Pinar Mertan and Maria Lucas.

Shelley Fairweather-Vega is running for re-election; she has only one more year to serve on the NOTIS Board. She has been very active in planning events, especially literary gatherings and Zoom meetings, including the monthly board meetings.

Olga Cuzmanov earned an engineering degree from the University of Bucharest, Romania. In 2013 she formed Enro Translations and specializes in technical translations. She has been on the Board since 2016 and is now up for election to a third term.

Pinar Mertan studied law in Turkey and worked as a sworn translator for a firm there before moving to the United States in 2000. In 2017 she became a certified medical and a registered court interpreter.

Maria Lucas comes to NOTIS with a “semi-academic” background. She earned a Master’s degree and did worked toward a PhD in Spanish at UCLA. She is delighted to be serving as a board member, because she likes working for causes she believes in. Maria joined NOTIS in the latter part of 2019 to replace Mary McKee after Mary resigned. Shelley thanks her for being willing to take up the slack.

Three new candidates (new Board members) were introduced: Tarja Sahlsten, Alma Lopez and Zakiya Hanafi.

Tarja Sahlsten from Finland has progressed in her career from being an audiovisual translator to specializing in the field of gaming. She translates from English, German and Italian into Finnish. She looks forward to volunteering for NOTIS.

Alma Lopez from Mexico City is a Spanish-English medical interpreter and translator living in Boise. Alma has always been fascinated by sciences and language. Her other work includes projects in biology, artificial intelligence and immigration. She volunteers in her community and now looks forward to serving NOTIS as well.

Zakiya Hanafi is a health care interpreter, although she has begun shifting her focus from technical fields to literature. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Washington. Zakiya has a philosophical interest in artificial intelligence and is exploring the ways in which translators constitute a “human appendage” to machine translation.

Board members stepping down after 2020 are: Lindsay Bentsen, María Luisa Gracia Camón, Maria Farmer and Adriana González. Mary McKee resigned from the Board earlier this year.

All of the candidates were elected/re-elected to the 2021 NOTIS Board of Directors by general acclamation in accordance with the NOTIS Bylaws. They were congratulated and welcomed or welcomed back.

V. Announcement of Bylaws Amendments results

As a last piece of official business, Shelley announced the results of the voting on four proposed bylaws amendments that took place this month online. All four amendments passed unanimously or nearly unanimously.

Thank yous

1. Thank you to Lindsay for all her hard work and dedication to NOTIS, most recently as Vice President. She will be missed.
2. Thank you to Maria Farmer, Maria Camón and Adriana González for all their hard work and service to NOTIS, particularly within the Legal Division.
3. Thank you as always to Naomi, our office manager, who works hard behind the scenes to keep NOTIS running smoothly.
4. Thank you to everyone who has served as a volunteer for NOTIS in any capacity over the past year. This organization exists because of you.

5. Thank you, as always to Shelley for her exemplary work as president and for leading today's meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.