

Annual Meeting of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society
Minutes of the Meeting of Saturday, December 6, 2014
University of Washington Waterfront Activities Center, Seattle,
Washington

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:14 p.m. by President Kathryn German. The meeting was quorate.

II. President's Remarks

Kathryn summarized achievements of the past year, including NOTIS's merger with WITS and the revamped website that facilitates searching for interpreters and individuals with a particular certification. In 2015, NOTIS will hire a marketing professional to help us promote our online directory to businesses, hospitals, and other organizations.

During the past year, NOTIS also ran another successful International Translation Day event and numerous workshops for medical interpreters. The next year will bring even more workshops, and more social events such as the happy hour over the summer.

III. Approval of Minutes from 2013 Annual Meeting

The minutes submitted by Julie Wilchins from last year's annual meeting were approved without comment by general acclamation.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Programs Committee

Committee Chair Saori Sampa presented the committee report, with comments on the interpreter workshop from David Neathery. This committee is now comprised of four subcommittees: International Translation Day, interpreter workshops, translator workshops, and social events. Highlights of the past year included the hands-on interpreter workshop on taking care of your voice, the food translation workshop, NOTIS's first-ever happy hour, and International Translation Day.

2. Website

Vice President Nancy Leveson, who has been worked with webmaster Katrin Rippel, presented the report on the updated website.

3. Court Interpreters Division

Division Chair Linda Noble presented the report on this new division's evolution in 2014. In 2015, there will be three division co-chairs: David Neathery, Luisa Gracia, and Linda Noble. They plan to host an annual flagship event, in addition to other workshops.

4. MedSIG (Medical Special Interest Group)

Cindy Roat presented the MedSIG report. This year Cindy and Linda Golley joined forces to offer more workshops that are affordable for medical interpreters. There were six workshops this year, with attendance ranging from 45 to more than 80.

MedSIG is working toward the goal of involving more medical interpreters in NOTIS.

In 2015, they will offer nine trainings in the Puget Sound region, one or two in northern WA (perhaps Bellingham), and possibly one in Spokane. Changes to the WACs will require medical interpreters to obtain regular training, which will increase demand for MedSIG workshops. In 2015, MedSIG will collaborate with a new trainer: Dr. Juan Gutierrez.

5. Outreach Committee

Chair Saori Sampa presented the committee report. In July, she took over NOTIS's Facebook and Twitter responsibilities from Katrin Rippel. She has been posting more photos and more regular tweets, etc., and successfully increasing traffic to our website.

6. Office Manager

President Kathryn German presented the office manager report, noting that NOTIS currently has 285 members and is adding new ones every month.

7. Advocacy Committee

Committee Chair Milena Calderari-Waldron presented the report on the endeavors of NOTIS's new advocacy committee in 2014. NOTIS sent position letters and testified regarding three linguist-related bills before the WA legislature this year. Its members also addressed at-risk language services in King County, commented on changes to the WACs on DSHS language testing and certification, and participated in the drafting of new ASTM standards, among other accomplishments.

In 2015, the advocacy committee will help create an advocacy page on the NOTIS website.

8. Northwest Linguist Newsletter

President Kathryn German presented the newsletter report. This year NOTIS published two online issues, with the assistance of some capable new volunteers. In 2015, we will return to printing some copies for marketing purposes.

V. Presentation and Election of Board Candidates

Kathryn introduced new board candidates Elise Kruidenier, Luisa Gracia, Irine Kariuki, and Diana Noman. New board candidate Lindsay Taylor from eastern WA was unable to attend. Each attending candidate briefly spoke about her background and interest in serving on the board. Additionally, board members Kathryn German, Fumi Janssen, and Linda Noble were up for re-election.

All candidates were elected / re-elected as board members by general acclamation.

VI. Remaining Business

Attendees were asked to sign up to volunteer with NOTIS in 2015.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.