

## **ATA 2008 Meeting Minutes**

### **1. Review of the Previous Year**

- The 2008 Conference Planning Committee launched in March and was better organized this year.
- A big thanks to the 2008 Conference Planning Committee (Courtney MacNab, Hiro Tsuchiya, Ken Le, Hiroki Fukuyama, Katy Bridges, Akiko Sasaki-Summers, Mina Seat, and Advisor Izumi Suzuki)

### **2. Board proposal on greater divisional flexibility in use of funds**

- See the material on pages 3 - 4.

### **3. Next Year's conference in New York**

Next year's conference will be special for several reasons:

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference for ATA.
- Home to rich subject matter experts of interest to Japanese translation.
- Possible connections (UN, consulates, corporate headquarters, etc.)
- Preconference seminars (pre-session, post-session of IJET was a good example)

#### **\* Brainstorming sessions**

- Voice over (Mr. Tsuchiya can contact the agencies.) Non-ATA members can become designated speakers (get some reimbursement), up to two speakers.
- JAT (towards social event)
- Three JLD related events (meeting, workshop, JLD hosts joint session)
- Anime (Izumi's daughter, Katy Bridges) – possibility of being rejected by ATA (we need to present this topic so that ATA HQ can consider this matter.)
- Gaming/manga
- Pharmaceuticals
- Websites for dummies
- Legal/lawyer subject matter expert
- CAT tools/discussion panel
- Patent
- Business/finance
- Interpreting, course to simulations interpretation
- Contract translation workshop
- Finance 101
- Tourism
- Panel to discuss pros and cons for the need to specialties (could be a joint session)
- Book publication/translation Fred Uelman
- Business model – Edward Lipsett
- PR/advertising

#### **Conference Planning Volunteers**

Courtney MacNab  
Shizuka Otake?  
[Michel McKenna?]  
Hiroki Fukuyama  
Yoshiko Guy  
Hiro Tsuchiya  
Ken Le  
Ken Wagner  
Advisor  
Izumi Suzuki

#### **4. JLD newsletter/Updating and Mainlining the JLD Website**

- Last JLD newsletter was two years ago
- Newsletter is not absolutely necessary. Instead created a well-maintained website (content model), with content from ATA chapters and translation terminology resource.
- Editorial board + newsletter

Carl Sullivan  
Connie Prener

Karen Sandness (editor)  
Yoshiko Guy  
Rika Mitrik

## Board proposal on greater divisional flexibility in use of funds

### AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR ACTION BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: 17 October 2008

Proposed by: Richard Mott

Proposer's ATA title: ATA Administrator, Japanese Language Division

E-mail address: rmmott@earthlink.net

Telephone number: 513 573-3589, mobile: 303 250 0474

Subject of motion: Flexible allotment of funds available for division-related social activities

Text of motion:

**Background** - Prior to the ATA HQ-mandated change in Divisional accounting and budgetary procedures, each Division collected, managed and had budgetary authority over Division dues. Different divisions chose to allocate their budgets toward different activities. One activity that the Japanese Language Division (JLD) had funded for many years was a JLD informal gathering, typically following the overall ATA social event on Wednesday evening.

**Problem** – With the consolidation of all budgets and spending authority from the Divisions to ATA HQ, the flexibility and autonomy to fund activities of interest to individual Divisions has been greatly curtailed. In recent years, requests to fund a separate JLD informal gathering have not met a positive response. The JLD has been informed that no other Division asks for funding for such an activity, so funding an informal gathering might be considered “special treatment.” Further, the JLD was advised it should either seek corporate sponsorship to cover the costs of such a gathering or ask for an additional charge from attending JLD members to cover the cost. This has caused a great deal of resentment among JLD membership, especially those who remember and favored the more autonomous budget and spend authority rules of the past. In fact, recent JLD gatherings organized through the ATA have been funded either by members of the JLD who have their own companies, or one year, out of pocket by the JLD Administrator himself.

**Desired Resolution** – Since part of ATA membership dues includes money for the divisions, the JLD would like more independent authority in allocating usage of a portion of these funds. Irrespective of what other Divisions may choose to fund or not fund, the JLD would like the spend authority to cover social events, such as a JLD Informal Gathering, at future ATA annual conferences. Further, such autonomy should not be treated or positioned as “special treatment,” but rather part of how an organization of professionals chooses to manage its internal affairs, within known and preagreed budgetary constraints.

In addition, related to this topic, it might be helpful and welcome at the Division level to further discuss and verify the level of autonomy Divisions have for other activities requiring funding support. The current situation appears to be much murkier and less-

well-thought of by Division members compared to the previous era of budgetary control and autonomous discretion.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

**In the proposer's judgment, this action would have the following policy implications:**

This action is in accord with current policies and procedures

This action would potentially represent a new departure for the ATA

This action requires the Board to decide among competing points of view

This action may involve the ATA in internal or external controversy (please explain in background/rationale below)

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Amount of proposed expenditure: Typical expenditures to fund a JLD Informal Gathering have in the past been \$500-1000

**BUDGETARY STATUS:**

- Funds have already been authorized in this year's budget
- This is an extra-budget expenditure
- Funds will be requested for this action, if approved, in next year's budget
- This action will bring in additional income
- This action has no budgetary implications
- This action will reduce expenditures

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

**CLEARANCES:**

**This Board Action Request has been cleared with:**

**Committees**

**(Delete all that do not apply) Business Practices Education, Finance, Governance and Communications Divisions**

**(Delete all that do not apply) Japanese Language Chapters**

**(Delete all that do not apply)**

**Affiliates**

**(Delete all that do not apply)**

**Other Organizations**

**(Delete all that do not apply)**

**Other (please explain):**