

Annual Meeting of the Japanese Language Division at the 57th Annual American Translators Association Conference

Friday, November 4, 2016, 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Hyatt Regency San Francisco

1. Call to order and Welcome

Call to order, Welcome Remarks by Division Administrator (Nadine E.)
Nadine briefly welcomes first-time attendees and new JLD members.

Agenda – Accepted

Minutes from 2015 – Approved

2. Issues in J<>E translation and interpreting

Open discussion

Paul K. says his work volume from clients in Japan increased to 60% (previously US clients occupied 60%). His main fields are legal and automotive. He asks if anyone has noticed any changes. Carl Sullivan says he has a little less patents, and more litigation related documents; and medical field is about the same.

Questions about language quality assurance (LQA—quantitative evaluation system for translation quality) mentioned in Naoko Uchida’s presentation: “Readability Matters.” How many of agencies are doing it? Does such feedback reach the freelancer? Audience comment: Lots of agencies do it but you don’t get feedback. One change has been mainly in the ISO Standard, requiring review by subject matter. Before, more emphasis was placed on linguistics, rather than the subject matter. Reviewers tended to be non-specialists.

Nadine asks if there is a certification for Japanese court interpreting. Izumi S. says there used to be but it was terminated. Registered interpreters (30 or so, not listed on CA court website) were grandfathered in, allowing them to do court certified court interpreter’s work (required for criminal cases in CA).

Jim P. congratulates Rika M. for receiving ATA’s School Outreach Award. Rika gives a brief acceptance speech on how she got involved and won the award. Presentation materials are available on ATA’s website.

A machine translation session was mentioned. The MT systems have moved from purely rule-based to statistical and then to a hybrid of rule and statistical; newer ones are now neural-network based. The field appears to be progressing rapidly.

Emerging fields in J<>E translation/interpreting

Syra mentions that hospitality, tourism translation/interpreting are needed for the 2020 Olympics are needed and that is where government money is going. Forensic accounting for earthquake disaster claims is also a field to watch (probably not a long term field). Carl S. talks about trends in military-related translation/interpreting. Hans T. mentions fashion marketing, and mixed martial arts (Brazilian Jiu Jitsu) as fields he has been work in.

Hiro T mentions the automotive boom is moving from the Mid-West to Mexico: Spanish/Japanese translators are now in demand.

3. JLD Overview for 2016 (Reports)

- Conference Planning – Nadine recognizes the past year’s contributors and speakers.
- JLD Times Blog: 9 posts in 2016 thus far (there should be more after the conference.)
- JLD website: Nadine plans comprehensive updates such as New Year’s message from the Administrator, Administrator’s Board Report, Events: JLD, JAT, etc.
- Summary of the Miami sessions

- JLD Dinner Venue was researched by Nicholas Sturtevant and finalized by Nadine.
- JLD Surplus– Using surplus to cover incidental cost, guest speaker’s dinner (Supplement 1)
- Nadine’s suggestion to streamline efficiency: Dropbox worked well, but Freedcamp didn’t.

4. **New Business for 2017**

Updates to the ATA Certification Exam

by J<>E Grader Izumi S.

- Exams will be computerized starting in 2017; examinees must bring their own computer able to connect to the Internet. Internet searching is allowed with some conditions: no forums, MT sites, or e-mail communication allowed.
- Exams will have one proctor per five (5) examinees.
- Previous requirements re: education and experience will be discontinued. Examinees have to be an ATA member for 4 weeks. Taking a practice test is strongly encouraged.
- Examinees now select two of three general passages; no longer any specialized passages.

More information available on the ATA website (<http://www.atanet.org/chronicle-online/bonus/upcoming-ata-webinar-2/>).

See Izumi’s rundown on the ATA-JLD Website:

Elections 2017

Nominating Committee established: Carl S., Celine B., Jim P.

(Update: Celine expressed interest in the Assistant Administrator position, Izumi S. will be on the Nominating Committee instead.)

Call for additional Leadership Council Members: Secretary (Update: Celine B.), Blog Editor/Social Media coordinator (still recruiting), Web administrator (Update: Yoshiko Guy, assistant recruitment still ongoing); Newsletter Assistant Editor (Update: Katrina Leonoudakis)

JLD Planning Committee for the Coming Year

ATA Conference 2017 – Washington DC on October 25-28, 2017

Brainstorming for New sessions:

Guest Speaker – Visiting Embassy Residence, Madam Nobuko Sasae

Patent translation (Okuda); macros (N. Sugiyama: perhaps better for Tech Division); clinical trials/medical terminology; automotive; using online dictionary/resources/corpus tricks; changes in the Certification Exams

Call for Planning Committee Members:

(Update: Terumi M., Kazu A., Drew F., Rika M., Tomoko K., Yoko U., Nadine, Y. Mochizuki, Celine B.)

IJET will be in Columbus, OH on April 8-9, 2017.

JLD Times 2017 articles, schedule – Ran out of time

JLD website revamp – Ran out of time

5. Development & Networking Opportunities

Self-introduction by first-time attendees and new JLD members has been postponed to the JLD dinner.

6. Adjourn – 5:50 p.m.