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N.J. PER DIEMS SEEK A FAIR DEAL

For the per diem interpreters of New Jersey, Carla Katz, president of Communications Workers of America, Local 1034, is going to be a very important person. Since the spring of 2000, efforts have been underway to have New Jersey's Administrative Office of the Courts recognize CWA-1034 as the collective bargaining representative of the per diem interpreters. If we are successful, CWA will be able to help negotiate better pay, better benefits and fair working conditions.

Per diem interpreter fees for the state courts of New Jersey have remained stagnant for six years. Per diems receive no benefits. In contrast, staff interpreters have received significant raises over the past 5 years and enjoy an array of benefits. The difference: staff interpreters negotiate fees and working conditions as a group, and command attention and bargaining power; per diem interpreters go it alone. Among per diems, there has been a growing consensus that we are being taken advantage of because we lack bargaining clout. A majority of per diem interpreters think that people doing the same job with the same demands, stresses and same skills should be compensated in the same way.

The 15-member organizing committee of the United Translators and Interpreters of New Jersey has found that many per diems want to know more about what can be expected from CWA representation. This interview with Carla Katz was conducted by committee members Francisco Olivero, Pilar Defrutos-Ojea and Jim Farrell.

INTERVIEW

Carla Katz, President of Local 1034, the Communication Workers of America

OC: How long have you been the president of Local 1034 and what are your responsibilities?

CK: I've been president for the last eighteen months but I've been with CWA as an officer, staff person and organizer since 1981. I am primarily an advocate for the people who are a part of CWA-1034. It's a big group now: 13,000. Some of the biggest contracts that we hold are for state employees in both the executive branch and in the state judiciary.

OC: The per diem interpreters are involved in an organizing campaign with CWA-1034. What's in it for the interpreters?

CK: We're expert and experienced representatives and negotiators. What we do is take a lot of different voices and combine them into one loud voice that the Administrative Office of the New Jersey courts (AOC) will listen to. Another very big part of what we do is represent you in contract and guideline negotiations. Indeed, we even have experience representing interpreters so we have a good understanding of the issues.

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THE NAJIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cristina Helmerichs D., Chair
Austin, Texas
helmerichs@najit.org

M. Cristina Castro, Treasurer
Portland, Oregon
castro@najit.org

Holly Mikkelsen, Secretary
Monterey, California
mikkelsen@najit.org

Judith Kenigson Kristy
Nashville, Tennessee
kenigsonkristy@najit.org

Steven T. Mines, J.D.
Austin, Texas
mines@najit.org

Executive Director
Arlene Stock,
Dynamic Management
New York, New York
headquarters@najit.org

Proteus

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The SSTI and NAJIT Boards continue work on the development of the NAJIT credentialing test and its pilot run during the Annual Educational Conference and Meeting, to be held in Chicago on May 25th through 27th. The pilot test will be given on Friday, in both a morning and afternoon sitting. All Spanish - English interpreters are invited to participate. There are only two pre-conference workshops, both offered twice so that those taking the pilot exam can also sign up for at least one of the workshops.

Participating in this year's Annual Conference will be Bill Hewitt and Marijke van der Heide. Bill Hewitt, Project Director of the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination, will be speaking about the new federal examination process. Ms. van der Heide will present some new and interesting initiatives underway at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Last year we began an effort to develop glossaries that would become available to NAJIT members on the Web. At the Miami meeting, the focus was on Haitian Creole. That glossary is presently being reviewed. This year, the Board has decided to focus on Polish terminology. Any suggestions for terms to be included in this glossary should be sent to Helmerichs@najit.org. The Board is committed to expanding NAJIT's assistance to interpreter/translators working in languages other than Spanish.

This is an exciting time for our association, as we grow in numbers and take on ambitious projects, but we know there are many people and organizations who don't know about NAJIT or our activities. You can help us by contacting them and sending their name and contact information to headquarters@najit.org. Please plan to join us for the Annual Conference in Chicago, and invite your colleagues.

Cristina Helmerichs D.
Chair, Board of Directors

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (December 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001)

Alberto Aguilar, Green Bay, WI	Yvonne March, Hollywood, FL
Paz Alonso, Arlington, VA	Silvia Merediz, Germantown, TN
Dan Alvarez, Gibert, AZ	Doris Molitor, New Richmond, OH
Antonio Barros, RJ, Brazil	Sandra Morra, Cranston, RI
Catherine Ward Betancourt, Phoenix, AZ	Kevin F. Murphy, Dumont, NJ
Jan Cambridge, Heswall Wirral, England	Patrick J. O'Connor, Phoenix, AZ
Ramon Castillo Chavarria, Centralia, WA	Denise Ontiveros, Albuquerque, NM
Jaime de Castellvi, Reston, VA	Vera Reife, Somerset, NJ
Ester Ewing, Haddonfield, NJ	Francisco Resndiz, Denver, CO
Andrea Fort, Albertson, NY	Janet Rodriguez, Toronto, Ontario
Dennise Guzman, New York, NY	Julia Bogdan Rollo, Santa Monica, CA
Nancy K. Hand, Tucson, AZ	Nancy Shawl, New York, NY
Hildre Herrera, Honolulu, HI	Molly K. Smith, Chicago, IL
Zulma M. Homs-Genao, Miami, FL	Peg Snider, Portland, OR
Anne K. Jacobs-Schleithoff, New York, NY	Hector A. Suco, Miami, FL
Catherine Jones, Charleston, SC	Wendy Templet, Marrero, LA
Karen Klebingat, San Pedro, CA	The Language Group, Virginia Beach, VA
Pedro Koe-Krompecher, Columbus, OH	Mercedes Uzcategui, Plainsboro, NJ
Silvia Lee, Glenside, PA	Roberto Valencia, Great Bend, KS
Odile Legeay, Houston, TX	Anna E. Watrous, Madera, CA

Legislative Watch

A report of pending legislation affecting the status, credentialing or working conditions of court interpreters throughout the fifty states. To contribute information from your state, please write to proteus@najit.org

OREGON

Senate Bill 69 provides for court appointment of interpreters for non-English speaking parents, guardians, or persons granted rights of limited participation in juvenile delinquency cases. Without the ability to understand the proceeding and court's requirement, the parents, guardians, or other responsible adults cannot participate effectively and oversee the youth's compliance.

First public hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee, January 19, 2001

Work session held: Feb.12

Recommendation: "do pass": Feb.24

Carried by Senator Peter Courtney on the Senate Floor, 29 Ayes, 1 excused (30 possible total votes): Feb.15

- Referred to the House Judiciary Committee: Feb.20

No hearing or work session scheduled yet.

Senate Bill 76 requires interpreters who have not been certified by the State Court Administrator to submit their interpreter credentials and qualifications on the record. It directs the State Court administrator to establish a process for receiving comment on the policy and procedures of the interpreter certification program, and for appealing any adverse decisions made by the State Court administrator regarding an interpreter's certification status.

First public hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee: January 19, 2001

Work session held: Jan.12, 21

Recommendation: "do pass" with amendments: Feb.27

Carried by Senator Peter Courtney on the Senate Floor, 27 Ayes, 3 excused (30 possible total votes): March 1

- Referred to the House Judiciary Committee: March 8

No hearing or work session scheduled yet.

Senate Bill 77 requires that qualified and certified interpreters be appointed in grand jury proceedings for non-English-speaking persons. Currently, there is no requirement to use qualified or certified interpreters in grand jury proceedings.

First public hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee: January 19, 2001

Work session held: Feb.12

Recommendation: "do pass" with amendments: Feb. 14

Carried by Senator John Minnis on the Senate Floor, 28 Ayes, 2 excused (30 possible total votes): Feb.16

- Referred to the House Judiciary Committee : Feb.22

No hearing or work session scheduled yet.

Senate Bill 78 establishes procedures and appropriates money for appointing certified foreign-language interpreters and qualified translators for non-English speaking persons who are to serve as jurors. Currently, no statute authorizes such appointment or funding, but statutes do provide for payment of sign interpreters for jurors who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

[Submitted by Aleé Alger-Robbins, Interpreter Supervisor, Oregon, email Alee.Robbins@ojd.state.or.us]

TEXAS

House Bill 2735 was introduced in Legislative Session 77(R). The bill relates to the certification and licensing of court interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing as well as for spoken languages. Provides for qualification of interpreters, training programs, administration of exams, continuing education and compensation. Prohibited acts are defined as advertising or representing oneself to be a certified interpreter without holding appropriate certificate. Proposes creation of Advisory Board to the governor, including 3 active licensed court interpreters, to advise the commissioner regarding adoption of rules and design of a licensing examination. See the text of the bill at Texas Legislature Online, www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/billnbr.htm

Board to Provide Periodic Reports to the Membership

Holly Mikkelsen, Secretary of the NAJIT Board of Directors

January 27-28, 2001
Austin, Texas

Beginning what we hope will be an annual tradition, the Board of Directors met in January to welcome new board member Judith Kenigson Kristy. January meetings will be held to bring board members up to date and plan events for the coming year. We decided to supplement board meeting minutes, which include only action items, by writing reports to the membership on all points of discussion. This is the first of these reports, and we look forward to receiving feedback from you.

The first item on the agenda was the NAJIT credentialing exam, on which the Society for the Study of Translation & Interpretation (SSTI) has been working hard for the past several months. The exam is on track to be piloted at the annual conference in May. The NAJIT and SSTI Boards are engaged in an ongoing dialogue to further our vision of what the NAJIT exam should be: a test measuring the skills that we judiciary interpreters feel are essential for the practice of our profession.

To improve communication with the membership, the NAJIT Board of Directors will respond to any inquiries or correspondence received from members or the general public within two weeks. Responsibility for responding will rotate among Board members. NAJIT headquarters will send an immediate acknowledgement of receipt before forwarding the inquiry to the appropriate member.

Incoming board member Judith Kenigson Kristy presented a wish list based on her conversations with NAJIT members. She would like to see a series of monographs, or one-page fact sheets to be distributed to members for use in educating their clients about professional issues such as fatigue and proper working conditions. A workshop for drafting these fact sheets is planned for the annual conference. She mentioned actions to resolve problems that contract interpreters face when they travel outside their home base to interpret in U.S. District Courts. Another suggestion was a "volunteer page" for every issue of *Proteus*, for members to submit inquiries and other members to respond by volunteering to find answers. Judith also proposed establishing a fund to help deserving members attend the annual conference if they could not otherwise afford to do so. The Board took immediate action to set up such a fund. The idea of forming NAJIT chapters around the country was discussed, and the Board decided to discuss this issue at length at a future meeting. Finally, Judith suggested that NAJIT obtain copies of the video produced by the Federal Judicial Center, "Taking the Interpreter's Oath to Heart,"

and make them available to members at cost.

The final item on our agenda was the annual conference, to be held in Chicago from May 25-27.

Telephonic Board Meeting, March 6, 2001

Progress report on the NAJIT certification exam: the written pilot exam will be administered at the annual conference on Friday, May 25. Those selected to take the oral pilot will be scheduled for testing at designated times throughout the weekend. Judith Kenigson Kristy was appointed to serve as liaison between the NAJIT and SSTI Boards during the exam development process.

Webmaster David Mintz reported via e-mail that the online directory is now running on a better tuned and maintained web server and is using a faster database program, yielding much quicker search results. Access statistics show that the directory is the most popular page on the NAJIT website. The Credentials Committee, chaired by Jeannette Bustos-Gilhooly, is still working on mechanisms for members to indicate their working languages and certifications in their directory listings.

Arlene Stock reported that NAJIT's finances remain healthy. Board members had previously requested copies of the financial guidelines that govern spending on meeting attendance and other NAJIT business, which Arlene e-mailed to everyone. The members agreed to study these guidelines and make recommendations by April 4 in preparation for the April 10 Board meeting. Arlene indicated that membership is also very healthy. Notices of arrears are scheduled to be mailed March 7 as the membership renewal cycle draws to a close. The NAJIT application form will have to be modified to accommodate the different options available to members. There will be separate application forms for the different types of membership.

Cristina Helmerichs gave an update on the annual conference in Chicago. The schedule of presentations is being finalized, with backups in case of no-shows.

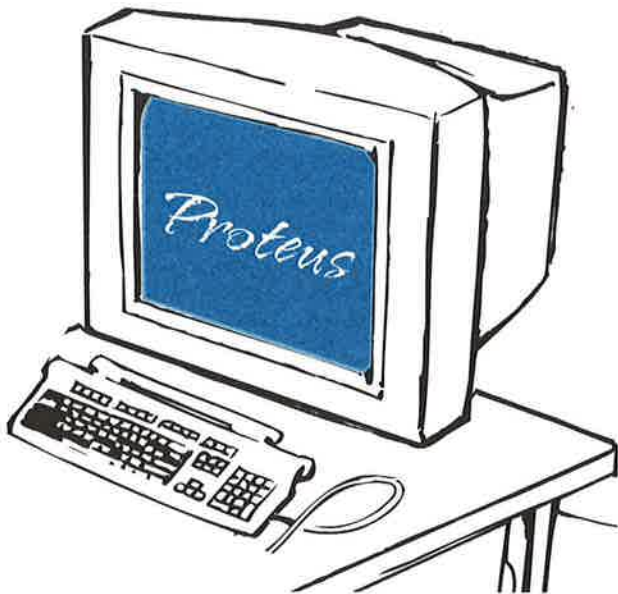
Language Line Services has agreed to sponsor part of the conference, and other sponsors are being sought to help underwrite expenses. Flyers and preliminary programs are being sent to interested parties, including law firms, prosecutors and public defenders, courts, and interpreters' offices.

Sites for the 2002 conference are now being considered. Arlene will travel to Phoenix and San José for inspections. The goal is to announce the location of the 2002 conference in Chicago.

The possibility of expanding the NAJIT Board of Directors was discussed. It would give NAJIT the flexibility to adjust to a growing organization. In the meantime, the committee structure will be strengthened to allow for greater flexibility in the short term.

Cristina Helmerichs stressed the importance of NAJIT's presence at the American Translators Association conferences. She and Holly Mikkelsen agreed to submit a proposal for the Los Angeles conference next fall. NAJIT will also occupy a table in the exhibition hall.

Arlene urged the Board to consider two important matters, 1) developing a record retention policy regarding e-mail communications, and 2) appointing and training one or more press contacts to speak for NAJIT when inquiries come in. Board members agreed to discuss these issues at the April 10 meeting.



Member Activities

Send news of your recent professional activities to proteus@najit.org

[Carmen Barros](#) presented "Consecutive Interpreter Training" at the Kings County Supreme Court (Brooklyn), co-sponsored by the Legal Interpreters and Translators Association in New York.

[Cristina Castro](#) was invited to teach advanced consecutive and advanced simultaneous this summer at the University of Charleston, MA Program in Bilingual Court Interpreting. [Virginia Benmaman](#) is director of the program.

In February, [Nancy Festinger](#) presented "Court Interpreting: History, Trends and Future of the Profession" at the Kings County Supreme Court

(Brooklyn), co-sponsored by the Legal Interpreters and Translators Association in New York.

[Lois Feuerle](#), recently relocated to Oregon, is Program Manager for Oregon's Certified Court Interpreter program.

[Aleé Alger-Robbins](#), Interpreter Supervisor for the Oregon Judicial Department, provided several telephonic training sessions for Berlitz Interpretation Services, including "The Role of the Interpreter in Court Hearings," and "Courtroom Interpreting: A Distance Learning Seminar."

On March 8, 2001 the federal courthouse in Honolulu presented "A Day in Court," an orientation to interpreting in federal court, in cooperation with The Hawaii Interpreters and Translators Association (HITA) and the Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (HRID). Five HITA members belong to NAJIT, including HITA President [Pat Harpstrite](#). A total of 57 interpreters attended, representing American Sign Language and 12 spoken languages of Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. Presenters included a U.S. Magistrate, HITA President, and speakers from the Clerk's Office, U.S. Probation, Pretrial Services, the Federal Public Defenders, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Marshals. In addition to explaining the functions of their agencies, speakers addressed topics such as ethics, confidentiality, and how to deal with problems that may arise in interpreting. A tour of the courthouse was conducted by Chief Deputy Clerk and a deputy U.S. Marshal. Handouts and sample documents were provided to help participants better understand court proceedings and the roles of the various agencies.

[Patricia Michelsen King](#) has given "Introduction to Court Interpreting: Overview, History and Practice" in Florida, Georgia, and Virginia for interpreters of Spanish and for mixed groups of other-language interpreters. She has also presented "Interpreters in the Georgia Courts" for the Georgia State Bar and "The Legal Impact of Interpreters in the Courts" for the University of Richmond Law School.

[Merie Spring](#) presented "Evolution of Language Services- from Infant to Teenager" at the International Society for Justice Research in Israel, Sept. 2000. She will be presenting an updated version of the paper at Critical Link 3. She has organized a workshop series in Queensland, Australia for sign language interpreters, "Vicarious Traumatization of Interpreters," due to recent court cases which have highlighted the urgent need for interpreter strategies in dealing with vicarious trauma.

[Sandro Tomasi](#) is chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (LITA) in New York City. Together with [Ray Miranda](#) he created a seminar series for professional development. In February, in collaboration with Bronx and Kings County Supreme Court Interpreter's Offices, Tomasi presented "Criminal Justice Terms in Spanish." He works full time with the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) in New York.

New Jersey Per Diems

Continued from page 1

For example, right now per diem interpreters are bound by guidelines that are set unilaterally by the judiciary. That is a one-way contract. You are, in essence, at-will employees, meaning there are no rules that the judiciary has to respect. There is also no system for you to make an official complaint and have that complaint heard by a neutral party. If, for example, you believe that you should have been made a master interpreter and you were not, or that you should have been called from the list in a fair and impartial manner and were not, then, under current conditions, there's no way for you to effectively seek redress.

OC: What's in it for CWA?

CK: It's important to remember that CWA is not a profit-making business; we represent our members. And we think that having the per diem interpreters on-board will be good for the labor movement in general because it's good to have more people represented. For example, we already represent the full-time interpreters. You do the same work but on a per diem basis. You should all be treated with an equally high level of respect. This is one of the most basic principles that CWA exists to protect. It's in the long term interests of everyone involved.

OC: What, specifically, does this mean for us?

CK: Once you win the battle for representation, then all per diem interpreters will elect a bargaining committee that will negotiate your first contract. This committee will represent your interests at the bargaining table. One of the most important, and valuable, services you get from us is our expert advice in planning for the contract negotiations, and then actually negotiating.

After you have that first collective bargaining contract signed and ratified by the members of this unit, CWA-1034 will then assist you in making sure that your contract is enforced, not ignored. This is the second most important service we can offer. We'll also help in any grievance procedures that take place and make sure that your interests are always taken into consideration. We'll take all your voices and make them into one loud voice.

There are other services, but the most important one that CWA offers, as a democratically run organization, is the opportunity for you to participate in influencing the decisions that are made about your work.

OC: The AOC recently sent a letter to the interpreters in which they state that they are considering making it mandatory for those who want to work (at all) for the courts to be available for telephone interpreting. What's your response?

CK: That's an example that illustrates how per diem interpreters have no voice and no recourse when the AOC makes a pronouncement like this: they don't have to consult you or negotiate or even ask your advice. If you already had a collective bargaining agreement, then phone interpreting would be negotiable. Everything in your work becomes negotiable, from how much you get paid to what type of work you have to do.

OC: Who pays CWA?

CK: Our operating money comes from the members.

OC: How much are the dues?

CK: 1.15% percent of wages. That's the minimum level set by the national. I'm very proud that, although Local 1034 has the ability to make them higher, we don't.

OC: What can the per diem interpreters do to get a great contract?

CK: Since the per diems know their work best, they have to develop their own voice. It is for that reason that you'll elect your own representatives and your own bargaining committee. Right now the most important thing that the interpreters can do is show their support by signing an authorization card if they haven't already signed one. The more cards we have, the more powerful we are in the negotiations. Second, when the election takes place, they have to vote. The AOC will know the results of the election. If the bargaining committee sits down at the table in a situation where only 51% of the per diem interpreters voted, we'll be in a much weaker position than if it went to the bargaining table with 90% of the per diem interpreters backing them up.

We are having a letter-writing campaign directed at the AOC. The campaign has two goals. First, we want to convey to the judiciary some of the key issues that are important to the per diem interpreters. Second, it is also a way for us to demonstrate that people are committed, excited and interested. This makes us stronger at the bargaining table. You're not going to get better pay, better benefits, more respect, and a bigger voice if the AOC only receives ten letters out of a total of three hundred.

OC: What if they ignore our letters or refuse to recognize CWA 1034 as the collective bargaining representative?

CK: In my experience, most employers have not granted recognition without an election. They like to see the employees actually have a vote. So we'll need to step up the pressure. For example, we'll start building

the per diem interpreters' profile up in the press. We'll start getting people to pay attention.

We'll also work to build a sense of community among the per diem interpreters. You don't have three hundred people working in one building, or even living in one state, so this is a harder group to get in touch with than most. So, instead of having meetings in person, we'll work to build community and power by phone, by fax, by e-mail and by regular mail.

OC: Can the AOC retaliate against people who are uniting to gain CWA representation?

CK: No. There are protections built into the law. More importantly, if we present an organized group with a sense of power to the AOC, that tends to make them accept the idea more easily. If anyone started creating problems for any of the interpreters because they signed a card or wrote a letter, that would be illegal and we would take action against that as an unfair labor practice and we would win.

OC: We are going to have hearings at the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC). What are we going to accomplish there?

CK: We already had what is called a representation hearing. This first meeting was held to verify the validity of the cards that the per diem interpreters have signed. The AOC representatives stated that the per diem interpreters are independent contractors. That's just wrong. There are a lot of reasons why you are actually employees. This is important because independent contractors are not entitled to organize. Only employees can bargain collectively. The AOC decides where and when you show up to work; sets the conditions under which you work; sets the hours that you work; controls the working environment; has the ability to discipline you by removing you from the list; decides how you are tested and how you are paid, etc. Given those circumstances, it's pretty clear that per diem interpreters are indeed employees.

OC: Why did we file at PERC as an independent unit separate from the staff interpreters?

CK: Because per diem interpreters have a few specific needs that are not shared by the staff interpreters.

OC: You've talked about how important it is for members to get involved. Could you give us examples that have produced exceptional results?

CK: There was a group in Hunterdon County that merged into our local. They were dissatisfied with their contract because it didn't reflect how much the cost of living had gone up in Hunterdon County. Their mem-

bers got very active. We had meetings, did leafleting and phone banking, wrote an in-house newsletter -- all to increase the level of excitement and raise the profile of these members. When we went to the bargaining table last year, we were very united. We ended up with 13.5% wage increases per year. Prior to that they were getting 3 to 4%.

OC: Is it possible that they would have gotten the raise anyway?

CK: No. It was the power that the negotiators brought to the table thanks to the active unity of those members. The employer knew that they weren't dealing with a discouraged, apathetic group but with a group that was thirsty for just and fair treatment. That's why they succeeded.

OC: What can we do to try to get results like that?



CK: It's most important to show that you are engaged and energetic right at the beginning. So the most important thing is to participate by joining the organizing committee, sending the letters that we suggested and participating in meetings. But most useful will be to just plain keep informed about what's happening and let your voice be heard.

OC: What advice would you give to court interpreters in other states who want to organize to get better treatment? Should they just go ahead and do it by themselves?

CK: People who self-organize are the most committed. They can contact CWA and ask for assistance in organizing. But the energy and passion has to come from the people who want better treatment in their workplace.

OC: Let's say that five interpreters are having lunch and they say, "I'm sick and tired of not having had a raise in ten years." What should their first step be?

Continued on page 8

TRAINING REPORT

LITA's Interpreter Training and Seminar Series

Ilya Julian Shlepakov

Any practicing interpreter would agree that regardless of the workload, it is essential to nurture the eternal student within. While a multitude of ways exist to fine-tune skills, it is often difficult to squeeze in 30 minutes of décalage or a few quiet moments skimming through well-worn glossaries. That is why we welcome organized opportunities to perfect the skills at the core of an interpreter's progress and success in the field.

The Legal Interpreters & Translators Association (LITA), composed of New York city legal interpreters and translators, was formed in February, 2000. In December, Sandro Tomasi, chair of its professional development committee, together with Ray Miranda, senior court interpreter for the Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Division, both NAJIT members, started planning a seminar and training series for fellow interpreters. They enlisted the support of Jimmy Imperatrice, Chief Clerk of Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Division, who graciously permitted them to use space on the court's premises for professional development events. In just under two months' time, they organized a court interpreter training and seminar series, held in February, 2001.

Many people volunteered time: as Spanish trainers, NAJIT members Carmen Barros and Daniel Sherr; as Russian trainers, Yana Agoureev and Isabelle Avrutin; as presenters, Allan Amaya, Rafael Dilonés and NAJIT member Nancy Festinger. Important behind-the-scene roles were played by Oscar Méndez, Raúl Mantilla, Ada Santiago, Fernando Parra along with NAJIT members Jan Calloway, Jen Chan and Noemi Ríos.

The first event of the series that I attended was the Russian-specific training session in simultaneous interpretation with Yana Agoureev and Isabelle Avrutin. Both are active in federal courts; Ms. Agoureev is also a UN-approved interpreter. What made the session dynamic and interactive were the speakers' different backgrounds (one with a Master's in translation/interpretation; the other having come to interpreting via architecture and photography). They had different insights and approaches to simultaneous interpretation and a variety of ways of overcoming common obstacles. We were given an opportunity to discuss our own experiences in court and conference interpretation.

The next seminar I could not afford to miss was entitled "History and Trends in Court Interpreting." The

chief interpreter at U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, Nancy Festinger, was a superb speaker. She focused on four landmark dates that provided a firm foundation for our profession: the decline of French as the exclusive language of diplomacy in 1920, the invention of the IBM Hushaphone Filene-Finlay system in 1928, the Nuremberg trials in 1945, and the passage of the federal Court Interpreters Act in 1979.

The LITA seminar series provided concrete lessons and tools for beginning and seasoned interpreters alike. The interpreter's task can often seem overwhelmingly solitary. In this regard, I think the greatest accomplishment of the series was in its bringing like-minded people together to share views, ponder, experiment and learn.

[Ilya Julian Shlepakov is a freelance Russian interpreter in New York.]

New Jersey Per Diems

Continued from page 7

CK: The first step is to talk to co-workers. If they find that they share a common dissatisfaction, then they can contact CWA.

OC: Why contact CWA?

CK: Because it's a good fit. CWA is the leading organizer of interpreters around the country. Interpreters are experts at communication and CWA is already the representative and advocate of all types of communications professionals: from journalists to college professors, from attorneys to technical writers.

OC: Where can interpreters call to get more information?

CK: They can call 1-609-530-0060 and ask for me. If I'm not there please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. Or you can send e-mail to utiorg@aol.com.



VIVA LA DIFFERENCIA (8)

Richard Palmer

This is the last installment in the compilation of Spanish-English false cognates which *Proteus* has published in various issues since 1998. (Not every issue has had an installment.) The entire list may appear in book form in the future.

SPANISH

ENGLISH

sacrificar

El pobre animal sufría tanto que lo tuvieron que sacrificar.

"The poor animal was suffering so much that they had to put him out of his misery."

sacrifice

"I sold my car at a sacrifice."

Vendí mi coche con pérdida.

sanidad

Vas a necesitar un certificado de sanidad.

"You will need a health certificate."

sanity

"The poor man was finally restored to sanity."

Al fin el pobre hombre recobró el juicio.

secuestrar

La banda de narcotraficantes secuestró al hijo de un rival.

"The gang of drug traffickers kidnapped the son of a rival."

sequester

"The judge insists that the jury be sequestered."

El juez insiste en que se aisle al jurado.

sensible

Es tan sensible que no se le puede hablar de ciertas cosas sin que monte en cólera.

"He's so sensitive that you can't talk to him about some things without his flying into a rage."

sensible

"She is a very sensible young woman and will not easily be led astray."

Es una joven muy sensata y no se dejará seducir fácilmente.

simpatía

Carlitos se ha ganado la simpatía de todos sus condiscípulos.

"Carlitos has come to be liked by all his fellow students."

sympathy

"At the funeral of the slain worker, he expressed his sympathy to the widow."

En los funerales del obrero asesinado, él le dio el pésame a la viuda.

sindicato

Si perteneces al sindicato, es preciso pagar una cuota anual.

"If you belong to the union, it is necessary to pay annual dues."

syndicate

"In that district, the tailor was forced to pay money to the syndicate."

En ese barrio, el sastre se vio obligado a pagarles dinero a los del crimen organizado.

sinuoso

El camino era tan sinuoso que tardamos dos horas en llegar a la cumbre de la montaña.

"The road was so winding that we took two hours to reach the top of the mountain."

sinuous

"The crowd admired her sinuous body as she went through the acrobatic exercises."

El público admiraba su cuerpo flexible a medida que realizaba los ejercicios acrobáticos.

sofocar

Después de luchar dos horas contra las llamas, por fin los bomberos pudieron sofocar el incendio.

"After battling the flames for two hours, the firemen were finally able to put out the fire."

suffocate

"The murderer apparently had suffocated the victim with a pillow."

Al parecer, el asesino había ahogado a la víctima con una almohada.

solicitar

Lo primero que tienes que hacer cuando llegues es solicitar un puesto.

"The first thing you must do upon arriving is apply for a job."

solicit

"The prostitutes were arrested for soliciting passersby."

Las prostitutas fueron detenidas por haber importunado a los transeúntes.

solución

Aquí ha habido una solución de continuidad.

"There has been a break in continuity here."

solution

"The solution to this problem is not at all easy."

La resolución de este problema no es nada fácil.

suced

Ves lo que sucede cuando no obedeces a tus padres.

"You see what happens when you do not obey your parents."

succeed

"If you continue to work in that fashion, you will undoubtedly succeed."

Si continuas trabajando de esa manera, indudablemente tendrás éxito.

suficiencia

Su actitud de suficiencia siempre me ha sacado de quicio.
 "His smug attitude has always irritated me."

sufficiency

"We now have a sufficiency of water to meet our needs."
Ahora tenemos bastante agua para proveer a nuestras necesidades.

sugestión

En casos así, es mejor seguir las sugerencias del corazón.
 "In cases like that, it is best to follow the promptings of one's heart."

suggestion

"I have a suggestion to make regarding the preparation of the report."
Tengo una sugerencia que hacer con respecto a la redacción del informe.

susceptible

A mi parecer, el programa de estudios es susceptible de mejoras.
 "As I see it, the curriculum is capable of improvements."

susceptible

"He is very susceptible to colds."
El es muy propenso a resfriarse.

sustraer

Lo acusaron de haber sustraído las joyas de la caja de caudales.
 "He was charged with having stolen the jewels from the safe."

subtract

"You have to subtract six from nine."
Tienes que restarle seis a nueve.

tarifa

Para viajar en el autobús, hay que pagar una tarifa de \$1.25.
 "To ride on the bus, one must pay a fare of \$1.25."

tariff

"The government has made a tariff reform to allow more free trade."
El gobierno ha realizado una reforma arancelaria para permitir mayor libertad de comercio.

tópico

Los caballeros las prefieren rubias se ha vuelto un tópico.
 "Gentlemen prefer blondes has become a cliché."

topic

"The topic of today's discussion is drug addiction."
El tema de la charla de hoy es la toxicomanía.

tensión

Lo primero que hizo el médico fue medirle la tensión arterial.
 "The first thing the doctor did was to take his blood pressure."

tension

"There was a great deal of tension in the atmosphere during the meeting."
En el ambiente había mucha tirantez durante la reunión.

terso

Los bebés siempre tienen la piel muy tersa.
 "Babies always have very smooth skin."

terse

"The writer's terse style is very pleasing to his readers."
El estilo conciso del escritor agrada mucho a sus lectores.

torrente

El veneno pasa rápidamente por el torrente sanguíneo hasta llegar al corazón.
 "The poison flows quickly through the blood stream until it reaches the heart."

torrent

"The rain is coming down in torrents."
Está lloviendo a cántaros.

tutor

Cuando se le murió el padre, su tío fue nombrado por el tribunal como su tutor.
 "When her father died, her uncle was appointed by the court as her guardian."

tutor

"His grades were so bad that his family had to get him a tutor."
Sus calificaciones eran tan malas que su familia tuvo que buscarle un maestro particular.

urgencia

En caso de incendio, siempre hay una salida de urgencia.
 "In case of fire, there is always an emergency exit."

urgency

"He felt a strong urgency to use the bathroom."
Sintió unas ganas imperiosas de ir al baño.

urna

Hay que depositar la papeleta en la urna.
 "You must place the ballot in the ballot box."

urn

"She has a beautiful urn full of geraniums on the balcony."
Tiene un tiesto bonito lleno de geranios en el balcón.

utensilio

El se ha ganado la vida con los utensilios de su oficio.
 "He has earned a living with the tools of his trade."

utensil

"We still do not have kitchen utensils in the house."
Todavía no tenemos batería de cocina en la casa.

utilidad

El dinero que invirtió le rindió muchas utilidades.
 "The money which he invested brought him a great deal of profit."

utility

"The rent does not include utilities."
El alquiler no incluye gas, luz y agua.

vago

El nunca ha trabajado por la sencilla razón de que es vago.
 "He has never worked for the simple reason that he is lazy."

vague

"She was very vague regarding the wedding date."
Ella no quiso precisar la fecha de la boda.

versátil

Ella es tan versátil que no se puede confiar en nada de lo que promete.
 "She is so fickle that one can't count on anything that she promises."

versatile

"Mateo is a very versatile young man."
Mateo es un joven muy talentoso.

vicioso

De tanto andar con drogadictos, él también se ha vuelto vicioso.
 "He has associated with drug addicts for so long that now he is an addict."

vicious

"Stay away from that dog. He is vicious."
No te acerques a ese perro. Es bravo.

violento

Vd. comprenderá que esta situación es muy violenta para mí.
 "You must understand that this situation is very embarrassing to me."

violent

"He had violent pains the whole night long."
Sufrió dolores intensos toda la noche.

vulgar

Esas pulseras se han vuelto muy vulgares.
 "Those bracelets have become very popular."

vulgar

"That bartender is an extremely vulgar man."
Ese cantinero es un hombre extremadamente grosero.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT to register for NAJIT's 22nd Annual Educational Conference and Meeting in Chicago, May 25-27, 2001. Please phone, email or fax headquarters for conference brochure and information.



P.O. Box 880872
 San Diego, CA 92168

is a web site that:

- Randomly lists interpreters and translators in a comprehensive online index.
- Contacts lawyers, convention centers, and others through aggressive advertising.
- Creates a web page for you and/or links to your existing web page.
- Offers you a business e-mail account.
- Keeps you informed of relevant events and continuing education information.
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Our advertising campaign is underway, our ads have run in ATA's Chronicle, NAJIT's Proteus, ABA Journal, and we are listed online in ParkerDir.com and NAFTA's Information Page.

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Letters

Dear Members,

I am very excited to be serving on the board. One of my pre-election promises was to work toward creating more ways to respond to members' concerns. At my first Board of Directors meeting I presented the board with a "wish list" that was very enthusiastically received. This issue of *Proteus* features a new "opportunities" page, [see page 15] a forum for members to create solidarity, share concerns, offer help and get things done. Please read it carefully and participate as often and as actively as possible. Lift a pen or a phone today: join a committee, share a problem, offer a suggestion. This new forum, and NAJIT itself, can only succeed if all of us work together. Hope to see you all in Chicago!

Judith Kenigson Kristy
Nashville, TN

A Way with Words

"People say legal documents are complex. So they can be. But more often than not, when you examine the document closely, the complexity arises far less from mysterious ideas but from unusual language, tortuous sentence construction, and disorder in the arrangement of information. In other words, the complexity is mainly linguistic and structural smoke created by poor drafting practices."

[Text of a talk by Martin Cutts, Plain Language Commission, UK, on 28 January 2000, at the invitation of the European Commission's Translation Unit]

Interpreters In Trouble

AIIC reports in a press release dated January 25, 2001 that two Iranian-German translator/interpreters, Khalil Rostamkhani and Said Sadr, were recently sentenced to severe prison terms for their alleged "participation" in a conference held in Berlin last year. The conference, sponsored by the Heinrich-Böll Foundation, was convened to discuss the reform process in Iran. The Government of Iran accused the conference organisers of harbouring "anti-Iranian" and "anti-Islamic" attitudes and arrested the Iranian participants on their return home. The Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators joins AIIC in their dismay at the actions taken by the government of Iran against our fellow interpreters.

APLIT- NJ Donates to SSTI

The board of directors of the Association of Professional Legal Interpreters and Translators of New Jersey (APLIT-NJ), after taking into consideration the by-laws of the association and the fact that it has been inactive for several years, has unanimously decided to liquidate its account and donate the funds to the Society for the Study of Interpretation and Translation, Inc. (SSTI). These funds will assist SSTI as it endeavors to develop an examination to accredit interpreters and translators at the national level. Developing such a test was always a cherished goal of APLIT-NJ. The Board thanks all the people who were members of the association for their support over the years. We are confident that this move will greatly serve the interests of the profession as it supports SSTI in this momentous step. [Carmen S. Barros, President

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Legal/Court Interpretation

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Fall 2001 admission info

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TRAINING REPORT

Community Interpretation in Spanish: An Entry Level Training Opportunity

George Gage

A Community Interpretation in Spanish program has existed at Riverside Community College in Southern California for some nine years. The program curriculum was written by Dr. Lisa Conyers, Dean of Instruction at the Moreno Valley campus. Although not an interpreter herself, Conyers, whose expertise is in Spanish and comparative literature, saw the need in the community for trained interpreters. She developed the curriculum in consultation with working interpreters and interpreter trainers. In the summer of 2000, I was hired as the first full-time faculty member in the program. We continue to benefit from the experience of two certified interpreters who are adjunct instructors.

COURSES OFFERED

The program is composed of three introductory level courses: community interpretation for the medical professions, community interpretation for the legal professions and community interpretation for business. Currently, the prerequisite for entry into the courses is self-declared fluency in Spanish and English. Each course lasts sixteen weeks and the sequence may be taken in any order. In each course, students receive instruction in both interpreting theory and practice. Additionally, students perform 54 hours of field observation.

MATERIALS

Materials used in the judiciary and medical interpreting courses are by Holly Mikkelsen, *The Interpreter's Edge* and *The Interpreter's Rx*. Students in the course on court interpreting are also encouraged to use Mikkelsen's *The Interpreter's Companion*. Since no text exists expressly for interpreting in business settings, I am currently compiling and developing materials. To date, useful sources have included economics texts published in the U.S. and Mexico, business Spanish texts, video recordings, television, radio and Internet broadcasts, in addition to home-made recordings.

FIELD OBSERVATION COMPONENT

The field observation component provides students the opportunity to observe working interpreters and be exposed to additional content in the subject matter. Students may choose from activities recommended by instructors or may propose others. Field observation differs significantly for each of the three courses, with new activities being considered and developed.

Students of interpreting in medical settings may

observe full-time medical interpreters at the Riverside County Regional Medical Center. They accompany interpreters to patient visits and sessions with the public, and may also attend lectures by health care professionals who frequently work with interpreters. These include role-play activities in which students practice interpreting. Presenters have included medical social workers, organ procurement specialists and hospice workers.

Students of interpreting in judiciary settings may choose among a variety of activities. The most accessible opportunity is to observe in-court proceedings, either with or without interpreters. Students have also accompanied police and border patrols. Advanced students may volunteer services as apprentice level interpreters. Two opportunities currently being developed are with the public defenders in Riverside County and the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association. In order to maintain an element of observation in these activities, the possibility of sending students in pairs is being considered. Not only will students learn from each other, but lawyers may get used the idea of interpreters working in pairs.

Observation is a greater challenge in the business arena. Currently, students participate in seminars on international business through a cooperative arrangement with the Center for International Trade Development in Riverside. Students also receive field observation credit by attending educational workshops and seminars given by local and national translator and interpreter associations. Given our location near a major urban area, we are fortunate to be able to offer a variety of activities. In the future, I would like to develop opportunities for students to observe working conference interpreters. I encourage any interested conference interpreters working in southern California to contact me regarding this possibility.

Finally, students may fulfill a limited portion of the observation requirement through written assignments. Students have read and reported on articles in publications such as the *ATA Chronicle* and *Proteus*. They have reported on Internet sites related to translation and interpretation and have done translations of newspaper articles from sources such as *El País Digital* and *La Jornada*. While these activities do not constitute observation in the strictest sense of the word, they give students a window into the profession and familiarize them with the available resources.

Continued on page 14

Community Interpretation

Continued from page 13

CONCLUSION

One of the strengths of our curriculum design is that it encourages students to observe working interpreters. Anyone who has had the opportunity to observe a colleague's work will undoubtedly attest to the value of having done so. Contact with non-interpreter practitioners in the field of specialization is also useful because it familiarizes students with the language of the profession. Although these activities must be complemented by rigorous instruction, field observation is a useful component of successful interpreter training both at introductory and advanced levels.

[George Gage is a Spanish interpreter certified in California, New Mexico and the federal courts.]

WEBSITES

In recent months, members have recommended the following websites:

CULTURE

www.pbs.org/laciudad, devoted to a documentary about the Latin American immigrant experience in New York. English and Spanish sites portray filmmaker, photographs, characters and stories. [Sandra Layman]

LANGUAGE LEARNING

<http://www.netguide.com/special/netguideoo/boring.html>
NetGuide's list of the best websites of 2000. Under "best treatment of a boring topic" you will find they recommend www.parlo.com as the best place for foreign-language learning on the web. Well, maybe the rest of the world thinks language learning is boring! [Ed.]

PROCEDURE

<http://www.uscc.gov/> U.S. Sentencing Commission website [Alohalani Boido]

TERMINOLOGY SOURCES

GlossPost list, where people exchange URLs for (and queries concerning) glossaries in all languages, on all subjects:
<http://www.egroups.com/group/GlossPost> [Mary Maloof]

<http://www.jump.net/~fdietz/glossary.htm> Over 1,400 glossary links by subject (including federal contract acronyms!), compiled by a German-English translator. [Ed.]

DRUG SLANG

<http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/slang/home.html> [Isa Framer]

PRISON ARGOT

<http://www.prisonwall.org/lingo.htm>
Mainly from California, but links to other sites. [Marianne Prippts]

SHAKESPEARE QUOTATION?

<http://www.lapaf.org/site/building1/library/shakespeare/>
Complete works of Shakespeare on-line [Ed.]

ITEMS OF INTEREST

May 5, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kent State Student Center, Kent, Ohio. "Community and Court Interpreters' Workshop: Roles, Ethics, Professionalism" CCIO (Community and Court Interpreters of the Ohio Valley) in collaboration with Kent State University and International Institute of Akron, Inc.

May 18-20, 2001. New York University Law School, New York, NY. American Translators Association Financial Translation Conference. For more information go to the ATA website at: www.atanet.org and click on Conferences.

May 22-26, 2001. Montreal, Canada. Critical Link 3: Interpreters in the Community.
www.rssso6.gouv.qc.ca/english/colloque/index2.html

May 25-27, 2001. Chicago. NAJIT's 22nd Annual Meeting and Educational Conference. Details: najit.org, or e-mail: headquarters@najit.org

May 26-28, 2001. Université Laval, Quebec, Canada. Translation and Censorship. Canadian Association of Translation Studies 14th Annual Congress.
www.uottawa.ca/associations/act-cats/index.htm

The American Translators Association will offer its accreditation exam during May and June of this year in Canada, England, Mexico and Puerto Rico, as well as in multiple locations throughout the United States. The sittings abroad will take place as follows: Toronto, Canada, May 12, 2001; West Sussex, England, May 5, 2001; Tijuana, BCN, México, June 2, 2001; San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 5, 2001. To learn more about the exam and download registration forms go to the ATA website at: <http://www.atanet.org>

July 4- 7, 2001. The Hague. Forum on Interpretation at International Courts and Tribunals, sponsored by AIIC Legal and Court Interpreting Committee. For information: ChristianeDriesen@compuserve.com or see AIIC's website, www.aiic.net

JULY 19-23, 2001. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN. Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages. The Sixth Cardiff Conference. Details: www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/compostela

September 20-23, 2001. Slavonice, Czech Republic. The Slavonice International Translators Conference has issued a call for papers on any topic of interest to translators. April 30, 2001 is the deadline for abstracts; final versions of papers are due by July 31, 2001. Contact Zuzana Kulhánková at zuzana007@hotmail.com. Website: www.scholaludus.cz

Special offer for interpreters and translators: Santillana is offering its Diccionario del español at a special price of US\$124.95 and free of shipping charges. Contact Verónica Cervera at 1-800-245-8584, extension 127, or via e-mail at

Opportunities: Requests • Offers • Suggestions

A note from the NAJIT Board of Directors: This page has been created for members to share concerns, information and support regarding problems and projects related to NAJIT and the profession of court interpreting. We hope it will become a regular feature of *Proteus*, stimulating and empowering members to take an active role in reaching our common goals, but you need to send in your requests and contributions to make it work. This page will be published on the website as well.

To start the ball rolling, the NAJIT Board has a list of "Opportunities" available for you! Please look the requests over, then fill out the "offers" section below, fold and mail to: National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc., 551 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10176, or contact us by E-mail at OFFERS@najit.org

To add your request for help or information, or to propose and seek volunteers, please contact NAJIT at the same mailing address or E-mail your request to REQUESTS@najit.org. Requests will be reviewed by the Board and included as space permits.

REQUESTS

WHO WANTS HELP	WHAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR
NAJIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS	We need a name and format for this page. Send us your ideas!
	Help from people who have knowledge about grant research and writing;
	Input about the kinds of documents members want NAJIT to develop and make available for education, persuasion, publicity, etc. We will have a workshop for writing some of these monographs at the conference. What do YOU need? Example: When and why to use team interpreting, Guide for interpreter coordinators, Consecutive or Simultaneous?, Email directly to kenigsonkristy@najit.org
	Fundraising ideas, volunteers for fundraising committee. A raffle during the Annual conference was proposed to raise funds. Some ideas for such a raffle and/or silent auction were: dictionaries, office items, phone cards, interpreting equipment, etc. Suggestions are welcome.

FOLD

Please Return Requests • Offers • Suggestions to :

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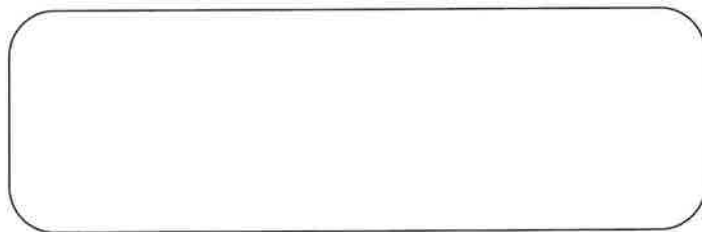
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Yes! I want to be involved in NAJIT's growth and progress!

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____
 Home Ph. (____) _____ Business Ph. (____) _____ Fax (____) _____
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- ☐ I want to work on a **fundraising committee**
- ☐ I have **great ideas for raising funds** ; here are a few:
- ☐ I can help with **grant research and /or grant writing**, or I know someone who can.
- ☐ I will **donate an item or find donors of items** for a fundraiser. Item/donor:
- ☐ I can't help right now, but **please put my name on a list of Helping Hands** for future projects.
- ☐ I'd like to have **the following monographs available** to distribute to clients



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Federal Court Certification _____ State Court Certification: From which state(s)? _____

____ ATA: What language combinations? _____

____ Department of State: Escort ____ Seminar ____ Conference ____

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Check here if you **DO NOT** want to be listed on NAJIT s Web site _____

I was referred to NAJIT by _____

If you are a language instructor at a college, please indicate which one. _____

I am an interpreter _____, translator _____.

I certify that the above information is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I agree to abide by the NAJIT Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities.

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PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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Dues (Outside U.S.A. and Territories, \$15 Additional.)	\$95	\$40	\$175	\$300 with Hot Link, \$100 without Hot Link to Web Site	\$75
Suggested Voluntary Contribution to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (Fully Tax-Deductible)	<u>\$35</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$65</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$25</u>
Total	\$130	\$50	\$240	\$400 w Link \$200 w/o Link	\$100

* NAJIT reserves the right to validate applications for student membership on a case-by-case basis.

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