

# CHICATA NEWS

A Publication of the Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association

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## Editors play a vital role within a translation team.

By Jeannine Maldonado Timmes



The word “editing” means different things to different people in different organizations. Editing can be done by proofreaders, copy editors, senior editors, production editors, and managing editors, with their job descriptions depending on the needs of the place where they work, whether it is in publishing, government, industry or academia.

In the business of translation, texts that lend themselves to communicative translation may benefit from an editor. (Literary translation is considered an art, and as such is usually translated and edited only by the translator in his/her own fashion, e.g., works by Homer). It is argued that a good translation is a final product, that it has been revised thoroughly by the translator before delivery, and that editing it (changing it) without his/her knowledge may be unethical. On the other hand, translators are usually under extremely tight deadlines, which may not allow for an objective reading of the material before delivery. In such situations, an editor can serve as the first objective reader of the translation and catch errors before publication.

In general, an editor checks the translation (and source) for accuracy,

consistency of terminology, completeness, spelling, grammar, and punctuation, sentence structure and style, transitions between sections, and adherence to a style guide.

As I mentioned above, there are many ways in which editing is performed by different organizations. As a freelance technical translator/editor, I usually work in a team consisting of a project manager, translators, an editor, and a proofreader. The ideal situation allows enough time for review and negotiation of changes to take place between team members and client. Otherwise, the quality of the translation may be jeopardized.

In my practice, the translation and editing process is largely as follows: When the project is large enough, three to four translators work on different chapters using a common glossary that is pre-approved by the client. The editor makes changes to keep the terminology consistent, to smooth the stylistic differences among the translators, and also checks for accuracy, completeness, clarity, and adherence to a style guide. Editorial comments go back to the translators for review and incorporation into the final version. The proofreader checks for typos, layout, and completeness of the final copy.

Sometimes a team of two translators is assigned jobs of a specific client. The translators usually know each other and are able to communicate directly or through the project manager. The translators edit each other’s work, discuss

changes or comments made to the translation, and decide which changes to incorporate in the final version. Or sometimes a translator and an editor are assigned on an ongoing basis to one specific client. In this case, the translator always has the final word on the translation before delivery to the client. In all cases, the client gives it a final quality check.

I believe editing needs to happen in the translation business, especially if the translation is a team effort. The word “editing” should not conjure up only images of a senior editor working in the publishing industry, but should also include all manner of revisions to manuscripts for publication, be they original or translations. ●

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# CHICATA NEWS

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CHICATA News, published four times a year, is distributed free of charge to all its members. The subscription rate for non-members is \$15 for 4 issues. Membership dues are \$35. The newsletter provides up to date information about its members, association activities, as well as news of the translation/interpretation profession. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, the association or its officers, and are solely those of their authors. Articles submitted become the property of CHICATA News and are subject to editing. No part of the newsletter may be reproduced in any form without the written permission from the editor. Materials for publication may be mailed or e-mailed to the editor at the following location: Maria Rocio Jaramillo, One Ontario Court #478-2, Oak Park, IL 60302-2760. 708-383-0453 mrocioj@earthlink.net



## *Message From the President*

On behalf of the CHICATA Executive Committee, I would like to thank all of the members of the Association for your support and input over the past year. A new "CHICATA Year" began on May 3 with our annual conference and the installation of the newly elected officers. I wish the Executive Committee the best of luck over the next year! I would like to welcome Luisa Ranieri Brantingham, our



newly elected Secretary, to the CHICATA Executive Committee. Luisa is an experienced professional who served with distinction in the past as Vice President for Membership and as Vice President for Programs. We are very fortunate to have dedicated members such as Luisa.

The past year was a good one for CHICATA. We had an increase in membership over the previous year, something always welcomed by a membership organization such as ours. I would like to briefly mention what I consider to be the highlights of the year. First, we held our third CHICATA Institute. This time it was an Interpreter's Institute, featuring workshops on consecutive interpreting conducted by Daniel Giglio. The first day was open to all language combinations, and the following day was specifically for Spanish interpreters. Special thanks to Brandie Brunner for organizing those workshops. Second, Andrea Friedmann organized the Spanish Language Group, which has met twice so far, and plans to continue meeting on a regular basis. I would certainly encourage the formation of other language groups. I believe this kind of focused activity is very important. Third, Marie-France Schreiber has made continual improvements in our web site. Stay tuned for more improvements in the web site. Finally, Rocio Jaramillo has made sure that the newsletter is published on a regular production schedule.

I would like to extend a great debt of gratitude to all members who have helped with programs, the web site, membership promotion, conference planning, the directory, public relations, and the newsletter over the past year. It takes a tremendous amount of volunteer activity to keep an organization like ours running. Though we try to keep things as simple as possible — without complicated bylaws and procedures — there are still numerous details that have to be attended to on a regular basis. Many thanks to the volunteers that give so generously of their time and energy!

Following the conference, we always take a little "vacation" in the months of June and July. Our programs resume in August with the picnic "CHICATA Fest", and our thematic meetings resume in September. This year, we are hoping to hold a CHICATA Translators Institute in the fall. I hope to see all of you there. ●

Sincerely,

*John F. Bukacek*

# The Executive Committee Board assembled and discussed plans for CHICATA

By Cynthia Hahn

## Meeting minutes from March 22, 2003

**Present:** Marie-France Schreiber, Patti Jacobs, John Bukacek, Cynthia Hahn

**Absent:** Rocio Jaramillo, Brandie Brunner, Yves Lassere

**Location:** Elmhurst College Library

**Time:** The meeting began at 3:30pm.

Minutes were approved from January, 18. There was no official report from the Treasurer or Vice-President for Programs.

### Conference Committee's Report:

Members of the committee included John Bukacek, Alex Gualino, Cristina Villanueva, and Brandie Brunner. Conference was determined to be held on May 3, at Marina City Conference Room, and a topic of legal and business planning with practical information for translators and interpreters was chosen. The fee was set at \$50, with a \$20 student rate. Five local speakers were listed to be invited. The anticipated total income for the conference was \$2500 with \$2380 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$120.

### Vice-President for Membership's Report:

Patti reported that 132 renewals had been processed, with 50 still pending. It was difficult to reorganize the database in Excel because of language order (source and target languages for translation and interpreting), then imported into Access. This project was projected to be completed in April

or May. Ideally CHICATA would want a database that members can update themselves in order to reduce complications. By March 28, there will be 250 printed copies of the directory. She also has copies of all the checks members submitted for verification.

### Webmaster's Report:

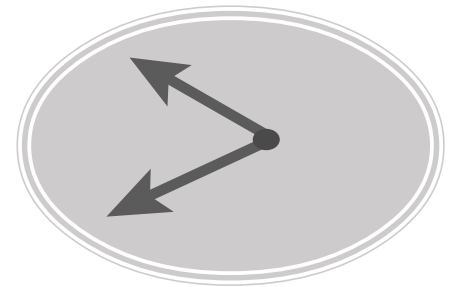
Marie France noted metatags are in the code for the CHICATA website. There is no current website committee. If interested in helping with the website, contact Marie-France. Student interns were discussed. Web hosting will be EMD. The cut off date for the hard copy directory listing, March 26, should go on the website.

The membership database may be converted and uploaded to make it searchable and CHICATA may institute a membership form on the site for members to update their own information. Only certain member information can be on the site.

Elmhurst College, College of DuPage and the Library in Glendale Heights have been researched for possible monthly program sites. Each room is priced differently.

### Newsletter Editor's Report:

(Rocio in absentia). The past newsletters were an average of 20 Mb in size because they were planned for printing and not for the web. It takes 3 weeks + of full-time work to complete a newsletter, so there currently is not enough time to reduce the size of prior issues to prepare them for the web. The 1 Mb allocated for the web limits how much more could be included. It may be better to wait until the website is upgraded before uploading newsletters. The current issue had some preplanning to reduce final size.



### Publicity Committee's Report:

Patti mentioned she would be working on publicity for the conference.

### President's Report:

John reported that the Spanish Language Group had a successful first meeting. Fifteen people are currently enlisted and the numbers should grow. One project they are involved in consists of building a glossary of terms that differ by region of origin and by frequency of use in Chicago. They also plan to create a glossary of words and phrases with no exact English equivalents. Andrea Friedmann heads the group. They may meet every 2 months.

This year's Nominating Committee will be: Arnaldo Higuero, Irene Ishoo, and Ernst Schuetz. 112 ballots (based on renewals) were sent out on May 3. The deadline was May 20 for receipt of ballots. Afterwards, the committee met to count the ballots.

### Other business:

Honoraria were discussed. For monthly meetings, non-member speakers' honorarium is negotiated based on budgetary constraints. A motion was proposed and passed to give a minimal honorarium plus photocopy expenses to speaker Maricela Ponce de Leon. It was discussed that honoraria would normally be determined before the event, but sometimes there are last minute changes which preclude this. Rocio's changed email was noted by the committee to be the following: mrocioj@earthlink.net.

*continued on page 4*

These will be the last meeting minutes which Cynthia Hahn shall submit to the newsletter. She thanks the Executive Committee for their hard work during her involvement as Secretary these past 5 years.

## The Executive Committee Board assembled and discussed plans for CHICATA Meeting minutes from January 18, 2003

*continued from page 3*

**Present:** John Bukacek, Cynthia Hahn, Brandie Brunner, Patricia Jacobs, Marie-France Schreiber

**Absent:** Yves Lassere, Rocio Jaramillo

**Location:** Sulzer Library

**Time:** The meeting began at 1:30p.m.

**Treasurer's Report:** At the January executive board meeting John discussed the Treasurer's Report in Yves absence. CHICATA was reported to be in good financial shape, and it was anticipated that revenues received by the annual conference in May will match expenses especially as most members had not yet sent membership dues at the beginning of the year. The annual conference was expected to generate strong revenues for the organization.

**President's Report.** The financial status was announced as strong. Patti and John have discussed the membership drive for this year. Marie-France has been generous in making updates to the on-line directory twice a month. The database was and is still a work in progress. The initial plans for the conference and annual meeting that was held on Saturday, May 3 was presented. Ballots for officers must go out 60 days before the conference. The Nominating Committee was determined to be headed by Arnoldo Higuero who would be contacted by those interested in a position on the board. The growth of the Spanish language group was noted. Andrea Friedmann organized a meeting for the group at her house for February 8.

**Vice-President for Program's Report:** Brandie reported the plans for the meetings that took place on February 15 about translation ethics and on March 15 about interpretation etiquette. The plans for the April 12 meeting on research tools for translators and for the May 3 conference was also submitted. The April 12 session was later cancelled. The March 15's topic was changed shortly before the session to aspects in court interpreting.

**Vice-President for Membership's Report:** Patti noted that address changes should be sent to [sptran@aol.com](mailto:sptran@aol.com). Most new members remarked the website was their first contact with CHICATA. Renewal notices were sent, with a steady response recorded. Also, 250 directories would need to be printed; Floriana handled external orders of the directory

**Webmaster's Report:** Marie-France mentioned the website hosting would be transferred from Corecom to EMD Associates. She anticipated obtaining Front Page and copies of new software necessary for updates. She summarized the projects about working on converting the database to make it searchable, the creation of the database, keeping program information up to date, and the development of the language training page. Henry Phillips participated on the web site.

### The meeting ended at 2:40 p.m. ●

*Cynthia Hahn translates between French and English, specializing in literature and advertising. She also is a language instructor.*

## Roundtable discussion on translation and ethics

*By Ernst Schuetz*

It is always helpful to be able to exchange ideas about translation problems with fellow translators or interpreters. At the meeting on February 15, 2003 the subject was "ethics in translation".

The following are among the enlightening issues that were discussed:

- ★ Confidentiality (important issue).
  - ★ Text fidelity (faithful to original text/how to handle errors in text).
  - ★ Problems associated with contractual agreements.
  - ★ Price negotiation (renegotiation after job completed).
  - ★ Familiarity with specialized subject matters.
  - ★ Proofreading/ editing (Should the customer be able to demand unethical changes). It should be more like a review process.
  - ★ Subcontracting without telling client. Editing without translator's consent.
- The meeting was very useful and informative. ●

*Ernst Schuetz graduated from Diplom-Uebersetzer, Heidelberg University. He translates/interprets between English and German.*

## A Dime For Your Time Readership Questionnaire



Please send in your opinions to the editor. We'd like to hear if you find this newsletter interesting and useful.

Do you find the articles useful? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel it is laid out well? \_\_\_\_\_

What subjects would you like to read about? \_\_\_\_\_

Rank the articles as: Very interesting \_\_\_\_\_, Somewhat interesting \_\_\_\_\_,

Slightly interesting \_\_\_\_\_, Not interesting \_\_\_\_\_.

Stories are generally: Too long \_\_\_\_\_, Too short \_\_\_\_\_, Just right \_\_\_\_\_.

Other comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

The newsletter is now available in the CHICATA website. The number of printed issues for September will be halved to reduce costs. Inform the editor if you prefer to receive hard copy or if you can download the file. For those that do not send in a request, the decision will be at the discretion of the editor.

## Court interpreters face many issues and dilemmas

By Victoria Diaz

On March 15th, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Association and Maricela Ponce de Leon regaled us with her wisdom and experience of being a legal interpreter for many years. Everyone had a great time.

Maricela brought some excerpts from the movie "My Cousin Vinny" which, in many ways, illustrates the problems we have encountered on occasion when working: from the butterflies we get our first time before a judge, with a defense lawyer doing his best to act as Perry Mason in a very formal courtroom, full of rules and behavior codes, to the moments when we give ourselves a mental pat on the back for a job well done. It ran the gamut.

How many times have we found ourselves sweating the proverbial bullets in front of a judge, district attorney or defense lawyer all talking at the same time, doing their best to confuse

or clarify the issues, and the interpreter trying to express what they say while deciding which comments or opinions are more important to the person we are interpreting to?

There are times when there is a "language barrier" because the person who is giving the testimony is not well educated and uses words that belong in a dialect somewhere and we have to find a word, appropriate to the testimony, without missing a beat and looking like fools. How about the times when we have to interpret the same vulgarities the witness is spewing, without hesitation and embarrassment, and we are expected to keep a straight face?

Maricela also commented on her efforts to make the attorneys understand the importance of the interpreter who, in a way, becomes the witness and talks for him or her. She also outlined a career path, which emphasizes the impor-

tance of the simultaneous interpreter in a conference environment and the consecutive one in a legal matter. The need for the training and development of the interpreter was also discussed. They may act only as observers up until the time when they take the helm in a court procedure.

I certainly love my job. It has given me the opportunity to meet all kinds of people, many of them who were very nice, and a few who were not. But this type of work has also given me the chance to start new and lasting friendships with my fellow interpreters, helped pay many of my bills and get to see the inside of many courtrooms, all for the right reasons. But as Kermit the Frog would say, "Its not easy being green". ●

*Victoria Diaz interprets between Spanish and English in the legal area. She can be reached at her-ispaina@atti.com*

## Shoptalk inspires ideas for future activities

By Floriana Bivona-Lockner

On January 18th, at the Sulzer Library, CHICATA held its annual shoptalk meeting. Attendance was good, especially considering the frigid weather, and there were a few new faces.

After the usual announcements from our president, John Bukacek, the meeting got underway. The undersigned, Floriana Bivona, introduced the topic of Eurodicautom, the terminology bank of the European Union, possibly going off line. Marie-France Schreiber informed us that a new message has been posted on Eurodicautom's Web site ([http://europa.eu.int/eurodicautom/response\\_DG.jsp](http://europa.eu.int/eurodicautom/response_DG.jsp)) Mention was made of the petition on the F.I.T. (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs) Web site, which had been flagged on our discussion list. Marie-France Schreiber, who is also our webmistress, suggested she could add a link to the petition to the CHICATA Web site.

Comments and suggestions of alternative databanks were solicited.

Some databases (Celex, Termium, etc.), and some chatrooms and translation forums (ProZ, TranslatorsCafé, etc.) were mentioned as possible resources.

One member, Debbie Rea-Erickson, posed the problem of how interpreters validate themselves, especially in a courtroom situation. How does one know he/she is the right person for the job? The lack of courses and continuing education in the translation field, but especially for interpreting, was mourned. Mentoring and shadowing were brought up as possible solutions.

From that issue it was a short step to the subject of client education. The importance of always asking clients for all available information and background materials was underscored by several of those present. Brandie Brunner explained that she always asks a new prospective client if he/she has worked with translators/interpreters in the past. If the answer is in the affir-

mative, she asks what has worked out and what might not have, so she can start on the right foot. Of course, if this is a client's first adventure in the world of language services it's the perfect occasion to explain to him/her how it all works.

The attendees listed some of CHICATA's accomplishments, from our marketing brochure to our directory. Mention was made of the PowerPoint presentation. Dana mentioned that she was asked to make a presentation about foreign language services and their importance to the City of Highwood on January 28th and expressed interest in using CHICATA's tool. The topic of collections was also briefly touched upon. All in all, it was a productive meeting. We hope to be able to develop these subjects at future meetings. ●

*Floriana Bivona-Lockner is a freelance Italian into English translator, focusing on medical and computer equipment, ad-copy, sports and music.*

# CHICATA NEWS

## CHICATA's CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 18, 2003:** Annual Shoptalk at Sulzer Library.

**February 8, 2003:** Gathering of the Spanish Language Group.

**February 15, 2003:** Panel on ethics, business and contracts..

**March 15, 2003:** Issues in court interpreting.

**March 29, 2003:** Second gathering of the Spanish Language Group. Discussion on contracts..

**April 12, 2003:** Research tools for translators. Session cancelled.

**May 3, 2003:** Annual conference in Marina City.

**June and July, 2002:** Summer Vacation. Time to enjoy yourself.

**August 16, 2003:** Spanish language meeting at Andrea Friedmann's house. Informal workshop on literary translation from English into Spanish. At Andrea Friedmann's house. Call her at 773-338-7890 for further information.

*Elected officers to be announced in next issue!*

*The Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association*

## CHICATA NEWS

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