

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology Division of the American Translators Association

Held on Saturday October 29, 2011 2:30-3:30 p.m.

at Berkley Room, Marriott Copley Place, Boston

Handouts provided:

Agenda

Links to websites listing activities of the Science and Technology Division (S&TD)

Report on Science and Technology Division Survey 2011

1. The acting administrator Karen Tkaczyk called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. The agenda was accepted.

3. Election of Officers

- Karen Tkaczyk introduced the members of the Nominating Committee, Abigail Dahlberg (Chair, not present), Salvador Virgen (present) and Susanna Weerth (present).
- Those Nominating committee members present announced the election for two-year terms of the current administrator Karen Tkaczyk and the assistant administrator Steven Marzuola by acclamation according to the ATA meeting protocol.

4. Report on Division activities in 2011

Karen Tkaczyk provided a brief overview over the division activities:

- Sessions at the Annual Conference - For the first time in recent years there have been science and technology sessions (eleven of them) throughout the entire meeting.
- The division's communication tools are the blog, managed by editors Stephanie Strobel and Tess Whitty, the division mailing list, a closed group on LinkedIn, and a Twitter feed that Karen Tkaczyk handles. During the Boston conference Karen tweeted updates about S&TD events. Currently there is no activity on Facebook but Karen commented that the division should probably create a group there.

5. Leadership Council

- In February 2011, as a pilot division, Karen Tkaczyk invited eight S&TD members to become members of the new leadership council along with her and Steven Marzuola: Stephanie Strobel (who was already and active volunteer, editing the blog), Tess Whitty (who now also helps with the blog), Alicja Yarborough (who arranged the trip to the Museum of Science and the 2011 Division Dinner at the Kashmir Indian Restaurant), Patricia Thickstun (who is outgoing Administrator of the Medical

Division, therefore has experience in running a division), Vincent Lai, and three members not present: Iryna Ashby (who is redeveloping the website), Romina Marazzato and Tim Hanes. With ten volunteers, the division can achieve more and serve members better.

- Karen thanked the members of the Nominating Committee again for their service.

6. New business

- The next ATA Annual Conference will be on October 24 – 27, 2012 at the Hilton in San Diego, CA. Karen Tkaczyk called for proposals of distinguished speakers for the S&TD division at the conference. The speaker should not be an ATA member or have spoken at a previous ATA conference, and will probably be a member of the translation, interpretation, or localization industry or an acknowledged subject matter expert. Next year's conference organizer, President Elect Caitilin Walsh, will extend invitations based on the abstracts submitted. Patricia Thickstun pointed out that the submission deadline for Distinguished Speakers is February 1st.
- Karen Tkaczyk encouraged members to offer presentations for the San Diego conference. Presenting at the ATA conference enhances recognition in the field and leads to new work.
- Membership of the leadership council is a one-year commitment by invitation of the administrator. In February 2012 Karen Tkaczyk will reform the council, with some continuing members and some new ones.

7. Panel Discussion for Technical Translators

- Admired technical translators Steven Marzuola, Tess Whitty and Catherine Christaki outlined their paths into translation and sparked a discussion about important issues in technical translation.

8. Members Introduction

- Those present were invited to introduce themselves at the meeting. In summary, specializations were IT, Engineering, Mechanical engineering, Renewable and Building Energy, Material Science, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Nanotechnology, Medical, Pharmaceutical, and Medical, Chemical and Mechanical patents, but also Marketing Law, Gaming and others providing translation, interpretation and localization. Languages represented spanned Chinese, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Polish and Spanish.
- Danielle P. Haymes, a Project Manager from Park IP Translations, attended the meeting and encouraged subject-matter experts present to contact Park IP.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Susanna Weerth, and approved by Karen Tkaczyk, Petra Schweitzer and Alicja Yarborough
Issued November 19, 2011