



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
2 May 2009

Present: Terina Abrahamson, Shannon Bachorick, Gaétane Bélanger, Estelle Bonetto, Robert Clark, Brigitte Haguès, Michael Jackson, Robert Jerrett, Gisèle Piché, Nicolle Sauvage, Nancy Senior, Françoise Stoppa, Sybille Tremblay, Elizabeth Warren, Zewei Yu, Qiao Zhang

Proxies: Elisabet Ràfols-Sagués, Louise McCullough, Vera Ljubovic, Sue Stewart

Regrets: Nancy Allan, Joanne Bonneville, Bernard Fafard, Jonathan Felton, Richard Lapointe, Brian Rainey, Ana Vialard, Bernard Wilhelm

1. Adoption of agenda

S. Tremblay asked if there were items to add to the agenda.

Adoption of agenda moved by R. Clark / R. Jerrett. Carried.

2. Approval of minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 10 May 2008

Approval of the minutes moved by R. Jerrett/G. Bélanger. Carried.

3. Approval of minutes of the Fall General Meeting, 10 November 2008

Approval of the minutes moved by T. Abrahamson/R. Clark. Carried.

4. Business arising from the minutes

a. *Reciprocity with other associations* – The executive reviewed this issue and determined it was not necessary to amend the bylaws. ATIS has signed the agreement with CTTIC. Reciprocity is mentioned on the ATIS website.

b. *ATIS Archives* – The executive is working with R. Lapointe to ensure the appropriate retention and disposal of ATIS files. T. Abrahamson is the contact.

c. *Errors and omissions insurance* – This issue remains unresolved.

d. *Membership fee policy change* – The changes are explained in the latest edition of the Bulletin.

e. *Extended health benefits/group insurance plan* – The executive has done some background work, but it does not look promising.

f. *Regina Open Door Society/Saskatoon Open Door Society* – ATIS contact with these immigrant settlement associations will be discussed later in the meeting.

g. *Pass rate for CTTIC exam* – ATIS is concerned by the low pass rate; for example, in the most recent English to French exam the pass rate was 0%. The CTTIC exam board worked on selecting texts that presented some challenges but still could be translated within the exam timeframe and under exam conditions. The official results are not yet available.

## 5. President's report

a. *Review* – Sybille Tremblay indicated this would be her last report after serving as ATIS president for the past four years. She noted that it was a pleasure to work with the members of the executive and she wanted to thank them for their commitment and good ideas. She reviewed ATIS accomplishments over that time: updating the website, modifying the admission exam process to reduce the work of the exam coordinator and markers, while maintaining high standards, using technology to conduct our executive meetings and creating an ATIS presence on Facebook. Of course, ensuring the day-to-day workings of the association represented a great deal of work as well. It is her sincere hope that ATIS will continue to offer useful professional development opportunities to members. She was glad to see that a good number of people attended this morning's workshop and participated in a lively question and answer section. She noted that last year's videoconference about on dossier translation was also successful.

b. *Court interpretation* – S. Tremblay explained that court interpreting is a current issue and has been of interest for some time. ATIS has met with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice about developing a court interpreter category. S. Tremblay shared with Justice officials the associated challenges, given that ATIS is not a training or teaching institution. She explained the role of ATIS: to assess ability and knowledge and then determine whether a person can become an associate or certified member. She also raised concerns about the very low wages received by court interpreters and the fact that there is no compensation if a hearing does not go ahead. She felt it would be difficult to persuade the University of Regina or SIAST to develop a course when graduates could look forward to only minimum wage level earnings. The current lack of recognition, both financial and professional, poses a challenge.

S. Tremblay continued by explaining that this has become a national issue and CTTIC is getting involved to set national standards. CTTIC will be working with organizations and institutions to develop a training program. It is important to all associations although progress is slow. What it means for ATIS: we need to work on developing a new category and a means to assess these skills and knowledge. There are a number of challenges, including diversity of languages, the need for bi-directional interpretation skills, professional ethics, courtroom procedure and terminology and finding evaluators.

Members also discussed this issue later in the meeting. M. Jackson indicated his agreement with the points raised by S. Tremblay regarding high expectations for low wages. E. Warren mentioned that there had been a court interpreting course or seminar in the 1990s and that Henri Chabanole (an ATIS member who is a lawyer) and Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (SDHHS) were interested in working on this. She also added that ATIO has developed an accreditation exam for Langue des signes du Québec (LSQ) and French court interpreters.

c. *Treasurer* – S. Tremblay indicated that the treasurer position remained to be filled in the slate of candidates for next year's executive. She asked the members present to consider putting their names forward when nominations open at the end of the meeting.

d. *Acknowledgements* – On behalf of ATIS, S. Tremblay thanked the Institut français for the facilities and equipment in Regina and the University of Saskatchewan for use of the same in Saskatoon.

e. *Thank you* – On behalf of the ATIS executive and membership, T. Abrahamson thanked S. Tremblay for her hard work and dedication in the role of president over the past four years.

## 6. Treasurer's report

a. *2008-09 Expenses* – E. Warren presented the treasurer's report as of 31 March 2009 and an auditor's report for 2008-2009. E. Warren took questions from the membership. A member noted that telephone costs are a major expense and asked if we had looked into changing our service. E. Warren clarified that the line item also includes the cost of advertising in both Saskatoon and Regina yellow pages. It was noted that ATIS receives quite a few enquiries through our telephone service. Another member suggested that ATIS create a counter on our website to track visits. Our yellow pages ad drives people to the website; they may not call the ATIS number.

E. Warren added some further context by explaining that not all admission exam expenditures have been made. These outstanding expenses in addition to another one missing from the CTTIC expenditures will appear in next year's statements. The net income does not reflect these differences. She added that the ATIS investment serves as a contingency fund for a future effort to seek professional title.

Moved (N. Sauvage / Z. Yu) that the auditor's report be accepted. Carried.

b. *Auditor* – E. Warren will ask Mr. Orban if he will continue as our auditor. The next executive will follow up on this question.

c. *Recognition for outstanding service* – On behalf of ATIS, S. Tremblay thanked E. Warren for her outstanding service to the association. S. Tremblay presented a certificate of appreciation and lifetime membership and T. Abrahamson presented a gift from the membership.

## 7. Exam coordinators' report

### a. *ATIS entrance examinations*

- Nancy Senior reported that 14 candidates wrote the proficiency exams (5 in Regina and 9 in Saskatoon). Five people passed. One person plans to take the admission exam next year. Six candidates (3 in each city) wrote the Admission exam. There were four successful candidates.
- ATIS welcomes the following new Associate Member Translators:
  - Liane Morse, French to English
  - Tracy Evans, French to English
  - Estelle Bonetto, English to French
  - Odette Matos Lara, English to Spanish

### b. *New certified members*

- One candidate was successful in presenting a dossier for certification for translation from French into English: Robert Jerrett. N. Senior presented R. Jerrett with his updated membership certificate.

### c. *Acknowledgements*

- N. Senior thanked the markers and the on dossier evaluators.
- N. Senior expressed her appreciation for the work of F. Stoppa and B. Haguès in carrying out exam duties in Regina.

## 8. Other business

a. *Certification for interpreters* – Michael Jackson raised this issue. He expressed his hope that the exam could be held in Regina. It had been scheduled for last fall but did not go ahead. His suggestion was that the exam be held every two to three years. He asked if an on-dossier process would be possible. S. Tremblay explained that CTTIC was having problems with exams for interpreters. Last year there was an exam but ATIO refused to accept the exam as valid because there were too many glitches. CTTIC looked at how to better organize the exam but no results so far. When there is another exam, ATIS will provide equipment necessary so that candidates would not have to go to Ottawa. The on dossier method is creating problems. It works on referral with three sponsors and the interpretation community is a small one. There is some concern about politicization of the process.

b. *Western Canada Farm Progress Show (WCFPS)* – S. Tremblay explained that ATIS was contacted by the WCFPS about including promotional materials in kits for international visitors. ATIS bookmarks will be included in the kits. T. Abrahamson described volunteer language support and professional interpreter opportunities available at the WCFPS. She will send an email to the membership with the details.

c. *Spam from ATIS website* – S. Bachorick asked if there was a way to change the security settings or how the email links are posted on the ATIS website to cut down on the amount of spam received. She believes that webcrawler software has been accessing the emails and sending out spam. N. Sauvage, our volunteer webmaster, will look into this.

d. *Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS) and Regina Open Door Society (RODS)* – Both SODS and RODS are planning courses for their community interpreters. R. Jerrett has been in contact with the Regina organization. N. Senior will be attending the course offered by the Saskatoon agency and will serve as a resource about ATIS.

e. *Proficiency exam* – A suggestion was made to post old versions of the proficiency exam on the ATIS website as a resource. There was a concern about then not being able to reuse the material for future exams. A solution would be to put some sample questions. N. Senior will pick some questions and send them to N. Sauvage. It was also suggested that the purpose of the proficiency exam be posted on the website. Although the purpose is explained at the orientation session, this information is not available to people consulting the ATIS website who might be considering membership. The executive will consider including additional information on the website.

## 9. Election of executive

E. Warren explained the main duties of the treasurer are to manage membership payment, pay ATIS bills and keep the books using the QuickBooks program. Busy times are around the fall general meeting and preparing for the auditor before the Annual General Meeting. The treasurer currently keeps the membership list updated. This duty could be shared with other on the executive.

There was a call for nominations. There were no names put forward as treasurer. The following slate was presented to the members for consideration:

Executive for 2009-2010:

President:	Elisabet Ràfols-Sagués
Vice-President:	Brigitte Haguès
Secretary:	Terina Abrahamson
Treasurer:	Vacant
Exam Coordinators:	Nancy Senior
Public Relations Director:	Robert Jerrett
Member at Large:	Michael Jackson

Moved (N. Sauvage/B. Haguès) that nominations cease. Carried.

Moved (S. Bachorick/E. Warren) that the slate be accepted as presented. Carried.

Moved (E. Warren/E. Bonetto) that the new executive committee be charged with finding a Treasurer. Carried.

## 10. Date of next AGM

S. Tremblay indicated that the timing of this year's meeting on the first Saturday of May seemed to work well. We weren't competing with Mother's Day or the Victoria Day long weekend. Members discussed the timing. E. Warren cautioned that the timeframe was tight for the audit with a March 31 date; however, it would still work if ATIS is able to retain its current auditor. Another concern raised was whether all of the admission exams would be corrected so we could welcome new members. This factor is difficult to control because of marker availability. Members agreed that the 2010 AGM in Regina be tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2010.

Members also discussed the date of the 2009 fall general meeting in Saskatoon. Gisèle Piché offered to assist with securing meeting space at the University of Saskatchewan. It was proposed that the meeting be tentatively scheduled for October 24, 2009. The next executive committee will confirm a date and contact G. Piché.

Moved (F. Stoppa/S. Bachorick) that the meeting be adjourned at 2:58 p.m. Carried.