

Rattles from New Mexico May 2008

Table of Contents

Minutes of January 12th meeting	1-2
Minutes of February 23rd meeting	2-3
Minutes of March 08th meeting	3-4
18th TIP-LAB: Schedule	4
Meeting announcement	5
TIP-LAB announcement	5
NCIHC invitation	6
Scholars on Translation	7
Alcaraz Varó has died	7
La duda gramatical	8
Federal Court Interpreting exam	9
Da Committees	10
Board	11
Picture	11

Minutes of January 12th meeting

Fifteen (15) members met at the APS Service Center in Albuquerque, NM.



Presentations. Barbara Shaffer, PhD, RID: CI/CT, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Signed Language Interpreting Program, Department of Linguistics, UNM, introduced spoken language interpreters to the field of signed language interpreting. Dr. Shaffer provided a brief etymology of signed language and outlined the laws that govern signed language interpreting. Finally, she described signed language interpreting licensure, certification, and training in New Mexico.

The **Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD)** at <http://copdnm.org>, 505-255-7636 or 1-800-229-4262 (voice and TTY) and the **Sorensen Video Relay Service** at <http://www.sorensonvrs.com/>, provide interpreting services for the deaf and hard of hearing. The **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)** at <http://www.rid.org/> and the **UNM Signed Language Interpreting Program**, <http://www.unm.edu/%7esign/index.html>, 505/277-0928 (voice and TTY) support development of signed language interpreters by promoting professional standards and providing training.

Treasurer Report. Ikuko Begay presented the group with a statement of receipts and expenses over 2007 and 2008 to date. The balance, including 2008 payments received prior to the meeting, is \$3890.51. Tomás Butchart presented Ikuko with a gift certificate in appreciation for her diligent work for NMTIA during her four years as Treasurer (2004 - 2007), with broad applause and echoing thanks from the group.

Elections.

Results. Norma Norcia, Treasurer; Bethany Korp-Edwards, Vice-President; Robert Lopez, Acting President

Qualifications of President. Conny Nichols voiced concern that NMTIA needs to consider the qualifications of the individual whom it elects as president in light of this person's reflection on the group as a professional association. In particular, she questioned the wisdom of having someone who is not certified in their language elected to the office. Margarita Montalvo introduced the issue of whether the president needs to be ATA

Note from Mar:

I do apologize to everybody for the delay in the publication of this number. Thank you for the understanding.

Mar

Minutes of January 12th meeting (cont.)

certified in order for NMTIA to belong to the national association. Tomás Butchart will review the ATA requirements. A number of members pointed out the existing difficulty of finding enough people willing to accept nomination to the board and expressed concern that a requirement for certification would make election of a president impossible because it would excessively limit the pool of eligible nominees.

Conny moved that some qualifications for NMTIA President be set in the by-laws; Margarita seconded the motion. Uwe Schroeter moved that members discuss criteria for office of President at the next meeting, with input from the membership at large through e-mail; Rose de Leon Garcia seconded the motion. This motion was later amended by the same individuals to discussion at a "future" meeting, and accepted by members present. A special meeting on Saturday, 23 February 2008, was generally approved. Rose Marie motioned that NMTIA confirm current Vice-President Robert Lopez as acting President; Catherine Fridey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority.

Minutes of February 23rd meeting

Twelve (12) members met at the APS Service Center in Albuquerque, NM, for a special meeting to discuss eligibility criteria for serving as an officer of NMTIA.

Acting President Robert Lopez called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and opened the floor for any member to bring the question. As the issue was not presented forthwith by members present, broader discussion of the status of NMTIA by-laws ensued. Member Conny Nichols returned discussion to the issue at hand with a strong statement of the need to strengthen the credibility of the Association and promote the actual and perceived professionalism of the group. She recommended that NMTIA establish eligibility criteria for NMTIA officers, specifically that the President and Vice-President be required to be certified by a recognized translation or interpretation authority (e.g., the American Translators Association or a court agency). Other members expressed diverse views as to the advisability and feasibility of instituting such criteria. The ideas that certification criteria also be established for admission to general membership and / or that membership be graduated according to certification status were also introduced. Vice-President Bethany Korp-Edwards noted for the record that ATA guidelines require that both president and vice-president of a group be certified - by ATA - in order for the entity to be considered for ATA "Chapter" status. NMTIA is currently an ATA "Affiliated Group," and there is no certification requirement for this status. Further treatment of officer eligibility criteria was subsumed in the following action steps, which were approved by members present, to address insufficiencies in NMTIA by-laws and the Association's professional presence.

Board of Directors. NMTIA will act to formalize a Board of Directors. Conny Nichols will formulate an amendment to the by-laws which will stipulate that the Board consist of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three (3) members at large and state that this body will meet in months alternate to regularly scheduled full membership meetings. Conny recommended that NMTIA officers be listed on the web site and that NMTIA implement teleconferencing (audio) at bimonthly meetings in order to facilitate real-time, "in-person" participation by more members. She will look into the cost and technical requirements.

Grievance Committee. NMTIA will populate a Grievance Committee as currently established under Association by-laws. As President, Bob Lopez will name individuals to the Committee at the next meeting and select a Committee Chair in consultation with those named. Bob recommended Uwe Schroeter should he consent to participate.

Development Committee. Vice-President Bethany Korp-Edwards moved that NMTIA form a committee to study how we will strengthen the organization, including criteria both for holding office and for membership. Conny Nichols seconded, and all present approved. Members will be informed of plans for the Committee in March 2008, and officers will solicit participation from the membership for the following couple of months, in anticipation of establishing an active committee by June 2008. The goal would be to have criteria in place by September 2009 in order to apply them during the next election of president in January of 2010. Both Bethany and Conny highly recommended that NMTIA establish a written ballot for elections rather than continuing the show-of-hands procedure in recent practice. Members present agreed that January 2008 elections would stand, and Robert Lopez will be recognized as President.

By-laws Committee. Treasurer Norma Norcia moved that NMTIA form a committee to review and modify

Minutes of February 23rd meeting

Association by-laws, including technical editing, updating to current practice, and amending as appropriate. Conny Nichols seconded, and all present approved. Several members recommended that final results of the By-laws Committee work be reviewed by a lawyer before enactment and publication. Bob Lopez recommended that the group consider establishing standing committees in the by-laws. Conny recommended that NMTIA establish both an Executive Committee and a Nominating Committee to formalize and legitimate the manner in which NMTIA conducts business. Member Ikuko Begay requested that committees include some members who work in language pairs other than Spanish <> English.

Minutes of March 8th meeting

Ten (10) members met at the APS Service Center in Albuquerque, NM.

Presentations. Biomedical Engineer Greg Scantlen, VP of the computer solutions firm Creative Consultants, discussed the trend toward interoperability in computer technology, with a side note on the "greening" of the industry. Mr. Scantlen cited security issues, introduced largely through growing use and abuse of the internet, as the driving force for change in the coming years. He contrasted the expanding market for operating systems derived from UNIX with the lukewarm adoption of Windows Vista, noting the resurgence in popularity of Mac hardware and describing the growing family of Linux systems, while recognizing that the overhauled Microsoft system greatly improved security over previous editions (e.g., XP, 2000). Uwe Schroeter pointed out that standard translation software (Trados / SDLX) runs on Windows, in fact, on pre-Vista Windows. Other members noted that while some attempt is being made to adapt, progress has been slow and expensive. Mr. Scantlen also attributed some of the changes in computer software to a push from users who grew up in a network computing environment, with expectations for broad and easy electronic interaction. He provided examples in the work that such traditional companies as Sears or Novell are doing to make more open source programs available to their customers. He also mentioned the IRMA project which uses volunteers to translate Linux in order to make software commands universally available. In closing, Mr. Scantlen described possibilities for increasingly efficient computer configurations that are enabled by improvements in both software and hardware. Mr. Scantlen can be contacted at 505 / 345-7222 or greg@creativec.com. Full audio of this presentation will be available on the NMTIA web site, "NMTIA News" link (<http://internet.cybermesa.com/~nmtia/news.htm>).

Minutes. Tina Shoemaker read minutes from the 12 January 2008 and 23 February 2008 meetings for the record. January minutes were adopted as read. February minutes were adopted with amendment: *ATA guidelines require that both president and vice-president of a group be **voting members** of ATA [rather than "certified - by ATA" as stated in draft] in order for the entity to be considered for ATA "Chapter" status.*

Old Business.

- **Directory.** Compilation of the *2008 Membership Directory* will take place in March this year rather than February, with completion at the end of April rather than early March. New members, therefore, can still be included for about a week, then enrollment with a *Directory* listing will close and names / contact information for those who have not renewed will be cleared from membership lists (Directory, listserv, web site). Members are reminded to review their listing when the draft is distributed via the listserv. Uwe Schroeter will look into whether to continue production through the existing printer (under new ownership) or seek an alternate printer.

Banking. Bob Lopez proposed that NMTIA adopt dual signature authority on checks as a means of insuring accountability, with three people authorized on the account to cover availability. A number of members, including past and present treasurers, responded that dual signatures would be impractical and unnecessary. Members present agreed to maintain the current practice of single signature authority, with either the president or treasurer authorized to issue checks. They further agreed that the NMTIA Executive Board will review the account status report which is currently provided by the treasurer against bank statements on an annual basis to maintain accountability. To effect the transfer of signature authority from past to present officers, Bank of America requires either that all four be present at the same bank branch at the same time or that they provide a letter of transition signed by the four. The letter must state that the Association held elections, name outgoing and incoming officers, and absolve the Bank of liability for extending signature authority to the named individuals. NMTIA officers will draft

Minutes of March 8th meeting

a letter and circulate it for signature by mail to finalize the transition of treasurer duties as soon as possible.

Officers and Committees. New officers were formally installed: Robert Lopez, President; Bethany Korp-Edwards, Vice-President; Norma Norcia, Treasurer. Angela Dunskus-Gulick has taken on responsibility for the NMTIA listserv from long-term operator Marcia Glenn. Tina Shoemaker reminded members that she holds the secretarial post on an interim basis. Bob Lopez moved that the Association set up for election of NMTIA Secretary within the next two meetings; Ikuko Begay seconded. Members joined Bob Lopez in an expression of thanks to past officers Ikuko Begay and Tomas Butchart for their service to NMTIA.

With the understanding that the Vice-President traditionally serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee, Bethany Korp-Edwards will serve in this capacity. This committee usually consists of two (2) members of the Board of Directors, Vice-President and President, and one (1) member at large. Likewise in the President's traditional role, Bob Lopez will act as Chair of the Board of Directors. On review of the proposal made at the 23 February 2008 meeting, Bob moved that NMTIA constitute the Board with the President, Vice-President, and three (3) members at large, noting that the Secretary and / or Treasurer can be, but are not required to be, members of this committee. Uwe Schroeter accepted appointment as Chair of the Grievance Committee. Bethany Korp-Edwards agreed to act as Provisional Chair of the Development Committee. The By-Laws Committee Chair remains open, as does membership on all of the committees. Bethany will compose an announcement to be distributed via the listserv which describes the committees and solicits participation from the full NMTIA membership.

Treasurer Report. Ikuko Begay presented the group with a statement of receipts and expenses for 2008 to date. Since the beginning of January, NMTIA has taken in approximately \$800 in membership dues and fees and disbursed \$130.56 in payments. The current balance is \$4559.95. Uwe Schroeter moved that the report be accepted as presented and Tomas Butchart seconded. All members present approved.

Announcements.

- **ATA Exam.** NMTIA will tentatively sponsor the ATA exam in July 2008. Bethany Korp-Edwards will follow up with ATA on scheduling and act as proctor for the exam.

Next Meeting. The next NMTIA meeting will take place as regularly scheduled two months from now on the second Saturday of the month, 10 May 2008.

TIP-Lab 18th Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop *July to December 2008*

Program Schedule and Deadlines

Monday, June 2, 2008 → Registration deadline.

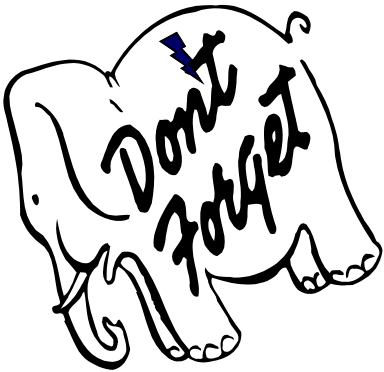
Monday, June 30, 2008 → Letter of acceptance and **first** text for translation forwarded to accepted participants.

Monthly translations → Four translations, reviewed and commented.

Monday, November 17, 2008 → Revised **fourth** translation and evaluation form forwarded to participants.

Monday, December 8, 2008 → Deadline for receipt by TIP-Lab of questions regarding fourth translation and completed evaluation forms. The letter of participation will be sent to participants who have completed the four translation exercises and the evaluation form.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND AGENDAS: May 10th



Dear NMTIA Members:

Please remember that we are having a general meeting this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Our presenter will be Michael Kagan and we will talk about Ethical issues encountered in a court environment.

We have received approval for one continuing education credit from ATA for those who are certified.

NOTE: THE MEETING WILL START PROMPTLY AT 1:00 P.M. YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.



LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING

City Centre West Building
6400 Uptown Blvd. NE, 6th Floor
Albuquerque, NM
(right across from the old Coronado movie theaters)

From Louisiana and I-40 go north on Louisiana, past Indian School and turn left on Uptown (there's no traffic light at that intersection). Go past Americas Parkway and turn left into the parking lot of the City Centre. Park on the front of the buildings (north side) and enter through the front entrance. Turn right and take the elevator to the sixth floor. At that floor turn right and follow that curving hallway to the end.

TIP-Lab 18th Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop *July to December 2008*

Open to English into Spanish translators. Excellent command of Spanish and English required. Registration on a first-come-first-served basis. For information, call, fax, or e-mail: TIP-Lab, c/o Alicia Marshall (847) 869-4889 (phone/fax); aliciamarshall@comcast.net; or www.tip-lab.org.



N.B. You will have a fuller account about a TIP-Lab in next number... but Schedule in previous page :-)



INVITATION TO NCIHC MEETING, JUNE 5&6

Dear interpreter organization member,

The National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) would like to extend a warm invitation to our Annual Membership Meeting taking place June 5 & 6, 2008 in Atlanta, GA. This year's theme, "Hand in Hand: Shaping the Profession TOGETHER" exemplifies the spirit with which the Council began its work almost 15 years ago.

The NCIHC started as an informal working group in 1994 and met yearly until it was formally established in 1998. Today, NCIHC is a multidisciplinary organization whose mission is to promote culturally competent professional health care interpreting as a means to support equal access to health care for individuals with limited English proficiency. The group is composed of interpreters, interpreter service coordinators and trainers, clinicians, policymakers, advocates and researchers from around the world.

The NCIHC Annual Membership Meeting is a once-a-year opportunity for stakeholders to get together, in person, to discuss issues that affect equal access to health care and health care interpreting. In addition to updates from across the country, this year's membership meeting will feature a live debate, presentations on best practices, a fun round of "speed networking," and working groups on topics such as:

- Interpreter Training and Education
- Quality of Interpreting Service Programs
- Funding Interpreting Programs
- Standards for Training
- Community-Building

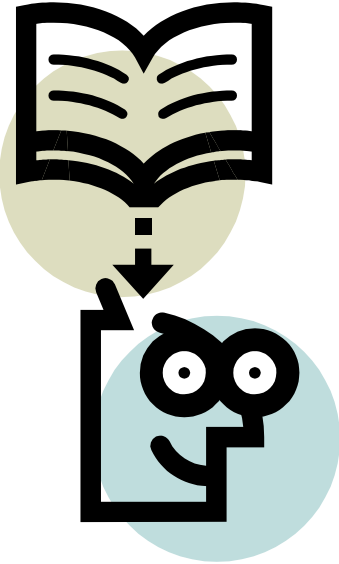
Our Annual membership meeting is open to members of all interpreter organizations. We invite you to join your voice to ours and make an impact on our dynamic profession.

The meeting will convene on the grounds of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Emory Conference Center. Accommodations are available at the Emory Inn. Call 404-712-6000 to make your hotel reservation today!

NCIHC's Membership Meeting is proudly presented in conjunction with another event for interpreters in health care. The Southeast Regional Medical Interpreter Conference will be held on June 6-7, 2008 at this same venue and begins immediately following the end of the NCIHC Membership Meeting.

For more information regarding the 2nd Annual NCIHC Membership Meeting, please visit <http://www.ncihc.org>, go to 'Events', and click on '2008 Membership Meeting.' If you have any questions, please contact us at membership@ncihc.org.

Scholars on Translation, by Francine Cronshaw



A new book from the University Presses of Florida, *Translation and the Rise of Inter-American Literature* by university professors Elizabeth Lowe and Earl E. Fitz, should hold great interest for literary translators. The authors claim that good literary translations of Latin American and Brazilian literature in effect opened the doors to the emergence of the field of "inter-American literature." (Inter-American literature encompasses not only works translated from Spanish and Portuguese, but also those from francophone North America, the especially the writings of Québécois feminists.)

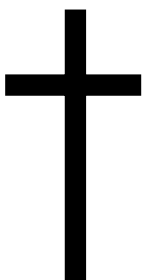
The Latin American Boom was the beginning of this process. The effect of highly creative Boom novels on the U.S. literary scene was to highlight the ennui and discontent many readers and critics experienced with U.S. fiction written in English. U.S. fiction of the era was characterized, in the eyes of some, by emptiness and lack of direction.

In addition, skilful translations of Boom novels overcame some of the prejudice against the Portuguese and Spanish languages still present in some literary circles.

Lowe and Fitz use the concept of "cultural translation" to refer to the complex process by which one culture overcomes certain prejudices and in so doing, begins to "see" another culture (and its own) "in a truer and more comprehensive light." Both authors were mentored by Gregory Rabassa and devote more than a chapter to his leading role in the rise of inter-American literature.

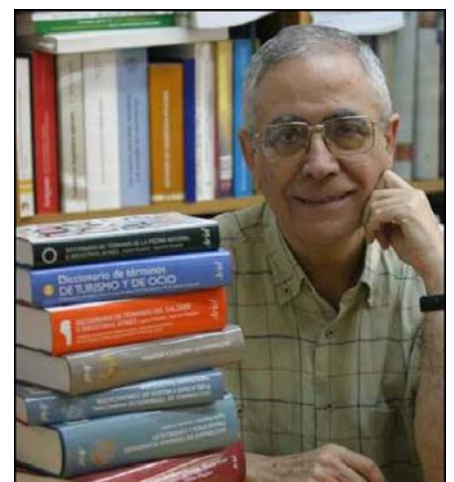
The authors proclaim that the study of inter-American literature "works to overcome cultural prejudice, ignorance, and provincialism and replaces these with the kind of knowledge and understanding that enable the people of the New World to see each other, and perhaps themselves, in a new light." Their optimistic view of a commonality of experience across the Americas that will tie together North, Central and South America is refreshing in today's climate of division and polarization. Most importantly for NMTIA members is the notion that behind this effort is the work of the translator, who acts as the broker of cross cultural understanding.

Elizabeth Lowe and Earl E. Fitz, *Translation and the Rise of Inter-American Literature* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2007). Foreword by Ilan Stavans.



Enrique Alcaraz Varó, professor of English Philology at the University of Alicante, died on the 26th April, after a long illness.

He will be sadly missed by the people who knew him, heard any of his lectures or those of us who also use his dictionaries.



La duda gramatical

Dicen que el español es un idioma sencillo, pero...

Un maestro explicaba que los sustantivos tienen género y se designan como masculino o femenino: La casa es femenino. El lápiz es masculino.

Un estudiante preguntó: ¿Cómo se debe decir, computadora o computador?

En lugar de dar una respuesta, el maestro dividió la clase en dos grupos: varones por un lado y mujeres por el otro, y les pidió que decidieran si la computadora o el computador debe ser masculino o un nombre femenino.

Le pidió a cada grupo que fundamentaran su decisión en al menos 4 argumentos.

El grupo de los hombres decidió que la computadora debe ser, definitivamente, del género femenino (la computadora) porque:

Casi nadie entiende su lógica interna.

El idioma nativo en que ellas se comunican entre sí es incomprendible para todos los demás.

Incluso los errores más pequeños se guardan en memoria de largo plazo para su posible revisión mucho tiempo después.

En cuanto usted tenga una, se encontrará gastando al menos la mitad de su sueldo en accesorios para ella.

El grupo de las mujeres, sin embargo, concluyó que los computadores deben ser masculinos (el computador) porque:

Para hacer algo con ellos, usted tiene que encenderlos.

Ellos almacenan muchos datos, pero todavía no pueden pensar por sí mismos.

New links,
titbits, articles
and other ideas
welcome.



ANNOUNCEMENT

FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION (FCICE)

WRITTEN EXAMINATION – SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

The Phase Two Federal Court Interpreter Certification Written Examination will be administered on Saturday, September 20, 2008. Specific testing locations and other information, including the complete Examinee Handbook,* are available on the FCICE Web site at www.ncsconline.org/fcice.

You may register for the examination during the registration period: *between Monday, June 2 at 8:00 a.m. ET and August 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. ET.*

The fee for the 2008 Written Examination is \$140.00.

***Handbook Revisions:** Please note that revisions are being made to the Examinee Handbook. When the revisions are completed, an updated version of the Handbook will replace the current version. Revisions you should be aware of are as follows (revisions to the policy are highlighted):

Cancellation Policy:

Phase One Written Examination - A \$75 processing fee will be deducted from any refund. In order to receive a partial refund, the cancellation request must be submitted in writing and received by NCSC twenty-one (21) days before the scheduled exam (for 2008, that means no later than 5:00 pm EST on Saturday, August 30, 2008). Postmarks are not accepted. Refunds will not be issued to candidates who fail to appear for the examination.

Phase Two Oral Examination - The registration fee is non-refundable.

Number of items on the Written Examination: In 2008, and possibly in the future, there will be 100 test items in the English section of the Written Examination and 100 in the Spanish section. This increases the total number of items on the test to 200 and 3 ¼ hours will be provided for candidates to take this longer test.

Da Committees... , by Bethany Corps

Good morning everyone,

At the February 23 Special Meeting and March 8 Membership Meeting, it was decided that the following committees would be established and constituted. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to participate in these committees. (Keep in mind that most of the committees can meet by e-mail, and therefore you do not need to live in the Albuquerque metro area to join.) In the event that more people express interest than the committee requires, the committee will be constituted keeping in mind a balance of languages and professions (translators vs. interpreters, legal vs. medical, etc.).

Please contact me [bkedwards@runningdogtranslations.com] or the chair of the committee you are interested in joining. Addresses are listed in the committee information.

The committees, and requirements for joining, are listed below:

1. **Executive Committee:** The executive committee makes day-to-day decisions for NMTIA and also plans Membership Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet (in person, telephonically, or via e-mail) during months in which no Membership Meeting is scheduled. Two of the three members-at-large should also serve on the Nominating Committee.

Bob López, Chair lopezfam@cybermesa.com

Bethany Korp-Edwards

(seeking **3 members-at-large**)

2. **Grievance Committee:** As established by NMTIA bylaws, this committee hears grievances from members and from outside organizations and parties against NMTIA members. Members of the Grievance Committee must be certified by either the ATA or by a judiciary (state or federal).

Uwe Schroeter, Chair uweschroeter@comcast.net

(seeking **2 members-at-large**)

3. **Development Committee:** A committee to study how we will strengthen the organization, beginning with criteria both for holding office and for membership. Officers will solicit participation from the membership for the following couple of months, in anticipation of establishing an active committee by June 2008. The goal would be to have criteria in place by September 2009 in order to apply them during the next election of president in January of 2010.

Bethany Korp-Edwards, Chair bkedwards@runningdogtranslations.com

Uwe Schroeter

(open to **as many members as are interested in joining, including student members**)

4- **By-Laws Committee:** A committee to review and modify Association by-laws, including technical editing, updating to current practice, and amending as appropriate.

(seeking **3-5 members-at-large**, chair to be elected by committee members)

5. **Nominating Committee:** The job of the Nominating Committee will be to identify and seek out qualified candidates for office (as defined by the by-laws and taking into account any recommendations of the Development Committee). It will first make recommendations for the office of Secretary, to be voted on in January 2009.

Bethany Korp-Edwards, Chair, bkedwards@runningdogtranslations.com

Bob López, *ex officio*

Two members of the Executive Committee (seeking 1 additional member-at-large)

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Articles reflect the opinions and expressions of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of *Rattles'* Editors.



Ah... Those nice machine translations that explain why we are still needed (and even appreciated, sometimes ;-).