

INTERPRETER COMMISSION

MEETING SUMMARY, MARCH 9, 2007

Members Present: Leticia Camacho, Emma Garkavi, Jeff Hall (by phone) Ann Macfarlane, Frank Maiocco, Steve Muzik, Justice Susan Owens, Virginia Rockwood, Lourdes Portello Salazar, Judge Dennis Yule

AOC Staff: Chris Ruhl and Tina Williamson

GENERAL BUSINESS

Welcome

Justice Susan Owens called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the room.

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and **passed** to approve the June 2006 meeting minutes. Additionally, a motion was made, seconded and **passed** to approve the September 2006 minutes.

Future Commission Meetings

Tina will check room availability for September 14 and November 30, 2007.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Issues Committee

Ann nominated Leticia to the Issues Committee. The nomination was seconded and **passed**.

LEP Plan—Robert provided a draft copy of the LEP plan to members. He will follow up with an electronic version for review and input—deadline for input is two weeks. Robert will forward the input received to Steve Muzik and Judge Yule. Judge Yule offered to update the plan to include material on “registered” interpreters. Commissioner Rockwood voted “yes” on the plan, as she will be gone during that time.

Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee recommended that the decertification of Ludmila Melnik stand. The Commission accepted the Committee’s recommendation and a motion was made, seconded and **passed**.

Judicial Education and Court Manager Education Committee

Tina reported on the DV/Ethics Workshops and provided final attendee lists for the three completed workshops (Spokane, Port Orchard and Everett). The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at the AOC Kilroy bldg, there are 43 registered. Due to the high demand in the Seattle area, plans are in the works for a second workshop by the end of the year.

TESTING and TRAINING

Exams

Ann suggested offering certification in all languages for which certification is available. A motion was made, seconded and **passed** that the Commission approve in principle that Washington offer certification exams in all languages in which the Consortium offers certification testing, and requests the AOC to investigate the costs and practical ramifications of doing so. The priority would be Somali, Mandarin and Arabic.

AOC INTERPRETER PROGRAM

Registered Category

Steve would like to seek input from WITS before approving the manual. An electronic version of the manual will be sent to Commission members and WITS for review and input, with a deadline of two weeks for input. A vote to approve will be conducted by email in approximately one month. Commissioner Rockwood voted "yes" on the manual, as she will be gone during that time.

Introduction to Interpreting Class

A new mandatory class for all newly certified court interpreters was held on February 2, 2007, at Seattle Municipal Court. Tina reported that all 12 interpreters were in attendance and that Judge Mamiya administered the Oath of Interpreter to all 12.

NAJIT Scholarship

Ann suggested as a policy, the Commission support providing scholarships. The Commission agreed and Robert will draft some guidelines for the Commission to review and approve.

Legislative Update

SB 6005 is dead, but HB 2176 is very much alive. Jeff can address the changes that are to be made to the bill.

Justice Owens asked why it died in the Senate, was there hostility to it? A: No. Steve inquired about the \$25 rate; A: This is half of the total rate of \$50.

Development of Forms Committee

The budget request includes monies for forms translation. Merrie Gough, who staffs the Pattern Forms Committee (PFC), can tell us how many forms are currently being translated. It was recommended by the Committee that the Interpreter Commission be the policy-making body regarding forms translation and make decisions regarding which forms to translate. Recommendation: Interpreter Commission partner with the Pattern Forms Committee on the forms translation effort.

There is a need for standards for a uniform format, etc. Leticia stated that the Northwest Justice Project has translated forms. There was agreement on the need for standards that could be used to determine whether to post these or other forms translated by other organizations on AOC's website. Also mentioned was incorporating work that King County has already done in translating forms. Ann can provide national standards for forms translation too.

There is a need for deliberate policy oversight of this effort. The role of the Commission would be to provide such policy oversight, not to manage the actual work of the forms translation. Commissioner Rockwood noted that the strength and advantage of the PFC is the development of standardized statewide forms.

The consensus of the Commission is that they strongly support the PFCs recommendation and to continue to move in this direction. Robert will begin to lay the groundwork for the collaboration with the PFC, including creating a subcommittee of the Interpreter Commission to work with the PFC.

The Commission requested this be put on the agenda for the next meeting, pending the Legislature appropriating funds for this. For the next meeting, Robert will draft a proposal describing the charge, responsibility, and purpose of the subcommittee and proposing possible membership.

Long Range Retreat

The Commission chose to combine its next regular meeting with a Long Range Retreat, July 6-7, 2007 (1½ days). The goal of the Retreat is to create a strategic plan for the Commission. Robert will work on getting a facilitator and location options (Snoqualmie Ski Resort, Eastern WA as possibilities). Robert will also look for the notes from the last retreat (2001).

OTHER BUSINESS

Data Collection

Steve would like to see a survey go out regarding interpreters. The proposed legislation requires courts to collect interpreter data as a condition of getting state funding/reimbursement of interpreter costs. The AOC is already planning to send out a survey. Steve will work with Robert to coordinate a similar survey and distribute it to WITS membership. Robert will email Steve the AOC survey.

Consortium – Khmer Exam

An ad hoc work group was created (Ann, Emma, and Frank) to work with the Consortium on the Khmer exam. The Commission would like to see a little pressure put on the Consortium to come forth with the exam; Robert will work with the group.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.