

# FIT MEDIA COMMITTEE

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

May 2007

### 1) Members:

We welcomed Jaana Wiik, from SKTL, Finland, to our committee.

### 2) Past Activities

Jaana Wiik: She reported that there is a new association created by British subtitlers to "fight" for good quality subtitlers: [www.subtitlers.org.uk](http://www.subtitlers.org.uk). It's called SUBTLE.

She also reported that

"We keep regular contact with our colleagues in the other Nordic countries by e-mail and a few annual meetings, the last of which was arranged in Copenhagen this January. We also met at the Languages & the Media congress in Berlin last fall.

This co-operation has been very fruitful, since the Scandinavian countries are similar in many respects and the same multinational subtitling companies are cornering markets in all these countries by cutting fees, etc. Many commercial & cable TV channels operate in several Scandinavian countries and have signed deals with the subtitling companies. The same goes for video/DVD distributors and even the national broadcasting companies exchange ideas, so we have been able to prepare for some moves by hearing about the developments in the neighboring countries.

Our Danish colleagues recently established contact with subtitlers in Poland and France. We'll hear more about them later. We initially planned for our next "extended" Nordic meeting to take place in Paris, but are still negotiating the dates. This is all new & we are not sure where it's all heading. I'll keep you posted.

Also, SKTL was just approached by a French company apparently working on an EU-sponsored study on the working conditions of AV-translators in each EU country. The initial letter was so vague that we asked for further details. Again, more on that later. We can only hope that such a study is done well."

Robert Paquin: He reported that

"The Société des auteurs de radio, télévision et cinéma (SARTEC) has recently been recognized as an organization with the right to represent people who translate/adapt for subtitling and/or dubbing in the province of Québec. In Canada unions are of provincial jurisdiction. A national organization would need to have provincial locals that would need to be recognized separately by each provincial government. And anyway, the only province where any film or TV translation is being done is Québec, and Montreal is the only city where it's done. There are reasons for this, but it would be too long to explain here. In short, SARTEC is a union and it has just recently obtained the right to negotiate for us with film studios. Our first meeting will be held Wednesday 30 March. Hopefully we will agree on a negotiating agenda and on points we would like to be covered by an agreement."

Jan-Louis Kruger: He reported that

"There are a number of very exciting developments in South Africa, particularly at the public broadcaster, and I am currently talking to a few people. Will let you know as soon as there is something more concrete."

Gabriela Scandura: I am currently preparing a two-day seminar on cultural aspects of English-speaking countries. The seminar will take place July 4-5. It's one of the activities organized by CELTICA, my virtual site for Latin American AV translators. Please find the schedule below.

### **3) Future Activities**

- All members: Writing the report on working conditions
- I will be giving a two-day seminar on the translation of AV humor at the Colegio de Traductores Públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (a member of FIT) in June.
- I will ask the other members of the committee whether they think we could prepare a list of articles on AV translation available on the Web to include in our FIT web site.

Gabriela Scandura

May 27, 2007

## **CONFERENCE ON ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES CULTURAL STUDIES**

JULY 4-5, 2007, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **July 4: AMERICAN DAY**

9:30 - 11:00: 50 States, 50 Realities

11:00 - 11:30: Coffee break

11:30 - 12:15: American history and current events through humor (from *A Night at the Museum*, *The Simpsons*, *MAD Magazine*, *The Nanny*, cartoons)

12:15 - 12:30: Break

12:30 - 13:00: American Idol: Benjamin Franklin

13:00 - 14:00: Lunch Break

14:00 - 15: 30: Greatest TV moments, shows, and catch-phrases

Best movies selected by the American Film Institute

15:30 - 16:00: Coffee break

16:00 - 16:45: El arte norteamericano en Francia (in Spanish)

16:45 - 17:30: Common Misconceptions about the US Political System

## **July 5: CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN**

9:30 - 11:00: Current British Affairs and Culture (I)

11:00 - 11:30: Coffee break

11:30 - 12:00: British Current Affairs and Culture (II)

12:00 - 12:45: Estuary English

13:15 - 14:30: Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:15: El arte en Canadá (in Spanish)

15:15 - 16:00: La inmigración en Argentina y Canadá (in Spanish)

16:00 - 16:30: Coffee break

16:30 - 17:30: Song and Dance: A Celebration