



ASSOCIATION OF TRANSCRIBERS AND SPEECH-TO-TEXT PROVIDERS

Advancing communication without barriers

2018 Annual Report

Mission

The mission of the Association of Transcribers and Speech-to-text Providers is to promote excellence and integrity in the delivery of real-time speech-to-text services, by establishing a national standard of quality for transcribers and captionists, educating the public about real-time speech-to-text accommodations, strengthening networks between providers and stakeholders, and advocating for equal access to effective communication

Board of Directors



Jason Kapcala
President

Coordinator of Captioning and Interpreting Services at West Virginia University.

TypeWell Captioner since 2014.



Emily Ackerland
Board Member

Staff TtypeWell
Transcriptionist at
Western Washington
University since 2014.



Alison Nelson Chabot
Treasurer

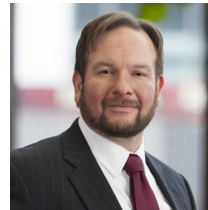
Staff Captionist with the
University of Minnesota's
Interpreting/Captioning Unit
since 2016.



Kate Ervin
Board Member

TypeWell's Director since
2011, a TypeWell trainer
since 2009, and a transcriber
since 2004.

Initial incorporator of ATSP.



Robert Nauman
Secretary

Attorney at Squire Patton
Boggs focusing on
healthcare, health
insurance, and corporate
matters.

Departing Board Members



Bill Graham, Vice President



Jodi Tobin, Secretary
Initial Incorporator



Karen Walraven, Treasurer
Initial Incorporator

In 2018, ATSP announced the scheduled departure of several Board members whose terms had come to an end. These long-time members graciously extended their tenures to help with the transition and onboarding of new Board members, and they have been integral in helping ATSP to grow as an organization.

The Board of Directors would like to thank them for their hard work in promoting ATSP's mission and vision!



Transcribing services have helped me tremendously in class. I didn't realize how much information I was missing due to my hearing loss. I started using transcribing services this past semester and earned the best GPA I've ever had in college!







Marlena Dib

2018

2018 Achievements Paint the Picture of Growth

ATSP HIGHLIGHTS

-  Successfully petitioned United States Copyright Office for captioning exemptions
-  Finalized professional Code of Conduct
-  Partnered with Insurance Bee to offer liability insurance options for service providers
-  Designed ATSP Job Board for freelance service providers

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past year, ATSP has made great strides in providing benefits for our members and we have continued to expand existing services by adding new features to our monthly newsletter. This has only been possible through the tireless efforts of my colleagues on the ATSP Board and ATSP's fantastic members. We are excited to bring to you our 2018 annual report.

This report highlights our accomplishments over the past year and outlines our goals for the upcoming year. We are your network for the speech-to-text profession.

-Jason Kapcala

2018

Membership

By [joining ATSP](#) you are supporting our mission of ensuring high-quality equal access to communication. In 2018, ATSP's individual membership stayed the same and its organizational membership went up 45%. We currently have 87 individual members and 16 member organizations. We look forward to taking our membership and fundraising to greater heights in 2019. We added two new Board members in 2018 and hope to add two more in the coming year, including a Membership Coordinator position.

In 2018, we added a new Jobs Board feature to our website, and we partnered with Insurance Bee to offer insurance options for freelance speech-to-text providers. In addition to our opinion articles and educational content, we also added two new features to our monthly newsletter: a member spotlight ("Conversation Street") and a product review section ("Tech Corner"). Our goal in 2019 is to build off this growth by offering new web features and content.

Since November 2016, ATSP has held 501(c)(3) non-profit status as a public charity, allowing donors to deduct contributions.

Finance Update

TREASURER'S REPORT



- ▶ ATSP started the 2018 year with a balance of \$7,119.99.
- ▶ Throughout the year, ATSP increased this balance to 11,223.00, through individual and organizational memberships, as well as donations.
 - This represents a net gain of 4,103.01
- ▶ ATSP currently relies on volunteers to fill its Board, internships, and transcription needs.
- ▶ Expenditures exceeded our yearly estimate by 1,093.00, due to the creation and maintenance of new member resources, such as the Jobs Board.
- ▶ Our 2019 goal is to invest in additional member benefits while maintaining or reducing overhead costs. We will continue to utilize the volunteer services of Board members, officers, and interns.

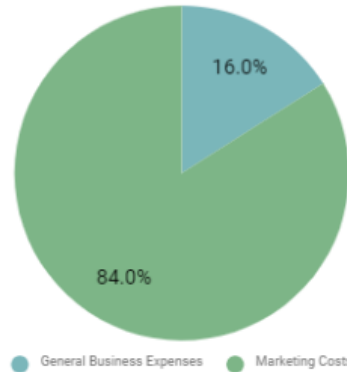
2018 ATSP Expenses

Detailed Expense Comparison

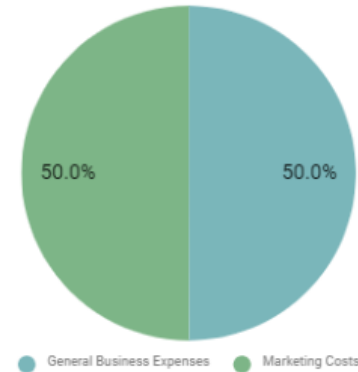
ASSOCIATION OF TREASURERS AND SPEECH-TO-TEXT PROVIDERS

Expense Category	Planned Expenses	Actual Expenses	Expense Variances	Variance Percentage
Employee Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
General Business Expenses	\$240.00	\$1,298.01	(\$1,058.01)	-441%
Marketing Costs	\$1,260.00	\$1,299.52	(\$39.52)	-3%
TOTALS	\$1,500.00	\$2,597.53	(\$1,097.53)	-73%

Planned Expenses



Actual Expenses



NOTE: DUE TO TREASURER CHANGE, THE REPORTING OF ACTUAL EXPENSES MAY DIFFER FROM PREVIOUS TREASURER'S REPORTING OF PLANNED EXPENSES.



I have used transcribers to assist with narrative medicine research projects with cancer patients and HIV patients. My team's attempts to transcribe patient interviews were arduous and riddled with errors, until we found important allies in the speech-to-text community. They were able to create quick, accurate transcripts that were eventually shaped into more than 70 patient life stories. The transcribers took enormous care with this project, and the patients and their families have been grateful for the stories they've received. When working on a project like this, I always write speech-to-text services into the grant proposals as part of the research team. Their collaboration is essential.



Renée K. Nicholson
Assistant Professor
Multi- and Interdisciplinary Studies
West Virginia University

2018

Advocacy

ATSP Secures Copyright Exemption

When it comes to captioning inaccessible media, captioners working on the frontlines of the classroom are no stranger to the precarious dilemma of being trapped between disability law and copyright law, a lose-lose situation that often results in consumers receiving inadequate accommodation. This legal bottleneck led the Association of Transcribers and Speech-to-text Providers (ATSP) to pursue what has become its largest piece of advocacy.

In April 2018, Shannon Cowling, past-president of ATSP, traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the Library of Congress as part of a petition for exemptions to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). This petition, sponsored by ATSP and the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA), would allow speech-to-text providers to legally circumvent the strict copyright protections that prevent modification and redistribution of video and other media. Throughout this process, ATSP was represented by the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law and Policy Clinic at Colorado Law.

After a lengthy hearing, and despite significant opposition from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and other trade associations, the U.S. Copyright Office granted ATSP's request. While this new exemption is a powerful piece of advocacy and a big win for disability service providers and the consumers they serve.

2018

Advocacy

DMCA Exemption Restrictions

- ❖ Efforts to circumvent technological protections must be limited to cases where captions are created as a necessary accommodation for a student with a disability
- ❖ The exemption is limited to work undertaken by K-12 educational institutions, colleges, and universities
- ❖ Reasonable efforts must be taken first to ensure that an accessible version of the video is not already available at a fair price and in a timely manner
- ❖ Accessible media must be distributed to students in a way that prevents unauthorized further dissemination of the work

For a full reading of the exemption please view [the following PDF \(p.89\): Section 1201 Rulemaking.](#)

Standards

The ATSP Code of Professional Conduct . . .

- ❖ Supports equal access to communication for all people
- ❖ Promotes high standards of professionalism and integrity in the delivery of speech-to-text services
- ❖ Educates service providers, employers, and consumers by outlining clear and reasonable expectations for service delivery
- ❖ Focuses on 5 key tenets: Confidentiality, Competence, Impartiality, Respect, and Integrity
- ❖ Provides illustrative (but not exhaustive) examples of professional conduct
- ❖ Is a living document designed to change over time to meet the evolving needs of the profession

[Read the full Code of Conduct at ATSP Online.](#)

Member Benefits



Coverage at your fingertips

Transcribers, captionists, speech-to-text providers—how many times have you spoken to an insurer and explained what you do, only to have them tell you they can't cover you?

Well, now there's no need for more false starts.

As an ATSP Member, we can get you coverage in no time with a policy that suits your needs.

What kinds of insurance do transcribers need?

General liability insurance

Insurance

Through our [co-branded portal](#), ATSP members can shop and receive an insurance quote from Insurance Bee for General Liability Insurance, Business Personal Property Insurance, and Professional Liability Insurance.

Search Jobs

View this page in list view instead (better for smaller screens and mobile devices).
You can also post a job!

Keyword: Location: Category:

Displaying 1 - 25 of 23

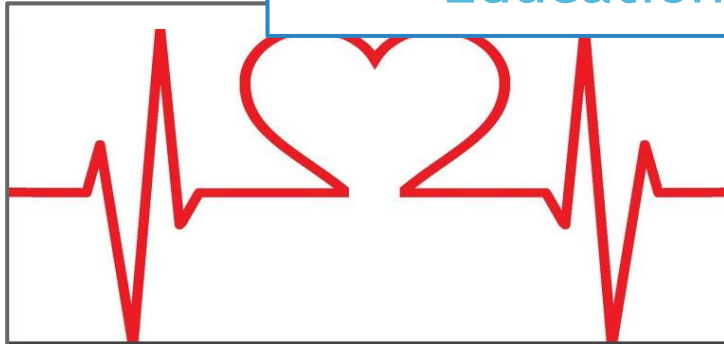
JOB TITLE	COMPANY NAME	LOCATION	CATEGORY	JOB START DATE
TypeWell & C-Print Providers	Vital Signs		Freelance	01/23/2019
Ongoing remote TypeWell Jobs	CaptionAccess		Freelance	01/28/2019
TypeWell Transcriber	Hands Up Communications	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Temporary	01/23/2019
Customer Service Specialist	Alternative Communication Services		Part Time Full Time	01/01/2019
On-site Captioning In	Karasch & Associates	East Lansing, MI United States	Freelance	10/29/2018
On-site in Boston, MA	Karasch & Associates	Boston, Massachusetts United States	Sub/One-Off	10/30/2018
On-site Captioner In	Karasch & Associates	Fredericksburg, Virginia	Freelance	05/14/2018

Employment

When transcribing jobs come up, organizations can use [the ATSP Job Board](#) to advertise their needs. Members can search this board to quickly find employment opportunities.

2018

Education and Outreach



OCTOBER 30, 2018 BY MATTHEW KINDER LEAVE A COMMENT

Transcribing's Role in Narrative Medicine by Renée K. Nicholson

One might not think of speech-to-text services as part of patient care in a chemotherapy infusion center, but because of a unique partnership between transcribers at West Virginia University and a narrative medicine storytelling study at the Mary Randolph Babb Cancer Center, patients received first-person stories as part of their treatment.

I am a writer with experience working in a hospital setting. Narrative competence fortifies health care providers' therapeutic benefits for patients by encouraging them to participate in the creation of important stories. My team embarked on a two-year project to collect first-person stories of life for rural patients with cancer.

The question became, how could we feasibly accomplish our task?

Calling All Members



Call for New Features!

Over the past year, we've added a few new features to the ATSP newsletter.

Customizations through our newsletter (this month) we've added new software and hardware that may be used by text providers in our

ATSP Will Continue to Enhance its Online Features in 2019!

In the coming year, we want to know what sorts of articles you would like to see

2018 Goals Revisited

Expand educational resources for members through the creation of an interactive forum and enhanced blog/website features

Success! ATSP added new blog and website features, including member spotlights, tech reviews, a Jobs Board, and member insurance options.

Continue supporting ATSP members through advocacy

Success! ATSP successfully petitioned the Library of Congress for DMCA copyright exemptions for captioning

Conduct a feasibility study of speech-to-text certification to determine whether it will yield desirable results, and whether it will represent the best interests of ATSP's members

Passed. ATSP determined that commissioning a reputable feasibility study was not affordable and will explore other options for measuring feasibility in 2019.

Finalize *Code of Professional Conduct* (ethics document) and design a *Best Practices Guide* (continuing education document)

Success! ATSP finalized its *Code of Professional Conduct*, the first unifying ethics document of its kind in the speech-to-text field.

ATSP has not yet designed a *Best Practices Guide*, choosing to focus on other projects first.

2019 Goals

Expand educational resources for members through the creation of a resources page on the ATSP website, featuring opportunities for professional development and skill enhancement.

Continue serving ATSP members through education, advocacy, and professional support

Study speech-to-text certification to determine whether it will yield desirable results, and whether it will represent the best interests of ATSP's members

Increase outreach to speech-to-text service providers, service agencies, schools and universities, and consumers, in order to promote ATSP's mission, with special emphasis on the widespread adoption of the [ATSP Code of Professional Conduct](#).

Thank you!

Thank you to the following volunteers and contributors for the time and effort they dedicated in 2018 to ATSP's success!

- ▶ Jonathan Band
- ▶ Shannon Cowling
- ▶ Holly Fox-Schauffner
- ▶ Nicole Fuller
- ▶ Sophia Galleher
- ▶ Kody Goff
- ▶ Bill Graham
- ▶ Sabrina Halls
- ▶ Trevor Hartzell
- ▶ Tia Ivanko
- ▶ Matthew Kinder
- ▶ Blake Reid
- ▶ John Schoppert
- ▶ Zack Smith
- ▶ Danielle South
- ▶ Jodi Tobin
- ▶ Karen Walraven



BIG Ideas

Keep sending your big ideas to info@atspnetwork.org.