

Statement for Nomination to NAJIT Board

It has been my pleasure to serve as an interim board member since September. I have served on several committees during the past few months and can see so much potential for growth. I am a freelance interpreter with a young family, my two children being 7 and 9 years of age. I began working professionally as an interpreter in 2001 when I received my Administrative Hearing Certification, became California Court Certified in 2003, and Federally Certified in 2015. I have been a NAJIT member somewhat intermittently during those years and came to really appreciate the comradery and collegial feel of NAJIT conferences at the Long Beach conference in 2011. I keenly understand that membership to any professional organization helps us grow professionally but is also a financial decision. My immediate goal for NAJIT is to increase the value of membership by providing more member benefits with a special focus on providing support and resources for interpreters who work in languages of lesser diffusion. We can use available technologies to provide many more educational opportunities, understanding that traveling to numerous workshops across the country is not always feasible. That same technology can also be harnessed to educate attorneys and judges on how to work with interpreters and what to expect from professionals. As part of the Public Relations committee, I have worked hard to provide more information to members regarding the work the board is doing with updates and on social media. I am currently working as the chair of the membership committee, co-chair of the Bench and Bar committee, and co-chair of the PR committee. One project we have been working on cooperatively with several committees is to establish a regular schedule of webinars that provide continuing education credits, at a discount for members. I ask that you give me the opportunity to continue working on behalf of NAJIT and you, the members, for the next two years as a board member. I am very excited to give back to the profession and the association that has helped me so much over the years. Thanks to NAJIT I have made many friends and have seen my career take off in new and exciting directions. Now I would like use my experience, talents, and energy on behalf of the association, if given the chance to continue on the board.

Aimee Benavides