

It is an honor to be nominated for NAJIT's Board of Directors for the second year in a row.

As a member of NAJIT since 2014, I have felt incrementally empowered by the exciting development and evolution of the organization, and by the multiple growth opportunities NAJIT has offered me. I initially joined NAJIT because I believed it was a vital step in building my interpretation and translation career. After becoming a Certified Court Interpreter, I attended my first NAJIT annual conference. NAJIT's hosting of enriching networking and learning opportunities, confirmed that this is an organization that delivers. By the end of the conference, I had connected with a myriad of colleagues and developed longtime friendships. I was – and continue to be – grateful to NAJIT for putting me on the right path. And so I have always wanted to be a part and contribute to NAJIT's development and evolution. I understand that being a Board Member involves giving of one's time and effort, and it would be an honor to be able to give back to NAJIT. I want to follow in the steps of those that give and have given before me.

Over the past two decades, I have worked as a project manager, program director, interpreter, translator, lecturer, language instructor, and editor. I have served as a volunteer in several non-profit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity and Rotary International, and have presented and co-presented workshops in conferences and at ongoing training programs. I have been an active volunteer in the field of interpretation since 1990. My charge is to be committed to the success of the organization, and I believe that my broad range of experience will be an asset to ensure that NAJIT continues to provide valuable services and resources to its members.

As the fields of interpreting and translation continue to undergo major changes, I believe that NAJIT's role will continue to become indispensable in facilitating better communication between freelancers, language providers, agencies, courts, and the end client. Organizations like ours function thanks to the dedication of volunteers who are passionate about the issues that matter to their members. Developing and increasing cooperative working relationships between NAJIT and organizations whose goals and missions compliment those of our organization, is an important aspect that I would like to work on.

Being a freelancer, I live and breathe freelancers' needs and interests. Three of these that come to mind as top priorities are: job and client security, self marketing, and finding opportunities to grow in the field whether via continuing education, networking, or raising awareness about the profession. As a Board Member, I will focus on advocating for these needs and interests, whether they are for the colleagues in my immediate area, or for those who I stay in touch with at the click of a mouse. In addition to advocacy, my other strengths include fostering member involvement and volunteer engagement. I define myself as a "team doer", and I believe that I can contribute action-driven solutions based on the strengths detailed above.

I am also a strong believer in professional organizations, as the power of one organization can always accomplish more and have a broader impact than the action of one. I am passionate about working with like-minded individuals to jointly offer actionable and on-point advice and motivation, and open doors to donors and partnerships. I am ready to take on tough issues and work through conflicts while respecting members and inspiring collaboration. I am a proponent of achieving solutions that strengthen working relationships, while staying focused on NAJIT's mission of promoting the highest professional standards in interpreting and translation.

I am based in Nashville, TN. I have been an active member of TAPIT (Tennessee Association for Professional Interpreters and Translators) since 2011, and a Board Member since 2017, currently serving as the organization's Board Secretary and Election Committee Chair. I am excited to also be serving in NAJIT's 2019 Conference Committee, and honored to have been named the local liaison between TAPIT and NAJIT for NAJIT's 2019 Annual Conference in Nashville, TN.

I would be humbled to serve on NAJIT's Board of Directors, and hope to count with your vote. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with any questions or comments.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

In NAJIT spirit,

Hebba Abulsaad

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