

Dear NAJIT Community,

It has been an honor to serve in the Board of Directors since 2018 and as its Chair the last 6 months. In this time much has been accomplished; however, there's still much to be done. To do this, I'm now asking for your vote and your support. NAJIT needs a united board supporting necessary changes to resolve issues that have resulted in recurrent crises that have routinely affected the association.

I quote from my earlier candidate statement because these goals are still important now:

"My objectives in responding to the call to service are to contribute to the governance of NAJIT, by supporting initiatives leading to:

- 1) greater transparency and accountability of the decision-making process,
- 2) welcoming colleagues who may wish to contribute their time and skills as volunteers to manage diverse tasks by supporting the expansion of board seats to 7,
- 3) specific proposals to manage the current and future growth of NAJIT as it reaffirms its role as the national voice and home of judiciary interpreters and translators."

In my brief time as Chair, and in spite of great challenges of a divided board, we have accomplished the following:

1. The installation of the Bylaws and Governance and the Membership committees -both permanent committees according to the bylaws- that had fallen into neglected and were inoperative.
2. The installation of the association's Certification Commission with the intent of eventually bringing back the Legal Translation Certification credential to NAJIT, its natural home.
3. The approval of the expansion of the NAJIT Board to seven members, yet to be implemented.
4. Encouraging joint committee collaboration as a way to empower and support the work of their volunteers which so far has yielded: a) a recently published and very useful comparative study on interpreter compensation by the Advocacy Committee, b) a new Position Paper on Team Interpreting that was to have been presented at the annual conference but will be forthcoming plus, c) the first part of a comprehensive project of the Bench and Bar Committee, "Language Access Matters" intended to educate participants in the judicial system as a precursor to establishing cooperative ties with the Administrative Office of state courts around the country.
5. The negotiation of a contract to serve NAJIT's administrative needs retaining the same vendor with a reduction of approximately \$10,000 from the original proposal of around \$98,500 per year initially received. This contract also eliminates the position of Executive Director in strict compliance with the association's bylaws in an attempt to reduce the possibility of real and perceived conflicts of interest.
6. Impressing on the board a) the need to bring greater transparency on matters of governance, b) to welcome members' input and to listen to their concerns in the running of their association and c) to fulfill its fiduciary duties by looking out for the interests of the association above others.
7. Proceeded with putting together what looked to have been a very successful conference where for the first time, NAJIT would concentrate in LOTS (Languages Other Than Spanish) by offering sessions in English as well as in Arabic, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Sadly, due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 had to be cancelled altogether.

These accomplishments have been achieved under internal difficult circumstances such as a board divided by ideological and personal differences made worse by external crises such as the AB-5 developments or the COVID-19 pandemic, and personal issues, such as health issues I hope to surmount.

I think it is important to continue trying to improve flawed procedures and update outdated protocols so as to avoid inherent cyclical crises. The board that gets elected must be one that can work together, one that is willing to lift the veil of secrecy, that is more transparent in its actions and more open to

welcoming the work and efforts of volunteers; one that truly supports and empowers committees; one mindful of its obligation to represent you by exercising reasonable care in its stewardship of the association so that it, in turn, can fulfill its mission to be the professional home for interpreters and translators.

I am enclosing a CV that details my professional trajectory for your review. If you wish to discuss or review other points, I am available by phone at (215) 939 4115 or via email at: aehasbun@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration,
Armando Ezquerro Hasbun
Chair of the NAJIT Board of Directors