

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am pleased and honored to run as a candidate for NAJIT's Board of Directors.

I have been a member of NAJIT for over 10 years. I am also a member of the American Translators Association, and its regional chapter, the Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI), which I currently preside.

I hold a bachelor's degree in Modern Languages, with a minor in linguistics and a specialization in translation and interpretation from Universidad Central de Venezuela. My languages are Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese.

I was one of the first court certified interpreters in the State of Wisconsin, and often get contracted as an expert witness in matters related to languages in criminal cases. I am a certified translator by the American Translators Association from English into Spanish. I am also a certified translator into English and Italian by the Venezuelan Department of Justice.

In my time as the official translator for Milwaukee Public Schools since 2006, I have established clear interpreting procedures for language professionals and facilitators in schools, created best practices and a code of ethics, while respecting all legal mandates.

As Director, I would prioritize an open and clear communication with our membership, promote more training for translators, work for greater awareness of our brand to separate ourselves even more from free apps and underqualified bilingual people.

Many times, we are an invisible but essential component that gets overlooked. Our contributions don't always seem relevant, but without us, outcomes change, and not for the best. This was recently obviated through my work providing multiple language support services to the coronavirus crisis abroad. Many do not realize what our finite skill sets are. We never stop learning for the next trial or the next crisis.

As professionals, we make a difference, change lives and outcomes. I live by that precept whether it is by working with underprivileged groups or by lobbying in Washington and at the state level to advocate for our profession or to bring awareness about laws passed in detriment of our freelance colleagues.

That is why I am running for Director. I believe that through strong leadership and transparent practices, we can increase our visibility to the world, help our colleagues make sound business decisions, and instill onto the customers the value of hiring a true professional.

Thank you for your consideration.