

Dear Colleagues,

I joined NAJIT in 2014, and in this short time I have had the privilege to be Conference and Advocacy Committee member, Interim Director, Board member, and Treasurer. During my three years as Conference Committee Chair, we archived record levels of attendance and revenue each year. This was a significant accomplishment, as the annual conference represents the single largest source of revenue for our organization. Under my leadership we also created new Languages Other Than Spanish (LOTS) tracks to encourage greater diversity, participation and attendance. While a member of NAJIT's Board, I also served as President of the New York Circle of Translators, an ATA chapter.

One of the things that I brought to NAJIT's Board is a commitment to service. I dedicated countless hours to Board matters. I know first-hand that being a board member requires the same time commitment of a regular job. I am surprised to hear volunteer's commitment referred to as optional simply because it does not produce an income. To me the commitment should be the same as for a remunerated job regarding board deadlines and accountability. It takes a significant commitment of time and effort to serve on a Board, and do it well, and I am willing to make that commitment as I have proven in my past tenure.

With the advent of the Covid-19 virus there is a possibility that the 2020 annual conference will cancel. That would have a serious impact on NAJIT's revenue. In the years to come the conference will resume, however it may be time to rethink the financial impact of conference attendance and search for additional revenue streams. This should be a concerted effort with the cooperation of the Training and Education and the Membership Committees. I undertake to find these alternatives with the help of the working board to ensure that our association will not only survive but thrive.

I can make a great contribution to the Board as well as NAJIT's Conference and Membership Committees. Equally important, I want to promote an ad-hoc Compliance Committee to oversee policy and adherence to our bylaws. NAJIT has to empower all members to become familiar with our bylaws to hold their Board accountable. It is to serve all of you, our fellow members, that we undertake this commitment.

Thank you for your support,
Hilda Shymanik