

Janis Palma – Candidate Statement

I am a NAJIT Life member, which is both an honor and a great responsibility. I joined NAJIT in the mid-80s when it was still called the Court Interpreters and Translators Association (CITA), and was Board President when it changed its name to NAJIT. I have served on the board of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI), and for many years went around the country teaching NAJIT-sponsored skill-development workshops with distinguished pioneer colleagues like Professor Dagoberto Orrantia. You may have seen my name on the NAJIT blog, too. Ever since I learned about the existence of this association back in the early 80s I have been fully committed to helping it grow and doing everything within my reach that could in any way contribute to the profession's advancement.

I decided to run for the board of director at this time because I believe many of the noble values and ideals that brought us together as a national association have been replaced over time by concerns that do not benefit the profession or serve the best interests of the association. Sometimes we need to hit that "reset" button so whatever is not working gets deleted and we can move on to accomplish what really does work. For example, regional conferences that brought first-rate educational opportunities to interpreters and translators throughout the country while building noteworthy relationships with state organizations and higher-education institutions, which my fellow board candidate, Aimee Benavides is also advocating. Or that printed version of Proteus we could pass around to not only educate stakeholders, but to promote NAJIT's good name, which fellow members have been asking for. As a national professional association, NAJIT should also reinstate its official annual recognition of those members who are doing outstanding work around the nation for the good of the profession, and bestowing Life Membership once more to those who deserve our gratitude and public acknowledgement for their extraordinary lifetime achievements.

There is a lot more NAJIT can be doing for you, and my commitment if elected as board member is to make sure you have a governing board that is responsive to your needs, that serves your best interest and only your best interests, that is always accessible and transparent in everything we do for you, the members we serve and represent. My guiding principle will be to help you grow as professional interpreters and translators with new and innovative programs, but also by supporting the continuity of resources such as the NAJIT Academy that has already been created, strengthening our position in this new world of virtual learning and working, and maintaining an influential presence in organizations setting standards for our profession, such as board member Teresa Salazar has done on behalf of NAJIT with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR).

I hope you agree with me and will give me your support.