

This past year has been a tumultuous one where we saw NAJIT's professional growth and progress greatly slowed due to disagreement among Board members. The time has come to put professional goals, stability, and prosperity ahead of personal agendas and intransigent attitudes. The time has now come to get down to the business of reconstituting the NAJIT Board of Directors with directors who are selfless, hard-working, rational, and steady. NAJIT needs strong altruistic leadership, and, no matter how challenging things have been, I continue to be driven by an unfaltering conviction that NAJIT must continue to grow and expand its professional reach and, in so doing, become the dynamic leader in the field that it is meant to be. This is the sole reason why I am running for the Board again.

I will come to the Board with renewed commitment and a very clear perspective of what needs to be done to put NAJIT back on strong steady ground. Times have changed and reforms are needed to prevent the flouting of the Association's policies and bylaws and Board directives by any director. One of my primary goals in seeking reelection is to put practices in place that would ensure that all Association business be conducted with professional dignity and order, in accordance with our bylaws. The next Board of Directors needs to be composed of individuals who can work collaboratively and put the reputation, prestige, and mission of NAJIT before any special interests. There should be consequences for those who fail to perform the duties of a director faithfully and responsibly. Only then will we be able to regain the momentum for growth and professional respect we have lost and be recognized as a leading organization in the field.

It is clear to me that the channels of communication between the Board and the membership must be widened. It is understandable that members are dissatisfied with the information provided by meeting minutes alone, since minutes are a vehicle used primarily for the reporting of motions made, actions taken, and vote outcomes. As a board we need to provide members with the means to "fill in the gaps" and understand the reasoning behind any action taken. I will actively work to provide members access to Board meetings in a manner that would satisfy the membership's need to be informed and allow the Board to work productively.

One of the things that NAJIT is most cited for are the position papers published by the Association on key topics in our field. At this point, I believe it can accurately be said that the majority of NAJIT's position papers need review and updating. Prior to my joining the Board, the last time a position paper was published was in February 2009. In May 2019, NAJIT published a long overdue and revamped position paper on transcription/translation reflecting changes in practices and technology, designed to educate users while providing practitioners with a valuable tool. My expectation is that NAJIT will have a newly revised and enlightening position paper on Teaming published in 2020, before the annual conference. Our attention and efforts should be focused on researching and publishing well-founded and pertinent position papers and other publications that can be added to the arsenal of tools interpreters can draw upon to defend professional working standards and conditions. If elected to the Board, my intent is to actively continue taking a leading role in carrying out this work as well as seeking and promoting more training and learning opportunities for the advancement of our members.

It is also my steadfast belief that NAJIT should be both a standard-bearer and a standard-maker in the areas of Interpreting and translation. I have been actively involved in the development of interpreting and translation standards since the late 90s, when, then Chair, Cristina Helmreichs asked me to represent NAJIT on the ASTM subcommittee which was developing an industry standard guide for interpreting. I considered it an honor to be asked and I am proud to say that NAJIT played an important

role in the making of that industry standard guide. In 2015, a newly revised standard practice for interpreting was approved and published by ASTM and, once again, I participated in its development. This time, however, I participated as a private individual because NAJIT had stopped its participation in ASTM during the intervening years. NAJIT has a prominent role to play in shaping the professional expectations and working conditions for interpreters and translators in our field, and I am proud to say that since I joined the Board in 2018, NAJIT is once again active in standard-making organizations such as ASTM and the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR), which set the standards for how we work in the private and government sectors. As a member of the Board of Directors, I will advocate for NAJIT to have an ever stronger and more prominent voice in these endeavors.

Finally, we continue to be an aging profession and need to draw young people into the field. We can only accomplish this by creating an organization that reflects and upholds the honorable and ethical principles of the field, as well as those it serves and represents. It is up to all of us to make NAJIT an organization worthy of molding young interpreters and translators, giving them every opportunity to hone their craft and become true professionals working for the good of the collective and not just the individual. Those just entering the field need a professional guiding hand, and what better resource could they ask for than an innovative and upstanding organization they would be proud to belong to? Personally, I have always taken this responsibility very seriously and would continue to work assiduously to ensure that NAJIT carries out what I consider to be an essential part of its mission.

While I have continued to be very involved with a variety of fulfilling professional activities, in addition to meeting the responsibilities of a full-time position where standards of excellence have been the norm, not the exception, I truly believe that building an exemplary professional organization is the most valuable legacy we can leave those who will follow us, and I deliberately choose to take on the extra effort this implies.

Starting out as a freelancer and then becoming the director of interpreting services for a metropolitan federal court, I bring to the Board the well-rounded expertise of a formally trained interpreter who has been in the trenches for many years, and who is also a seasoned administrator of interpreting services: a combination that I have and always will use for the benefit of the profession.