

To: The NAJIT Nominations Committee
For: Consideration as a director on the NAJIT Board of Directors

From:

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Candidacy Statement:

What does it mean to me, to serve as a director on the NAJIT Board of Directors?

The operative word in that question is “serve,” and that is the reason I am submitting this statement of candidacy for the position of director.

Every individual has unique talents and gifts that are given to them when they are born, and which they develop throughout their lifetime. It has been said that “what you are is God’s gift to you, and what you make of yourself is your gift to God.” I have been told that my gift is service, and perhaps that’s true, since I’ve always enjoyed helping people in both tangible and intangible ways; this has led me to be somewhat perfectionistic and over-involved in various endeavors, personally and professionally.

Indeed, my educational background was in journalism when print and broadcast journalism were the only means of communication in the media. Admittedly, that dates me! As a member of the press and later editor of my campus newspaper, I learned to ask questions and listen. Only then could I write an accurate article for the publication. As a journalist, at times it is necessary to protect one’s sources, and the concept of confidentiality in both legal and medical interpreting dovetails with what I have been taught and have practiced since then, including as a member of the Proteus team.

On the other hand, openness and transparency, another personal core value, can at times be diametrically opposed to privacy and confidentiality. Wanting to be honest with people, and not having grown up bilingual, I’m cognizant that the ability to learn to speak Spanish well enough to interpret is another gift not to be taken lightly, and the desire to continually improve keeps me constantly and joyously learning from my colleagues. However, that’s also the reason it took me many years to have enough confidence in myself to believe I had something to offer in the world of interpreting.

This guiding philosophy of listening to and learning from people has helped me to place a high value on people...who they are as a person... born, raised and developing as individuals. Every person has something to offer, and I respect and applaud our differences. The last couple of years have been challenging for NAJIT, and I am hoping that my penchant for asking questions, listening, learning, and a belief in the inherent worth of each individual, will help bridge some of our differences.

That is why, at this rather late time in my life, I’d like to offer my service as a director in this association of interpreters and translators that I have come to love, which has served so many people, in so many ways, for so many years.

Bio: Vicki Bermudez has been certified as a judiciary Spanish interpreter in Wisconsin since 2007, working as a medical interpreter before that. She is the sole proprietor of Business Translations International, and is recently retired from being the staff interpreter in the courts of Racine, WI from 2018-2023.