

German Language Division: 2008 Candidate Statements

Ms. Eva Stabenow (work@wordplay-translations.com) Candidate for Assistant Administrator

I am deeply honored that the nominating committee has put my name forward for the position of assistant GLD administrator.

When I began my career as a freelance translator in 1995 after completing my degree, I wish there had been as much support available through associations like the ATA and in particular the German Language Division as there is today. Instead, I embarked on a difficult process of learning from my mistakes. As GLD assistant administrator, I want to make sure we are there to prevent others from making the same kind of mistakes and thus boost the professional image of our profession.

Given that we are preparing for the 50th anniversary of our association, one focus would of course be to continue to strengthen the GLD's profile within ATA. The issue most dear to my heart, however, is to ensure that every member of the German Language Division is appropriately represented while creating an ever-increasing sense of unity and integration.

So much is possible if we join forces: Just by bringing up issues with agencies in our mailing list, we have twice in the past year resisted industry developments detrimental to translators.

As a group, we have come to the assistance of at least one fellow translator who was facing a family tragedy. Think of how much more we could achieve if we truly all stood together. If we worked towards the joint goal of enhancing the image and perception of our profession, and thus optimizing our market value. Think of how much more fulfilling a "lonely desk job" like ours becomes when you know there is a large team of real people out there you can turn to at any time. A team that is behind you every step of the way and that is working towards the same goals.

I strongly believe that by joining hands, forces and talents, we can truly make a difference, not only in the way the world perceives our profession, but also in the quality of our own and each other's lives.

The Internet and the nature of our work has already brought us closer together. The time where we operated as "lone desk warriors" are, thankfully, over. It's time for us to realize the power we represent when we come together as a community and make good use of it. I want to make sure we continue along this path in order to set the stage for an even more successful next 50 years of translator representation.

GLD leadership must truly represent our member's needs and interests. To this end, I believe it is crucial that we continue to have one native speaker of each language in the administrator/assistant administrator position, as Frieda and Ruth have so successfully demonstrated.

A native speaker of German, I was born, raised and educated in Germany, and lived in the US from 1979-1984 and again since 2003. Within the GLD, I have worked on the programming committee and been an active contributor to the mailing list, always striving to assist others to the best of my abilities. With this history in both cultures, a graduate degree in conference interpreting and applied linguistics from the Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz (FASK Gernersheim), advanced studies in speech communication and more than 13 years of experience as a freelance translator and interpreter on both sides of the Atlantic, I believe I am well positioned to represent GLD members and serve to further increase integration, increase integration and participation.