

Nordic Division: 2008 Candidate Statement

Ms. Tiina Fallini

Candidate for Assistant Administrator

I am very honored to be running for the position of Assistant Administrator of the Nordic Division for the second time. For those of you who I have not yet met, I would like to offer a little background.

I am a native Finn, born and raised in Finland. After high school I spent several years in Germany, and since 1994 I have been living in the United States, currently in the great state of Texas. Ever since I started to study English in the third grade I have been fascinated by languages. However, I did not want to follow in my mother's footsteps and become a teacher, so it was a natural choice for me to start studying Translating and Interpreting. I graduated with an MA from the University of Tampere, Finland, in 1990. The love of working with - and for - people pushed me into the direction of Tourism, and I ended up working outside of my "learned profession" for quite a few years, through which time I was, however, always responsible for all the translation and interpretation work that occurred in the line of duty. Finally, I decided it was time to start working only as a translator and interpreter. I began freelancing and joined the local Metroplex Interpreters

and Translators Association (MITA), and right after that I joined ATA. I feel I am finally "at home."

Ever since studying at the University I have felt very passionate about the profession we all share. Many people still think that if you can speak another language, you can translate. I look forward to working with ATA - and with all of you - to change this misconception and to educate the general public about our profession and the extensive knowledge of language and culture that is needed to provide a good translation. I would love for the Nordic Division to become more visible, both inside ATA and outside in the big world, and for the members of our small Division to get to know each other better. I am always happy to refer one of my Finnish colleagues to a client if I myself cannot take the job, and I feel we - and our clients - all could benefit from being able to refer other Nordic translators as well. It speaks well of a translator to know his or her colleagues.

In that sense, I look forward to getting to know all of you and serving the Nordic Division to the best of my ability!