

Board Meeting Summary

ATA Board Meeting, Online, January 23-24, 2021

To keep the membership abreast of ATA Board activities in a timely manner, a summary of the most recent Board meeting follows. This summary is not the same as the meeting minutes. The minutes are posted after they are approved by the Board.

At its January 2021 meeting, the Board:

- Noted for observers that the Board used Slack to discuss many areas of activity in the week running up to the meeting to keep Zoom meeting lengths reasonable.
- Approved the minutes of the October 31-November 1, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.
- Discussed reports received from various Divisions and Committees, from Headquarters, and from our International Federation of Translators' representative.
- Discussed Treasurer John Milan's report covering the first quarter of this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020). As expected, the pandemic is beginning to affect our finances. We had a negative change in net assets of \$50,000 in that period, compared with a positive change of \$77,000 in the same quarter the previous year. The certification program took a large loss due to a lack of certification sittings, but all of our programs have incurred losses at this time. The Webinars program was the only one that was close to breaking even. One area of discussion was how to offset the costs of print issues of *The ATA Chronicle*. The Board will review that later this year.
- Reviewed and discussed the financial results of the 2020 Annual Conference, which suggest that the final numbers will be close to breaking even, a success given the new model.
- Due to the bylaws requirements for standing committee membership, the Board re-approved the current staffing of the following committees, but changed the individual members' status based on their membership class:
 - o Business Practices Education Committee
 - o Education and Pedagogy Committee
 - o Public Relations Committee
 - o Standards Committee
 - o Chronicle Editorial Board
- Gave guidance to the Governance and Communications Committee regarding the policy for who should be able to serve on ATA committees in the future.
- Approved a revised Board Meeting Guest Policy to become effective as of January 25, 2021.
- Discussed potential changes to the association's membership structure.
- Discussed the Strategy Committee's updated report on "ATA, Technology, and the Future of Translation and Interpreting," giving feedback on priorities.
- Reviewed the Membership Committee's activity over the past quarter, noting among others the well-received membership benefits video that a number of members

participated in, plans to survey members later in 2021 so that the association will have diversity data, and a new initiative, online member orientation sessions.

- Reviewed plans for the Annual Conference to be held October 27-30, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minnesota with an online component. The Board discussed various aspects, including noting the complexity of planning for both components, that numbers at an in-person event will be restricted, and that the additional AV support needed to stream to the online component will be costly so that we will have to carefully consider pricing.
- Noted that the Division/Chapter Leadership Training and the Division Annual Meetings typically held before and during the conference will be held online in 2021. This will enable them to start planning for those now.
- Reviewed the Advocacy Committee's activity with a focus on the federal worker classification law (PRO Act) and a letter sent to the immediate past director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding vaccinating interpreters. A form response was received, and an updated letter is being sent to the new CDC director requesting that healthcare and court interpreters be listed specifically in the directives and urging that vaccinations for onsite court interpreters be made a higher priority.
- Approved appointments of the following Active members to the Advocacy Committee:
 - o Lorena Ortiz Schneider, Chair [approved October 2020]
 - o Katharine Allen
 - o Bill Rivers
 - o Jennifer Santiagos
 - o Robert Sette
 - o Caitilin Walsh
 - o Ted Wozniak
 - o and approved Luis Echeverry, Corporate member designated representative, to be a non-member assistant to the Committee.
- Heard from Certification Committee Chair Michèle Hansen and Deputy Chair Larry Bogoslaw on the intensive work towards holding remote exam sittings, noting that field testing for these remote exam sittings has begun and seems to address both overall security and support for non-Western languages. Plans for changes to be implemented to the certification program following analysis of the Knapp Review of the certification program will continue once the remote sittings are live. The tentative roll-out date is June 1. In-person sittings will continue when local groups are able to host them.
- Revised the certification renewal fee from \$30 every three years to \$75 every three years effective January 1, 2022.
- Approved the appointment of the following Active members to the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee:
 - o David Rumsey, Chair
 - o Lebzy Gonzalez
 - o Yolanda Secos
 - o David Stephenson
 - o Izumi Suzuki
- Approved the General Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

- Approved the appointment of the following members to the Ad Hoc National Registry of Individual Translators and Interpreters Committee:
 - Geoffrey Koby, Active (Chair)
 - Milena Calderari-Waldron, Active
 - Helen Eby, Active
 - Steve Lank, Designated Rep., Cesco Linguistic Services
 - David Rumsey, Active
 - Lorena Ortiz Schneider, Active
 - Robert Sette, Active
 - Caitilin Walsh, Active
- Approved the appointments of the following Active members to the Ad Hoc Basic Credential Committee:
 - Geof Koby, Active (Chair)
 - Alaina Brandt
 - Amanda Curry
 - Michèle Hansen
 - Elias Shakkour
 - Romina Marazzato Sparano
 - Chaowei Zhu
- Approved the appointment of the following Active members to the Honors and Awards Committee:
 - Karen Tkaczyk, Chair
 - Robin Bon throne
 - Veronika Demichelis
 - Lois Feuerle
 - Christina Green
 - Marion Rhodes
 - Caitilin Walsh
- Approved the appointment of the following Active members to the Divisions Committee:
 - Lebyz Gonzalez (Chair)
 - Romina Marazzato Sparano
 - Beth Smith
 - and approved the following non-member assistants to the committee:
 - Paula Arturo, Corresponding
 - Daniel Sebesta, Corresponding
- Discussed the sustainability of the current model for Divisions for the long-run and introduced ideas regarding new types of communities that may have lesser requirements and lesser support from the Association. An informal group will work on this topic and report back to the Board.
- Approved the appointment of the following Active members to the Ethics Committee:
 - Jill Sommer, Chair
 - Mike Collins
 - Jutta Diel-Dominique
 - Kathryn German

- Jennifer Guernsey
- Natalie Higgins
- Ana-Cecilia Rosado
- Milena Calderari-Waldron
- and approved the following non-member assistant to the committee:
 - Michael Elif, Designated Corporate Member Representative
- Received remarks from members attending the meeting.
 - Patricia de Ribes suggested that we send a similar letter as was sent to the CDC to Occupational Safety and Health Administration, given a new Executive Order regarding the protection of public employees. She also noted that in the past some committee reports had been posted to the website and asked us to consider doing this again.
 - Loreto Paz Ansaldo commented on our efforts regarding a membership survey and the new categories we are considering.
 - Victoria Méndez thanked the Board members for service to the Association.
 - Edna Santizo thanked the Board for allowing members to attend virtually.
 - Artemis López expressed the hope that the Board will continue to open the meetings up to observers once they are again held in person.
 - Bob Feron said that many members would jump at the opportunity to share our CDC letter with their local decision makers and that it was a superb opportunity for boosting grass-roots advocacy efforts.