

Board Meeting Summary

ATA Board Meeting, Online, April 24-25, 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 April 2021 meeting, the Board:

- Approved the minutes of the January 23-24, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.
- Entered into the record that Charo Welle had been appointed to the Business Practices Education Committee by a unanimous electronic vote of the Board in February 2021.
- Discussed reports received from various Divisions and Committees, from Headquarters, from our International Federation of Translators representative, from the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, and from members who attended the following events on ATA's behalf: Association of Language Companies On the Hill Event, Globalization and Localization Association Conference, Joint National Committee for Languages 2021 Language Advocacy Days, and various language education conferences.
- Discussed Treasurer John Milan's report covering the first half of this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020). Though total revenue was down, at just \$1.46 million, total expenses were also lower, at \$1.24 million, so we ended up with a preliminary positive change in net assets of \$217,431. Almost all of our programs came in under budget for these six months. Investments are solid and have even grown slightly. However, membership has fallen for the tenth year in a row, and as a result, we must budget appropriately and assume that trend will continue for now.
- Gave guidance to the Governance and Communications Committee regarding five proposed bylaws amendments that it wishes to put forward for approval by the membership at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Voting Members, most of which are minor matters for consistency or administrative clean-up.
- Approved the release of the draft position paper on remote interpreting for comment by the general membership for a period of 30 days.
- Discussed the draft version of the position paper on best practices in localization.
- Approved the appointment of William Rivers as a member of the Standards Committee.
- Approved the appointment of the following members to serve on the 2021 Gode Medal Selection Committee: David Rumsey (chair), Cristina Helmerichs, Corinne McKay, Karen Tkaczyk, and Ted Wozniak.
- Approved the appointment of the following Active members to the Ethics Committee: Cathy Eitel-Nzume and Laurence Jay-Rayon Ibrahim Aibo.
- Affirmed the Ethics Committee's determination and proposed sanction in an Ethics Case.
- Discussed progress made in planning for the Annual Conference to be held October 27-30, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minnesota with an online component noting that the website is online, that presentation selections are almost complete, that a new virtual platform has been selected, and that the additional AV support needed to stream to the online

component is costly and will result in a price increase. At this time, the venue's capacity limit is 1500 people. Specifics regarding safety protocols and food and beverage services are in place.

- Networking events will differ in some cases for online and in-person attendees.
- Heard from Certification Committee Chair Michèle Hansen and Deputy Chair Larry Bogoslaw on the intensive work towards holding remote exam sittings, noting that proctor training for remote exam sittings has begun and that first drafts of procedures are complete. We are still on track to begin remote testing in June 2021, with a slow start ramping up throughout the second half of the year. Plans for changes to be implemented to the certification program following analysis of the Knapp Review of the certification program continue.
- Reviewed the Membership Committee's activity over the past quarter, noting among others the new e-book "ATA Guide to Starting Out as a Translator," the now regular online member orientation sessions, and plans to survey members later in 2021 so that the association will have updated demographic data.
- Noted that the Association Management System project is on hold due to the vendor not being able to meet the terms of the contract. The Board discussed the various issues and possible outcomes.
- Reviewed the final report from the Ad Hoc Website Committee, a summary of the entire project. President Wozniak thanked Ad Hoc Website Committee Chair and Secretary Karen Tkaczyk and the committee members, who were all present. He then declared that the Ad Hoc Website Committee is dissolved.
- Reviewed the Professional Development Committee's outstanding work on the number and quality of various professional development opportunities now available.
- Approved the appointments of the following Active Members to the Professional Development Committee: Yongmei Li and Charo Welle. Approved Gloria Cabrejos as an assistant to the Professional Development Committee.
- Reviewed the Advocacy Committee's extensive activity over the past quarter, including a letter to the Administrative Office of the Courts supporting Pennsylvania interpreters' position on negative modifications in working conditions and pay; a letter to Congresswoman Grace Meng endorsing HR 1009, a bill that would require federal agencies to translate COVID-19 information into multiple languages; research on costs of lobbying firms/lobbyists, including meetings with 3 firms; a letter to Congress on ATA's position on the PROAct; and a letter shared with other T&I associations for dissemination within their networks and to our Senators. Additionally, worked with Headquarters and the Chapters
- Committee to encourage ATA members and Chapter and Affiliate members to advocate personally to their representatives.
- Discussed how we should professionalize ATA's Advocacy work. Instructed the Advocacy Committee to revise the terms of the proposal to hire a professional advocate and report back to the Board.
- Discussed the Public Relations Committee's activity over the past quarter, including media activity, school outreach work, a new penned article called "The Case for Bilingual

Books: 4 Ways Dual-Language Books Can Boost Biliteracy in Young Children,” and plans for International Translation Day 2021.

- Approved the July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 working budget and the 2022-24 draft budgets, with Treasurer Milan noting that adjustments will be made before the final version is submitted in August.
- Heard remarks from members attending the meeting.
 - Helen Eby asked whether ATA has compared the decline in rate of ATA membership with the decline or growth rate of chapters and affiliates. [We have not.] Made comments on the nature of the diverse positions interpreters take on remote interpreting.
 - Mihai Bledea asked whether ATA looks at members in age bands as part of considering how to tackle the membership decline. Also spoke to the remote interpreting position paper and asked when the paper would become available for review. [It should be available within a week or two.]
 - Patricia de Ribes asked what the substance of our position was on comment on the Department of Labor’s decision to withdraw the final rule on worker classification. [We objected to the withdrawal.]
 - Andy Benzo suggested that we make more announcements to call for volunteers where those are needed. Complimented the work of the Professional Development Committee and said that she believes it will reverse the membership drop.