

Board Meeting Summary

ATA Board Meeting, Embassy Suites, Alexandria, Virginia, May 6-7, 2023

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 May 2023 meeting, the Board:

- Approved the minutes from the February 11, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting.
- Reviewed reports received from various ATA Committees and Divisions and from the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI).
- Reviewed Treasurer John Milan's report covering standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the creation of ATA's budget and on the first nine months of the 2022–2023 fiscal year, from July 2022 to March 2023. ATA's total revenue for that period was \$2.3m. ATA's total expenses for that period were \$2.4m. ATA, therefore, had a negative change in net assets of \$90k.
- Heard updates from Executive Director Baxter on the changes at HQ in her first six months as ED, including updates made to the organizational chart to incorporate new and veteran staff into newly created and updated roles, updates on the state of ATA's membership—8,690 members to date— and work done to streamline ATA's expenses and cut unnecessary costs.
- Heard updates from ATA President-Elect and Governance and Communications Committee (GCC) Chair Veronika Demichelis on the policies the committee will focus on reviewing in the coming months.
- Approved the appointment of Ted Wozniak to the GCC.
- Discussed the second round of feedback received from ATA's members on the model that the GCC has been working on to potentially restructure membership and member benefits.
- Approved the appointments of the following members to the Education and Pedagogy Committee: Giovanna Carriero-Contreras, Olga Koloko, and Claire Ziamandanis.
- Approved the appointments of the following members to the Public Relations Committee: Yasmin Alkashef, Ben Karl, and Mireya Pérez.
- Heard updates from Membership Committee Chair Meghan McCallum on work done and planned work to share and act on the results of the Membership Survey.
- Approved the appointment of Caitlin Jones to the Membership Committee.
- Heard updates from Strategy Committee Chair John Milan on establishing ATA's strategy in collaboration with ATA's members and on technological innovations that will need to be taken into account when forming ATA's strategy.
- Discussed the Draft Strategy that was presented by Strategy Committee Chair John Milan.
- Approved the appointment of Rony Gao to the Strategy Committee.

- Heard updates from Certification Committee Chair David Stephenson and Deputy-Chair Holly Mikkelsen on the planned shift to fully online certification tests, on the grader training taking place for Language Chairs simultaneous to the Board meeting, and on progress addressing recommendations made in the Knapp Review.
- Approved a motion granting a \$125 discount on conference registration to graders who attend the Wednesday, October 25, four-hour grader training session.
- Heard updates from Virtual Conference Subcommittee Chair Robert Sette on the spring Professional Development Virtual Conference, “Translating & Interpreting the Future: Employing Professional to Innovate and Thrive.” Sette noted that the event will generate revenue for ATA.
- Approved the appointments of the following members to the Professional Development Committee: Adam Sachs, Andy Benzo, Miriam Mousafa, and Grace Isaia y Ruiz.
- Approved changes to the ATA and AFTI Honors & Awards Policies and Procedures.
- Approved the appointment of Sijin Xian to the Honors and Awards Committee.
- Discussed the policies and procedures for Active membership reviews.
- Discussed the proposal by the Language and Technology Division for the creation of an MTPE Training by ATA.
- Heard updates from Standards Committee Chair Alaina Brandt on Yes votes cast by ASTM F43 on ISO 11669 Translation projects — General guidance and by ATA on ASTM F43 F2089 Standard Practice for Language Interpreting, a potential collaboration within ASTM F43 on a sign language interpreter standard, and about the dates for ASTM F43’s Biannual Meeting of All Members to be held on June 1 in conjunction with the NAJIT conference and on July 26th via Zoom.
- Approved the appointments of the following members to the Standards Committee: Grace Isaia y Ruiz and Romina Marazzato Sparano.
- Reviewed, discussed, and approved the July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024 Draft Working Budget and the 2024–25 Draft Budget.
- Heard updates from President-Elect and Conference Organizer Veronika Demichelis on work underway to plan ATA’s 64th Annual Conference in Miami. She shared early indicators that the trend of lower conference attendance will hold true in Miami. She reported on changes to the conference schedule, including new session types and new and updated events and on efforts to promote the conference and make sponsorship and exhibitor packages more attractive. She also addressed safety concerns expressed by members about the political and legal landscape in Florida.
- Heard updates on the progress of the pilot Special Interest Groups (SIGs) program.
- Approved the establishment of the Southeast Asian Language Interest Group (SEALSIG) pending membership status review.
- Discussed potential rebranding of ATA’s tagline. The consensus was that the current tagline is still in line with our goals and identity as an Association but ATA could use a brand refresh in general.
- Reviewed the slate for the 2023 ATA elections and discussed concerns about only having one candidate proposed for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. ATA bylaws require that two candidates be proposed for each Board role.

- Heard updates from Advocacy Committee Chair Ben Karl on the work of the committee advocating for fair rates in South Carolina, in opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 584 that would have adversely impacted the ability to place assignments with interpreters of languages for which no certification is available, and the call to action for members in California in response to AB 432.
- Heard updates from Director Christina Green on work within the Interpreter's Division to engage people through TikTok and on work with the Interpretation Professional Advisory Committee to advocate on behalf of interpreters within the U.S. Department of State.
- Heard updates from Director Manako Ihaya on the International Japanese-English Translation Conference (IJET) conference taking place in Japan from June 24–25, 2023, hosted by the Japan Association of Translators at which there will be at which she will present on a panel an ATA Certification Workshop (JP>EN, EN>JP).