The American Translators Association’s Board of Directors met April 18-19, 2015, in Alexandria, Virginia. The Board met in conjunction with the Certification Committee and Language Chairs Spring meetings. (In ATA’s Certification Program, each language combination and direction, such as Spanish>English, has its own chair and graders.) Here are some highlights from this very productive Board meeting.

Delaying Opening ATA’s Certification Exam to Nonmembers: After much deliberation—including a review of the member survey results—the Board decided to set goals for meeting certain financial and logistical criteria rather than set a deadline for opening ATA’s Certification exam to nonmembers. (The original deadline was January 1, 2016.) The Board remains committed to opening the exam to nonmembers, but wants to ensure that ATA is able to implement it without negative impact.

The ATA Chronicle: The Chronicle Review Task Force, led by ATA Director Corinne McKay, gave its final recommendations to the Board. Among the recommendations, the Task Force proposed the inclusion of more advanced articles, revamping the magazine’s online presence, and refreshing the columns. To assist in overseeing the Association’s flagship publication, the Board approved the establishment of an Editorial Board. The Board also approved changing the frequency of the publication to six times a year. (For more information, please see President Caitilin Walsh’s column on page 2.)

Budget: The Board approved the working budget for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and draft budgets for 2016-18. The $3-million working budget provides an interim financial framework that lets us incorporate changes and revisions based on decisions made at the meeting and on actual year-end figures. The final budget will be approved at the next Board meeting.

Public Relations: The Board discussed various options for funding ATA’s Public Relations activities, including media outreach, client education efforts, and speaker training. The Board consensus was to increase funding, so the final budget will include more funds for PR activities.

Interpreter Certification and ATA’s Directory of Translators and Interpreters: The Board discussed a report from the Interpretation Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) on recognizing interpreter certifications in ATA’s Directory of Translators and Interpreters. Leading the discussion was IPAC member Melinda Gonzalez-Hibner. (IPAC member Izumi Suzuki was also present.) The committee, led by Cristina Helmerichs, is looking at various interpreter credentials with an eye toward establishing parity with ATA’s Certification Program for translators for the purposes of recognizing interpreters in our online directory and for conferring voting rights.

Finance and Audit Committee. The Board approved the appointment of Evelyn Yang Garland to the Finance and Audit Committee. Evelyn is an ATA director, an interpreter, and a company owner. She joins President Caitilin Walsh, President-elect David Rumsey, Secretary Boris Silversteyn, Director Corinne McKay, John Milan, and Treasurer Ted Wozniak, who chairs the committee.

The Board meeting summary is posted online. The minutes will be once they are approved at the next Board meeting. Past meeting summaries and minutes are always posted online as soon as they become available (www.atanet.org/membership/minutes.php). The next Board meeting is set for July 25-26, 2015, with the location to be determined. As always, the meeting is open to all members, and members are encouraged to attend.