

Annual Report, 2017

2017 board members. Elisa Gustafson, Claudia Giannini, David Coats, Mohamud Aden, Aida Azzazi, Isabel Montañez, Catherine Gonzalez Klang, Kristen Mages, Ana Locke, Mohamed Raif Al Azzawi, Viviana Orтели-Szleifer,

In 2018, we have had a significant turnaround, with the new Board being comprised of:

1. President: Isabel Montanez
2. Vice-president: Claudia Giannini
3. Treasurer: David Coats
4. Membership Director: Eve McLeish
5. Secretary: Aida Azzazi
6. Committee Liaison: vacant
7. Mohamud Aden: Member at Large
8. Patricia Contag: Member at Large
9. Maria Gadea: Member at Large
10. Elisa Gustafson: Member at Large

During 2017, the Board contracted a 1099 position with Diana Leidahl as Administrative Assistant, to help with setting up events in our database and also with the membership administration duties of the membership director. We had previously contracted with Lorna Untiedt as bookkeeper, to assist the treasurer, and starting in 2018 we have also contracted Kristen Mages to do the web and Facebook postings.

We held 14 events this year besides the conference:

- 1- We started out the year with our most funnest (grammar error intended) workshop ever—**Getting into Character**, with Beth Gilleland. I can't begin to describe what you missed out on if you weren't there! The workshop explored the connection between interpreting and acting, and the importance of accurately conveying nonverbal communication;
- 2- **3rd repetition of Genetics, Oncology and Cancer Genetics** workshops led by Ana Locke;
- 3- **Anatomy and Pathophysiology** with Natasha Ballestena Orozco;
- 4- **Childhood Speech Development**, with Sierra Armien Funk, was our first endeavor at a workshop geared towards interpreters in education;
- 5- **3 Interpreter support sessions**;
- 6- **2 Translator Cafes**;
- 7- **computerized ATA exam sitting**;
- 8- **Wordfast** training;
- 9- **Volunteer Recognition picnic**;
- 10- We started to get our feet wet in the issues of working conditions for interpreters and translators with the brief meeting on **Agency work for interpreters—Is it really freelance?** As well as working in collaboration with Lingua on reaching a proposal for a registry of health care interpreters that will benefit interpreters; and
- 11- **Infection Control Workshop for HCI**, in collaboration with CCHI and Allina Health Services.

Of course, holding a 2 track **conference** after a 7 year hiatus represented a remarkable effort as well as an outstanding success. Many new participants were present, 163 attendees, the reviews were marvelous, and we had a great day at the event as well as an enjoyable work experience with the team that organized it.

As CEU requirements become more common among us, satisfying those requirements with well-prepared events is one of our main goals. The workshops offered a total of **26 CEU's**, 9 more than 2016. There is a good reason for the board feeling a bit exhausted!

The board members also have been working toward becoming more vocal about **legislation** that affects our profession. We still lack the manpower and the expertise to have much of an impact, but we would like to work in that direction. So far, we have tried to support Lingua, a nonprofit for interpreters with lobbying capabilities and linked to the CWA, as much as we can.

We revamped/updated our brochure for the first time in a few years, requesting the help of a graphic designer. We were very happy with the results!

We provided one student Scholarship of \$600.00 for students in an academic TRIN program.

We have shared and promoted **volunteer opportunities**, as well as job opportunities.

Our website and Facebook page have been very active and attracted attention from the surrounding states. In 2017, we had over 20,000 views of our website (an average of 55 views per day) and posted over 100 blog posts. We also have over 200 followers on our Facebook page.

In the belief that if UMTIA is to have stronger ties with the ATA, our Board members must have stronger ties with the organization, we provided funds to pay for a substantial part of the expenses for the ATA Conference for two of our board members. It was definitely an eye opening and exhilarating experience for them, and a good investment for the board with the ideas and excitement that they brought back with them.

We are working toward being more responsive—and showing it—to our members. We did the first ever “survey monkey” survey with our members, and received a substantial amount of feedback that we will be working with during 2018.

Elisa Gustafson, President Emeritus, Member at Large