



To: Board of Directors and Past Presidents
From: Helen Eby, Administrator: helen@gauchatranslations.com
Lorena Ortiz Schneider, Assistant Administrator: lorena@ortizschneider.com
Date: March 25, 2019
Re: Interpreters Division Report

Leadership Council Members: Amine El-Fajri, Christina Green, Cristina Helmerichs, Enrica Ardemagni, Flávia Lima, Hicham Zerhouni, Maha El-Metwally, Milena Calderari-Waldron, Natalia Abarca, Paula Irisity, Roxane King, Tianlu Redmon, Aleyna Tusa Marie

Summary of Activities

BLOG

<http://www.ata-divisions.org/ID/blog/>

We continue to seek authors and articles that will contribute to our profession. We are approaching stakeholders as well as interpreters as authors now.

EMAIL TO MEMBERS

We have sent our second email to members, and are establishing a practice of sending messages to the whole membership.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The communications team worked together to put together a tribute to the UN interpreters who lost their lives in the UN Shuttle accident en route to work (the Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed was known as the UN Shuttle). Several other organizations thanked us and posted it as well. The Institute on Interpreting & Translation (ITI) and the Association of International Conference Interpreters (AIIC) were among them.

As the team focuses on analyzing the messages that our audience responded to, we are able to hone in on what our members are most interested in.

CONFERENCE

We submitted a Distinguished Speaker application and are already planning the Division networking event. We will let the members know about the details shortly.

CONNECTIONS WITH MEMBERS

We set up our first *Interpreters Connections* event, which took place at The Union Social Eatery (St Clair) restaurant in Toronto, Canada on March 23rd, 2019. The two hours event and attended by 22 people, some ATA members.. It was hosted by our council member, Flávia Lima, who is very active in social media and former Arizona Interpreters & Translators (ATI) Secretary, an ATA affiliated association, where she started this initiative in Phoenix, AZ in 2016. This new way of connecting face-to-face enabled interpreters to share ideas around community interpreting issues in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), promote ATA Certification and the benefits of joining ATA, encourage folks to attend the upcoming conference, and guide them on how to host next events in the GTA area.

We plan to do more across the country in order to promote sharing opportunities and also as a way to stay united and support the profession.

We are also planning an online meeting with our members to report to them about our work and get their opinions in late May or early June. We will promote this through an email to all members.

PLANNING

We are working with an annual timeline to set up our tasks and make sure we are ready for the conference in plenty of time while taking into consideration the availability of our LC members. Creating an Excel spreadsheet showing the months and the tasks, marking when each task will be accomplished, has been helpful to see our way through.

TEAM BUILDING

We find that our team members are generally able to let us know when they need support, and we have been able to find help for them as needed. We have also committed to juggling ID responsibilities around other areas of their lives as needed, so their ID participation is sustainable. For example, some members are getting MA degrees in interpreting or are planning large events, and we value their contributions enough to work as a team and support them during their busy times.

Flavia Lima and Roxane King are pursuing MA degrees at this point. Flavia is expecting to graduate from Glendon College with an MA in interpreting this school year. Roxane is in her first year of an MA in Interpreting and Translation. We look forward to growing with them.

Lorena and Helen continue to hand over responsibilities as partners. For example, during the first two or three weeks of April, Lorena will be at the helm of the Division while Helen is supporting her family as a new grandchild is born to her son and daughter-in-law. This is why the division email goes to both Helen and Lorena.

Our online meetings every two months with the Leadership Council have been successful. Members prepare, participate, and contribute ideas freely so the Division can move forward. It is an honor to serve our colleagues through the ATA Interpreters Division.