



To: Board of Directors and Past Presidents  
From: Helen Eby, Administrator: [helen@gauchatranslations.com](mailto:helen@gauchatranslations.com)  
Lorena Ortiz Schneider, Assistant Administrator: [lorena@ortizschneider.com](mailto:lorena@ortizschneider.com)  
Date: July 16, 2020  
Re: Interpreters Division Report

Leadership Council Members:

- Natalia Abarca
- Andreea Boscor
- Milena Calderari-Waldron
- Maha El-Metwally
- Christina Green
- Cristina Helmerichs
- Paula Irisity
- Flávia Lima
- Daniela Obregon
- Gabriela Penrod
- Carol Shaw
- Yasmin Alkashef (new)

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

### **BLOG:**

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

In order to focus on publishing quality articles, the ID Blog is scheduling articles on a monthly basis. This allows for careful review of content and style and thoughtful follow-up of each author. It also allows the Blog to post news updates and reblogs of quality material between original contributions.

The Blog is actively pursuing articles by first-time authors.

We also capitalize article titles following AP style, which is currently sentence caps. This is the style used in most newspapers at this time.

Since March of 2020, the ID blog has published 3 articles. The first, *Interpreting in the face of a pandemic*, was reprinted in The Chronicle's Interpreters Forum. That was followed by *Report from California – AB 5* and *Acoustic shock: What interpreters need to know*.

Traffic to the blog breaks down as follows:

General visits to the blog

April 3,260  
 May 1,288  
 June 1,237

Article-specific visits (first month following publication)

*Interpreting in the face of a pandemic:* 1,288  
*Report from California – AB 5:* 121  
*Acoustic shock: What interpreters need to know:* 252

The next three articles that are ready or nearly ready for publication will touch on mask maintenance, starting a formal interpreting training program, and interpreting for a psychological evaluation. Other articles in varying stages of the process range from the potential impact of translation studies on interpreting skills and the dynamics of interpreting for journalists. The majority of these upcoming articles are written by first-time contributors to the ATA ID blog.

Submitted by Carol Shaw  
 July 15, 2020

**COVID-19:**

We have developed a survey for our members to find out how many have availed themselves of the economic assistance programs offered by the CARES Act: PUA, PPP and EIDL.

We will submit this survey to Jamie Padula and follow the usual procedure for Division surveys with the ATA office. Once completed, we will report the findings in a blog article.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Our Communications Committee continues to coordinate the distribution of messages from the ID to its members via:

- Twitter.
- Facebook.
- Linked In:
- Google Group.

Our communications committee keeps us abreast of the issues interpreters are interested in so we can respond with timely blog posts and study issues that are pertinent to our members' needs. Therefore, we do not submit a count of tweets and posts, as much as we engage with members.

We are also creating a sub-committee dedicated to offering webinars to our members.

### **NEW POLICY GOVERNING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER POSTS:**

The LC has developed and approved guidelines for publishing post about/by leadership council members in order to avoid self-promotion (attached).

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS:**

We are working with IPAC to seek assistance from ID members in developing a database that would contain the CEU requirements of various states and credentialing bodies so that members can obtain their credits by attending various ATA conference sessions.

### **REQUESTS OF THE BOARD:**

COVID-19 continues to affect the entire interpreter community, world-wide. On-site interpreting services has not yet recovered, while remote continues to see an increase. Interpreters livelihoods are still suffering.

We ask ATA to continue supporting messaging around:

1. Maintaining professional standards, including compensation for interpreters, as more and more end-users move to remote.
2. Educating consumers and the public about interpreting.
3. Ensuring lawmakers take freelancers and small to medium-sized business into account in any federal, state, county or municipal economic relief legislation.

We also ask ATA to continue being the home for all interpreters by creating a space for conversation, sharing ideas, offering continuing education/professional development.

Lastly, we thank the ATA Board for its statement on racism and inequality and we support it.

Yours, serving our colleagues,

*Helen Eby*

*Lorena Ortiz Schneider*

## **PUBLISHING AND POSTING GUIDANCE FOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Before publishing, posting, broadcasting or promoting on any ATA Interpreters Division (ID) social media outlets any material such as:

- article
- blog
- webinar
- interview
- podcast
- training
- similar material

authored by or showcasing a member of the ATA Interpreters Division Leadership Council (ID LC), the following steps shall be followed:

1. The author or sponsor of the material shall submit the material to the Leadership Council (LC) for review stating the deadline.
2. The administrator will call for a meeting.
3. The members of the LC shall determine by vote whether the proposed material primarily benefits the member in question. The sponsoring member must not be present during the discussion and vote.
4. If approved, the material shall be posted to ID outlets by an ID LC member who is not the author of the material or the member featured in the material.
5. The LC must vote on the submission no later than seven (7) days after it is submitted.

*[Approved at the Leadership Council meeting of July 11, 2020.]*