



To: Board of Directors and Past Presidents  
From: Helen Eby, Administrator: [helen@gauchatranslations.com](mailto:helen@gauchatranslations.com)  
Christina Green, Assistant Administrator: [christina@greenlinguistics.com](mailto:christina@greenlinguistics.com)  
Date: January 8, 2021  
Re: Interpreters Division Report  
Leadership Council Members:

- Carol Shaw
- Milena Calderari Waldron
- Daniela Obregón
- Flavia Lima
- Yasmin Alkashef
- Gabriela Penrod
- Lesley Andrews

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

Since the ATA conference, Christina Green and Helen Eby have been working to communicate with members and meet their needs.

#### **Subcommittees**

To do so, we have engaged a larger team of subcommittees, and we have a group of 20 volunteers listed under a variety of categories. Our Leadership Council brings a breadth of languages and skills to the table, and connects with other groups:

- ATA Board contacts
- Blog and web committee
- Podcast/Professional Development committee
- Social media committee

Each of these groups works relatively independently and is represented by someone in the Leadership Council for central coordination. This way we can engage more volunteers and help build leadership in the Division while listening to as many voices as possible and focusing our meeting time.

#### **Connecting with members**

In April 2019 we launched the Interpreter Connections program. We followed up by having some town hall meetings for members. On January 9 we are hosting an online Interpreters Connections, where we have given ATA ID members priority at the table and allowed others to come as space allows. By January 6, over 120 have

registered. We asked what their concerns are, and they are mostly concerned with the following issues, starting with the issues that were mentioned most frequently:

- Remote interpreting, concerning all areas (consecutive, simultaneous, medical and conference)
- The future of work in interpreting
- COVID, regarding their health and working conditions
- They want to connect
- Skills improvement
- How ATA can support them

We will focus on these issues at our meeting on January 9. We hope our colleagues are able to publish documents that meet the needs of these interpreters through ATA and Division channels.

### **Issues the Interpreters Division is working on**

We are currently posting **blog posts** about once a month, and with the support of ATA we are sending the links to the full membership for them to be aware of our work. Carol Shaw, our editor, works independently of the Administrator and has posts scheduled well in advance.

Our **social media team** keeps abreast of the issues in the interpreting field and posts materials that will support the needs our colleagues have expressed. When we find something of interest, we share it in our channels so the social media can review the links and determine whether it is appropriate for posting. The social media works somewhat independently and informs the rest of the team regarding what kind of conversations are happening online so we can respond to those issues in the blog.

Our **Professional Development team** is reviewing proposals submitted to last year's conference to increase the variety of offerings for interpreters through the ATA webinar program. They are also starting to plan a podcast series. They work closely with the ATA Professional Development team.

The Leadership Council meets monthly to discuss Division issues. We will be considering options for a Distinguished Speaker shortly and submitting a candidate to ATA as soon as possible.

Our goals as a Division are to provide a forum where members can grow and network, and a way to communicate the needs of our members to the ATA Board.

Yours, serving our colleagues,

*Helen Eby*

*Christina Green*