

2023 AATIA Board of Directors Candidate Statements

President



Robin Bonthron

I have served now two terms as President of AATIA and am delighted to stand again for a third term.

I have been a professional German->English financial and legal translator and trainer for well over 30 years, specializing in particular in financial accounting and reporting, as well as financial regulation and supervision. I hold the CT (Certified Translator) certification from ATA (American Translators Association) and am a member by examination of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting in the UK (MITI). I am currently also a member of ATA's Finance & Audit, Professional Development, and Honors & Awards Committees, and Chair of ATA's Ethics Committee.

I joined AATIA after moving to Austin in 2017, and have spent much of the past two years helping to arrange presenters for AATIA General Meetings. These have been mainly virtual, but we are now beginning to return to in-person meetings.

As President, I am proud to have helped steer AATIA through the Covid crisis and enter the post-lockdown world on a sound footing. For the next year, my aim is to continue increasing the number of in-person meetings and to grow AATIA's membership, including by recruiting new members outside the traditional Austin area.

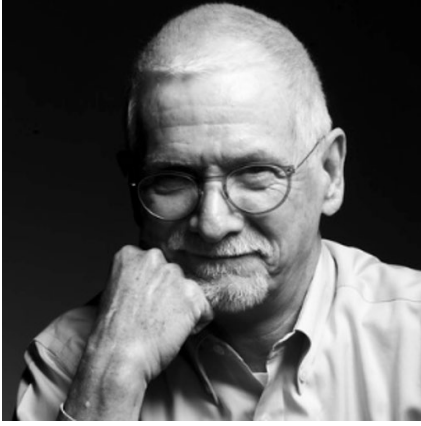
Secretary



Renee Koenig

Hello, my name is Renee Koenig. I am interested in becoming a board member because I am new to the Austin area and would love the opportunity to be surrounded by people who share a common passion for interpreting and translating; and after speaking with Carolyn, the position of Secretary seems like a good starting point to becoming a more active member in this community. While I realize my main role would be keeping minutes and running elections, one of the things I would also be interested in is organizing more unstructured, social meet-ups to complement both the AATIA's bi-monthly gatherings and the other events for language professionals in Austin.

A little about myself: I currently work as a Spanish interpreter for the federal immigration courts. Previously, I was a Spanish translator for eight years while I lived abroad in Colombia, where I also received a Master's in Spanish Linguistics from the Universidad de Antioquia. Upon my return to the states in 2020, I decided to shift my focus to interpreting and am currently working on becoming a state certified court interpreter. In general, I am a huge Spanish grammar nerd and would perhaps like to teach Spanish one day in the future.



Michael Meigs

Director of Finance

Michael Meigs relocated to Austin after a thirty-year diplomatic career, largely in French- and Spanish-speaking countries. He has several graduate degrees, including an MBA and an MA in economics. A literary translator since 2010, he received the 2011 translation prize of the American Scandinavian Institute and the American Translators Association's 2020 Louis Galantière Translation Prize. His translation of Dolores Redondo's *La Cara Norte del Corazón* has just been shortlisted for the Queen Sofia Prize for literary translation from Spanish into English. Amazon Crossing commissioned Michael to translate three novels from Spanish and two from German. He also translates from French and Swedish. Michael reviews live narrative theatre and has published the website *CTXLiveTheatre.com* since 2008.

Director of Membership



Tiffany Annette Hopkins

I, Tiffany Annette Hopkins, would love to seek your kind consideration for re-election as Membership Director for AATIA. It has been my pleasure to serve, become more involved in our organization, as well as communicate personally with many of you over this past year. As we continue to grow, bring in new partners and engage within special interest groups, there is much more for myself to do inside the ever strong AATIA. I would love to continue to provide a helpful voice along the way for all members. Your consideration is greatly appreciated!

Director of Professional Development



Waleska Bonthron

I served as Director of Membership of AATIA in 2014, and am excited by the prospect of returning to AATIA's Board as Director of Professional Development.

As a healthcare interpreter specializing in rehabilitation therapies and a healthcare interpreter trainer, professional development in all its varied forms is close to my heart. If elected as AATIA's Director of Professional Development, I will continue the longstanding tradition of recruiting outstanding presenters for our bimonthly General Meetings.

Over the past two years, almost all of these meetings have been held virtually via Zoom, giving AATIA members access to expertise and knowledge both from within and outside the Austin area (and in some cases, from outside Texas). This is a benefit I wish to continue offering our members, and I will seek out first-class speakers, including from outside the United States, on topics of interest to AATIA members. I will also work with other Board members to identify and recruit local presenters for in-person General Meetings, and will actively encourage other

AATIA members to share their knowledge, skills, and experiences with their fellow AATIA members.



Marion Lemari

Director of Communications

My name is Marion Lemari, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the AATIA Director of Communications position once again after serving AATIA in this position for the past two years. During these last two years, I have always enjoyed using my skills and theoretical knowledge about translation/interpreting to support all aims of AATIA. I especially enjoyed being in charge of the publication and distribution of information relevant to AATIA members and translators & interpreters in general.

I believe my background makes me well-suited for this position. For the past 9 years, I have mostly worked as a freelance translator on German to English medical translations, as an online tutor for Foreign Language (German) and English Essay Writing, and as a community interpreter serving the Killeen-Temple-Ft. Hood metropolitan area. I also have some experience in localization.

Previously serving AATIA and its members has been a wonderful experience, and now in post-COVID times, it is vital to ensure AATIA's legacy will continue on. I know what this position entails and have always been enthusiastic about AATIA. Looking ahead, my goal is to increase AATIA board and membership engagement and generally to continue supporting the association and its members. I appreciate your consideration and continued trust.

