

Vice-President South 2021-2022 Report (Siyi Tonella, C. Trans., ZH-EN)

Dear ATIA members,

Last year at the AGM, I nominated myself to be the VP-South of ATIA, and I am glad I did. This past year it has been a great honour and pleasure for me to be part of the ATIA board and be involved in the work to constantly improve our association to better serve the members, maintain the standards of our profession and give back to the community. As a relatively new resident in the great province of Alberta, I must say it was a great experience to have the opportunity to work with so many amazing people and learn from them. With every monthly meeting, I learn something new. Faces unfamiliar to me a year ago, have become trusted colleagues and friends. As a translator, I deal with documents more than with people, and being a member of the board not only let me gain backstage access to ATIA as an organization but also enriched my life. I want to take this opportunity to thank our inspiring president Roula Salam, and all board members, Allison Downer, our Administrative Assistant, Kea Adachi, our Development Coordinator, and all committee members who have worked tirelessly to keep our organization going. An organization is nothing without the people working in it, and we have the best people!

This past year, my work has centred on the Bursary and Community Service Committee as the chair of the committee. I would like to thank the three other members of our committee, Erhan Baykotan, Ahmad Reza Katouzian and Samah Zahaby. You might have seen their profiles featured in our newsletter, and they are as lovely on zoom as on picture. They bring insights and perspectives to every meeting, and have made amazing contributions to our committee's work. This year, on the bursary front, we took the baton from Michael who created the electronic application forms for ATIA's grant and bursary initiative last year, finalized them, finetuned the terms and conditions with the help of Regina Landeck, and launched the program, thus introducing two grants and the bursary program. The applications are available on our website, and we invite all members to take a look and welcome all eligible members to apply. Please do take advantage of this program. We would love to help our members achieve their professional goals and here we offer some help to fund professional development to members with limited financial means. Since this is a newly launched program, we are also interested in hearing back from you. If you find anything in the application process that may require adjustment, we're here to listen. With your feedback we can perfect this program and make it work for our members.

The other initiative which our committee have only just begun to work on is Community Service. We have allocated funds to be used to help pay for translation and interpretation services requested by not-for-profit organizations helping people with limited financial means.



We have created a service request form that will be published online for download, and are working on technical solutions to streamline this process of connecting organizations to our members who are willing and available to provide the service, at a reasonable fee that is paid by ATIA. Details of this program are still in the works and may take some time to finalize, but we're hopeful to have this program launched in this coming membership year. Please keep an eye out for updates in the upcoming newsletter, as we will be asking members to participate in this initiative. We look forward to providing more details to you and receiving your enthusiastic participation to help us launch the programs and give back to the community.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the board for their trust, support and friendship. I will continue to serve as VP-South in the new membership year and look forward to more exciting projects and challenges.

Yours truly,
Siyi Tonella