

Vice-President South 2022-2023 Report (Siyi Tonella, C. Trans., ZH-EN)

Dear ATIA members,

How time flies! I hope we all had a productive and prosperous year since our last AGM.

This past membership year it has been a great honour and pleasure for me to be part of the ATIA board again and continue serving as the VP South of ATIA. We had many new faces joining our board and committees to carry out the work to constantly improve our organization to better serve the members, maintain the standards of our profession and give back to the community. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to keep our organization going. ATIA is what it is today because of your commitment and contributions! We should all be proud of what we've accomplished together in the past year!

I was mainly focused on my role as chair of the Bursary and Community Service Committee in the past membership year. The two important tasks of the committee were still in their infancy at the beginning of the year, and I am happy to report that we have made considerable progress in launching both the bursary/grant program and the community services program. I would like to thank the 3 other members of our committee, Ahmad Reza Katouzian, Alejandra Diaz and Samah Zahaby for their work in pushing our committee forward! On the bursary front, we awarded 3 grants to 3 deserving applicants. They are: Tina Patricia Wellman (Sandra Bertoni Grant), Wayne Thomas Jackson (Sandra Bertoni Grant) and Ksenia Lena Maryniak (Heidi Seeholzer Memorial Grant). We were also able to provide eligible members with some financial relief through the bursary program. With a newly approved budget, the grants and bursary program will be renewed again for this upcoming membership year. Applications are available on ATIA website, and we invite all members to take a look and eligible members may apply. Please do take advantage of this program. We would love to help our members achieve professional goals or offer some help to fund professional development to members with limited financial means. Since this program is still quite new, 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 and with your feedback we can perfect this program and make it work for our members.

In the past year, our committee finalized the community service program and have launched it online. Our plan was designed for NGOs of Alberta needing translation/interpretation services to obtain our service by filling out an online form with their requests, so we can match a willing member of ATIA with the assignment to provide the service for a small honorarium paid to the member, so the community benefits from our free service, and our members get paid for the work. However there has not been any success in receiving eligible requests so far. Our committee's goal next year should be promoting this program so NGOs can take advantage of this program and we can give back to the community.

My term as VP South expires as this membership year draws to an end. It has been an amazing experience, but due to personal reasons I am not running for another term for now. ATIA is a like a big family. It deserves members to get involved and contribute to its development, its sustainability and its future. I am grateful for the past two years to learn from other members who have shown me this commitment and I am in awe of their experience, their expertise, and their tireless efforts. I encourage other members to get involved to help our association become stronger and better. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in person and answering any questions you may have regarding my work with ATIA.

Yours truly,

Siyi Tonella