

REPORT TO ATIA 2020 AGM
SOUTHERN ALBERTA VICE PRESIDENT CARMEN AGUILERA
2019-2020

As Vice President of the ATIA Executive Council for the position of Vice President for Southern Alberta (Calgary), I can only say that it has been an extremely interesting, a learning experience, and a challenging year due to many factors; being new to this position, having to learn quickly the goals for this year and then the COVID-19 situation that Alberta, Canada and the world is immersed in.

It is important to state that the work done by the Council Members of ATIA is group based, more than an individual effort in most cases. The topics covered take place during the 16 to 18 meetings during the year, with an average of two hours each in meetings that the President of the Council calls for. I must add that there was a large list of topics covered and are presented in the various reports of the Council.

The main focus of this year was the Certification-on-Dossier for Court Interpreters, which will be followed by Medical and Community Interpreters. As such, part of my contribution to this effort was to prepare a Webinar, which I did; based on my experience, observation and participation in the years I have worked as a Court/Legal interpreter. The title and topic of the webinar was: "An Overview of the Canadian Court System" and the work of Court Interpreters in the system. The webinar took place via Zoom on May 20, 2020. My objective was to give a different perspective from other training sessions, to current and interested candidates in this specific professional activity.

Interpreter requirements to become Associate ATIA members either as Court, Medical and Community interpreters was analyzed in detail, being this the first step to become members in this category.

Professional Development Requirements for ATIA Members, was another important topic that was discussed and is now part of our membership continuing professional education and contribution to ATIA.

It was quite an honor and experience participating in one of this year's ATIA's Newsletter member interview series with Amelia Hall. Thank you Amelia for making it look so nice and easy!

In addition there were several meetings to fine tune the Certification-on-Dossier for Court Interpreters, which can now be found in the ATIA website. I was part of the review of required hours of experience, an assessment of the languages most used in court interpretation, and other important aspects such as a Skills Assessment and further requirements.

Due to the pandemic lockdown, there were no Court Interpreter Mini-Courses this year at the court, however, ATIA compensated this year with many free internet zoom webinars that were very well attended and very informative.

Another task in particular that I was assigned was to review the content of the Code of Ethics Exam and little did we all know that our activities in general were to become on line. Much effort has been placed on the internet exams using the company Mercer-Mettl Proctor online exam services, which will be explained by other members of Council.

I will not be able to continue in my position as VP for personal reasons; however, I encourage all members to participate in the association, either as a Council Member, a Member-at-Large, a Tutor, a Volunteer and our own Professional Development efforts; I say this to long time members and new members. The technology and new trends in translation and interpretation around us is changing so fast, and adapting to it is easier with the contribution of everyone's ideas. This is the only way ATIA can be current and prepared for the future.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity and my appreciation to the Members of the Council, Members-at-Large and to the excellent work and support that Allison Downer, Administrative Assistant and Amelia Hall have provided to the Council Members, to ATIA and to me as the Southern Alberta VP member.

My best wishes for the next ATIA Executive Council Members in their work for 2021.