



# WASLI

World Association of  
Sign Language Interpreters

## Annual Report 2021-22

### Highlights

#### WASLI Korea 2023

Lucy and Anthony our co-convenors have undertaken a site visit. The call for proposals for papers and workshops has closed. Please see the conference report below.

#### ISO Expert Group

WASLI continues to engage with ISO work although we have not yet funded individuals to attend. This will become more of a need as face to face meetings resume. Samuel Chew is our interim chair and has begun to attend ISO meetings for TC37.

#### ISAAB - WFD-WASLI

We now have several language combinations available including:

IS <> English

IS <> French

IS <> Spanish

We envision submission and testing happening twice yearly.

#### WASLI 2021 [online]

The online conference proved to be a success. In light of this we will be having a hybrid conference for WASLI 2023.

### Leadership Training - AFSLI



After the successful development of the leadership training we were able to deliver the training via AFSLI to 12 interpreter leaders in Africa. The pilot of this weekly online deliver helped WASLI to

assess the effectiveness of the training package with useful feedback from the participants. The weekly opportunities to discuss the materials as a group and to reflect upon our own journeys was well received.

### The Big Reveal: WASLI 2023 conference logo

The WASLI 2023 Conference Organising Committee issued an expression of interest via social media calling for submission of a proposal for a logo for the WASLI

Conference 2023 to be held in South Korea.

The winner was the deaf Jordanian designer, Mr Hussam Mohammad awwad El Farra.

A round of applause for him designing our beautiful WASLI 2023 conference logo.

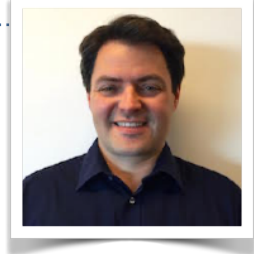


**WASLI CONFERENCE 2023**  
SHAPING OUR WORLD FOR A BETTER FUTURE  
JEJU ISLAND, KOREA  
5 - 9 JULY 2023

# Activities of the Board

## President - Christopher Stone

During year three of service, as with year two we have of course continued to live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Even so, our electronic communications



are working well, but there is further need for a 'one stop shop' rather than a variety of different avenues to keep in touch with the board and regional representatives. We continue to work on the sustainability of WASLI and this also means reviewing and recruiting new people to some of our activities. And reviewing our office support via the IDA in Switzerland.



Below I outline our activities in line with the strategic plan that was devised in the WASLI board

away weekend 2019.

## Communication

In discussion with IDA we are considering changing to MS Teams which will enable a one stop shop for email, file storage, chats, and slack style channels for different groups, teams, and activities. While this will also mean we can use MS Teams for some videoconferencing we do not intend to stop having a Zoom account.

We have engaged a web developer to redesign and restructure our website. This activity is being led by our Vice President (VP) Susan Emerson and our Deaf Interpreter Advisory (DIA) Arūnas Bražinskas. The new website should be easier to navigate and enable much greater embedding of IS information throughout the website.

We are considering an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a lead editor for our newsletter. This person would then be tasked with seeking out newsletter content from the regions and help with the formatting and creation of the quarterly news letter.

As President I have represented WASLI at a variety of events this year communicating our goals and our work. This includes:

- ▶ The successful WASLI online conference in July 2021
- ▶ A consultation with the Indonesian Deaf Association and interpreters regarding the establishment of an interpreter association
- ▶ Engagement with LAC regarding Deaf interpreters work and co-interpreting
- ▶ Attending grant proposal meetings led by CBM for a LEGO grant application

- Presenting at the FIT conference 2022 in Cuba (pre-recorded presentation)
- Regular Zoom meetings with the Executive Board (monthly)
- Regular WhatsApp interactions with the Executive Board (weekly)

We continue to field emails on a weekly basis. These maybe questions for us to answer, requests for support, or invitations to engage in collaborative work. We hope that having a more user friendly website will reduce some email traffic, making this task more manageable for the board members working on a voluntary basis.

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## Capacity building

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Most of our Regional Representatives (RR) regularly engage with the regions (please see their reports below). The addition of the Regional Deaf Interpreter Advisors (R-DIA) has been successful, ensuring that there is a team to share the workload and to support the development of a profession that includes our deaf colleagues. Our goal for the next election cycle is to ensure that each region has two RR (one hearing and one deaf) voted on by the National Members (in good standing) within the region. This should further consolidate the work we are able to undertake at the regional level.

Several of our regions continue to use the WASLI Zoom account (with interpretation functionality) to host their regional meetings. This is another positive way in which we can support the work capacity of our RR.

The Honorary President (HP) Debra Russell and I delivered the Leadership Training Course (LTC) that WASLI developed in 2021 to our colleagues from Africa in September 2021. This pilot worked well and we are interested in delivering the LTC again both within Africa and in other regions. Within Africa we hope to work with the African Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (AFSLI) using their sub-continental structure (North, South, East, West) to engaging appropriate delivery in accordance with the languages and cultures of those regions.

I attended several meetings for a grant proposal to LEGO which would include some interpreter training within 5 countries. This was lead by CBM International and we were invited due to a request from the WFD. The meetings went well and we hope to have a successful bid to LEGO. If so we will work in partnership with the WFD to support the development of the interpreting professionals in those countries. This might involve some train the trainer activities as well as the training of community interpreters. If a train the trainers activity package were developed then this is something that could also be rolled out similar to the LTC course above.

For the train the trainers initiative it might also be useful to have a list of trainers/educators both academic and professional from the regions. This ideally would be organised by an Interpreter Educator and Trainer Expert Group (ET-EG). We hope to review this and disseminate an EOI via the RR to seek suitable candidates to engage in this work.

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## Financial Stability

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We continue with our financial move to Switzerland with our bank Post Finance. As expected this is managed by our Treasurer Nigel Howard and our Swiss Board Member Michèle Berger.

We continue to look at fundraising and income stream possibilities led by our Treasurer Nigel Howard. We are delighted to report that we have received some support from GoReact for our online conference (please see Nigel's report below). And from Sorensen to support our general activities.

If you are interested in supporting WASLI's work financially, please do contact Nigel. And as always, please do consider making a donation to WASLI ([wasli.org/donation](https://wasli.org/donation)). We will be amending membership forms so that all members are aware they can make additional donations; for National Members we will be offering the possibility to support lower income countries by covering their membership fees.

We also need to encourage our National Members to ensure that they pay their membership fees on a yearly basis or if possible all four years for the conference year and additional three years. This enables WASLI to have a clear idea of our membership base. The greater number of members the better we are able to ensure our views are represented in different forums and with partner INGOs.

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## Collaboration

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### *WFD*

We continue to work closely with WFD in line with our MOU. We were honoured to be invited to the CBM International grant application meetings. Ideally this will enable us to develop interpreter education and potentially a train the trainers package as mentioned above. We continue to collaborate on the ISAAB.

### *RedT*

WASLI continues to be a part of the RedT consortium supporting letters written to governments for the rights of interpreters in war zones, including rights for interpreters who have worked with armed forces to settle in countries whose armies local interpreters have supported.

### *IS accreditation advisory board - ISAAB*

Unfortunately our appointed Chair of the IS accreditation advisory board (ISAAB) Heidi Green had to step down due to health concerns. We wish her well and thank her for her service. The WASLI Representative on the ISAAB – our DIA Arunas – will be disseminating an EOI for a new Chair. Ideally they will have experience of running an accreditation or assessment system. Please keep an eye out for the EOI.

Our HP Debra Russell and I stepped into the breach to support the delivery of twice yearly opportunities to submit evidence (for pre-Accreditation) or evidence and take our assessment (for Accreditation). Please see Debra's report below.

### *International Standards Organisation - ISO*

Samuel Chew continues as our International Standards Organisation Expert Group (ISO-EG) interim Chair. We will review how well this is working and hope to recruit new people to the ISO-EG. Our goal is to have an EOI via the RR to enable global representation. Our HP Debra continues to provide us support with the endeavour as someone who is a Canada ISO Expert for interpreting. The ISO expert group report is included in this Annual Report.

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## Affiliation

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We continue to strengthen our links between the Executive Board, the Regional Representative (RR), and our National Members. We were pleased that in our recent annual board meeting almost all of the RR were able to attend (virtually) and give progress reports. The work of our regions remains the bedrock of our activities to support the development of our profession globally and engage with appropriate national and regional partners to further our goals.

When reviewing our processes we are aware that membership is something that needs to be centralised. We have added the administration of membership invoicing and the maintenance of our membership database to the IDA. This should mean more timely engagement with members to ensure they pay their dues, and that we have up to date membership information regarding our different categories of members. This also enables us to ensure that only paid up National Members (i.e. those who can vote) are engaged in our democratic processes including the elections of the Executive Board, Regional Representatives, and the selection of members to the ISO-EG and other expert groups that are created.

Our goal is to uphold the democratic transparency this year by having open elections with clear nominations for RR and Executive Boards positions. This will include information about those standing to our members and votes cast by our National Members (NM) in good standing. After the summer/winter break we are hoping to gather further information from RR and NM so that we can receive nominations, disseminate candidate resumé, etc. before engaging in a central administered elections.

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## Board Management

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WASLI continues to have meetings online in a three-month rotation with month one being Executive Board (elected officers only), month two being both Executive business and Regional updates (full board), and month three Regional Business (lead by Regional Representatives). This year we will be meeting on the third Friday of the month in the afternoon (reference time is London time).

### *Conference 2023 - Jeju, Korea*

We are organising a hybrid conference for Jeju, South Korea, 2023. This should allow for those who can to attend the conference in person and, following the success of the online conference, for others to attend online. We acknowledge that conference attendance is often a group/community affair and we will be offering both an individual and a group online fee to encourage interpreters to gather together and engage with the conference. The conference co-convenors Lucy Lim and Anthony Chong's report can be found below.

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## Concluding remarks

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This has been a third year of consolidation with further positive steps forward in WASLI's sustainability. We are now one year away from our General Assembly and quadrennial face-to-face conference in South Korea in 2023. Please do think about whether you would be interesting in support

WASLI by becoming a member of one of our expert groups, or by considering standing for an Executive Board or Regional Representative position.

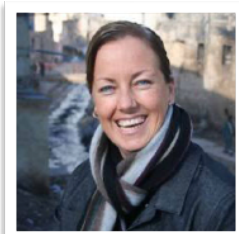
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## Vice-President - Susan Emerson

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### *Goals that were set*

- ▶ Checking emails on a weekly basis
- ▶ Attending monthly Executive Board meetings online
- ▶ Fortnightly catch ups with President / Vice President discussing WASLI related matters and checking in
- ▶ Liaison between Executive Board and Regional Reps. Regular contact with regional representatives over WhatsApp, checking-in and reporting back to the board when required
- ▶ Website redevelopment. Current phase: EOI's distributed to membership and on social media, screening of EOI, shortlist of EOI, interviews with shortlist. Each has been asked to submit a proposal along with a budget for this work. The work will commence in July/August and completed in September/October 2022
- ▶ Regional Get Togethers online for Oceania and Transcaucasia and Central Asia
- ▶ WASLI OC South Korea 2023 – attendance at online meetings and regular discussions on working progress

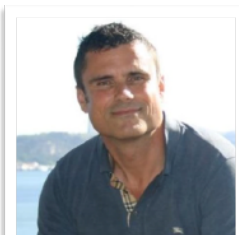


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## Treasurer - Nigel Howard

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WASLI has been able to centralise most of its affairs in Geneva, Switzerland. Before I proceed, I want to recognise our Swiss Board Member Michèle Berger for her support and patience. It was expected to have some glitches during transition, Michèle has always been there to work together through with solutions. Post Finance is our bank and located in Geneva, Switzerland. As mentioned in the past through minutes and reports, Geneva has many of international NGOs headquartered there. Therefore, it was logical to have our presence there, and then create a networking system.



### *International Disability Alliance (IDA) - LOU*

Michèle, Christopher, and Isabelle had been working with International Disability Alliance (IDA) to take on some of our operational affairs such as membership and registration. We now have a letter of understanding (LOU) in place.

We contacted Heather Shores who has been our Membership coordinator for 5 years to initiate transition. She will complete June before starting to transfer the WASLI related materials. We recognise Heather Shore's amazing support and involvement for 5 years!

Our next step is the transition of membership into IDA but in our own platform, Microsoft Team. We will transfer all information WASLI has had in possession over the years in Dropbox (minutes, MOUs, and so on). It is hopeful that everything will be more streamlined and efficient in a couple of months.



The IDA will be paid based on the number of hours per month. It is expected the first 2 or 3 months, the payments may be greater due to transiting and setting up in the Microsoft Team system. Once it is all in place, it may then be straightforward.

### *PayPal UK to PayPal Switzerland*

I wish to thank Patrick Galasso for setting up the Switzerland PayPal (along with support from Michèle Berger) and closing the UK PayPal. It has replaced the UK PayPal in WASLI's website. Payments from Switzerland PayPal are set to go be credited to our WASLI Post Finance account .

### *Other financial tasks*

- ▶ Completed monthly financial statements from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021 and the year-end balance sheet.
- ▶ Completed and submitted (via Michèle Berger) 2nd year for Switzerland Tax Exemption.
- ▶ Purchased GoReact account for ISAAB to provide evaluations for Pre-Accredited and Accredited International Sign applicants.

### *Donations and sponsorship received*

- ▶ Contacted GoReact to sponsor WASLI Online Conference July 2021. They generously donated \$4,000 USD towards our costs.
- ▶ Sorenson generously donated \$10,000 USD for WASLI and this goes towards some of WASLI's general operational needs, including preparation for WASLI World Conference at Jeju Island in South Korea, 2023.

### *Jeju, South Korea 2023*

- ▶ We were able to obtain Visa Credit Card which would be used for WASLI World Conference 2023 preparations and general WASLI expenditures.
- ▶ Initial funds for two conveners (Anthony Chong and Lucy Lim) have been allocated.
- ▶ There continues to be on-going chats (via WhatsApp) and video (via Zoom) meetings with the WASLI World 2023 Conference Committee (WW2023CC).
- ▶ Both Anthony and Lucy went and toured the venue, hotels, and such in Jeju (see their report below).

From the pictures they sent whilst checking out the venue and sites, it seemed it will be an exciting time for everyone next year.

#### **WASLI World Conference 2023 Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/WASLI2023/](https://www.facebook.com/WASLI2023/)

Currently, 305 people are following so the more the better to attend at the conference in person. Imagine if 500 people go there, it means 500 times the knowledge, expertise, wisdom and, of course, passion to share!

### *HSBC*

The closing of the HSBC account has been an on-going issue which is to be hopefully resolved by 01 July. Christopher and I are to meet at HSBC to finally close the two remaining accounts. It is part of our aim to centralise our financial affairs into Post Finance Bank in Geneva, Switzerland

### *Concluding remarks*

Financially, WASLI is doing well considering the global impact economically. Nonetheless, we continue to practise due diligence. It is hopeful that sponsors and donors will be more forthcoming in the next fiscal year, 2022 – 2023, especially for the WASLI World Conference 2023 in Jeju Island at South Korea in July.

As always, WASLI is sincerely appreciative for any sponsorship or donation – big or small as every dollar does make a difference. Thank you to every one of you who volunteered, contributed, sponsored and/or donated. You made a difference.

### *Donations*

If you and/or any organisation, company or association wish to make a donation to WASLI, please do so using the following link:

<https://wasli.org/donation>

Your donation really does make a difference to our association in furthering and enhancing the profession of interpreters around the world. Now that we have Tax Exemption and a physical presence in Geneva, Switzerland, it should be easier to seek donations too.

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## **Secretary - Isabelle Heyerick**

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**IS version at <https://youtu.be/woqoh6CWfHk>**

### *Goals that were set:*

- Handle Executive Board items
- Handle set-up of working expert groups: provide WASLI e-mail address and access for all
- Collect and co-edit Annual Report
- Handle use of Zoom by Regional Representatives for WASLI regional activities
- follow-up on all e-mails directed to WASLI: e-mails that come in through the website; e-mails for other board members and regional representatives; membership request e-mails
- plan monthly meetings for the Board: agreeing a date, booking an online meeting, putting together the agenda, invite the regional reps
- report on monthly meetings of the Board: writing the minutes and sharing them with all board members
- Follow-up on the Newsletter
- Send out Mail Chimp campaigns
- Representation of WASLI





### *Additional activities*

- Manage WASLI Twitter account, in collaboration with the team
- Follow-up on formalising Deaf Interpreter Regional Representatives: induction documents, setting up e-mail addresses and providing access
- Follow-up on membership questions and request in collaboration with membership coordinator and treasurer
- Review research support requests
- Manage updates of information and news on WASLI website in collaboration with the webmaster
- Support organisation of the WASLI 2021 July Conference
- Fundraising for WASLI

#### **Calling all interested parties:**

This is my second and thus last term as WASLI secretary. If you are interested to run for this position come our AGM 2023 and have some questions regarding the work of the secretary, please get in touch. Happy to discuss!

### *Activities report*

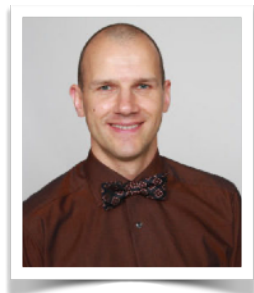
1. **E-mail communication:** the secretary checks and responds to WASLI e-mails at least once a week.
2. **Organise meetings:** during the July 2020 – 2021 period, the Executive Board met four times in 2020 (September, October, November, and December) and six times in 2021 (January, February, April, March, May and June). For all these meetings, the secretary provided the agenda and invited everyone to the online meeting.
3. **Follow-up on meetings:** for the meetings in which I was present (excused from two meetings), I took the meeting minutes and shared these via e-mail and in a Dropbox folder with all board members.
4. **Newsletter:** together with the WASLI president, I am responsible for editing the Newsletter. During the July 2020 – 2021 period two Newsletters were published (January and April). I am responsible for dissemination using the website, Mail Chimp, Twitter, and Facebook. I also contributed to the WASLI Newsletters.
5. **Mail Chimp Campaigns:** the following Mail Chimp campaigns were sent out:
  - WASLI Newsletter 2021 #1
  - Survey Results: Remote Sign Language Interpreting In Times Of COVID-19
  - announcement 2nd HKB University International Conference on Interpreting
  - request to participate in Survey on multilingual interpreting settings - please participate
  - WASLI Newsletter 2021 #2
  - announcement 26 May Online Conference International Sign Interpreting
  - WASLI 2021 online conference - Call for Presenters
  - request to participate in COVID-19 survey #4
  - Call for Interpreters for WASLI conference July 2021

6. **Research support:** Occasionally WASLI receives request to support research by e.g., requesting members/ interpreters to participate in surveys etc. To this end WASLI has a research approval procedure see <https://wasli.org/special-interest/research-references>. At the moment all requests are submitted and reviewed by the secretary. During the period July 2020 – 2021 I reviewed 7 research applications. 4 were approved, 3 were not followed up by the applicant. Upon approval, I assist the researcher with the requested WASLI support (dissemination of survey, call for participants , etc.).
7. **Representation of WASLI:** I represented WASLI at the AGM of the Professional Flemish Sign Language Association (member) and at the Regional Meeting for WASLI Oceania .
8. **Twitter account:** Since March 2021 I have been tasked with managing the WASLI Twitter account. The aim is to tweet about WASLI business and signed languages and/or interpreting related matters. In April 2021 Annika also joined the Twitter team. She will be tweeting Fun Facts Friday in order to showcase our website and the information it has, and also to highlight new members that join.
9. **Fundraising:** In May 2021 a CPD workshop was organised in Flanders (Belgium) as a fundraiser for WASLI. As the secretary of WASLI and VP of Tenotu vzw, I invited Honorary WASLI President Debra Russell to provide an online workshop. All proceedings were donated to WASLI.

## Deaf Interpreter Advisor - Arūnas Bražinska

### *Goals that were set*

- ▶ Work with deaf R-DIA to support and develop deaf interpreter capacity
- ▶ Attend regional meetings to support deaf interpreters and raise awareness
- ▶ Attending monthly Executive Board meetings online
- ▶ Photography and videos for social media
- ▶ Establishing an IS translation group for WASLI texts and documents
- ▶ Translating the Newsletter and other documents



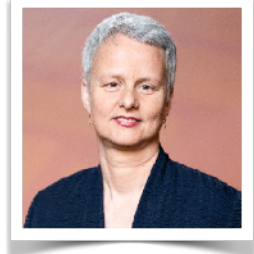
### *Additional activities*

- ▶ Manage WASLI's Facebook and Instagram presence
- ▶ Serve on the ISAAB as WASLI's board liaison
- ▶ Work with the Vice President to recruit a web developer for the WASLI website

## Swiss Board Member - Michèle Berger

### *Goals that were set:*

- ▶ Attending monthly board meetings online
- ▶ Mutual exchange through Zoom calls with my fellow board members to prepare board meeting issues
- ▶ Clean up old financial business
- ▶ Collaboration with WASLI treasurer
- ▶ Support WASLI treasurer in making international payments from new Post Finance account
- ▶ Deal with the tax issues related to our legal seat in Geneva Switzerland
- ▶ Deal with local Geneva authorities related to possible employment of staff



▶

### *Additional activities*

- ▶ Letter of Understanding with IDA in Geneva
- ▶ We were finally able to set up a letter of understanding with IDA, to get support from IDA staff to help with the following administrative WASLI issues:
  - ▶ Membership
  - ▶ ISAAB accreditation management
  - ▶ Document filing system
  - ▶ Geneva administrative matters
  - ▶ Help prepare for the WASLI July 2021 online conference
- ▶ Attending meetings with the organising committee for the WASLI 2023 conference and general meeting in Jeju Island, South Korea
- ▶ Networking between WASLI and Switzerland for the Ukraine deaf refugees situation

## **Honorary President - Debra Russell**

### *ISO*

Continue to work with WASLI to increase its presence and participation in ISO. Participated in an orientation meeting with the WASLI Expert Group and continued to recruit WASLI reps. Provided input to WASLI's Annual Liaison Report for June 2022 ISO Annual Conference.



### *Regional Representatives and Regional Deaf Interpreter advisers*



### *Leadership Pilot Training for Africa*

Developed curriculum and co-taught with Dr Christopher Stone during June – Sept 2021. We had a pilot group of 12 interpreters and the feedback was very positive. The training was via zoom, with virtual synchronous sessions and activities required for each meeting. Recommend that WASLI continue to offer this support for leadership development.

### *ISAAB*

Stepped in over the past year (please see the report below).

### *WASLI 2023 Program Committee*

Co-chair: Lydia Koh, South Korea; Committee members: Lucy Lim, Anthony Chong, Zubaidan Ibrahim-Bell, Sam Lutalo-Kiingi, Felix See

#### *Tasks in Progress:*

- ▶ Call for presentations translated into English, Korean, KSL, IS and released; deadline for abstracts for proposals is July 01, 2022
- ▶ Abstracts will be sent to reviewers (if in English – blind review; if in IS – will be identifiable)
- ▶ Committee received names/topics of potential keynotes - presenters to be approached and decided upon

### *Social Media*

Continue to share WASLI's social media posts to my network.

### *Thanks always*

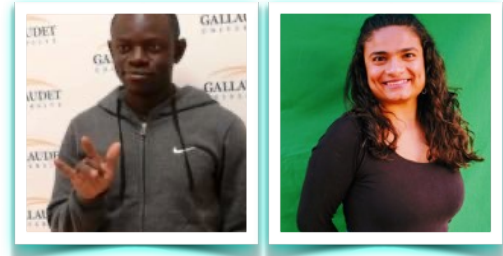
Thank you to the current board for their dedicated service during this term – the pandemic that has presented many challenges for interpreters and Deaf communities alike. I appreciate the leadership and efforts that are resulting in our Switzerland legal seat processes being solidified, banking processes in place.

# Activities of the Regional Representatives

## Africa Region - Obed Mambwe and Ayesha Ramjugernath

Summary of activities over the past year

The field of sign language interpreting in Africa has experienced a lot of challenges during the Covid19 pandemic. Both public and private institutions are not willing to engage or pay a sign language interpreter for their services. However, African sign language interpreters have been resilient and driven by their passion and love for Deaf people, and continue to provide sign language interpreting services with little or no pay.



I still face the big challenge of little communication and participation from member countries and NASLIs. It is difficult or rare to receive an update from countries and NASLIs on their SLI situation in their regions. Some NASLIs and SLIs, however, have been very forthcoming with information and getting involved to develop the profession.

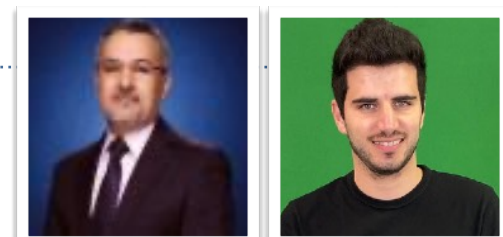
African SLIs and NASLIs still lack the capacity to successfully establish and run a NASLI. More capacity building is needed, especially leadership training. And we still lack interpreter training programmes in most African countries. We do have, however, African skilled leaders who can mentor others.

Deaf interpreting is steadily emerging in a few African countries. My colleague, Ayesha Ramjugernath (DI) has been actively engaging both Deaf and SLI leaders to grow the practice in Africa. The future of Deaf Interpreting looks bright for Africa. There are approximately nine African nations within the group. We speak frequently, and they desired a workshop on Deaf Interpreter. There is sufficient expertise regarding the usage of hearing and Deaf interpreters. We anticipate receiving training from WASLIC. Ayesha would like to build a stronger working relationship with the hearing SLI in Africa, as well as hold a workshop with the hearing SLI and myself to better comprehend our respective roles within WASLIC.

### *Goals for the next period:*

- ▶ Leadership training. As much as NASLIs are being established, there is no sustainability and cooperation among interpreters and with Deaf Associations. Leadership training has been on the agenda since 2020 but has not been implemented due to a lack of resources and smooth communication.
- ▶ I still have on the agenda to work with countries, institutions and individuals with well-established ITP to introduce short SLI interpreter training and eventually tertiary training to African countries.
- ▶ African interpreters and NASLIs need to be empowered with skills and knowledge to be able to advocate for their rights to get paid and safeguard their health and well-being.

## Arab Region - Dr Samreen Sameer and Majdi Yaghi



In the Arab region, we were able to overcome many of the obstacles that we faced with the beginning of the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, and we adapted to the new changes, and we were able to implement many programs and activities. , jointly among the interpreter's associations and some institutions for the deaf, we were able to implement 90% of our annual plan for the development and upgrading of translation and sign language translators, and it was as follows:

### *Partnerships and Cooperation*

Continuing to build partnerships with deaf organizations and interpreters, and encouraging sign language interpreters to join "SELAA", where the representative of "WASLI" and the head of "SELAA" Dr. Sameer Samreen contacted many deaf institutions in the Arab region, including (Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, Palestine, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Bahrain) in coordination with the representative of deaf interpreters, Mr. Majdi Yaghi, who contributed to communicating with deaf associations

### *Activities and programs that have been implemented*

#### Awareness

- ▶ Continuing to produce videos with Arabic subtitles and to provide an update on the developments of the Corona virus.
- ▶ Translating and publishing the Code of Professional Conduct for the Sign Language Interpreter (in written Arabic and English signs).

#### Training courses offered to interpreters

#### Training courses for teachers that are interpreters

### *Recommendations*

- ▶ Organising training courses on international signs to enable Arab interpreters to participate effectively in cooperation with WASLI and the International Federation of the Deaf.
- ▶ Adoption of the spoken Arabic language as an approved language in international conferences for the deaf and for translators.
- ▶ It is necessary for WASLI to address the Arab governmental institutions that bear the responsibility of implementing the International Convention rules on the Rights of People with Disabilities, urging them to pay attention to translation and sign language interpreters, and introducing the name of the regional representative to help him implement his voluntary tasks.
- ▶ Giving attention and support to counties that suffer from poverty and armed conflicts, also the countries that suffer from occupation and siege, like (Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan

## **Asia Region - Noriko Miyazama and Megumi Kawakami**

### *Achievements between July 2021 to June 2022*

#### Strengthening communication networks among Asian countries

- ▶ Email contact with 31 people in 19 countries and territories (Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam)
- ▶ Support of establishment of interpreters' association





and expansion of WASLI membership

- ▶ Indonesia Prepares to Establish Sign Language Interpreters Association on September 30 2022
- ▶ Malaysia and Nepal registered as WASLI national members
- ▶ Formation of a group of WASLI Asia DIs
  - ▶ 5 interpreters (South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan)
- ▶ Meeting of WASLI Asia DIs
  - ▶ Participants: 19 people from 8 countries (Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand)
- ▶ Sharing know-how on interpreters' training (introduction of curriculum, etc.)
- ▶ Providing information accessible to anyone
  - ▶ Setup of a website
  - ▶ Setup of a Facebook page
  - ▶ Publishing of WASLI Asia Newsletter

### *Online classes, lectures, and workshops*

- ▶ Lecture and group work "International sign classes", Participants: 30 people from 10 countries, Trainers: 2 (South Korea: Cho, Thailand: Noppawan)
  - ▶ A certificate of completion was issued to the trainees.
- ▶ Online lecture and workshop "How to be sign language interpreters", Participants: 47 people from 19 countries
  - ▶ Part 1 Lecture: "How to be sign language interpreters"
  - ▶ Part 2 Group work: "Case Study of Sign Language Interpretation" (lecture meeting setting)
  - ▶ A certificate of completion was issued to the trainees

### *Upcoming activities*

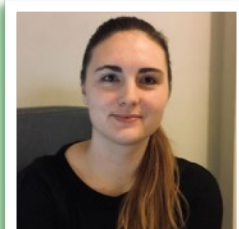
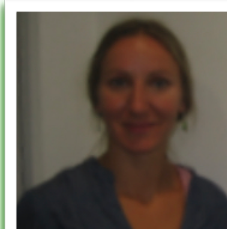
- ▶ Survey and organisation of the code of ethics of interpreters in each country
  - ▶ Survey on codes of ethics for interpreters in each country and provide information to Asian countries.
  - ▶ Arrange a session on ethics at the Meeting of Sign Language Interpreters in Asia.
- ▶ Strengthening cooperation with WFD RS-Asia

## **Balkans - Desanka Zizic and Daša Peperko**

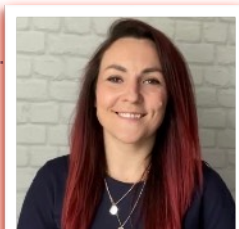
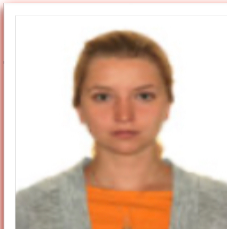
Communication between the two representatives has been sporadic due to the personal circumstances of Desanka. A new regional representative is required - voting members in the region need to consider who will work alongside Daša.

### *Some observations on needs for the region*

- ▶ More relationship building needed with hearing interpreters.
- ▶ Countries closer to EU have more access to knowledge.
- ▶ Need to also increase awareness of what a DI is with deaf people
- ▶ Hearing SLI issue: ethics: training needed.



## **EECAC - Elakaterina and Tatiana Trofimova**



2021 saw an increase in the number of online conferences and meetings, and the 2020 trend continued to prevail. Here are some of the activities we are happy to share from EECAC.

- ▶ International online Conference on interpreting in museums, May 2021. We would like to express our gratitude to all the lecturers participating (Stephanie Feyne, Irima Ginzberg, Ludmila Luchkova). We have had an extensive experience in making museum spaces more accessible, so was great to share it with our regional community.
- ▶ Conference on Interpreting and International Signs in Ukraine with Arunas and Debra Russell participating, September 2021. Sharing international experience.
- ▶ VOG's 95th anniversary, September 2021. WFD president Joe Murray attended, had a meeting of WFD regional secretariat and alongside we discussed the issue of deaf interpreters- the issue is brand new for Kazakhstan and Moldova but was already familiar for Belarus and Armenia - the notion of deaf interpreting was discussed. Tajikistan is also very active in their lust for a local association.
- ▶ The conference in MSLU in December 2021 with Arunas, Debra Russell, Christian Rathmann participating; attended online by interpreters from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Tajikistan
- ▶ Russia: deafblind interpreting hours added in 2021 and the professional standard of RSL interpreters was accepted on the governmental level; Consultations of AK with Liz Scott Gibson during the work re prof standard.
- ▶ Groups in WhatsApp, Facebook and Telegram for deaf and hearing SLIs maintained

## LAC - Marcel Garcia and Christian Ramírez

I am pleased to report that our region, made up of 15 countries, has been very active despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

### *Performed activities*

- ▶ Management of the ordinary and extraordinary quarterly virtual meetings with the representatives of the member countries.
- ▶ Participation in virtual meetings with the WASLI Executive Board.
- ▶ Search for collaborators for the translation into Spanish of some documents in English that are on the WASLI website.
- ▶ Meeting with the Regional Secretary of Central America and the Caribbean of the WFD for joint work.
- ▶ Virtual meetings with Cuba for the holding of the IV Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Interpreting Translators and Sign Language Interpreting Guides (ELACTILS).

### *Specific country activities*

- ▶ Advice to sign language interpreters from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador for the creation of interpreter associations and how to affiliate them to WASLI.
- ▶ Contributions for the creation and launch of the manual of the Code of Ethics for Sign Language Interpreters in the Dominican Republic.
- ▶ Training workshop on translation for interpreters from the Dominican Republic.

### *Seminars*



- ▶ Work Day of the Boards of Directors of the WASLI LAC region “Deaf and Hearing Interpreters: New Paradigms”
- ▶ Seminar for the Advancement of the Region
- ▶ Comprehensive Health webinar of the sign language interpreter.

### *Specific Deaf Advisor Activities*

- ▶ Virtual meetings with Arunas Brazinskas to define support strategies for deaf interpreters in the region.
- ▶ Collaboration with Arunas Brazinskas for communications from WASLI about Deaf Advisors working together with WASLI designated regional representatives.
- ▶ Participation in virtual meetings of Regional Deaf Advisors, led by Arunas Brazinskas.
- ▶ Meeting with Ronise Barreras, Deaf Advisor for WASLI North America, in San José on June 3, 2021.

The region maintains a good spirit of work in favour of the Deaf community and in general all the countries are making their contributions.

Me complace informar que nuestra región, compuesta por 15 países ha estado muy activa a pesar de la pandemia por el COVID- 19.

### *Actividades realizadas:*

- ▶ Dirección de las reuniones virtuales trimestrales ordinarias y extraordinarias con los representantes de los países miembros.
- ▶ Participación en reuniones virtuales con la Junta Ejecutiva de WASLI.
- ▶ Buscar colaboradores para la traducción al español de algunos documentos en inglés que están en la página web de WASLI.
- ▶ Reunión con el Secretario Regional de Centro América y el Caribe de la WFD para trabajo en conjunto.
- ▶ Reuniones virtuales con Cuba para la realización del IV Encuentro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Traductores Intérpretes y Guía Intérpretes de Lenguas de Señas (ELACTILS).

### *Actividades específicas del país*

- ▶ Asesorías a intérpretes de lengua de señas de Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador para la creación de asociaciones de intérpretes y cómo afiliarlas a WASLI.
- ▶ Aportes para la creación y lanzamiento del manual del Código de Ética de los Intérpretes de lengua de señas de República Dominicana.
- ▶ Taller de formación sobre traducción a intérpretes de República Dominicana.

### *Seminarios*

- ▶ Trabajo de las Juntas Directivas de la región WASLI LAC. Intérpretes Sordos y Oyentes: Nuevos Paradigmas.
- ▶ Seminario por el Avance de la Región
- ▶ Webinar Salud Integral del intérprete de lengua de señas.

### *Asesor Sordo Actividades realizadas:*

- ▶ Reuniones virtuales con Arunas Brazinskas para definir las estrategias de apoyo a los intérpretes sordos en la región.
- ▶ Colaboración con Arunas Brazinskas para comunicados desde la WASLI acerca de Asesores Sordos trabajando conjuntamente con los representantes regionales designados de la WASLI.

- ▶ Participación en reuniones virtuales de Asesores Sordos Regionales, con la conducción de Arunas Brazinskas.
- ▶ Encuentro con Ronise Barreras, Asesora Sorda de la WASLI Norteamérica, en San José el 3 de junio de 2021.

La región mantiene un buen espíritu de trabajo a favor de la comunidad Sorda y en líneas generales todos los países están dando sus aportes.

## North America - Eduardo Daniel Maya Ortega and Ronise Barreras

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the actions focussed on Mexico and working with the NASLI – AIT-LS

- ▶ convened AIT-LS to establish agreements and collaborative work with different instances of the Federal and State Government achieving the following actions.
- ▶ works with AIT-LS with the purpose of ratifying the collaboration agreement for the exchange of experiences and collaborative work in training with the Mexican College of Conference Interpreters (CMIC) and achieve the incorporation of more sign language interpreters
- ▶ established work with the National Council for Standardization and Certification of Labor Competencies (CONOCER), for the elaboration of competence standards that are related to the interpreting service.
- ▶ supported AIT-LS with the creation and establishment of the Evaluation Center (CE-AIT), an organization affiliated with the CONOCER
- ▶ collaborated INDISCAPACIDAD to revise the Code of Professional Conduct for Sign Language Interpreters.
- ▶ collaborated with the Movement for the Defense of Bilingual Education (MEBISOR) in training its interpreters who work in the State Congresses.
- ▶ collaborated with INEA and MEBISOR to offer guidance and training on the preparation of materials related to the education of older adults.
- ▶ collaborated with the 3/12 Movement and the Ministry of Public Education (SEP), for the implementation of the Educational System of Distance Education.



### *Future activities*

- ▶ Convene in August the two deaf associations with national representation and affiliation to the WFD, (UNSM and FEMESOR) to ratify and, where appropriate, expands the collaborative work with AIT-LS following the principle of collaboration between the WASLI and the WFD.

Debido a la pandemia por COVID-19 las acciones de la representación de México se enfocaron al país con AIT-LS.

- ▶ convoco AIT-LS para establecer convenios y trabajo colaborativo con diferentes instancias del Gobierno Federal y Estatal logrando la siguientes acciones.
- ▶ Ratificar el convenio de colaboración para intercambio de experiencias y trabajo colaborativo en capacitación a intérpretes de lengua de señas con el Colegio Mexicano de Intérpretes de Conferencia (CMIC)

- ▶ Se estableció trabajo con el Consejo Nacional de Normalización y Certificación de Competencias Laborales (CONOCER), para la elaboración de estándares de competencia que estén relacionados con el servicio de interpretación.
- ▶ Se apoyo AIT-LS para la creación y establecimiento del Centro de Evaluación (CE-AIT) organismo afiliado a la Red CONOCER
- ▶ colaboro con INDISCAPACIDAD en la elaboración y revisión del Código de Conducta Profesional para los Intérpretes de Lengua de Señas .
- ▶ colaboro con el Movimiento para la Defensa de la Educación Bilingüe (MEBISOR) en la capacitación a sus intérpretes que laboran en los Congresos Estatales.
- ▶ colaboro con INEA y con MEBISOR ofreciendo orientación y capacitación sobre la elaboración de materiales relacionados a la educación de adultos mayores.
- ▶ colaboro con el Movimiento 3/12 y la Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP), para la implementación del Sistema Educativo de Educación a distancia.

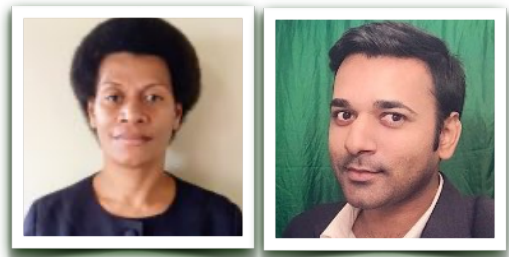
### *Actividades futuras*

- ▶ convocará en el mes de agosto a las dos asociaciones de sordos con representación nacional y afiliación a la WFD, (UNSM y FEMESOR) para ratifica y en su caso ampliar el trabajo colaborativo con AIT-LS siguiendo el principio de colaboración entre las WASLI y la WFD.

## **Oceania - Joneti Rokotuibau and Krishneer Sen**

### *Ongoing activities*

- ▶ Training is ongoing to ensure capacity building in Fiji and Kiribati (with Zane Hema) as presented at the 2021 online conference
- ▶ Regional training is sometimes hampered by the internet connectivity issues
- ▶ Basic sign language interpreter training is also delivered
- ▶ There are significant needs for more interpreters within the islands in the region
- ▶ We are engaged in the organisation of the WFD regional meeting which provides a good opportunity for pacific island interpreters



### *Development activities*

- ▶ We have engaged with Ute Benner from Germany to develop a two-year training course for the pacific island interpreters we hope that this will be university based
- ▶ There is an increase in the provision of mental health interpreting
  - ▶ mental health interpreter training is needed
  - ▶ supervision is needed for interpreters to support debriefing and self-care

There is a need for a new regional representatives as both Joneti and Krishneer have both been able to secure scholarships that will allow them to take up further training and studies. Congratulations to both and we look forward to your future contributions to the community.



# Activities of Committees and Groups

## WASLI 2023 Conference Conveners - Lucy Lim and Anthony Chong



The work continues in organising our four yearly conference. We have regular meeting between the co-conveners and the representatives from the board. Obviously there have been some delays due to COVID-19 and a site visit in July should help us make final decisions regarding the venue and therefore pricing.

### *Interpreting and coordination*

Status: In progress

- ▶ The chair of Manpower committee will identify and secure IS interpreters for the conference.
- ▶ Work with KASLI to identify and secure KSL interpreters for the conference. KASLI to pay for their Interpreters but have asked WASLI to cover their accommodation
- ▶ Volunteers are sought from Jeju Universities, Jeju Deaf Association for the Deaf and International Volunteers

### *Social Events Committee*

- ▶ 3 Dinners- Opening , Closing and Korean Traditional Dinner at Folk Village will be arranged
- ▶ Half Day Cultural Exploration and visitation to places of interest in Jeju Island will be arranged
- ▶ The programme flow and theme has been discussed

### *Finances and Funding*

- ▶ Proposed expense budget: USD\$ 260,000
- ▶ Proposed income budget: USD\$ 289,000
- ▶ Donor proposals and cover letters are ready. Donors & Sponsors will be identified.
- ▶ Crowdfunding posters done.
- ▶ Forms for Sign Language Interpreters from emerging countries will be released soon expected to sponsor at least 10 SLI

### *Marketing, Registration and Visas*

- ▶ Merchandise for all participants- T-shirt, Landyard, conference bags have been identified
- ▶ Other merchandise will be on sale for fundraising purposes .
- ▶ Announcements on FB , WASLI website and Conference website will be carried out
- ▶ Videos in IS, KSL and written English and Korean will also be carried out
- ▶ The committee will continue to post for information with regards to the conference



Overall things are progressing well

## ISO Expert Group - Interim Chair Samuel Chew

The WASLI-ISO Expert Group, which consists of 11 academics and practitioners from nine countries; Abdelaziz Arssi (Morocco), A H Mamun (Bangladesh), Anna-Lena Nilsson (Norway), Betsy Winston (US), Bonnie Heath (US), Debra Russell (Canada), Jose Ednilson Gomes de Souza Junior (Brazil), Natasha Parkins-Maliko (South Africa), Renuka Rameshan (India), Robert G. Lee (US), Saurav Roychowdhury (India), and Samuel Chew (Malaysia).

The committee provided input to ISO/WD 13611:2021(E) ISO/TC 37/SC 5/WG 2 (10 September 2021) and attended the online meetings for further deliberations. WASLI's honorary President, Dr Debra Russell continues to serve as the project lead for ISO13611 and participates in TCG as well as serving as an expert across several other standards under development in SC5. In addition, Dr. Russell is active in Working Group 2 on Ad Hoc Working Group on Speech to Text and an expert on AWI6253 on Requirements and recommendations for interpreter educators and teaching/training programs. Jose Ednilson represented the committee in the deliberation on 24 June for ISO/TC 37/SC 5.

**Roll call of delegates (1/2)**

**P-members present:**

1. <b>AFNOR</b> (France), HoD: Alain Mielle	12. <b>NQIS ELOT</b> (Greece), HoD: Mavina Pantazara
2. <b>ANSI</b> (United States), HoD: Sue Ellen Wright	13. <b>NSAI</b> (Ireland), HoD: Peter Reynolds
3. <b>ASI</b> (Austria), HoD: Liese Katschinka	14. <b>PKN</b> (Poland), HoD: Monika Popiolek
4. <b>BELST</b> (Belarus), HoD: Liudmila Rychkova	15. <b>SA</b> (Australia), HoD: Mark Painting
5. <b>DIN</b> (Germany), HoD: Ilona Wallberg	16. <b>SAC</b> (China), HoD: Haitao Wang
6. <b>INSO</b> (Islamic Republic of Iran), HoD: Shima Sharifi	17. <b>SCC</b> (Canada), HoD: Julio Montero
7. <b>IRAM</b> (Argentina), HoD: Victoria Massa de Bulit	18. <b>SFS</b> (Finland), HoD: Maarit Koponen
8. <b>JISC</b> (Japan), HoD: Andrew Migita-Meehan	19. <b>SN</b> (Norway), HoD: Kari Synnøve Borgos
9. <b>KATS</b> (Republic of Korea), HoD: Sukjin Jang	20. <b>TISI</b> (Thailand), HoD: Maneeratana Sawasdiwat
10. <b>LST</b> (Lithuania), HoD: Uroš Peterc	21. <b>UNE</b> (Spain), HoD: Marcos Aranada
11. <b>MSZT</b> (Hungary), HoD: Katalin Hajós	22. <b>UNI</b> (Italy), HoD: Orietta Olivetti

**Participants (43)**

Find a participant

- JE José Ednilson Júnior - WASLI Liaison (Me)
- CHR Christine Reichhardt (Host)
- AC AFNOR Clare Donovan
- AW AFNOR Peter Withey
- AK Akiko SATO
- AV Angelika Vaasa, European Parliament

**Chat**

Denise Tschager, ASI to Everyone

Eva-Maria said she may not be able to attend.

MEEHAN to Everyone

Hello everybody from Japan. This is Andrew in Tokyo.

Who can see your messages?

To: Everyone

Type message here...

## ISAAB Chair - Heidi Green / Debra Russell

Our HP Debra Russell stepped in over the past year to ensure that there were two rounds of IS accreditation and deal with one formal complaint against an accredited interpreter (resolved). Working closely with Christopher Stone, one round of accreditation was conducted via Canvas. Then during 2021 I was able to secure an agreement with Go React to provided us with sufficient licenses to

use Go React for all candidates and raters (Administrative Cost to WASLI - \$500.00 per year). Moved all testing materials to Go React during Spring 2022.

*Changes Made for June 2022 offering:*

- ▶ Require four samples in total for hearing candidates (two spoken language texts/two sign language texts in IS) and two samples for Deaf candidates.
- ▶ Pre-accreditation process – streamlined manual, making it a separate document
- ▶ Offered candidates a pre-course to learn how to use Go React
- ▶ Candidates are completing tests now (last candidate scheduled for July 04 2022)
- ▶ Rating will begin in mid-July.
- ▶ Heather Shores has been contracted to completed badges and certificates (replacing Robin Demko)

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### Recommendation for WASLI Board:

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- ▶ Move the administration tasks to a paid contractor (reviewing applications and documents, scheduling exams, liaison work with Webmaster to upload profiles, etc.)
- ▶ Recruit a Chair for the ISAAB
- ▶ Task to be completed – Arunas – contract letter sample for website
- ▶ Have WFD take down their older page of accredited interpreters and direct to WASLI page: <https://wasli.org/is-accredited-interpreters>
- ▶ Joint statement from WFD-WASLI re: IS standards required for international work so that we don't have a repeat of COSP with non-accredited and non-pre-accredited working for events that were far beyond their skills and abilities.

We will be putting out an Expression of Interest for the ISAAB Chair in the next year.



# WASLI

World Association of  
Sign Language Interpreters