# WASLI Report for General Meeting

July 25, 2015 Istanbul, Turkey

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Committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

#### **About US**

# **Our Story**

The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) is an international non-governmental organization representing sign language interpreters. Established in 2005, WASLI promotes the development of interpreting globally, by helping countries to create national interpreter associations and to lobby for effective training and standards of practice. Our members come from 40 nations. By promoting the professionalization of sign language interpreting, deaf people's human rights can be supported through the provision of qualified and ethical interpreting services. WASLI collaborates closely with the World Federation of the Deaf in order to advance issues of importance for both associations.

#### **Our Mission**

The aim of WASLI is to advance the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide. In pursuit of the aim we will:

- Encourage the establishment of national associations of sign language interpreters in countries that do not have them
- Be a support network for existing national associations of sign language interpreters
- Share information and be a reference point for interpreting issues, using the World Wide Web and other internationally accessible ways
- Support the work of sign language interpreters working at international events, e.g. conferences, sporting events
- Work in partnership with Deaf and Deafblind associations on sign language interpreting issues
- Encourage research
- Develop and promote standards for high quality training, education and assessment of sign language interpreters
- Host conferences and seminars
- Liaise with spoken language interpreter organisations and other organisations having common interests

## **Our Values & Guiding Principles**

## Integrity

WASLI approaches its work with integrity. A key component to WASLI's work is its professionalism, its commitment to life long learning, and to set and follow standards in our interactions.

#### Collaboration

WASLI follows a collaborative model, and works closely with the World Federation of the Deaf and the World Federation of DeafBlind in support each other's missions and goals. We encourage our national members to work in the same spirit of collaboration with the national Deaf organizations in their respective countries.

#### **Proactive**

WASLI is proactive in its undertakings. We initiate discussion and influence areas of policy and advocacy at the international level.

#### Accountable

WASLI ensures it is accountable to its members for its decisions.

#### WASLI 2011-2015 Board Members

President – Debra Russell (Canada) Vice President – Jose Luis Brevia (Colombia) Secretary – Awoii Patrick Michael (Uganda) Treasurer - Susan Emerson (Australia)

# **Regional Representatives**

Asia – Etsuko Unemoto & Monica Verma Australasia & Oceania - Sheena Walters/Anna Vost Europe - vacant North America – Nigel Howard Transcaucasia & Central Asia – Igor Bondarenki Balkans – Selman Hoti Lation American & Caribbean - Jose Ednilson Junior Africa – Tim Tinat

### **Our Closest Collaborators**

# Memos of Understanding signed with the following organizations

World Federation of the Deaf – 2007 World Federation of DeafBlind – 2013 efsli - 2014



# Agenda for the General Meeting July 25, 2015

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Apologies; Video Greetings from National Members not present
- 3. Approval of Tellers to tally votes
  - a. Gabby Martinex (MX)
  - b. Bonnie Heath (CAN)
- 4. Minutes of 2011 Meeting
  - a. Corrections?
  - b. Approval
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes
  - a.Legal Seat
- 6. WASLI 2011-2015 Activity Reports
- 7. WASLI Financial Report
- 8. Report from the Regional Representatives
- 9. Report from WFD-WASLI Task Groups
  - a.Liz Scott Gibson
  - b. Robert Adam
- 10. Report from WASLI 2015 Conference Co-Chairs
- Report from WASLI 2015 Delegate Sponsorship Committee Jack Callon & Zane Hema
- 12. Memo of Understanding Federation of Interpreters and Translators
- 13. Election of WASLI Board Members
- 14. Ratification of Regional Representatives
- 15. New Business Arising
  - a. Update from AIIC Maya de Wit
- 16. Recognition and Thanks
- 17. Photo Call
- 18. Meeting Closing Comments

NOTE: Immediately following the General Meeting, the New Board will hold an Orientation Meeting

## **President's Report**

Dear WASLI Members,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your volunteer President for the past four years. It has been such an honour to work with our individual interpreter members and our national associations in order to advance the profession of sign language interpreting around the world. I have appreciated your warm and enthusiastic welcome as I had the good fortune to meet you in your home countries or at regional events. I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the regions of Africa, Australoceania, Transcaucasia, Europe, North American, Latin America, Asia, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the past 4 years and it has been inspiring to see the level of commitment that interpreters show towards making things better for interpreters and Deaf people in their local and national contexts.

I want to thank the out-going Board of Directors for their contributions over the past four years. It is never easy to work at such great distances, across multiple time zones, and multiple languages and cultures, and each of the board members has navigated that well in trying meeting the demands of their portfolio while balancing that with his or her work and life circumstances.



Thank you to Liz Scott Gibson for her wise counsel and for accepting the role as Honorary President, representing us so well in the many countries that she continues to work in.

I also want to thank Colin Allen, WFD President, for his sage advice and for being so supportive of WASLI. Our successes as WFD and WASLI are a tribute to his leadership and energy, and his spirit of collaboration.

Over the past four years, your Board of Directors has worked on several projects, and to each and every volunteer that contributed, thank you for your generosity and commitment to our shared work. At the risk of overlooking a volunteer I will not name people but please know if you contributed in any way, we are grateful.

Some highlights of the accomplishments of the past four years follow:

WFD-WASLI formed three Task Groups and the work of each Task Group has been completed or is in progress:

a. Task Group on Communication with Deaf People during Natural Disasters - completed 2014 – sincere thanks to Dani Fried for her work on this project.

- a. <a href="http://wfdeaf.org/news/wfd-and-wasli-statement-communication-during-natural-disasters-and-other-mass-emergencies-for-deaf-people-who-use-signed-language">http://wfdeaf.org/news/wfd-and-wasli-statement-communication-during-natural-disasters-and-other-mass-emergencies-for-deaf-people-who-use-signed-language</a>
- b. UN IS accreditation Jemina Napier and Robert Adam are leading this work and we will have a full report at the General Meeting. Accreditation of the first group of IS interpreters will occur this year.
- c. IS Interpretation at UN Meetings Thank you to Liz Scott Gibson for leading this work. Statement produced 2013; Securing Services of Sign Language Interpreters for the United Nations Events updated June 2015
  - a. <a href="http://wasli.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Interpreter-Guidelines-for-UN-24-Updated-June-2015-cja-et-25-June-cja.pdf">http://wasli.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Interpreter-Guidelines-for-UN-24-Updated-June-2015-cja-et-25-June-cja.pdf</a>

In addition to our task groups, WFD-WASLI have issued several joint statements and WASLI has been represented at WFD events:

- o Moscow Resolution on Linguistic Rights completed May 2014
- o Fake Interpreter at Mandela's Funeral
- o UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- WASLI supported the WFD nomination of Liisa Kauppinen for the UN Human Rights Award
- o WASLI also wrote letters of support for Liisa Kauppinen's nomination by Trinity College, Dublin for an honorary doctorate
- Attended a portion of the Sept 2012 International Disability Alliance Meeting meeting with WFD and subsequent UN CRPD events
- o WASLI President and WFD President gave a presentation at the WFD conference in Sydney Australia in Oct. 2013.
- WASLI represented at the WFD Regional Secretariat conference in Macau, 2014
- WASLI President and WFD President issued joint video updates from Australia (2011/2013), Panama (2012), US (2012), Canada (2014), Russia, 2014, Macau, 2014

Some other accomplishments of note:

- WASLI Issued a statement on the Role of the Interpreter completed June 2014
- A Task Group under the leadership of Kelli Stein and Sanja Tarczay worked with a group of volunteers to produce the WASLI DeafBlind Interpreter Education Guidelines
  - o <a href="http://wasli.org/special-interest/deafblind-interpreting">http://wasli.org/special-interest/deafblind-interpreting</a>
- Developed a new WASLI website project led by Susan Emerson and Nigel Howard
- Reduction of membership fees to both national and individuals making membership more financially accessible
- A new Board Orientation package was created by Sheena Walters for use for the next term

- WASLI and efsli entered into a new Memo of Understanding in Sept. 2014 and this will result in WASLI having a European Regional Representative join the WASLI Board for the next term. Our thanks to efsli for this collaboration.
- WASLI produced its first ever electronic 2011 Conference Proceedings, making this document readily available to members and non-members through the website
- Began planning for the WASLI 2015 conference two years in advance, with volunteers from all over the world
- WASLI 2015 offered pre-conference workshops in response to feedback from our WASLI 2011 delegates and all workshops are sold out! This is a wonderful opportunity for delegates from emerging countries to have the chance to engage in significant training and we thank those trainers who have volunteered to provide these workshops.
- Regional Representatives selection processes were streamlined to ensure representatives were chosen by all national associations in each region prior to the conference
- WASLI Social Media Team maintained a regular presence via Twitter, Facebook and with our Newsletters
- WASLI fundraising efforts resulted in conference sponsors and sponsorship for 5 delegates to attend WASLI 2015, and for the first time ever we will be live streaming the keynote presentations through sponsorship from RID, Street Leverage and Access Interpreting.
- Creation of a Deaf Interpreting Advisor position for 2015-2019 term
- Treasurer has posted regular financial statements on the website, demonstrating our accountability and our efforts to raise money for this association while showing financial stewardship

The regional representatives have all experienced successes, for example:

- North America Mexico hosted the First Regional Conference of North American Sign Language Interpreters during July 2014
- Asia hosted the WASLI Board meeting and held a very large regional meeting of interpreters during the WFD R/S conference in Macau during August 2014
- Africa conducted their regional representative election process with international observers helping to oversee the process
- Balkans continues to provide training for sign language interpreters
- Transcaucasia hosted a regional conference in Kiev in 2012
- Australasia-Oceania hosted regional meetings during the ASLIA conferences and provided training for Fiji interpreters
- Latin America collaborated with FEBRAPILS to host the second Latin American Conference of Interpreters and Translators in Brazil in 2013; ten interpreter associations were formed and joined WASLI

My sincere thanks for all of the support, encouragement, and trust you have placed in me to represent WASLI and sign language interpreters around the world. I look forward to serving for another term.

With warm wishes to each of you,

Debra Russell WASLI President



## **Treasurer's Report**

#### Susan Emerson

It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's report. This report encompasses activity from my entire term, 2011to 2015. Throughout this time I have been pleased to contribute to the following highlights:

- Redevelopment of the WASLI website.
- Organising Committee of WASLI 2015, overseeing finance, sponsorship and assisting with the Marketing and Pre Conference workshops.
- Production of information and promotional videos for distribution on social media.
- Attendance at WASLI AGM (Durban, 2011), Australian Deaf Games (Geelong 2012), ASLIA National Conference (Sydney, 2011), EFSLI Conference & AGM (Vienna 2012), World Federation of the Deaf Conference (Sydney, 2013), 26<sup>th</sup> WFD Regional Secretariat Asia Representative Meeting & WASLI AGM (Macau, 2014), WASLI 2015 & WASLI AGM (Istanbul, 2015) in my capacity as WASLI Board Member.
- Attendance at online meetings with WASLI Executive Board and WASLI 2015 Organising Committee.
- Presented to and held meetings with interpreters and deaf community in Kunming, China (2013).
- Developed a four-year strategy for the regional sponsorship program, including a project funding proposal template.
- Management of WASLI budget: quarterly finance and activity reports presented to the Board and made available to membership online; maintain WASLI PayPal account; payment of invoices and accounts; ongoing communication with WASLI membership.
- Improved fee structure and promotion of this to WASLI membership.

Throughout this time I have also experienced challenges, which I feel are important to share. The first of these is a lack of commitment and responsiveness from some of the Board. The second is a complicated banking system, implicated by difficult access to banking personnel and restrictions on international payments.

My first task as Treasurer in the new term is to investigate new banking options. I look forward to working with a refreshed and committed board, and increasing the WASLI membership.

I would like to thank the following people for their wonderful support: Jane Taylor, Diana Ashley, Rosalie Kassulke, Kate Leibick and Michelle Ashley. And a big hands up to Debra Russell for her amazing leadership and guidance, generosity and patience.

WASLI Secretary handover report, Turkey Conference July 2015

## Introduction

This report covers the activities carried out by the Secretary WASLI from 2011 to July 2015

# **Activities**

#### Email:

#### Achievements

- Receiving and forwarding emails to the respective board member for their response as per the issue raised
- Responding to emails raised through the WASLI website
- Replying to emails from members
- Led the process of shifting from the old WASLI email system to gmail which is much more accessible by all board members from the different regions.
- Monitored the usage of WASLI emails and also created a tool to follow up on emails for that needed responses by individual board members

## Challenges

Limited access to internet services because of the region and environment I worked in.

## 2. Work plan

#### **Achievements**

- Participated in the development of the WASLI 5 years strategic work plan
- Responsible to maintain update the work plan as per the achieved activities and reports from the board members and volunteers

# Challenges

• Slow response from some board members on their achieved actives and reports

#### 3. Website

#### **Achievemnts**

- Participated in the development of current WASLI website through offering comments.
- Monitoring of the website (operations, receiving comments from members, etc)
- Receiving and forwarding comments, complaints, reactions (regarding the website) and activities from members to be included on our events page to the webmaster.

## Challenges

• Limited access to internet services due to the region and working environment.

# 4. Meetings

#### **Achievments**

- Wasn't able to participate in face to face WASLI meetings
- Participated in a few WASLI meetings via Skype

## Challenges

- Lack of finance to sponsor myself to the meetings as it was held in different countries for the different meetings.
- Limited access to internet services due to the region and working environment.
- Time difference in the different regions

## 5. Documentation/filing

#### **Achievements**

- Filing of WASLI meeting minutes
- Updating and filing of WASLI work plan
- Receiving and filing of reports from WASLI board members and membership
- Filing of letters sent out by WASLI and received letters from members and partners

## Challenges

 Lost some of the documents when my laptop was stolen but was able to recovering some and created a dropbox accounts that file the documents to avoid future occurrence.

#### 6. Correspondence

#### **Achievements**

- Receiving and responding to letters and enquiries from partners and well-wishers
- Receiving and sharing newsletters from our partners with WASLI board and members
- Receiving and forwarding of letters/enquiries from our partners or well-wishers to the appropriate board member for responses

## 7. African Region representations

- Represented and coordinated the African region in the absence of Samuel B (Uganda) until the nomination and approval of Timothy from Nigeria to take on as Africa rep.
- Worked with the African rep. on matters and activities in the region.
- Offered advice, guidance and necessary information to African countries developing SLI and creating national associations.

## 8. WASLI Social member platforms

- Monitoring postings on Facebook and twitter.
- Received and posted articles and other information from members, partners and well-wishers on WASLI Facebook page.
- Monitored and received articles through WASLI MailChimp system.

## Challenges

Limited access to internet services due to the region and working environment.

# 9. Membership

 Worked together with membership coordinator to support accomplishing membership tasks.

## 10. WASLI 2015 Turkey Conference

- Received and forwarded emails and inquires to the organizing team members from members, partners and well-wishers for responses.
- Participated in the initiating planning stage of the conference.

# Conclusion and appreciations

The 4 years as WASLI Secretary has been fun, busy and challenging to me because of its uniqueness and working environment. Therefore I would like to thank all the board members and volunteers for their support in any form especially from the President (Deb), Membership Coordinator (former and current), Jack and Zane and I would want to conclude by saying that to the new incoming WASLI Secretary that I will be ready to offer the same support given to me to him/her throughout the next 4 years and looking forwarded to continue working with WASLI to see it grow and fulfill her dreams in promoting the SLI profession.

NB: though I have not been able to attend the WASLI turkey conference in-person, I would want to wish you all the best throughout the entire period. To the New WASLI Secretary I have compiled all the documents and reports regarding your work and will do the handover immediately after the conference.

Compiled by: Awoii Patrick Micheal – WASLI Secretary 2011-2015



# **Getting In Touch with the Regions**

#### **ONLINE CONNECTIONS**

17917 Conference Website Page Visitors this Past Fiscal Year

#### **EMAILS**

President responded to over 5000 emails over the past 4 years

#### Facebook:

We post announcements, event promotions and blog links on Facebook.

Like Us: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wasli.official">https://www.facebook.com/wasli.official</a>

Twitter: Tweet Us: @waslitweets

Some of the Countries that your WASLI President and Board Members visited and made presentations, reaching over 8000 interpreters:

- Australia
- Nigeria
- USA
- Mexico
- Panama
- Colombia
- Brazil
- Peru
- Dominican Republic
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Thailand
- Japan
- Macau
- Fiji
- Scotland
- Kosovo
- Belgium

Each and every task that gets completed for WASLI members happens because someone just like you volunteered, and/or contributed financially.

There are no paid staff in WASLI – just a group of individuals who are willing to serve the profession and the Deaf community to make a difference in this world. To each and every one of you, **THANK YOU!** 

# Thank you to our Volunteers and Sponsors for WASLI 2015



**Nominations for the Incoming Board** 

Nominations were sought and open until June 15, 2015. The following people were nominated:

President – Debra Russell (Canada)

Vice President – Jose Ednilson (Brazil)

Treasurer – Susan Emerson

Secretary: Three Nominations were received:

- 1. Jordi Ferre (Spain)
- 2. Chris Grooms (USA)
- 3. Isabelle Heyerick (Belgium)

The nominees for secretary have offered these statements:

Jordi Ferré: I live in Madrid, Spain.

I am a sign language interpreter since 1993. From 1994 to 1996 I was treasurer of the first association of SLI (Sign Language Interpreters) in Madrid. Unfortunately this first association was dissolved in 2000.

In 2004 I set up a new association of SLI in Madrid where I was nominated as president since the beginning till 2012. Nowadays I am its vice-president. In addition to the above, I coordinate two groups on Facebook about interpreters:

The first group is the SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS group, where interpreters from nearly 100 countries participate. I spend a lot of time looking for interpreters from all the world and using the digital media, we try to keep in touch and share information.

The second group is LATINAMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS, where are participating interpreters from countries that use Spanish and Portuguese as their mother tongue.

I am active in both groups and try to bring in relevant information about interpreters and sign language. My dream is that one day all the interpreters worldwide may collaborate by knowing each other. I helped and I'm helping to set up associations of SLI in some countries from Africa and Latin America.

If WASLI accept me as the next secretary, my aim would like to help to all the interpreters from emerging countries looking for resources, and all of them can to have a better training and collaboration.

### Chris Grooms, USA

I would like to take this opportunity to express my interest in running for the position of Secretary on the WASLI Board for the 2015-2019 term. Since the beginning of my 25 year career as a sign language interpreter in the U.S., I have actively served my professional organizations and the communities in which I work to advance and promote the profession of sign language interpreting. I believe my experiences and qualifications make me an excellent candidate for the position of Secretary on the WASLI Board. After a two year break in order to complete a Master's degree in Interpreting Studies, I am now ready to continue my service to the profession and the communities we serve.

Before taking on leadership roles within professional interpreting organizations I served in various capacities from gathering and distributing mail to board members, to serving on various committees, to coordinating state conferences. I began taking on leadership roles shortly before I moved to Texas in 2001. Those leadership roles are as follows:

# **Washington State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf**

1998-2000 Member-At-Large

# **Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf**

2002-2005 Secretary 2005-2007 President-Elect 2007-2009 President

# **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf**

2003-2007 Region IV Secretary

2003-2007 Professional Development Committee, Region IV Representative

2010-2011 Region IV Representative

2011-2013 Treasurer

Representative

2010-2011 Region IV Representative

2011-2013 Treasurer

As a result of engaging in these various capacities I have gained an intimate knowledge of serving membership needs and desires. These experiences have also led me to understand the importance of developing relationships and engaging in collaborative efforts with Deaf and Deaf-Blind communities and organizations in order to promote the profession of sign language interpreting and the linguistic and civil rights of the communities we serve. These leadership experiences have also allowed me to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to be an active and engaged board member of professional organizations. These are the skills, qualifications, experiences, and the knowledge I would bring to the WASLI Board in order to serve the membership and work to advance the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide.

I have been an avid supporter of WASLI and the activities that WASLI engages in since attending the 2002 World Symposium of Sign Language Interpreters in Washington DC. I have been a supporting member of the organization since its inception and strongly believe in and support its Mission and Objectives. I would be honored to serve my colleagues worldwide in the capacity of WASLI Secretary.

If elected WASLI Secretary my goals as a member of the Board would be as follows:

- Engage in discussions and make decisions that serve to advance the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide.
- Engage in discussions and make decisions that promote and support the establishment of national organizations of sign language interpreters in countries where none exist, including developing countries.
- Engage in discussions and make decisions to promote and support collaboration amongst and between sign language interpreting communities and Deaf and Deaf-Blind communities worldwide.
- Engage in activities and discussions that promote the linguistic and civil rights of Deaf and Deaf-Blind people worldwide to access information in their preferred language.
- Engage in activities and decision making processes that promote WASLI as a viable resource for sign language interpreting, Deaf, and Deaf-Blind communities worldwide.

Furthermore, if elected WASLI Secretary my goals in that specific position would be as follows:

- Keep complete and accurate records of all WASLI Executive Board and General Membership Meetings as well as organize such records to make them readily available to the membership and the general public.
- Communicate the activities of WASLI and other organizations of interest to the membership and the general public via social media and mass email.
- Communicate the issues and decisions that the WASLI board is considering and discussing to the membership via social media and mass email.
- Liaise with other organizations, including spoken language interpreting organizations, which have common interests with WASLI as appropriate and as needed.
- Be accessible to and a resource for the WASLI membership.
- Provide an annual Secretary's report to the board and membership.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my interest in running for WASLI Secretary for the 2015-2019 term. If you should need further information or references, I am happy to provide such.

**Isabelle Heyerick** (°1980, Belgium) is a Flemish Sign Language (VGT) interpreter, a linguist, a PhD candidate and teacher at the University of Leuven.

In 2002 she obtained her MA in linguistics at the University of Ghent. She started working for the Flemish Deaf Association (Fevlado) and enrolled at the same time in the VGT interpreter programme. She got her degree in 2006.

In 2008 she founded Tenuto – together with a colleague and a Deaf consumer – an organisation offering continued training for VGT interpreters. She also returned to her passion and started working as a linguistic researcher for the Flemish Sign Language Centre of which she became the coordinator in 2012.

In 2010 she enrolled in the MA interpreting VGT – Dutch – English at the University of Leuven and graduated in 2012.

Currently Isabelle is pursuing her PhD at the University of Leuven. Her research topic is linguistic strategies used by Deaf and hearing sign language interpreters. She also teaches consecutive interpreting in the MA programme at the university, together with her Deaf colleague, and simultaneous interpreting in the Postgraduate (conference interpreting).

Being an interpreter for almost 10 years, she primarily works with Deaf adults in their work environment and Deaf students at the university. She has been the designated interpreter for Fevlado, AGFA Healthcare, Helga Stevens (MEP) and other Deaf people requiring English/Dutch – VGT interpreting for years.

Internationally, she has interpreted at the EFSLI and WFD conferences. Since a couple of years, she has also been working as a feeder for Deaf interpreters at multilingual events.

From the moment I was introduced to sign language and the Deaf community, interpreting fascinated me. Not only the linguistic act of translating from one language and modality into another one is intriguing, but also the cultural and social aspects involved. Coming from a linguistic background, the linguistic aspects were easy to grasp and to learn. However, I did not become an interpreter in the classroom. It was the Deaf community who taught me. As a beginning interpreter the Deaf people I worked with in Flanders were my mentors. After a while I was introduced to the global Deaf community and the global interpreter community. From that moment on I felt like a part of a large network of people – professionals – who at some times fight the same battles. This is truly what global organisations such as WASLI and WFD made me realise: interpreters and Deaf consumers worldwide face or have faced the same problems and issues regarding the linguistic and legal status of signed languages. interpreting training and the right to quality interpreting services. Some countries have overcome them, others are still struggling and some are about to go through them. This is where WASLI -in my opinion- plays a crucial role: sharing information, knowledge and good practices.

As a WASLI board member I will dedicate time and effort to support the work of WASLI. I hope to contribute to the success of WASLI in reaching the objectives as stated in the mission. Although I support all of the goals of WASLI, I would like to invest specifically in a couple of them. First of all, linked to my personal interests and expertise, I would like to explore how WASLI can encourage and facilitate research on signed language interpreting in both emerging and developed countries. I strongly believe the profession can evolve based on research that serves the global interpreting and Deaf community. Secondly, I am also committed to promote (enhanced) quality of interpreting through applied research, training and partnership between hearing and Deaf interpreters and interpreter consumers. Additionally, I will also gladly assist with the small and practical things that need to be done "behind the scenes" in order to assure continuity and keep WASLI strong.

# Regional Representations Duly Appointed for 2015-2019

Asia – Etsuko Unemoto (Japan) Africa – Natasha Maliko (South Africa) Australoceania – Angela Murray (NZ) Balkans – Desanka Zizic (Serbia) Europe – Christopher Stone (UK) North America – Liz Mendoza (USA) Latin America – Isabel Rey (Peru)

# **Deaf Interpreting Advisor**

One nomination was received, Nigel Howard (Canada)



# **Looking Forward**

### **Our Next Milestones**

- New Board to create their strategic plan for 2015-2019Schedule executive meetings and annual board meetings
- Celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Nov 2015
- Obtain a legal seat in Switzerland
- Maintain the momentum that has been created over the past 3 years to create a stable financial base for WASLI and to secure paid staff support
- To continue to model collaboration and support in our partner relationships with WASLI, WFDB, and efsli
- To seek new partnerships be that AIIC, FIT, Critical Link
- Continue to represent interpreters at the international