



WASLI

World Association of
Sign Language Interpreters



Newsletter – Election Special

WASLI

Relevant articles

Membership

Article 7

Membership ceases

- d) for non-payment of the membership fees for more than one year.

Please make sure that your national association has paid their membership.

You may wish to donate and support an association to become a member. This can be done via

wasli.org/donation

Please note that if your association has not paid its WASLI membership fee it cannot vote.

And technically cannot nominate executive board members or regional representative.

General Assembly 6th July 2023

Jeju, South Korea

This year we will see our four yearly face to face General Assembly where we will consider the admission of new members, the appointment of a new Executive Board, and undertake the business required of us at the general assembly (see the side panels in this Newsletter for the relevant information from our articles of association).

Voting members are National Members who have paid their membership fees in January 2023 - these are members in good

If you are unsure whether as a National Member you are in good standing please contact:

membership.WASLI@gmail.com

If you have not paid your fees you will not be able to nominate or vote.

standing.

If you are a National Member you will receive an invitation to nominate Executive Board members, Regional Representatives, and for any other nomination or voting matters. This should be received by 6th March 2023 - if you do not receive this you should email: secretary.WASLI@gmail.com

The Executive Board

The Executive Board members are the: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Deaf Interpreter Adviser, and Swiss Board Member. Each person standing for those positions need to be nominated by a National Member in good standing (see above).

All positions will be voted on and we will explain the work that each position entails below.

Call and notice of the meetings

Article 11

Call and notice of the meetings

1. The Secretary shall inform the members in writing of the date of the General Assembly **at least six weeks** before the meeting. The notification, including the proposed agenda, shall be sent to each member **at least 10 days** prior to the date of the meeting.
2. The agenda of the ordinary annual meeting must include:
 - a) approval of the Minutes of the previous ordinary annual meeting;
 - b) approval of the Executive Board's annual report;
 - c) approval of the report of the Treasurer and of the Auditor;
 - d) determination of the membership fees;
 - e) ratification of the annual budget;
 - f) approval of reports and accounts;
 - g) appointment of the Executive and the Auditor;
 - h) **any other business.**

Please submit any other business by 22nd May 2023

The President [click here for IS version](#)

president.wasli@gmail.com Christopher Stone



My role, since being elected in Paris 2019, is President of WASLI. I am from the UK. My first experience of volunteering within an interpreter association was for ASLI UK on a regional committee. I then served as a regional chair attending board meetings. Later I was elected nationally as vice Chair, then Chair.

My first international role was with the European forum of sign language interpreters (efsl). Initially representing ASLI UK at the annual meetings and then being voted onto the board serving as Treasurer, then Vice President. While Vice President I also served as the WASLI European Regional Representative. This culminated in me being elected as WASLI President where I have been able to bring my experience of representing interpreters, engagement with policy makers, and organisational governance.

My tasks on the WASLI executive board are as follows:

- Following up and replying to emails, referring queries to the right person, offering support and providing WASLI policy information.
- Maintaining clear lines of communication via email, WhatsApp and video messaging with the Executive Board, the board, and expert groups and task groups
- Supporting the organisation and attending the WASLI monthly board meetings
- Attending yearly face to face board meetings and the four yearly General Assembly and conference
- Being the outwards facing contact for organisations and partners with whom we have memoranda of understandings (MOUs), e.g. WFD, WFDB, FIT, AIIC, etc.
- Representing WASLI at events as and when appropriate and financially possible
- Collating and editing the Newsletter with the Secretary
- Collating and editing reports, e.g. the annual report

Per week on average I dedicate at least 2-3 hours of my time to WASLI typically 8-10 hours and often more depending.

I am happy to be contacted to discuss the work and encourage members to become a board member, as are all Executive Board.

Ordinary and extraordinary meetings

Article 10

1. The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary meeting implying a physical gathering at least once every 4 years.
2. The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the Association or the Vice-President of the Association if the President is absent.
3. All members, both voting and non-voting members, have the right to participate in the General Assembly's meetings.

Yearly GAs - part one

The Swiss Resident board member has alerted the Board to the need for **annual General Assemblies** (GA).

The GAs can be online with National Members attending via zoom. At the annual GAs we need to accept the annual accounts for the preceding year and the budget forecast for the following year.

This is something WASLI will need to do going forwards.

Although we will still have a face to face meeting at our four yearly GA and conference.

The Vice President [click for IS version](#)

vicepresident.wasli@gmail.com Susan Emerson



My role, since being elected in Paris 2019, is Vice President. I am from Australia. My first role on the Executive Board was as Treasurer, elected in Segovia in 2007.

My tasks on the WASLI executive board are as follows:

- Supporting the President as requested
- Meeting monthly with the President to have discussions about the work of WASLI and strategic planning, and maintaining clear lines of communication
- Engaging with the Regional Representatives (RR) to support and encourage them in their work and maintain clear lines of communication including liaising with the DIA and Deaf RR
- Attending the meetings to organise the 2023 conference in Jeju Island, South Korea

Per week on average I dedicate between 2-8 hours of my time to WASLI sometimes more.

Please feel free to contact me and ask questions.

The Secretary [click for IS version](#)

secretary.wasli@gmail.com Isabelle Heyerick



My role, since being elected in Turkey 2015, is the Secretary - this is my eighth year in office (2nd term). I am from Belgium currently living in Dublin, Ireland.

I became involved in WASLI through going to efsli and other international events. At some point I was asked if I would be interested to become a WASLI board member. After some consideration I decided to stand for a position in the board and in 2015 in Turkey I was voted in as secretary.

My tasks on the WASLI executive board are as follows:

- Following up and replying to emails WASLI receives, referring queries to the right person, offering support and information. This is a big responsibility as the secretary.

The General Assembly

Article 9

2. The General Assembly has the following non-transferable rights:

- a) to approve the admission and exclusion of members;
- b) to appoint the members of the Executive Board;
- c) to approve the annual report and financial statements;
- d) to ratify the annual budget;
- e) to supervise the activity of the other bodies, which it may dismiss, stating the grounds therefore;
- f) to appoint the auditor;
- g) to decide on **any modification of the articles of association**;
- h) to decide on the dissolution of the Association;
- i) to determine the annual membership fees.

- Organising the WASLI monthly board meetings, the annual face-to-face meeting and the General Assembly. Taking the minutes of those meetings and sharing them with the members.
- Collating and editing the Newsletter with the President
- Collating and editing reports, e.g. the annual report
- Additionally, the secretary disseminates information to all WASLI members, via email campaigns, Twitter, Facebook. This is the chunk of the secretary's work: internal and external communication.

Per week on average I dedicate 4-10 hours of my time to WASLI. I love being able to do this as I feel you can have an impact and that is beautiful. So, do you want to have an impact?

Are you interested in becoming WASLI's next secretary? Get in touch and we can chat about it more!

The Treasurer [click here for IS version](#)

treasurer.wasli@gmail.com Nigel Howard



My role, since being elected in Paris 2019. I am from Canada and live in Vancouver. However my involvement in WASLI began since its inception in 2003. My first executive board position was as North America Regional Representative 2007, then Deaf Interpreter Advisor 2011-2019. After serving for four years I was then elected as Treasurer.

My tasks on the WASLI executive board are as follows:

- Accounting for everyday income and expenditure on all the accounts
- Accounting for conference 2023 income and expenditure
- Reporting monthly to the Board meeting

Per week on average I dedicate 3-4 hours of my time to WASLI.

Voting rights at the meeting

Submitting Business

In the interests of a full and proper discussion please submit your proposals to change our Articles of Association or other suggestions to:

secretary.WASLI@gmail.com

60 days before the General Assembly - by 22nd May 2022

3. Decisions concerning the amendment of the **articles of association** and the dissolution of the Association must be approved by a **two-third majority** of the national members present or voting by proxy
4. Votes are by a show of hands. Voting can also take place by secret ballot, if at least five members request it.

Yearly GAs - part two

Yearly online General Assemblies will allow us greater flexibility in nominating people to serve on task groups and expert groups.

It can also allow the democratic replacement of board members if needed.

If you have any questions regarding the financial responsibilities of the Treasurer please feel free to contact me and ask questions.

The Deaf Interpreter Adviser [click here for IS version](#)

dia.wasli@gmail.com Arunas Brazinskas



My role, since being elected in Paris 2019, is the Deaf Interpreter Advisor. As a deaf person from a deaf family, I have had a traditional entry into interpreting via school supporting classmates. Engaging in deaf sports and cultural activities has stood me in good stead. I qualified as a deaf interpreter and have been involved in both quality assurance of the Lithuanian interpreting service as well as working as an interpreter.

My first formal role within an international interpreting organisation was to serve on the European forum of sign language interpreters Deaf Interpreter committee (efsliDI). As someone from Eastern Europe the work of efsliDI gave me greater awareness of the differences of interpreting provision across Europe. Now having served as DIA I am also aware of the differences in the nine regions of WASLI.

My tasks on the WASLI executive board have been as follows:

- Liaising with the Vice President regarding engagement with the regions
- Supporting regions to better understand the work of deaf interpreters
- Bringing on board a deaf interpreter regional representative for each region
- Working with each region to better support deaf interpreters to ensure a united profession
- Attending the monthly board meetings on Zoom, and once a year in person
- Engaging in media creation, video editing, etc. to support WASLI communication

Composition of Board

Article 14

- The Executive Board is elected for four (4) years by the national members at a General Assembly meeting. Each member's term of office is renewable two (2) times.
- Regional representative candidates must be nominated by a National member from that region and will be elected by the National members of that region.

WASLI Support

You can make a donation through our PayPal Donation button:

wasli.org/donation

You could *support a national association* to become a member.

Or donate via bank transfer - if so please contact our Treasurer Nigel Howard at:

treasurer.wasli@gmail.com

Conference donation

You could *support a national association* or an individual member to attend the WASLI 2023 conference.

If you have any questions regarding the role of DIA please feel free to contact me and ask questions.

The Swiss Board Member [click here for IS version](#)

boardch.wasli@gmail.com Michèle Berger



My role is the Swiss resident board member. Because the legal seat of WASLI is in Switzerland, it's mandatory to have one board member living in Switzerland.

My tasks on the WASLI executive board are as follows:

- Attending the monthly board meetings on Zoom, and once a year in person
- Attending the meetings to organise the 2023 conference in Jeju Island, South Korea
- Being the responsible contact for the Swiss bank account with PostFinance
- Collaborating with the WASLI treasurer (Nigel) for bank matters
- Being the contact person for the Geneva authorities for tax and employment matters
- Being the contact for the IDA staff supporting WASLI in administrative matters

The number of work hours devoted for WASLI is difficult to say, because it varies. But it's essential to regularly look at the emails and other messages to be up to date on WASLI business.

Regional Representatives

Typically the Regional Representatives (RR) serve for a four year term. They are nominated by a national member in good standing (i.e. they have paid their membership dues). National Members of the region then vote for the regional representatives.

The tasks for WASLI RR are as follows:

- Attending the monthly board meetings on Zoom, and once a year in person (if possible)
- Reporting activities to the board and for the WASLI newsletter
- Organising regional meetings for national members
- Liaising with WFD and WFDB regional secretariats if appropriate

- Engaging in development, workshops, and seminars in line with the goals of WASLI
- Potentially working with the Executive Board to enable funded projects to be realised

In the last four years we have had one hearing and one deaf interpreter regional representative for each of our nine regions (see <https://wasli.org/regional-representatives>) and we would like to continue this going forwards.

Business for the General Assembly

The Executive Board have reviewed the Articles of Association and will be submitting some revisions to ensure that the language is less ambiguous. This should give clarity around the full board and the executive board, add two regional representative (one deaf and one hearing, clarifying regional members as multinational members, etc.

Please look out for the proposed amendments in the GA papers.

MONTH	March				April				May				June				July			
	01	02	03	04	01	02	03	04	01	02	03	04	01	02	03	04	01	02	03	04
ACTIVITY	END																			
Election Newsletter	06/03																			
Call for nominations	22/05																			
Submit article amendment proposals	22/05	Opens 22nd March — Closes 22nd May																		
Submit any other business	22/05																			
Announce nominees	05/06																			
GA papers disseminated	05/06																			
General Assembly (GA)	06/07																			
ACTIVITY	END																			



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

Timeline for General Assembly

Looking forward to seeing you at the General Assembly and Conference
