



WASLI

World Association of
Sign Language Interpreters

Newsletter December 2023



We are aware that there has not been a newsletter since the General Assembly (GA) in July 2023. Much of the new board’s attention has been on beginning to forge a new team so that we can work effectively together over the next four years. And on arranging the Extraordinary Meeting to finish of the business we did not have time to discuss at the July GA.

We are using this newsletter as an opportunity to introduce the new board - and to announce upcoming possibilities to work with WASLI in 2024 (please read the side column).

WASLI GA and EM

July and November

General Assembly

The WASLI General Assembly (GA) was successfully held in July 2023 as a hybrid event. Previously the GA had only been held face to face - the hybrid meeting used zoom for contributions and mentimeter for voting, in addition to comments and voting in the room.

We were able to conclude most business, including voting in the new National Members, the new Executive Board and Regional Representatives.

The GA voted for an Extraordinary Meeting (EM) to finish off business this year.

Board 2023-2027

Here are the successful nominations for the elected board positions. The board is comprised of two groups, the Executive Board, responsible for the day to day running of WASLI. And the Regional Representatives responsible for coordinating regional activities and ensuring clear lines of communication from the regions to the Executive Board.

Executive Board

WASLI President - Dr Christopher Stone

Christopher continues to serve as the WASLI President. Now that we are compliant with the requirements of the Geneva canton in Switzerland we can begin to focus more on capacity building.

During this term we aim to increase WASLI’s work capacity with the introduction of more Working Groups and Expert Groups (read the side panel).

This is Christopher’s second and final term, as we shore up the work of WASLI, we also need to look to supporting a transition to a new President in 2027-2031.



Extraordinary Meeting

The EM was held in November, ensuring that the National Members (NM) had sufficient time to re-read papers, discuss issues further and to save the date for the EM.

We used a zoom webinar for the EM with NM (the voting members) as panellists were able to make a contribution and to exercise a vote. All other stakeholders (RR and supporters) were able to view the EM via zoom webinar or YouTube as observers.

Voting happened after time for discussions via google forms, with the NM having access to the form and requiring the use of the official email given to the secretary.

Change to Articles

All the motions to bring our constitution in line with Swiss law were passed the main consequence of which is

Annual:

- General Assembly
- Approval of Accounts
- Approval of Budget
- NM approval of new members
- 6 month notice of GA
- 3 months to submit business

This should allow for greater accountability and clearer lines of communication between NM and Board.

We also hope that the NM will further contribute to the strategic direction of WASLI.

WASLI Vice President - Dr Koungbee 'Lydia' Kob

Lydia is from South Korea. She has monthly meetings with the president to discuss WASLI work, strategic planning, and maintaining clear lines of communication. She engages with all the Regional Representatives (RR) to support and encourage them and maintain clear lines of communication.

And she is attending the meetings to organise the 2027 conference in The United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Per week she will dedicate between 2-8 hours of her time to WASLI. Please feel free to contact her ask question..

*WASLI Secretary - Timothy Tinat*

Timothy is from Nigeria and has served as the President of the Nigerian Sign Language Interpreter Association 2021-present. As Secretary of WASLI his goal is to support the administration and running of WASLI and is the first point of contact of enquiries.

*WASLI Treasurer - Jovana Garcia*

Jovana, from Venezuela, currently lives in Colombia. Her tasks are: accounting for the organisation's income and expense accounts, preparing monthly and annual reports on the financial situation and making it known to the General Assembly and other support that is required by the Board. She is also attending the meeting to organise the 2027 conference in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Per week, on average, she will dedicate between 2 and 6 hours of her time to WASLI. Feel free to contact her with questions.

*WASLI Deaf Interpreter Adviser - Arunas Bražinskas*

Arunas continues to serve as the Deaf Interpreter Adviser. He is the contact for Deaf Interpreters, and works with the Vice President supporting the RR. He maintains our social media and IS content and is liaison for the website.



Working Groups

WASLI Needs You!

After the GA and the EM there is some work to be done and it would seem that the best way forwards would be to establish working groups with representation from all the regions.

Please liaise with your Regional Representative (RR), if you are interested in being in one of the working groups (WG). We look to establish these in 2024.

Governance WG

WASLI looks to establish a working group on governance. This group will focus on the articles of association and the WASLI policies and procedures.

WG Governance will review and consider the current governance of WASLI including such things as changes to NM criteria, etc.

Fundraising WG

WASLI also looks to establish a working group on fundraising. This group will focus on revenue opportunities for WASLI either by sponsorship, advertising, or grants.

WG Fundraising will seek ethical opportunities for WASLI to increase its income, to support its goals as stated in our articles.

Longer term goals include funding for staff, if that is desirable.

WASLI Board Swiss Resident - Michele Berger

Michèle continues to serve WASLI as the Swiss resident board member. She is the contact for the Swiss authorities and bank. Her main focus 2023-4 is to support new board members' access to WASLI's administrative structures. And to ensure we complies with new data protection laws in Switzerland.



WASLI Honorary President - Dr Debra Russell

Debra continues to serve WASLI as an our honorary President. She has previously supported the development and delivery of Leadership training and continues to do so. She has also worked with the President offering support and guidance. She supports the WFD-WASLI ISAAB to ensure continuity.



Regional Representatives

Africa Region

Leonida Kayla is the former president of the Kenyan Sign Language Interpreters Association (2012-2022). A freelance interpreter for the past 26 years with special interest in conferences.



Ayesha Ramjugernath is from South Africa and collaborates with organisations and institutions to develop training programs for interpreters, striving for a high standard of professionalism.

The RR are hoping to a consolidate African efforts to improve the profession in the region.

Arab Region

Dr Sameer Samreen continues to serve as the Arab RR. While he is based in Qatar, he was raised in Jordan. He continues to work across the region. And will be an important contact for the next WASLI conference - the first to be hosted in the Arab region. (One further RR required).



Conferences WG

In light of feedback from IOCN and other organisations and supporters, WASLI looks to establish a working group on conferences and events to ensure that accessibility is considered from all angles.

WG Conferences will review and consider the access that supporters will have to countries hosting events and conferences including visa requirements.

WG Conferences will also consider the access via interpreting and other services.

Advice will be given to the Board regarding access so that inclusive decisions can be made.

Newsletter WG

WASLI needs an editor and a representatives from all the regions so that we can include exciting news from across the globe.

The Newsletter WG will collate the reports for the Board three times a year. Content will be available in English, Spanish and IS - with the translation process needing to be managed, and the layout needing to be consistent across all formats.

Final editorial decisions will need to be approved to ensure we are publishing in alignment with our MOUs and policies.

Asia Region

Noriko Miyazawa, a Japanese CODA, has worked as an interpreter and trainer since 1991. She is the Vice President and International Division Director of the National Research Association for Sign Language Interpretation (NRASLI). **Dr.**



Anthony Chong is the co-founder and secretary for both Malaysian Sign Language and Deaf Studies Association. He has wide experience in managing various programs, international camps and conferences.

Megumi Kawakami

graduated from Gallaudet University with a Master's degree in Interpretation. She works as a community interpreter, Deafblind interpreter, IS-JSL, and ASL-JSL interpreter in a variety of settings.



The Asia RR are looking forward to greater collaboration across the Asia region and its three sub-regions agreed in the GA 2023.

Australasia and Oceania Region

Inise Tawaketini is from the beautiful Island of Fiji. She has worked for more than a decade as an interpreter after working as a teacher of the deaf and an initial 10 week training course. Inise is currently completing the Sign Linguistics Course in Hong Kong.



Krishneer Sen is also from Fiji and has just completed MA Linguistics from the Chinese University of Hong Kong as well as degrees from University College London and Gallaudet University. He works as an interpreter within the media.

The RR want interpreters in the region to have the same opportunities as other regions so we can grow in our knowledge and skills and better serve the community.

Balkans Region

Nives Gotovac is a CODA interpreter from Croatia. She has recently completed her MA (EUMASLI). She has served on the boards of Croatian Association of sign language



Expert Groups

WASLI Needs You!

In the last period, WASLI established an expert group (EG) and hopes to establish more EGs so that advice and expertise can be shared with interested parties and those inquiring about specific issues.

ISO EG

WASLI continues to have an Expert Group on the International Standards Organisation. The current chair of the EG ISO is:

Dr Isabelle Heyerick

Currently Isabelle is reviewing membership and is looking for new members for the ISO EG - please see the end of the newsletter for her report.

Education EG

WASLI is often asked about the formal establishment of interpreter education programmes within further and higher education sectors.

The Education EG would bring together experts from all nine regions to offer support and advice to stakeholders inquiring about establishing interpreter education programmes.

interpreters for the Deaf and efsli.



Daša Peperko is a Deaf interpreter from Slovenia. She continues in her role as Balkans RR.

The Balkans RR aims to revitalise the Balkans region so that it plays a more active role in WASLI.

EECAC Region

Ekaterina Golovanova is a graduate from the first cohort of sign language translators of Moscow State Linguistics University, Master of MGIMO. She has more than 7 years of work in the interpreting field, including at regional and international conferences. And continues as your EECAC RR.



Ken Goulston is an expert with the All-Russian Society of the Deaf, Educational and Methodological Center Moscow, 2021-current. Work-wise, he focuses on creating new technologies and video relay service.

The EECAC RR hope to build the capacity of the EECAC region moving forwards.

Europe Region

Anja Saft from Germany has worked as an interpreter for over 20 years. She was part of the first cohort of university trained interpreters, and recently also completed her MA (EUMASLI). She is passionate about mentoring the next generation of



interpreters. **Prof Dr Christian Rathmann** has worked both informally and formally as a translator and interpreter since attending a school for the Deaf in former East Germany. He is an esteemed academic in Deaf Studies and Interpreting Studies.

The Europe RR aim to foster stronger collaboration with efsli in line with the WASLI-efsli MOU, to increase European NMs and to share expertise within Europe and globally.

Training EG

WASLI is also asked about training interpreters for specific purposes, in specific domains, and for continuing professional development.

The Training EG would also bring experts together from all nine regions with a specific focus on short term training and professional development for interpreters.

It is feasible that this EG will create a list of experts that can advise on and deliver linguistic and culturally appropriate training for the different regions of WASLI.

ISAAB

Our IS accreditation advisory board, chaired by Carol Lee Aquiline continues to review and run the WFD-WASLI accreditation system.

Currently there is a call for applications:

22 December 2023

Donations

If this is the end of your tax year and you are wanting to make a donation to WASLI please do contact Jovana:

treasurer.wasli@gmail.com

Donations are welcome at any time of the year.

LAC Region

Laura Astrada is a CODA and a founding member of the Argentine Association of Sign Language Interpreters - AAILS. She was the president 2018 - 2021 and 2021 - 2023. Laura has 13 years experience developing public policies on interpreting.



Christian Ramirez Christian Ramirez is from Costa Rica. He is currently work at the National Learning Institute, a government organisation. His area of work is curriculum design for the communication and interpretation programs for LESCO. He also works on the official certification of linguistic

and interpretation competence, in cooperation with associations of the Deaf community. He has worked as a translator and interpreter for 18 years.

The RR wants to the strengthen the regional associative movement through the construction of a common agenda, actions to make the member organisations and WASLI LAC more visible.

North America Region

Eduardo **Daniel Maya** Ortega is a sign language interpreter in Mexico serving the office of the President. Both he and our other North America RR have previously served as RR .



Ronise Barreras (she/ella) Deaf Interpreter with over 20 years of experience. Ronise has Native/Latin/ Mexican-American roots with strong ties to the Deaf and DeafBlind communities, both nationally and internationally.

The North America RR will focus on collaboration with the NASLIs and supporting Mexico to establish a NASLI. And to support BIPOC and deaf interpreters in the region.

WASLI and ISO

Introduction

WASLI has been a liaison as an international partner for the Technical Committee on Language and Terminology ([ISO TC37](#)) since 2020. As a [liaison partner](#) WASLI can if needed contribute to these working groups. However, WASLI is not a member with any voting rights. ISO TC37 is made up of five different subcommittees with WASLI active in the subcommittee on Translation, Interpreting and related Technology ([ISO/TC37/SC5](#)). In 2023, this subcommittee has six working groups:

AHG 2 Speech -to-text	TCG Terminology coordination group
WG1 Translation	WG2 Interpreting
WG3 Facilities and equipment for interpreting services	WG4 Interpreting and translation teaching and training programs

WASLI has its own ISO Expert Group (iso.eg.wasli@gmail.com) which has been chaired by Samuel Chew. At the WASLI Conference in Jeju it was announced that former WASLI Secretary, Dr. Isabelle Heyerick will take on this role going forward. Isabelle is currently streamlining the working of this Expert Group and is looking to expand it. If you are interested: keep on reading!

WASLI at the ISO 2023 Annual Meeting

From June 11th to June 16th the ISO TC37 Annual Meeting was held in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. Dr. Isabelle Heyerick attended the meetings in-person and José Ednilson Gomes de Souza attended online. During these sessions they responded to requests from the working groups regarding signed language interpreting issues, and actively brought forward aspects relevant for our profession. They supported recommendations proposed by other delegates representing the signed language profession: Dr. Debra Russell (delegate for the Canadian National Body), Dr. Maya de Wit (delegate for the National Body of the Netherlands) and Mark Schofield (delegate for AIIC/ AIIC Sign Language Network) - who also supported and guided WASLI as more experience attendees (pictured).



WASLI participated in the introductory sessions and plenary meetings of TC37 and TC37/SC5. At the TC37/SC5 plenary the week's work of each working groups was reported upon. A strong call was made for more people to become a member of their National Body and represent their country in ISO.

At the TC37/SC5 final plenary session a motion of appreciation was approved for the European Commission for hosting the meeting and six other resolutions. One approved recommendation concerns a new project to draft an ISO standard on the technical requirements for the working environment for signed language interpreters in conference settings. This closing meeting was attended by Mr. José Ednilson G. de S. Junior, Dr. Isabelle Heyerick for WASLI.

WASLI representation

TC 37/CAG (Steering committee)	convened once during the week for a presentation by the Japanese Industrial Standard Committee. The speaker talked about proposals for translation and interpretation services in tourism promoted by Japan. Mr José Ednilson G. de S. Junior attended the meeting for WASLI.
ISO/TC 37/SC 5/AHG 2	convened once during the week discussing the topic of speech-to-text in relation to interpreting standards. Dr Isabelle Heyerick represented WASLI.
ISO/TC 37/SC 5/TCG	convened twice during the week looking at technical vocabulary and terminology in relation to translation and interpreting. Dr Isabelle Heyerick attended the meeting for WASLI.
ISO/TC 37/SC 5/WG 2	convened three times during the week. The working group discussed topics concerning Community Interpreting, such as: hours of experience and accreditation. Also discussed about cabin configuration, revision of ISO 84056 standard, especially the section dealing with 'video display'. Those meetings were attended by Mr José Ednilson G. de S. Junior for WASLI. Dr Debra Russell, honorary president of WASLI is the project leader of this working group.
ISO/TC 37/SC 5/WG 3	Retiring convenor Marguerite Lely especially mentioned the importance of the contributions made by liaison partners and specifically WASLI. WG3 convened four times over the week (12 hours) and was attended by Dr Isabelle Heyerick representing WASLI.
ISO/TC 37/SC 5/WG 4	convened twice, with a general meeting and one working committee meeting. The working group discussed adjustments to the text of CD 6253 "Requirement for Interpreters Educators and Teaching/Training Programs". These were attended by Mr José Ednilson G. de S. Junior for WASLI.

WASLI & ISO TC37: future

Since the ISO Annual Meeting, WASLI has reviewed its membership in the various subcommittees and working groups, making sure we are a liaison partner that can actively participate and contribute to the working groups. In WG 3 a new working package has been approved to create:

ISO 17651 Simultaneous interpreting — Interpreters' working environment

Part 4: Requirements and recommendations for signed language

Interpreting. Project lead will be Dr. de Wit, and proposed project editors are Dr. Heyerick (WASLI) and Mr. Mark Schofield (AIIC).

In WG4 a new consultation round has started for the document on Requirements and recommendations for training programmes in community interpreting. The WASLI ISO Expert Group will submit comments to this document, which will be presented to WG4 WASLI representative Mr. José Ednilson G. de S. Junior.

WASLI, ISO & you!

WASLI also wants to reiterate the call of the chair of TC37/SC5: we need more people representing the interests of the translation and interpreting community involved with ISO. Especially the signed language translation and interpreting community.

How to do this?

- You can check if your country has a National Standards Body listed at www.iso.org/members and click on the page for your National Standards Body and there you find the contact details. Send an email expressing your interest of joining the National Standard Body and ISO TC37/SC5 work.
- If your country does not have a National Standards Body, email iso.eg.wasli@gmail.com and become a member of the WASLI ISO Expert Group.

The General Assembly and Conference

