



From the President

Jiri Stejskal

jiri@cetra.com

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

It is only fitting to launch the new administration by thanking the outgoing officers and directors. Marian S. Greenfield passed the presidential gavel to me on November 2, 2007, at our 48th Annual Conference in San Francisco. Our association reached a major milestone under her

work in the area of association governance. Thank you, Nick, for stepping up! Alexandra and Caitilin were elected for a three-year period, and their expertise in public relations and working with chapters will be a great contribution. Lili was appointed for one year to step in for former Director

or conformance, the Board's attention will focus on performance and strategic considerations. The Board recognizes that great minds do not think alike, but rather that they think differently, and that the collective brainpower of our membership is our greatest asset. The objectives against which all the Board's actions will be measured are clearly stated in ATA's bylaws:

The Board will spend a full day in January on strategic planning, in conjunction with the quarterly Board meeting, and will examine ATA's activities in light of our core objectives.

leadership—10,000 members and counting! Perhaps inspired by this round number, Marian announced at the conference that she had endowed a \$10,000 scholarship to the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation for the Marian S. Greenfield Financial Translation Presentation Award. (More information on the award will be published in the January issue.) Her dedication to our profession is unparalleled. Thank you, Marian! We also said goodbye to Directors Dorothee Racette and Tony Roder, whose contributions to the Association in the areas of business development, language technology, and a lot of common sense were greatly appreciated by all of us. Thank you, Dorothee and Tony!

We welcome Nick Hartmann as president-elect, and three new directors: Alexandra Russell-Bitting, Caitilin Walsh, and Lilian Novas Van Vranken. Before he becomes the Association's president in 2009, Nick will organize our next two conferences and continue his outstanding

Virginia Pérez-Santalla. Her accomplishments in our certification program are a great asset. Thank you, Alexandra, Caitilin, and Lili!

We welcome back Virginia Pérez-Santalla and Alan Melby. They switched places, as Virginia left the position of director to become secretary, and Alan left the position of secretary to become a director. Their continued service on the Board and contributions in the areas of interpretation, computer technology, and standards are most welcome. Thank you, Virginia and Alan! We also welcome back Peter Krawutschke, past ATA president and current president of the International Federation of Translators, who was re-elected to a second term as the Association's treasurer. We continue to appreciate his academic humor and vast experience in association work. Thank you, Peter!

Looking ahead, the Board will focus on the core objectives of our association and will use them as a measuring stick when making important decisions. Going beyond fiduciary responsibilities,

1. to promote the recognition of the translation and interpreting professions;
2. to promote the communication and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of translators and interpreters;
3. to formulate and maintain standards of professional ethics, practices, and competence;
4. to stimulate and support the training of translators and interpreters;
5. to provide a medium for cooperation with persons in allied professions; and
6. to promote professional and social relations among its members.

The Board will spend a full day in January on strategic planning, in conjunction with the quarterly Board meeting, and will examine ATA's activities in light of our core objectives. The Board will also look ahead and examine the objectives themselves—are they still relevant? Do we understand them clearly? Are there other objectives that should be added? What are the priorities? What is most important to you as an ATA member? These and many other questions need to be answered in order to lead our association forward. "Are you ready?" was a question most frequently heard at the San Francisco conference. We already have the answer: "Yes!"