

NOTIS BALLOT FOR 2019

This is an election period for the NOTIS Board of Directors. Below you will find candidates' statements. Per NOTIS Bylaws, the maximum number of Board Members is 14, from which 4 are chosen by the Board to be officers. For 2019, there are 2 candidates for 4 open positions. As this election is thus uncontested, election will be by acclamation at the annual meeting. We are providing this information to you as a service in case you do not plan to attend the annual meeting and would like to participate. Please scroll down for new and continuing board candidate statements.

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018

Time: 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Camp Long, entrance at 35th Ave SW and SW Dawson St., Seattle, WA

Current NOTIS Board

President	Elise Kruidenier (leaving)
Vice President	Shelley Fairweather-Vega (continuing)
Secretary	Mary McKee (incumbent)
Treasurer	Lindsay Bentsen (incumbent)

Directors

Maria Farmer (incumbent)
Olga Cuzmanov (incumbent)
Mária Luisa Gracia Camón (incumbent)
Alicia McNeely (continuing)
Janet He (continuing)
Adrian Chiang Bradley (continuing)
Melody Winkle (continuing)

New Candidates

Pinar Mertan
Adriana González

Board Candidate Statements: 2019

Lindsay Bentsen

When I returned to my native home, Washington, in 2013 to begin my career as a French translator and interpreter, I immediately joined NOTIS. Now, I can't imagine my life without it. NOTIS is a vital resource. It brings us together, strengthens our professional community, and provides multiple opportunities for personal growth. Thanks to NOTIS, I have had the privilege of connecting and collaborating with so many talented, hard-working colleagues. I joined the board in 2014 to help maintain and improve our valuable organization. It has been a lot of work, and a lot of fun!

Over this past two-year term, I have served as treasurer and been involved in multiple committees, including the webinar and scholarship committees. Our projects have included streamlining our financial records and providing more and better webinars and scholarships for our members. As a resident of North Central Washington, I also partnered with local stakeholders to provide more in-person continuing education for interpreters in this region.

I would be honored to continue as a board member to help advance our current projects and plan for the future. I look forward to hearing how we can better serve you!

Mary McKee

I am a Seattle native who has chosen to return and build a life in the Pacific Northwest after many years living abroad and around the USA. My full-time freelance business has been growing since 2014 and I also co-founded the Black Squirrel Translator Collective with three colleagues who also completed the Kent State MA in Spanish Translation.

Having served as the NOTIS secretary on and off since 2016 (with a break for maternity leave), I have enjoyed the opportunity to bring local events to life such as the job fair and some smaller networking events, as well as new initiatives such as the scholarship program and refreshing of membership benefits. As a member of the NOTIS leadership, I hope to help further the great work of previous years and help the organization through a process of discernment to find out how we can better serve the members and what members want to see from the organization. Let's keep our community vibrant and strong.

María Luisa Gracia Camón

I am a Spanish Court Interpreter and the Program Lead for Seattle Municipal Court. I hold a Degree in Translation and Interpretation (English and French) from Spain. Additional law studies helped me specialize in legal translation and interpretation. I was an Official Translator and Interpreter for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain and DSHS-certified interpreter and translator.

I have extensive experience as a language instructor. I currently teach Advanced Translation Skills at Bellevue College. Part of my work as Program Lead at Seattle Municipal Court has

included developing a unique program to train interpreters of languages of lesser diffusion. It is the first program of its type in Washington State, and will potentially become a model to be used in other Washington State courthouses. Additionally, I hold one of the two Interpreter Representative positions on the Washington Supreme Court Interpreter Commission. I have been an active Board member of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society since 2014 and Chair of the Legal Division for some years. I have had the honor to work with the members of the Board of NOTIS for 4 years and I would like to continue serving in the Legal Division.

My goal for the next term is to continue advocating for Court Interpreters as a member of the Washington Supreme Court Interpreter Commission, as well as in other settings. I value preparing meaningful training seminars and materials for interpreters and translators. This is a very important and interesting profession that provides a great service to society. This is why I like to advocate for linguists to be held in high regard and respected as highly qualified professionals.

It shall be my pleasure and my honor to serve again on the Board.

Olga Cuzmanov

Olga Cuzmanov is a Professional Engineer (PE) licensed by the Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors in Idaho, USA with more than 20 years of experience. Born and raised in Romania, she earned her Master in Science in Thermo-Energetic Systems from the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest – Power Engineering Faculty. She moved to the United States in 1990 and worked as an engineer in business and government sectors. Since 2013, as owner of ENRO Translations, she has provided translation services between English and Romanian or Moldavian languages and specializes in technical translations. She is currently an associate member of ATA (American Translations Association) and ATA Science and Technology Division. A member of ISPE (Idaho Society of Professional Engineers), she passionately promotes careers in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) fields for girls and women. She enjoys traveling, reading literature in both English and Romanian and learning about artificial intelligence.

Janet Yan He

NOTIS is an organization that brings interpreters and translators together. I have enjoyed meeting people from Idaho, Oregon, Eastern Washington, as well as locally in the workshops and in the events that hosted by NOTIS.

I am a DSHS certified medical and social services Mandarin-Chinese interpreter since 2011; I am also a freelance Chinese translator. I support NOTIS Objects, especially that to promote the recognition and advancement of the professions of translation and interpretation and to promote high standards. As a board member, I believe I can offer my various experiences to help this great organization to grow and to help our members connect.

In my free time, I like biking, hiking, skiing, water sports and travel.

Maria Farmer

After completing my first two-year term on the NOTIS Board, I would humbly request to continue for another two-year term.

Being a NOTIS Board member has been incredibly fulfilling. I have enjoyed contributing to the Legal Division (my primary interest on the Board), Scholarship Committee, Nominating Committee, Webinar Committee, and Social Committee. I have enjoyed the camaraderie of working with a dedicated and devoted group of people. We have earnestly endeavored to create opportunities for NOTIS members to receive training, learn interesting information relevant to their professions, and to socialize with other translators and interpreters.

As a Court-Certified Spanish Interpreter, I have continued to give all of my effort every single time I have had the privilege to interpret at an assignment for a Spanish-speaking person. I respect the profession and my colleagues. What does this mean for me? It means that the best way to advocate for our profession and create interesting and positive opportunities for my colleagues, is through the NOTIS Board of Directors. I look forward to serving you again.

Pinar Mertan

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a board member for NOTIS. I have a law degree from Turkey, and I worked as a sworn translator in Turkey during my years as a legal counsel. I became a medical and a court interpreter in 2017.

I chose this career to fill the void for the need of Turkish interpreters in WA, and found myself deeply enjoying the job. I have a natural tendency to empathize with people from all backgrounds. My years working as a lawyer gave me an understanding of everyone's different points of view and their need for appreciation and fairness. Therefore, I know how important it is to be justly represented, be it in a court by an attorney, or by an interpreter in any kind of setting and environment acting as a medium.

Although I am fairly new in this profession, I believe I can turn this to an advantage, because I can pinpoint the difficulties of the beginners. I appreciate this job's importance, and do my best to excel in many fields. I am a hardworking professional whom you can depend on with all types of tasks and projects. I know I can be of help to NOTIS by bringing new ideas to improve and better the profession for all interpreters and translators.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate.

Adriana González

As an interpreter I am passionate about the profession and share the values of the organization of “promoting high standards and raising awareness and respect for the profession”. I understand the big responsibility we have placed upon ourselves to provide people who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) with access to professionally trained interpreters. It is for that reason that my focus during the past few years has been to expand my knowledge and training by attending different programs and courses.

In the last couple years, I have completed the Bellevue College Interpreting Program and obtained my Medical Certification through DSHS. During my studies at Bellevue College I worked as a volunteer with the American Red Cross in their Language Department and the Home Fire Campaign Leading Team, assisting with language communication and promoting home fire safety to different areas in the region. Simultaneously during this time, I worked as a volunteer interpreter for KIND, an organization that helps younger kids to obtain free legal assistance to gain a legal status in the US.

Aside from all the volunteer work, at the end of the program I assisted the King County Court by interpreting during the Peacemaking Circle and I am currently working as a freelance English-Spanish Medical Interpreter.

My intent is to highlight my commitment not only to the profession, but as well to the community. All this volunteer and non-volunteer work has given me the opportunity to put into practice the skills and abilities I have learned throughout the course of my training. Additionally, my experience has helped me realize the growing need that exists in our community for professional language access for people with LEP.

Please be assured of my commitment during my time with the organization if I were to be considered. I hope I can bring a positive aspect to the team, help the organization reach its goals and continue to raise the bar for our profession.