APCI Chairman’s report

AGM 21 November 2024

Dear member,

Many thanks to all of you who attended the AGM online.

**My main goals**

***Simplify and Streamline*** processes to enable a simple and healthy handover when the time comes for this Board to pass on responsibility for APCI to our successors. To that end, a temporary steering committee has been set up to help (cf below).

**Grow the membership**

**Continue to uphold our values of quality and professionalism**

**Membership**

We are currently going through the membership systematically, but the trend is looking encouraging given current circumstances.

* 4 new approved members have just been added to our register.
* 41 pending applications have been reviewed by me.
* 15 applicants are now ready to be checked and interviewed.
* please renew online as soon as you can. It’s a fast and easy process including payment.
* **Departure of our Treasurer and acting Membership Secretary:** With regret, we say goodbye to Patrycja Walewska-Brade as Treasurer and acting Membership Secretary. We thank her for her hard work, combining 2 very busy positions within the Association, and would like to express our gratitude to her.

We only very recently took over the Membership function from Patrycja and are doing our best to fill her shoes.

**Please step forward if you would like to be considered for the role of Membership Secretary.**

**Nomination of Xin Cheng as Director**

Xin is a Mandarin interpreter. She has been a member of APCI for the past 12 or 13 years, and is based in Cambridge. She will be an invaluable addition to our board, and we welcome her.

**Arrival of 4 External advisers for the next 6 months**

Helping to streamline the running of the Association:

**Victoria (Vicky) Gordon-Johnson** will oversee all areas with an initial focus on application and renewal processes which will now be exclusively online.

Vicky worked in finance for many years, trading futures in Chicago, Cleveland and London for a variety of top-tier firms and served as compliance officer for almost 10 years for both BZW and Unibanco Securities Ltd.

**Alice Cullerne Bown** will focus on communication and advise on marketing our membership more effectively.

Alice is a journalist and prolific 'cosy' crime writer. She is former royal correspondent for the TV show *Royalty* and has worked for the Daily Express, the Daily Mail and the Times newspapers. Alice is currently publishing her 16th novel!

**Marcus Freeman** will oversee the finances of the Association and advise on the function of Treasurer.

Marcus is a chartered accountant with over thirty years’ experience in Finance specialising in Luxury and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) retail. He began his career with PwC before moving to LVMH in France, and to the Chalhoub Group in 2001 as Group CFO, then Deputy Group CEO and President of Operations. Marcus is partly based in the Middle East, in Dubai.

**Please contact us if you would like to be considered for the position of Treasurer.**

**Matthew Hornsby** has been instrumental in helping us update certain functions and will be the go-to person for technical issues - we are hoping to improve on the site's functionality in areas such as Applications, Renewals, Member Updating and Payments to include Events and CPD. Matthew can be contacted at [ITsupport@apciinterpreters.org.uk](mailto:ITsupport@apciinterpreters.org.uk).

**All 4 have agreed to devote their time and expertise to APCI. We thank them and will report on our progress in the next few weeks.**

**The Interpreter 'Pipeline'**

This is very important to us. As a promoter of language studies, we have been liaising with a number of schools and Universities: Cardiff, Swansea, Bath and Oxford universities and 2 Welsh schools.

I gave a presentation for the 3rd year running to Marlborough College in Bath on 20 June 2024, and visited the Simon Langton Girls’ Grammar School in Canterbury on 26 September, invited by the head of the Langton Language Centre to deliver a presentation on police interpreting.

Dr. David Hornsby who addressed our Cardiff conference will be joining me next year to present the case for languages to schools and universities.

Please help contribute to this effort to support the next generation of interpreters and contact us should you wish to suggest a school or university you have an affiliation to, where we might explain our profession. Also indicate whether you would like to join on the day.

**APCI Response**

All calls to **0207 510 9 510** were satisfied.

Please refer to the separate APCI Response Report posted on the website. All in-coming calls are dealt with in order by Albina Homer, by me and by Patrycja Walewska-Brade for the moment (We thank Patrycja for continuing to receive calls until an alternative arrangement can be found). **NB:** **Please refer back to us any calls made using old contact lists.**

We continue to market our interpreter list to law firms and to police forces and urge you to do so as well. Our existing special relationships include **BCH** (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire) and **Essex** police forces.

We have more recently continued to strengthen our relationship with **City of London Police** who have called on APCI for a number of different languages, and look forward to broadening our scope when we have the capacity to do so. We hope to report on our progress in the first quarter of 2025.

**Reminder:** the minimum rate for any mission request coming through APCI is £34 per hour (Met Police rate) with a 2-hour minimum. Members are free to negotiate their own rate if it is above the Met rate. Members invoice the requesting entity directly. APCI's role is merely one of liaison.

*Thanks to all those of you who have accepted APCI RESPONSE assignments in the past 12 months.* ***The feedback*** *we have received has been very positive, with* ***punctuality, responsiveness and professionalism*** *mentioned regularly.*

**Events and CPD**

Far fewer events were organised this year than we had intended as we gave priority to reframing, the hand-over, and the workings of the core functions of the Association, as well as ensuring that we were present nationally as members of PI4J (please see House of Lords hearings on the website), and internationally, with our European counterparts.

* **The EULITA CONFERENCE** in Athens was particularly helpful in allowing us to learn from our European counterparts in the way they administer their own organisations.

We encourage all our members to attend this yearly event if they are able to. Eulita 2025 will take place on 4th April 2025, at the Faculty of Law of the Ljubljana University in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

* **Wellbeing for Interpreters:** Albina Homerorganised a1-dayworkshop on 11/05/24 at the Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ.

I have been determined for CPD not to become a box-ticking exercise. Several ideas have been explored and we welcome **suggestions** from you as to topics you might find useful.

One of the areas coming up regularly is the use of AI and technology in general. I am currently exchanging with a technology provider to explore the possibility of CPD.

**We are still entirely committed to organising events outside London.**

* **APCI 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

**APCI will be hosting a black-tie dinner** to celebrate its 50 years of existence. This event was initially planned to take place in November but given the circumstances, we have decided to defer this celebration to next year. We will be sending out information before the end of the year.

**A raffle** will be organised during the event. Anyone able to source prizes for the raffle should let Victoria Gordon Johnson know as soon as possible on vgordonjohnson@gmail.com. We hope many of you will attend despite the event taking place in London.

This will be an opportunity for you to meet several prominent figures with a link to the Law, the Police and Government. It should be an enriching experience on both sides, a chance to introduce our membership to some of the decision-makers in our industry.

You all work very hard all year round serving the police and judicial processes. This is a chance for you to be thanked and recognised for your hard work, and to invite your families into your world for a change!

* **A Christmas lunch** will be organised for those of you wishing

to attend on Tuesday 17th December 2024. £30 will be payable as a contribution to the cost. Please register interest by email to [vgordonjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:vgordonjohnson@gmail.com) as soon as possible, and in any event at the latest by Friday 13th December. The cost will be refunded to all those who attend. We are in the process of setting up an easy events payment function on the website. All who register will be able to pay by clicking on this function under events. Details of the venue will be communicated shortly. Please come!

**Next year’s Christmas lunch will take place in one of the Northern cities. A survey will go out to collect your views in 2025.**

**Standards**

Every entity which contacts APCI comes expecting the highest standards, and we have been delivering on that expectation according to the feedback I have been getting. Our job is often a thankless task, but I want to thank you all for the degree of professionalism with which you are fulfilling our assignments, and reassure you that your efforts are not going unnoticed!

We have a solid reputation, and we must preserve it at all costs.

**My sincere thanks go to Albina Homer for her steadfast loyalty to APCI and her incredible hard work. She has enabled us to keep going through difficult times and to bridge the gap between the former and the present Boards. Thank you Albina!**

Thank you all for your trust !

Marie-Louise Jackson

APCI Chairman