

Hello Chesapeake,

By the time you are reading this, we will have entered a new year. We are hopeful that 2024 will be filled with great possibilities. Our return to “normal” (normal hours, normal visitor numbers, normal stress) in 2023 may not have been the most helpful approach. As the world stood still, for a short time, most of our institutions were able to adapt to the new challenges the pandemic created. However, I worry that not enough attention has been given to create better policies which protect the physical and mental health of interpreters in the field. Many institutions’ budgets were drained by the pandemic, and as a result, greater responsibilities fell on fewer staff members. As we examine our work life balance many of us probably feel it is unbalanced once again.

Many of us found our way into the field of interpretation through our passions. It is my hope that these passions stay with each of you through the new year. Let your passion for culture, history, art, nature, wildlife, education, be your guiding light, your source of peace and joy throughout these busy daily lives. Whenever possible, let’s take time to envision and enact policies to promote healthier, equitable and more supportive workplace environments. Workplace culture can begin with a shift for the better. Small actions of support between team members can lead to even greater things. Be the change!

Chesapeake Region members are here to remind you that you are not alone in your journey! We hope you will join us for our upcoming community opportunities including our Virtual 2024 Regional Conference, free lectures and webinars, and exciting outdoor events. Be sure to read the call for proposals in our upcoming Fall-Winter newsletter. I hope all of you can join us for our Virtual 2024 Regional Conference in March!

As the year progresses, reach out to other NAI members. Let’s work together to build a healthier dynamic in our community. We can share best practices at our work sites and our profession. Courage to all of you working for change in the new year. May your passion for interpretation be your guide!

Tiffany Jenkins  
Board Director