

*WASCLA's Mission: To ensure the provision and delivery of effective legal, medical, social services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) residents in Washington State through the collaborative efforts of interpreters, translators, service providers and community members.*

## WASHINGTON STATE COALITION FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION FORM

February 2016

***Greetings!*** The WASCLA is seeking applicants from candidates interested in joining our Board of Directors, for two-year terms which begin on April 1, 2016.

**Applications are due no later than March 14, 2016.**

The Washington Coalition Language Access is an education and advocacy 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to eliminating language barriers to essential services through collaborative efforts. WASCLA brings together community members, advocates, and service providers from diverse fields (including healthcare, legal, educational, social services, emergency response, government, and law enforcement) to work on solutions.

### **Why join WASCLA's Board?**

Washington is among the top ten states nationally as a new home for immigrants, and among the top five for refugee resettlement, with over 200 different languages spoken here. WASCLA is dedicated to the elimination of language barriers that prevent residents with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) from accessing essential services, through policy development, education, and networking activities, including an annual conference. Requests for WASCLA's services are increasing.

WASCLA Board members both serve and lead the organization, sharing their experience, expertise, and judgment as they learn and grow professionally. Board members work with some of the leading state and national language access experts, and have an important impact on ensuring the availability of communication services.

### **Board Positions:**

The WASCLA Board is comprised of no fewer than 7 and no more than 13 Directors. We seek candidates with relevant backgrounds including but not limited to:

- working interpreter or translator
- representative from the legal field
- representative from social services
- representative from the healthcare field
- representative from the education field
- representative from law enforcement
- person with personal/familial LEP experience
- members at large

### **Specific Duties of Directors:**

WASCLA is run by an all-volunteer, working Board that carries out the day-to-day operations of the organization, combining work in topical areas with building capacity towards WASCLA's goals.

Board responsibilities include:

- planning and conducting education and advocacy programs along with carrying out the general operations of the organization
- approving WASCLA's annual objectives and work plan
- evaluating language access services and programs
- ensuring WASCLA's financial health, including participating in fundraising
- ensuring that the organization is in compliance with all legal requirements
- representing WASCLA in the community

Members of WASCLA's Board of Directors are involved in projects and committees based on organizational and community needs and their individual interests. Each Board member is responsible for taking the lead on one major organizational function, and more if desired. We welcome all candidates who are able to share their skills, knowledge, passion, and time to help WASCLA grow and thrive. WASCLA seeks Board members experienced in all aspects of non-profit management including fundraising, communications, technology, and volunteer coordination.

A board member's time commitment is, on average, 5-10 hours per month. Board meetings are held at least bimonthly by phone or in-person, with committee meetings and online communications as needed. Board members should also plan to participate in the monthly Language Access calls and the annual Language Access Summit.

#### **Eligibility for Board of Directors:**

Board members must be members of WASCLA. Currently, membership requires submitting your name for inclusion on our WASCLA distribution list and adhering to the WASCLA mission. If you regularly receive emails from the WASCLA group, then you are already included on that distribution list and are considered a member of WASCLA. If you would like to join WASCLA please email Membership at [wascla.lep@gmail.com](mailto:wascla.lep@gmail.com) with a request to be added to the WASCLA distribution list.

#### **Term Limits:**

Board members serve for a two-year term, and may be elected to no more than three consecutive terms.

#### **Our invitation to you:**

***Nominate Yourself:*** If you are interested in serving on WASCLA's board, the application process is easy. Interested candidates simply fill out the attached form and return it by March 14, 2016 by sending it to [wascla.lep@gmail.com](mailto:wascla.lep@gmail.com), subject BOARD. Please consider submitting your name as an applicant for Board membership.

***Nomination of Others:*** Suggestions for potential nominees are also welcome; however, please do not nominate potential board members without their knowledge or approval. Instead, if there is someone you think would be a good addition to WASCLA's board, please share this announcement and encourage them to apply.

If you have questions, please email [wascla.lep@gmail.com](mailto:wascla.lep@gmail.com), subject BOARD, and a WASCLA member will contact you.

Website : [www.wascla.org](http://www.wascla.org)

## WASCLA Board of Directors Application Form

Return application to [wascla.lep@gmail.com](mailto:wascla.lep@gmail.com) with Subject: Board, by March 14, 2016

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your background:** Please check all that apply.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Working interpreter or translator.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Legal field.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social services.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Healthcare.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Law enforcement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal or familial experience of having limited English proficiency at the time of seeking community services in the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other ( please describe)
- \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please tell us why you want to join WASCLA's Board of Directors.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. For how many years, and in what capacity, have you been involved with language access issues?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Please describe what special skills or competency you think you would bring to the WASCLA Board of Directors (i.e. grant writing, public speaking, event planning, management ,communications, policy advocacy, etc.). What contribution could you see yourself making to the WASCLA board?

Please submit your answers on a separate sheet of paper and attach this form.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_