

# Strategic Challenges Bylaws Review Task Force Update

During the 2007 RID National Conference in San Francisco, the membership adopted the decision of the board to refer motions E – S to a task force to be appointed by the board of directors. The Strategic Challenges and Bylaws Review Task Force (SCBRTF) was created and members were appointed. The task force was charged with clarifying the bylaws relevant to membership categories, voting rights and credentials. Upon completing this, the task force is to make recommendations to the board and membership.

The members of the task force are: Dan Langholtz (Chair), Margaret Ransom Cobb, Rachel Olson, Jim Van Manen, Chris Prudhom, Jeremy L. Brunson and Anthony Aramburo (board liaison). Robert Balaam, vice president of RID, was also present at the face-to-face meeting in June 2008, as was Clay Nettles, executive director of RID, as the national office liaison. There were three additional persons chosen for the task force who, unfortunately, were unable to participate because of other responsibilities.

The task force was selected and started its work online in March 2008. In June, we met at the national office for three days to begin carrying out our charge. During the three days of meetings, we examined the manifest and latent consequences of each of the motions and began to determine a course of action that we would later recommend to the board of directors. While the members of the task force were not appointed until the beginning of 2008, we are confident that we will complete our work by the April 2009 deadline.

The face-to-face meeting in Alexandria, VA, focused on the historical context for the motions, discussing the contractual obligations between Boys Town and RID; reviewing the current bylaws; discussing the substance of the motions as they pertain to the mission, goals, and diversity statement of the organization; and conceptualizing new membership categories. We also used this time to come up

with a plan of action for gathering input and disseminating status reports to the membership. While we feel we have completed a tremendous amount of work in this short time, we also recognize that there is a lot of work left for us to accomplish.

As we move forward, we will be seeking input from members. The most ideal way is through interpreter gatherings (e.g., regional and organizational conferences). We recognize, however, that this does not guarantee that we will have access to every member. In an effort to reach as many members as possible, we have also discussed the idea of developing a survey that can be placed on the RID Web site, writing articles for the various *VIEWES* publications and relying on the president's council for each region. Please watch for announcements in *VIEWES* for updates and open forums which we hope you will attend. In addition to the open forums, RID has established an e-mail account (taskforcefeedback@rid.org) that members are encouraged to use to send questions and comments to the task force; and the national office is in the process of establishing a FAQ section on the RID Web site where the task force will post responses to questions and comments for all members to review.

Once all members have had the opportunity to comment on the task force's work, we will discuss this important input and submit our formal recommendations to the board of directors. Our recommendations will reflect the task force's deep belief in raising the bar of interpreting, the professionalization of our field and that our consumers – deaf and non-deaf – deserve interpreters who are constantly working to better themselves regardless of whether they work primarily in the community or in the K-12 educational setting. It is our hope that these recommendations and their rationale can be placed on the agenda of the business meeting at the national conference in Philadelphia, PA, and ratified by the membership at that time. ■

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