



May 2009 e-NEWS President's Report Cheryl Moose, CI and CT

Dear Members:

President's Report

I am pleased to share with you that the RID Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Deaf Members in Leadership Committee and passed the following motion during the March 2009 board meeting. The motion requires a bylaws change that will be sent to members very soon in the form of a mail referendum:

Deaf Member At Large Position on the RID Board of Directors

Motion #2009.20 To accept Deaf Members in Leadership recommendation # 2009.09 to establish a designated position of Deaf member at large position to be added to the RID Board of Directors.

Cheryl Moose/Amie Seiberlich

Carried Unanimously

The board of directors worked with Executive Director Clay Nettles to move forward with this referendum at an accelerated pace. The importance of moving forward quickly is to ensure that, if the recommended bylaws change and referendum passes, the new Deaf Member at Large will be elected in time to announce the results and be sworn in at the 2009 RID National Conference in Philadelphia. With the accelerated timetable, the new board member would also be able to attend the fall 2009 face-to-face meeting of the board of directors and meet fellow board members, take a tour of the RID national office and meet national office staff members, and participate in strategic planning and new board member orientation, all crucial trainings and events essential to the success of a new board member.

The current policy calls for a five month period for elections in the event of vacancy. If the referendum item is approved and the members accept the board's desire to accelerate the process for this position, the election would take place 30 days after completion of the referendum. Potential candidates would seek nominations during the 60 days of voting and have 30 days thereafter to continue seeking nominations. In the ensuing 30 days, campaign statements would be sought from all candidates who met the requirements for nomination and the ballot prepared for the vote. RID members in good standing would still have 30 days to vote to elect a Deaf Member at Large. Otherwise, under normal procedures, it would be early 2010 before the elected deaf Member at Large could be seated, thereby missing several board meetings and being

behind other newly elected board members in orientation and on various issues affecting the association.

No only did this recommendation come from the Deaf Members in Leadership Committee in the form of a recommendation, I was encouraged by past president of Colorado RID, Ilah Jackson, to research the history and original intent of RID and seating a board of directors: The officers of the organization will include "two members at large, one of whom may be a sustaining member." It was recommended that there "be two groups of members. One group will be interpreters and the other will be sustaining members. The sustaining members will be those deaf who are present at the organizational meeting." (*Silver Threads*, Lou Fant, pg. 3 – 4)

I hope you will take the time to vote on this important bylaws referendum.