

## JULY 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION III REPORT

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### **Message from RID Region III Representative Kelly Flores:**

I am very pleased to announce that there were two nominations for the RID Region III Distinguished Service Award: Eve Dicker Eiseman (Wisconsin) and Maureen Wallace (Michigan). The award was presented to one of the two very deserving nominees at the 2008 RID Region III Conference during the banquet. As the deadline for this column was prior to the banquet, I will be reporting about the Distinguished Service Award recipient in a future column. Below you will find their nomination letters. It is inspiring to see what their colleagues have to say about each of them. Congratulations to both nominees!

### **Eve Dicker Eiseman**

It is with great enthusiasm we nominate Ms. Eve Dicker Eiseman for the RID Region III Distinguished Service Award. She was one of the charter members of Wisconsin RID and has been a continued member since 1971. Although Ms. Dicker Eiseman has been active in our organization on local, state, and national levels, it is her commitment and years of service to the profession that we feel deserve special recognition.

As you know, the founding of RID was an outcome of a workshop held at Ball State Teachers College (Ball State University) in June of 1964. Ms. Dicker Eiseman participated in that conference and was partially responsible for the inception of our professional organization. She continued to work within the fledgling organization, helping to develop the initial evaluation process for RID certification, and became one of the first interpreters in the United States to receive a national certification.

In 1982, alongside her late husband, Leo Dicker, Ms. Dicker Eiseman created an Interpreter Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee which began as a summer training workshop and evolved into the current degree program it is today. Unfortunately, Dr. Leo Dicker died in 1984 two years after the program began and Eve took over as the coordinator and as a teacher in the program. Even from the beginning, Ms. Dicker Eiseman was the kind of visionary that has brought our profession to its current level of distinction.

When her husband, Dr. Leo Dicker, passed away, Eve established two funds with the generous amount of money that was donated and continues to be donated in his memory. The Wisconsin Association of the Deaf has a Leo Dicker Leadership Training Fund because Leo believed so strongly in making sure that Deaf individuals were given the opportunity to learn and to improve leadership skills that would enable them to lead their

own organizations. Eve also set up a fund (and continues to donate to it annually) through the Wisconsin RID so that money could be accessed for future educational workshops and training for working interpreters.

Her leadership and mentoring throughout the years have helped train and inspire generations of interpreting students. In our professional community her name is synonymous with excellence and dedication. Please consider awarding Ms. Eve Dicker Eiseman the RID Region III Distinguished Service Award. We can assure you this request is supported by many members of the interpreting community. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

### **Maureen Wallace**

It is with great respect and pleasure that we submit Ms. Maureen Wallace of Michigan for the Region III Distinguished Service Award. This award would be a fitting tribute to a career that has spanned over 30 years; taking on the role of interpreter, advocate, teacher and mentor to countless individuals who have been touched by her dedication, tenacity and heartfelt compassion to the field of Interpreting.

Ms. Wallace has been a dedicated member and advocate for the interpreting profession for most of her life. Her life as a child growing up with deaf parents not only fueled her passion and enthusiasm, it proved to be the catalyst for her involvement in the world of interpreting.

She received her RID CSC certification in 1975 and in 1976 received her RID SC:L certification after advanced training at California State University at Northridge.

She holds a BS in Business from Spring Arbor College, Michigan and an AA in Interpreting from Lansing Community College Interpreter Training Program, Michigan.

In 1975-1980, she served as an Interpreter and later the Coordinator for Interpreter services in Tucson Arizona at the Community Outreach Program for the Deaf. She and her office worked to collect Green Stamps which would later be traded in to pay the \$4.00 per hour rate that was afforded to interpreters at that time; she declined payment for her services in order for others to be compensated. This proves her keen insight into the struggles that the interpreting profession has overcome. This was an early glimpse into what would later become a career laced with a deep seeded effort to recognize interpreters and the profession as a whole.

The interpreting profession and the state of Michigan were fortunate to acquire her as the State of Michigan Interpreter in 1986 with the Division of Deaf and Deafened, now known as the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH). Amongst many firsts, she was the first interpreter to provide services in the Michigan Supreme Court.

During her 20 year tenure at DODHH, Ms. Wallace was diligent in spreading the word of the profession of interpreting, never missing an opportunity to educate and advocate about the profession and its credentials. She worked to make State government a model for accessibility, well after she was promoted to the State of Michigan Interpreter Coordinator position in 1993 and continues to do so despite her retirement in October of 2005. She continues to work for the State of Michigan as a consultant, her expertise being utilized for continued interpreter education, advocacy and credentialing. She is sought after by not only government entities but by the private sector, interpreter professionals and agencies as an invaluable resource of the world of the interpreting profession.

Ms. Wallace's perseverance and contributions to the field of interpreting certainly began as a grassroots effort and has spanned across many venues:

- 20+ years of presentations in and outside of State Government educating on the topic of interpreting as a profession and working to bridge the communication gap between the Deaf and Hearing communities
- Member of the Michigan Quality Assurance Interpreter committee for 15 years-working to improve the services for Michigan's Deaf citizens and the standards for all interpreters in Michigan.
- RID CMP approved sponsor
- Long time and current board member of her local school board, advocating for the rights of all children with disabilities as well as educating on the effective use of qualified interpreters.
- Member of the Department of Education/Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Referent Group: established to address the issue of qualified interpreters as related to K-12 educational settings.
- DOE/DODHH core planning committee for EIP A credentialing in Michigan.
- Advocating for the amendment of PA 204, State of Michigan Deaf Person's Interpreter Act to require the use of professional interpreters not only in legal settings but in all venues that are under state and federal laws. This legislation not only proves to improve the quality services received by the Deaf community, equally, it increases the professional recognition of the interpreting profession as a whole. This is legislation that Ms. Wallace and her peers at DODHH saw come to fruition in 2007 after 20 years of continued advocacy.

In 2008, she was voted by her peers as the lead Chair of the Rules and Regulations Promulgation committee which is currently crafting the rules for the newly amended Michigan Deaf Person's Interpreter Act.

We've provided you a small glimpse into the treasure that our state, region, nation and profession has in Maureen Wallace.

The following discussion with Ms. Wallace proves what an asset she is to not only our community but to the state and national efforts to improve standards for all interpreters. When asked what she felt her greatest accomplishment has been, she humbly replies "that I could make a difference in just one person's professional development and the opportunity to have met so many wonderful people along the way...interpreters, deaf and hard of hearing... I really do think that deep down, people are good and that communication is truly the key."

Ms. Wallace continues to be a beacon of light on this profession, seizing and creating opportunities to advance and showcase our profession. Ms. Wallace possesses many characteristics that are used to describe a person who contributes selflessly to their cause: compassionate, kind, passionate and humble. It is with this in mind that we respectfully ask you to consider the efforts, accomplishments and endeavors that Ms. Wallace has contributed to the field of professional interpreting and consider her for this distinguished award.

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## **Michigan RID**

*President Helen Boucher*

Greetings Michigan RID (MIRID) members and friends! I hope all of you are enjoying our beautiful Michigan summer. We are looking forward to our MIRID Fall Conference and currently firming up our plans for that event. We know that the conference will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> and that the general topic will be improving our sign to voice skills. The board is honoring the request from our MIRID members to host the conference in different locations around the state, and we are in discussions with a host site now. We should have information for you in several days so go to the MIRID Web site for confirmation of a location.

At our Spring Conference, we had several completed evaluations that requested conference topics that were focused more on nationally certified interpreters. Very soon we will be in the planning stage for our MIRID Spring 2009 Conference, and we need your specific input on what type of workshop you would like to attend. Feel free to contact any member of the MIRID board and give us your suggestions. The MIRID Web site lists all of our contact information, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Have a safe and relaxing summer, and I look forward to hearing from you soon!

## **Ohio RID**

*President Melanie Somnitz*

Right now, we are working on the bones of the organization. We are looking at restructuring our local chapters and eliminating the current local chapter structure. A committee was formed that evaluated the local chapters and has made several recommendations. We will be sending out a survey for the membership in the next two months. After that, the board will be reassessing our bylaws in order for the changes to be in effect. We are hoping to have the mail referendum done by our business meeting in November.

We have begun using Constant Contact for communication to our membership. We learned about it from Kansas RID at the St. Cates meeting. We love it! It is so easy and wonderful, plus it is a very reasonable cost. We can do surveys and send emails, and we will soon begin using it for our newsletter distribution. If you would like to be added to the Ohio Chapter RID (OCRID) e-mail list, please let me know.

Lastly, we are having some difficulties with our Web site. We have yet to find a Web master and changes seem to be piling up. We communicate regularly with the Web design team, but unfortunately, it is not going well. Please contact me for more current information.

Lastly, we are preparing for our fall conference and business meeting, which will be held on November 8 in Worthington, near Columbus. Our presenter is Ann Witter-Merithew, and she will be presenting a one-day workshop on ethics. We are still trying to determine evening entertainment.

At this point, I am scheduled to have my baby on November 13 but because of current complications, I may have an earlier delivery date. Depending on the situation, I may need a proxy stand in for the annual business meeting.

Also our new board started July 1, 2008.



## August 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION III REPORT

Submitted by:  
Kelly Flores, CI and CT  
Region III Representative

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### **RID Region III by Representative Kelly Flores**

Drum roll, please.....and the recipient of the 2008 RID Region III Distinguished Service Award is Eve Dicker Eiseman of Wisconsin. Susan K. Gordon, President of Wisconsin RID, accepted the award on Eve's behalf as she was hiking in the Shenandoah Mountains at the time of the Region III Conference. As was presented in the nomination letter in last month's column, Eve's accomplishments and her dedication to our field are truly excellent and worthy of recognition. Congratulations, Eve, for an award well earned! Eve will receive an engraved award and a free registration to the 2009 RID National Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

### **Illinois RID**

*President Sara Lucas*

As the days begin to shorten and the streets quiet with no more noise from children playing until the 8 p.m. sunset, our thoughts turn to the end of summer, the beginning of fall and also the beginning of a busy season for interpreters! Conference season is in full swing, with many of the Region III states host conferences this coming fall. I encourage you to support your state affiliate chapters by attending their conference and also to attend neighboring states if you can. I have always found conference, after balancing my budget to be able to attend, after making the drive and after getting over the shy-factor of not knowing anyone, is the place I can go to replenish the well and to re-focus my professional plans and goals. Speaking of conference, the Illinois RID (IRID) conference committee is working hard to make the 2008 conference a terrific experience for everyone in attendance! Early Bird registration has ended, and if you still want to get a great rate, send in your registration soon! Concerned about the climbing price of gas? Aside from car-pooling, there are affordable and relaxing train rides available from Chicago to Champaign! Keep your eyes on the prize and the conference updates by going to our Web site at [www.ilrid.org](http://www.ilrid.org)!

*Continuing* to speak about conference... IRID is proud to have been selected as the host state for the 2012 Region III Conference. Now, I know what you are thinking, what could we *possibly* be doing to prepare for a conference in four years??? Well, we have already outlined a timeline to ensure we move as necessary, and we will be sending out a call for conference co-chairs and will select the conference co-chairs by the

2008 holiday season. If you are interested in serving on the 2012 conference committee, I would encourage you to consider serving as a committee member for the 2010 Region III Conference in Minnesota as I know that they would love to see more volunteers!

Now you may be thinking that all we do in Illinois is conferences, but we also have continued to host monthly workshops at reasonable rates, we continue to seek out partnerships, and we continue to research creative fundraising activities to benefit the organization as a whole. Lastly, we support, where necessary, the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) as they work to prepare the state for licensure which will begin in January 2009. IRID has continued to submit our position papers to the IDHHC to support, encourage and offer suggestions as they work to complete the rules and regulations of the license.

## **Indiana RID**

*President Ronda Jo Bilz*

When I started my term as president of Indiana Chapter RID (ICRID) in November 2007, several committee chairs were vacant. We have since filled almost all of them and I would like to take this time to thank some of our 'behind the scenes' volunteers.

We started this year with a new editor for our newsletter, Laura Leffler. Laura is one of Indiana's finest interpreters and very active in the Deaf Community. The job of editor includes meeting deadlines and being able to discern which items are most pertinent to the membership at the time. Thank you, Laura, for taking on this huge responsibility, all the while raising small children, and making it look easy!

Amanda Mueller filled our Professional Development Chair position in the spring. Another of Indiana's preeminent interpreters, Amanda took the helm and immediately planned two CEU earning workshops as well as 'ICRID Reads,' another CEU opportunity which will consist of ongoing moderated roundtable discussions of professional articles related to [interpreting](#) which will take place in various parts of the state. See [www.icrid.org](http://www.icrid.org) for more information. Thanks Amanda!

Keith Westhoelter, a teacher and basketball coach at the Indiana School for the Deaf, now chairs the Ways and Means Committee. Keith has had experience as a board member with other organizations. Thanks for joining the ICRID team, Keith!

Our most recent addition is Vonda Templeton, who is now the Web Master for our Web site. Vonda lives in the southern part of Indiana and comes to us with past web mastering experience, so we look forward to a new face for ICRID's Web site. Welcome Vonda!

Without these dedicated professionals, the job of the board would be far more difficult. Thank you again, to our behind the scenes workforce. ICRID ROCKS!!!

### **Michigan RID**

*President Helen Boucher*

Greetings Michigan RID (MIRID) members and friends! We are looking forward to seeing you at our Fall Conference on September 27. We are hosting Carolyn Ressler, MA, NIC Master, SC:L, CI and CT. Ms. Ressler will be presenting a workshop focusing on improving our voicing skills titled, "Making Your Interpretation Sound Like a Source Presentation." In our continued attempt to move our conferences around the state, we will be holding our Fall Conference at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Please check the MIRID Web site at [www.mirid.org](http://www.mirid.org) for more information and to register for the conference.

### **Minnesota RID**

*President Sarah Mansager*

Thank you Ohio RID for hosting the recent Region III conference! The hard work that went into the event was evident in the way that everything ran smoothly throughout the week. Everyone who worked on this wonderful conference should be proud that they helped contribute to its success. Minnesota has a challenge ahead at the 2010 Region III Conference as we follow the standard set by the Ohio conference chairs and all committees and individuals who gave of their time and talents.

Here in Minnesota, the Minnesota RID (MRID) Board of Directors continues to work on various projects throughout the summer. The board of directors, fall conference committee and bylaws committee are in the final stages of preparation for our annual conference and business meeting, to be held October 17-19 in Brooklyn Park, a Minneapolis suburb. Please check out [www.mrid.org](http://www.mrid.org) for all conference information.

### **Ohio RID**

*President Melanie Somnitz*

As I usher in my second term as president, I am awed at the experiences that I have had over the past two years. Serving Ohio Chapter RID (OCRID) is an indescribable blessing. The next two years hold promises of change, growth and new beginnings as we move toward a more united organization dedicated to fulfilling our mission. The days ahead of us are still filled with a lot of work, but there is no doubt that the dedicated team of volunteers will accomplish all that is ahead for them.

## Board Changes

With the start of the 2008-2010 terms; OCRID will be welcoming a new group of leaders and saying "see you soon" to our old friends. I would like to take the time to say good bye to those individuals who have served OCRID with complete dedication.

I am personally grateful for everything that each of you did during my first term as president. I cannot thank you enough for making the past two years as wonderful as they have been. Good luck in your future leadership roles.

My dear friend, Anthony Nelson, is leaving the board after four years of service. He was appointed to the position after the previous vice president stepped down. Anthony has single handedly refreshed the OCRID conferences and brought profit and change to our organization. He is dedicated to OCRID and plans to make a comeback as president in 2010. Thank you Anthony!

Treasurer Jill Josselson has served us with steadfast commitment, making sure that the books were kept up to date and that debts were managed appropriately. We wish Jill well as she goes on to pursue her MBA. Thank you, Jill!

Secretary Shalene Germani will be shifting hats and formally taking on her new role as Membership Coordinator. However, I want to recognize all the hard work that Shalene puts into her job. She is a perfectionist and a wonderful task manager. She is truly the great woman in the shadows. Thank you, Shalene!

Along with saying goodbye, we get to say "Welcome" to our newest Board Members:

Michelle Rodriguez – Vice President

Christy Horne – Treasurer

Lisa McLaughlin - Secretary

All three of these ladies are already working hard at learning their new jobs!

## Annual Conference/ Business Meeting

The Annual Fall OCRID Conference has been postponed to the spring. The conference will be a one-day birthday bash and educational opportunity celebrating OCRID's 40th anniversary. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Columbus – Worthington on April 25, 2009. Anna Witter-Merithew will be presenting on Ethics and Interpreting. We will have our annual business meeting and lunch and conclude the day's festivities with an evening banquet and entertainment. Please mark your calendar now for the fun activities that we have in store for you. Details will be e-

mailed through the Navigator and posted on our Web site in the weeks to come.

## **Wisconsin RID**

*President Susan Gordon*

We are quickly approaching my favorite time of year. I love autumn in Wisconsin. The weather cools off, the leaves turn beautiful shades of red and gold, and the pace of life seems to slow down a bit after the hectic summer schedule. It's also the time we focus on our Annual Fall Conference. This year, we are "Getting into the Game" in Green Bay and battling for space with all the zealous Packer fans November 14-15. Some great workshop will be offered all day Saturday. Then, we will end the day with one of America's funniest ASL comedians, Keith Wann. Keep an eye on our Web site ([www.wisrid.org](http://www.wisrid.org)) for updated information.

This year, we will have several open positions on the board. My term as president will be ending as will that of Vice President Renee Thomas. Renee has been an active member of our board for several years in different positions, and we appreciate all of her hard work, especially as the Wisconsin RID (WisRID) representative on the Statewide Task Force on Interpreter Licensure. Kat Siudzinski who has been burning up the keyboard as our secretary will be ending her term. She too has served for several years in different positions, and we thank her for everything she has contributed to our organization. A highlight of Kat's service was her work in setting up our first Wine Tasting fund raiser. Leslie DeMeyer's term as trustee ends this year. Leslie has worked closely with the other trustees and our treasurer to sort out our financial situation and organize it for the future. Leslie, along with Nicole Stelzner and Jamie Kane, put in a lot of hours compiling budget information so that we could apply for 501(c)(3) status. Sadly, we are losing another valued member of our board. Jamie Kane is fulfilling a dream of hers and moving west to Colorado. The enthusiasm and energy she brought to the board was inspiring and surely will be missed. Jamie's move leaves a one year term for member at large vacant.

If you are interested in one of the positions and would like more information, please contact us, and we can give you more detailed information. To be eligible for a board position, you must be a member in good standing of RID and a member in good standing of WisRID for the full year preceding the election.

Maybe you are not ready for a board position but want to be more involved in WisRID. We have several active committees that are looking for more members. Karen Weiser is the chair of our Professional Development Committee. This year they brought Betty Colonomos'

"Foundations I and II" to Wisconsin and now are beginning to work on options for next year. If you are interested on serving with Karen, you can contact her at [k2cats@earthlink.net](mailto:k2cats@earthlink.net). Our Historical Committee is being lead by Amber Mullett. Amber served as Student Liaison on the board last year and wanted to continue her involvement. Wisconsin RID has a rich history that we would like to document and preserve. If you want to join this exciting committee, you can contact Amber at [MulleAK@dhs.state.wi.us](mailto:MulleAK@dhs.state.wi.us). Another important committee is the Educational Interpreter Committee headed up Anna Johnson. This committee focuses on the needs and interests of interpreters working in a variety of educational settings. If that field interests you and you want to get involved, contact Anna at [johnsoa@uwm.edu](mailto:johnsoa@uwm.edu).

I hope you consider getting involved in whichever capacity works for you. WisRID is growing and becoming more active, but it takes a lot of people working together to make it happen. The more people we have involved, the more we can do.



## September 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION III REPORT

Submitted by:  
**Kelly Flores, CI and CT  
Region III Representative**

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### **Message from Representative Kelly Flores**

I am looking forward to attending several affiliate chapter fall conferences; this is my opportunity to dialogue with members from around the region. Of all the responsibilities related to board service, this is one of the ones I enjoy the most! I'll see some of you very soon.

On another note, I would like to encourage Region III members to apply for scholarships and to nominate colleagues for awards; visit [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org) and click on "Scholarships and Awards" for more information about all of the award programs. It only takes a few minutes to apply – I hope to see many nominations from Region III this award cycle!

Speaking of awards, during the 2008 RID Region III Business Meeting, the membership passed a motion to create a Distinguished Educational Interpreter Award which will be presented at the 2010 business meeting. The president's council will begin working on the criteria and application process for this award shortly; a draft will most likely be available for comment at or before the 2009 RID National Conference.

### **Indiana RID**

#### ***President Ronda Bilz***

Indiana Chapter RID (ICRID) is gearing up for our annual conference October 17 and 18. The theme is "Join the ICRID Campaign: Vote for Excellence!" and there will be a red, white and blue costume party Friday night! Rumor has it that a former U.S. president may make an appearance. We will have one workshop, presented by Amanda Mueller, that begins with a session Friday evening before the costume party, then continues Saturday morning and afternoon, with our annual meeting and luncheon in between sessions.

Starting this month, ICRID Reads will begin in five locations across Indiana. Participants will earn CEUs by reading a professional article on interpreter related topics, answering discussion questions, and then gathering together to discuss the article with colleagues! There will be a different article and topic each month. Kudos to Amanda Mueller, PDC chair for planning and organizing ICRID Reads!!

We are looking forward to our Annual Spring Retreat, "Inspire the Desire!" which will be March 20-21, 2009, location TBA. Watch [www.icrid.org](http://www.icrid.org) for details as they develop.

## **Michigan RID**

### ***President Helen Boucher***

Hello MIRID Members and Friends! We have exciting events taking place here in Michigan this fall.

The MIRID Fall Conference was held on September 27 with the theme, "Making Your Interpretation Sound like a Source Presentation." Our presenter was Carolyn Ressler, MA, CI and CT, NIC Master, SC:L. Ms. Ressler comes highly recommended and we thoroughly enjoyed the informative, skill building day with her.

In our continued attempts to host workshops in all areas of our state, we will be in Kalamazoo this fall. We will be hosting the conference in cooperation with Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Please see the MIRID.org website for directions to KVCC and to download the registration form.

On another very positive note, the position of "Manager 15" for the State of Michigan, DODHH has been posted. This is the job that Chris Hunter retired from. Yes, it has finally been posted! Michigan is in need of a qualified candidate to fill this position. Please, contact people you think would be right for this job and direct them to the DODHH website for more information.

We will have some exciting news for you at our fall business meeting! Come and join in the excitement. I hope to see you all there.

## **Minnesota RID**

### ***President Sarah Mansager***

On October 8, Minnesota RID members will come together for a special meeting to vote on proposed changes to our bylaws. Current MRID members have been mailed a postcard invitation to this important event, and are welcomed to share their thoughts on the proposed issues at hand. This is an important opportunity for members to help shape the future of the organization.

Among the proposed agenda items at this meeting is a major change to the structure of the MRID Board of Directors. The current arrangement, wherein the electee spends one year as President-Elect, one year as President, and finally one year as President Ex-Officio, would be discontinued. The role of President-Elect would be permanently eliminated, while the roles of President and Vice President would be split

into two separate elected positions, each serving two-year terms in office. The Board believes this change will allow for a more nimble leadership approach that can better adapt to the ever-changing professional interpreting environment.

Another significant proposed change to the Board is the addition of a Central Region Representative position. Currently the Board has a Northern, Southern and Metro (Twin Cities) Representative. As part of our strategic planning initiatives, the Board researched the number of interpreters living and working throughout the state, identifying noticeable population shifts and an increase in the number of interpreters living and working in central MN. These demographic changes are significant enough to warrant the additional representation and access that a Central Region Representative position would offer.

If approved, the new position of Central Region Representative would be up for election at the annual business meeting on Saturday, October 18. Other positions that will also be up for election on that date include Secretary, Southern Representative and Member-at-Large. Those interested in serving or nominating a colleague for Board of Directors service should contact MRID President-Elect Jeffrey Kirkwood at [presidentelect@jdkirkwood.com](mailto:presidentelect@jdkirkwood.com).

## **Ohio RID**

### ***President Melanie Somnitz***

**Website/Emails:** The OCRID Web site is currently undergoing a complete makeover and we are hoping to debut the new site in early October. While other information may appear to be outdated, the events page and directory are still functional. There has also been a change in the way that you can contact the BOD, CMP and Awards committees. In order to reduce the amount of spam that the old address has acquired over the past 10 years of using the same addresses, we all have \*NEW\* addresses. The addresses are our firstnames@ocrid.org. Due to the fact that spam bots have an amazing way to hack into and steal addresses we will not be posting them as a direct link on the new Web site. I know that this can be a little inconvenient, but I hope you can all understand our reasoning.

**Bylaws Changes/November Board Meeting:** The bylaws committee has been busy at work over the past several weeks working on a complete revision. This revision will include changes to the current structure of board of directors. We would like to get feedback from our members at the November board meeting. This meeting will be open to the public. The meeting will be held on November 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Ohio School for the Deaf, Garden Gallery in Columbus. Please come and let us hear your thoughts and opinions on the changes.

**Spring Conference** : As mentioned in a previous article, the annual fall conference has been moved to Spring. The official dates of the event will be May 2, 2009. Anna Witter-Merithew will be presenting on Ethics. Please make plans to spend the day and evening with us. Entertainment and Banquet information soon to come.



## October 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION III REPORT

Submitted by:  
**Kelly Flores**  
Region III Representative

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Fall conference season is well underway; several fall conferences have already taken place. Congratulations to KYRID, MIRID, ICRID, and MRID for successful events, and special thanks to MRID for their gracious welcome of my attendance at their conference this month. I presented on basic parliamentary procedure and also had the honor of serving as parliamentarian for their business meeting. The other event I attended is the Conference of Interpreter Trainers in Puerto Rico.

Issues that I have heard discussed lately in Region III include the nature of our current voting system and the proposed revisions to credentialing and membership categories being presented by the Strategic Challenges/Bylaws Review Task Force (SCBRTF) in forums across the country to solicit member input. In the case of voting, comments I have heard include the wish for members who cannot afford travel to conference to still have input in the motions discussion and voting, perhaps through Web-casting and e-mail participation. Some people lean towards referendum voting only, some favor traditional business meetings, and others suggest creating a delegate system. While I believe we are on the cusp of change in how we encourage and allow for members to be actively engaged in the decision making process, I see much further discussion on this issue before it is decided.

I have heard many comments about the SCBRTF forums, and the proposed revisions to our current membership categories. I have to remind myself (and others) that the draft of the credentialing and membership categories is the first step in the process, the forums being the second step (to collect input), and that the proposal that is currently being brought to members may remain completely intact, or can change based upon member comments. I am excited to see the work of the SCBRTF come to fruition at the 2009 conference; with so much member input on their work, the task force will be able to recommend revisions to our current system that are a clear, accurate representation of the nature of membership and credentialing in RID. I extend great appreciation to the SCBRTF for their work!

As always, I love to hear from you – email me at [rr3rep@aol.com](mailto:rr3rep@aol.com) with your comments on these or other issues you are hearing about in our Region and I will report them in this venue.

PS. More member input on the original question: *Region III Still Rocks!*

### Minnesota RID

*President Sarah Mansager*

MRID members were invited to a special referendum meeting that was held on October 8, 2008 in Saint Paul, MN. At this meeting, our membership voted on several changes to the MRID bylaws.

I am pleased to report that all of the major motions passed, and the bylaws have been significantly revised. As a result, the structure of our presidential triad has been replaced with separate offices of President and Vice President. In addition, a new Regional Representative has been added to the Board to represent the growing region of Central MN. Term lengths and limits have also been changed for most board positions.

Many thanks to the MRID Board of Directors and to Bylaws Committee members Stephen Medlicott, Katie Hoye and Darlene Snelson for their extensive contributions to this effort, and a BIG thank you to every member who attended the special meeting and gave their input!

## Wisconsin RID

*Submitted by: President Susan Gordon*

It has been a very busy fall here in Wisconsin. On September 27, *Inspired: The Art of ASL* was held at the Milwaukee Art Museum. This was the first time that an event like this has been held, but our hope is to have the event every two years. Jake Hartman and Andy Swanson chaired the event and had help from many committee members and a slew of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event a huge success. Performers and Presenters were brought in from the Deaf community throughout the US and Deaf artists from middle school to adult had their work on display. Attendance exceeded expectations with more than 575 people enjoying the Art of ASL. Thanks to Andy, Jake, committee members, volunteers, sponsors and all who made this possible.

We held a Wine Tasting fund raiser on October 4 at Dee' Wine Stop in Milwaukee. Kat Siudzinski and Leslie DeMeyer arranged the event. They worked with the local businesses and highlighted some of the local fare like specially made chocolates from Franklin Chocolates and bread from the Wild Flour Bakery along with coupons from Café LuLu. We want to thank the family and friends of WisRID who came out for the event and enjoyed a delicious afternoon.

After four years of serving Wisconsin's interpreting community as the WisRID CMP sponsor, Leslie DeMeyer has decided to "pass the torch". Leslie has done a superb job of organizing and processing CEU requests for many WisRID members throughout the state. I have received several emails complimenting Leslie on her work and the fact that members can submit their paperwork and within a couple of days they can see their CEU online. Leslie has made the process as easy as possible by providing instructions and forms on the WisRID website. For the past year, she has been working with Anna Johnson, who has now taken over as the new sponsor. Leslie will continue to work with Anna to ensure a smooth transition. The WisRID Board and membership would like to thank Leslie DeMeyer for the many hours of work she has put in over the past four years and her dedication to ensuring that the job was done right. We also want to thank Anna Johnson for taking on this important job and wish her much success.

November 14 and 15 we head to the home of the Green Bay Packers to "**Get Into the Game**". Leanne Helmrich and her dream team have been focusing on bringing us some great learning opportunities and making sure we have some post game fun with Keith Wann. Come join the fun. More information online at [www.wisrid.org](http://www.wisrid.org).



## November 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION III REPORT

Submitted by:  
Kelly Flores  
Region III Representative

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### **RID Region III by Representative Kelly Flores**

*It has been, as always, a busy fall travel season for me, and I am very thankful for all the time spent with members and friends! I attended the Illinois RID and Wisconsin RID fall events this month, and that ends my travel for this season. Warm wishes to all for a safe and peaceful holiday season!*

### **Illinois RID President Sara Lucas**

#### Call for Co-Chairs for the 2012 Region III Conference hosted by IRID

#### **The Illinois RID (IRID) Board of Directors and the Region III President's Council seeks two (2) conference chairpersons for the 2012 Region III Conference to be held in Illinois.**

Conference co-chairs will lead the conference planning committee (CPC) and all of their efforts. Co-chairs will negotiate, with the support of the RID national office, the conference hotel site and will appoint committee chairpersons to all conference committees (i.e.: programming, interpreters, hospitality, support staff, etc.). Co-chairs will seek and select a budget and planning officer. The co-chairs, along with the budget and planning officer, will create and maintain the conference budget. Co-chairs will hold meetings of the CPC and will be expected to report to and seek approval from the Region III President's Council on all major conference decisions (budget approval, etc.)

**Requirements:** We are seeking two (2) dynamic, talented, flexible and knowledgeable individuals to lead the effort for the 2012 Region III Conference. Candidates should be fluent in both English and American Sign Language and comfortable communicating in groups and skilled in conflict management. Candidates should be able to lead and facilitate

several committees which will be managed by the co-chairs. Candidates should be familiar with budgets, contracts and able to set and meet deadlines. Experience in conference planning (state, regional, national) is preferred. Candidates must be a member in good standing of both national RID and an affiliate chapter.

**All interested parties should:** Send a letter of interest, including your background experiences which make you a suitable candidate for the position, to the **IRID Board P.O. Box 8357 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-8357**, by January 15, 2009. Decisions will be announced by February 1, 2009.

**Deadline for Submission: January 15, 2009**  
**Announcements will be made: February 15, 2009**

**Michigan RID**  
**President Helen Boucher**

Greetings Michigan Interpreters!

I have to reiterate what a wonderful time it is to be an interpreter in the State of Michigan! We are moving through what will be considered historic times here in our state. Two momentous events have taken place. The first event occurred when Duncan Wyeth, Acting Director of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH), decided to suspend all QA testing. As Affiliate Chapter President of the Michigan RID (MIRID), I must say that I strongly support the bold decision to follow the recommendations of the Interpreter Standards Sub-Committee of the Rules and Regulations Committee and suspend QA testing. While our State QA test served us well for many years, it was not designed to be a state mandated test. With the passage of PA 204-2007, Michigan must provide a test that meets our new state mandates. As the chair of Interpreter Standards Sub-Committee, I will promise you that we are working diligently to provide a new test that will satisfy all requirements and truly assess Michigan's Interpreters' skills. During this time of QA test suspension, extensions will be granted to interpreters who hold QAs that expire. In keeping with our MIRID mission, I would like to encourage all Michigan interpreters who are currently holding QAs or waiting to take a new QA test, to set their sights on national level testing. For more information and answers to FAQs be sure to visit [www.mcdc-dodhh.org](http://www.mcdc-dodhh.org).

The second and equally important news flash here in Michigan is that the position of DODHH Director has been filled after 18 long months of vacancy. Sheryl Emery started her new position on November 17. We look forward to working closely with Ms. Emery as she enters this new phase of

her long and distinguished career of working with members of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Interpreter Communities. Welcome, Sheryl.

Don't forget to check [www.MIRID.org](http://www.MIRID.org) for upcoming information on our Spring 2009 Workshop.

**Minnesota RID  
President Sarah Mansager**

Minnesota RID (MRID) Fall Conference 2008 came to a successful close on October 19, 2008. Thank you to all of the many volunteers who contributed to making our annual event a great success. The conference was well-attended, the silent auction items were very popular (as evidenced by some frenzied bidding), and Minnesota interpreters had the opportunity to attend several stellar workshops as well as catch up with colleagues from around the state. RID Region III Representative Kelly Flores did a terrific job leading our motion forum and acting as parliamentarian at the annual business meeting. Please extend a warm welcome to our incoming board members: Melissa Vetrone - Secretary, Jenny Robinson - Central Representative, Amber Braithwaite - Southern Representative and Cassie Lang - Member-At-Large. And we also bid a fond farewell to outgoing board members Paula Leahy-Schmidt - Secretary, Courtney Kruse - Southern Representative, and David Evans - Member-At-Large.