

# JULY 2008 e-NEWS

## RID REGION I REPORT

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### **New Hampshire RID**

*President Aimee Stevens*

Hello RID!!

As the new president of New Hampshire RID (NHRID), I am thrilled at the opportunity to update you all with what is happening in New Hampshire. At our June meeting, we held elections for our 2008-2009 officers. NHRID would like to thank Deb McKinney, Cylyn Revicsky, Christine Berube and Celia Michau for their service on the NHRID board in the past years.

Congratulations to our new slate of officers (see picture below):

President:	Aimee Stevens, CI and CT
Vice President:	Shannon Grundy, CI and CT
Treasurer:	AmyJean Leblanc, CI, CT and EIPA
Secretary:	Jayne Zedon, Screened
Members at Large:	Shawna Chrostowski, Screened Heather Geisser, NIC Sarah Chase, Screened
NHAD Rep:	Glenys Crane-Emerson
Student Rep:	Emily Graves, UNH-M (Univ of NH at Manchester) Krista Brown, NECC (N. Essex Community College)

NHRID is looking forward to a fantastic year. We have a weekend long conference planned for September 19-21 in Northwood. We will be exploring interpreter relationships and how to dialogue with each other in a productive manner.

This summer NHRID, the New Hampshire Association for the Deaf and the New Hampshire Recreational Association for the Deaf planned a BBQ where the two communities can get together to socialize and get to know each other better outside of work.

## **Vermont RID**

*President Elizabeth Bjerke*

Spring has sprung, summer has burst and Vermont RID (VTRID) has bloomed gorgeously with events and workshops.

At the beginning of May, VTRID helped sponsor an incredible workshop organized by Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS) related to interpreting within the Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence arena. Then, just a few weeks later, the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) hosted their annual fundraiser, also sponsored by VTRID. Rosa Lee Gallimore put on a stellar performance that evening with her poignant, comedic and interactive one-woman show.

The VTRID Mentorship Program wrapped up its four workshop series at the end of April with "ASL Numbers" and "Affect: The Meaning Behind the Words." We also assisted in sponsoring the Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VCDHH)'s annual gold tournament at the end of June. At our latest quarterly meeting in mid-June, the Mentorship Program announced that it is gearing up for this year's series of mentoring workshops. Their kick-off will be held on Saturday, September 6 from 10 am to 3 pm at Central Vermont Hospital in Berlin. For more information on this series, please contact Lisa Bixler at [leesahbixler@yahoo.com](mailto:leesahbixler@yahoo.com). Our next general meeting will be held immediately following this event.

We are also looking forward to a workshop this fall surrounding the topic of working with CDIs. Keep your eyes peeled for further information on that. If you are interested in more that is happening around the Green Mountain State in regards to interpreting, please check out our Web site at [www.vtrid.org](http://www.vtrid.org).

Until the leaves begin to turn, best summer wishes!

### **VTRID Board Officers:**



### **VTRID Workshop Participants:**





## August 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION I REPORT

Submitted by:  
**Rebekah Barkowitz, CI and CT  
Region I Representative**

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### **Massachusetts RID**

*President Jim Lipsky*

First and foremost, the Massachusetts RID (MassRID) would like to congratulate one of our own interpreters, Rebekah Barkowitz, for her appointment as the Region I Representative to the national RID Board of Directors. Rebekah formerly served as president of MassRID. We are excited and thrilled she will be leading us as our Region I Representative.

"Beyond the Standards," presented by Carla Mathers, Betty Colonomos and Jan DeLap was a big success. There were four sessions from November through May held in Boston. The goal of this series was to bring together interpreters providing services during trials to build better standards and dialog about the work within Massachusetts and across the country. Thank you, Denise Martinez, who worked hard to coordinate this workshop series.

MassRID is excited and pleased to announce a nation-wide training series for deaf interpreters being held in Massachusetts. Stephanie Clark and I are the co-coordinators for "The Road to Deaf Interpreting." The series began in April 2008 and will continue over the next year for a total of seven weekends. The third workshop will take place in September. The first weekend welcomed 39 deaf participants from across the Eastern region. The remaining series will include 23 individuals from the Eastern region. Throughout the summer months, the participants took part in a practicum experience to gain further knowledge of the field of deaf interpreting by mentoring with Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDIs).

Last June, there was a MassRID general meeting in Boston. I expected to end my presidency after a four-year term, but due to low attendance at the meeting, the elections were postponed. Elections will be held in the fall. We are hoping to elect a new president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Fortunately, all regional representative positions are currently filled and each region is active in the state of Massachusetts.

In June, the National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI) conference was held in Braintree. I was invited and thrilled to attend the VIP meeting to represent MassRID. It was a very successful conference.

Finally, there is an exciting upcoming event that I would like to report: MassRID will be hosting a weekend retreat in Harvard the weekend of October 4. The co-coordinators for this event are Jackie Chesney and Alberto Sifuentes. If you want to get more information, please e-mail [massridretreat@gmail.com](mailto:massridretreat@gmail.com).

This will be my last article as MassRID President. I would like to thank the board members, the interpreting community and the national RID members. The experiences I have had with them have provided me with many opportunities for personal and professional growth. I wish good luck to the new MassRID board members for the next term covering 2008-10.



## September 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION I REPORT

Submitted by:  
**Rebekah Barkowitz, CI and CT  
Region I Representative**

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### **Central New York RID *President Joanne W. Dermody***

As our new fiscal year begins, the Central New York RID Chapter (CNYRID) will be presenting our revised, updated bylaws to our voting membership. The chapter's bylaws have been amended in the past, but this revision focuses on meeting the current needs of our organization and membership in order for the chapter to move forward while at the same time retaining the intent of our founders in 1972. The chapter is now 36 years old and continues to be a guiding strength in our area with a strong working relationship with our Deaf Community. In December, the CNYRID, together with the Deaf Advocacy Council of CNY, WHOLE ME, Inc., and Aurora of CNY, will host an annual Christmas party. This tradition began in the late 1980s and more than 200 people from our community attend every year.

### **New Jersey RID *President Cheryl Vail***

After a delightful summer filled with relaxation, family, friends and work, things are gearing up quickly for the fall activities.

The Biennial Committee has been working diligently to ensure an excellent array of workshops will be provided. They include:

- Powerful Voicing – Stephanie Feyne – All 5 hour
- K-12 Hierarchy of Needs (2 hours) and Daily Dilemma: and Ethical Decision Making in the K-12 Setting ( 3 hours) - Amie Seiberlich Ed 5 hours
- Interpreting Statewide Assessments – Joan Cohen, Kim Arrigo, Wendy Eufemia – Ed.
- Nouns to Nonce: How educational interpreters handle fingerspelling – Jean Kelly – Ed.
- Warning: Explicit content! Managing Profanity in English Discourse – Kelly Murphy – Inter/adv/ed
- The Business of Being an Interpreter - Kathleen Taylor Students/Novice/Inter
- They've got guns. What am I supposed to say? – Adam Bartley – Adv/DI/CDI 6 hour
- Visual Music – Maria Ruiz-Williams – All
- Academic ASL: It looks like English, but it is not. - Marla Berkowitz , Linda Ross All
- So You Think You're Ready for an Interpreting Referral Agency... Susanne Morgan Students /Novice
- Open Process – Team Interpreting - Molly Wilson Inter/adv/ed

- CDI Forum – Jim Lipsky – DI/CDI
- ASL Conceptual Blending using Visual Media – David Rivera/Jason Norman – All
- You Want Me To Do What? Ethical Decision Making for Beginning Interpreters – Molly Wilson Student/Novice

Novice through advanced, CDI, Educational or community interpreters, there is something for everyone. The Biennial will be held November 7 through 9 at the Crown Plaza in Jamesburg. (Exit 8a off the NJ turnpike). Information regarding the Biennial will be posted on the Web site at [www.NJRID.org](http://www.NJRID.org).

Following the conference on Sunday, November 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. will be a forum with Margaret Cobb representing **RID Strategic Challenges Bylaws Review Task Force**. This is an opportunity for RID members to come ask questions, get answers and be brought up to speed regarding the issues that arose with the labeling of those who passed the EIPA with a 4.0 or higher as RID Certified member status. The forum is free to all who want to come. Region I members are urged to have their voices heard. Without a Regional Conference this year, we as a region must find ways to have our thoughts heard. We are also honored to announce that RID President Cheryl Moose CI and CT, and Region I Representative, Rebekah Barkowitz, CI and CT, will also be in attendance for the weekend. I am sure it will be an exciting weekend.

Also occurring during our Biennial Conference will be elections for our two member at large positions. This is an important role as the members at large are responsible for coordinating events, acting as a connection between our members and the board as well as being an integral part of the decision-making on various issues that arise throughout the year. In addition to the two board positions, various committee chairs will be stepping down allowing an opportunity for a new chair to take the helm. Open chair positions will be available for the following committees: professional development committee, membership, outreach committee, videotape library, mentorship and the Real ASL weekend. We appreciate all of the work the outgoing chairs have put into their respective committees, many of them have offered to stay on as a committee member or to at least help during the transition period. If you have enjoyed the work these individuals have dedicated throughout the years, it's time to give back. This is a member driven organization, and without the help of members willing to take on the challenge of a committee, the committee will become inactive. Please submit your letters of interest or questions to any of the board members. We thank both the outgoing chairs and those who have decided to remain in their current positions. All of the hard work is greatly appreciated.

NJRID is looking forward to another productive year. As always, all questions and comments are welcome. In order to properly represent the members, we need to know your thoughts. Hope to see you at our Biennial and the Task Force Forum....

**Pennsylvania RID**  
***President Cindi Brown***

Pennsylvania RID (PARID) hosted Foundations of Court Interpreting by Carla Mathers in July. This workshop was a great success! The PARID Mentorship Program initial training was just held September 12-14, 2008 with nine (9) protégés participating. We look forward to providing a great opportunity for these participants. Thank you to the mentors who have agreed to provide mentoring services.

The most pressing matter that PARID has before it is transitioning our local chapters to sub-committees as directed by the RID Board of Directors. We have developed a time line for this process and are now working on revising our bylaws, policies and procedures.

The next PARID Conference will be held May 1-2, 2009 in State College. More information is available on the PARID Web site at [www.parid.org](http://www.parid.org).

**Rhode Island RID**  
***President Christopher Haas***

August 9 was the culmination of Rhode Island RID's (RI RID) 2008 State Conference. The work and worry of our board paid off nicely and the conference, "Keeping the Momentum," was a hit. It was our first independent state conference in recent memory. Our participants attended workshops on; "Police Procedures & Protocol" conducted by a team of presenters from a local law enforcement agency; "Mastery of Finger Spelling;" and "Deaf and Hearing



Teams" presented by Elizabeth Lucey, CDI, from MA. Additionally, RI RID was honored to host a Region I Deaf Caucus roundtable during our conference. The caucus was moderated by Regan Thibodeau, CDI, from ME. RI RID was thrilled to see participants at the conference from several neighboring states (NY, ME, MA, and CT). At our closing dinner, we were joined by Steve Florio, Executive Director of RICDHH, and Todd Murano, President of RIAD. We were pleased to welcome and offer attendees an opportunity to meet our incoming Region I Representative, Rebekah Barkowitz. RI RID was honored to have RID National Board Secretary,

Rachel Coppelli, join us for the conference and share a presentation on updates from the RID national office. Lastly, we enjoyed a showing of the 2009 promotional video for Philadelphia, the site of the next national conference, which was produced by PARID for Region I. All in all, the RI RID 2008 State Conference achieved its goal of "Keeping the Momentum" for the 2009 National Conference. I hope to see many of you there!



Rosa Norberg,  
Rachel Coppelli,  
Anne Marie Mancini,  
Rebekah Barkowitz,  
Christopher Haas



Heather Richards,  
Regan Thibodeau,  
Travis Zellner,  
Doreen Simons  
term covering 2008-10.



## October 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION I REPORT

Submitted by:  
**Rebekah Barkowitz, CI and CT  
Region I Representative**

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### Connecticut RID

*President Tammy Boutin*

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of the CRID Board:

-Member-at-Large, Roberta Goldberg

-Member-at-Large, Cat Lanser

Both were unanimously voted in at CRID's General Membership meeting back in June. I look forward to working with Roberta and Cat.

CRID has some great events planned for 2009! The Helena Beauchamp Memorial Fund will be hosting "It All Depends," the Demand-Control Schema for Interpreting Work presented by Robyn Dean, CI and CT, on April 3 and 4 (This event is co-sponsored with Sorenson Communications and FSW). A "wellness weekend" focusing on self-care for interpreters is currently being planned for the fall of 2009. Look on [www.cridonline.com](http://www.cridonline.com) for more information about these events.

As 2008 slows to an end, CRID thought it would be a perfect time to take a look at its bylaws and revise them so they align with current practice. CRID always appreciates member involvement. Contact any board member for more information on how you can help. Together we can make CRID great!

### Genesee Valley Region RID

*Interim President Kimberly Kelstone, CI and CT*

The leaves are changing, the temperature is cooling and things are heating up in the Rochester area. We have a new board as of July 1, though the members of that board are changing. We also are currently collecting membership renewals. Our Community Interpreter Training Grant survived a possible budget cut to remain a benefit to the freelance interpreters working in the Western and Central NY area. The grant is very active, providing a variety of workshops including Robyn Dean's *Demand-Control Schema: Professional Supervision for Interpreters*, as well as a discussion forum, *The World Café*. A variety of organizations in Rochester recently came together to host a Deaf Awareness Week which was well attended and featured a variety of topics and events. We will be co-hosting a *Parliamentary Procedure* workshop in conjunction with Deaf Women of Rochester on October 18<sup>th</sup>, lead by Libby Pollard, renowned Deaf parliamentarian. We will also have our first general meeting of our new year on October 25<sup>th</sup>, with a workshop in conjunction: *Haunting Interpreting Experiences*. We will also be holding a special election at that time to permanently fill the President and Vice President seats. We're looking forward to all of these things and much more involvement with our community in a variety of ways over the next several months.



## November 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION I REPORT

Submitted by:  
Rebekah Barkowitz  
Region I Representative

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### **New Hampshire RID**

President Aimee Steven

Hello RID!

New Hampshire RID (NHRID) members kicked off the year with a bang. On September 19-21, 2008, we hosted what was described by one member as, "Seriously, the best workshop I have ever attended." The workshop, titled, "Interpreter Overboard: Why You REALLY Don't Want to Toss Your Team," was facilitated by two members (Deb McKinney, CDI and Laurie Gilbert, NAD V), and it was a great success.

We work with a variety of other interpreters, some familiar, some not. We do not always have the luxury of time to bond with them before we are expected to do this monumental task called interpreting. We need to feel comfortable with addressing sensitive issues with each other, regardless of how much of a relationship we have. When we come together as a community, both new and seasoned, everyone benefits.

At this workshop we took a look at what we face and how we work together effectively to build a sense of community and how to navigate the precarious positions in which we find ourselves. It was a great event, and we hope to have it again next year.

Our members, and especially our Professional Development Committee (PDC), have been busy planning a full slate of educational opportunities for our members this fall, winter and throughout the next year.

We are co-sponsoring a series of workshops for educational interpreters: "Analyzing K-12 Classroom Discourse: Considerations in Message Analysis and Delivery" (held November 15); EIPA Performance Prep workshop (December 6); "Classifiers in the Classroom: Incorporating Classifiers in Science, Art and Math" (February 7); and "Schooled in Discretion: Empowerment Tools for the K-12 Interpreter" (March 7 and April 11).

We are also working on a series of medical workshops. We plan to have a specialist from each field of medicine present a short segment about what interpreters can expect. The first two medical workshops of the

series will be a tour of the ER at a local hospital and a step by step look at medical history intake forms (with a deaf language model).

We are looking forward to a busy fall and winter. Stay warm!

## **Vermont RID**

President Elizabeth Bjerke

Greetings from the Green Mountain State!

Most of the leaves have taken the inevitable plunge to the ground; snowflakes have made an appearance or two; and Vermont RID (VTRID) is gearing up for winter. We will be one of the sponsors of the Deaf Vermonters' Advocacy Services (DVAS) Annual Soup Tasting and Silent Auction the first weekend in December. All are welcome to join us at this fundraising event as we enjoy a great selection of delicious homemade soups, place our bids on fantastic items (donated & handmade), and support a wonderful cause. See details below. For more information about DVAS, go to: [www.dvas.org](http://www.dvas.org)

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
Bethany Church (downstairs)  
Montpelier, VT  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
[soupfestival@gmail.com](mailto:soupfestival@gmail.com)

Immediately following this event, and in the same location, VTRID will be hosting its winter meeting. Feel free to join us and see what VTRID is all about.

VTRID's Mentorship Program kicked-off their 2008-2009 season with a 2-day ASL to English workshop in September and October. The next workshop in the series will be on teaming, presented by Toni Robbins and Lesley Garey. For updates and registration information, see our Web site at [www.vtrid.org](http://www.vtrid.org)

Warm Wishes!



## December 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION I REPORT

Submitted by:  
Rebekah Barkowitz  
Region I Representative

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### **Central New York RID President Joanne W. Dermody**

#### New Web site

The CNYRID is proud to announce that one of our members has developed a Web site for our chapter! We are in the beginning stages and will add more information and links as time goes on. Check out our site: [www.cnyrid.org](http://www.cnyrid.org)

#### Revised Bylaws

The proposed CNYRID revised bylaws have been sent out to voting members of our chapter for their vote. The bylaws have not been updated in several years and this project took almost a year to orchestrate. We thank the members of the Bylaws Committee for their hard work and dedication to our professional organization.

#### Congratulations

Congratulation to Carlton B. Strail, an honorary lifetime member of the Central New York RID Chapter and one of its founding members, who recently received the Onondaga County/Syracuse Commission on Human Rights Individual Human Rights Award. As stated in the *Post Standard* newspaper on October 22, Carlton, "a leader in the Deaf community and president of the Deaf Advocacy Council, was honored for his work to address related issues with police departments, hospitals and employers."

#### Annual Christmas Party

The Annual Community Christmas Party was held December 6; this event is sponsored by the Deaf Advocacy Council of CNY, WHOLE ME, Inc., Aurora of CNY, Inc. and CNYRID. Over 200 people attended this year to celebrate the holiday season with family and friends!

#### Syracuse Deaf Community Mapping Project

CNYRID is a member of the Syracuse Deaf Community Mapping Project, which is led by the Deaf Advocacy Council of Central New York and the Community Geographer of Syracuse University. It is guided by a collaboration of community organizations that are interested in and/or work with the Deaf community of Onondaga County, NY. The Syracuse

Deaf Community Mapping Project aims at researching the magnitude and demographics of the deaf and hard of hearing population in Onondaga County as well as the local resources and barriers that exist in hopes of better understanding the employment, health, educational and entertainment needs of this population. Supportive evidence will include work habits, educational background, age, gender, social activities, ethnicity/race, income, geographic distribution, etc.

The project's results will be made public so that local organizations, businesses and community members will be more informed on how to better serve and interact with the deaf and hard of hearing population. A list of resources available and various groups that work with Deaf people will also be compiled.

(Information taken from the Deaf Community Mapping Project Overview, Syracuse University.)

### **Long Island RID Co-President Laurie Nash**

LIRID was thrilled to co-sponsor a weekend workshop by Jim Lipsky titled, "Classifiers, Non-Manual Markers & Use of Space in Medical Interpreting." The workshop was held on the campus of Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, NY. Thanks go out to Kim Hirschberger of the Deaf Health Services Program at LIJMC for securing the workshop space. Thanks, as well, to our phenomenal Professional Development Committee, Chaired by Tara Rogers, for their relentless efforts in making the weekend a success.

Our chapter has recently submitted an application to become an RID approved sponsor so that we may offer our members a variety of professional development opportunities and earn credit for their participation.

LIRID continues to find innovate ways to raise funds that support offering low-cost professional development opportunities and scholarships to our members. We had a very successful Silent Auction in conjunction with a show by Peter Cook last spring. Our current fundraisers include candle sales and a NY Islanders Hockey game. Angela Molina chairs the Fundraising Committee with much enthusiasm and incredible organizational skills!

The award-winning LIRID Web site is undergoing a bit of cosmetic alterations. The Web master responsibilities are changing hands, and we wholeheartedly thank Alexandria Gunsberg for her years of service to LIRID as our Publications Chair and Web master Extraordinaire.

Other alterations include a revision of our current bylaws. The LIRID Bylaws Committee has worked long and hard to ensure our bylaws are realistic and in line with the specifications of national RID. Once the proposed bylaws are approved by national, they will be put to the membership for a vote.

We are fortunate to have an energetic board, committees and members with "action" on their minds. The LIRID Board is comprised of Christine Iannone and Laurie Nash, Co-Presidents; Lisa Scala, Vice President; Maryann DiLuglio, Treasurer and Jill Collins, Secretary. The commitment made by committee chairs and members does not go unnoticed ~ thanks and kudos to all the members of LIRID!

### **Massachusetts RID**

#### **Co-Presidents Stephanie Clark and Denise Martinez**

This will be our first report as co-presidents of MassRID. We look forward to working with a motivated and dedicated board and extend a heartfelt thank you to our former President Jim Lipsky for his years of service to MassRID.

MassRID hosted a general membership weekend retreat in Harvard, the weekend of October 4, 2008. The retreat focused on self-care and wellness with time for fun and recreational activities. The co-coordinators did a wonderful job in creating an environment open to all members of the interpreting and Deaf communities. The board will be having our own retreat on January 3 to outline our goals for the upcoming year.

MassRID and members of the interpreting community are currently involved in contract negotiations with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the main referring agency for our state. Members are asked to review the contract's payment rates and freelance manual. A public hearing has been scheduled for January 24. The new contract will begin July 1, 2009-June 30, 2012.

We are also involved in discussions of referral services, licensure and quality assurance laws for interpreter services. Working with the Massachusetts State Association for the Deaf we have hosted a series of community forums on private and public referral services.

MassRID will be sponsoring "Interpreting in the Post-Secondary Environment: Teaming, Transparency and Toolboxes" in Boston on January 9. We are also proud to sponsor the "Road to Deaf Interpreting." The sixth session will take place in January.

We will have our general meeting in February 2009, date and location to be announced.

We wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and look forward to the New Year and the opportunity to serve our community!

**New Jersey RID**  
**President Cheryl Vail**

Hello from New Jersey!

NJRID's recent biennial conference was a great success. Everyone was pleased with all the wonderful workshops and learning opportunities that were presented. During our biennial, elections were held for our two member at large positions. I am pleased to welcome Eileen Forestal, RSC and Lauren Kafka, CI and CT as our members at large for the 2008- 2010 term. Lauren has been working with the board in the capacity of member at large for the past year, and we are thrilled with her continued commitment. Although Eileen has not been on the board in recent years, her dedication to NJRID and her recent help as a member of the biennial committee is greatly appreciated. I am sure we are going to have another productive year.

Following the biennial, a forum was held to discuss the Strategic Challenges Bylaws Review Task Force recommendations and answer questions from individuals regarding various issues that have cropped up due to past motions on the national level. The forum was insightful and informative. There are many unanswered questions and many comments that time did not permit to be made, but it was a starting point not an ending. A new web group will be set up to give all members of Region I an opportunity to be heard. Look for information in the next mediator and on the president's news on our Web site regarding "what's new."

Lastly, as we enter into the Holiday Season I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday. Now is the time to share a smile, give hope and enjoy all that you have.