



## November 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION IV REPORT

Submitted by:  
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Greetings from Region V!

In this e-NEWS report, I wanted to share some valuable information from the RID Region V Business Meeting. Before that however, I want to share the construct of what a Region Business Meeting actually looks like and how we can have greater involvement as members in the leading of not only the region, but the association at large.

What we actually refer to as a Region Business Meeting, is a bit of a misnomer. In reality, there is not business that is discussed per se. The crux of the meeting is for the region representative to share what is taking place on a national level for both the national office and the board of directors, and then solicit feedback from the general membership. Occasionally, a motion is made at the meeting. These motions are typically related to large overarching national issues. If the motion passes at the meeting, it is then taken to the board of directors for placement in the agenda and serious discussion. When a motion or proposal comes to the board in this form, it has more teeth and greater influence on the board, as it is viewed as being the voice of membership from at least a regional standpoint. An example of this is a motion that came before the meeting and was passed. This motion is now going to the RID Board of Directors for review and consideration. The motion reads as follows:

### **Motion C08:01**

**Move that RID establish an adhoc committee to develop a Position Paper to address the issues Interpreters face during Emergency/Disaster and non-declared local emergencies/disasters.**

**Angela M. Kaufman/LaVona Andrew-PASSED**

#### *Rationale:*

*Currently, federal, state and local government are addressing the issues of individuals with disabilities and Deaf community in all aspects of emergency management. They are addressing and including stakeholders of the disability and Deaf communities and drafting legislation, protocols and plans to respond to these populations before,*

*during and after a situation. Interpreters and the need for interpreters is recognized in all plans, however, Interpreters are not at the table to ensure our needs and psychological/emotional well-being are addressed during and in the aftermath.*

On occasion however, a motion or proclamation will come forward in the meeting strictly having to do with how the region operates. At the 2008 Region V Business Meeting, we had one such motion that came forward and was passed. This motion came out of a desire by concerned members to be more inclusive of all of our members- including those who are CDIs and those who are D/deaf. This motion and the concept behind it were greatly considered because of several individuals heavily involved in the conference who made it a priority to sign, believing it would help with issues of inclusion. In doing so, Region V set a clear tone and standard that, though we all have different languages we use, most of us have a shared or common language of ASL; that as interpreters who are bilingual and bicultural, we can choose to operate in a language that is readily accessible by the greatest amount of participants. Additionally, this motion was also born out of an event that took place just down the road from the conference at the Sacramento, CA state capitol. At the ASL Celebration much attention was given to the discussion of ameliorating oppression, audism and linguicism- not only in the world, but within our own community. The motion that passed is as follows:

#### **Motion C08:02**

**We move to amend the RID Region V Conference communication policy to reflect the organization's philosophy of diversity and inclusion by using direct communication in our shared language of ASL.**

#### **Loriel Dutton/LeeElle Tullis-PASSED**

##### *Rationale:*

- 1. To create an environment that demonstrates respect and access via a common language.*
- 2. To promote a bilingual philosophy of communication within our region.*
- 3. To encourage fiscal responsibility by using monies toward greater member benefit (eg. Onsite testing, registration/travel stipend, larger facilities, etc).*
- 4. To foster greater collaboration between RID and the Deaf Community to create a space for dialog.*
- 5. Increase exposure to and use of academic ASL.*
- 6. To decrease communication via a 3rd party.*
- 7. To enhance the use and comprehension of ASL discourse among the membership.*

*8. To engender a heightened interest from Deaf leaders, consumers, linguists, professionals, interpreters, teachers, and researchers, to feel more welcome in sharing their knowledge base with the membership.*

The 2008 Region V Conference was a huge success. The conference's success was due to not only all of the volunteers, chairs, committee members and workshop presenters whose hard work put it together, but also because of the members who attended. We are currently coming to the end of reconciliation with the conference hotel and hope to be able to give details on the financial success of the conference soon. For those of you who weren't able to attend, or for those of you who did attend and would like to reminisce, you can go to <http://www2.snapfish.com/shareereg/p=560171226910981097/l=450915684/g=78212190/otsc=SYE/otsi=SALB/pns/share/p=560171226910981097/l=450915684/g=78212190/otsc=SYE/otsi=SALB> to view some pictures of the conference and attendees.

Finally, we hope you plan to join us for the 2010 Region Conference. During our November Presidents Council conference call, the presidents unanimously voted to hold the 2010 conference in Utah, sponsored by the RID Affiliate Chapter Utah RID. We are currently working to select conference co-chairs and select the conference site and dates. More information to follow!

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