



October 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION IV REPORT

Submitted by:
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Region IV Representative

Hello again!

It's hard to believe it's been a month since our last visit, smile, but what a month it's been!

Mid-September I had the pleasure of attending my first face to face Board meeting at the 2009 RID National Conference site in Philadelphia. The hotel is beautiful, and the area surrounding the hotel interesting, historic and full of activity. Across the street from the hotel is an open indoor market, with every imaginable



food served fresh and to your liking. Less than a mile away you will find the Liberty Bell and historic buildings sure to inspire pride in our heritage. The city is clean and easy to navigate, the people are friendly and the accommodations very comfortable. If you have not made plans to attend you might want to get August 1st -6th on your calendar – I have a feeling this is going to be one to remember!

Back to the real reason I was there, the face to face board meeting...it's hard to describe the feeling of appreciation for being given an opportunity to serve this organization on a national level, and the deep respect that came over me for the leaders that have made our organization what it is today, as I sat at in that board room. My respect and appreciation deepened as the days and meetings came and went, and as I interacted with the rest of the board and national office directors. This meeting was unique in that five Directors from the national office were in attendance – their participation was just the orientation I needed to understand the bigger picture of our organizational structure and inner workings – I feel much more confident in providing support to Region IV members knowing how all of the pieces of the RID puzzle fit together. Each person sitting around that table for our four days together, whether serving as a leader on the board or as a director in the national office, is committed to making RID an organization that all members can be proud to call home and I'm thrilled to be a part of this leadership community.

I will be sharing more information from this meeting with Region IV Affiliate Chapter President in the near future – if you would like to learn more about what is happening on a national level please feel free to contact your state president for the latest and greatest. You can also reach me directly at region4rep@rid.org.

This month I also found myself in Kentucky and New Mexico - a big shout out to **KYRID** and **NMRID** for their hospitality! I know, Kentucky is not in Region IV, but I often receive invitations to present outside of our region and what better way to bring knowledge and ideas back to Region IV than by interacting with members across the country? By the time you read this I will have also been to Florida, then it's on to Puerto Rico, New Jersey and back home for the Region IV Leadership Retreat. ***I LOVE this job!***
Ok, enough about what I'm doing...here's what's happening in your neck of the woods...

Oklahoma RID

President Lisa Mathes

The fall season finds OKRID busy on many fronts. We are in the planning phase of our upcoming conference to be held January 16 & 17 in Ada, Oklahoma at East Central University. In addition, we are excited about the feedback we will be receiving from our Educational Interpreter Committee designed to advise the Board of ways we can more efficiently support educational interpreters in our state. Legislatively, we are planning on revisiting state statues related to interpreting in order to request needed updates and revisions. We are also continuing our work with the OAD/OKRID Licensure Task Force. In regards to the new rules handed down by RID regarding local chapters, we are now in compliance and have established two committees that will be continuing the service they were providing the central and green country areas of the state. We are currently updating our website, so stay tuned for more information and upcoming events!

Wyoming RID

President Darla Sullins

Let's hear a round of applause for our newly elected co-chair Secretary/Treasurers, Paula Copeland and Chris Bernard! They, along with two returning Members-at-Large, Yvonne Mckay and John Chambers were elected during our September Business meeting. I very much appreciate these members stepping forward to make a difference in our professional organization! This was the first election after the amendment of our by-laws. From now on, WYRID will be electing half of their board at a time. We are hoping that this will provide a smoother transition for future boards. My special thanks to the WYRID members who were there to vote at this significant event!

What a marvelous Fall Conference! Valentino Vasquez from the University of Northern Colorado (Greeley) did an outstanding job instructing us on the use of classifiers in technical vocabulary. After this workshop,



we all felt more prepared to tackle difficult vocabulary situations! The whole workshop from the presenter down to the food was well planned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Denise Morse and JaCee Goepfert for all the hard work it took to make this event a success!

Wyoming is in the preliminary stage of adding ASL as a foreign language into the public school system. It will take much research and many meetings, but we are on the way. It's a great day to live in Wyoming!

Nebraska RID

President Connie Herndon

Nebraska RID has enjoyed an invigorating and inspiring year. One Nebraskan with Minnesota roots summarizes the exciting progress in this manner:

Uff da! *By Gretchen Whitney*
Professional Development 2007-2008 Team

I can simply wrap up the year with a great big "Uff da". For those who have no idea what that means, I ask that you hang around with more Minnesotans. Here is what Wikipedia has to say: "Uff da' is an exclamation of Norwegian origin that is relatively common in the Upper Midwestern states of the United States. 'Uff da' is

often used as a term for sensory overload. It can be used as an expression of surprise, astonishment, exhaustion, relief." Now that you know what it means, maybe you wonder why I feel this way.

My crew of many (too many to list here) and I have been busy supporting over 40 hours of continuing education activities just in the past year. For you CEU gurus that translates into over 4.0 CEUs. As you well know, that is a great number for our organization. All of these hours were broken up into three separate trainings—the Fall conference, the Spring Retreat, and our cooperative "Aim High" certification preparation training.

We started off the year with our 2007 fall conference held November 9, 10, and 11. We had two presenters, Amie Seiberlich and Kim Barron. Kim Barron's specialty for the conference was "International Name Signs: Traditional vs. Politically Correct." This was a training so nice...we had to have it twice.

Amie Seiberlich, the co-founder of the Leadership Institute and recently elected Region IV Representative, came to Nebraska for the first time to present her straight-forward topics that brought you there wondering... but made you leave thinking. Her topics on "Perspectives" and "Conflict Management" rarely left a dry eye in the house. Also included were topics on K-12 interpreters and RID, which gave a broad perspective on what we really value. Overall the reception was great for both presenters.

Just when you thought nothing could be better than the trainings, Ms. Connie Herndon pulled out all the stops. We had our first "Parkers ASL Café". This was a Dinner Theatre conducted in 100% ASL. The wait staff, MC, hostess, cashier, and actors conducted everything in ASL. The actors were all volunteers and they did a wonderful service for our organization. This was truly a great event that will mark this time in history and (at times) make you shoot milk through your nose.

The second event of this year was held April 11 and 12. This was our cooperative event held with these co-sponsors: Interprettek, Lincoln Association of Sign Language Professionals (LASLP), NeRID, Southeast Community College, and the University Nebraska at Omaha. The training's focus was certification preparation. With the help of all these sponsors we brought in Austin Andrews (known to most of you as the creator of Deaf Ninja). Austin's all-day presentation took us from payment to passing. I don't want to give too many details because this is truly a training you must see for yourself.

Austin holds a NIC: Master so his strategies must work! During his stay he presented his information in Omaha and in Lincoln. He helped prepare about 30 interpreters for certification. There was only room for about half as many interpreters who wanted to attend this training.

So, thanks to everyone who called or emailed asking that we bring Austin back...we are doing just that. Austin will be presenting this same training again at the 2008 fall pre-conference session. During the conference itself he will also be presenting a hands-on portion for interpreters who attended the training in April and who will attend the fall pre-conference. So, please look for more details about this training and others on November 14 and 15.

We concluded our year in Aurora, NE. We hit the country side just at the right time for our first NeRID spring retreat. Amie Seiberlich was our main presenter and she again brought us wondering and forced us to think. She brought together a group of co-workers who may or may not have known why we were there. She allowed us to explore our values, express our needs, and forced us to speak and act outside the box. She gave us the tools to bring back the heart of NeRID and allowed us to build off what we have built already and search for what we strive for within our organization.

The one thing I brought back from this particular training was to let go of what ties you back—and just simply do what makes you heart sing. So I will go forth and continue to do what makes my heart sing—being a part of this organization is definitely one of those things. So, I thank you for taking to the time to read this and I hope to see you at future trainings. Until then, Uff da, y'all!

Iowa RID - End of Year Report

Outgoing President Mary Brandt

Throughout my presidency the Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has made great strides in furthering the profession of interpreting. The following achievements have been made to this end and it is with great pride that I pass the presidency on to Jennifer Taylor.

- Iowa passed a law requiring licensure and certification due to a collaborative effort on the part of the Iowa Association of the Deaf, Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and ISRID
- ISRID increased its budgetary balance from just over \$4,000 to just over \$20,000.
- ISRID purchased several items to streamline and improve the overall operations of the organization including a display board, projector, laptop computer and Quicken software for accounting
- ISRID committees now have the option of conducting their meetings via conference call
- ISRID worked collaboratively with Mercy Hospital Des Moines, Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, Iowa Association of the Deaf, the Iowa Department of Education, and Iowa's four interpreter training programs to bring a workshop of international proportions to our state. First, with a three-day medical interpreting conference for both signed and verbal language interpreters. Then with a mentor-mentee training conference and also with telemedia training over the Iowa Communications Network.
- Members of ISRID are now able to pay their membership dues and conference registration fees online by logging on to iowastaterid.org.
- Our website was completely re-designed and will be going through another complete redesign in the coming six months.

Established a membership coordinator position that has streamlined membership interaction and communication. The membership coordinator has developed a searchable database that allows for easy reporting of our membership numbers. It also allows our members a direct contact if they encounter any problems with their membership whatsoever.