



September 2008 e-NEWS RID REGION IV REPORT

Submitted by:
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Region IV Representative

Greetings!

My first month as your Region IV Representative has been a busy one! As you can see from the state reports submitted below, each state is attending to their own business while still participating in the following regional efforts:

Planning for the 4th Annual RID Region IV Leadership Retreat – This retreat will be held in Boulder, CO, the weekend of November 21. The focus of this year's retreat will be to support each Region IV Affiliate Chapter as leaders work to bring their respective organizations into compliance with 501(C)3 laws and national RID Bylaws. RID President Cheryl Moose and RID Treasurer Brenda Walker Prudhom will be joining us this year, and we look forward to their sage and enthusiastic support!

A big part of the planning for this retreat is financial planning; we are currently seeking financial support to help us cover expenses. If you are a member of an organization, or know an organization or agency that may be willing to donate their support to the Region IV leadership team please contact me at region4rep@rid.org. No donation is too big, or too small!

Beefing up our communication – Your Region IV leaders are working hard to streamline our communication process so that information can be shared quickly and seamlessly! Our communication policy has been revisited and revamped so that leaders know what information can and should be shared with members, and how to best share information, opinions and questions from membership with leaders on a regional and national level. We are also testing a new online meeting technology that would allow for more productive use of our conference call time.

Planning for the 2010 Region IV Conference – At this point the 2009 Region IV Conference will be hosted by North Dakota RID. I am making arrangements to meet with the NDRID leadership team to begin nailing down some specifics – look for more information on our next regional conference in upcoming issues of the e-News. In the meantime, know that your affiliate chapter Presidents will be in touch with you regarding how you may be able to support and contribute to another memorable Region IV conference!

Now on to other news from around the Region...

Oklahoma RID

President Lisa Mathes

The Oklahoma RID (OKRID) Board met recently and has several things brewing for the fall. Of particular importance is the newly activated Educational Interpreter Committee. This committee will be advising OKRID of ways we, as an organization, can more effectively support educational interpreters among our membership, as well as the state.

In addition:

- OKRID continues to work with Oklahoma Association of the Deaf on the OAD/OKRID Licensure Task Force. Legislation has been drafted, and we hope to begin presenting it to the legislature in the next few months.
- The Scholarship Committee has awarded six scholarships for national testing in the last couple of years, and will continue to do so at OKRID annual conferences.
- A new OKRID Web site is under construction and will be launched soon.
- OKRID was one of the sponsors of Deaf Awareness Day at the Oklahoma State Fair on September 18, and coordinated interpreter volunteers for events that day.
- OKRID'S annual conference is tentatively scheduled for early January. Details pending.
- Local chapters are currently discussing the details of transitioning to sub-committees of OKRID in accordance with the new rules handed down by RID in order to maintain compliance with 501(c)(3) requirements. We hope to have the process completed by the end of the year, and appropriate proposed changes reflected in the by-laws by our annual conference.

Montana RID

President Missy Grinnell

Our Annual Meeting was held in June in historical Helena. We passed our Policy and Procedures Manual, revised Bylaws and voted to increase our membership dues. The increase in membership dues will help to support our website.

Big Sky Interpreting Conference (BSIC) is our annual conference. We had Pam Meinhardt from Minnesota who taught "Creative Interpreting." She helped the participants get out of their comfort zones and into a creative

mindset. The participants were then encouraged to take what they learned and apply it to the K-12 classroom by interpreting children's stories. Pam and her family then performed that evening for a "dinner theatre" that was open to the community.

Dr. Daniel Burch was the second presenter and challenged the participants by calling up four interpreters at the beginning of the workshop. They were then asked to interpret the Pledge of Allegiance. This instantly created a "safe" learning environment that continued throughout the next two days. Participants were asked to bring their own challenging scenarios to the workshop and they were discussed professionally as the group brainstormed solutions. This conference was a huge success.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the MT Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) for their support in sending education interpreters to BSIC. OPI also awarded MRID with an additional grant that helped to cover costs of the conference. Other donors for our Silent Auction and materials for the conference were Seafoods of the World, Walmart, The Electric City Lions Club of Great Falls, Joyce Scherer, Shelley Garretson, Barnes and Noble, Staples, Great Falls Gallery 16, Kelley Williford and Breeanna Jones. We also have a representative on a work-group that is defining recommendations for Educational Interpreter standards for MT. Our representative, MRID Vice President Bonnie Christensen, has done a tremendous job of educating the group, bringing research to the discussion and highlighting the status of current Educational Interpreters in MT.

Kansas Association of Interpreters-RID
President Kathy Stewart

Our board has been busy this month. We met for a mini-retreat, led by Ami Hyten, and we looked again at the responsibilities of the board and the individual members. We then progressed through the day by doing some brainstorming about our future. One thing we have decided to do is to enter the electronic age for all of our bookkeeping and database needs. We are looking forward to the flexibility, as well as the increased accountability, this change will provide.