



## President's Report

# An Introduction to My Platform of Trust

Cheryl Moose, CI and CT, Illinois, RID President

*(Excerpted from the president's speech at the 2007 RID National Conference in San Francisco)*

So, what were you doing in 1964, the year RID was established? In the picture to the right, I am nine years old in the family portrait. Although I knew nothing about RID, I already knew a great deal about deafness and interpreting. You see, my oldest sister and youngest brother are deaf, and I appointed myself the family "interpreter." I decided it was my job to make sure that Juliann and Steve knew what was going on in the family, such as what our mother and father were angry about, who was in trouble and where we were going and when. I would interpret their phone calls and even explain the plot of the latest *Martin & Lewis* movie on television. I was the bothersome younger sister begging to learn some signs so I could show off to my sister's cool older friends and sign, "Hi, I am very happy to see you again." I was also the caring older sister who drove with my mom three hours to the Illinois School for the Deaf to drop off nine-year-old Stevie at "Deaf School" for the first time. We walked away from his sweet face and cried all the way home. Stevie said, "Don't worry, I might get lonely at night when I go to bed, but I will be happy every day here with my friends, who are like me, so don't be sad for me."

That is why I am an interpreter today. My deaf sister, Juliann, is now an interpreter too, and I am more proud of the work she is doing than anything I could ever have accomplished. My niece, Michelle Monahan, and my nephew, Mike Wasisco, are also certified interpreters. RID is not only my professional organization, but it is also my family, and it exemplifies who I am.

It is hard for me to imagine myself as the president of RID, following in

the footsteps of the giants and leaders I have looked up to since I became an interpreter. From the very first president, Ken Huff, to Ralph Neesam, Carl Kirchner, Jim Stangarone, Judie Husted, Dennis Cokely, Anna Witter-Merithew, Jan Humphrey, Janet Bailey, Daniel Burch, Ben Hall and Angela Jones; these are leaders who have greatly contributed to making this powerful organization of 13,000 members what it is today. Looking at all these names and thinking about their impact, the thought suddenly hit me that we all lead in different ways. I respect and honor those leaders who, through research and study, have developed new paradigms of interpreting and the interpreting process; those who teach new paradigms to our 13,000+ members and students eager for continuing education; those who continue to conduct research and write grants to fund the research; those who write books to share knowledge and experience with others within and outside of the field; those who lead our state affiliate chapters and offer educational opportunities in all 50 states and internationally; those who work in the national office as program directors, leading our organization, working 40+ hours a week to serve our organization and membership; and those who serve on our national committees powering programs and projects that make the board of directors so very proud that we serve you. All of those giants are our leaders!

### Five Strategic Challenges

Two years ago, the RID Board of Directors, during annual strategic planning, developed a long list of goals. We were planning on categorizing these goals into short-term and long-term goals when

Cheryl's family 1964



past Treasurer Bruce King, who has a background in organizational development, asked us to take a giant step back. He suggested we take all these dreams, ideas, issues and concepts and identify five strategic challenges (now, that's what I mean when I say we all lead in different ways). Those strategic challenges are as follows:

- 1) **Increase the involvement of deaf members in organizational leadership at all levels**
- 2) **Address dual membership verification challenges**
- 3) **Conduct routine cost/benefit analysis of membership benefits and services**
- 4) **Clearly define membership, voting and credential categories**
- 5) **Outline and address future organizational growth opportunities and issues**

To assist the board in achieving these strategic challenges and clarifying what the future of RID can and should look like, the board will be appointing a task force to study these and other issues facing the organization. The task force will review these issues and make recommendations to the board on how to accomplish these challenges through direct member communication via forums, bulletin boards on the RID Web site, mem-



NEW YORK STATE  
**Unified Court System**  
**OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION**  
 OFFICE OF COURT INTERPRETING SERVICES  
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## Assistant Coordinator in Sign Language Services

The NYS Unified Court System's Division of Court Operations is seeking candidates to fill the position of Assistant Coordinator in sign language services in its Office of Court Interpreting Services (CIS). This full-time position will report directly to the Coordinator of Court Interpreting Services who implements statewide policies established by the Chief Administrative Judge and coordinates the provision of interpreting services to parties involved in the judicial process. This position will be responsible for providing statewide leadership and coordination of interpreting services for deaf and hard-of-hearing court users in compliance with standards, policies and procedures established by the Office of Court Administration.

The ideal candidate will have RID certification and a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university or experience in a related area. Excellent written, oral, interpersonal, analytical and organizational skills, as well as computer proficiency, are essential. Position may be based either in NYC or the Albany area. Travel required. Competitive salary and an excellent benefits package.

Qualified applicants should e-mail a resume and cover letter to the NYS Office of Court Administration, Division of Court Operations, attn: Sandra Bryan, Coordinator of Court Interpreting Services  
 e-mail: [courtinterpreter@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:courtinterpreter@courts.state.ny.us)

ber surveys, regional and local conferences and *VIEWS*.

While the task force researches and prepares recommendations to the board, we will be building upon Angela's platform of *communication and collaboration*. We will be developing a communication structure for forums and discussion from the national level to the affiliate and local chapters and back again on any number of issues or motions before they are presented in a final state for voting. The region representatives, along with their presidents councils, will be instrumental in developing this structure that is in keeping with the following mission of RID: to provide international, national, regional, state and local forums and an organizational structure for the continued growth and development of the profession of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English.

My platform is to support the current philosophy of *communication and collaboration* that Angela established during her tenure as president and add to it a foundation of **TRUST**. Stephen M.R. Covey states in *The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything*, "Trust is essential to leadership. The first job of a leader is to inspire trust. Building trust makes every other ability even better. It is a performance multiplier." Covey explains that trust operates in our lives in the following "five waves:"

**Self Trust** is the confidence we have in ourselves, to set goals and achieve them and to keep commitments which inspires others to trust us.

**Relationship Trust** is establishing trust accounts and alignment with others. This improves relationships and achieves results in our personal and work life.

**Organizational Trust** is inspiring trust at all levels in our own organization and with sister organizations, between the board and national office staff and with our members, committees and affiliate chapters.

**Market Trust** is our reputation. Having a good reputation

inspires loyalty.

**Societal Trust** is that when all of the above is in place, we can achieve Societal Trust where we create value for others and where we are truly giving back. There is no suspicion or cynicism, and we inspire others to operate in the same way.

I promise to work to establish *TRUST* at all levels of this great, powerful and far-reaching organization. And where necessary, I promise to work to restore trust.

Can you imagine our philosophy of *communication and collaboration* with an even stronger foundation of *TRUST*? It sounds like a great recipe, and I plan to cook it!

This month, I've shared with you my personal story. Next month, the president's column will be devoted to introducing you to the new executive board. I have asked each region representative to provide their bios in their regional columns. I think it is important for you to know your board, and I hope you agree. ■

*Cheryl Moose*



*Cheryl's family 2007*