



President's Column
RID e-NEWS August 2011
Brenda Walker Prudhom
TC, CI and CT, NIC Advanced

Dear Members:

I hope you are all enjoying the last days of summer and over the last few months found some time to relax and focus on you!

This has been quite a busy summer for RID. Not only with the production of the biennial conference, but also related to the announcements that have been coming from RID, such as the search for a new executive director, the enhancements to the NAD-RID National Interpreter Certification (NIC) exam and the irregular scoring and fraud that impacted 34 individuals. I would like to take this time to provide you an update on these topics.

The RID Board of Directors is currently reviewing several requests for proposals from professional search firms to assist the board of directors and the RID Search Committee to efficiently and effectively hire the new executive director. In addition, the Board of Directors has identified several of our key leaders to serve on the search committee; final appointments will be announced very soon. It is our hope the hiring of the executive director will be completed and fully on board with RID prior to the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2012.

Until such a time in which a new executive director is hired, the board has appointed Matthew O'Hara, Director of Finance and Administration, as Acting Executive Director. Matthew has more than 12 years of experience with RID and the board has full confidence in his ability to lead this staff and the operations of the organization during this transition time.

Also, related to this topic, the RID Board of Directors and the national office have heard rumors that Clay Nettles was terminated because he was directly connected to the fraudulent scoring of the NIC Interview and Performance Examination. That is simply not true. Clay Nettles was in no way connected to the schemes of Guy Motley to embezzle funds from RID. *Nor is Clay in jail.* Mr. Motley is currently serving a year-long jail sentence for these criminal actions.

Additionally, related to another topic, we have heard rumors that the fraud affected more than 34 individuals. This also is not true. RID conducted a thorough review of exams that were scored between January and September 2010, the period during which Mr. Motley engaged in his fraudulent schemes. This included more than 400 exams. RID staff, working with our outside certification expert, was able to narrow down the number of affected individuals to 34 after lengthy analysis and re-evaluation of the more than 400 exams. RID staff has reached out to those 34 individuals and is working closely with them to resolve the situation.

-more-

Additional information about the fraud and RID's response to it can be found on the RID Web site at <http://www.rid.org/aboutRID/media/index.cfm>.

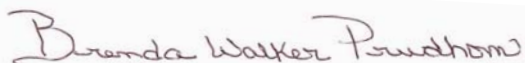
As for the NIC enhancements, the pre-Job Task Analysis is in the final stages of development and will be disseminated within the next few weeks. A wide-spread communications campaign will distribute and announce the survey, which will be accessible in English and ASL. This survey will not be conducted using the RID survey tool, which has raised some concerns in the past regarding limitations. I urge you and your colleagues to participate in this survey as it will guide a crucial stage in the NIC enhancements process related to assessing areas of specialization in the sign language interpreting profession.

Another area of focus for the board of directors is the appointment of volunteer leaders for the 2011-2013 service. The call for committees ended August 15, 2011, and the board is currently working on reviewing the applicants for each of the councils, committees and task forces. We are hoping to finalize this work at the upcoming face to face board of directors meeting, to be held September 22-25, 2011, in Alexandria, VA, so that we can have a full slate of volunteers selected and beginning their work by mid to late fall.

The restructure of the member sections is yet another area of focus for the board. No, we are not eliminating them, just working more closely with the chairs of each member section to offer them greater support and participation in the overall structure of RID, to increase and enhance communication and to obtain the valuable insights of the membership as the board is making strategic decisions for the future of RID.

Finally, at the upcoming board meeting in September, the board will be focusing on strategic planning and the prioritization of resources to meet the goals and objectives to move the organization forward. Chris Grooms, RID Treasurer, and I just came back from spending a few days in the national office with the program directors and reviewing the budget. This provided us an excellent opportunity to work with the national office staff in developing the tools necessary for the upcoming board meeting. I will have more to report on that during the September RID e-NEWS.

Until the next issue, please continue to share your feedback with your professional organization!



Brenda Walker Proudhon