



President's Report to the Members *Brenda Walker Prudhom* *October RID e-NEWS*

Dear Members:

The fall is a time of transition for me. This is especially true for me this year as I have transitioned into the role of President for my professional organization. So, this year, more than any in the past, I find myself reflecting on not only my personal and professional transitions but also the transitions of RID.

One essential element to understanding the transitions of RID is to absorb the feedback from the membership; to understand where we are and how we got here; and to analyze our foundation and structure to ensure we have what we need for where we need to go.

The foundation and structure of RID includes many different elements; including both resources of a financial nature and resources of a human, people, nature. These resources need to be strong. Yes, strong in numbers for the financial side, but strong in depth, passion, commitment and connectivity for the human side of our resources.

As I stated in my report from the board meeting in September, which can be found at <http://www.rid.org/userfiles/File/pdfs/Leadership/Sept2011BODReport.pdf>, the board analyzed RID's moment of transition, the moment where we stand right now, and developed the priorities of CERTIFICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH, and RELATIONSHIPS (communications.)

It is my intention to provide the membership with an update regarding each of these priorities through the President's Column in the monthly *RID e-NEWS*. Through this communication sharing method, I hope you will see how these priorities are transitioning RID to an organization that supports you in your professional growth and development and is a place in which you invest yourself as a member to strengthen the foundation and structure.

CERTIFICATIONS:

To review, after ten years of RID working collaboratively with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and experts in the field of test development, the NAD-RID National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Knowledge exam was born in 2004 and the Performance exam was first offered in 2005. The certification industry standard recommends that a complete certification exam review be conducted every five (5) to seven (7) years. Allocating resources for this step, RID undertook the review of the NIC in 2009 with the appointment of the NIC Task Force. As you all know, the RID Certification Program encompasses other certifications beyond the NIC, so at the same time that we are under review of the NIC, we are simultaneously administering and managing the other exams, such as the CDI, SC:L and Oral exams.

Unfortunately, RID is in a limited resources situation. We must prioritize all the projects that present themselves and those which require funding. We must invest long-term in our existing programs while also trying to plan for the new initiatives that will serve the membership and the field of sign language interpreting. We must balance the needs of our membership and the needs of our organization – which sometimes are following along parallel but different paths.

And in this vein to find balance among the varying needs of the membership and the organization, the board of directors identified the need to review the NIC as a first priority. For the past several years, our colleagues and representatives from NAD serving on the NIC Task Force have worked in collaboration with certification experts from The Caviart Group. Information was shared with the membership on the NIC enhancements in July 2011.

The most recent update regarding the NIC enhancements was distributed in early October. To reiterate, on December 1, 2011, the enhanced, streamlined, single-level NAD-RID NIC Examination will go into effect. As announced at the RID National Conference in July, the enhanced examination will have the same content as the current NIC, but the content will be reformatted to focus more closely on critical interpreting skills. New scoring techniques designed to increase the accuracy, consistency and reliability of the examination scoring will also be introduced with this enhanced test. In addition to more effectively measuring the competency of exam candidates, the new scoring process will allow RID to provide exam results in significantly less time than before. The enhanced NIC will be administered at the same supersite locations currently available.

Since the enhanced examination is specifically aimed at measuring candidates at a single-level, passing candidates will only be eligible to receive the NIC credential. Higher level credentials will be temporarily unavailable until RID completes new examinations specifically designed to accurately assess higher level skills. New examinations will be available in 2013.

For more information, please go to the RID Web site at <http://www.rid.org/NICNews/>.

Additionally, to assist in future planning and enhancing the membership's connection and input in this process, the NIC Pre-Job Task Analysis (Pre-JTA) survey was recently conducted and participation was asked of those that provide interpreting services and those that are consumers of interpreting services. I would like to send a special thank you to our stakeholder organizations as well as all the individual members who spread the word about the Pre-JTA. With your help we have had tremendous participation that will help guide us in the next steps of the NIC enhancements.

A common theme of mine is, "RID is the members and the members are RID." Through your actions to not only provide feedback as an individual but to also take part in the outreach effort to get more involvement in this one activity is really indicative of the power and impact we can have as an organization when we do unite and come together. I look forward to this positive and powerful approach in so many initiatives and activities from the national organization to the regional conferences in 2012 to affiliate chapter grassroots involvement as we move forward.

TECHNOLOGY:

The national office is continuously working on updating the Association Management System to enhance the ability for greater member benefits and services, such as a system that enables faster results of certification exams. Additionally, another aspect of technology that impacts our members as well as the general public is the Web site. The national office will undertake the revision of revamping the Web site while seeking and considering membership feedback throughout the process. We are a visual field and we want our Web site to represent that.

RELATIONSHIPS (communication):

As part of the preparations to appoint the 2011-2013 RID councils, committees and task forces, the board of directors developed the scope of work for each that align with the strategic priorities for the organization. Then, the board reviewed the applications for each volunteer group and finalized the selection process trying to assign applicants to the volunteer group that best matches with their interest and level of skill and experience. As previously stated in my last update, the roster for each has been

finalized. The national office staff is working diligently to complete the official appointment paperwork including the Volunteer Leadership Manual to be sent to each appointed applicant. Once the list of volunteers for this term is final, the information will be posted on the web and shared with the membership. We are anxious to get our volunteer groups up and running to assist with the overall strategic goals and priorities of the organization.

Overall, the board is extremely enthusiastic about the new initiatives being developed at the national office to not only provide better services and programs but also offer members more options to make a connection to our professional organizations. In this economic climate, RID has to navigate the waters in a way to ensure we are fiscally sound now and in the future. These initiatives strike a fine balance to sure up the resources we need to support the priorities identified and the programs and services offered to the membership through the national office. Be on the look-out for more information and announcements as the initiatives are developed and shared with the membership.

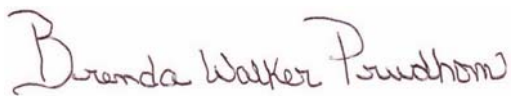
Regarding the executive director search, we are currently working to finalize the list of individuals who will be serving on the Executive Director Search Task Force. Once we have commitments from these individuals, I will be sending out a special e-mail blast with an update on that process. So, more to come on this priority in the next few weeks.

The board of directors is gearing up for our November conference call, which will be on November 10, 2011 from 6 pm to 9 pm EST. There will be more to report from the upcoming meeting in the President's Report for the November *RID e-NEWS*.

As always, stay in touch, share your thoughts and keep informed. You will soon see another survey from RID with the simple question, "*Who is our constituency and what do they need RID to be and what do they need RID to be doing right now?*" We hope to see an increased level of participation by the membership, just like we did with the Pre-JTA. It's your time - share your voice – shape your organization – invest in your profession. Join RID on our journey into our next 50 years!

'Tis the season for celebrations of all kinds. I wish you warmth and happiness as we gather with our family and friends through the holidays the next several months.

Until the next month, all my best,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Brenda Walker Prudhom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brenda Walker Prudhom
RID President