

Region III 2010 Conference

Submitted by Jimmy Beldon and Lynn Joa Wander

Region III Conference Co-chairs

February 2011

Planning for the 2010 RID Region III Conference began two years ago when the theme, "Passport to Possibilities" was chosen. "Arrive in Minneapolis/St. Paul with Great Expectations and Depart from Minneapolis/St. Paul" was the tag line that was used to promote the conference. This corresponded to the theme and became a foundation to support the goals of the conference.

These goals included bringing in presenters that focused on the future of interpreting, as it pertains to diversity in language and culture with a variety of interpreting workshops relating to the conference theme. A specific programming goal was to promote a global perspective and working with new American Deaf populations. Inclusion of members who are culturally, racially and ethnically diverse was another goal. The conference environment included goals such as providing a plethora of opportunities for attendees, presenters, conference interpreters (especially CDIs) and conference support staff to network and learn from one another. Incorporating a visually supportive environment was a goal that helped support a communication policy where all could feel comfortable communicating with one another. This led to having a wide range of communication modes for workshop tracks by having workshops conducted in ASL only, spoken English or a mixture of both and allowed for a Deaf-friendly environment and inclusion of all members. Lastly, we wanted to highlight local Minnesota talent for the entertainment within the Deaf community and invite all people to come, socialize and enjoy the a performance.

A full program offering up to 2.525 CEUs was offered. The program included 28 presenters, 4 keynote/plenary sessions (a first for Region III), 27 workshops and 87 hours of CEU earning events. Time was allowed in the schedule for several special events including a pre-conference leadership training that was open to all who were interested in leadership roles within the organization. Also, several RID representatives were on hand. Janet Bailey, from the Government Affairs Program (GAP); Debbie Peterson, Deaf Member at Large (DMAL) and Rachel Olson from the Strategic Challenges Bylaws Review Task Force ("BOB") shared their knowledge and collected feedback from members. Member Sections also had an opportunity to meet.

Our entertainment, "MindDive" highlighted students, staff and alumni from the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) and their original ASL comedy show was grand!

The Hotel Sofitel provided excellent accommodations and a shuttle service was offered to guests to and from the Mall of America and the airport for their convenience.

The biggest challenge we faced was the slowed economy. Although this impacted the registration numbers and sponsorships, thus creating a possible large deficit, the committee worked diligently with a conservative budget and found creative ways to reduce the budget and generate additional income to cover expenses. We strived for the providing the best conference experience possible without compromising the quality.

Due to generosity of many people, all of the initiatives generating additional income were successful. The silent auction generated a record amount. The raffle also brought in good revenue along with D-Pan DVD sales, entertainment ticket sales and donations.

There is more to come! The Hotel Sofitel provided four hotel certificates, two nights each and they are good through June 30, 2011. The conference co-chairs worked with MRID to include them in the silent auction for their fall conference. All monies collected were put toward the general expenses of the conference.

A final report has been shared with the Presidents Council and the national office. The conference finances resulted in a surplus of \$13,381.67.

On behalf of the Region III Conference Committee, the conference co-chairs sincerely thank the sponsors, donors, vendors, presenters, working interpreters, conference support staff, RID staff, RID and Region III Board Members along with all of Region III members for making this conference possible. We also wish to acknowledge our committee members and volunteers whose generosity, commitment and dedication enabled us to realize our conference goals.

Region III Rocks!

**PASSPORT
to
POSSIBILITIES**



**RID Region III Conference
July 21 -24, 2010**

**Hotel Sofitel
Bloomington, MN**

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- IRID – Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- KyRID – Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- ICRID – Indiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- ASL Interpreting Services
- C & C Connection, LLC
- Paula Gajewski Mickelson and Richard Laurion

Thank you to the 2010 conference committee and volunteers for their generous donation of time, energy, commitment and dedication.

Region III Representative

Leandra Williams

Region III Administrative Assistant

Darlene Snelson

Conference Chief Financial Officer

Tim Fitzgerald

Host Chapter (MRID) Treasurer

Melissa Vetrone

Audio Visual

Stephen Medlicott (Coordinator)

Conference Support Staff

Therese McKenzie (Coordinator)

Hilary Anderson

Myra Barnes

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Caity Creitz

Tashina Good

Samantha Gordon

Amanda Kline

Amanda Moran

Pat Pfitzemeier

Christina Stevens

Entertainment

Carrie Wilbert (Co-Coordinator)

Pam Meinhardt (Co-Coordinator)

Hospitality Committee

Tricia Renner (Coordinator)

Patty Herring

Catelyn Maloney

RaeLynn Satterlee

Rachel Shuda

Hotel

Becky Callahan (Co-Coordinator)

Julie Olson Rand (Co-Coordinator)

Interpreter Coordinators

Hallenross and Associates, LLC

Ben Hall (Co-Coordinator/On-Site Coordinator)

Marla Berkowitz (Co-Coordinator)

Vickie Walker

Program Book

Stephen Medlicott (Co-Coordinator)

Sharisse Leier (Co-Coordinator)

Adrean Clark

Program Committee

Kelly Murphy (Coordinator)

Richard Laurion

Anne Orozco

June Prusak

Registration

Anne Sittner Anderson (Coordinator)

Tarra Grammenos

Silent Auction

Dave Calvert (Coordinator)

Judy Cain

Holly Miles

Megan Krebs

Travis Painter

Sponsors/Vendors/Exhibitors

Staci Lahr (Coordinator)