



## August 2011 e-NEWS RID REGION V REPORT: Utah RID

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### Utah RID (UTRID)

#### *Dawn Duran, President*

It is on the heels of the 2011 RID National Conference in Atlanta, GA, that I am honored to submit this report on behalf of UTRID. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity to network with other national and affiliate chapter officers, as well as many wonderful colleagues. I was impressed with the care and concern of so many members in addressing not only their own professional development, but also the business of maintaining our organization.

Our current board has spent time working on creating a sense of community among interpreters and the Deaf community. It is a task that requires effort on the part of the board, committees and the entire membership. However, the effort must start with the board. We have had success in our efforts and are off to a good start. Some things we have implemented thus far include the following:

- Creating a strong bond within the board by ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to voice their thoughts, ideas and opinions.
- Incorporating the Deaf community in our events. For example, as a board we set the policy that when we hire outside service providers we look first for Deaf-owned businesses and failing that, look second for Deaf-friendly businesses.
- Connecting with the Deaf community by forming a partnership with the NAD affiliate chapter- UAD. We sponsored their state conference and included a booth during our conference where they could sell items to earn money for their chapter as well as promote membership.
- Developing professional development activities centered on member requests. An extensive survey went out to the members to determine training needs, and the workshops provided have been centered on the survey results.
- Inclusion of students entering into the field. Our Student Involvement Committee provides monthly workshops during the school year specifically designed at an introductory level on each topic so students can get familiar with the field without being overwhelmed.
- Recognition and accessibility. Acknowledging members is an important part of what we do. Thank you notes and expressions of gratitude go out often. In addition, as the president, I make an effort to arrive early and use breaks to talk individually to our members and welcome them to events and activities.

It is easy to allow the day to day business of managing an affiliate chapter to get in the way of seeing the people we are serving. Taking time to show care, concern, respect and appreciation for people on an individual basis is the key to remembering why we are doing what we do and building a strong organization that benefits us all.