

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF



Region IV Representative Daniel Burch talks with Marvin and Tess Marshall at the NAD Convention in Tennessee. Marvin was a Co-Chair for the 1993 RID Convention.

Team Interpreting: Deaf and Hearing Interpreters As Allies

By Ruth Sandefur, RSC

Recently the subject of Hearing/Hearing interpreting teams has been addressed. The subject of Hearing/Deaf interpreting teams has been mentioned, but never covered in depth. This author will attempt to address Hearing/Deaf interpreting teams since the CDI certification will soon be available for Deaf interpreters who wish to become certified members of RID. The CDI (Certified Deaf Interpreters) holders will enhance interpreter team situations, especially at conventions such as those held by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

At the 42nd Biennial NAD Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, this author coordinated interpreting services. In recent years approximately 2,000 - 2,400 NAD

members have attended the NAD Biennial Conventions. The Council of Representatives and General Assembly meetings are usually difficult meetings to interpret. They are complicated because the audience uses different modes of communication (ASL, Signed English, Oral, etc.). Also, information pertaining to the meetings, like far too many meetings, is not always readily available beforehand for the interpreters. Since the proceedings of the meeting were being captioned, it was critical that the interpreters who were voicing the Deaf speakers had to be accurate as humanly possible.

At the NAD convention this author tried to ensure greater accuracy at the General Assembly and Council of

ASL Interpreting:

Meeting the Needs of Deaf Consumers

Jo Anna Liedel, M.Ed.

During recent years, a movement towards a bilingual-bicultural philosophy in both education of the D/deaf and interpreting has gained momentum. Many interpreters view ASL interpreting as the mode of choice; being an ASL interpreter may be viewed as a way to gain status in the interpreting field. In the move to become a politically correct interpreter, ASL interpreting is often advocated for and given preference to.

While ASL interpreting may meet the needs of a bilingual-bicultural philosophy, an ASL-only approach may be unrealistic in light of the needs of D/deaf consumers. In Ohio, approximately 2,300 D/deaf students are placed in public school programs, while 150 are placed in the Ohio School for the Deaf. D/deaf students in public schools usually sign in some form of manually coded English (MCE). As adult consumers, these students are likely to require MCE as the mode of communication when using interpreters/transliterators. Even if some of these young adults begin to learn ASL, they may still require or prefer MCE transliterating at least for a while.

Even when a D/deaf person prefers ASL interpreting, options for interpreting services may not make such a preference feasible. When a D/deaf person requests transliterating for educational and professional situations, interpreter/transliterators then often assume that the D/deaf person prefers transliterating for ALL situations. They do not seem to even think that requests for transliterating may be due to their inadequate ASL

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interpreting skills. When the interpreter does not have proficient ASL skills, many D/deaf people would rather receive information in English, and use their English skills to deduce the message. Interpreters need to be willing to openly examine their ASL proficiency.

Another reason that D/deaf persons may request transliterating, especially D/deaf professionals, is the lack of advanced education on the part of many interpreters. Many D/deaf professionals are advancing rapidly in their education and their professional careers. **Interpreters who may only have an associates degree or even a bachelors degree are often ill-suited to adequately work with the new skills and responsibilities that D/deaf professionals have.** Interpreters who have a limited vocabulary and register are usually unable to meet the needs of D/deaf professionals who are highly educated. **Although both interpreting and transliterating require that the interpreter/transliterator understand the content of the message, many D/deaf professionals feel that receiving the message in English gives them more control of the message if it is felt that the interpreter's ASL interpreting skills are not up to the task.**

Frustrated by the lack of qualified interpreter/transliterators, **more D/deaf professionals are turning to other mediums for receiving the message** in both higher education and work situations, such as real-time captioning. This is a clear indication that D/deaf professionals are not going to sit around waiting for interpreter/transliterators to catch up to them on the education/career advancement path. Many D/deaf professionals, especially those in administrative positions, are taking control of and responsibility for communication. Their standards for interpreting services have been raised to the level of their increased education and professional status.

While interpreters strive to improve their ASL interpreting skills, **transliterating will remain in demand** by D/deaf consumers either due to their lack of ASL skills, the interpreters' lack of adequate ASL interpreting skills and education/experience, or just simply a preference on the part of the D/deaf consumer. The recognition of our society as a **multilingual and multicultural** is one that requires that interpreters develop skills and obtain experiences needed in order to meet the needs of various groups of consumers. □

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memorable one. [Margaret Haberman- Past President, Barbara Millios- President, Anna O'Donnell, Dorene Brough, Beth Michaud, Meryl Troop, Diane St. Lawrence, Jody Rich, Shelly Handers, Valori Sears, Doug Newton, Tamara Mosham, Anngaye Ellis, Ruth Vigna, Vic Vigna, Lois Morin].

When the Maine RID Board invited us to hold our summer face-to-face meeting in their backyard, they had no idea that our 5,000th member would be one of their own. How fortuitous!! It gave us the perfect *PHOTO OP*. Dorene Brough, of West Paris, Maine, traveled many miles to visit us and pose for a picture in front of our inn. Dorene was presented her membership card in person and was presented with official Mardi Gras beads by none other than New Orleans Dan himself.

COMMITTEE WORK During our meeting we reviewed the composition and progress of the committees and task forces. In general they have been staffed and many are on track with their work. The feedback received from the mid-term evaluations disseminated earlier this summer were invaluable to us in recognizing areas of need. I really appreciate the

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incredible. Look for more information in next month's issue of the *VIEWES*.

Illinois: Dan Levin, President

The new members who have joined as a result from the recruitment campaign is 141. This brings the total membership to 295! Because of this phenomenal growth, IRID won the National RID Affiliate Chapter Membership Campaign. Congratulations, Illinois! The State Conference has been scheduled for October 7 & 8. It will feature two tracks: one designed for experienced interpreters and the other for novice interpreters. In other news, the proposed bill to license interpreters died in legislation. The bill will need to be reintroduced.

Kentucky: Billie K. Epling, President

The newly elected board scheduled an all day planning meeting for August 6. The purpose was to bring together the state board and the general membership to brainstorm the past, present, and future of the state chapter. At the last state conference, the membership passed a motion to

time taken by all of you who responded to this request - I read each one, shared them with the Board, and we will be addressing each concern.

PLANNING The Board spent several hours discussing major goals and objectives for the road to New Orleans. Everyone agreed that membership participation, communication and the continuing evolution of the Association structure were among the top priorities. Alas, time flies and we were forced to cut the discussions short. Thankfully, planning is an on-going process. We will continue the process through mailboxes and phone lines until we can meet again at the Winter face-to-face meeting.

It was a great meeting. Thanks to the board for their hard work and attention to detail.

THE ROAD TO NEW ORLEANS From now until the convention this will be a permanent part of my column. Start making your plans now for the biggest and the **BEST** convention yet! Region IV is hard at work to make sure that there will be so many great events that we will have to make tough choices. So many things to do & see and so little time. "Come to New Orleans, & bring a costume!" □

add a new board position for a student representative. The state fall conference will be held October 14 & 15 in Louisville. Kathy Matthews, National Testing System Coordinator, will discuss the CMP and the NTS (specifically, the Written, Performance, and Oral Tests).

Minnesota: Marie Elliot, President

Nearly all of the focus has been on the Region III Conference, what else! One thing of particular note is there was a special pre-conference training session for officers of the Region III affiliate chapters. This training focused on funding and organizational issues and was held at Mormandale College where MRID's new office space is located.

Wisconsin: T. Mumm, President

There is continued dialogue on the licensure issue with a state wide committee. The current position of Wis RID is that they do not support the licensure bill until more information is received. Additionally the state has been working to develop SIGs at the local level. The WisRID Fall Conference will be held October 7-9 at Steven's Point. □