

NEW HAMPSHIRE

RID



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Hello NHRID Members!

It's that time of year again, ELECTIONS!

Our next general meeting is Monday, June 13th at NDHHS (57 Regional Drive, Concord) from 6-8p.m.. Meet and greet will take place at 5:30p.m. Hope to see you there!

This year has sure flown by!

The 3rd annual NHIRD/NHAD softball game and BBQ will be Saturday June 4th at 10a.m., at Greeley Park. Located at 100 Concord St, Nashua, NH 03064, Field 1. Bring a dish to share! Volunteers needed to cook and set up BBQ. Children and dogs welcome, however, children under 18 are not allowed to play. Bring mitts and chairs. Hope to see you there!

I'd really like to thank the membership for a fantastic year as President. I feel that I am still getting my feet wet. Well, I may be up to my ankles now. So I have decided to run again for President.

Heather Geisser



In summer, the song sings itself.

~William Carlos Williams

Information Regarding Elections

Positions

President: Shall preside over all the meetings of the organization. With the approval of the Executive Board she/he shall appoint committee chairpersons whenever necessary to carry out the functions of the organization and shall serve as ex-officio member of said committees. She/he will be required to cosign all checks written for over five hundred dollars. The President shall perform other duties as may be designated by the Executive Board.

Vice President: Shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, have all the powers and be subject to all the restrictions of that office.

Secretary: Shall keep minutes of all meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board and shall perform other duties delegated by the Executive Board.

Treasurer: Shall have custody and responsibility for all funds of the organization in such bank or other depository as shall be selected by the Executive Board. She/he shall prepare a financial report to be presented at each regular meeting of the general membership and shall send an annual report to RID as outlined in Article VIII, section 5 of the official RID Bylaws.

Member-at-Large: Perform duties as assigned by the Executive Board and the general membership. (3 Member at Large positions)

We are also seeking members interested in becoming our student representative (must be a current student in an ITP) and a representative from the New Hampshire Association of the Deaf. These positions will be selected to serve in an advisory role to the Executive Board.

Nominations

- A. Any voting member in good standing may nominate candidates for office.
- B. Nominations will be accepted from the floor only if the person being nominated is present or if she/he has given a letter of acceptance to the membership from another member in good standing.
- C. Voting will be by secret ballot for any contested office. Elections of any office shall be by the majority of those voting.

Other requirements:

All elected officers are required to attend at least 75% of the meetings of the Executive Board.
All officers of NHRID shall be members in good standing of RID.

Term of Office:

Members of the Executive Board shall be elected for a term of one year and may be re-elected for additional terms.

Nominees for the 2011-2012 Year

President: Heather Geisser

Vice President: Dawn Welshman

Secretary:

Treasurer: Julie O'Meara

Members at Large: Rosemary Simpson, Jodie Novak, Rachel Farrell

Although not an elected position, we are also seeking a newsletter editor.

Please contact me (heathergeisser@gmail.com) with any names of people, including yourself, who you feel would be an asset to the NHRID board. Any member nominated by another member for a board member position will be contacted for their consent before announcing their candidacy.



NHRID General Meeting

March 12, 2011

Attendance: Heather Geisser, Jodie Novak, Dawn Welshman, Shawna Chrostowski, Sandy Unger, Krista Brown, Emily Graves, Jodi Lefort, Cindy Wallace, Julia Emley, Rosemary Simpson, Lianne Moccia, Rachel Farrell

Visitors: Susan Wolf-Downes, Connie Clanton

Meeting started at: 10:06am

Board Reports:

President's Report:

Agenda additions/corrections:

Heather will add that we will be voting for officers at the next NHRID General meeting.

Julia Emley would like to add that NTD would like to bring Deaf theatre to that Concord HS,

Correction on the number of years for the NHRID/NHAD softball game. It is the 3rd annual softball game, not the 2nd.

Minutes Corrections/Acceptance:

Luce, Dawn, and SWD all have spelling errors in their names

Jodi spoke to the secretary about other corrections that need to be implemented.

Jodi Lefort moves to approve minutes with corrections. Dawn Welshman seconds.

Treasurer's Report:

We have this quarter's budget. There are a few questions from the membership regarding some line items. We made a donation to Mass RID for a Betty Colonomos workshop they are planning to run at Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Jodi Lefort asks if the donation will entitle NHRID members to the rate that MassRID members will pay for the workshop. Heather comments that she is not sure but will look into it. Julia Emley asks about the line item that is labeled Charitable Trust. This is in the budget as a line item because it is necessary to keep our non-profit status. Therefore, we need to make sure it is shown in the budget.

Committee Reports:

PDC:

Aimee has had to step down as PDC co-coordinator, but Jenn Howes has volunteered to take her place. Jenn and Amy-Jean have chatted a few times about some possibilities. One such possibility is the St. Catherine medical DVDs that Aimee and AJ had started to work on. They intend on purchasing a couple of the DVDs and then establishing a plan on how to implement them as a "work group" approach, versus the independent study that it is presently the approach. Details have not been worked out, but they do hope to have something set up before the next general meeting. They do have other thoughts that we are playing with, but have not put a specific plan in place. The committee members will be in touch with the members in the very near future with further updates.

Licensure:

Jodi Lefort reports that the Licensure Board is focusing on Administrative Rules. Additionally, Luce Aubry will officially be approved to be a member of the board by Friday, March 18.

MIAB: Jayne Zedon is not here to report. Rosemary Simpson is also one of the representatives for the group and will do the reporting. The group has changed its name and is now called Culture Awareness Healthcare Workgroup. There is not much to report on behalf of this organization. They are focusing on a new DVDs. The DVDs are being created for NH hospitals that will include HIPPA, Patient Rights & Responsibilities, Advanced Directives, General Consent, and Basic Grievance. Joan Marcoux talked to the group about CART reporting. Rosemary is the rep for St. Joseph's Hospital. She was able to show patient equipment for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. Many hospitals, because of recent lawsuits, are trying to improve services for Deaf and HoH people. They have people on staff in the building to do what is necessary for equality. NDHHS has been involved in educating some of the hospitals such as Concord Hospital and St Joe's. There has been discussion of hiring Deaf individuals to work within the hospital. Dawn raised the question of clarifying the new state standards. SWD comments that she has met with higher ups within the hospitals to encourage them to not ignore the needs of Deaf and HOH patients. Rosemary mentions that the new state standards were not discussed during the last meeting, but there will be an EQUITY meeting next week. So, she will keep us posted. Dawn requests that NHRID is given a copy of the new state plan or that it be posted as a link online. SWD mentions that it is sizeable document. Dawn requests that it be made available for review for the next meeting. Julia mentions that having it available online would be more environmentally friendly. Dawn mentions that it would be beneficial to see all the statewide rules because it will affect interpreters.

Membership:

Jodie Novak reports the current numbers: 41 members, 8 are new; 33 members have renewed; 25 members from last year have not yet renewed. We will be in contact with people again to remind them to renew this month.

Commission on Deafness and hearing loss:

Laurie Meyer is not present to discuss any updates.

Newsletter:

Emily reports the next NL deadline will be Wednesday, May 18. This will be the last NL Emily will be doing. We are looking for someone to fill the position of NL editor.

Scholarship Committee:

There have been no requests for scholarship money since August 2010. Therefore, there is nothing to report.

NHAD:

No representative present to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fund Raiser:

Jodie Novak reports that we are trying to do a dining out fundraiser. When the board discussed what we would do with the money from the event we thought we could use the funds toward having a Deaf Blind workshop in NH. The event will be held on June 10th at the 99 Restaurant on South Willow St. in Manchester. SWD adds that Joan Case had requested that a Deaf Blind workshop be considered in this state. Heather mentions that our plan was to donate the money raised to that WS and that NDHHS had offered \$400 to donate. So we now have 2 resources for funding this workshop. SWD wants it to be clear that Joan specifically requested that this type of workshop be held for NH interpreters, and she suggests that Joan would be a good resource for the WS. Perhaps Joan could be the presenter. Julia Emley thinks she saw an email from Jack Hoza that there was money available for a Deaf Blind WS. Lianne goes on to explain that there is excellent training and Deaf Blind WS at the Helen Keller center. Lianne also attended a Deaf Blind WS that was run by Renee Pellarn, a man from VT, and his wife. It was a very good hands on experience. That couple doesn't live far from here and he is a funny guy; he would keep the audience captivated. Jodi Lefort asks why we are raising money for a WS when there is a line item in the budget for that. Heather goes on to explain that we wanted a definitive purpose for the money we will be raising at the Dining Out Night. SWD asks Lianne if there would be DB people in the audience during the WS for hands on experience. Lianne says they are very open to suggestion and that we may be able to design the WS a little and give them suggestions of what we would like to them to model.

Conference Calling:

Lianne has new input. She explains that VTRID uses www.freeconference.com. She says she is not suggesting buying any equipment as of yet. People would just call into the number with an access code. This is a free service. All we need is a speakerphone on. If people live far they can call in. If a Deaf individual calls in from

home they would use VRS; so still free for Deaf members or participants calling in. So Deaf participants would still have the benefit of calling in from afar. Of course it is still nice to see people in person, but sometimes driving in the bad weather limits people whom live far away. Heather raises the concern that no one would attend the live meetings. Lianne explains that this is not the case in VT. This system has actually increased the membership in VT. It has created no problem so it would be worth a try. Julia, moves to try conference for the next meeting, Lianne seconds. Dawn brings up that ongoing problem of having no one willing to interpret the meeting. Lianne suggests that members would just volunteer, as she was willing to do today on behalf of the secretary. Everyone could take turns. Cindy comments that some people may not want to interpret. She feels the meetings are a time for her to be involved with the conversations and see what is happening in the interpreting community. Jodi L. goes on to point out that when the meeting was interpreted in the past that the person who was interpreting was not permitted to participate in the meeting, She went on to explain that in the past people wouldn't even want to do it with pay. So then people calling in wouldn't have access. Emily would be willing to volunteer. She feels that it could be a good forum for new interpreters to practice. Dawn suggests asking students to do it. Heather adds that students would have a hard time with the phone call because the sound may be muffled because of the speakerphone. Emily agrees that it would be difficult for some but other newer interpreters are involved and know the issues giving them the necessary schema to interpret the meeting. Krista suggests that people who will be calling in from home give advanced notice that they will use the conference calling system and, with the advanced notice, we would try to get interpreters from there. Heather mentions that if someone decides early that they would use conference call and then they have a change of plans we'd have hired or spent the time securing interpreters for no reason. Sandy suggests we go ahead and give it a try and if it doesn't work out we would just drop it. Rosemary adds that we should also set up some incentives to give people incentive to come to the face-to-face meetings. Cindy suggests that we ask Massachusetts interpreters to do the interpretation. Jodi explains that hiring interpreters from outside of the membership has presented communication problems in the past because they were missing the schema for the NH interpreting community. Lianne says that if the interpreters are volunteering they should be able to vote. There is a vote for Julia's motion:

Agreed: 13 opposed:0 abstentions:0 Vote passed.

Discussion of CDIs in NH:

Laurie Meyer proposes to drop the committee as she feels it is more of a licensure law issue. Rosemary mentions that she was willing to be on the committee but could not take heavy amount of responsibility where the committee was involved. Heather agrees that the committee would in general have a heavy workload. Laurie asked Jodi to request that the membership withdraw the committee. Julia mentions that NHRID could function as the catalyst for making a proposal to the licensure board. Meaning that even if the committee is withdrawn that this should be an ongoing discussion amongst the membership. SWD also mentions that without many CDIs in the state it increases the issue of filling Deaf Blind work. She will occasional have to function as a communication facilitator. She finds that this will resolve some communication issues on occasion. She feels that there are many Deaf people in NH that would be able to serve in a role of communication facilitator type of role because they are native users of the language. These individuals would need some level of training of course. Cindy shares her concern about how to set boundaries regarding this. She mentions that she was at a venue where the Deaf person had a Deaf friend with them and she noticed that the friend, in trying to clarify for the person was making several errors in communication. Therefore, this was of no benefit to the consumer. This friend was not qualified to be in the role of CDI or communication facilitator and it lead to further misunderstandings. That is the reason we have the license law, to avoid that type of

situation. SWD says she understands the concern and mentions how few and far between the requests for this type of interpretation are at this point in NH. She still feels that there are 4 or 5 Deaf individuals in the state of NH that could thrive in that role. However, she agrees it would of course be much better to have profession CDIs readily available. Jodi makes a point to mention that part of Laurie's concern was that there is a decrease in the amount of work where she is paired with a CDI. CDIs in this state cannot make a living off of the work because they are not requested enough. One CDI had to get a day job because there isn't enough work to earn a living. We have the waiver form to allow more flexibility. That's the loophole or provision that we have for CDI requests. Dee mentioned at the last meeting that Mass has a screening but people don't take it because the expenses of the training and the testing does not pay off in equivalent income in the end. Deaf individuals with Mass screening can get a NH license just like hearing interpreters. Dawn mentions that the need is not rare but the ability to get CDIs is rare. Jodi goes on to explain that Laurie Meyer's point was there needs to be more use of CDI work here in NH. So Jodi is wondering if we have come to a place in the work where when we feel there is a need for a CDI. We know that getting one will be almost impossible, and, therefore, we go ahead and proceed with the job anyway? Rachel remembers Dee saying the Deaf person must fill out the request form, but that person may not even realize what they are filling out if the need is that intense. NH really needs to focus energy on education of the community and Deaf individuals to get more CDIs working in this state. If we tried to focus on what Massachusetts is doing, it would be comparing apples and oranges because the two communities have completely different needs. Cindy discusses that Maine often uses CDIs, and they have a small community similar to NH. NH needs to figure out a way to educate and get more CDIs working in this state. Heather wonders if we could put some type of event for education for and about CDIs for Deaf awareness week or some other well-known event that we use that as a public awareness time. SWD suggests holding a WS for Deaf people to learn about the field. Perhaps several people have never imagined or envisioned themselves as a CDI before. Connie mentions, in addition, that some Deaf people will feel that calling a CDI into a job as a negative thing, as a bit of an insult or a feeling of inferiority. It needs to be discussed and considered a positive thing and somehow advertised in the community as positive. Jodi, giving the interpreting communities perspective, says that many of us tend to think of the use of CDIs for Deaf individuals with multiple disabilities. Emily would like to see the state come up with a plan for improving the CDI situation. SWD mentions that Equity and Health Partnership are state plans that are meant to help minority groups, and CDI training should be part of the assistance to the Deaf community. Lianne adds that the upcoming WS for CDIs is not limited to the community in VT. Another question at hand is, "How do we retain the CDIs to work in NH?" The national CDI test is geared toward English, this is discriminatory to the people who can't pass the English part. Another important question to address, "Can we encourage people to do the training?" People need training because, while they have the language skills, they are missing the ethics piece to the profession. An additional problem is people don't want to pay for training when they are going to have no work to payoff for the cost of said training. Lianne adds that as a result of the foundations to Deaf interpreting a few Deaf individuals have become excited about the profession. Heather mentions that we should continue this discussion at the next meeting. If any other thoughts come up regarding this please email Heather. Julia thanks for great discussion and let's continue it.

Vacancies:

We have finally filled the open position of Member at Large. Julie O'Meara will be taking the position.

We will have the position of NL Editor opening, as Emily Graves has decided to resign from the position.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conference Calls:

Lianne asks who is going to be responsible for the conference call system being up and running for the next meeting. Dawn volunteers to be responsible to have it functioning for the next meeting. Heather mentions that we discussed it in depth during old business and asks if there are any further comments. There are none.

Heather reminds everyone that the meeting in June will be an election meeting. We will be accepting nominations for President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, and three members at large. We will also be looking for a new NL editor.

Julia discusses NTD. Ian Sanborn emailed recently. NTD would like to bring Deaf theatre to Concord HS. His mom is a teacher there, and CHS wants to invite a NTD to come to the school. He suggested that there would be one show specifically for the Deaf and interpreting community. We could also hold a workshop and maybe make the CDI discussion part of that workshop. There would be a cost for the WS. But that might be a good opportunity to have that type of WS. Heather asks for the date. Julia says one has not been set at this time. This would give enough time to figure out what kind of scholarship money may be made available through NHAD and NHRID for the WS. Heather mentions that she remembers NTD coming in the past and that the performance was great for the local students. Dawn asks who would be the contact person for donations. Julia suggests that Ian's mom would be the best contact person. Dawn submits a motion that NHRID would contact UNH ASL club, NHAD, LSS, CCN, and other local Deaf organizations for donations. Jodi mentions that a motion is not necessary for this. There is a representative from almost all organizations present. Would they be willing to mention it to their individual organizations? If they are there is no need to motion that NHRID take on the responsibility. Dawn Withdraws motion. Julia will give out contact information.

Training for Deaf interpreters:

VT will have a training the presenter is Reagan Thibodeau. Foundations of Deaf interpreting part 1 and 2 were supposed to be happening in VT. Betty Conomus and Jan Delap were planned to be the facilitators, but there were not enough participants. They will expand the region in which the invitation is to be extended. Lianne asks if Heather will be able to email it to the NHRID membership. We should encourage people to go. Lianne wonders if we should redo the part 1 workshop so that people will be able to attend the part 3 workshop. One needs to have completed part 1 in order to be able to join the part 3 workshop. The membership will need more clarification from Lianne concerning this.

Other:

Emily wants to add that she and another interpreter friend were talking about when the membership cycle runs. Is there any way to change the membership cycle to flow the national RID yearly cycle? Heather says we would have to check the by laws. Jodi recalls that we were forced to change the membership cycle to follow the calendar year. Heather thanks Jodi for the recollection and she will also run it by Aimee. Jodie Novak suggests coming up with an online or pay pal submission in order to make the process a bit more convenient for members. Heather says she will look into that possibility.

Announcements:

Rachel Farrell is driving to MA for a workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday. The theme of the WS is interpreting for Deaf individuals who have experienced trauma. Rachel is not sure where she is going to stay but if someone wanted to ride together or stay overnight they are welcome to join her. The WS is in Springfield and it is free. It is supposed to be for interpreters who work in that county in MA, but there are still a few available openings.

SWD wants to remind everyone that NDHHS' Annual Auction will be on April 30th. Sue also wanted to pass along a message from Joan Holleran, who manages Part B funds. Joan H. appreciates that some interpreters volunteer for Part B requests or may not charge for travel time and mileage. Joan H. also mentioned that years ago interpreters did not charge for travel time and mileage as a standard practice. SWD will meet with her to discuss this issue very soon.

Rosemary announces that St. Joseph's Hospital will be having an open house to show the Deaf community the ways the hospital has improved for the needs of Deaf and HoH. There will be free food, health checks and blood pressure checks. It is scheduled for April 9, 9-11am.

Jodie Novak mentions that Silent lunch still on third Saturday of every month.

DSSH's next dates are being announced on FaceBook.

Keith Wann will be at SNHU on March 25th.

The 3rd annual NHAD/NHRID Softball game and BBQ will be on June 4 at Greeley Park in Nashua.

NHAD isn't here so Rachel Farrell announces that on April 10th, 12-330 there will be spaghetti social in Derry. The cost is \$25 for family and \$10/PP.

2011 RID National Conference in Atlanta, GA, July 17-22. There is money for anyone that will be going as an NHRID representative.

Helen Keller Training. Rosemary is thinking about attending depending on her work schedule.

Kash prize goes to Rachel Farrell

Meeting adjourned: 11:57



Member Message

Are you considering going to the RID National Convention this July 17-22? Not sure if it's worth it or rather, worth spending the money? I am here to tell you it IS worth it and please DO consider spending a week in sunny Atlanta, GA!

There is so much opportunity for us as interpreters at these conferences. Not only are there many educational workshops -- 5 hour extended, 3 hour and 1.5 hour professional presentations -- there are also opportunities to meet and schmooze with some of the best in our profession! It is a fun-filled week packed with tremendous educational and professional networking potential.

If you go with the intent of getting as many CEUs as you can, you will find you can earn a lot. If you go with the intent of networking and meeting people, you also can fulfill that need quite easily. It is just incredible to be in a room with 2,000 or more other people who have the same passion and interest that you do! This happens at the opening ceremony and it is so empowering!

I decided to write this for a couple of reasons. Truly, some of the best in our field present at the national conference and where else can we learn from so many in such a small amount of time? It really is a chance of lifetime. As well, it would be great if a group of us from New Hampshire could get together and have a little social time! I often get together with friends from places I have interpreted before (Maryland, Maine) but would love to meet up with YOU!

So, all this said, if you are already registered, please do let me know and we can plan a gathering. If you are not yet registered, please consider it. I don't think you will regret it.

Thanks for listening! (or rather, reading!).

Cindy Wallace

Editor's Note: For more information on the RID National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia [click here](#).



Bethany Hawkins sent a couple of pictures from her October wedding and honeymoon to Las Vegas, the Hoover Dam, Lake Mead and the Grand Canyon.





CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES!

Congratulations to the 2011 graduates of the Sign Language Interpretation Program at UNH Manchester; job well-done:

Amanda Houle
Heather Lapalme
Marissa Tremblay
Desiree Weems

Also, we want to send a big THANK YOU to all of the mentors who worked with these new graduates! Stealing a phrase, it really does "take a village to raise an interpreter."

Have a good summer, everyone.

--Jack Hoza, Pax McCarthy, and Aimee Stevens

On behalf of the Deaf Studies Program at Northern Essex Community College, I want to thank the following colleagues for their invaluable assistance as practicum supervisors this past year:

Shawna Chrostowski
Rayne Depukat
Heather Geisser
Christina Morrill
Julie O'Meara

The practicum component of the program is by far what the students value the most in their training and we thank you heartily for having contributed to this important part of their journey into the interpreting field.

Luce Aubry
Coordinator, Deaf Studies at NECC

Do not forget little kindnesses and do not remember small faults.

Chinese Proverb