

## Winter 2010 ~ Presidential News

Hello NHRID!

I hope everyone is keeping warm and has been able to find some time to cuddle up and relax by a fire. I hope you are looking forward to a fun-filled, exciting, and busy 2010!

It is with much regret that we accept the resignation of Shannon Grundy, Vice President. Shannon has served NHRID in various roles for 3 years and not only will she be missed on the NHRID board, she is missed greatly around the community. We hope to be able to lure her back to New Hampshire after she gets sick of the big city. ☺

As announced via email, we will be having an election at our January 23 meeting to fill the vacant Vice President position. Please consider taking an active leadership role in NHRID. After all, this is YOUR organization!!! If anyone is interested or would like to find out more information, please contact me or any other board member. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Onto NHRID business, this fall we had a little “scare”. There was discussion about the possibility of travel rates being changed. Thankfully, that was not the case; however there is concern, on the state level, about Part B jobs (weddings, funerals, family parties, etc.) It seems the Part B funding (community funds) has been decreasing over the last few years and because of this fewer and fewer deaf people have access to their personal parties and events.

One idea that came out of the meeting with VR was the idea of using students, “pre-screened”

interpreters, or those people who are part of a mentorship program to cover some of these kinds of jobs. Of course at this point, we don't have a mentorship program and we would need to figure out how this idea could work with our current licensure law, but this is a discussion that could help to resolve the problem. The only other alternative that the state may look into is to limit or reduce rates for these types of jobs in order to stretch these funds as far as they can go.

So what we are STILL looking for a few members who would like to be on a committee to discuss this issue. We would like to form a small group with representation from NHRID, NHAD, and the Licensure Board so we can come up with some ideas to bring to the state to help solve this crisis. Anyone interested in being part of this effort should let me know and we will go from there.

Over the last few months there has been new discussion of setting up a mentorship program. Terry Linehan and I applied for a few different grants to help get this program off the ground. However we have, as of yet, been unsuccessful in our attempts. My goal in the New Year is to refocus my attention on this project. So, those of you who expressed interest to me earlier this year should expect that I will be in touch again soon! And of course, if anyone else is interested, please let me know.

Thank you for a great year so far and I look forward to a fantastic 2010!!!

Aimee Stevens

### NHRID Officers:

President: Aimee Stevens  
[president@nhrid.org](mailto:president@nhrid.org)

Vice President: position open

Treasurer: Amy-Jean Leblanc  
[treasurer@nhrid.org](mailto:treasurer@nhrid.org)

Secretary: Emily Graves  
[secretary@nhrid.org](mailto:secretary@nhrid.org)

NHRID Logo Designed by  
Connie Clanton

### Members at Large:

Shawna Chrostowski  
[shawnamc77@gmail.com](mailto:shawnamc77@gmail.com)

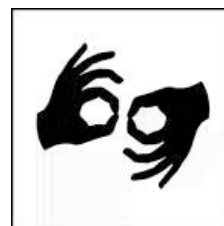
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# 2009: A Year to Remember

By Amy-Jean Leblanc

This year I turned 43 years old. I never thought of this as midlife, therefore a midlife crisis is not how I want to label my adventures in 2009. I think sometimes in life we just reach a point where “next year” becomes “now”. Things I said I would love to do “someday” or “maybe next year” were no longer put on hold and the reasons or excuses that I had for not doing them were no longer viable. This year I decided it was time to put my health first, so I could be a better person all the way around – wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend, interpreter. So, in January, I signed on with a local gym that was hosting an 8-week Biggest Loser competition and started my journey to a healthier me. In those 8 weeks I lost 20 pounds and took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the competition. And for the first time in years I didn’t just stop there and then regain the weight. I kept going and lost 30 more. So, to date I am 50 pounds lighter (30 more to go) and leaps and bounds healthier. Even before I lost 40 pounds I felt so confident in my abilities and in the new me, that in May I decided to sign on to do a sprint triathlon scheduled for September 13, 2009. It was originally posted as a .25 mile swim, 15 mile bike and 5k run. As the date drew nearer it became apparent that there was an event conflict in the area and the bike portion had to be tweaked to 10 miles. Believe it or not that was a disappointment. (Who would have thought?) The original goal was to complete the triathlon; I didn’t even care if I came in last. The idea of competing in a triathlon had never been a part of my dreams so completing it seemed enough for me. Then I started training for it and I no longer just wanted to finish I wanted to NOT be last. So, after a summer of training I jumped into the FREEZING cold water and started the personal challenge. I finished and did really well for my first triathlon – out of 525 women I came in 438 (heck that’s almost 100 competitors behind me). And yes, I did say “first”. My second tri is scheduled for July 18, 2010, which happens to be my 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary and since my husband ended up training all summer with me and also lost 30 pounds, we have decided to do this one together.

If you’re interested in reading my “tri report” you can click on this link and you’ll find it there.

[http://www.sparkpeople.com/mypage\\_public\\_journal\\_individual.asp?blog\\_id=2398257](http://www.sparkpeople.com/mypage_public_journal_individual.asp?blog_id=2398257)

Oh, but wait, this isn’t the only thing I chose to “jump” out of my comfort zone for - I went skydiving, too. On July 6, 2009, my husband who is really afraid of heights decided to say, “You know, someday I may consider going skydiving with you!” Words I don’t think he’ll ever repeat. My response... “How about today?” At this point I was in a challenge-myself frame of mind. So we made a call to Skydive Pepperell and they had an opening that day. I must admit that we were very close to nixing the idea after listening to the lawyer on the video tape explain that we were signing away, well, basically our lives. Health insurance wouldn’t cover if we were injured, if we died, life insurance wouldn’t pay either. Eek! and both of us going together, hmmm...we did hesitate, but eventually we decided to take a “leap” of faith. My husband, John, was a little nervous, but I was energized beyond belief. The 6-passenger flight took about 20 minutes as we reached 10,000 feet and then off we went. (John dove first). It was the most incredible feeling of freedom and beauty. The weather was warm, bright and sunny, the sky was clear and views were incredible. I was enjoying the ride so much I almost forgot that the 6 foot, good looking Columbian strapped to my back had not even pulled the ripcord yet. \*grin\*. As I gently landed the euphoria of experiencing the ride and surviving it was bursting all over. We were giddy for the rest of the day and then some.

I’m sure you are wondering what this has to do with interpreting. Well, not a whole heck of a lot, BUT, prior to this year I had no knowledge of triathlon lingo or what it was like to freefall from 10,000 feet. So, I like to say that any experience we have can add something to our tool bag. Don’t you agree?

Hello NHRID Members,

Well, there's no denying it any longer. Winter is upon us and, at least in my neck of the woods, it's hitting hard. Who needs snow when the temperature is in the single digits? ☺ I hope that you are all bundled up and keeping warm! I invite you to read on for more information about the RID Student Member Section and our Region I Conference, happening August 13-15, 2010.

Student Member Section - The other Regional Representatives and I just began working toward the creation of a Student Member Section. Over 30 student members and one ITP professor from more than 15 states have already contacted me. I will work with them, and all other interested allies, to make an official welcoming and supportive space in the organization that provides leadership, networking, and skill development opportunities for students. If you, or someone you know, are interested in the collaboration, contact me and I'll add you to the ever-growing list!

And now, on to the "meatiest" part of this update...drum roll please...OUR 2010 REGION I CONFERENCE!! There's no rhyme or reason to the order of what follows - each part of the update is as important as the next, so please bear with me as I try to get all of them out to you.

In addition to the registration forms (which are already starting to come in!), the Calls for *Awards*, *Discussion Topics*, *Student Support Staff*, *Presenters*, *Interpreters*, *Vendors*, *Sponsors*, and *Entertainment*, are up on the Conference website (<http://www.vtrid.org/region1conf.htm>). Please check that site for more information regarding any of those opportunities. We are in need of more interpreters and especially Deaf interpreters to staff the conference so please send your applications in soon!

Also, if you know of any businesses, companies, organizations, etc. who would be great sponsors of our conference, please send their contact information to our Conference Co-Coordinators, Kelly Decker ([kelly.lee.decker@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.lee.decker@gmail.com)) and Trudy Gilbert ([trugilb@aol.com](mailto:trugilb@aol.com)).

We are especially looking for presentations that tie into our theme, "Together Empower and Motivate" (TEAM). We also **need** workshops for CDIs, workshops of a legal nature, and workshops targeted toward students. The deadline for proposals has been extended to January 15<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to send in your proposals!

Do you plan to drive to the conference? If yes, do you have any A/V equipment (i.e. projectors, projection screens, etc.) that you would be willing to allow us to borrow? As one way to keep overhead costs low, we are staying true to our service roots and asking our colleagues to help out. If you are able to loan any A/V equipment to the Conference, please contact our Kelly and Trudy at the above emails.

And now onto some big news directly from me -- I am a firm believer that variety is the spice of life. As such, our conference "business meeting," with Robert's Rules of Order, motions, and a parliamentarian will be nothing of the sort! Instead, I will host a Membership Forum that will both entertain and inform you. Here's the current vision that I hold for how our time together will be used:

- A) Regional/National Updates from me
- B) Talk show...a what??? Yes, a talk show. I always wanted to be a talk show hostess, so I'm incorporating my passion with the information we want to share. There will be three segments. First, we'll have updates and interviews from the national level. The second segment will be reserved for any stakeholders attending. For example, a NAOBI rep, NAD, NCIEC, etc. The third segment will be your Affiliate Chapter's 15 minutes of fame. We will have \*all\* ACs represented on stage, again to be interviewed by yours truly. The specifics haven't worked themselves out in my head just yet, but I can promise you it will be \*great\*!
- C) After our talk show is complete, we will breakout into group discussion sessions (to be done much in the same way as IDP's IQ forum in '07 and '09). There will be reporter/facilitator/note takers (one person) in each group, who will be assigned and trained in advance. Discussion among these groups will be about the "discussion topics" (not motions) that we solicit from you. The Membership Forum committee has a call out for those discussion topics. Send any ideas

their way to the email address listed on the call. When we bring the discussion to a close, those reporter/facilitator/note takers will join me on stage to report to the larger group. We'll have any last comments, and then voting based on those discussions. Logistics around voting are yet to be determined.

- D) As I stated in the beginning, I know that in years past, we have run a "membership business meeting," with a parliamentarian and Robert's Rules of Order to boot. I'm changing it up for a few reasons. First, it's what I do. I like to keep things new and exciting and so long as the same goals are accomplished (informative, networking, sense of the membership, etc.), why not play with the design? Secondly, many people run screaming for the hills when the words "Robert's Rules of Order" come up. Or "parliamentarian," for that matter. I want all views represented and this is a way in which everyone can play together, with an equal opportunity to participate. Finally, because whatever comes from our time together is not official or binding, I prefer to see a transparent forum that invites people to listen and be listened to, while understanding that we are focusing on making an impact for our region, and doing so in a way that presents a united voice as a result.

Stay tuned for more information about our Membership Forum. It will be a blast; I look forward to seeing every one of your shining faces there!

For more info, check the e-News in your email inboxes (from the national office) and/or online at: [http://www.rid.org/member\\_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/138](http://www.rid.org/member_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/138). There you will find all our Regional Updates, as well as current news from our Affiliate Chapters (you will also see a not-too-flattering picture of me (why I chose "picture day" to test out a new shade of lipstick, I shall never know!)). The information above are excerpts from my much more extensive December e-News update, which you will also find on the website.

All the best to you and yours this holiday season - bundle up everyone, my Farmers' Almanac says that this winter will be numbingly cold!



Cheers,  
*Jackie*

[region1rep@rid.org](mailto:region1rep@rid.org)

## Legislative Update

### Luce Aubry, NHRID Liaison to the Commission on Deafness and Hearing Loss

The legislative committee on issues facing Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens is focusing on two issues at this time. The first is a retained bill, HB 561-FN, which is mandating insurance coverage of hearing aids in the amount of \$1,500 every three years per individual. This bill is on the calendar for the first day that the House convenes on January 6. Many items are on the calendar, however, so it's not assured that the bill will get heard that day. All members of the committee were given a list of House Representatives to contact encouraging them to vote 'yes' on this bill. I've emailed over 40 Representatives on behalf of NHRID.

The second issue that the committee is focusing on is a mechanism for allowing Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to have some type of identification on their driver's licenses that they have a hearing loss, if they so choose. This item will not require legislative action but, rather, internal administrative action. The committee is in dialogue with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) on the logistics of implementing this type of voluntary identification system.

## NHRID General Meeting – Saturday, October 17, 2009

Members Present: Aimee Stevens, Rosie Hill, Shawna Chrostowski, Dawn Welshman, Emily Graves, Amy-Jean Leblanc, Shannon Grundy, Luce Aubry, Lori Johnstone (NHAD Representative), Krista Brown, Sandy Unger, Maureen Lundergan, Cindy Wallace, Jack Hoza, Susan Graesser, Terry Linehan, Deb McKinney,

Visitors: Norm Lafond, Robin Anastas, Kayla Ingham, Lauren Willford, Desiree Weems

Meeting called to order at: 10:09am

Penny activity

Introductions of meeting attendees

Minutes from June 15, 2009 meeting: accepted with corrections

### **President's Report**

RID Region 1 Rep Rebecca Barkowitz resigned, replaced with Jackie Emmart. Had 1:1 phone meeting with her that went very well.

Participated in a Region 1 Presidents' conference call. NHRID will coordinate the CEUs for Region 1 conference next summer in Albany. Expecting 300 participants. There is information at [http://www.rid.org/member\\_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/138](http://www.rid.org/member_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/138) about presenting or interpreting at next summer's conference. (Scroll down to Region News/Events.)

Board is working on how to recruit members. One state has a members-only spa day. The Board will target those who are licensed in NH but not NHRID members.

### **Vice President's Report**

Liability insurance – State Farm offers a policy at a reasonable cost of \$225. Board will buy policy.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Oct 24 – CD rates changing (decreasing) so NHRID is looking for new cds with better rates

### **NH Licensure Board Report October 2009** - (submitted by Terry Linehan)

The board instituted an election process and established a new position – Vice-Chair. For the first time, the board held elections and a new Chair and Vice-Chair were elected: Chair Terry Linehan ([terrynewf@comcast.net](mailto:terrynewf@comcast.net)) and Vice-Chair Marie Desrosiers. In compliance with standard practice of professional licensure boards the Interpreter Licensure Board voted to require that the Chair position be filled by an interpreter. Vice Chair, which does not necessarily become Chair, does not have such a requirement.

The Board established standing committees.

The Board is working on documenting a variety of procedures, i.e., grievance procedures, new member packet, waiver process, and additional license board procedures.

Some Licensure Board members will be attending the DOJ training in December. This is a training for members of state license boards, boards, councils, etc.

Jodi Lefort and Maureen Lundergan were welcomed by the Board as newly appointed License Board members. We are very happy to have them. The Board members said good-bye to Shannon Grundy and Cindy Wallace and thanked them for their service.

A big thank you to outgoing Chair Chris Emerson who has been Chair of the License Board for 3 years.

**Board members:**

Chair -Terry Linehan

Vice-Chair – Marie Desrosiers

Chris Emerson

Mike Schock

Bella Kantsepolsky

Karen Phillips

Jodi Lefort

Maureen Lundergan

Elizabeth Brown

**Upcoming Board meeting dates** – all are open to the public and held at VR, Walker Building, 21 S. Fruit Street, Room 100, Concord, NH. 6pm-8:30pm.

December 8 (snow date January 12, 2010)

February 9, 2010

April 13, 2010

June 8, 2010

August 10, 2010

October 12, 2010

December 14, 2010

**Medical Interpreter Advisory Board (MIAB) report** – (submitted by Amy-Jean Leblanc)

- Jayne Zedon is new MIAB rep for NHRID.
- Amy-Jean Leblanc stepped down after 2 years of work on the MIAB.
- Interpreters can join simply to represent themselves and do not need to represent NHRID.
- Many of the Deaf/HOH agencies send a representative to MIAB.

**VR Advisory** – (submitted by Terry Linehan)

New chair - Deb Powers

Advisory Committee is working on the hearing aid bill

**Membership report** – submitted by Amy-Jean Leblanc

61 NHRID members

If a member refers you and you become a member, the referring member gets \$5 KASH.

**PDC report** – submitted by Terry Linehan (PDC Committee:  
Terry Linehan & Jodi Lefort)

### **Upcoming Events**

*Interpreting in Mental Health Settings: A Practice Profession Approach*

Presenter - Robyn Dean

**November 14 & 15, 2009**

Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council

(Still space available. Currently have 10 registrations.)

### **In the works:**

More medical workshops are in the planning stages – stayed tuned for more  
Information.

Talking with Joan Wattman and Cat Dvar to reschedule for February/March

*Thinking Critically About Our Work: Is This Job Legal?*

### **Date and Location to be determined**

Feel free to contact us with any ideas for workshops or if you are willing to help  
coordinate. Terry – [terrynewf@comcast.net](mailto:terrynewf@comcast.net) or Jodi – [mom61098@comcast.net](mailto:mom61098@comcast.net).

**CDHL report** – submitted by Luce Aubry and Jack Hoza

HB 441 passed.

Currently rules are being suggested/created for the new law.

A percentage of a student's loans for tuition will be reimbursed to the lender each year for up to 5 years as long  
as the student works as an interpreter in New Hampshire.

Committee is also discussing the hearing aid/insurance company bill.

Next hearing:

HB 441 Public Hearing

Postsecondary Education Commission

Th, Dec 10 – 2pm

3 Barrell Court, Suite 300

Concord, NH

**Newsletter Report** – submitted by Emily Graves

Deadline for the winter newsletter is Friday, Jan 15, 2010.

The newsletter is only sent out electronically now. There will be no more print copies of the newsletter.

**Screening committee** – submitted by Aimee Stevens

Hopefully the next screening will take place in November. It's been 2 years since the last screening.

**Scholarship committee** – submitted by Rosemary Hill, Terry Linehan, and Lianne Moccia

\*\*\*It was decided that this report would get sent to the membership for comments and feedback and the  
guidelines will be discussed at the next meeting.\*\*\*

The Committee researched the scholarship guidelines of approximately thirty affiliate chapters throughout the country. We make the following proposal to the general membership for your revisions and/or approval. It is a starting place for discussion.

## **PROPOSED SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

There will be a standing Scholarship Committee comprised of at least three NHRID members in good standing. One member of the committee should be a student or pre-certified member.

Applications will be made in writing or via video. (A simple form will be developed.) They will be received, reviewed and approved (or not) on an open cycle, first-come, first-served basis. Any NHRID member in good standing can make a request. The committee will make quarterly reports to the general membership about applications and awards that were made in any given quarter. The process is not anonymous. Reports will include names and amounts.

The application will include a section on “giving back” to NHRID as an active member. Applicants will sign this form, indicating that they understand their obligation to take a role to support the activities of the organization.

There will be one student membership awarded annually to a interpreting student.

NHRID will set aside \$750.00 annually to the scholarship fund. All approved requests will be funded up to 50% of the workshop fee with a maximum of \$200.00 per workshop. The maximum granted to any one member during a twelve month period is \$200.00.

NHRID will pay the conference registration fee in full for the NHRID President (or designee) to attend the National RID Conference and the Region I Conference. The NHRID representative will attend all of the standard and required meetings.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- 1) How involved should the application be? Should it include letters of recommendation? Should it include a philosophy statement?
- 2) How much money should be allocated annually? Can we start with a figure and review this new policy and procedure after 6 months? a year? And, then make adjustments?
- 3) How long is the commitment for the scholarship committee member?

NHAD Rep report – (Lori Johnstone)

- Thanks the volunteer interpreters at NHAD conference on September 19.
- Free Thanksgiving party - Nov 21
- Dec 12 holiday party
- Would like to see more interpreters at activities

## **Old Business:**

Licensure Board – (see committee report)

Liability Insurance – (see VP's report)

Mentorship program

- Ongoing discussions about mentorship
- RID did not grant funds to NHRID mentorship program application
- Set up committee for mentorship (soon)
- Grant submitted to another foundation, waiting for results, will be announced in December
- HB 441 does not include mentorship program in language of the final bill

NHAD conference –

- asked NHRID to sponsor
- Board decided to send a check after the conference to NHAD for support

RID conference

- designee mix up
- Jodi Lefort attended the conference though not as the “official” attendee

## **New Business:**

Student Rep positions

- No students expressed interest at the meeting.

Bylaws

- The NHRID bylaws were reviewed and no changes were needed.

State Rates

- Joan Holleran emailed NHRID regarding travel time for Part B or for state jobs (it's unclear which kind of assignment – the Board will clarify this detail with Joan)
- Some members of the NHRID Board will meet with Joan to discuss any changes to the policy of charging for travel time

Lutheran Social Services/Language Bank referral

- Concern expressed about Lutheran Social Services/Language Bank referral of sign language interpreters – do they really know the Deaf/HOH community?
- Another concern: interpreters bill The Language Bank and then the Language Bank invoices the customer (requester)
- Terry Linehan motioned to send a letter to HHS regarding The Language Bank
- Shannon Grundy seconded the motion
- Terry Linehan withdrew her motion
- Dee Clanton suggested a face-to-face meeting
- Terry Linehan motioned for NHRID to write a letter to HHS and suggest a face-to-face meeting
- Suggestion of a collaboration with Licensure Board member and NHRID VP to meet face-to-face with HHS (possible conflict with NHRID president working for NDHHS)
- Motion passed

## **Announcements:**

NHAD Halloween party – October 17 in Campton

Rosa Lee – October 17 in Durham

Pancake breakfast tickets benefiting NDHHS – November 1, see [www.ndhhs.org](http://www.ndhhs.org) for details

HB 441 Public Hearing

Postsecondary Education Commission

Th, Dec 10 – 2pm

3 Barrell Court, Suite 300

Concord, NH

Motion to Adjourn

Seconded 12:06pm

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## **When's the next meeting? Saturday, January 23, 2010 (snowdate January 30)**

All meetings are held at NDHHS, 57  
Regional Drive, Concord, NH. Click [here](#)  
for directions.

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### **Birthdays!**

**Send a snow shovel, a birthday card,  
or a 4-leaf clover to these gals.**

January

04 Shannon Grundy and Heather Geisser

14 Erin Thompson-Foote

30 Christine (Berube) Bricault

February

01 Janice Wightman

09 Maureen Lundergan

25 Aimee Stevens and Cindy Wallace

March

06 Shawna Chrostowski

07 Mary Stys

10 Pamela Ramsey

14 Diane Aseltine-Grzyb

20 Emily Graves

## Greetings from the GSIL Interpreter Referral Department!

We've got some great news for you in the New Year! Not only will we be installing a video phone for our referral specialist and exploring what social media can offer, we are also developing a unique and customized referral software system and database especially for the GSIL Interpreter Referral Department. We are looking forward to these changes as they will open many doors for improved and differentiated request, referral, and confirmation service.



An important component of the new software and database program will be the confidential and detailed interpreter, consumer, and hiring entity profiles. As we move forward with this exciting project, we will be contacting you about updating your interpreter profile with GSIL. Thank you, in advance, for your enthusiasm and cooperation.

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### Thanks from Northern Essex Community College

I want to thank Sandy Unger of GSIL and all the staff interpreters at the Manchester Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for hosting three of our practicum students this fall. On behalf of Amanda Picardi, Gina Tonelli, and Sarah Weisenborn, thanks for making their practicum experience such a rich one. You're fabulous!

Luce Aubry, Program Coordinator, Deaf Studies

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### NHAD Thanks!

We want to thank you for the interpreters who interpreted at the NHAD State Conference on September 19th. We appreciate you volunteering. It's always a pleasure to work with interpreters at NHAD events.

We have an NHAD representative for NHRID. Her name is Lori Johnstone. We appointed her to be part of the team. We will be happy to help and get any feedback from NHRID. NHAD will help when NHRID is in need. We need to stay in touch and be connected to each other. We want the best for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community and we want NHRID to be involved.



Sandy Unger and her husband are expecting their first child in February! Congrats, Sandy!



# Those who keep our feet warm at night!



Molly and Bethany Pike.



Mocha and April, owned by Krista Brown.



Baci Emley, owned by Julia Emley, is always glad to see Julia return from interpreting!



Elvis Graves, enjoying the sunlight.



Belle Welshman posing for the camera!



Daisy Simpson, owned by Rosemary Simpson, is very good at playing in snow.



Bear was a rescue dog and is owned by Cindy Wallace and family.



Sully Welshman waiting patiently.

Hello Everyone,

Heather Geisser and I had started an educational interpreter group last year, but due to minimal interest we have temporarily decided to stop running it for this year. If there is still any interest, PLEASE let me know. In the meantime I would like to take this chance to introduce you (or re-introduce you, \*smiles\*) to the IEIS membership section of RID. (Please see below.) I am the New Hampshire Liaison and our Region 1 Delegate is Elizabeth LaFlamme-Baker ([ehlaflamme@hotmail.com](mailto:ehlaflamme@hotmail.com)).

Any questions, please let me know.

All the best,

Sarah Chase  
[sarahchase@att.blackberry.net](mailto:sarahchase@att.blackberry.net)

## Interpreters in Educational and Instructional Settings

IEIS is a membership section of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf whose mission it is to promote the interest and objectives of, enhanced communication with, and information sharing among RID members who work in educational and instructional settings, while following the philosophy, mission, and goals of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. We are actively seeking members all over the U.S. and Canada who wish to join us in this endeavor. Our website can be found at: <http://www.ieisms.com>

The IEIS would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in a Yahoo discussion group. The purpose of the group is to establish communication and support for interpreters who work in either the K-12 or postsecondary settings. We welcome all RID members and non-members alike. For non-RID members we hope that you will find our support and information exchange beneficial and we look forward to you joining our ranks in RID.

You can join this group by going to: <http://www.groups.yahoo.com> and typing IEISMS in the key word search. We currently have over 300 members on the Yahoo Group and are growing everyday. So feel free to surf on over and check us out.

Sincere Regards,

Council Members  
Tracey Frederick, Chair, [tracey.frederick@gmail.com](mailto:tracey.frederick@gmail.com)  
Dwight D. Godwin, Vice-Chair, [Dwight.godwin@gmail.com](mailto:Dwight.godwin@gmail.com)  
Jeannette Ocampo Welch, Secretary & Treasurer, [jowelch9@gmail.com](mailto:jowelch9@gmail.com)



## **Catching up with the NURIEC**

By Cathy Cogen

The Regional Interpreter Education Center at Northeastern University (NURIEC) was established in 2005 by a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Those who have been around a while might remember the Northeastern University Interpreter Education Project (NUIEP), serving Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York from 1985 to 1990 and New England from 1990 to 2005. One of the ten regional projects of that period, the NUIEP was best known for co-sponsorship of interpreting education workshops, assisting each state in the region in establishing and maintaining mentorship activities, hosting an annual mentorship conference, publishing a quarterly newsletter, convening an annual meeting of the directors of Deaf studies and interpreting education programs, and offering information, referral and technical assistance. In 2005, RSA National Priorities introduced a new structure that expanded the geographic region to include New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (former RSA Region 2). A new methodology resulted in a shift away from region-based short-term training toward national collaboration with the other grantee Centers on development of effective practice-based products and services. The new constellation of six centers is called the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC).

### **“Too Many N’s” – What’s What?**

Many people are confused about NURIEC, NIEC, and NCIEC names and roles. This may help:

- NURIEC** Regional Interpreter Education Center at Northeastern University: One of the five collaborating regional centers; Cathy Cogen, director; Diana Doucette, Project Coordinator; Alberto Sifuentes, Program Assistant
- NIEC** National Interpreter Education Center: The sixth center in the collaborative, also housed at Northeastern University; given coordination responsibilities by RSA; Betsy Winston, director; Lillian M. Garcia, Projects Coordinator; Sarah Snow, Tech Specialist; MJ Billings-Grein, Administrative Assistant
- NCIEC** National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers: The association of the six Centers sharing fiscal, leadership, and knowledge resources in the identification and dissemination of effective practices in interpreting education; administered by all six Center directors; programmatic initiatives carried out by personnel of all six Centers.

### **NURIEC’s Work with the NCIEC**

All of the administrative and programmatic work of the Consortium is carried out by collaborative work teams, most involving personnel of two or more Centers. NURIEC staff is actively engaged in many of these cross-center teams.

NURIEC director Cathy Cogen serves as one of the six directors of the NCIEC with responsibility for Consortium policy and procedures, program oversight, budget, and reporting. She also currently leads two programmatic work teams: Discover Interpreting, the NCIEC’s national interpreter recruitment initiative, and the Deaf Interpreter Initiative, working toward identifying effective practices in Deaf Interpreter education. Cathy also led efforts to document domains and competencies for interpreting in mental health and substance abuse settings and currently serves on the Healthcare Interpreting work team developing online instructional modules for the more advanced working interpreter seeking to specialize in these areas. The first module, focused on ethics in healthcare interpreting, was BETA tested last summer and will be offered again in spring 2010. Interested interpreters should contact our Center.

NURIEC Project Coordinator Diana Doucette co-leads the Mentoring work team whose efforts in conjunction with RID have resulted in thirteen sizeable grants awarded to mentorship programs across the U.S. from 2007 to 2009. The grants enabled four programs within the NURIEC region, the Massachusetts Mentorship Program, the Peer Mentorship Program of the Southeast Mentorship Project, Genesee Valley RID, and Puerto Rico RID, to get started or expand their offerings. The team also created online mentoring resources to share findings of its mentor and mentee surveys and focus groups, literature review, and program evaluations. Diana also serves on the NCIEC’s Linguistic and Cultural Diversity work team responsible for ensuring inclusion of diverse communities in the work of the Consortium, and with Cathy and colleagues from our sister centers on the Discover Interpreting work team.

Alberto Sifuentes, NURIEC Program Assistant, serves on the Deaf Advocacy Training work team charged with developing tools for training Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and hard-of-hearing consumers to advocate effectively for their own communication and interpreting needs. The team has produced a curriculum and will provide national workshops in February and March to prepare thirty master trainers who will in turn pilot test the curriculum in trainings of consumers in their local area. Alberto will co-present the training with Lillian M. Garcia. The NURIEC will send six trainer candidates to the training.

### **NURIEC's Regional Initiatives**

The NURIEC continues to serve undergraduate interpreting education and Deaf studies programs in the region by disseminating effective practices (e.g. faculty and curricular assessment protocols, NCIEC-ASLTA-developed ASL Standards, and resources for administrators), encouraging partnerships and sharing of information among programs, providing consultation to emerging programs, and convening an annual meeting of program administrators and faculty focused on effective educational and administrative practices. We also provided funding assistance to two programs in pursuit of Council on Collegiate Interpreter Education accreditation.

NURIEC provides technical assistance, information and referral, and serves as liaison between the NCIEC and our regional community. Our NURIEC website connects people to an events calendar, educational programs, agencies, professional and consumer organizations, teachers and workshop presenters, mentorship programs, and video lending libraries. Our Resource pages on Deaf Studies and Interpreting Education Programs and our Professional Development pages are the most popular of the site. We are a CMP sponsor and an RID Test administrator. We respond to daily queries from aspiring and working interpreters, program administrators, workshop and conference planners, educators, parents, service providers, and researchers, looking to find the right program, person, organization, agency, reference, or bit of advice. Now in our fifth and final year of this grant cycle, a major thrust of our Center efforts is on dissemination of NCIEC products to stakeholders across the region.

### **Web Resources of Interest**

<http://www.asl.neu.edu/riec>: The NURIEC site is a good starting place to find more details on projects, activities, and services. For an overview of NCIEC products and where to find them, go to Publications from the front page.

<http://www.nciec.org>: Visit the NCIEC site for more on the National Consortium. In addition to the initiatives mentioned above, find new resources on legal interpreting, Deaf-Blind interpreting, and interpreting via video.

<http://www.nciec.org/projects/mentor.html>: Here you will see the resources compiled by the Mentoring work team.

<http://www.diinstitute.org>: Go to Deaf Interpreting Institute for more about the NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Initiative.

<http://www.healthcareinterpreting.org>: This site carries information and resources for interpreters, consumers and clinicians on interpreting in healthcare settings. You can also find self-directed study opportunities to earn CEUs.

### **How to Contact Us**

What questions do you have? Any suggestions? What would you like to see more of...and less of...from the NURIEC? Please contact us. We value your perspective.

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