

# Maine RID Board Phone-Conference Minutes

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 7p-8:30p

Present: Jillian McLaughlin, Deb Myers, Regan Thibodeau, Roseane Ryerson, Kelly McCormick, Karla Doucette, Vicki Munro-Ludders, Ann Swope

## 1. Welcome/Check Ins:

Everyone seems to have had an enjoyable holiday season and are all quite busy with school, work, children and MeRID business. I think it is safe to say we are all suffering from a case of cabin fever.

Sarah Hill is working on an article to submit to Views entitled “Bright Ideas”.

## 2. LISA (Jillian reported on behalf of Lisa)

- Betsy Reifman Leadership Award: Only one nomination has been received at this point in time. There seemed to be some confusion as to the opening and closing dates for nominations (*side-note: I looked in my files and found the following: Nominations will occur throughout the months of February and March. Nominations submitted prior to this date may not be accepted. Nominations submitted after March 31<sup>st</sup>, cannot be accepted.*)

- April Workshop update – 4/11?: No date has been set for this workshop, although Lisa has been in contact with Cheryl Spera (sp?) in hopes to have her come and present a workshop for both interpreters and the Deaf community focusing on wellness and meditation. Lisa will send and update through YahooGroups.

## 3. ROSEANE

- Elections Update: Thus far, two nominations have been submitted: one for the DownEast Representative and one for Secretary.

- Newsletters Update: The newsletter is looking great, please remember to have articles in my February 15<sup>th</sup> – hopefully a reminder will be posted/emailed to remind members of this. It was suggested that the student volunteer at the EIPA workshop write a short article about her experience for the newsletter.

## 4. VICKI

- Educational Workshop: The CEU ‘cheat sheet’ provided by Meryl Troop was very useful in the planning process of this workshop – hopefully this ‘cheat sheet’ can be tweaked through trial and error to make sure that no steps get missed by others who wish to plan a workshop. Profit: \$800

• Future Educational workshops: The next proposed date for the Educational workshop was April 17<sup>th</sup>, which is also the day of the Deaf Film Festival. Cost is definitely a factor to consider with bringing this workshop series to the area.

It was suggested that an email be sent out to see if people are interested in having another EIPA Classifier workshop.

It seems that more educational interpreters are getting their CEUs online, individually and not taking advantage of workshops offered, thus it was suggested that we take a look at MA, where EIPA workshops are free for full-time educational interpreters. Perhaps having reduced-rate EIPA workshops (up to \$15) would be a good way to get some of the more isolated Northern Region educational interpreters involved.

• Student Volunteers: We should continue having student volunteers as previous experiences were positive.

## 5. SARAH (KELLY/REGAN?)

• New Interpreter Discussion Group: This group meets monthly. As of right now Sarah and Regan have an H1N1 workshop planned for the next group meeting. Is there anything planned for upcoming months? - No topics planned for March and April. Thinking of merging with the Brown Bag Series in February. There has been low turnout/several cancellations of this (and the NIC study group?), so please attend these meetings if possible.

Kelly will be helping with CEUs - have a sit-down with Meryl or Ann Swope to go over the process and answer any questions.

• Brown Bag Series (Regan): This group meets bi-monthly. Northern locations for Brown Bags were looked at, but most people seem to want them in Portland. No real input from interpreters in the Northern Region. Perhaps we could develop a PowerPoint/web-link or have a teleconference so the Northern Region can be involved without all the travel.

We are willing to support Bangor, but it's not feasible to continue traveling 4hrs round trip all the time. Maybe a poly-com would work. Eventually Northern Region interpreters will get desperate for CEU hours and will have to make the trip to Portland.

Legislation is looking to make a law that legal interpreter must have 20 'book hours' and more face to face time when completing their CEUs, as looking at a computer for hours is not very effective learning.

## 6. KARLA

•Total Funds: \$18,479

Working through challenges with PayPal and transferring money into the bank account.

•Scholarships:

Need approval for Stacey's scholarship.

How much lost on legal workshop scholarships? About \$1,000 – need to be more selective when awarding scholarships.

Brenda still needs 3-4 volunteer interpreters (perhaps with practicum students) for local Deaf skits on March 19<sup>th</sup>; it was suggested that we use some scholarship money to give these volunteer interpreters a \$25 gift certificate to a workshop.

## 7. KELLY

•Membership database: Has the database from Cid, got clarifications from her regarding some of the columns.

•3 new members added: Need a welcome.

New members paying online – will go directly to Karla (or Jillian) via PayPal and then forwarded to Kelly. If anyone sends an email re: PayPal not working please let Karla know.

New members paying by check – checks will be sent to Kelly and then forwarded to Karla.

Student must be taking more than one class to get the discounted rate.

## 8. JILLIAN

•Scholarship Policy Update: Please post refinements by next Friday 1/29

•Website: holding off on the website contract until we can get a second opinion – we want the best deal. Right now our estimate is between \$3,800-\$4,100. We need to make sure that that everything is clearly stated in the contract.

Suggestions for a second opinion: Can USM students in the web design/hosting program help us? - Maybe not because of students coming and going through the years. Deb offered her son's services. Roseanne will check out NTI to see if they are able to help – adult learners may be more willing to continue helping after they're done with school.

Aslinterpreters.com has a broken link – motion to reimburse Jillian \$30/month for the past year for upkeep of this site – Karla will work with Jillian on this.

Having signing on the website is important for its success.

- Lisa: THANK YOU – every time something on the website needs to be changed she has to redo the code that she learned special for MeRID – a time consuming and tricky task.

- Policy and Procedure Manual: See wiki-site – still in progress, will send to board when more ready.

- April General Meeting: Scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>. There were only 8 people at the last general meeting, so it didn't take long – need to make a web post about this. Perhaps we could use this time to for the board to have a work session on the by-laws. We are also looking at having only one general meeting in order to make best use of our time.

Advertising in different media is important to turnout.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Regan suggested having pins/hats/shirts made up that say “I'm a Member of MeRID” (or something similar) to help start dialogue with other members and help people put names and faces together.

- Perhaps we should think about getting Chapter Liability Insurance so the ‘hotel situation’ doesn't happen again – we learned a hard lesson with the Legal workshop at the Eastland.

- Ann suggested that due to the large number of workshops this spring, perhaps we attach a meeting to one of the workshops with a big turnout.

- Please check the website for missing things.

- Please also be talking to members – we need to start recruiting for May!

## **TO DO ASAP????**

### **ANN:**

1. Sympathy Card from Maine RID (Cheryl Moose's mom died 1/15)

Cheryl Moose

C/o Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf  
333 Commerce Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**REGAN with input from SARAH:**

1. “Bright ideas to be shared in the April issue of VIEWS. Has your affiliate chapter made any new initiatives? If so, please write to [lwalter@rid.org](mailto:lwalter@rid.org) and tell us about them. Help other affiliate chapters by sharing your bright ideas with us—whether it is an effort to be greener or using online social media to stay better connected—let us know what bright ideas are working for you!”

**DEB:**

1. Reminder Presidents call is this weekend – I have not yet received call in info.

**LISA:**

1. Post new scholarship application to Website
2. Post updated membership form to Website

**VICKI:**

1. Work on “brochure” with Jillian

**JILLIAN:**

1. Yahoo hosting of MERID must transition to host gator!