

# Maine RID General Membership Meeting

Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> : 4-5pm

In attendance: Nick, Maura, Cid, Polly, Alyssa & Danielle Albee (student rep candidate)

Members in attendance: Ann Scarponi, Maurita Marr, Sarah Jane, Lee Griffin.

Location: Colby College, conclusion of Meryl's Conference

## Meeting Minutes

Election Winners Announcement (public):

Medical Interpreting Representative - **Polly Lawson**

Legal Interpreting Representative - **Margaret Haberman**

Educational Interpreting Representative - **Tracey Frederick**

Deaf Community Member-at-Large – **Fred McKinley**

Northern Regions Member-at-Large - **Dan Deluca**

Southern Regions Member-at-Large - **Ann Swope**

Membership Perspectives on Licensure:

- Law has already been changed once to include EIPA qualification.
- Need to get a pulse from the membership before proceeding.
- Meryl Troop offered herself as a resource to advise if MeRID wants to take on the work of changing Maine state licensure laws.
- Should requirements for licensure be increased?
- Should the fee for “Limited License” be increased?
- Should a “Certified only” law be passed?
- Should we invite the Department Of Education to be involved?
- Other professional careers take 3-5 years to earn credentials and become “qualified”.
  - \* ex. Doctors, Teachers, etc.
- To change the licensure we need to change the law first.
- Could extend the 1 year CEU cycle to allow more time to satisfy the 20 hours requirements.
  - \* 3 years?
  - \* Certified members have 4 years to satisfy national RID requirements.
- Should increase the hours requirements to obtain a Limited License,
  - \* 200 hours do not satisfy the need and deem one “qualified”.
- We need to be careful not to enforce too many requirements making it impossible to achieve.
- Can we lower the cost of licensure?
- Don't want to loose the pool of interpreters if a time limit is imposed on the Limited License.
- Important to not exclude skilled, qualified interpreters,
  - \* but need to filter out poorly qualified interpreters.
- *Alternative Pathway* option is available to seasoned interpreters without a college degree,
  - \* Could be an option for interpreters to be recognized as certified.
- Many seasoned interpreters cannot go back to college for many reasons, cannot exclude them.
- Can we include the *Alternative Pathways* into state licensure to allow seasoned un-certified interpreters to work in the state of Maine?

- Other states use Quality Assurance Programs (ex. Michigan) & State Screenings (ex. Mass),
  - \* alternative programs have loopholes that may cause problems in Maine.
- Meryl's Conference, could be hosted after the fiscal year ends (July 1<sup>st</sup> and on)
  - \* CEU credits are currently applied to end of the current fiscal year for last min people.

Bills to the Maine state house can only be submitted every 2 years. (Should be submitted ASAP)

- Need a pulse from the membership about what they want.
- Maine does not have strong support in the state Department of Education
  - \* need allies to understand the need for law changes.
- Currently MeRID has almost all new board members,
  - \* Past year has focused on learning our roles and bylaws edits, etc.

Professional Development:

- Anna Perna hosts monthly meetings in Bangor to discuss interpreting: “Dialogic Process”.
- Maura wants to set up a regular avenue for meeting similar to “Dialogic Process”.
- Stephanie Myer is willing to be involved with this group,
  - \* Skilled in Demand-Control Schema approach.
- Polly: Street Leverage articles.
  - \* Perhaps host forums while utilizing their articles.
  - \* Would benefit to have a variety of perspectives present (Terps, Deaf consumers, Agencies)
- Use of skits can benefit and provide for clear understanding.
- Interpreter Night Out (INO): good idea, but liability for MeRID regarding drinking while out.
- Bring back the state conference?
- Regional State Conference (alternating years) would be nice.
- Legal Interpreting Workshops: scarce and far between at the current time.
  - \* Idea: “Legal Interpreting for non-Legal interpreters”
- New England centered Legal Interpreting Conference?
- Discussion Groups and involvement from students/new interpreters involvement.

Other Business:

- Susan Boudreau, fell off her sister's roof and broke both hips.
  - \* Can we do anything with the Sunshine Fund?
- Meryl will not be leading the state conference anymore.
  - \* Can MeRID take it on or collaborate?
- Offering CEUs for attending or Street Leverage discussion groups.
  - \* Can help reel in members and encourage them to attend.
- Database for MeRID Members.
- We need mentorship opportunities outside of Practicum (Mentorship program?)
- Website: Should include current information and events:
  - Meeting Minutes should be more organized and viewable.
  - Current website is not user friendly, a new, modern platform would benefit members.
- How to reel in membership
  - Some feel there is a generational gap.
  - Some feel too new that they don't know how to be involved.

**Meeting Adjourned – 5:15pm.**

**Minutes by: Nick Dionne**