

Northern California
Registry of Interpreters
for the Deaf

NorCRID News

December/January 2005

President's Report

Louann Pironti CI, CT

We here in the Bay Area seem to take for granted that our chapter is "local." Most states have one chapter for the entire state with sub-chapters to service specific areas of that state. Though we have five chapters for the state of California, I still feel like we in NorCRID put too much emphasis on the center part of our territory. It is true that nearly 75% of our members are from the greater Bay Area.

Nevertheless, we are faced with a new situation; the board has generally been from the Bay Area, and meetings have been relatively easy to coordinate. At our recent conference, we held our annual elections and our new treasurer, Barbara Snyder, lives in Sebastopol, in the Santa Rosa area. The treasurer has historically checked the mail, since most of the mail is related to treasury issues, like paying bills and collecting and depositing checks during membership renewal time and conference times.

Thus, we are creatively dealing with the challenges of handling NorCRID business; we have several things in the works. We will keep everyone posted, as changes occur.

One idea I have had to help unite the geographical regions of NorCRID is to set up sections of the NorCRID website to have a NorCRID North section, NorCRID Central and NorCRID South sections. I will be working on a redesign of the website over the new few months, and would love to hear your feedback as to whether or not you feel geographical

sections would be useful to you or interpreters in your areas.

On an entirely different note, the conference was a one-day event this year and people had mixed feelings about it. We had no choice this year, as the hall was booked every other time. We would like to move the conference to a new location next year and will be researching various locations. If you have suggestions please feel free to email me at president@norcrd.org and let me know your ideas. In addition, if you are interested in working on planning the conference, we would like to get a committee or co-chairs in place fairly soon.

At the conference, we discussed several issues, one being the under-used funds in the three scholarship funds. They are the John McBride fund, the certification test scholarship fund and the pre-certified SIG fund. We will investigate setting up a new fund for members struggling with membership dues or conference and workshop registrations. We received seed money from a member to get this fund started.

(continued)

Contributors to this issue:

*Ann Smith
Laurie Rivard
Maureen Fitzgerald
Nicole Montagna*

We also discussed the membership renewal problems, and we informally voted to move the renewal due date to run concurrent with RID national renewal date. Furthermore, we are setting up an Interpreters of Color special interest group. You can read more about it in this newsletter.

I would like to thank the out-going board members, Nicole Montana, Cathrael Hackler, Kevin Mogg, and Kim Peterson. Their contributions to NorCRID have been noteworthy and form a strong foundation for the incoming board. We have been working on some very exciting projects and I look forward to continuing with these projects. The energy of the new board will be beneficial in helping us with our ambitious agenda. I would like to welcome Jennifer Mantle as the new vice president, Mary Edwards as the new secretary, Barbara Snyder as the new treasurer, Shane Blau as a member-at large taking over the remainder of Jennifer's MAL term. I would also like to welcome our two new alternate members, Paavo Allen and Ari Lathuras.

Several openings exist on some of our on-going committees. NorCRID is a 100% volunteer organization and can always use your help! If you would like to be involved, please contact any board member, or email me at president@norcrid.org.

Need to...

- ...update your address or phone number?
- ...get a membership application?
- ...join the NorCRID list?
- ...contact the board?

Go to: www.NorCRID.org

or contact:

NorCRID
PO Box 18827
Oakland, CA 94619
510.839.0171 V

NorCRID Board Members

Louann Pironti, President
president@norcrid.org

Nicole Montana
 Vice President
vp@norcrid.org

Kevin Mogg, Secretary
secretary@norcrid.org

Cathrael Hackler, Treasurer
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Mary Edwards, Alternate
alternate1@norcrid.org

Kim Peterson, Alternate
alternate2@norcrid.org

Rob Balaam, Past President
rahbb34@earthlink.net

Organizational Bits

NorCRID Board Meetings: NorCRID members are invited to attend board meetings which are held every 4-6 weeks. Members can be allowed time on the agenda to present feedback, raise questions for discussion by the board, or make suggestions to benefit the organization. Members who have business to raise with the board may also contact a board member individually or contact NorCRID at 510.839.0171(v or text). Your call will be returned by a NorCRID board member who will also inform you of the date, time, and location of the next meeting should you wish to attend. Items will be included on the agenda as organization business permits.

Newsletter Reminder: If you'd like something specific to appear in the newsletter, please let Xenia Fretter Woods know. Items for submission include but are not limited to: articles of interest to interpreters, spotlight on members (500 words), what have you read lately?, calendar of events, congratulations are in order, how would you sign it? Please provide information via email, to xmfretter@yahoo.com.

CEUs and ACETs: NorCRID is an approved sponsor for the RID CMP and can offer both CEUs and ACETs. For more information, please contact Moire Martin, and McKay Mott at cmp@norcrid.org

The NorCRIDlist is an email list where members can share information pertinent to the interpreting community. To join, send an email to: TheNorCRIDlist -subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Send postings to: TheNorCRIDlist@yahoogroups.com. You do not need to be a member of the list to post.

Pre-certified email list: This list is to keep people informed about workshops and other events that might be relevant. To subscribe, send a blank email to precert-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

NorCRID's website: www.NorCRID.org.

The Greg Smith Memorial Fund: The Greg Smith Memorial Fund provides grants of up to \$1000 for NorCRID members who are experiencing an emergency (usually medical) themselves or of a significant other which affects the ability to work. Contact person is Maureen Fitzgerald. Home phone:510.843.2643 (v and tty). Email: mfitzgeraldmail@aol.com. Donations to NorCRID earmarked for this fund keep it continually available for NorCRID members.

Community news column: Have something going on in your life you'd like to share? Send your news to: xmfretter@yahoo.com

Advertising in the NorCRID News!

You are welcome to submit ads for your agency, massage business, freelance interpreting, or other service. Ads are subject to approval by the editor and the NorCRID Board.

Rates per issue are as follows:

Full page: \$115

1/2 page: \$65

1/4 page: \$35

Business card (1/8 page): \$18

All advertisements should be camera-ready or at least 300 DPI, preferably sent as a JPEG file.

Submissions to the NorCRID News are due by the 15th of odd-numbered months to xmfretter@yahoo.com. Checks must be received by the same date for the add to appear. The mailing address for payment is below.

NorCRID

PO Box 18827

Oakland, CA 94619

What's New at NorCRID?

by Laurie Rivard, CI, CT

A new Special Interest Group (SIG) for interpreters of color, that's what's new!

The bay area is a multicultural community and our interpreting community is becoming more diverse as well. We are looking for members who are interested in getting together to share their diversity and brainstorm ideas for this new SIG.

If you are interested in being among the founding members and contributing your ideas to help shape the mission and activities of this exciting, new, colorful group, please contact either Andres Campos at acterp@gmail.com or Laurie Rivard at islandterp@aol.com by December 31st and we'll be in touch in January.

Note: If you gave your contact info at the annual NorCRID conference, you needn't do anything else. You are already on the founding members list and will be contacted soon about some possible first meeting dates.

WASLI Report

by Ann Smith, CI, CT

When people ask me about my trip to South Africa, it's difficult not to sound trite with "great", "amazing," "incredible." I'm still processing the whole experience but will try to describe with a little more depth what it was like to attend the first International Conference for Sign Language Interpreters. Before I do, I'd like to give a brief synopsis (taken from the conference program) of the history of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI). The concept of an international association was first put forward back in 1975 in Washington DC during the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) World Congress. Over the years, statutes were developed, a working group was formed and the statutes were expanded into a Governing Document. WASLI was officially established in July of 2003 during the World Congress of the WFD in Montreal, Canada. The principal goal of WASLI is to advance the profession of sign language interpreting world-wide.

That said, the first WASLI conference took place in Worcester (pronounced Vooster), South Africa, during the first week of November, 2005. Approximately 200 delegates from all over the world attended the conference (including 6 of us from the Bay Area)! Each day was so rich in conversation, workshops, impromptu lessons in history - all leaving my mind brewing with questions and ideas. Here are examples of some of the workshop topics: 'Working into English as a non-native language,' 'The colonization of sign languages and its effect on sign language interpreters,' 'The situation of sign language and interpreters in Palestine.' Time would not permit an in-depth lecture on each topic but even the 30 minute presentations left an impact. As is true for most conferences, much of the learning took place during breaks and at meal time when you got to really talk to people, ask questions about their country, share ideas about interpreting, etc.

What I came away with from the conference was a deep appreciation for what we have in this country - things we take for granted such as strong disability laws, compensation for our work, interpreter training, resources. Many of the countries reported incredible statistics such as 3 to 4 interpreters serving 20,000 to 50,000 Deaf people. Malaysia has 5 interpreters for the whole country. Many African countries have 20 to 30 official spoken languages so you have to be able to speak at least 5 or 6 to be able to interpret. In South Africa, only within the last 10 years has sign language become more standardized. Under apartheid, people were not allowed to mix, so each racial group developed their own sign language, and they couldn't communicate with one another. Things are changing. There's so much more to tell but I think I've gone on long enough. Again, appreciation and gratitude is the message I'd like to leave with people. The next WASLI conference will be held in Madrid, Spain in 2007. If you are able to attend, it will be an experience that will stay with you a long time.

Reflections on WASLI

by Nicole Montagna, CI, CT

“I’m going to South Africa,” is what I’ve been telling myself
The past 3 years
Ever since they announced
Where the next meeting would be, at the first meeting
In Washington, D.C
Summer of 2002

Three years later
I’m on a plane
For two days

Growing up in New York City
Instilled a sense of
International community in me
As a value
Foreign language lessons at a young age
A diverse circle of friends
Led to a love of sign language
A commitment to communication
Peace through understanding
All inspired me to become a part of this international community
Of sign language interpreters from around the world

For three days we
Talked
Signed
Shared
Laughed
Danced
Celebrated
Created our organization
And reaffirmed our commitments
To our communities
To supporting each other

And to meet again in two years
In Madrid

Greg Smith Memorial Fund and Silent Auction

by Maureen Fitzgerald, CSC; CI, CT

The Silent Auction at the November conference raised over \$1200 for the Greg Smith Memorial Fund. Thank you to the donors who contributed so many beautiful hand crafted items and products. Thanks also go to the generous bidders who handed over their money at the end of the day.

For those of you who are new to NorCRID or who have forgotten how the fund works, here is a brief history and the guidelines for receiving funds.

The Greg Smith Memorial Fund was set up in 1985 to help NorCRID members during emergencies, usually medical emergencies. It is intended to provide help with basic necessities, such as rent and utilities. The original committee also intended that other assistance could be provided such as transportation or cooked meals. This fund was established in memory of Greg Smith, an interpreter who died of AIDS in 1984 and who received help during his illness from friends in the interpreting community. The fund was proposed by Stephanie Feyne in 1984. Stephanie was the first chairperson of the Committee. The other original members were Ken Mikos and Donna Abernathy. When Stephanie moved to New York, in 1988 Maureen Fitzgerald replaced her on the committee. In 1994, Ken Mikos and Donna Abernathy resigned and were replaced by Dan Veltri and Dan Langholtz.

In 2005 the Committee suggested to the Board that fund guideline #11 be added. This is that one person may not ask for funds on behalf of another. The fund recipient must ask for the funds unless physically or mentally unable to do so. The Board agreed to this addition. Below are the current fund guidelines.

Fund Guidelines:

1. NorCRID members who are experiencing a crisis (usually a medical crisis) and are unable to work are eligible to apply for funds.
2. You must be a member of NorCRID for three months before applying for funds.
3. There is a 60-day grace period for members who have lapsed in membership.
4. Lapsed members can apply for funds immediately upon paying their membership dues and do not have to go through another 3 month waiting period.
5. The funds are granted as a loan but repayment is voluntary. The committee encourages the recipient to contribute to the fund when they can as a repayment.
6. The current maximum amount granted is \$1000/year. The committee defines the year from NorCRID conference to NorCRID conference.
7. To apply for funds a NorCRID member contacts the committee contact person (currently Maureen Fitzgerald). The contact person shares the request information but not the name of the requester with the other committee members. The committee discusses the request until there is consensus on whether to grant the request and how much money to grant.
8. The fund contact person then contacts the treasurer to write and send a check to the applicant. The treasurer will inform the president (or vice-president) that a check was sent to the recipient. Only the fund contact person, the treasurer and either the president or vice-president will know the name of the applicant.
9. If a request is denied, the applicant may appeal. Either the president or vice-president shall assume the role of the advocate at the applicant's request and bring the case back to the committee members for reconsideration. The second decision is final.
10. The fund will be perpetuated by donations and any other means adopted by the NorCRID Board.
11. One person may not ask for funds on behalf of another. The fund recipient must ask for the funds unless physically or mentally unable to do so.

The current Greg Smith Memorial Fund contact person is Maureen Fitzgerald. You can contact her at mfitzgeraldmail@aol.com or 510/843-2643.

Events Calendar

Santa Rosa Junior College ASL Teachers in collaboration with Communicate Interpreting

December 10, 2005 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

"Religious Signs" with David Fair. The cost of the workshop is \$39 per person. .35CEU's in Professional Studies are available. For registration information, please go to www.cqterps.com.

Placer County will host a workshop on December 10 in Auburn. The presenter will be Frances Beurivage, the manager of the EIPA exam. She will present "Towards a More Effective Use of Space and Discourse Mapping in Educational Settings" Cost is \$50.

Call Wendy Weimer (Placer County Office of Education) at 530 745-1465 for space availability.

The 24th Annual Interpreter Symposium 2006 will be held at California State University Northridge on Friday January 13 starting at 5pm. It will continue all day Saturday January 14, ending at 5:30pm, with entertainment event to follow. See ncod.csun.edu for details.

March 24-26, 2006, San Diego Relay Interpreter Team Training

Dan Langholtz, LCSW, RSC, CDI, Priscilla Moyers, BA, CDI, and Steve Walker, CDI Carolyn Ressler, MA, CI, CT and Sharon Neumann Solow, MA, CSC, SC:L

This unique workshop will provide Deaf and Hearing participants the opportunity to train as Deaf/Hearing teams, learn and practice new strategies, sample different feed/receive techniques, and role play - Deaf/Blind, Minimal Language

Contact the San Diego County RID at relayworkshop@sdcrid.org or pdc@sdcrid.org

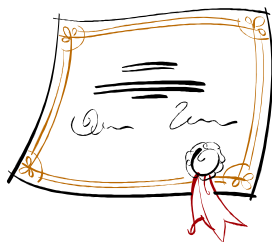
See www.sdcrid.org. 2.0 CEUs will be awarded.

Congratulations are in order to:

Michelle Pagano, for winning a great door prize at the NorCRID Conference.

In her words:

"I want to sincerely thank BACA for the opportunity to win First Prize for Registration and Banquet Ticket to the Region V Conference in Anchorage, Alaska on April 27-30, 2006. I am so thrilled with this opportunity! I am feeling very blessed and very thankful! Thanks to NorCRID for another incredible conference!"



Newsletter Information

The NorCRID News is the newsletter of the Northern California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and is published on a bi-monthly basis. Submissions are due on the 15th of January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions must be sent via email in MS Word compatible format. Material submitted to the NorCRID News is subject to editing. Care is given to preserve the spirit and intent of the author. The editor reserves the right to correct grammatical errors, edit for length and make style adjustments for clarity. Submissions published in the NorCRID News represent the perspectives of their writers and do not necessarily represent NorCRID's position or policy.

Xenia Fretter Woods (editor/layout)- xmfretter@yahoo.com
Sherry Thannisch – mailing list database

Northern California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NorCRID) is an affiliate chapter of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, a professional organization and certifying body.

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