

**LRID Fall Conference – Membership Meeting
December 10, 2005 * Lafayette, LA**

1. **Call to Order** 12:40pm
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda** (David/D. Burch) *Carries*
4. **Minutes of 2004 Fall Conference** accepted as printed in Pensée (Gray/Duhon) *Carries*
5. **Officers' Reports**
 - A. President Wendy Harmon – Hurricane Katrina donations have been received. LRID needs to establish a committee to decide on method of distribution. Region IV President's Leadership Retreat – report to come later during 1st VP Report. Attended RID National Conference in San Antonio. Congratulations to Janie Powell who received the Region IV Judie Husted Leadership award at Conference. LRID donated a \$50 gift basket for the silent auction at the RID conference.
 - B. 1st Vice President Derrick Elkins – RID Region IV President's Leadership Retreat in Colorado. Got to see snow ☺. RIV goals brainstorming included website, fundraising, networking, conference call committees for fundraising and a survey of regional needs.
 - C. 2nd Vice President Leslie Knowles – paper history gone due to flooding. Website is under construction; it should replace the newsletter. This year's focus is on the website. If anyone has info or paperwork documenting the history of LRID, please contact Leslie; we must focus on REBUILDING the history. Membership for the '05-'06 year will be determined at today's business meeting. We will also be voting on BYLAWS today...be ready.
 - D. Treasurer Glenda Faucheux – Current balance \$15,005.10. Various deposits and deductions were reported.
 - E. Members-At-Large – Bruce Dunn and Cara Johnston – Bruce commented on communication among the group and expressed hope that it will improve. Cara had her BABY girl on August 1st. She is happy but misses interpreting.
 - F. LRID Rep to LAD Ann Moore – Reported that the new LAD President is Randy Pippins.
 - G. LAD Rep to LRID Thelma Covello – commented on 2005 LAD Conference in which the issue of interpreters was well received, the deaf community was able to better understand the role of the interpreter and the system which is in place to arrange for interpreters. LAD will have conference here in Lafayette in 2007 at LAAD.
6. **Unfinished Business** None
7. **Committee Reports**
 - A. CMP – Coordinator Mary Burns is in charge of all LRID affiliate chapters' workshop CEUs. Contact her to make arrangements. RID establishing a database of workshops and presenters. Presenters wishing to be included in said database, please fill out the form so you can be contacted in the future to present. RID numbers are a MUST on the CEU paperwork: email – burns@rapides.k12.la.us Transcript problems have been resolved.
 - B. FITP Report – Federal Interpreting Training Project. The 5-year grant cycle was completed in October. Funding has not been received as of yet. The federal government changed the regions into Regional Centers and the monies that were used for training are no longer available. There was an RFP process. We are a part of the newly named “MARIE” – Mid-America Regional Interpreting Education. Ray James will be involved in the training process.

- C. Bylaws – Report to be given during New Business.
- D. Licensure – Daniel Burch commented on the goals and rationale for Licensure. Research has been done in regards to Licensure. Applied the Social Work Law to fit our needs, and Board will be established to set different criteria for this undertaking. WE HAVE POWER NOW. Proposed licenses are for Licensed Mentors, Interpreters, Non-Certified persons with guidance from someone who is licensed. More info to come!!!

8. New Business

2005.01 Motion to replace LRID PPM with the RID Affiliated Chapter Handbook. Bylaws Committee and LRID Board. *Carries*

2005.02 To accept the Bylaws amendments in toto. Rationale: The LRID Bylaws have not been revised since 1996. Major changes include:

- Delete Article VII: Local Affiliate Chapters (LACs). Membership and supporting documentation has been decreasing and/or nonexistent. Members and groups may still apply for FITP funds for co-sponsorship of local workshops and training.
- Revise Article V: Board of Directors. With the dissolution of LACs, some of the positions would be moot. This streamlining allows the Association to conduct business in a timely fashion.
- Revise Article IX: Conventions. The proposed rotation schedule allows for training opportunities in each region at least once every year. Note the proposal of the General Membership Meeting to be held every two (2) years (biennially).

Bylaws Committee and LRID Board. *Carries, with changes noted in newly printed Bylaws*

2005.03 To increase the LRID membership dues of Certified/Associate to \$25 and Student/Supporting to \$15. These new rates will begin with the 2006-2007 membership year. Rationale: Membership dues have not increased since 1993. Bylaws Committee and LRID Board. *Carries*

2005.04 LRID demand the immediate re-instatement of the legally mandated LCD Interpreter Certification Board and Louisiana State Certification for Sign Language Interpreters and issuance of certificates and cards. Gray/D. Burch. [*Status unknown*]

Rationale: The ICB was legislated in 1993. It has been inactive for nearly two years. The ICB oversees State Certification and the renewal of certificates.

The State Certification program was unilaterally suspended by the Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, ostensibly due to the hurricanes. It is unclear as to whether or not this authority actually resides in that office. Many interpreters have already met the continuing education requirement. Those that have not, and were anticipating completion of hours at the hurricane canceled LRID State Conference, could have been reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Commission could have been proactive and requested from RID the necessary transcripts for those whose paperwork was destroyed. As it stands now, Louisiana has no State Certified interpreters, and the Commission is out of compliance with its legislated duty.

2005.05 Motion: LRID request a rate setting study by Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf to determine equitable services fees commensurate with the level of preparation and position difficulty for Sign Language Interpreters, Cued Speech Translitterators, and Computer Assisted Real Time Translations. D Burch/P. Gray. [*Status unknown*]

Rationale: The interpreter pay schedule has been based on arbitrary decision made over a decade ago by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf. This pay scale is followed by Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Louisiana Department of Education. No rate study has been conducted as to the actual costs incurred by Sign Language Interpreters in an effort to establish equitable pay rates commensurate with the requirements of the position. With the reduction of the interpreter workforce due to the hurricanes, and the advent of video relay services (Sorenson and Hamilton Communications), increased rates are necessary to maintain community interpreting services: a reality that caused the Louisiana School for the Deaf to substantially raise its pay schedule for Sign Language Interpreters.

2005.06 Move that LRID establish a committee to develop guidelines for dispersing donated funds to interpreters affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. David/Gomez . [*Status unknown*]

2005.07 WHEREAS RID has supported the development and establishment of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters since 1999 with representation on the Working Group, hosting the web site, and hosting the first World Symposium of Sign Language Interpreters, and being the first official member Nation;
 WHEREAS The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters was formerly established November 2, 2005 in Worcester, South Africa, with 50 nations represented;
 WHEREAS The RID Board has allocated \$2,000 in the current budget for the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters;
 WHEREAS RID Members contributed over \$3,000 thus far for an interpreter from Argentina and the former Secretary General of WFD to attend the WASLI Conference in Worcester, South Africa;
 WHEREAS The Secretary General of the World Federation of the Deaf observed at the RID-sponsored World Symposium for Sign Language Interpreters, in 2002, that the rights of Deaf people are greatly enhanced when nations have strong associations of Sign Language Interpreters working collaboratively with Associations of the Deaf;
 WHEREAS The majority of the nations of the world have no national association of Sign Language Interpreters;
 WHEREAS RID is the world's largest associations of Sign Language Interpreters;
 WHEREAS RID has had a far reaching and profound international impact through its publications, programs, and model of organizational development;
 WHEREAS RID's role is in the world's wealthiest nation, which values the concept of "to whom much is given, much is required;"
 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT LRID and its members adopt the program entitled "A Day's Pay" as a benevolence to help foster the establishment on National Associations of Sign Language Interprets in those countries that do not already have such associations and where economics have traditionally prevented such activity;
 BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED THAT LRID commit to contribute \$300 to WASLI on an annual basis.
 Daniel Burch/Peggy Gray *REFERRED TO BOARD*

Rationale: The concept of a Day's Pay originated with the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters to sponsor Sign Language Interpreters from former Communist Bloc countries to attend EFSLI conferences. This idea has since been adopted by the WASLI Working Group. This Working Group was tasked with assisting the establishment of WASLI. The funds raised will initially serve to sponsor Sign Language Interpreters from developing countries to attend the first Membership Meeting in Worcester, South Africa, this October. Funds will also be used to launch an independent website that will serve as a resource for all nations. To date, the Europeans have raised nearly 2,000 Euros towards this end, and several countries have announced sponsorship of representatives from developing countries. It is the firm belief of the makers of this motion that the traditionally generous memberships of RID will easily be able to exceed this as another example of America's willingness to "lend a hand."

Election of Officers

President: Cam Sharpe

Vice president; Derrick Elkins

Treasurer: Glenda Faucheux

Secretary: Peggy Gray

Members-At-Large:

LRID Rep to LAD: Ann Moore

LAD Rep to LRID: Thelma Covello (appointed by LAD)

CMP Coordinator: Mary Burns

9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjournment** 2:45pm

Minutes taken by Wendy T. Harmon