



Pensée de la Louisiane

October 2019

LRID BOARD MEETING NEWS

October 24, 2019

LRID'S BOARD MEETING

LRID's new board members attended their first board meeting in October. LRID's board discussed a wrap up of the Fall Conference. Now the board is in full swing discussing the beginnings of planning the Spring Conference. Stay tuned for the details in the near future.

LRID's next board meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2019.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Fundraising Committee

In order to continue bringing our members great presenters, various workshops, at affordable cost, various fundraiser events will be held throughout the year. The next event is at California Pizza Kitchen in Baton Rouge. Please see the link for the details below:

<https://www.groupraise.com/events/120409>

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee has not set a meeting date yet. The committee will meet soon to discuss motions that were referred to the committee. As soon as there is a report, it will be included in the newsletter to update the members.

Deaf Community News

The Louisiana Association of the Deaf (LAD) is doing a toy drive for families needing assistance in providing their children with toys this holiday season. Please refer to the flyer on page 8.

Various community events are happening over the next month and included in this newsletter on page 9 and 10. Please check them out and make plans to attend if you would like.

If you have an event happening in your area and would like to share it with the membership, please email the flyer and details to the LRID Secretary at lrid.secretary@gmail.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Board Meeting News and Committee Updates
- 2 Deaf Community News
- 3 Spotlight
- 4 Conference Chair Share
- 5 Toy Drive Flyer
- 6 BRAD Party Flyer
- 7 Northshore Party Flyer

Spotlight

The “Spotlight” is beaming down on the newly elected president, Dawn Melendez! Here is her story:

“Dawn was born in Iowa. Her father was a career Marine so they moved frequently and lived all over the U.S. Her father retired and decided to live on the Westbank of New Orleans in Marrero where her mother still lives today.

Dawn has always had an interest in working with the deaf and deaf/blind. While she attended college in NOLA, she learned sign language from Rev. Larry Barnett at the First Baptist Deaf Church. The deaf church members helped her to practice and improve her skills. (Janie Powell’s parents were among those who taught Dawn about Deaf culture.)

After Dawn and her husband, AJ got married, they moved to Knoxville, Tennessee so she could attend University of Tennessee to get her degree in Deaf Education. After teaching at the Tennessee School for the Deaf for 9 years, Dawn received her Masters degree in Special Education/Administration and Supervision. While she attended UT, she also was involved in their interpreter training program.

After graduation, Dawn, her husband and son moved to Baton Rouge where she worked at LSD for 3 years. After leaving LSD, Dawn began interpreting in the Deaf community. She managed her own interpreting agency for 15 years but now is a freelance interpreter. She loves her work and being a part of the Deaf community.

Dawn is excited to become the new President of LRID and looks forward to serving the next two years.”



Conference Chair Share

Report from the 50th Conference

What a conference we had September 26-28, 2019, celebrating 50 years of LRID! We had 113 registered for Thursday night, 110 registered for Friday, and 106 registered for Saturday (does not include Board members, presenters and conference interpreters.) We welcomed members and non-members from all over the state of LA and from 5 other states!

LRID is invested in the success of interpreters, students entering the profession, and the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind communities. We are committed to providing quality interpreting services, promoting certification of Sign Language interpreters, providing professional development opportunities, serving as an advocate for the rights of people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind and moving forward the profession of Sign Language interpreting. This conference truly provided many golden opportunities for the attendees to continue those investments and commitments.

Program

It was very exciting to have our own Louisiana native, Dr. MJ Bienvenu, headline the conference, providing four workshops on a variety of topics, including Audism/Linguicism, Deaf and Hearing interpreter teams, and ASL Linguistics. Dr. Jonathan Webb was able to join us to provide workshops on seizing “golden opportunities”, producing coherent messages, and understanding the struggle for liberation by the Deaf community, and also engage us separately in his role as the newly elected RID President. Our neighbor Cheryl Thomas joined us to provide courtroom interpreting training, and information on how close we always are to a legal setting.

The presenters represented diverse professional backgrounds, and assisted us in providing training to a variety of attendees: Deaf interpreters, generalist interpreters, legal interpreters, students, educational interpreters, etc. Workshops meeting the new RID requirement of 1.0 CEUs per cycle in the area of Power, Privilege and Oppression (PPO) were also included. We hope everyone found new challenges in the workshops that you attended.

Apologies for the technology troubles throughout the weekend. Many hours were spent borrowing, organizing and connecting the equipment prior to the conference, and more during the conference. Short of hiring a professional company to do all of the technology, which was not in the budget, we seemed to have constant struggles. Many thanks to all who attempted and assisted in resolving the issues!!

(continued on page 3)

More Numbers

Speaking of budget, we began with a draft budget of around \$25,000, a very lofty goal for our small organization. The goals of the conference were to bring in national leaders in the profession for workshops, conduct at least 2 simultaneous workshops on Friday and Saturday, host the conference at a hotel with 3 catered meals and enough space for all of the activities, negotiate affordable sleeping rooms, bring in outstanding interpreters from out-of-state, welcome vendors, allow space and secure keeping of the auction items, provide refreshments for breaks, host attendance numbers of 125-150, provide some gold decorations, provide great door prizes, provide a hospitality suite, provide keepsake program books, and acquire much needed sponsorships so that members could attend at an affordable price. There was an amazing group of people devoted to the conference who helped reach every one of those goals.

The original registration fee for members was set at \$165, which is unheard of in 2019 for a conference that achieved the goals above, with \$100 of that going toward meals (even with one of them being from Jason's Deli.) We wanted as many people as possible to come – so as you know, we begged a lot of people to make up the difference, and they came through for us. The final numbers are not in, but we know we are not in the red. That was realized only one-two weeks before the conference, with many sleepless nights preceding it, when a large sponsorship came through (Walk-On's), so many items came in for the silent auction, and several more registration fees came in, that we knew we could break even. (We had had many thoughts of fundraisers still to come after the conference.) In the end, we were so fortunate to earn \$3,699 for the auction, with over 60 items sold, and \$785 for the Golden Arm Raffle! So many items were donated, we were able to award 6-8 door prizes per workshop/meeting, and we were able to have a Golden Egg Hunt on Saturday morning with 15 items up for grabs! That was a lot of fun to watch! We even had an IPAD donated for the scavenger hunt! THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who contributed financially to this conference! We couldn't have met our goals without you. When the final numbers are in, a final report will be submitted to the members.

Interpreters

Some AMAZING interpreters shared their talents providing communication access at the conference.

Bobby Loeffler and Shawn Whitley were the two full-time conference interpreters. Both hail from Austin, TX. Cheryl Thomas from Mississippi, and Jennifer Kuyrkendall from Alabama (originally from LA, and a former LRID Board member) were the part-time conference interpreters. (ARID was unable to provide an interpreter for the conference through our reciprocal agreement this year, so they are funding one of the full-time conference interpreters.) MANY MANY words of praise have been received about the caliber and delivery of the interpreting services for the conference. We are thankful you all could be a part of our celebration!

We also had several AWESOME volunteer interpreters provide services for the "Golden Girls" skit during the banquet. THANK YOU to Michelle Simoneaux, Alvina Malcolm, Will Gorum and Wendi Coker!! MJ Bienvenu provided interpreting services during one of the "Golden Moments", and we got to see one of the master Deaf interpreters provide services as a platform interpreter. THANK YOU MJ!!

Golden Moments

LRID is fortunate to have two current members who are also charter members, Janie Powell and Ann Reed. We asked them to provide some thoughts to the conference on what it was like back in 1969 to set up something so new, how things have changed, what's been accomplished and any other thoughts they wished to share. Those speeches were termed "Golden Moments". Janie was able to attend the conference and give her speech, and even cut the LRID Birthday cake. We are sad that Ann was unable to attend, but she sent a speech and it was read during one of the business meetings. An article in The Deaf American, located by the RID staff, included a picture of the very first meeting, which was held at Delgado Community College. Included in the picture is Ann Reed, who had volunteered to take minutes at that first meeting!! Thank you ladies for all you have done for LRID since its inception. Both were awarded the Jean Boles Distinguished Service Award by LRID years ago, and we honor and appreciate your continued contributions.

During the banquet, the "Golden Girls" reminded us of many of LRID's accomplishments throughout its history, along with some of their usual banter. Thanks to those who agreed to write/direct/perform in the play, including Ann's (who was playing the role of Dorothy) understudy who stepped in the week before the conference. The evening started with speeches from the current RID President, one of the former RID Presidents, and an interpreter new to the field, celebrating LRID's past, our 50th jubilee, and looking toward the "next 50". We were treated to a

slide show of past LRID events and Board members, and to a birthday cake provided by Visit Baton Rouge.

Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 50th LRID conference. Our sponsors have been listed on our website and in the last several newsletters. Also, please take a moment to read through the ads in the Conference Program Book Supplement to see who made contributions. Please thank them when you see them.

LRID desires to work collaboratively with the LA Association for the Deaf (LAD) whenever possible. Thank you to LAD for their very generous sponsorship for this conference. We were able to open the Thursday evening workshop to the entire membership of the LAD to join us with no individual registration fees.

Many individuals made much effort to make this a momentous conference. Prior to and during the conference, I witnessed personal time, family and financial sacrifices, many, many conversations late into the night, tons of planning and hard work, diligent pursuit of gifts (door prizes) to be shared with attendees, making decorations, securing CEUs, streamlining processes, negotiating contracts/fees, securing supplies/equipment, getting food/coffee donated, publicizing information, copying/printing, obtaining MANY silent auction items, fundraising efforts, etc., all with a constant smile. Please look for the list of those serving on the Conference Committee listed in this newsletter. Several other members (and our friends, parents, spouses, etc.) contributed directly financially to the hospitality suite, secured the banners in the registration area at no charge, helped sell raffle tickets, helped decorate the registration area, filled and hoisted heavy ice chests, kept snacks replenished, helped assemble program books, helped stuff ditty bags and volunteered time to do whatever else needed to be done onsite. To all who did any of the above and details I forgot to include, please know that your service and your contributions to the conference, to LRID, and to the interpreting profession were impactful!

I'm proud to know and have worked with so many who wanted this conference to be so memorable and celebratory. They truly had a goal of "going for the gold", and it was accomplished. It probably seems I am gushing thanks, rightly so.....would you join me and please thank them too!

Other Thoughts

Thank you to those who provided feedback to us at the conference....parts that you loved and parts that you didn't. We realize that we conducted evaluations of individual workshops, but didn't conduct one of the conference itself. As soon as we complete the evaluation, we will email it to those who attended.

As with any conference this size, the committee was met with challenges to accomplishing our conference goals. One of them was pretty big, in that we thought we would have to move to another hotel, which would have really affected the budget, and had a domino effect on many of our plans, including higher registration fees. Once the contract had a final signature, we were able to send out conference registration information immediately. Thank you to the committee and board members who worked so hard on getting things finalized. Many thanks to Kelly Gripshover who handled the facility details for a year prior to the conference, and to Leslie Knowles, who was always at the ready and got the publications prepared for sending. And thank you to the members for understanding we got held up on getting out registration information much later than we anticipated.

In Closing...

Many wonderful milestones have been passed since the inception of LRID in 1969. We celebrated those milestones this year, and look forward to many more golden moments before us on the horizon. See you at the next conference!!

Lynne Owens
Conference Chair

Conference Committee

Conference Chair	Lynne Owens
Facility	Kelly Gripshover
Publications	Leslie Knowles
Program Book	Lynne Owens, Leslie Knowles
Hospitality	Kenny David
Fund Raising	Kelly Gripshover, Jazmyne Lemar, Lynne Owens, Bernice Cooper, Marlana Kienlen, Alla Tarasyuk, Mallory Brown, Vicki Crochet
Presenters	Lynne Owens
Interpreters	Lynne Owens
Decorations	Lynne Owens, Bernice Cooper, Marlana Kienlen
Silent Auction/Door Prizes Lynne Owens	Kelly Gripshover, Bernice Cooper, Marlana Kienlen, Jazmyne Lemar,
Entertainment	Lynne Owens, Leslie Knowles, James Virgilio
Registration/Credentials	Kelly Gripshover, Marlana Kienlen
On-site Interpreter Coordinator	Wendi Coker
Student Reps	Emily Gibbs and Karen Ellison



Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

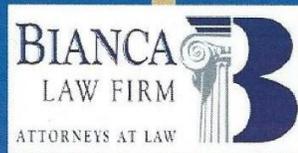
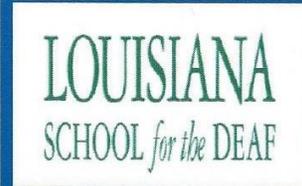
celebrating

50
YEARS

1969 - 2019

Golden Opportunities
Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Future

Thank You to our PLATINUM SPONSORS





Louisiana Association for the Deaf

invites you to participate in our

Christmas Toy Drive

Join us in sharing the Happy Christmas Spirit with Louisiana children who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing. Children are age 12 and under from financially disadvantaged families.

Toys, Gift Cards or Cash donations can be sent to:

Louisiana Association for the Deaf
% Christmas Toy Drive
3112 Valley Creek Drive, Suite E
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Questions? Contact: ThelmaLAD1908@gmail.com or 337-378-0588 (VP)

Email LadToyDrive@gmail.com to get an invitation to view our Wish List on Amazon!



SAVE THE DATE

COME JOIN US AND
A CAJFUN DAY!

BATON ROUGE
ASSOCIATION OF
THE DEAF
(BRAD)

3RD ANNUAL
CAJUN CHRISTMAS
EVENT

WHEN:
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2019
WHERE: BATON
ROUGE, LOUISIANA

MARK THE DATE
ON YOUR
CALENDAR AND
STAY TUNED FOR
MORE
INFORMATION
COMING SOON



NORTH SHORE LOUISIANA DEAF COALITION

PRESENTS

"A GINGERBREAD LODGE BRUNCH PARTY"

AT THE

THE FOUNTAINEBLEAU STATE PARK

62883 HWY 1089

MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

FROM 11 AM TO DUSK

ADULTS: \$10

CHILDREN: FREE



COME SPEND THE DAY WITH US TO DECORATE YOUR GINGERBREAD

A BRUNCH WITH DRINKS WILL BE SERVED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

ALSO BRING A DESSERT OR A SNACK TO SHARE

SANTA AND MRS CLAUS WILL BE JOINING US

BRING A \$10.00 GIFT VALUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRINCH GAME

PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS ARE TO BRING A GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED EVERY HOUR UNTIL THE FINAL BIG PRIZE.

YOU MAY COME IN YOUR FLANNEL PJ PANTS ONLY. SOCKS WITH SOLES OR SLIPPERS MAY BE WORN.

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR A MEMORABLE DAY

CHAIRPERSON JANET GREEN

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 30, 2019

SEND YOUR RSVP MESSAGE, OR QUESTIONS TO GROUP MESSENGER:

"BRUNCH"

WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENOUGH GINGERBREAD FOR EVERYONE THAT WANTS TO MAKE ONE