



# Pensée de la Louisiane

July 2018

## LRID BOARD MEETING NEWS

July 25, 2018

The **Fall Conference** will be held October 11-13, 2018 in Lafayette. The evening of October 11, 2018 will be a social night and the location and time will be announced soon. The workshops will take place on October 12-13, 2018 at the Lafayette Athletic Association for the Deaf. The conference theme this year is "Working Together Toward Tomorrow". The board is currently working with hotels for pricing and reserving blocks for the conference and once we have that information it will be passed along. Registration for the conference is now open so please go online to [www.lrid.org](http://www.lrid.org) and register! The early-bird rate is in effect now-September 1, 2018 and after that the fees increase. Come join us for a grand ole time!

The LRID president, Bernice Thompson and Vice President, Scott Huffman, attended the **Region IV Conference** in Albuquerque, New Mexico on July 19-22, 2018. They represented LRID and presented the Spirit of Region IV Award, Excellence in Service Award, and the Excellence in Leadership Award. Not only did they represent LRID well, our very own LRID

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### **Fundraiser Committee**

The Fundraiser Committee met on July 11, 2018 at the Tangipahoa Parish Library in Hammond, Louisiana. This was the second meeting for the committee, so the meeting included splitting the list of businesses to ask for donations and delegating which committee member would be responsible to contact that business. We wanted to make sure that businesses were not asked twice, so going verbally through the compiled list and letting the committee members chose their businesses was a logical approach and the committee chairperson, Kelly Gripshover, compiled all committee individuals a list to work off of.

The fundraiser committee and LRID Board members are dedicated to the task of acquiring monetary donations and items for the conference bags, door prizes and auction.

The committee is seeking items for the auction. If you have anything you would like to donate to the cause (i.e. jewelry, embroidered kitchen towels, baskets, crocheted items etc.), please email the LRID Treasurer at [lrid.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:lrid.treasurer@gmail.com)

The fundraising committee is dedicated to making the 2018 Fall Conference a memorable event for all who attend and will meet again on August 16, 2018.

### **Bylaws Committee**

The Bylaws Committee met for the first time in July. The committee discussed revisions that need to be made to LRID Bylaws. An email was sent out to LRID members asking for members input if they think any changes should be made to the bylaws. The deadline for bylaw revision submissions is August 1, 2018 and revision suggestions should be sent to Kenny David at [kennyterp@gmail.com](mailto:kennyterp@gmail.com). The bylaws committee will meet again on August 3, 2018.

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Vice President, Scott Huffman ended up being a recipient of the Spirit of Region IV award. (See page 3 for a picture) Scott and Bernice have been kind to sum up their time spent at Region IV and you can read about their experience on pages 4-7.

LRID's **website** has a new look! Log onto [www.lrid.org](http://www.lrid.org) and browse the website. A resource tab has been added to consist of valuable resources in the various settings interpreters work within. Your feedback is greatly appreciated so please share it with us and if there is anything you think would be an asset to add to the website please email [lrid.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:lrid.secretary@gmail.com) with that information.

**Membership renewal** is still open! If you would like to take advantage of the member rate for the Fall Conference, please renew your membership as soon as possible. If you have already renewed, you should be receiving your LRID membership cards in the mail soon. If you have not renewed yet, please go to [www.lrid.org](http://www.lrid.org) to renew your membership or you can mail checks or cash to: Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, P.O. Box 77018, Baton Rouge, LA 70879. If you choose to mail your renewal, please include a note stating:

- Your name
- Address
- Email
- Phone number
- RID number if you are a member

The membership categories and fees are as follows:

- Voting member (\$30): In order to be a voting member, you must be a resident of Louisiana and a member in good standing of any voting membership category (Active Certified member or Associate member) of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).
- Non-member/Student/ Out-of-State (\$20): A Non-voting member supports the association, but does not wish to have voting privileges and may or may not be a member in good standing of any non-voting membership category (Inactive Certified member, Retired Certified member, student member, supporting member, or organizational/ institutional member) of RID.

- Organizational member (\$100): Any organization with an interest in supporting the association and carries no voting privileges.
- Lifetime member (annual association membership dues are waived): Lifetime member is granted during the general business meeting and shall include all rights and privileges of the category of membership in which eligibility is met.

LRID next board meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2018.

## Spotlight

The spotlight this month shines on Scott Huffman. He was asked to submit an article about how he became involved in the interpreting profession and the following is what he had to say:

“My passion for interpreting and accessibility derived from Deaf Prisoners. While serving a 5 year sentence in the Louisiana Department of Corrections, I met and lived with over 25 different deaf men, but usually in a dormitory with roughly ten guys at a time. It was a GREAT experience despite the circumstances!”

“I’ve enjoyed thoroughly volunteering with LRID. Not only do I have a greater appreciation for the volunteerism that board members invest into the organization, but I’ve gained a better understanding of LRID & RID and how they’re structured. One thing that keeps me motivated to serve is knowing the work we do will impact future generations of interpreters to come.”

“Since I’ve been on the board, I’ve seen a lot of growing pains blossom into successes. My goal has been to engage new members, old members, and to give Louisiana representation again on a national level. I truly believe we’ve been able to do this and look forward to leaving a nice framework for the next

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Executive Director is working with Language Access Coordinator at the Louisiana Supreme Court to develop best practices for Legal/Court Interpreters in Louisiana.

As it stands, all that is required is a generalist Certification from RID (Dialogue is being had about recognition of the BEI) and passing score on a written exam that includes information about:

- Structure of Louisiana's judicial system & legal terminology
- Louisiana's Code of Professional Responsibility for Language Interpreters
- Role of the interpreter in the various legal and court proceedings
- Modes of interpretation including consecutive, simultaneous, and sight.

While this is important procedural information to know prior to entering into court as a certified/qualified interpreter, more training is needed. Currently, the BEI Court Certification is the only viable Court Certification test in the United States. While there are a number of outlets offering legal training, the BEI is the only Court Certification Specialty Certificate being offered at this time. Because Louisiana is looking into the BEI as a viable solution to the shortage of certified interpreters in Louisiana, we are hopeful our state is on the right track to implementing the BEI system as many other states have thus far.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A calendar of events around the state including workshops, Deaf coffee chats, LRID meetings, LCD meetings and events that pertain to the interpreter and Deaf Community is in the making. The calendar will be posted on LRID's website and an email stating its debut will be emailed out once it is ready. As of now, stay tuned to emails being sent out advertising events such: Ben Bahan coming to Baton Rouge sponsored by Deaf Focus, LCD meeting on August 24, 2018, Trix Bruce in New Orleans in September and LRID's Fall Conference in October.

\*\*If you are interested in joining a committee, email the the LRID Secretary at [lrid.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:lrid.secretary@gmail.com) and list what committee you would like to take part in.

## Spotlight (cont. from page 1)

Vice President to pick up.”

“While I've enjoyed my time as Vice-President, my term is coming to an end, however I plan to run again for Vice President for the upcoming term. My joys in life are spending time with my wife and four children, hunting and volunteering.”

Pictured below is Scott receiving the Spirit of Region IV Award.



LRID had another member at the Region IV Conference who took home the Leader in Excellence Award. Congratulations Katrina River Labouliere!



## **Bernice's Thompson's Region IV Report**

I want to say thank you to all the LRID members for your support in sending me to the Region IV Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was four filled days of workshops and meetings to help me bring information and ideas back to our beautiful state. It was interesting to see things that affect our state are also affecting so many other states in our region, including collaboration with the Deaf community. Thursday night we had our opening ceremony which included a blessing from a native American Sign Language interpreter that led into the beginning remarks from our Region IV representative Sonja Smith. The excitement in the room was contagious as colleagues from across the region were reconnecting or making new connections.

There were over 40 workshops offered at the conference. There were many great speakers and topics and hard to choose but I did pick those I felt would be of greatest benefit to LRID and myself. I am summarizing the information I learned and would like to share with the members.

Friday began with two keynote speakers. Our vice-president wrote about one, I'm writing about the second. The topic was "Nothing Without Us: Who is Us?" by Shira Grabelsky, a presenter with a presence felt throughout the room. She spoke about our mental models, which influence how we perceive the world, filter information we take in, exclude data that does not conform to our mental model and can this shape our thinking and behavior. These mental models create a force field that lead us to observe data and experiences, select data, attach meaning, draw conclusions, construct our beliefs and take action that often run up against the other person's forcefield. She encouraged us to look at our own mental models and reevaluate how we see others.

My second workshop was, "Deliberate Practice, How?" by Wink Smith Jr. a man who need very little introduction in the field of interpreter training. His workshop was geared towards how interpreters practice, while expounding upon the limitations that interpreters often face, including limited resources that are prohibitory expensive with no substitute and the fact that most resources are geared towards novice and beginning interpreters. He offered solutions that are doable which included a framework for intentional practice, how to break down the domain and focus on a single skill, utilizing coaches, mentors and teachers, and setting goals, while remembering that mental fatigue kicks in at about 4 hours after which there is no longer a strong benefit. He focused a lot on infinitesimal units, which means the smallest unit, and really digging into that unit. For example, by setting goals that are narrow and workable. His workshop really challenged my thought process of what makes and expert in a field. The answer is deliberate practice.

Friday evening was the Region IV business meeting where concerns and ideas were shared as well as a recap of the state of the region. We watched a video from CASLI regarding the new testing coming out "hopefully" in 2019. They indicated the new NIC and CDI testing will come out at the same time. We also met Joey Trapani, the new CEO of RID. He shared with us the five goals that came from the national conference in 2017. He shared that he has been learning about the good, the bad and the ugly from members regarding their feeling of RID. He was a down to earth and honest in his remarks.

Saturday morning began with the "Building Alliances with the Deaf Community Through Service Learning" by Eileen Forestal and Sherry Shaw workshop. This workshop resonated with me as I am working toward improving relationships between the Deaf community and the interpreting community. They offered several "how" examples with their service learning dialogue. Sherry wrote a book on service learning because of her teaching experiences of students not being involved in the Deaf community. There were no materials available prior to her book and it showed how there was no common understanding of how interpreters can be and should closely engage with the communities in which they work. This workshop impacted me the most as I want to bridge the gap between our two worlds. We worked in teams to create an asset map listing all assets within our states and showed that it is not enough to just focus on Deaf organization but working

with other natural resources we have available to us. This helped us create a toolbox from which we can all pull from. My number one goal is to collaborate with not only LAD but with other Deaf organizations across the state to bring unity to our two communities through service learning.

During lunch, I choose to participate in a fun workshop, “Paint in ASL.” We had two Deaf artists who worked with us and taught us how to paint a picture following their instructions in ASL. Check out our Facebook page for the picture of my artwork!

My next workshop really caused my brain to stretch. “Eh, What’s Up Doc?” by Phillip Guillory was presented from a clinician’s point of view. He explained how such simple command like, “say ah” are really conducive for a clinician to see a variety of things including muscle strength, vocal chords and swallowing. He went on to explain that having a patient copy the interpreter is not always the best thing because the ability to follow commands is different than the ability to copy. It uses different parts of the brain. We enjoyed coming up with ways to sign simple tasks like, “make a fist” without having the patient mimic the interpreter.

My last workshop on Saturday challenged me to rethink my own positionality and what it brings with me when I go into an interpreting assignment. “Interpreting in the K-12 Classroom: Culture, Policy and Power” by Dominic Harrison and Martin Watkins was geared towards educational interpreters but it was a topic that can be applied to any interpreting assignment. How does my own culture affect the way I interpret? How do I make my positionality least invasive when I go on an assignment? These were tough questions to discuss and required a self-analysis daily or sometimes multiple times a day to ensure the communication is not hindered.

Sunday morning, I attended my last workshop taught by Tamar Jackson Nelson, “Omissions: Good, Bad or Both?” This workshop was fascinating for me as I teach on this topic as well. With a focus on educational interpreting, where most interpreters work independently and alone, it was a topic we all do but may not realize why or when it happens. We all know interpreters cannot always get 100% of the material when we interpret, but do we recognize when omissions happen? This workshop was instrumental in applying linguistic rules of omissions while recognizing it takes self-monitoring for us to see when we have intentional or unintentional omissions in our work.

At the closing ceremony we sat with our respective affiliated chapters while we discussed where we are now, where do we want to be and how do we make it happen. We developed our top three goals for our chapter and we, the board, will create a strategic plan to reach those goals. Once we have this in place, we will share with the membership. If you are interested in working with the board on developing our strategic plan, please reach out to any board member. We are looking forward to working on improving our presence at the regional and national levels.

I would like to add congratulations to Katrina Labouliere for receiving the Excellence in Leadership award and to Scott Huffman for receiving the Spirit of Region IV award. They both represented Louisiana well.

## **Scott Huffman's Region IV Report**

Greetings Members,

This week's RID Region IV Conference in Albuquerque, NM has been nothing short of amazing! It has been great participating in new and important workshops, collaborating with colleagues from each state in Region IV, and bonding with Louisiana Interpreters who joined us on this excursion. Below I'm going to give a rundown of the workshops I attended and what my takeaways were, as well as, my experience with the new RID CEO, Joey Trapani.

On Friday, our keynote was Len Roberson. His presentation was titled "Leading from within, Leading for tomorrow." Mr. Roberson said that often we get into the mindset that leadership is something for someone else -something that "they" do, not that I do. For many of us, it's easy to simply assume someone else will surely step up. Reality is though; it's often the few that do the work of the many. As interpreters, regardless of where in that journey we are, it's critical that we all recognize that leadership is about us. The "them" is really "we." Sure, some people seem to be born leaders and others go and learn about leadership through training and university classes, but everyone has something to contribute. It's not the "them" or the few, but it should be the many doing what each can to make an organization work well!

Friday evening, I had the pleasure of sitting through a workshop titled "Sports Interpreting: Fundamentals on and off the Court" presented by Orlando Obeso & Roderick Stickley. As an avid lover of sports, this one stuck out to me.

Their presentation is framed around sports interpreting in an educational setting. This means there are school-aged children participating in boys teams, girls teams, and occasionally, co-ed teams in a variety of possible interpreted settings. We addressed various possible situations such as: hard of hearing players with limited ASL proficiency on a deaf team that communicates in ASL; A deaf athlete that uses ASL to communicate who plays on a hearing team of non-signers; A hearing coach with limited ASL proficiency coaching a deaf team of fluent ASL users. How do these dynamics inform the interpreting approach and how can we accommodate the needs of all participants in those settings? Towards the end of the presentation, they presented a rundown of specific signs being used in sports interpreting and how sign choices can affect a consumer's ability to perform their skill.

On Saturday Eileen Forestal provided an informative workshop titled "Deaf-Hearing Interpreter Teaming as a Collaborative and Dynamic Process." This workshop focused on Deaf and hearing teaming collaboratively in this dynamic process. She began with a discussion on current research and practices of Deaf Interpreter-hearing teaming processes. She expanded on a theory called gatekeeping that has emerged in recent years and techniques on how they apply to team interpreting processes and how research has redefined gatekeeping within the Deaf and hearing interpreter teams. Basically, when teaming with DI/CDI's we are simply their as a conduit and the Deaf Interpreter should be taking the lead interpreter position. There are also free resources online through: NCIEC

Related to the legal interpreting field, on Saturday, Jo Linda Greenfield presented a very important workshop titled "Linguistic Equity for Sign Language Users in Legal Settings: A 360-degree view." This workshop centered around a 5 year grant program ran at the University of Northern Colorado. Its origin stems from concerns about linguistic access for deaf people in legal settings. Her presentation was based off results of a survey of stakeholders conducted by Project CLIMB (Cultivating Legal Interpreters from Minority Backgrounds) as a backdrop to understanding the interpreter's vital role in the legal system. Deaf people

who use sign language are dependent on interpreters in order to be linguistically present in legal situations; whether it is the mundane or the extraordinary, they are involved in. Across the board, consumers of interpreting services express a desire to work with interpreters who are able to understand their culture and language. The program uses a social justice framework to examine how power and privilege impact the work we do as interpreters. Project CLIMB gives focus to interpreters of color and heritage users of ASL who are underrepresented within the specialty of legal interpreting. Project CLIMB is funded by the US Department of Education- Rehabilitation Services Administration for the purpose of increasing the number and skill of interpreters working in legal settings. Here is a link to their website in case you're interested in joining this important work: [Project Climb](#)

The final workshop on my trip was titled "Cultural Competency: Understanding Power, Privilege, and Oppression in Mental Health Interpreting," presented by a former professor of mine, Paula MacDonald.

Her presentation surrounded Deaf people accessing behavioral health services who face a wide range of barriers. One of which is the access to services through qualified interpreters. Often interpreters are wary to work in this specialization due to lack of resources. This workshop used the theory of worldviews to explore the varied perspective of lived experiences that clients might have. Through short reflection activities we were able to learn more about how our own world views can create potential bias while interpreting in the mental health field. The CATIE Center's Behavioral Health Interpreting Project which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (H160D160003) aims to increase the number of diverse interpreters working in mental health settings by improving the knowledge, skills and cultural competencies needed to be effective practitioners. Here is a link to their program: [Behavioral Health Interpreting Project](#)

All of the programs listed above are of no cost to participants. Some projects hand select participants, and some are open for all.

Over the course of my stay, I had an opportunity to sit down with and watch a presentation from the new RID CEO. This allowed me to understand him on a personal level as well as his position on the work he's taken on. Mr. Joey Trapani was very humbled by his opportunity to engage with Region IV stakeholders. As interpreters shared their thoughts, frustrations, and concerns, he made every intention to let people know he understands, and agrees with most of their frustrations. I truly believe he will be doing his absolute best to work on all the issues he's been presented with since he started July 1. He did acknowledge that he has ALOT to learn of the issues surrounding RID and he looks forward to working with all RID stakeholders in creating a better more peaceful space for interpreters to belong in. Bernice and I shared our thoughts on how RID can take a more active role in supporting AC's, and we also acknowledge that WE are RID. We have to be the change we want to see, so that means it starts within LRID (members)! Our AC looks forward to a more collaborative relationship with our Local Deaf Community, Interpreting Community, and colleagues from across the country. We will actively start engaging other AC's and their members to see how we can incorporate strategies they've used to become successful.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your LRID Vice President. I hope to see all of you at our LRID Fall Conference in Lafayette, Louisiana (Oct 11-13).