

The Sign Post

Newsletter for the Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



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How Do you Measure a Year of Interpreting?

Suzanne Conway, CCRID President

Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes. That, according to the song from Rent, is the amount of time in one year. It really is – I even did the math myself. That's how many minutes we each have in 2012. As I write this, it's still late December, and all of those minutes stretch out in front of me. So many possibilities! So many things I have to do, get to do, and want to do. Personal goals, professional goals, work schedules, vacations, family obligations, volunteering...I need to make some lists.

When you look at a year in terms of minutes, it seems overwhelming. But even if you subtract all the minutes you spend sleeping, there's a lot of time left to fill. Personal and family obligations take time, relaxing and socializing with friends are essential, and vacations are equally necessary. And then, of course, there's work.

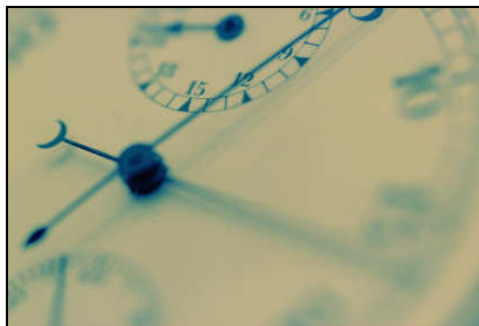
What about the rest of the minutes? Professional development, anyone? How many minutes do you devote to improving your language skills, learning more about interpreting, and refining your professional skills? CCRID can help you with all of those!

The leadership team works very hard to provide workshops and Terp Time mentoring sessions for the benefit of all interpreters in our area. Some workshops are held on Friday evenings for a few hours, some take an entire Saturday's worth of time, and some are held Saturday mornings – at Starbucks, even! We try to balance the timing of the workshops and mentoring sessions we provide; we don't want to monopolize anyone's schedule. This spring, for example, we will host one all

day Saturday workshop, two Friday evening workshops, and a couple of Terp Times. What is that – a little over twenty-one thousand minutes?

Twenty-one thousand minutes for professional development offered here in Fresno during the spring; several great opportunities for learning and refining your skills and networking with other interpreters. That may seem like a lot of minutes, but out of the five hundred thousand plus you get every year, it's not much. As we all strive to better ourselves professionally, twenty-one thousand minutes seems like a reasonable amount of time to devote to our careers.

CCRID recently did a survey of interpreters in our area, asking about workshop attendance, and asking for suggestions of possible speakers and topics for future workshops. The leadership team continues to use your ideas to help guide our decisions for selecting presenters and refining the focus of the workshops we provide. Thank you! We know that your commitment of twenty-one thousand or so minutes to professional development this spring will be well worth it. CCRID wants to give you what you need as you learn, grow, and network as interpreters. Please let us know if what we are doing is meeting your needs!



One year: five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes. But wait – 2012 is a leap year! Five hundred twenty-seven thousand, forty minutes. What can you accomplish professionally this year, and how can CCRID help you?

**Honoring Tradition
Embracing Change
Celebrating Growth**

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Leadership Meetings are open to all CCRID members. See the calendar at our website for date, time and place.

Contact ccrid@ccrid.org with any questions regarding meetings.

The Sign Post is prepared quarterly. Please send ideas, items or information for announcements to newsletter editor Shannon M. Simonelli at ccrid@ccrid.org one month prior to publication date.



The field of interpreting is one that is dynamic and ever changing. To that end, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) announced recently that the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) has changed effective December 2011.

The former exam consisted of two parts, NIC Knowledge and NIC Interview and Performance Exam. The Knowledge Exam was a written exam. The Interview and Performance exam had five signing/voicing segments and five interview ethical scenarios. Scores were given with a

multi-level scoring process (NIC, NIC Advanced, and NIC Master).

After much review the RID made the decision to change to NIC Interview and Performance Exam; the written Knowledge Exam, will remain the same. The new NIC will consist of seven 3-5 minute vignettes, two of which will assess ethical decision making. The enhanced NIC has a single-level scoring process rather than the previous multi-level scoring.

Having recognized a need for specialized certifications, RID is currently working through data

provided by members in the Job Task Analysis (JTA). The JTA data should pin point in which specific areas it is important to offer advanced and specialty certificates.

CCRID encourages you to check out all the details online at www.rid.org/NICNews. The website offers a vast array of information, including a very thorough (62 page) Enhanced NIC Candidate Handbook with which interpreters preparing for certification, as well as interpreter trainers, should become familiar.

CHALLENGE

Try this skill building challenge! List as many variations for voicing the words that are listed below, which have been glossed from ASL. Be mindful of how the setting, speaker, and context could change your interpretation. Are there any English idioms that would work?

- IMPORTANT
- CHAMP
- COOL
- FEEL
- SHOCK



Your English vocabulary is just as important as your sign vocabulary. Check out smart phone applications as one way to enhance your word choices. Here's a short list, of applications available for free:

- *Words, Words, Words!*
- *Word of the Day*
- *Urban Dictionary*
- *Vocab Builder*
- *Wordalation Vocab Builder*
- *Latin Word of the Day*
- *Words With Friends*
- *Hanging With Friends*

EVENTS

January

20, 6pm-9pm *Emergency Preparedness for Sign Language Interpreters*, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St, Fresno, CA 93710

8, 2:30pm-4pm, *Leadership Meeting*; Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno
email ccrid@ccrid.org for directions

February

12, 2:30pm-4pm, *Leadership Meeting*; Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno
email ccrid@ccrid.org for directions

March

10, 9am-4pm *Vital Signs*, Presented by Colleen Geier, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St, Fresno, CA 93710

4, 2:30pm-4pm, *Leadership Meeting*; Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno
email ccrid@ccrid.org for directions

April

20, 6:30pm-8:30pm *Accepting the Job: Profit or Expense?* Presented by Amy Hall-McLaughlin, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St, Fresno, CA 93710

15, 2:30pm-4pm, *Leadership Meeting*; Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno
email ccrid@ccrid.org for directions

Terp Time Professional Development dates to be announced at a later time. If you are interested in leading Terp Time, contact ccrid@ccrid.org

For details and event fliers go to the calendar listed at www.ccrd.org