

The Sign Post

Newsletter for the Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



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Highlights from Region V RID Conference

Aloha! The 2012 Region V Conference was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. I, for one, am not sure there is a more beautiful place for a conference than that! The theme was "Ohana, Celebrating our Ties." Ohana is a Hawaiian term that means family, a connectedness with relatives and those you have chosen to consider family. We, as interpreters and Deaf community, are indeed connected! Through various presentations, I was reminded of how many opportunities exist to work collaboratively with our colleagues, community members and sister organizations as we move forward in our profession and seek to maximize growth for all. It is in that spirit of collaboration that I have asked the others who attended to share their thoughts. *Pam Warkentin*

Hawaii is such a beautiful place to have a conference! There was a good variety of workshops offered. It was sometimes hard to choose! My favorite workshops were "Ohana-Working Together" presented by Flavia Fleischer and "Interpreting with Aloha" presented by Joey Young. The banquet was fun. We were offered local favorites for our buffet. The entertainment was a local Hula group and then local Deaf people performed a variety of skits. It was fun! *Dona Melugin*

Aloha All, Region V was fabulous! Essentially, I have an even more increased appreciation for the value of each other as a TEAM, as there is no "I" in TEAM. Partnering together means valuing *all* in the interpreting process. The discussions on Audism and DeafHood continue to be very empowering in my journey to better understand the impacts these have on me, in my work, and those with whom I collectively serve. *Christine Gough-Bise*



This year's RID Region V conference was my first conference experience and I must admit that I could not have asked for a better location. I did not know what to expect but was pleasantly surprised with the workshops being presented in ASL. This was a great receptive opportunity. I attended a variety of workshops and learned how to apply different topics and new vocabulary to my everyday work. *Lori Botelho*

My biggest "take away" was being able to attend a variety of workshops all in the same week. The conference offered many workshops that I do not feel would be offered locally and the topics were region specific. It was a great way to widen my knowledge base and start delving into different disciplines. The location was an added bonus!!! *Erin Uribe*

EVENTS

August

26 2:30 pm—4 pm, Leadership Meeting; Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno

September

21, 6:00 pm Signing Night Live, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA

October

5, 5:30 pm—9:30 pm Moving Away from "I Can't" Discussions on the CPC, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA

6, 9:00 am—4:30 pm ORANGE-EYES Doesn't Mean

"Amazing" A Linguistic & Semantic Tune-up for Interpreters DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA

November

10, 9:00 am—4:30 pm Disaster Services Overview, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA

30, 6:00 pm—8:30 pm Peek-A-Boo: A Look at Performance Interpreting, DHHSC, 5340 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA

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

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.

CCRID Member Spotlight: Nichele Hubbs

What kind of interpreting do you do and why? I am a staff interpreter at a facility providing services for the developmentally delayed. I provide interpreting in a variety of settings including (but not limited to) medical, psychological, vocational, social, and entertainment. I also freelance as much as possible; my favorite arena to work in and around is the medical field, I love, love, love to interpret for any and all things medical. I also have a passion for church interpreting because this is one way I can give back.

What drew you to the field of interpreting? At first I thought it would be easy (HA HA HA) but I quickly fell in love with the beauty of the language and of the people.

What keeps you in the field of interpreting? I really appreciate and have a fondness for the Deaf community. I have had experiences that have touched my heart and changed me for the better. I have cried with Deaf mothers, disagreed with Deaf teenagers, and have had my heart melted by the astonishing abilities of the Deaf/Blind. I also feel so at home with other interpreters. We do care, and to be able to call my colleagues also my friends is an opportunity not all professions offer.

Why is the Deaf community important to you? Their unique view of the world has enlightened me.

What aspect of interpreting gives you the most joy? I really enjoy how every moment offers a new experience. Even if I am going to the same place I've been before, people are unpredictable. I do not have a boring job!

What has been the most nerve wracking part of interpreting and how have you addressed or overcome it? Trying to please everyone, including myself! We have a code of conduct, the hearing involved, the Deaf involved, and let's not forget the other interpreters. One wants it this way, another wants it that way. "Why did you sign that?" "Oh no, have I violated some code even though it felt good with my soul?" "We have no one

available, I know you said you couldn't but is there any way you could?" I am learning that I am much happier when I give my all and let the chips fall where they may. I am learning to accept that I will make mistakes and I will not please everyone all the time. I also focus on the positive and learn and grow from the negative!

If you were going to give any advice to a novice interpreter, what would it be? I was terrified for many years and afraid to let other interpreters see my work for fear they would discover how bad I truly was. Truth be told, I still feel this way most days, so my advice to the novice is the same advice to myself: surround yourself with people and experiences that inspire you. Be gentle with yourself, and be brave.

What should others know about you as a professional interpreter? I love to learn more about our work. If I am staring at you when you are "on" it isn't to be critical or assess YOUR skills; I am learning and appreciating the unique skill set you bring to me in that moment!

What have been some of your most unique experiences as an interpreter? I have been blessed with some amazing and exciting experiences. I have interpreted for the birth of a child, a few weddings, I have been called to deposition regarding a situation for which I was the interpreter (SCARY!), and I have even interpreted for an Elvis impersonator!

If you would like, please feel free to share about yourself and your family. I married my wonderful husband, Jeremy on 1-1-11. I already had my pride and joy, Adam (9), but he increased my joy with Brandon (8), and Kyra (6). We are also trying for our own miracle together, I'll keep you posted!



CCRID is pleased to announce that it has added the Emergency Management Committee as a part of the leadership team. Mirroring strides that are being taken by the RID national office and other chapters nationwide, CCRID is committed to providing training to local interpreters in the field of disaster relief and emergency management interpreting. Members can look forward to the addition of emergency management workshops in the fall and spring line ups!

Area interpreters Paul Barnett, Stacie Baum, Katie Carlson, Etienne Harvey, and Shannon M. Simonelli recently completed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The training is dedicated to teaching emergency and disaster preparedness principles and is an important introduction to emergency management for any interpreter interested in responding during a disaster. For information about registering for future CERT trainings in Fresno, contact citizencorps@fresno.gov. For information about CERT or to locate programs in other areas go to www.citizencorps.gov/cert.

As a result of CERT participation, Katie also had the opportunity to participate in a full scale exercise conducted jointly with the Air National Guard, Fresno Fire and Police Departments, Emergency Medical Services, and the Fresno Yosemite International Airport (event pictured above).

Left to Right: Etienne assisting with a victim carry, Shannon practicing the proper use a fire extinguisher, Katie with Emergency Preparedness Officer Sean Johnson after the full scale exercise at the Air National Guard, Paul conducting a Search & Rescue Drill, and Stacie conducting a Head-to-Toe victim assessment.

