

# The Sign Post

Newsletter for the Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



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## Interpreters: Are You Half Full or Half Empty?

Bryan Berrett, CCRID Member

No. It is a healthy word when used in the appropriate context and in moderation. Everyone has the opportunity to say no without any explanation. It is obvious that we as interpreters use the word no when turning down assignments for any number of valid reasons. Does that make using the word no right all of the time? Certainly not.

Our interpreting community belongs to Deaf and hearing consumers, as well as every one of us as interpreters, mentors, mentees, and students. Many individuals in our profession devote their lives to service. There are also people who are privileged to be part of the Deaf world on a daily basis. Other people influence the policy or procedures of committees or community events. Still others guide the language development and social interactions of D/deaf children and adolescents. Each of us has acknowledged the complexity of our profession. That includes the experienced interpreter all the way to the

student who aspires to be one.

Every profession has its own set of unique challenges, as well as rewards. Some individuals see obstacles where others see opportunity. It is the classic “glass half full or half empty” perspective. How does our profession move forward on specific interpreting issues that affect each of us? A benevolent dictator? Is it by consensus? A majority? A committee of one? Or is it related to the individuals who have the passion and commitment relative to the issue(s)? Who has the power and authority to make decisions that impact our profession? We all do.

Say YES to service, being an ally, giving of your time, being engaged, mentoring, participating, and being committed to our profession. Develop friendships by investing in the Deaf community and in other people. Everyone has value in our interpreting community, and can contribute in their own way. Get involved!



**Honoring Tradition  
Embracing Change  
Celebrating Growth**

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[www.ccrid.org](http://www.ccrid.org)



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### CCRID Executive Board

**President:** Suzanne Conway, MA, CI & CT, OTC, SC:L, Ed:K-12, NAD V

**Vice President:** Renee Bisnett, Ed:K-12

**Secretary:** Pamela Warkentin, CSC, SC:L, NAD V

**Treasurer:** Maja Freund, NIC-A, Ed:K-12

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

Contact [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto: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](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) one month prior to publication date.

# Member Spotlight: Mark Medina Jr.

**What kind of Interpreting do you do and why?** I am a Freelance Educational and Community Interpreter. For me, being able to help establish a strong foundation for language is key for students of all ages. While working in the community I experience a variety of different settings from which I can learn.

**What drew you to the field of interpreting?** ASL. The language is ever changing. I feel so inspired everyday to do what I do for the love of learning more and more about ASL and interpreting techniques.

**What keeps you in the field of interpreting?** Being able to work with individuals of the Deaf Community, fellow Interpreters, ASL Students, and other ASL professionals. This grants me the ability to want to be a better Interpreter as I am always looking to learn something new or chic.

**Why is the Deaf community important to you?** Being a part of the Deaf Community has opened so many doors to my professional development as well as contributing to the friendships I have formed that will last a lifetime!

**What aspect of interpreting gives you**

**the most joy?** My love for ASL. Being able to use such an expressive language on a daily basis. Our work is not typical, we Interpreters have a unique skill that not everyone has.

**What has been the most nerve wracking part of interpreting and how have you addressed or overcome it?** The unexpected. Never knowing what will happen on any assignment. Always thinking on my feet and taking every situation head on is thrilling.

**If you were going to give any advice to a novice interpreter, what would it be?** I wish I had the opportunity to work with a Deaf or Hearing mentor but I have not. I have met people whom have led me in great directions and given me the best advice. I am truly grateful for all their help and support!

**What should others know about you as a professional interpreter?** I always strive for professionalism. And I have a strong drive for ASL and Interpreting.

**What have been some of your most unique experiences as an interpreter?** I have been interpreting Gay and Lesbian Pride Festivals for several years now and this past September, I was asked to again interpret Modesto's Pride Festival as well as recruit and coordinate my own team of interpreters! It was awesome being in that

position for the first time.

**Do you have a n y interpreter or Deaf mentors? If so, what encouraged you to work with a mentor?** I

wish I had the opportunity to work with a Deaf or Hearing mentor but I have not. I have met people whom have led me in great directions and given me the best advice. I am truly grateful for all their help and support!

**If you would like, please feel free to share about yourself and your family.** I am blessed to be in an amazing relationship to my partner, Jordan. We live with our loving animals: two dogs, a cat, two Pygmy goats, a cockatiel, two doves, five rabbits, five turtles, two snakes, several chicks running around. (Yes, we do own a farm.)



## EVENTS

### 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

**14, 2:30 pm—4 pm**, *Leadership Meeting*; 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

**4, 2:30 pm—4 pm**, *Leadership Meeting*; Location TBA

*For details and event fliers go to the calendar listed at [www.ccrd.org](http://www.ccrd.org)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Stepping Up

*CCRID Members who have passed an interpreting assessment or certification test:*

- Becky Edens - NIC

### Cherished Tidings

*CCRID members who have had life-changing events:*

- Angelica Medina-Boersma and Tim Boersma welcomed new baby boy Sebastian Taylor Boersma on Saturday, July 14 at 12:32pm. He was born 8 lbs, 15 oz and 21 3/4 in.
- Kaye Osborn welcomed a granddaughter, Charlotte Mae, to their growing family on April 18.
- Mary Schmidt finished her MA in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary in May 2012 and has moved with her husband to Kansas in Sept 2012. Her cell phone number and email address remain the same if anyone wishes to contact her.
- Shannon and Guy Simonelli welcomed new baby boy Flynn Edward Simonelli on Saturday, September 1 at 1:19am. He was born 10 lbs, 1 oz and 21 1/2 in.

### Interpreting News

- The third annual "2BU" fundraiser will take place on November 4th in conjunction with the Two Cities marathon. The fundraiser supports Fresno State students who are majoring in sign language interpreting. Please email [2BUteam@gmail.com](mailto:2BUteam@gmail.com) if you would like to join the team, support the event, or make a charitable donation.

