

Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



President's Update

Q1 2017

Hello ALRID Members. I hope that the start of 2017 has brought you new opportunities for growth, both personally and professionally. Opportunities by definition is a set of circumstances that make it possible to do something. Opportunities can present themselves in many ways- a job change, results of a medical test, an addition to the family, a challenging assignment, or meeting a new Deaf person, to name a few. Each opportunity, whether good or bad, positive or negative, opens the door for us to respond, take action, and potentially make an impact on ourselves and others.

I have had the opportunity as president to participate in meetings and discussions locally, regionally and nationally. Each opportunity reminds me how amazing our state is when it comes to the interpreting profession. How we already have a licensure law, we have an active collaboration with the Alabama Association of the Deaf, we have an in state ITP, we host top notch state conferences, and we have interpreters in community, educational, vocational, and mental health settings that are the best in their field. All of the above happened because people responded to an opportunity that lead to action impacting our state and profession today. ALRID is already leading the interpreting profession, but let's not stop! What circumstances are before you that you could take action on? Is there an opportunity within ALRID or the Deaf Community that you could respond to and create change? I would like to encourage each of us to look at the interpreting community and deaf community in Alabama and see what opportunities are open for action. Reach out to your Region Representative or any Board Member and see how you can get involved. From serving on a committee to attending a Deaf event within your region, you never know how that will impact you and our profession. Let's continue to lead the interpreting profession here in Alabama and beyond.

Leading. Serving. Connecting.

Chris McGaha,

Board of Directors

- **President:** Chris McGaha (Chelsea)
- **Vice President:** Sue Graham (Sylacauga)
- **Secretary:** Diana Wagoner (Montevallo)
- **Treasurer:** Sharon Spencer (Seminole)
- **Member-at-Large:** Jodie Jernigan (Montgomery)
- **Member-at-Large:** Stacie Yarbrough (Huntsville)
- **Student Representative:** Henley Curry (Troy ITP)
- **AAD Representative:** Ben Hollingsworth (Huntsville)
- **Immediate Past President:** Susan Gordon (Tuscaloosa)

Region Representatives

Region 1: Dawn Vanzo (Harvest)

Region 2: Dawn Vanzo (until 2017)

Region 3: Pat Smart (Sterrett)

Region 4: Part Smart (until 2017)

Region 5: Amanda Liddie (Montgomery)

Region 6: Lisa Gould (Mobile)

Region 7: Judy Robertson (Troy)

History Tidbit

RID Certification Testing comes to Alabama 1972

My first certification test was in Alabama in 1972. At that time, there was no CEU requirement but you had to re-test every 5 years. In 1972 there was a panel of 2 Certified Interpreters, Mary Lou Bingham and Marie Griffin from Maryville College in TN, and Connie Barnes was the interpreter for the Deaf members of the panel. There was also 3 Deaf consumers, Robert Cunningham, Mr. Dutton and the third Deaf person I cannot remember.

The testing material was shown through a 16 mm projector and the quality was grainy and not very clear at all. I started to sweat. The film was very shaky and the poor Deaf man in the movie appeared to be jumping so hard he was hitting his head against the top of the screen. There were two films to voice and two cassette tapes to interpret, one was a speech by a past president in a foreign country that I never heard of and the second was a party record by a famous comedian.

Even though that was 45 years ago I remember vividly how scared I felt in the presence of such greatness. As the panel members put their scoring sheets in manila envelopes, sealed them and handed them to Marie my heart dropped, I knew I did not pass. For the next several weeks, I wasted a lot of time trying to figure out what I would tell my Deaf family and friends who had depended on me for years to interpret for them that I did not pass my certification test. How would I face the Deaf panelist and "the great one" Mary Lou Bingham and explain my failure.

Then the letter came. I passed! I cried.

TROY ITP Graduates

ALRID would like to welcome the following ITP Graduates to the Interpreting Profession:

- * Nayshunda Burke
- * Henley Curry
- * Gennell Green
- * Tiffany Leach
- * Kathleen Moore
- * Matthew Pouncey
- * Paula Strong
- * Vickie Watson
- * Christina Woods

We are proud of you and look forward to all the great things you will do!

ALRID in Tennessee

Leading the interpreting profession and serving the interpreting community. Our vision being put to work. We were able to go to Tennessee and lead their TRID Board retreat focusing on Connection, Context, and Communication.



President's "Thumbs-Up" Corner

The Alabama interpreting community and Deaf community are filled with great people leading, serving, and connecting in amazing ways. Many times, these people go unnoticed. ALRID wants to honor the people and the efforts being made to build and shape the communities in Alabama. I want to give the following people a "Thumbs-Up!"

- Jodie Jernigan
- Kim Christenberry
- Anna Hayes
- Belinda Montgomery
- Marcus Washington
- Stacie Yarbrough



If you know someone who is leading the interpreting profession, serving the interpreting community, or connecting with the Deaf community, let us know by emailing president@alrid.org.

Updates from the Regions

Regions 1 and 2

On March 26th, Region 1 and 2 held their Meet and Greet. A good turn out. We had members from the earlier days of HRID, to first timers coming to see what the community of Interpreting is all about. Some great photos and memories from of our trail blazers were displayed and celebrated in heart with an ongoing kinship. Thanks to all who worked together to share our history.

ALRID President Chris McGaha gave a presentation guiding us from the organizations roots, when AAD helped create an organization for interpreters, up to the current design and involvement of ALRID where community initiatives determine what it might accomplish. It is this responsibility that is passed on through the act of "community" and keeps our actions properly placed and goals not forgotten.

"Thumbs-Up" awards were presented to: Kim Thornsberry and Frances Smallwood for their involvement and support of Lead-K to improve education and services available to children and parents at crucial stages of early development. Michael Deuel and Harriett Hollingsworth for their work with AMC towards serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents via Open Caption movies on a regular basis. Stacie Yarbrough for consistently going above in beyond to do what is needed.

We obviously are not aware of all the great projects and initiatives that transpire in the world but if you know of deeds worthy of special recognition, please help us bring appreciation to those persons.

Thanks for everyone who attended! Based on feedback provided, upcoming trainings are in the works. Look for announcements soon on the ALRID Facebook page!



Contact your region representative with any questions or to stay connected and be supported!

REGION 3

We recently hosted a series of four workshops as part of an Interpreter Enrichment Series. These workshops were attended by several Region 3 members and others that are interested in becoming members of ALRID. The workshops were "Music - Sign or Interpret - Knowing the Secret Part 1 and 2", "Enhancing Interpreting Skills with Art Techniques", and "The DeafBlind Experience - Working with individuals who are DeafBlind".

Many thanks to Sue, Bianca, and Deb for donating their time and sharing their knowledge with those who attended. While this proved to be a great fund raiser for Region 3 it was a nice opportunity to get to

Region 4

Region 4 hosted their Meet and Greet on April 10, 2017. While there were only 3 attendees, the dialogue was good. Region 4 interpreters have shown interest in doing a series similar to Region 3 and are looking at hosting that in

Region 5

We have had a quiet quarter, but are looking forward to the summer! As always, suggestions for workshops and other activities and/or feedback is welcome at region5@alrid.org.

Region 6

Our Meet and Greet and Member Appreciation "Paint Your Stress Away" Workshop on March 11th was a blast! We only had 6 members in attendance (2 new joined) but it was a great day! Carol Wiggins, our instructor, led us through several art projects and taught us various ways art can help relieve stress! We had so much fun relaxing and spending time together! Lunch was provided (Roly Poly) and was delicious! We even decided we want to do this every year! We look to having another workshop in the Fall. Suggestions are always welcome!

REGION 7

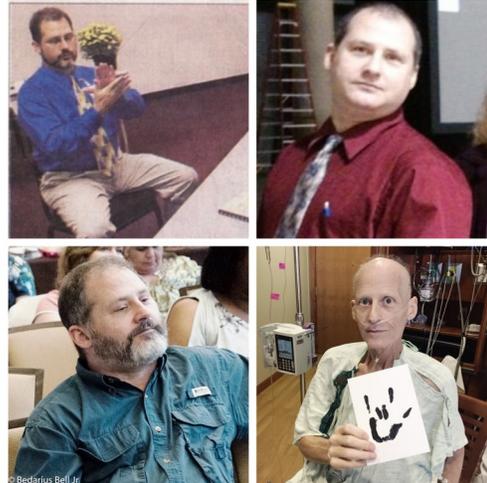
Keep your eyes on Region 7 ... Good things are coming!



www.facebook.com/AlabamaRID/

Ted Kotis

As many of you are aware, our friend Ted Kotis lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in April, 2017. Ted was a member of the ALRID family and he will be greatly missed. On behalf of Ted Kotis' family and specifically for his daughter, Annabelle, Jill and Jaime are making a memory book. If you have a story about Ted that you would be willing to share or have any photographs of him, please send them our way! We want Annabelle to be able to see how Ted influenced others in the interpreting world. If you remember any comments he made about Annabelle or about being a Dad, we would love those, too! Please send stories or pictures to Jaime Laird, jaime.laird@rehab.alabama.gov or Jill Moran, moran.jill@aidb.org. Thank you for your help!



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALRID Membership Appreciation Workshop, Lunch, and Annual Business Meeting

WHAT: "Burnout: Here's Your Sign" training, lunch, and the ALRID Annual Business Meeting

WHEN: June 17, 2017 10:00am-2:00pm

WHERE: AIDB Regional Center Montgomery (address below)

COST : FREE for ALRID Members
Non-Members pay \$15 for the training/\$10 for lunch

RSVP: By June 15, 2017 to cmp@alrid.org.

.15 PRINA's 602 S. Lawrence St. Montgomery, AL



Alabama Association of the Deaf
Council Organization Serving Deaf Alabamians and
Alabama Registry Interpreters for the Deaf

AAD Conference

June 7-10, 2017 in Mobile, AL

"Continuing the Legacy:

Celebrating Our Unified Deaf Community"

Registration for the Conference has been extended to

May 31, 2017

For more information about registration and hotel go to:

<http://deafalabama.org>

1.2 RID CEU's Pending

Beth Overland
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2016- 2018

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Have something you want included in the next ALRID newsletter? Send it to beth.overland@rehab.alabama.gov or secretary@alrid.org.