Interpreting as a Profession!

Emergence, Options, and Mistakes
Wayne Kip Webster

- Basic Interpreter Training Program - 1978
- Comprehensive Skills Certificate - 1982
- Bachelors in Social Work - 1980
- Masters in Business Administration - 1996
- Jobs in Social Work for three years, Interpreting coordination and management for 24 years
Starting Places!

• Current status
  - Yours?
  - Ours
    - Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
• Small group met in 1965
• Workshop on Interpreting for the Deaf
• Mostly educators
• Interpreting not seen as a profession at that time
• Conference of Interpreter Trainers established 1979
• Focused on Interpreter Education
• Primary Goals
  – Registry (list) of Interpreters for the Deaf
  – Train additional interpreters
What are your goals?

• Association of Professional Interpreters
  ▪ ____________
  ▪ ____________
  ▪ ____________
  ▪ ____________
  ▪ ____________
What is in your name?

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada
Name Issues

- Power
- Disability Community or Linguistic Community
- Acceptance of Sign Language
- Oralism
The philosophy of RID is that excellence in interpretation and transliteration services among people who are Deaf, or Hard of Hearing, and people who are hearing, will ensure effective communication. As the professional association for interpreters and transliterators, the RID serves as an essential arena for its members in the pursuit of excellence.
Mission

- It is the mission of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to provide international, national, regional, state, and local forums and an organizational structure for the continued growth and development of the professions of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English.
Goal Statement

• It is the goal of RID to promote the profession of interpreting and transliterating American Sign Language and English.
Strong Triad

Training (PDC & CMP)

Certification Ethical Practices System
• Training for new and professional interpreters through the Professional Development Committee (PDC) and the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP).
Continuing Education

• Orient field toward education and advancement
• International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET)
  - www.iacet.org
Continuing Education

- Standards for hours spent in Continuing Education (CEUs)
- Certified Interpreters
  - Eight CEUs in four years
- Associate members

- Approved Sponsors
  Qualification review
• Continued Certification through RID’s National Testing System (NTS)
Certification

- Create standard expectations
  - Code of Ethics
  - [www.rid.org/codeofethics.pdf](http://www.rid.org/codeofethics.pdf)
• Self regulation through a national Ethical Practices System (EPS)
  ▪ Ethical Practices System
    • Complaint form
    • www.rid.org/Official_Complaint_Form.pdf
    • Mediation
    • Adjudication
Issues

• Compensation
  ▪ Who pays?
  ▪ Where is power?
  ▪ Are deaf people involved?

• Altruism
Mistakes to Avoid!

- Maintain strong relationship with Association of the Deaf
  - Attribution Theory
- Maintain Certificates, not re-test
Mistakes to Avoid!

- Fundamental conflict with Interpreting Association hosting certification
  - Create separate testing / certification organization
  - Ally with Association of the Deaf
Mistakes to Avoid!

• Have Fun!
  - Allow “third” culture of interpreting to develop
Further Help?

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