

THE COMMUNICATOR

NEBRASKA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Omaha Zoo!

NCDHH partnered with NeAD to host the annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Omaha zoo on Sunday, September 25th. This is a fun, family event that the community is eager to attend. This year we saw our biggest turnout yet with over 250 kids and families!

We want to give a huge thank you to the organizations that partnered with us for this great outreach event: Nebraska Hands and Voices, Nebraska Regional Programs and Nebraska Relay. The Deaf Connect Storytelling was performed by NCDHH Board Member, Vali Hitz and the animal sign class was taught by Board Member, Jonathan Scherling, and educator, Jenna Smith. One of the books featured was 'Sometimes I Like the Quiet' by community interpreter, Kelly Brakenhoff. We hope all who came out had a great time and we can't wait to start planning for next year!



NCDHH Board Member, Vali Hitz, during DeafConnect Story Telling



Jenna Smith & NCDHH Board Member, Jonathan Scherling, during ASL Signs Class



Pete Ricketts
Governor

NCDHH Hiring Executive Director

Candice Arteaga,
Chairperson

Commission
Members

Frances Beurivage
Lincoln

Jonathan Scherling
Omaha

Peggy Williams
Lincoln

Vali Hitz
Raymond

Robert Feit
Lincoln

Brook Fitzpatrick
Omaha

Sandra Shaw
Seward

Diane Schutt
Fairbury

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is looking for a qualified candidate to apply for a leadership role as Executive Director for the agency. The successful candidate will be a skilled influencer and leader with a demonstrated track record of involvement within the deaf and hard of hearing community and successful leadership of high-performing teams.

Requirements include fluency in American Sign Language and a bachelor's degree or higher with five or more years of progressive leadership, management or supervisory experience including financial management.

NCDHH Board Chair, Candice Arteaga, encourages all qualified individuals to apply.

“With this change in leadership, we are hopeful to find an energetic and driven leader to represent the Commission and advocate in the community and promote the agency mission and vision,” Arteaga said. “The position is open until October 26. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.”

Candice’s contact information is: candice.arteaga@nebraska.gov.

Full job description, details, and how to apply can be found [here](#).



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Interim Executive Director – Kelsey Cruz

During the transition period, Kelsey Cruz will serve as the Interim Executive Director. Kelsey has been with the Commission since 2014 as the Public Information Officer, handling external and internal communications between stakeholders and the community, managing social media and website content, and ensuring communication is accessible to all audiences.

“My goal during this transition is to help make daily operations seamless and effective in our agency while we search nationwide for a new leader for our team,” Cruz said. “My responsibility is to ensure the agency’s vision, goals and advocacy of our teammates continue on as usual.”

If you have any questions or are needing assistance during this transition, Kelsey can be reached at kelsey.cruz@nebraska.gov.

Legal & Rural Communication Access Funding Program Launches



Federal funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is now available. In April, Gov. Ricketts signed LB1014 into law, a bill to appropriate federal funds to the state of Nebraska pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-901.03. This federal funding includes money appropriated to the Commission to provide support in rural areas of the state and access to legal services. Two programs have been created with these funds and are entitled 'Rural Communication Access Fund' and 'Legal Communication Access Fund.' The funding is available for two fiscal years, beginning July 1, 2022.

These two programs can provide monetary support for:

- 1) The reimbursement of expenses incurred to obtain an on-site, in-person licensed sign language interpreter for an eligible appointment in any approved rural (outside of Lincoln or Omaha metro areas) area in Nebraska, and;
- 2) The reimbursement of expenses incurred to provide a qualified licensed sign language interpreter (on-site or remote) or other auxiliary aid service, such as real-time captioning or CART, during a legal appointment or meeting outside of a courtroom setting ANYWHERE in the state of Nebraska.

Full information on the program funding including a reimbursement guide, forms, FAQs, and contact information can be found on the agency website at: www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa.

Panhandle Happenings

Susan Whitaker, Education Advocate/Advocacy Specialist - Scottsbluff



On October 6, 2022 I organized and hosted a Disability Disaster Preparedness Workshop. This workshop was designed for people with any type of disability. The goal of the workshop was to educate people on how to be prepared in case of a disaster or emergency. We also demonstrated how to put together an emergency kit specific to the individual's disability. Several local banks and businesses donated items and cash to help us offer lunch to every attendee.

With the donations, I put together a backpack with things included in an emergency kit. The items placed in the backpack were: matches, hand sanitizer, first aid kit, pen, pad of paper, chem light, granola bar, dust mask, wet wipes, toothbrush and toothpaste, and a lock box for medications. Each attendee received a backpack. The workshop was well attended, and comments from the participants were that the information provided was very helpful. It is extremely important to have an emergency kit ready so if you get caught stranded in your home or car for a few hours or even days, you will be prepared to have a better chance of survival. Preparing a kit for home and one for your car is a smart thing to do.



To build your own emergency kit for your home, you will need to include the following:

- A large tote to put the items in
- Water (for everyone in the household for 72 hours-one gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food item
- Can opener
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlights and flameless candles
- Batteries for radio and flashlights
- Pen/pencil and paper
- Matches in a waterproof container
- First Aid kit
- Dust mask
- Change of clothes
- Personal Hygiene items (toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Blankets
- Whistle
- Hand sanitizer
- Wrench
- Copies of important documents (insurance cards, wills, deeds, social security cards, etc.)
- Garbage bags
- Wet towelettes
- Medications for at least a week

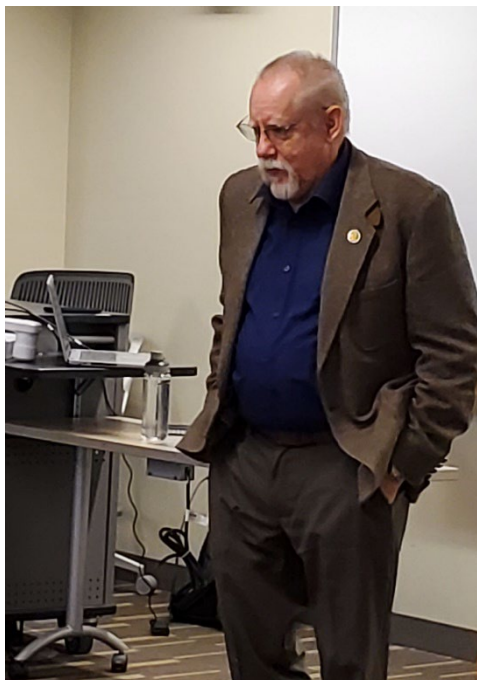
You can make a To Go Kit for your vehicle or to take to a shelter from many of these same items. Make sure that kit is portable so it can be carried easily. There are kits to be made for service animals, family pets, and bedside kits. Be sure to replace and update any expired items every 6 months. A good website to find out more information is www.ready.gov. Don't get caught unprepared in case of a disaster or emergency situation. Take the time to prepare a kit for you and your family. If you have any questions, please contact me at susan.whitaker@nebraska.gov.

Workshop Recap – Interpreting in Mental Health

Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator



NCDHH and neRID hosted a workshop on Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Steve Hamerdinger, Director of the Office of Deaf Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health presented on Interpreting in Mental Health Settings. There were a total of 16 participants. A HUGE thanks to neRID for sponsoring the workshop breakfast and lunch on Saturday with delicious options from Panera Bread! Here are some photos from the event:



Steve Hamerdinger



Training during Workshop



Hamerdinger Presenting

Safety Day for the Deaf Community

Jeremy Daffern, Advocacy Specialist – Omaha



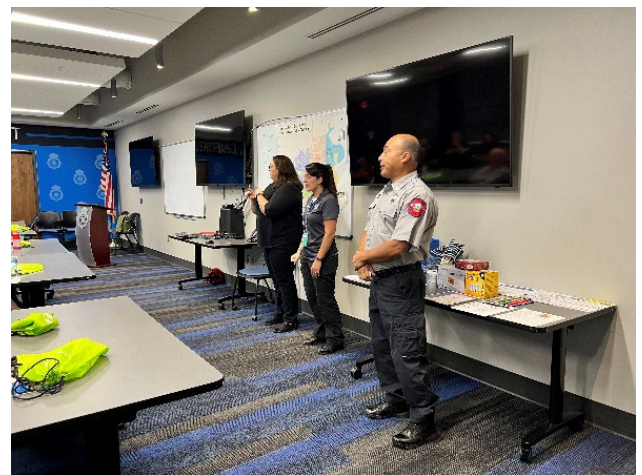
NCDHH was thrilled to host the first “Safety Day” in collaboration with the Omaha Police Department. There were numerous informative presentations given by officers from Lt. Eric Ramos, Officer Dominic Lombardo, and Officer Marty Obrecht from the Omaha Police Department; Deputy Ken Paulison from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (along with his K9 buddy); Captain Tony Lara and Captain John Healy from the Omaha Fire Department; and Tom White from the Douglas County 911 Dispatch center.

Approximately 50 people from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community attended the event and there is enthusiastic interest in providing the event again in the Omaha area. A huge thanks to the Omaha law enforcement agencies for their hospitality and the Nebraska Association of the Deaf for their sponsorship of this event.

Community partnerships and events such as Safety Day are a vital part of our work at NCDHH. The event brought advocacy, education and information between the deaf and hard of hearing community and the law enforcement community.



OPD listening to presentations



Omaha Fire presenting on fire safety



OFD demonstrating their equipment and uniforms



K-9 demonstration and presentation

Aaron Rothenberger's Interview with Misty Hasselquist

Service Coordinator – Kearney Manor



For my fall newsletter I was able to interview Misty Hasselquist, the Service Coordinator at Kearney Manor. She gave me some insightful insights into her work with seniors in the Kearney area.

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Misty Hasselquist and I am the Service Coordinator at Kearney Manor. Kearney Manor is a public housing complex with 118 units that house elderly people and people with disabilities. My job is to assist residents with finding resources to help them to continue living independently in their homes as long as possible

Kearney Manor is managed by the Kearney Housing Agency (KHA). I have worked for Kearney Housing Agency for 21 years.

How important is it for seniors to be able to communicate and socialize?

Seniors, as all of us do, need people. Research has shown that social connections are essential for health and well being especially later in life. Recognizing that socialization is important as we age, KHA added a Congregate Meal Program at Kearney Manor in 2002. Residents can gather each day to share a noon meal and have an opportunity to visit with their neighbors. This program has been key in helping to keep residents living independently longer at Kearney Manor. We also offer a number of activities such as Bingo, Walk-Fit, Book Club, Pitch Club, Dominoes, Crafts, Wii Bowling and much more to bring residents together.

How important is it for seniors to have effective communication in those settings?

When residents gather for lunch or other social activities, being able to be a part of the conversation is important to their sense of belonging. When a resident is unable to hear the conversation, they often begin to feel isolated. They may withdraw and stop coming to activities.

Do you have any communication tips for someone who wants to interact with someone with hearing loss?

When working with a resident with hearing loss, I meet them either in their homes or at our office where background noise is limited. I make eye contact and look directly at them when speaking to them, speaking clearly and slowly. We have Aaron come out once a year to our Congregate Meal Program to educate residents on what is available through the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that could assist them. We also have a hearing aid clinic on site at Kearney Manor every other month with a specialist that can assist residents with their hearing aids or assist them in getting hearing aids.



Don't forget to check out our
YouTube channel. See updates and
VLOGs of our team with what is
happening around the office and
around Nebraska!
YouTube Channel: *Nebraska
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing*

Creating a Conversation about CODAs, Deaf Awareness & Culture Around the Table

Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist – Lincoln



The holidays are around the corner with families and friends gathering to celebrate time with one another. Looking for something entertaining to do? How about steaming an Academy award-winning film about **CODA** available on [Apple TV Plus](#). This film was a remake from the 2014 French film, **La Famille Bélier**. **CODA** is about a 17-year-old high schooler named Ruby who can hear and has parents who are deaf.

CODA is an acronym commonly defined by the Deaf Community meaning a child of deaf adults. A CODA can have one or two parents that are Deaf, may know American Sign Language, may be a member of the Deaf Community, interacts between the visual and audio worlds, and is often assumed to serve as a bridge between these two worlds.

As aforementioned, CODAs are often assumed to serve as a bridge between signers and non-signers. The movie portrays Ruby as the only person in the family of four that can hear and is captured on film as a fisherwoman, a non-certified interpreter, and an advocate for her family's fishery business. When away from her family, she tries to balance being a high school student, her passion for singing and her time for a kindling romance. Ultimately, Ruby's parents, brother and the hearing community learn to break down the communication barriers by having direct communication with one another without having to rely on Ruby as the CODA to interpret.

This movie also brings awareness about diversity, the Deaf community and breaking down communication barriers. The community is seen taking up lessons in American Sign Language (ASL) together. NCDHH's website has a list of [places in Nebraska that teaches sign language](#). There are some basic signs taught through the Internet; however, they may lack the necessities to teach conversational signs and, depending on their location, some signs may differ from our regional signs (very similar to the verbal dialects in various regions of the USA). Some website links to explore are the [American Sign Language Browser](#), [Signing Savvy](#), [ASL University](#), [Gallaudet University's ASL Connect](#), or use Google's search engine to find the [best online sign language classes](#).

Other alternative modes of communication as seen with Ruby's deaf brother and hearing friend is by using text messages. Speech-to-Text (STT) and Text-to-Speech (TTS) apps for a smartphone or tablet are also considered as an option. A list of STT and/or TTS can be view on our past NCDHH newsletter, [The Communicator \(Fall 2020, page 11\)](#). This may be beneficial with those who wear masks!

For additional information about CODAs and the Deaf Community, [NCDHH's Media Loan Center](#) has some DVDs available to borrow at no cost. Some to check out are, as follows:

Deaf Culture Series – Cultural Differences

A Deaf performer, Nathie Marbury provides an educational and entertaining look at some of the differences in values and behaviors between Deaf and hearing cultures.

Deaf Culture Series – Shared Wisdom for Families

A Deaf performer, Nathie Marbury assists you to build your stamina for understanding and voicing longer samples! Improve your skills with her funny stories about families with Deaf and hearing members.

CODA Brothers – Laugh, Learn, Sign

The CODA Brothers, Ben and Andy share personal stories and a great explanation on "What is a CODA?".

Listening Fatigue

Ashley Wulf, Advocacy Specialist - Omaha



Recently, I learned about the new term “Listening Fatigue” and realized it is a real thing because I have experienced it myself since I am a Deaf person with Cochlear Implant. Listening fatigue is where Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities get exhausted after trying to concentrate on catching on what their peers are saying since they struggle to catch every word.

An example of this: we attend a meeting, and we try to catch on to everyone on what they are saying, try to read everyone’s lips, and try to stay on track when everyone overlaps each other. That gives the brain a lot to process to be able to figure out what everyone is trying to say or what the topic is. Imagine yourself sitting and visiting with your significant other and only being able to catch on to about 50% or less of everything they are saying. For example, I l..e ... m.re th.n I’ve e..r lo... my d.. Give yourself a moment to try to figure out what it said.

What would you guys think that sentence is saying? The sentence is saying “I love you more than I’ve ever loved my dog”. It a lot of process for the brain to figure that out. Now think of everyone who must deal with that every day, all day. When you chat with any Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and notice that they seem not interested or not paying attention during your conversation. That is normal because that is when the Deaf and Hard of Hearing could be struggling with listening fatigue. After all, at the end of the day, they will be exhausted. If you guys are curious about what it’s like to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing, you can get an ear plug and wear it for 24 hours. For any other questions on this or how NCDHH can help, please contact me at ashley.wulf@nebraska.gov.

Selecting the Right Alarm Clock

Briana Stradinger, Advocacy Specialist - Omaha



An alarm clock with a strobe light and vibrator will wake up a person with hearing loss, so you do not need to depend on someone else to wake you. The strobe and vibrator is connected to the alarm clock and when the alarm clock goes off, the strobe light will flash brightly and vibrate the whole bed. It is important to start using the alarm at a young age and practice getting up on your own. The alarm clock is important and super helpful to keep your schedule regular.

Waking up around the same time each day is beneficial for our internal biological clocks. Using an alarm clock can help keep your schedule consistent and normalize your sleep patterns. The alarm clock is one of the most important devices in civilization. Everything we know is dependent on time, whether it be your everyday routine, television, programming, or travel. If you do not have alarm clock, go and grab it now! As a technology specialist, I am happy to help you with selecting an alarm clock that is right for you. Please reach out to me at briana.stradinger@nebraska.gov.

Rollout of 988

Sharon Price, Behavioral Health Coordinator



The National Suicide and Crisis 988 started July 16, 2022 in all 50 states. This number has replaced the former National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. 988 is a national effort, organized at the state level. You may be thinking the new 988 was merely designed to replace the former number or easier to remember. The good news is the 988 number is not designed to only replace the former number or to be easier to remember. It has been expanded to include a variety of specific services when needed and is being developed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). 988 can be called via relay or texted from your cell phone.

All calls in Nebraska will be routed to trained counselors at Boys Town if the caller is calling from the following Nebraska area codes: 402, 531 and 308. If a caller is a resident of Nebraska, but, has a zip code from another state, the call will be routed to a location assigned to the caller's area code, however calls can be transferred to the Boys Town location when they are informed of actual location.



Callers do not need to have only suicidal thoughts but can call when they do not have someone to turn to, relieve anxiety, review coping skills, or address any crisis they are in currently. Callers may have the option to have a mobile crisis unit to their location if they voluntarily request it. The mobile crisis will have a trained staff and counselors on board to assist on site to assess the situation. Together, the caller and the team will create a plan of safety, connect with counselor and other resources to maintain safety, and establish stability. The goal of this process is to reduce the possibility of retraumatizing the caller, allow the caller to make decisions if capable. Depending on the severity of the situation and if the caller has an active plan of suicide, an involuntary request may be made by the mobile crisis team and the caller will be transported to the hospital for further evaluation.



If you are Deaf, ASL user, you may be wondering what about calling 988 on your VP? The good news is SAMHSA has partnered with Vibrant Emotional Health nationwide and they are currently working to develop and streamline a process for Deaf callers who call 988 to ensure they can connect with a trained counselor who is either Deaf or ASL fluent via VP. Announcements will be made upon further development with this exciting project. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact 988 when needed.

If you need further resources, contacts, advocacy, or any other services pertaining to mental health services or needs of any type, please contact me at (402) 682-7129 or e-mail at sharon.price@nebraska.gov.

Hearing Loss Linked to Diabetes

Kathy Scusa, Advocacy Specialist – North Platte



Hearing loss happens for many reasons. You probably know that it can happen as you age or if you spend too much time around loud noises. You may not know that having diabetes puts you at risk for hearing loss. Diabetes and hearing loss are two of America's most widespread health concerns. More than 37 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, and an estimated 34.5 million have some type of hearing loss

That's a lot of people, and it turns out many of them are experiencing both at the same time! Both, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), have conducted studies showing that hearing loss is twice as common in people with diabetes than in people the same age without the disease. Also, of the 133 million adults in the United States who have *prediabetes*, the rate of hearing loss is 30 percent higher than in those with normal blood glucose (blood sugar). Both diabetes and hearing loss are health conditions that can be screened or tested for easily and quickly. Unfortunately, these disorders often remain undetected until the patient has an "incident," forcing the need for an evaluation. In the case of diabetes, the patient may feel unwell and go to the emergency room.

"The link between diabetes and hearing loss has been debated since the 1960s or before, and study results show that a relationship exists even when we account for the major factors known to affect hearing, such as age, race, ethnicity, income level, noise exposure, and the use of certain medications," noted Kathleen Bainbridge, Ph.D., of Social & Scientific Systems, Inc. Right now, we don't know how diabetes is related to hearing loss. It's possible that the high blood glucose levels associated with diabetes cause damage to the small blood vessels and nerves in the inner ear, similar to the way in which diabetes can damage the eyes and the kidneys. Low blood sugar over time can damage how the nerve signals travel from the inner ear to your brain. Both types of nerve damage can lead to hearing loss. The type of hearing loss most commonly seen in the population with type 2 diabetes is *presbycusis*—bilateral high frequency and sensorineural hearing loss. The loss is permanent and is usually progressive. Audiogram results from large populations of people with diabetes have shown that hearing loss can affect both low and high frequencies.

You can't reverse hearing loss, but you can take precautions to protect your ears and your hearing. A clinical study (Sunkum & Pingile, 2013), showed that the diabetic patient has more problems not only controlling the disease over time, but also avoiding hearing loss, which is accelerated, especially if blood sugar is not kept under control with prescription medicines, diet, and exercise. Lin (2012) found that patients with hearing loss who were left untreated developed dementia more frequently than did the control group. Compared with people with no hearing loss, those with mild hearing loss were twice as likely to have dementia; those with moderate loss, three times more likely; and those with severe loss, five times more likely. Untreated hearing loss can also result in mood swings exhibiting as sadness, depression, and paranoia (unpublished observation). Individuals with hearing loss can become socially isolated, emotionally insecure, and easily upset. Because individuals with diabetes are more likely to develop hearing loss, the audiologist (a health care professional who evaluates your hearing for medical problems) when and a behavioral health counselor (if needed) should serve as an important member of the patient's management team. Patients and their health care professionals need to be proactive to prevent these disorders from progressing more quickly. The end results are better health and a much improved quality of life.

Hearing Loss Linked to Diabetes *cont.*

Since it can happen slowly, the symptoms of hearing loss can often be hard to notice. In fact, family members and friends sometimes notice the hearing loss before the person experiencing it. More research needs to be done to discover why people with diabetes have a higher rate of hearing loss. Experts say that keeping your diabetes well managed, watching for warning signs of hearing loss and are key to protecting your ears while living with diabetes. You should have your hearing tested by an audiologist you first find out you have diabetes and then every year after. Make it part of your diabetes care schedule. If you think you have hearing loss, talk to your doctor. They can help you decide if you should see an audiologist. Hearing loss can be frustrating for you and your family, and it can affect your social life. There are many reasons to keep your blood sugar in your target range—protecting your hearing is just one of them. Plus, you'll feel better and have more energy while you do it!

If you would like to discuss this article, anything hearing related or NCDHH's programs and services, please contact me at my North Platte office phone number (308) 535-6600 or you can email me at kathy.scusa@nebraska.gov. I look forward to serving you.

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/managing/diabetes-hearing-loss.html#:~:text=Diabetes%20can%20also%20cause%20nerve,can%20lead%20to%20hearing%20loss.>
<https://diabetes.org/diabetes/diabetes-and-hearing-loss>
<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/hearing-loss-common-people-diabetes>
<https://www.asha.org/articles/hearing-loss-and-diabetes/>
<https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2022/diabetes-hearing-loss.html>

***Follow NCDHH on Social Media for Information, Updates,
Community Events, Advocacy Tips, and More!***



neRID NEEDS YOU!

The Importance and Purpose of Affiliate Chapters Within RID

Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator

neRID currently needs YOU! Our Affiliate Chapter needs you to volunteer for one of several vacancies on their board. Please contact Deborah Teller at treasurer@nebraskarid.org if you are interested in any of these vacant positions.

neRID Current Board Members 2022/2023

President - vacant

Vice President - vacant

Treasurer - Deborah Teller

Secretary - vacant

Past President-Tina Work (moved to Florida)

Publications - vacant

Metro Area Rep - Morgan Marsden

Northeast Area Rep - Karen Blank

Southeast Area Rep - Margie Propp

Central Western Area Rep - Ronda Rankin

Deaf community Rep - Colleen Richart

K12 Lincoln-Erica Tannhof

K12 Omaha - Marie Herman

Student Rep - Tiffany Welton

Currently neRID remains on hiatus due to a lack of volunteers interested in serving on the Affiliate Chapter board. If our chapter would face dissolution, under "Article XII, Dissolution," the bylaws state that:

- A. In case of dissolution, all records, monies, and holdings shall be forwarded to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. for the purpose of continuing education of interpreters.
- A. Dissolution may occur upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership.
- B. No single member shall be held liable for debts incurred by the organization.

In an article published in the RID VIEWS, Issue 39, Volume 3, Summer 2022, the purpose of Affiliate Chapters is critical to the mission of RID and to continue the goals and vision of RID leaders, which began in 1964. Affiliate Chapters are part of the process of the professionalization of interpreting. Thus, it is vital to remember that the goals and purpose of the Affiliate Chapters are:

- To keep a registry of interpreters in every state.
- To know what laws are being discussed and passed in every state.
- To bring the membership together; To support the mission of RID by providing training and service to the states which have an Affiliate Chapter.
- To provide leadership experiences to leaders in Affiliate Chapters.
- To support the Deaf Community by providing support and collaboration in each state through Affiliate Chapters.
- To oversee and support the training of interpreters in each state.
- To bring like-minded professionals together to provide support for each other.

neRID NEEDS YOU!

The Importance and Purpose of Affiliate Chapters Within RID cont.

The future of Affiliate Chapters seems to be wavering as members do not wish to run for volunteer positions. Also, the division in our profession has compelled interpreters and the Deaf Community to be further apart than we ever have been. Thus, it seems that the importance of keeping the vision of Affiliate Chapters is as vital today as it was more than 50 years ago.

Reasons to have Affiliate Chapters:

1. GROW and keep up with the times.
2. STAY up to date with our ever-evolving profession.
3. COMMUNICATE with fellow Interpreters.
4. KEEP in touch with our industry and participate in all that RID has to offer.
5. LEARN to participate & network.
6. TAKE advantage of RID initiatives and never stop improving.

Affiliate Chapters are dedicated to:

- Providing a forum for interpreters and the Deaf Community in a specific geographic area.
- Organizing meetings to further information exchange and cooperation.
- Offer information and services needed at the local level.
- Facilitating communication between RID and local members to strengthen the sense of community.
- Advocating for their local Affiliate Chapter members and promote the policies, standards, and objectives of RID.

Benefits of Having Affiliate Chapters:

- Participation on the Affiliate Chapter Board is a unique opportunity for interpreters to grow personally, and professionally.
- Develop skills, experience, and connections with a team of other passionate and motivated professionals and gain professional recognition as a member of the Board of an Affiliate Chapter.
- Great tool for networking and sharing information and experience with other interpreters.
- Provide workshops and seminars/webinars important to that state's chapter. Learn from local workshops, which target training initiatives in your state.
- Make connections with other colleagues in the same area.
- Develop interpreting careers in the context of current professional guidelines.
- Benefit from the wealth of experience found in so many of my colleagues within the Affiliate Chapter.
- Provide opportunities to network and make friends with others in the Affiliate Chapter.
- Seek out mentors who are in the same geographical area.
- Learn new interpreting techniques.
- Network with local professionals for local jobs.
- Meet fellow professionals for face-to-face problem-solving.

The future of RID and the past may not be the same, but the mission, goals, and purposes are the same. To bring interpreters and the Deaf Community together and provide a registry, along with training to support the organization's mission.

What do you think should be the future of Affiliate Chapters at RID? Please help guide the organization's needs by expressing your opinions, just as members have done since 1964 by filling out the Google Form below. Most importantly, RID is a member-driven organization, and your opinions matter. <https://forms.gle/bNSD6zZbfspAzHw96>

NCDHH

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for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



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