

# FACES

Who we are  
What we do

SPRING 2014 ISSUE



## Editor's Remarks

Hello GaRID Supporters,

We have reached the mid-point for 2014. Summer has officially begun; June has come and almost gone. Let's see what our Georgia interpreting community has been up to since our last issue.

Membership Appreciation Day was held on June 7th in Warner Robins. Highlights from this event are detailed below in a Board of Directors summary along with photos. Read about how technology and the magnetic "comfort zone" impact our development as interpreters. Take a second to travel into the life of one CODA. Learn of professional development opportunities for those interpreters in the North Georgia area along with other initiatives featured in this issue. Enjoy.

-Holly Jackson, M.Ed., EIPA 3.6



## From Your Board of Directors...

Sandwiched in the middle of Ricky Rose's informative and entertaining workshop, over lunches brought in from Johnny's, GaRID's general membership meeting included the following highlights:

- The meeting was shortened by e-mailing committee reports to members in advance.
- Minutes were approved from the Nov 3, 2013 conference general membership meeting.
- Erin Salmon provided a Region II conference update.
- Nominations for open positions to be voted on at the fall conference in Nov



2014 were announced and qualifications reviewed:

- ▶ Vice President
- ▶ Treasurer
- ▶ Member at Large #2

Send nominations to [vicepresident@garid.org](mailto:vicepresident@garid.org)

- Both the interim income statement (Jul 1, 2013 – Jun 7, 2014) and proposed budget for Jul 2014 – Jun 2015 were presented, reviewed, and the budget was unanimously passed.
- The communications committee obtained a new member who is working on archive documents to be posted to the website. Thank you Pam Hill.

- Anna McDuffie and Ramon Norrod provided an update regarding the upcoming conference on November 15, 2014.
- Announcements from the floor.
- Finally a lively member discussion took place regarding communication mode at GaRID events.

For full meeting minutes, with detailed discussion comments, as well as minutes from the board meeting that followed the workshop, please visit the GaRID website home page: [garid.org](http://garid.org).

# The Cost of Technology

The field of interpreting has its own evolutionary history: the birth of interpreting and our national organization, defining our role in the classroom, understanding advocacy and the Americans with Disabilities Act, the advent of specialty certifications and, more recently, the social justice movement and its implications for all people. It's a history filled with questions, experimentation and breakthroughs.

On an individual level, we also experience an evolution: we come into the field in a variety of ways, we train to become a practitioner, we find our niche in the profession and we continue to make goals for our continued learning. Nowadays, continuing education takes a different format than ever before, for better or for worse.

There was a time in our history that working interpreters and aspiring interpreters would drive for hours to attend workshops or conferences. We would carpool with our colleagues for the sake of meeting like-minded people and learn about the latest research, trends and innovations in our field. Conferences were a big deal and if there was a workshop coming to a town near you, you wouldn't dream of missing it!

With the advancement of technology, continuing education now comes to you. Workshops and conferences no longer rent hotel ballrooms because cyberspace is more affordable for the host and accessible for the participants. But is this a good thing? Is it possible that the age of technology has fostered a mindset of "if you can't present it to me via my laptop, I'm not interested." Furthermore, though technology offers convenience, it denies the opportunity to meet with colleagues, which is an essential part of our bi-cultural makeup.

Every day, interpreters work in isolation. Whether your specialty is in legal, medical or educational interpreting, we all wind up working alone. With the addition of a computer, we can conduct our professional development alone as well: Google search>> DVDs>> interpreter training materials>> PayPal (\*click-click-click\*)>> CEUs earned! Where's the camaraderie, the brainstorming, the challenge in that?

We can recall a time not so long ago when sign language acquisition meant finding Deaf people. We've all heard of Deaf Clubs. We've all probably been to a Silent Dinner. Back then, Deaf people and interpreters worked as a team and reciprocity was an expectation. Deaf people needed interpreters for certain things; interpreters needed Deaf people. Nowadays, streaming videos of Deaf people for our practice takes less time than going to a social event. It's easy to take-take-take and never give back.

Don't misunderstand—technology presents avenues to learning that we could never have imagined 20 years ago and offers ways of connecting to Deaf mentors, streaming videos of Deaf people and sharing valuable information. That's very important. The very thought of being on the job interpreting without access to the Internet causes trepidation these days. Technology has made itself essential to both our personal and professional lives. But we don't believe any of these things replace the need to make eye contact with other professionals in our field.

We are not suggesting by any means that you should discontinue your online studies and networking efforts. We are simply saying that if the only way you ever debrief after an assignment with a colleague is through Instant Messenger, you are missing out on the feeling of community that comes with sitting across the table from your peer.

Sharing space with others, allowing conversation to flow, learning from one another, touch... these are not to be dismissed. These are basic components of the standard interactions of the Deaf community, the community we strive to serve. Instead of talking by phone or (worse) talking through text, meeting someone to chat lends itself to authenticity, empathy and connection.

So, attend a workshop soon. Register for a conference. Have a cup of coffee with your team before the assignment starts. Treat your Deaf mentor to lunch. Make connections. Know and be known.

But don't forget your cell.



*Bruce Finkbone and Donna Flanders are staff interpreters at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf in Clarkston, Georgia. Together, they have more than 55 years of interpreting experience. To read more about Bruce and Donna, visit their website: [UpgradeConference.com](http://UpgradeConference.com)*



# THE LIFE OF ONE CODA

As many of you know or maybe don't know, I am the daughter of deaf parents. Over the years I have been asked all kinds of questions about what it was like growing up with deaf parents. My experience is in no way comparable to any other child of deaf parents. We all had our own unique upbringing. So in no particular order, here goes:

## Advantages and Disadvantages

A. You could be as loud as you wanted.

D. Hearing people could hear you so you got your butt beat because you embarrassed your parents.

A. Sneaking out of the house.

D. Sneaking out of the house. My mother could feel a mouse crawl across the floor.

A. Communicating across large, wide open spaces.

D. Communicating across large, wide open spaces. My mother made sure I knew she was trying to get my attention no matter how many people had to be involved.

A. Being able to talk about anything you wanted to in public.

D. Knowing that as soon as you started signing you became the attraction of everyone within eyesight.

A. Being the attraction of everyone in eyesight is fun.

D. That being said, having to hear some of the things that were said about my mother because they thought I could not hear was not.

A. Knowing the most beautiful language.

D. Can't think of any.

**Erin Kitchens, CT**

**Daughter of Herman V. Gordon and Wynelle E. Gordon**





# Membership Appreciation Day

June 7, 2014

Warner Robins, GA



Pictures courtesy of  
Donna Davis and  
Wendy Sullivan

# North Georgia Interpreters for the Deaf

North Georgia Interpreters for the Deaf was set up this past school year by myself, Jodi Upton, co-chair for GaRID's IEIS member section and Catoosa County Interpreter, and Daniel Eimers, past-secretary/treasurer of CCTRID and Walker County Interpreter, to provide professional development opportunities for educational interpreters in the North Georgia area. GaRID and Diane Lynch have been our CEU sponsors for every workshop that has been held. NGID was able to provide 2.0 full CEUs for interpreters who attended all of these workshops this past school year. Workshops have included: Understanding the New Georgia Educational Interpreter License, Visual Vernacular Techniques for Educational Interpreters, Interpreting Idioms and Expressions, Busting the Myths Associated with American Sign Language, Interpreting Emotional Messages, Safely Interpreting Extra-Curricular Activities, and Ethics in Educational Interpreting.

A big thank you to GaRID's sponsorship, to Walker County Schools for paying for CEUs for all participants, and to Catoosa County Schools and their business partners for providing lunch for the last two workshops.

If you live in an area where there are few professional development opportunities, consider asking if your school system will provide opportunities for you. Not only did Walker County offer to pay for CEUs, but they also provided a building to use for the workshops. Other school districts may have business partners who may be willing to provide lunch or snacks for professional development days.

Workshops for next school year will start up again in September. Just a few of the topics we have planned are: professionalism, the EIPA, linguistics of ASL, and the NIC written. If you would like information on professional development opportunities in the North Georgia area, please email [northgeorgiainterpreters@gmail.com](mailto:northgeorgiainterpreters@gmail.com) or "like" our group on Facebook - North Georgia Interpreters for the Deaf.

Jodi Upton, BS, Ed:K-12  
GaRID IEIS Co-Chair



## GaRID Mentorship Program

Not an ITP student but not quite a certified interpreter?

The GaRID mentorship program is gearing up for its next session and we'd love for you to join us. Find the flexibility and personalization that you need in a five-month, one-on-one mentorship with a nationally certified professional in our field.

Visit [garid.org](http://garid.org) for more information

## GaRID Cares at Region II

The RID Cares initiative will be coordinated by GaRID during the upcoming RID Region II/NAD conference and will benefit Camp Juliena, a summer camp organized by the Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired (GACHI).

**Donations:** Camp supplies can be donated and placed in receiving bins located at the conference.

**Monetary Donations:** Please visit [gachi.org/about-us/make-a-donation](http://gachi.org/about-us/make-a-donation) and designate your donation specifically for Camp Juliena.



# A Lesson from Lil Birdie



Recently, while exercising in my garage, I noticed a bird that I assumed was stuck between some items on the floor. I walked over and moved some of the items, making a clear path for "lil birdie" to fly away. To my surprise, it moved backwards into a very limited space instead of forward toward the open space to freedom. I thought maybe a little gentle push in the right direction would help, but "lil birdie" became aggressive and started pecking at everything in close proximity. Literally after quite some time of talking and encouraging, "lil birdie" started moving step by step out of the garage and finally outside to freedom!

Well, the freedom was short lived because "lil birdie" made its way back into the garage to its same old limited familiar place, the comfort zone! As the day went on, I realized that there's a lesson from "lil birdie" that we can apply to life in general and to our interpreting profession. I will use it in relation to interpreting.

As interpreters, it is imperative that we sharpen our skills to better facilitate communication between Deaf and Hearing consumers. In order to hone our skills, we need to step out of our old familiar territory, the comfort zone! This may not be an easy process. You may face fear, doubt, criticism and, like "lil birdie", it will be tempting to run back to that familiar place and take cover. Don't give up...keep pressing forward! When "lil birdie" came back the second time, he ended up being locked inside because we had to leave our home. That could have caused grave consequences for the lil fellow. The same applies with us in the interpreting field. If we don't take the time to develop our skills, it can cause hindrances and negative experiences for our consumers. Our job as professional interpreters carries a huge responsibility. Let's continue to step forward improving our skills and encouraging each other to move to the next level for the betterment of our consumers.

Oh by the way, "lil birdie" decided to forsake his limited comfort area by flying out into the unlimited sky!



LaVerne Lowe,  
CI/CT, NIC

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



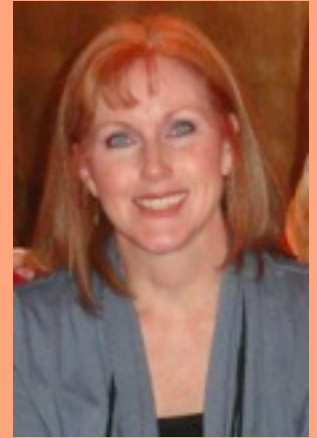
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**SAVE THE DATE: Sat, Nov 15, 2014 in Clarkston, GA**

***GaRID Annual Conference and Membership Meeting***

- ✓ .8 CEUs
- ✓ Two Tracks: Mental Health and Generalist

***More information coming soon!***