

GaRID Annual Membership Meeting
Lake Blackshear Resort
Saturday, November 12, 2016

Meeting called to order: 12:45pm

Debbie Lesser - President's Welcome and Report:

- Review of Workshops and Conferences attended by the Board.
- Current membership:
 - 170 individual
 - 7 business

Amy Peterson - Vice President's Report:

- Mentoring Committee Update
- Professional Development Committee Update
 - Report from Diane Lynch-
 - About CMP: GaRID has just received word that we passed the Audit for the PINRA component of the CMP. During 2016, GaRID processed 67 workshops; processed 23 PINRAS.
 - About PDC, Workshops held in 2016:
 - January 4th, Frances Beurivage from Boystown in Kennesaw.
 - September 17th, Holly Thomas-Mowery presented at the Red Cross in Atlanta.
 - Diane officially stepped down as the Chair of CMP and PDC. Her replacements are- Jody Upton (CMP) and Katrina Watson (PDC). Damita Boyd will begin sponsoring Independent Study CEUs again soon.
 - Diane was thanked by the Board for her many years of service and support to our members.
- **Anna McDuffie** - Treasurer's Report:
 - The Annual Budget was presented to the members. No questions.
 - Jeffrey Bigger and Donna Flanders participated reviewed the financial statements and documents of GaRID.

Donna Flanders - Secretary's Report:

- A call was made for reinstating the Conference Planning Committee.

Members at Large Report:

- LaVerne Lowe has nothing to report.
- Erika Munro called on the members to use her as a communication tool to pass information to the Board.
- Jeffrey Bigger has relocated to Colorado, and has been replaced by Becca Meloy to complete the final year of his term.

- Anna McDuffie explained that no vote was necessary to replace Jeffrey because this is the completion of a term, not choosing a new MAL.

Announcements:

- CASLI - Amy Peterson explained that CASLI is made up of 4 hearing interpreters and 4 deaf interpreters. They are working to develop new testing processes for both NIC and CDI. Their goal is to complete the process in a total of 18 months, or summer of 2017.
- Donna Flanders announced five interpreted theatrical performances coming up in December and January.

The Good of the Order:

- Diane Lynch explained that the last section of Robert's Rules of Order includes The Good of the Order, which is a time for members to share good news of any kind.
- Amy Peterson explained LEAD:K is a bill that will most likely go before the Georgia Legislators in 2017 or 2018. Currently, 22 other states have a similar bill in development. The LEAD: K bill includes 1) the child's right to learn ASL and English separately, 2) ensures language readiness for kindergarten and 3) accountability for assessments of a child's language. Nancy Kelly Jones added that there will be 5 town hall meetings held around the state and urged members to spread the news. This is a "Deaf-driven bill" for the good of all our children.
- Amy Peterson gave an update on Deafhood as a learning curriculum developed and taught by Deaf people, for Deaf people. Deafhood 101 is a reflection on the self and wellness of self; Deafhood 201 is about involvement in and wellness of the community.
- Amy Peterson gave an update on the work of DBHDD, saying that they are slowly making progress in identifying and providing appropriate services for Deaf citizens in Georgia with developmental disabilities.
- Nancy Kelly Jones announced that Georgia Pines provides Parent Advisors (PAs) to families. They are now also providing Deaf mentors for approximately 60 families throughout the state but they need more people! Deaf mentors receive a paid 3-day training then receive a certification to allow them go through the provided coursework with families. Nancy also provided printed material for our members to share with Deaf people we believe would make good mentors.
- Damita Boyd announced that Georgia Perimeter College is now called Perimeter College of Georgia State University. Starting this year, they will be offering a 4-year degree in Interpretation. There are currently 7 students enrolled in the 4-year program. GSU has also added a BA in Deaf Education. Perimeter College will continue to offer their 2-year degree until the currently class graduates. Damita Boyd called from support from the interpreting and Deaf communities. Also, both campuses are hiring for a variety of positions.

- Amy Peterson announced that GaCHI has changed its name to Georgia Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Many contractual changes have occurred in an attempt to make GCDHH a one-stop-shop for Deaf support services.
- Donna Reider told the membership a story about a Deaf student who was denied the opportunity to donate blood by the Red Cross because he didn't have a "Red Cross Certified interpreter." Amy Peterson suggested that Donna reach out to the CERT Program of All Hands On for assistance with the Red Cross. Anna McDuffie suggested that before going back to make a second attempt to give blood, Donna may want to find the Red Cross questionnaire and review it with the Deaf student.
- Amy Peterson mentioned that sometimes interpreters with the best of intentions can overstep their bounds by advocating and throwing around ADA language when perhaps a Deaf person would be better off on their own.
- Ruth Dubin is collecting information for her personal research project about what interpreters love about working in Georgia and what they would like to see improved. Anyone who fills out a questionnaire will be entered into a contest for a fabulous prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01pm.

GaRID Board Meeting
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Board convened at 2:08pm

Board members present: *Debbie Lesser, Amy Peterson, Anna McDuffie, Donna Flanders, LaVerne Lowe and Erika Munro.*

The annual Board retreat was set for Jan 28, 2016, at Erin Kitchen's cabin in Blue Ridge.

Donna Flanders announced that Anne Zimmerman, Erin Salmon, Laura Bingham and Becca Meloy are interested in joining the Conference Committee.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that next year's conference will be held locally in ATL for a one-day conference, hopefully in a way that will raise funds for the budget.

For the retreat agenda, we will need to discuss who is attending what conferences.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.