

# FACES



Who we are  
What we

WINTER 2015 ISSUE

## Editor's Remarks

Hello GaRID Supporters,

It's 2015 and so we embark on another year of service in the interpreting and Deaf communities. The Board of Directors had their annual retreat to kick off the new year. You'll learn about what was accomplished during their retreat along with strategic goals set for this year.

**Professionalism:** what's really behind this word and how can we truly embody it in our work? Read on to find out. Don't miss out on Membership Appreciation Day. View the flyer and save the date for this awesome annual event. Finally, an introduction to two new people for you to meet, if you haven't already.

Let's roll those sleeves up and get down and dirty with our goals for 2015. We'll check back with you in the spring.

-Holly Jackson, M.Ed., EIPA 3.6



## From Your Board of Directors...

The Board retreat was held on January 23 - 25, 2015 in Marietta, Georgia. During this three-day meeting, the Board reviewed last year's organizational goals and established goals for 2015. Minutes of the Board retreat are located on the GaRID website.

Ramon Norrod, Member at Large, has resigned from the GaRID Board due to relocation effective February 18, 2015. Please welcome Laverne Lowe who has accepted the Board's nomination to serve the remainder of Ramon's term.

### Goals for Membership:

- Collect member input to evaluate direction
- Enhance mentorship
- Recognize business members

- Increase social media presence
- Provide information in ASL
- Host one event outside of metro Atlanta
- Focus professional development to reach certified interpreters

### Goals for the Deaf Community:

- Meet with leadership of GAD to identify opportunities for partnership
- Increase Deaf attendance at workshops/events

### Goals for the Board:

- Draft policies and procedures manual
- Continue to develop archives

- Refine board structure: elections and conference planning

The Board thanks Tom Lawrie for his exceptional work documenting GaRID's early years by writing "The History of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf". Pam Hill worked countless hours editing and creating a digital copy of the document, with editing assistance from Becky Sills and Donna Davis. The document is located on the GaRID website under the "about us", "history" tab. Additional documents of historical significance can be sent to [secretary@garid.org](mailto:secretary@garid.org).

The 2015 GaRID conference will take place the weekend of October 24-25th north of metro Atlanta. We hope that you will make plans to attend!

# Professionalism - Taking the Vow



It's difficult to imagine where society would be without professionals. Would you go to a doctor who did not consider themselves a professional? What about a lawyer? What about an electrician? As sign language interpreters working today, we have become accustomed to throwing out the word "professional" to somehow justify everything, from how much we are compensated for our work to decisions we make affecting the interpreting process during our assignments. And, although many have attempted to explain what it means to be a "professional" sign language interpreter, I believe the cognitive process leading to professional behavior has been unaddressed. Starting with the etymology of the word professional, we must go back to our latin roots to the word *professio*, meaning "to vow." How does a vow relate in any way to our vocation? For this we must look at how the skilled tradesman maintained employment.

During the time colloquially called "The Middle Ages" and particularly during the Renaissance, gaining a skill was not something that happened easily. Artists and other craftsman were aware of the value of limited numbers of people being able to perform specific tasks. If only a few knew the secrets to being a skilled silversmith or wood carver, the demand for their services would be high. With high demand comes two things, job security and higher wages. Thus, to acquire a skill in a specific craft you had to be accepted into a trade guild—an organization of craftsmen who protected the secret skills of their vocation. Upon being accepted, a new apprentice was required to take a vow (*professio*) of secrecy to protect the interests of the guild. Thus, the term "profession" was coined to denote a skill that required training and commitment. Interestingly, the suffix "-ism" refers to something that one believes in. It is often used in the religious context (i.e. Catholicism, Atheism, Hinduism). Imagine putting both the word profession (vow) and -ism (system of belief) together into one word. The concept of professionalism acquires a much more defined and weighty meaning.



How does all this apply to us as sign language interpreters today? Does professionalism just mean wearing black and arriving on time to our scheduled appointments? I do not believe this is enough to really adopt the thinking and behaviors required to define us as a profession. Many people have asserted that requiring a bachelor's degree to sit for the national certification exam has qualified us as a profession. I do not believe this to be the case either. You could have a degree in bio-chemistry and if you pass the NIC Written exam yet never attended one interpreting class, you would still "qualify". I believe it goes much deeper than this.

I challenge you to do a self-analysis. If you are certified, ask yourself: When was the last time I read Views articles? Do I barely participate in workshops but rather attend just to get CEU's? Do I offer to mentor new and developing interpreters? If you are pre-certified, ask yourself: Do I avail myself of mentorship opportunities? Do I work in situations I am not qualified? Have I asked for feedback regularly and worked toward the path to certification? All interpreters, no matter their certification status, could examine how involved they are in their national and state RID affiliate chapter? Do they participate to support improvement in our profession and initiatives such as licensure and regulation?

Doing these things and others require a key element: commitment. But, that is the meaning of being a professional, vowing to be a participating and supportive member of our chosen vocation. No one can force people to do these things, outside of government regulation. But, do we really need to be forced? Or, do you value what we do and the people we work with, both deaf and hearing, to make the kind of commitment that will cause us to behave as professionals? Will you take the vow?

-Kenneth Houghtaling II, NIC





# Registration:

Workshop **FREE** to GaRID members and members of the Deaf Community.

## ASL Storytelling Techniques

Presented by Gill Sheats and Candace Jones

### May 2, 2015 Workshop/member meeting

9:00 am—12:00 noon **WORKSHOP**  
 12:00—2:30 pm lunch/member meeting  
 2:30 pm—4:30 pm **WORKSHOP**

Central Georgia Technical College  
 CGTC Bldg. J, Room 104/106  
 80 Cohen Walker Drive  
 Warner Robins, Georgia 31088

GaRID Member meeting is open to the public--no registration necessary.



**.5 CEUs in P.S.**



Registration: ASL Storytelling Techniques, May 2, 2015, Warner Robins, Georgia

Online registration preferred at [garid.org](http://garid.org)>>Events, where you can indicate lunch choice and pay for lunch (lunch is optional for \$8.00 plus \$2.00 PayPal fee), or mail registration form and \$8.00 lunch fee (payable to GaRID) to:

Diane Lynch- GaRID PDC Chairperson  
 3680 Longlake Drive, Duluth, GA 30097

Partial CEUs will not be granted; participants need to be present during the entire workshop to receive .5CEUs. No refunds will be issued. GaRID membership status must be current.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lunch Options (other than "bring your own"):

1. Chopped salad/no meat (romaine, tomato, bell pepper, cucumber, Kalamata olives, mozzarella, Italian dressing)
2. Chopped salad with choice of meat (meat choices below)
3. Medium sub sandwich, chips, cookie

**Meats:** smoked turkey, honey ham, roast beef, corned beef brisket, pastrami, chicken breast, tuna salad or chicken salad  
 Tea (sweet & unsweet), lemonade, and water provided with lunch

This workshop will be presented in ASL; no voice interpreting provided.

# Say Hello To...

LaVerne Lowe, CI/CT, NIC

Earnestine (LaVerne) Lowe, a native of Houston, Texas, has lived in Warner Robins, Georgia for the past sixteen years and has been interpreting professionally since 2001. She earned national certification (CI/CT and NIC) in 2008 and serves full time within the Deaf Ministry at Southside Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia. Her desire is to be a blessing within the profession, especially to those serving in churches/Deaf ministries where she believes negative stigmas can be torn down by enhancing professional standards.

LaVerne has been married to Larry Lowe for 33 years. They have two beautiful daughters: LaShawnda (RID certified and staff interpreter for Albany HS), Jasmine (RID certified and staff interpreter for Albany HS) and an ADORABLE grandson, Jaedyn.

LaVerne excitedly joins the GaRID Board in the capacity of Member At Large 3.



Jillian Wright

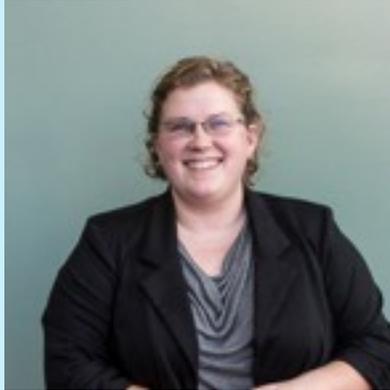
Hello,

My name is Jillian Wright. I am what you would call a “green” interpreter. I recently graduated from the interpreting program at Valdosta State University and immediately started working in the educational interpreting field. I have volunteered as a student in the past for GaRID’s annual conference, but this year I was very happy to be able to experience it as a working professional. I am very excited to be a part of this group of supportive and insightful peers.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

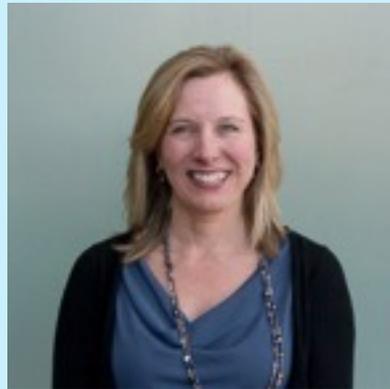
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Member at Large 3

