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EIPA-RID Membership Agreement RATIONALE

Rationale Behind Exploration

- RID needs to better represent all aspects of the interpreting profession. EIPA credentialed interpreters would bring much more of the K-12 segment of the field into RID as educational interpreting is an area in which we are sorely underrepresented.
- Since the EIPA test has been determined to be psychometrically sound, valid, and reliable, it makes sense that those individuals, who pass at a level of 4.0 or greater, should gain recognition as certified members of RID. The same process was used with NAD and ACCI interpreters. However, one difference between the NAD/ACCI and EIPA is that those with EIPA credentials would be certified to work specifically in educational settings.
- Several RID affiliate chapters and regional events have had workshop sessions related to EIPA. Members have been asking for details and educating themselves on the viability of using the EIPA as a tool to recognize a standard of competence.
- For several years, RID has been viewed by many as an organization that mainly focuses on the wants and needs of interpreters who work in the community with adult consumers. During the past decade, RID has made strides to change this perception and to actively support interpreters in the educational setting and the developmental approach to educational interpreting. The board recognizes that the organization still has a long way to go in this area.
- One of the current goals for RID includes having a more concentrated effort on designing benefits specifically for interpreters in the K-12 setting and actively recruiting those interpreters.
- Adaptation to change is important to the vitality of any organization. RID must represent more of the profession and do it in a way that benefits the entire organization and entire interpreter profession. Currently, we are representing less than 20% of the interpreting market. We must change. RID must attract interpreters in the K-12 setting to expand our depth and breadth.
- There exists an enormous potential for new and exciting publications in the field K-12 interpreting.

- We want to increase the number of interpreters within RID who work in the educational setting and offer them increased benefits, support, and resources.
- This effort would go a long way toward recognizing the important contribution that K-12 interpreters make in the field.
- RID would be collaborating with Boys Town, a large organization with a long, rich, and positive history. We would be building another strong partnership.
- To make this move, RID would be illustrating our understanding of the need, in the business world, to embrace change and grow stronger for it.
- Teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing also have a vested interest in having highly qualified educational interpreters working with deaf and hard of hearing students. A partnership between RID and Boys Town could well be the first step in elevating educational interpreters to a more professional level. Enabling educational interpreters who have achieved an EIPA 4 or above to hold a nationally recognized certification could have the effect of increasing salary levels.
- In 2003, RID considered recognizing NAD levels III, IV and V certified individuals as certified members of RID. This was publicized in an article on page five of the January 2003 issue of *VIEWWS*. RID asked members for their comments on this proposal. The proposal was also noted in a full two-page article on pages 10-11 of the February 2003 issue of *VIEWWS*. On page 8 of the March 2003 issue of *VIEWWS*, an article publicizing the completion of the agreement was published. *Please see the time line to see how much more time and a wider effort has been engaged in order to allow member comment and input on the topic of RID and the EIPA.*
- Background on bringing other certified interpreters into RID: RID consulted with legal counsel at length with regard to this matter. As was noted in the February 2003 issue of *VIEWWS*, the RID Board of Directors is authorized to engage in such actions by Article III., Section II, Part A. and Article XII of the RID Bylaws. Previously, prior to entering into an agreement with NAD, a thorough, detailed assessment by content experts was made of the NAD and RID instruments to determine if an adequate level of comparability existed for RID to recognize NAD certified individuals. In the case of the EIPA, RID engaged in the same thorough and detailed assessment of the EIPA instrument vis-à-vis the RID instrument to determine if suitability was sufficient to recognize EIPA interpreters as certified members of RID.
- When asked about voting on the issue: The RID Board truly stands by the concept of RID being a member-driven organization. Every action the board takes has this concept at its core. Being a member-driven organization means that member thoughts and visions of the future of the association are considered

on many levels. Instead of a *simple yes or no vote*, the board truly wants the membership to have an influence on the EIPA/RID agreement *by soliciting feedback*. This truly helps the board to match the majority of members' vision for having EIPA credentialed interpreters included in our CMP and EPS systems.

- Important point for consideration: In the beginning of RID's history, there did not exist the luxury of rapid response times with e-mail, inexpensive phone access for dialogue, and frequent face-to-face interactions with members. Business had to be brought to conference. As the membership has grown (nearly tripled in the past 10 years), business practices have changed. For the past several years, more and more business is being conducted during the time between conferences in order to meet the market demands and to better serve interpreters and consumers. This has not been done without great care and concern for the membership. By having the board move forward in the manner in which they are currently moving (soliciting input on multiple levels and in a variety of venues before making decisions), they are ensuring more member input and involvement than just a simple *yes or no* vote at conference.