



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

For release immediately

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## **Historical RID Board of Directors Meeting Convened in Alexandria, VA**

### ***First-Ever Deaf Member at Large Sworn in and Deaf Advisory Council Established***

**October 29, 2009 – Alexandria VA** – It was an historical meeting for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Board of Directors at their face to face meeting in Alexandria, VA, October 14 – 18, 2009. In addition to the traditional business discussions of the board, including strategic planning, there were two monumental moments that occurred during this business-packed meeting.

The first was the swearing in of Debbie Peterson, CDI, who has the honor of being the first individual to hold the newly created Deaf Member at Large position. Debbie was sworn in to office by President Cheryl Moose at the start of the board meeting on Friday, October 16, 2009.

The deaf member at large position was approved by the membership, via referendum, during the summer of 2009. It was during that referendum period that the membership also voted to expedite the nominations and voting period so that this individual would be present for the board orientation and board meeting that occurred face to face in October 2009.

Debbie Peterson, M.S., CDI, from Utah, Debbie has been an RID Certified Deaf Interpreter since 1999 and a member since 1994. With her experience, knowledge and ties to the Deaf community, she will contribute greatly to the organization. Debbie has achieved many goals in her career as an educator in the interpreting field for the past 20 years plus! In addition to teaching, she works as a freelance interpreter. Her teaching experience has brought her to several institutions including the BICultural Center, St. Paul Technical College, Seattle Central Community College, Gallaudet University, Sorenson Communications as their Western Region Professional Development Trainer and to where she teaches currently, the VRS Interpreting Institute Faculty. To read more about Debbie, please go to the RID Board of Directors Web page at <http://www.rid.org/aboutRID/leadership/index.cfm/AID/35>.

***“According to Mahatma Gandhi, ‘The future depends on what we do in the present,’” started Debbie Peterson, RID Deaf Member at Large, “Words cannot fully express how excited I am to be on the board as Deaf Member at Large. I hold the above quote dear in my heart, and I look forward to bring the present to a better and exciting future.”***

The second and equally monumental occasion occurred at the board meeting when the RID Board of Directors approved the concept of creating a Deaf Advisory Council (DAC) as a way to increase deaf involvement and the deaf perspective within all levels of the association, from the board and committees to the staff and the membership, with the DAC serving in an advisory capacity as well as a resource, among other roles.

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*Historical RID board meeting/press release/October 29, 2009*

***“The RID Board of Directors is extremely excited about the concept of the Deaf Advisory Council and the impact such a formalized structure will have on the organization’s service to our members, our stakeholders and re-establishing the importance of the Deaf Heart within RID,” said RID President Cheryl Moose, “I fully expect to be inspired by the thoughts and viewpoints that the Deaf Advisory Council will bring to the board, and I look forward to seeing this concept become reality during my term as president of this magnificent organization.”***

While the DAC concept was approved during a meeting with the Deaf Members in Leadership members July 30, 2009, it was solidified on October 17, 2009, during a presentation of future recommendations for the DAC from Jimmy Beldon, Janis Cole and Alisha Bronk.

***“We are honored to be part of this exciting time in RID’s history,” stated Beldon, Cole and Bronk collectively. “As RID builds its capacity to understand Deaf Heart and its competence as an Ally to the Deaf community, we look forward to being a conduit between Deaf interpreting professionals and consumers and the organization. We welcome your comments, questions and support in guiding RID in its efforts to become an increasingly welcoming and culturally sensitive organization.”***

The first phase in development of the DAC will be conducted by a board-created workgroup. This workgroup will be responsible for developing the scope of work, roles and responsibility of the DAC as well as the structure in which it will function and operate. It is anticipated that the workgroup will be providing recommendations back to the board during their spring face to face meeting in Atlanta, GA.

The members of the workgroup include former Deaf Members in Leadership members Jimmy Beldon, Janis Cole and Alisha Bronk; board members Brenda Walker Prudhom, Treasurer, and Debbie Peterson, Deaf Member at Large; and national office staff members Tina Schultz, Director of Communications, and Matthew O’Hara, Director of Finance and Administration.

More information will become available to the members as it is developed.

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