

**A Statement from the Region II Affiliate Chapters Presidents Council
Regarding the 2018 Region II Conference**

The leadership of the Affiliate Chapters in RID Region II have been meeting regularly over the last year, including a face-to-face meeting during the RID LEAD Together Conference in Salt Lake City. In those meetings, we have discussed an array of topics, many of which centered around how we can support one another in the Region. We have also discussed the Region II Conference at great length. In our conversations, we expressed several concerns: the 2016 conference resulting in a deficit, the lack of sufficient funds in our Region II account, and the ability of our Affiliate Chapter (AC) leaders to commit the necessary time and resources to assist with planning.

During our face-to-face meeting in Salt Lake City, we talked about the possibility of hosting a leadership training for board members of the ACs in the Region in lieu of a conference; however, ultimately, the decision was made to move forward with planning a more traditional conference. Several committed Region II members have stepped up to take on leadership roles in the conference planning committee, including co-chairs, Jo Westbury and Shonna Hudson. They have worked closely with David Acevedo, President of Mississippi RID, and the rest of the MSRID Board members, as the host chapter.

Despite the efforts of the MSRID Board and the Conference Committee, many of the AC leaders continued to have serious concerns about the feasibility of hosting a conference. Recently, we met again and had another lengthy conversation about it. We revisited our concerns as explained above, and shared a few additional challenges: each of the ACs in the Region are also hosting their own conferences this year, and the lack of a formalized agreement between the ACs in the Region. After the meeting and subsequent email correspondence, we came to a very difficult decision. The Region II Presidents Council has voted to suspend planning of the 2018 Region II Conference. We sincerely thank David, the Board of MSRID, Jo, Shonna, and the rest of the conference committee volunteers for their hard work and commitment to the conference and the Region.

While we will not be hosting a conference this year, we are committed to the Region and to working to support one another. We have begun developing mechanisms, which will allow for all of the ACs in Region II to strengthen our relationships and to increase our funds for hosting future events as a Region. We look forward to working collectively to come up with innovative new ways to serve all our members in Region II. Stay tuned for these exciting announcements in the coming months! Until then, we encourage you to support your local and neighboring Affiliate Chapter conferences this year.

Respectfully,

The Region II Affiliate Chapters Presidents Council