

**The History of the
Georgia Registry of Interpreters
For the Deaf
1982**

Tom Lawrie

Acknowledgement

Thanks are due to Wilda Owens for lending me her files and helping me fill in the gaps. Thanks to Jim Whitworth for helping me remember and suggestion sources of information. The most thanks go to Nona McWaters for the typing.

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Chapter 1

The Formative Years

During the latter part of the 1960s, the need for more trained interpreters was becoming increasingly evident. Parents were seeing the need for interpreters when their deaf teenagers and young adult children needed medical attention, needed to meet with social service representatives, or when they (as parents) met with deaf adults to work toward better education for deaf children.

Walter Brown, President of the Georgia Association of the Deaf, was a strong advocate for deaf people being active participants in the community. The GAD office was a source of assistance for deaf people dealing with legal matters, finding jobs, helping with social services. Finding interpreters for these situations was often difficult.

Chapter Four of the Georgia Association of the Deaf, which was made up mostly of parents of deaf youth, often discussed the need for trained interpreters. When conferences were held, seminars were conducted, or regular meetings of the GAD were held, few interpreters were available. Those few interpreters were called on to interpret so often, it was embarrassing to ask them again and again.

Most interpreters were family members, children, siblings or parents of deaf people. Some were friends of deaf people who, due to their friendships, learned sign language well enough to help. Many of these interpreters were church interpreters.

Interpreting for family, among friends, in church or just signing for direct communication was quite different from the kind of interpreting needed for making a major purchase, dealing with a social service agency, or the most dreaded of all events, interpreting in court.

Most interpreters did the best they knew how, without having any training in just how one should interpret. Usually, they would try to get all the facts from the deaf person, conduct the business, and then give the deaf person the results. If the deaf person was lucky, the interpreter would check with him/her before making a decision. Or, in the best case scenario, the interpreter would sign and speak simultaneously and sign what the other person was saying. If the deaf person saw his/her business about to go in a wrong direction, he or she could intervene.

Sometimes, not to fault them since they didn't know any better, a family member or close friend would assume he or she knew what the deaf person would want and conduct the business in the presence of the deaf person without signing. Then on the way home, he or she would explain to the deaf person what he/she could remember. No wonder many waiters, waitresses and social workers learned to say "and what will your friend have?"

The National Association of the Deaf had a conference in Georgia, planning for future direction of the NAD. They asked for interpreters. We were not quite as skilled or sophisticated as individuals like Robert Sanderson (President of NAD), or Fred Schreiber (Executive Secretary of NAD), or Al Pimentel (the first Executive Director of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) were accustomed. This writer had the awesome opportunity to attend a meeting of five or six of the leaders in deafness on the national level in Washington, DC. This meeting included Boyce Williams, Al Pimentel, Deno Reed, Ed Davis and Jim Whitworth. I was asked to interpret. (Panic!) After about an hour, Mr. Pimentel commented, "I can tell you are used to interpreting for low verbal deaf people, but I wish you would interpret word for word". I replied, "I'm sorry, it's hard to do when you don't really understand what's being discussed". He said, "You don't have to understand it, just interpret it".

This was the decade when things really began happening. There was the first Las Cruces Conference where Vocational Rehabilitation began to seriously serve deaf people. During a conference on Vocational Rehabilitation of Deaf People on May 23-27, 1966 in St. Louis, Missouri, the Professional Rehabilitation Workers with the Adult Deaf (PRWAD), now known as the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) was born. The first Toward Rehabilitation Involving Parents of the Deaf (TRIPOD) conference was held in Memphis, Tennessee in 1971. As part of this increased attention to the field of deafness, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) was established in 1966.

It was during this decade of change that in 1963, the Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf was established on the campus of the Georgia School for the Deaf located in Cave Spring, Georgia. This was where 75% to 80% of rehabilitation services were provided to deaf clients for the next ten years. Jim Whitworth, Administrator of the Center; Jim Perry, Chief Evaluator; and Tom Lawrie, Counselor traveled the State trying to help local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors understand and serve deaf people. Interpreters were needed all over the state, especially since staff from the Center in Cave Spring could not be everywhere. While a few parents of deaf children were becoming active advocates and forming Chapter Four of the Georgia Association of the Deaf, the staff of the Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf was working with their children in Cave Spring.

These two groups (Chapter Four of the GAD and the staff of the Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf) met together often during GAD conventions, at seminars and during workshops. They discussed the need for trained interpreters. The participants in those early discussions included Wilda Owens, Jane Grisham, Jim Whitworth, Dwayne Carroll, Thompson Kay, Tom Lawrie, and Walter Brown. Interpreters were discussed, recommended and referred. Mailing lists of interested persons were compiled. We had to organize, set up training, improve our skills and increase our numbers. Something had to be done. Something was being done.

Chapter 2

The New Organization

Meeting almost every other month during 1970 at various locations (the home of Laurence and Wilda Owens, the home of Max and Jane Grisham, or at the GAD office), this group began to learn more about RID, discuss the ethics of interpreting, and make plans. A model Constitution and By-Laws were obtained from RID and modified for Georgia.

The date and location was set for February 19, 1971 at the GAD office located at 41 Pryor Street in Atlanta. All known interested persons were invited to attend. The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was born.

That night, the new Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and the first slate of officers was elected. Below are the minutes of that historic meeting:

Members attending:

Mr. C. P. Bennet
Mr. Harold Bowles
Mr. & Mrs. Lee E. Burch, Jr.
Mr. Dwayne Carroll
Mrs. Gladys Clower
Mrs. Martha Cook
Mr. Bill Daughtrey
Ms. Gail Garrett
Mrs. Jane Grisham
Mr. Wilber C. Huckeba

Miss Judy Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Lawrie
Miss Evelyn McCune
Mrs. Wilda Owens
Mrs. Peggy Pullen
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Whitworth
Ms. U. B. Ard

Visitors attending:

Mrs. Harold Bowles
Mr. & Mrs. Esteben Ward

The meeting was called to order by Duane Carroll. Jim Whitworth delivered the invocation. A copy of the By-Laws was given to each person attending; the By-Laws were read, a few corrections were made, and they were approved.

Officers nominated and elected as follows:

- President – Dwayne Carroll
- Vice-President – Tom Lawrie
- Secretary – Wilda Owens
- Treasurer – Jane Grisham
- Parliamentarian – Harold Bowles

Directors:

- 2 year term – Carter Bearden
- 4 year term – Thompson Kay
- 6 year term – Sam Hinson

The President appointed the following to the Membership Committee:

- Wilda Owens – Chairperson
- Jimmy Whitworth
- Bill Daughtry
- Gladys Clower
- Esteben Ward

The next meeting will be April 17, in Cave Spring, Georgia. The members will meet at 4 p.m. for a tour of the school. Dinner will be served in the dining room at 6 p.m., and the business meeting will start at 7 p.m.

s/Wilda Owens
Wilda Owens, Secretary

Read and approved: 4/17/71
President

Dwayne Carroll,

After that meeting, President Dwayne Carroll made his first official report to the RID office as follows:

Mr. Albert T. Pimental
Executive Director
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
905 Bonifant Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Pimental:

Greetings from Atlanta!....Home of the newest RID Chapter.

The organizational meeting of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (GRID) was held on Friday evening, February 19, 1971 at the Georgia Association of the Deaf Office.

The Model Constitution and By-Laws, which you gave me at the last meeting, were adopted, with the following changes and/or additions:

Constitution:

Article I - This chapter includes the entire State of Georgia.

Article IV - There shall also be a parliamentarian, who shall not be a member of the Executive Board.

Article V - Added the word "parliamentarian".

By-Laws:

Article V - Chapter dues are \$5.00 per person.

Article VII - Amendments to the By-Laws shall be approved by majority vote at any regular or special meeting of the membership at which a quorum is present, provided that notice has been given at least 30 days in advance.

The following officers were elected:

- President – Dwayne Carroll
- Vice-President – Tom Lawrie
- Secretary – Wilda Owens
- Treasurer – Jane Grisham

- Parliamentarian – Harold Bowles

Directors:

- 2 year term – Carter Bearden
- 4 year term – Thompson Kay
- 6 year term – Sam Hinson

Incidentally, would it be agreeable to use a seal like the one you have in the upper left-hand corner of your letterhead, changing the letters "RID" to "GRID"? We thought if it would, we would like to use it on our stationery.

I am enclosing S. Hinson's application form in this letter. I need some forms as quickly as possible because a couple of our officers are not presently members of the RID, and I need to submit applications for them.

Watch the mail daily – they'll probably be loaded with inquiries or calls for help from me in the days ahead.

With every good wish, I am
Sincerely and Cordially,

s/Dwayne
Dwayne E. Carroll

President, GRID
DEC/gnd
Encl.

Enclosed with this letter was a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. See the Appendix. Below is the response received from the RID office:

March 15, 1971

Rev. Dwayne E. Carroll
1540 Olympian Circle, SW
Apartment 7
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

Dear Rev. Carroll:

This acknowledges receipt of the new Georgia Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. The amendments are fine. You people appear to have done a good job. I am writing this after returning from California and before leaving for Atlanta tomorrow. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,
s/Albert T. Pimentel
Executive Director

ATP/rw

In those meetings leading up to the organizational meeting, major points of discussion were: how do we organize to work on improving skills, recruiting new interpreters, and seeing that interpreters are available when needed.

South Carolina already had a chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Joyce Smith, affiliated with that organization, had interpreted for one of the parents' meetings recently, and some of the group had heard discussions of how the SCRID was working. Mrs. Smith was invited to be our guest speaker at the April meeting in Cave Spring.

The minutes of that meeting provide some interesting information:

MINUTES OF THE GRID

April 17, 1971

Georgia School for the Deaf

Cave Spring, Georgia

Number in attendance: 45

The meeting was called to order by President, Dwayne Carroll. Invocation was delivered by Mr. Wilber C. Huckeba.

Dwayne Carroll introduced Mr. John Caple, Superintendent of the Georgia School for the Deaf, who welcomed the group and gave us a little history of interpreters in Cave Spring. He explained how, over the years, the school had begged for church interpreters, and the first denomination to serve the deaf at the school was the Lutheran faith. Following Mr. Caple's talk, each person at the meeting introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role in the world of deafness.

Mrs. Joyce Smith from Easley, SC was our guest speaker. She explained aspects of the South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf that she felt would be helpful to us in organizing our group:

- Membership applications were printed and cards were made available when the application was accepted.
- When a new member is accepted, the SCRID gives the member a copy of the "Creed", which has been printed and framed to remind the new member of an interpreter's responsibility.
- The SCRID has a board of examiners, who test each prospective member before the application is accepted. They have strict rules about the quality of each member's skill as an interpreter. Mrs. Smith stated that they feel quality is a MUST, before a new applicant is accepted as a member of SCRID.
- SCRID has two meetings a year. In the fall (September), they meet at the South Carolina School for the Deaf in Spartanburg, SC. This gives each member who has joined during the year a chance to see the school, and learn a little about the school program. During this fall meeting, a full-day workshop is held, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. In the spring, the SCRID meets in the center of the state, during which time the business of the registry is conducted. The morning

part of this spring session is business, with having a workshop for the rest of the day. The workshops are designed to cover various interpreting settings, such as church, school/college, medical, etc.

- A newsletter is sent to members between the meets to keep members aware of what is happening in the state.
- South Carolina is divided up into districts, and each interpreter is assigned a specific area. When an interpreter is needed, he or she can get from their home to any part of their district within one to one and a half hours.
- In addition to the newsletter, helpful pamphlets were distributed to the members as they became available.
- Fees paid to the interpreter for services were explained briefly - fees are based on the individual interpreter's evaluation.
- Mileage is also paid at the rate of \$0.10 per mile.

With this, Mrs. Smith concluded her presentation.

Treasurer, Jane Grisham reported that GRID had \$111.01 cash on hand.

The roll was called from the last meeting. Minutes were read and approved. Dwayne Carroll invited all who attended the meeting to join in order to be charter members of GRID. Any new member who joined after April 17, 1971 should be screened before their application is accepted. The fall meeting was discussed briefly and should be held in Macon. The Meeting Committee will work out the details and advise the group.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by Tom Lawrie and carried.

s/July 29, 1972
Owens

_____s/Wilda

Wilda Owens, Secretary

Dwayne Carroll, President

Chapter 3

Off to a Roaring Slump

The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was finally organized. It seems our first goal had been reached and we did not meet again for a while. GRID as a group stopped meeting for a while, but things continued to happen behind the scenes.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program finally had a Counselor for the Deaf (RCD) in Atlanta. Actually, this person was a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind, who had taken an interest in deaf people. He applied for and was approved to attend training in the Orientation to the Rehabilitation of the Deaf at the University of Tennessee. After this training, his caseload was comprised primarily of deaf people. He was later recognized officially as a Counselor for the Deaf by the Vocational Rehabilitation program and was the first RCD outside of Cave Spring. His name was Bill Daughtrey. As Bill's caseload of deaf people grew, he recognized a tremendous need for interpreters to accompany his clients for medical examinations, vocational evaluations, training and job interviews.

Chapter Four of the Georgia Association of the Deaf had identified an excellent interpreter who was available and wanted to try to earn a living as a professional interpreter. Marilyn Sorrels was retained by GAD Chapter Four to interpret whenever and wherever required. Since paying for interpreting services as almost unheard of, this was a struggle. Marilyn stayed busy, but survival as a professional interpreter depended on the retainer paid by the Chapter.

Deaf adults and others were very active in working to improve education for deaf children, especially in establishing the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and the Master Plan of Education of the Deaf. In the fall of 1972, the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) opened with pre-school and primary departments. Jack Brady was selected as Superintendent, Dick Dirst was Principal, and Mona McCubbin was the Academic Advisor for AASD. Meanwhile, at the Georgia School for the Deaf, John Caple became Superintendent, Jim Whitworth became Principal. Tom Lawrie became the Coordinator/Administrator of the Rehabilitation Center in Cave Spring, with Bill Adams as the new Counselor at the Center.

The Atlanta Rehabilitation Center was beginning to serve deaf clients at Bill Daughtrey's request. Some of the staff were learning sign language and interpreters were needed. Vocational Rehabilitation needed some assurance that interpreters providing services for Vocational Rehabilitation clients possessed the necessary skills. Just as there was a Panel of Physicians who worked with the Vocational Rehabilitation program, (physicians whose qualifications were documented), there needed to be a similar Panel of Interpreters, to document qualifications. Initially, this list or "panel" of interpreters was comprised of individuals whose interpreting skills were known by the Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf in Cave Spring and was provided to the Vocational Rehabilitation State Office. Although this list of interpreters was helpful, it was only a temporary solution for providing qualified interpreters when needed. Certification that was offered through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf would be preferred, but that process was too slow to meet the needs of the immediate crisis in Georgia. A central contact person to receive reports and locate interpreters was needed.

The next Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf meeting was a special meeting called by Dwayne Carroll. Below are the minutes of that meeting:

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

GRID

JUNE 24, 1972

The meeting was called to order by Dwayne Carroll, President.

After a brief discussion regarding how slow progress of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has been, Bill Daughtrey explained how great the need is for interpreters in the Atlanta area, and how fast this unmet need is growing. Bill explained that there is a desperate need for a contact person within the group who can provide interpreters for various purposes, and those interpreters would need to be evaluated so that Vocational Rehabilitation would be able to pay for interpreting services rendered. If the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf will train, evaluate and supply the interpreters, Vocational Rehabilitation will use the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to fill the interpreting needs of the agency as much as possible.

Interpreters are also needed in other parts of the state. Jimmy Whitworth reported that Floyd Junior College will soon be accepting deaf students, and will need interpreters to work with those students. Dwayne Carroll reported that Valdosta State College is also looking for interpreters.

A decision was made to identify a person who could devote time to organizing the Georgia Registry for the Deaf, and possibly offering a retainer fee for that person's time. The first goal was to develop a plan for organizational improvement. A training committee, interpreter skills screening committee and coordinator position was discussed. An action committee was identified to work on the ideas discussed in this called meeting, and to come up with firm plans for the future training, evaluation and work of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Dwayne Carroll appointed Bill Peace, Shirley Whitworth, Jane Grisham, Marilyn Sorrels, and Wilda Owens to work with him on this action committee. Since the By Laws require a one-month notice to be given prior to an official meeting, the next meeting of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was scheduled for Saturday, July 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Albert Pick. The business part of this meeting should include the following discussions:

1. How to get a law passed requiring that each deaf person who must go into court be furnished with an interpreter.
2. Publishing a newsletter, and identifying a committee responsible for the newsletter.
3. Selection of a delegate to go to the Georgia Association of the Deaf Convention in August.

Dwayne asked for the Action Committee to stay for a few minutes of planning after the conclusion of the current called meeting. Wilda Owens was instructed to mail notices for the

July 29th meeting to all Georgia Registry for the Deaf members, as well as any other interested groups/individuals. The meeting was then adjourned.

This called meeting was just the boost that the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf needed to get back on track. The “Action” committee came up with some good proposals which expressed the concerns of all who were in attendance. These proposals are listed in the document below:

July 12, 1972

TO: G.R.I.D. Action Committee

RE: A Four Proposal Agenda for Discussion to Strengthen the G.R.I.D.

1. PROPOSAL 1: Proceed with the printing of lists containing available interpreter and the dates available with a central telephone number being proposed under Proposal 2.
 - a. Printing of lists can be obtained cheaply – 500 copies for approximately \$7.00
 - b. Distribution to be available to the following: churches, clubs, federal, state and local agencies serving the needs of deaf individuals; and will be mailed to police stations, hospitals and health offices.
2. PROPOSAL 2: In the event that the proposed part-time Coordinator position, as recommended by Ms. Owens and Ms. Grisham, fail to be implemented, that the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf agree to obtain an answering service phone number, utilizing the “qualified” interpreter distribution list and several available interpreters who can take turns acting as “coordinator” when calls are received through the answering service from agencies and/or clients requesting interpreter services. The cost for this answering service should be approximately half that of a part-time Coordinator position, and the answering service would be available 24 hours a day.
3. PROPOSAL 3: Every effort should be made to establish local “groups” or “sub-chapters” in other large cities in Georgia, such as Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Albany, Columbus and Rome. Once established, these “sub-chapters” or groups can host monthly “workshops” like those being planned in the Atlanta area, which in turn would provide for the exchange of information, ideas, training and availability of services to other local organizations and agencies.

This proposal also includes recommendation to hold an annual one-day convention for entire state for the election of state officers, review of past performances and evaluation of new ideas, services and training trends.

4. PROPOSAL 4: Work towards a goal of having a full-time Coordinator or Executive Director, with specific functions/responsibilities as outlined in an earlier proposal. This qualified candidate would work within:

- a. the Vocational Rehabilitation Division
- b. Social Services Division
- c. Special Education Division
- d. Community Service Center for the Deaf

This Coordinator or Executive Director would be on the agency payroll as a full-time specialist in the area of interpreting services; or if this option is not feasible or unavailable, they would work under a 'grant' from any or several of the agencies above and would work out of the Georgia Association of the Deaf offices on a full-time basis.

Chapter 4

Getting It Off the Ground

The next meeting was the first training seminar sponsored by the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. It was the first of many. There were excellent presenters using demonstration and role play about how to, and how NOT to interpret in various settings. Some of us learned that embarrassing situations must be interpreted without showing embarrassment. One example of this was a scenario role-played by Jim Whitworth as a deaf man, trying to explain that he had a severe hernia. Tom Lawrie, who acted out the part of the doctor, could not figure out what in the world the deaf man was trying to communicate. All the while, the audience was hysterically laughing.

A business meeting was conducted during lunch, with three main items of discussion:

1. Printing a newsletter
2. Sending a delegate to the Georgia Association of the Deaf convention in Jekyll Island in August.
3. Pushing for a law insuring deaf persons be provided with an interpreter any time they must appear in court.

Item #1

Bill Peace made a motion that we publish a newsletter, with the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf paying for the newsletter with money from membership dues. If more money is needed at the end of the year, membership dues will be raised by one dollar. The newsletter would be published quarterly and mailed to members only. Esteben Ward accepted the responsibility for printing the newsletter.

Item #2

Since several people were going to the Georgia Association of the Deaf convention as delegates of other organizations, it was decided that these individuals would also represent the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf as goodwill delegates.

Item #3

Wilbur Huckeba shared information on starting the push for legislation requiring an interpreter for each deaf person in court proceedings. A committee was appointed to take the necessary action to see that such a law is passed. The committee consisted of the following individuals: Dick Dirst, Chairman; Jim Withworth, Wilbur Huckeba, and Ernest Herron.

The Evaluation Committee was introduced to those in attendance. Evaluation Committee members present were: Sarah Ware, Dick Dirst, Ernest Herron, Bill Peace, Billy Sofey, Shirley Whitworth, and Esteben Ward. Others on the Evaluation Committee not in attendance were Lee Birch, Sam Hinson, Russell Royston, Gladys Wright, and Danny Wilson. The committee began developing evaluation guidelines.

At the end of the seminar, there was extensive discussion on the proposal made by the Action Committee to establish a paid Coordinator position. No decision was reached, and the matter was tabled.

Enthusiasm was back; members were excited. Members believed something good was happening that would help them improve their interpreting skills.

The next meeting was another training workshop and business meeting, held at the new Atlanta Area School for the Deaf on November 11, 1972. There were 71 people in attendance. Dick Dirst, who was the Georgia's delegate to Memphis for the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, explained RID's evaluation certificates A, B, C, and D. After this discussion, members broke up into three workshop sessions:

- Evaluation with Shirley Whitworth leading
- Interpreting Etiquette with Jim Whitworth leading
- Self Evaluation with Mona McCubbin Leading

After lunch, a business meeting was held and election of officers was conducted. Below are the minutes of this business meeting:

Membership Chairman reported that the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf started with 41 Charter members. Membership has increased to 72 paid members.

The committee working on the Georgia Interpreter Law distributed copies of the proposed law and requested recommendations for changes and/or additions.

Chairman of the Nomination Committee, Twyla Tharp, introduced the following nominees:

- Bill Peace, President
- Dick Dirst, Vice President
- Shirley Whitworth, Secretary
- Tom Lawrie, Parliamentarian
- Jim Whitworth, Director for a 6-year term (to replace Carter Bearden)

Bill Daughtrey made a motion that this slate of officers be accepted unanimously. The motion carried.

There was still a proposal in the minutes from the last meeting, which was had been tabled and discussed at this meeting, concerning the position of a Coordinator of Interpreting Services. Jane Grisham made a motion that we table the proposal again, until the new officers could review the proposal. This motion was seconded by Bill Daughtrey, but made an additional motion that a proposal be made that could be used by Vocational Rehabilitation now. He proposed that a committee be established to identify and appoint a panel of interpreters (even if a lower set of standards was required) so that these interpreters could be called on to work with current Vocational Rehabilitation clients. A discussion followed, and Bill withdrew his motion in favor of a new motion made by Jim Whitworth. Jim made a motion that the

members of Vocational Rehabilitation, who were also members of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, choose a panel of deaf persons to serve on a screening committee and assemble today as a Screening Board. This Screening Board would accept applications from interpreters to be reviewed for inclusion on a panel of interpreters to be used by Vocational Rehabilitation. This motion carried. A committee was chosen, a classroom was set up, and interpreters who were interested were interviewed and screened.

Bill Daughtrey made a motion that the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to make a proposal to Vocational Rehabilitation for a contract to be established between the two organizations providing a way for funding of interpreting services. This funding would not be on a fee-for-service basis, but instead on a lump sum basis, possibly paid quarterly. Vocational Rehabilitation would be responsible to provide the funding, and to contact the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf for all interpreting service needs. The Georgia Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf would be responsible for providing the interpreter and paying him/her, and to report back to the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor regarding the result of this service. A discussion followed. Dick Dirst made a motion that this motion be tabled until a committee could be appointed to investigate this idea and report the results of their investigation at the next meeting. This motion was seconded by Jim Whitworth. Motion carried. Dwayne Carroll appointed Tom Lawrie, Bill Daughtrey, and Jewell Calloway to serve on this committee.

A seal for the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf had been drawn by Mike Burton, the art teacher at Georgia School for the Deaf. This seal was officially adopted by the members.

The day ended with a brief announcement that the next meeting will be held Saturday, January 20th at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf.

The Vocational Rehabilitation screening resulted in several good interpreters, and many potential interpreters to be added to the list to meet Vocational Rehabilitation needs. With this announcement, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Read and Approved

Wilda Owens, Secretary

Chapter 5

Forming the Corporation

There continued to be several training workshops and extensive discussions on how to coordinate interpreter services, developing the interpreter law, creating community awareness, and evaluating interpreters for certification. The success of the training workshops was mostly due to the hard work of the Action Committee which consisted of Dwayne Carroll, Shirley Whitworth, Jane Grisham, Wilda Owens, Marilyn Sorrells, and Bill Peace.

By this time, the Evaluation Committee had attended evaluation workshops in other states, received training from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and held the first evaluation. All the critique sheets of the evaluators were sent to the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, where they were studied and the interpreters assigned the appropriate certificates. The results were as follows:

Comprehensive Skills: Doris McDonald and Shirley Whitworth

Expressive Translating and Interpreting: Dick Dirst, Jim Whitworth, and Tom Lawrie

Expressive Translating and Interpreting and Reverse Skills: Martha Cook and Patricia Lewis

Expressive Interpreting: Wilbur Huckeba

Reverse Skills: Bill Peace, Janice Steele, and Sara Ware

One of the goals of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was to set up some sort of contract with the Department of Human Resources or the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide interpreters for deaf people receiving social services, especially vocational rehabilitation services. The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf had already begun screening/evaluating interpreters for Vocational Rehabilitation's "Panel of Interpreters". This model would eventually become the basis for the Quality Assurance Screening Assessment.

The Board of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf realized that to have a working relationship with the State of Georgia, Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf would need to become incorporated. Dick Dirst assumed primary responsibility for researching incorporation procedures with the Secretary of State, and with help from Bill Peace and Tom Lawrie, incorporation papers were drafted. The information was published in the DeKalb News for four weeks, as per incorporation protocol.

On December 5, 1973, Judge Clarence Peeler signed the papers in DeKalb Superior Court incorporating the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was now incorporated as a non-profit corporation and began pursuing tax-exempt status. During the incorporation procedure, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was also hard at work drafting the Interpreter Law and contacting Legislators. Copies of the Interpreter Laws from other states were collected and reviewed, incorporating key parts into Georgia's proposed law (See Appendix A). A copy of the law, with a letter of explanation was sent to each state legislator during the early part of December 1973.

In January 1974, twin Bills were introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Georgia General Assembly. Later in the legislative session, the compromise version passed without any dissenting votes. Fortunately, somewhere in the Legislation, a paragraph was added which gave the Georgia Department of Human Resources responsibility for coordinating interpreting services under this Bill. The Department was to “...do all other things necessary to provide the appointing authority with a qualified interpreter at the time and place needed”. When the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf read this paragraph, a letter was sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources proposing to contract with the Department to carry out the provisions within Law. The letter was forwarded to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for an opinion. The response was enthusiastically accepted.

In June 1974, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as a part of the Department of Human Resources, entered into a contract with the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to establish an office for the purpose of coordinating interpreter services for the deaf, with a grant of \$12,000 for the first year. After position announcements were sent out, applications received, and interviews conducted, Ms. Ann Diffendal was hired as the Administrative Secretary of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, making the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf the first RID Affiliate Chapter in the country to have an office with such a contract. Immediately, calls began coming in wanting to know how this had been accomplished.

Along with the contract between the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the Georgia Department of Human Services, an agreement was developed for the Georgia Association of the Deaf and Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to share an office. The Georgia Association of the Deaf would provide office space, in exchange for the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf manning the office and answering the phones.

During this time, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf reviewed the captioned films that were jointly developed by the Michigan Association of the Deaf and the Michigan State Police Department. These films focused on the needs of the deaf population while interacting with the police. After being introduced by Dick Dirst, the DeKalb Police Department adopted these films for use in training for their police officers.

Chapter 6

The Traveling Road Show

During the fall of 1973, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf received a request from the Columbus, Georgia area to help present a workshop on deafness for the students at Columbus College, parents of deaf children, and others. The request was made by Dr. Jackson Davis, an instructor at Columbus College and the father of a deaf son. In January 1974, the program was presented as a joint effort between Vocational Rehabilitation, the Georgia Association of the Deaf, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the International Association of Parents of the Deaf, and Education.

Over the next couple of years, this type of program was also presented in Macon, Savannah, Augusta, Gainesville, and Dalton. As additional requests were made from areas around the State, representatives from the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf developed an invitation list of potential attendees. This list included service agencies, civic clubs/organizations, deaf people in the community, parents of deaf children, school personnel and employers of deaf people. Each program was held in a local community college, thus reducing overall expenses for the program, but also increasing awareness among college officials and students on campus. Participants in these programs could receive Continuing Education credits to be applied for certifications and licenses held by the participant.

The program format consisted of an Introduction, followed by participants breaking up into four groups which would rotate during the day. These groups included:

- Education of the Deaf in Georgia
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Parents of Deaf Children
- Service Organizations (Georgia Association of the Deaf and Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf)

Each participant would have an opportunity to join all four sessions, then reassemble for a challenge at the end of the day. During lunch, telecommunication equipment would be on display for demonstration. Since these awareness workshops were so similar in nature, they were soon to be known as “The Traveling Road Show”. Some of the positive results of these workshops included a TTY being donated by the Lions Club of Savannah to the Savannah and Chatham County Police Departments; plus implementation of two sign language classes at Armstrong College and two sign language classes in Augusta.

Chapter 7

A Busy Organization (It All Begins to Run Together)

Below is a list of various activities and events of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf from 1974 until 1977:

- In the fall of 1974, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf received a request from the Georgia Center for Continuing Education for classes in sign language (levels one and two). Some students who already had some signing skills wanted to improve their skills, and others were beginners wanting to learn. The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was happy to provide these classes for approximately two years.
- After negotiations with Captain Pressley of the Georgia State Patrol, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf began providing a full day of training for their new recruits.
- Letters were drafted and sent with a copy of the new Interpreter Law to every court in the State of Georgia, as well as to every member of the Bar Association.
- In March of 1975, the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf held a forum for deaf people and other interested persons. The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was the local coordinating organization. Astronaut Charles Duke was the featured speaker for this event.
- Barbara Adams was hired as Secretary for the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Ann Diffendal, now known as Ann Braddock, became Community Interpreter.
- Workshops were held frequently on various topics: Sign Language Teacher Training, Training Law Enforcement Personnel in Deafness, and Mock Trial/Courtroom Interpreting.
- In the first year, (July 1974 – July 1975), the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf provided interpreters for over 162 situations. This did not include interpreting assignments with Vocational Rehabilitation.
- The Georgia Association of the Deaf/Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf office was moved from the Pershing Point area to the Georgia Avenue-Hill Street Neighborhood Facility.
- In July 1975, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf received a new grant from the Georgia Department of Human Resources in the amount of \$25,000.
- Curricula for sign language classes were being developed for Levels I, II, and III.
- National evaluations were held to certify new interpreters twice a year. State Quality Assurance screenings were conducted two to four times a year.
- In April 1976, Ann Braddock accepted a job as Coordinator of Interpreting Services, at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York. Although she will be missed, she was trained well!
- Charlene Lavine became our new Coordinator of Interpreting Services at the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf on June 1, 1976.
- Due to severe budgetary limitations in the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the budget for all programs was cut. The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf contract was reduced from \$25,000 to \$20,300. This budget reduction resulted in fewer training workshops being provided, as well as the layoff of Secretary Barbara Adams.

- In 1977, the Georgia Department of Human Resources contract budget with the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf was reinstated at \$25,000. Training workshops were resumed.
- Bill Peace accepted a job as director with the North Carolina Council on Deafness, with his office being located in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Tam Hutchinson became the new President of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.
- In March of 1978, satellite offices of the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf were proposed to be located in Macon, Albany and Savannah to meet the increasing need for training and coordination of interpreting services statewide.
- A committee on medical interpreting and awareness was established with Dennis Fennel as Chairman. This committee developed a package program for hospitals assisting medical personnel when dealing with deaf patients. Over the next two years, this program was presented in more than 60 hospitals across the state.
- On May 8, 1978, Katherine Waldon was hired as the new secretary for the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, thanks to the efforts of Dennis Fennel.
- Georgia's state interpreter screening was modified, refined and expanded to become the Quality Assurance Program.
- With much negotiation, planning and comparing curricula for interpreter training programs, Dick Dirst received approval to begin an Interpreter Training Program at DeKalb Community College in March of 1978.
- In 1981, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf celebrated the one year anniversary of the Albany satellite office opening. The current budget for the organization increased from \$12,000 in the first year to \$75,750.
- The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf worked hard, flourished and made a difference, however there was still much more work to be done. In Fiscal Year 1982, the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf handled 30,020 calls for information and/or assistance.

Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.
Report of Training Committee

This is a report of the activities of the training committee for the past year from the last Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf convention/workshop in October 1977 to November 1978. There has been tremendous participation by the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf membership in these workshops, as well as participation of interpreters from other states.

November 4 – 5, 1977

- Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Convention/Workshop
- 92 Participants
- Consultant: Eric Malzkuhn, Model Secondary School for the Deaf
- Co-sponsored by the National Interpreter Training Consortium

January 28, 1978

- Workshop for Sign Language Teachers
- 30 Participants
- Consultants: Dick Dirst, Grady Doster, and Anna Rinaldi

March 18, 1978

- Interpreting in Religious Settings
- 120 Participants
- Workshop Chairperson: Jerry Baker
- Consultants: Lillian Beard, Interpreter from Texas and Dean Pritchard, Interpreter from Florida

April 22, 1978

- Interpreting in Medical Situations
- 80 Participants
- Workshop Chairperson: Barbara Kerr
- Consultants: Mary Rowan and Molly Jo Hanson, Mental Health for the Hearing Impaired Program, and St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital & Mental Health Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

May 20, 1978

- Interpreting in Legal Settings
- 90 Participants
- Consultants: Sy Dubow and Nancy Conners, National Center for the Law and the Deaf, and Gallaudet College, Washington, DC

July 31 – August 11, 1978

- Interpreting for Deaf Individuals with Minimal Language Skills
- 21 Participants
- Course offered in cooperation with DeKalb Community College Interpreter for the Deaf Training Program and the National Interpreter Training Consortium.

- Participants were from Georgia and eight southeastern states.
- All participants received five credit hours through DeKalb Community College.
- Consultants: Mike Kemp, Gallaudet College; M. J. Bienvenue and Larry Berke, Model Secondary School for the Deaf; Barbara Kerr, Debbie Brenner, Jane Richards, Charlene Lavine, Vincent Holmes, Tom Lawrie, Dick Dirst, Anna Maria Rinaldi, Nancy Kelly Jones, Dale Gibson – all from Georgia RID.

October 7, 1978

- Interpreting in Educational Settings
- 66 Participants
- Workshop Consultant: Dale Gibson
- Consultant: Sharon Newmann Solow, California State University, Northridge, California

We have been very pleased with the attendance and the quality of the workshops held during the past year. We appreciate the support and comments of the participants in the workshops. We look forward to additional workshops this year and even more participation by interpreters throughout the state.

APPENDIX

OFFICERS

1971 – 1972

President Dwayne Carroll
Vice President Tom Lawrie
Secretary Wilda Owens
Treasurer Jane Grisham
Parliamentarian Harold Bowles
Board Members Carter Bearden
Thompson Kay
Sam Hinson

1973 – 1974

President Bill Peace
Vice President Dick Dirst
Secretary Shirley Whitworth
Treasurer Tom Lawrie
Parliamentarian Twyla Tharp
Board Members Thompson Kay
Sam Hinson
Jim Whitworth

1975 – 1976

President Bill Peace
Vice President Dick Dirst
Secretary Tom Lawrie
Treasurer Byron Cantrell
Board Members Sara Ware
Dennis Fennell
Anna Rinaldi

1977 – 1978

President Bill Peace/Tam
Hutchinson
Vice President Dick Dirst
Secretary Tom Lawrie/Barbara Kerr
Treasurer Tam Hutchinson/Audrey
Walsh
Board Members Sara Ware
Dennis Fennell
Anna Rinaldi

1979 – 1980

President Kay Failla
Vice President Bobbie Carter
Secretary Shirley Vice
Treasurer Dale Gibson
Board Members Sara Ware
Anna Rinaldi
Danny Wilson

1981 – 1982

President Russ Johnson
Vice President Faith Powell/Don Clark
Secretary Shirley Vice/Steve Smith
Treasurer Randy Pix/David Leitson
Board Members Eleanor Grover
Jeanette Lorch
Debbie Brenner

— Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

P.O. Box 323

CLARKSTON, GEORGIA 30021



At the present time in Georgia there is no provision in the law for an interpreter for the hearing impaired when they go to court.

The re have been many tragic mistakes made in court cases involving deaf people due to the lack of an interpreter.

At the present time 28 states have a law on this subject.

Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Arkansas are states in the southeast that have already passed an interpreters law. The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. has studied the laws from the different states and has compiled a law which we feel would serve the need of the hearing impaired in Georgia.

A similar bill was introduced into the Illinois Legislature last year. One-hundred-thirteen members of the Illinois Legislature joined as co-sponsors of the bill. This was more co-sponsors than any bill had ever had in the history of the State of Illinois.

The deaf people in Georgia need this law too. We are asking you to introduce this bill into the Georgia Legislature so our people will be protected. It is necessary that the rights of all of our people, including the hearing impaired, be protected.

Sincerely,

William Peace, President
Georgia Registry of
Interpreter for the
Deaf, Inc.

WP:lg

The following is the proposed law for Interpreter Services being presented to the 1974 Georgia Legislature:

An act relating to deaf persons providing for the use of quality interpreters of the deaf sign language. When a deaf person is party to or a witness at a proceeding in any trial court in this state; providing for compensation for interpreter services, and providing for an effective date.

Section I – Appointment of Qualified Interpreter for the Deaf

A qualified interpreter shall be appointed in the following cases:

- (a) In any grand jury proceeding, when the witness is deaf;
- (b) in any court proceeding involving a person who is deaf and such proceedings may result in the confinement of such person or the imposition of a penal sanction against such person;
- (c) in any proceeding before a board, commission, agency, or licensing authority of the state or any of its political subdivisions, when the principal party in interest is deaf;
- (d) when a person who is deaf is arrested for an alleged violation of a criminal law of the state or any of its political subdivisions. Such appointment shall be made prior to any attempt to interrogate or take a statement from such person.

Section II – Oath of Interpreter

Every interpreter appointed pursuant to the provisions of Section I of this Act before entering upon his duties, shall take an oath that he will make a true interpretation in an understandable manner to the person for whom he is appointed and that he will repeat the statements of such person in the English language to the best of his skill and judgment.

Section III – Qualification of Interpreter

Interpreters shall be selected from interpreters certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or in the absence of, thereof, as otherwise may be qualified.

No person shall be appointed as an interpreter pursuant to the provisions of Section I of this Act unless the appointed authority makes a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to readily communicate with the person who is deaf or mute, or both, and is able to accurately repeat and translate the statements of said person.

Section IV – Payment of the Interpreter

Every interpreter appointed pursuant to the provision of Section I of this Act shall be reimbursed at not less than \$15 per hour nor more than \$50 a day, at the discretion of the judge presiding. When travel of the interpreter is involved the actual expense of travel incurred by the interpreter pertaining to the case as appointed to

serve shall be paid at the same rate applicable to state employees. All costs of such interpreter services shall be paid out of general county funds.

Section V – Applicability

The provision of this Act shall apply to all courts of this state and any political subdivision thereof.

Section VI – Construction of Act

This Act shall not be construed to limit the inherent power of the court to appoint an interpreter in other cases.

Section VII – This Act shall take effect July 1, 1974.

To provide for the use of deaf sign language interpreters in certain administrative and judicial proceedings; to provide for notice of need and proof of disability; to provide for the furnishing of qualified interpreters to appointing authorities; to provide for the taking of an oath to require qualifications for such interpreters; to provide for compensation; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

Section 1. Definition. As used in the act, "deaf person" means any person whose hearing is totally impaired or whose hearing is so seriously impaired as to prohibit the person from understanding oral communications when spoken in a normal conversational tone. The term further includes, but is not limited to, a person who is mute and a person who is both deaf and mute.

Section 2. Deaf person as participant in judicial or administrative proceedings; interpreter to be used.

(a) Whenever any deaf person is a party to or a witness at a proceeding before any grand jury or in any trial court in this State, the court shall appoint a qualified interpreter of the deaf sign language to interpret the proceedings to the deaf person and to transcribe his testimony.

(b) Whenever any deaf person is in interest at a proceeding before any department, board, commission, agency or licensing authority of the State, any political subdivision of the State, or any municipality, the department, board, commission, agency or licensing authority conducting the proceedings shall appoint a qualified interpreter of the deaf sign language to interpret the proceedings to the deaf person and to interpret any testimony he may give.

(c) In the event a person who is deaf is arrested for any alleged violation of a criminal law of this State, the arresting officer may interrogate or take a statement from such person provided that such interrogation and answers thereon shall be in writing and shall be preserved and turned over to the court in the event such person is tried for the alleged offense.

(d) For the purposes of this Section, the term "qualified interpreter" means an interpreter certified by the Board of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or, in the event no interpreter as certified is available, an interpreter whose actual qualifications are otherwise appropriately determined. No "qualified interpreter" shall be appointed unless the appointing authority makes a preliminary determination that the interpreter is able to readily communicate with the deaf person and is able to accurately report and translate the statements of the deaf person.

Section 3. Notice of need for interpreter; proof of disability. Every deaf person whose appearance before a proceeding entitles him to an interpreter except in a preliminary hearing in a criminal case under the provisions of Section 1 of this act shall notify the appointing authority of his disability not less than five (5) days prior to any appearance and shall request at such time the services of an interpreter, provided, that where a deaf person reasonably expects the need for an interpreter to be for a period greater than a single day he shall so notify the appointing authority and such notification shall be sufficient for the duration of his participation in the proceedings, and providing, further, that whenever a deaf person receives notification of the time of an appearance before a proceeding less than five (5) days prior to the proceedings, he shall provide his notification and request as soon thereafter as practicable. An appointing authority may require a person requesting the

appointment of an interpreter to furnish reasonable proof of his disability when the appointing authority has reason to believe that the person is not so disabled.

Section 4. Certification for interpreters; requests to Department of Human Resources.

(a) The Department of Human Resources is authorized and directed to prepare and continually update a listing of qualified and available interpreters as defined in Section 1(d). When requested by an appointing authority to provide an interpreter, the Department shall make all contacts and do all other things necessary to provide the appointing authority with the qualified interpreter as the time and place needed.

(b) Whenever an appointing authority receives a valid request for the services of an interpreter, the authority shall request the Department of Human Resources to furnish the authority with a qualified interpreter at a time and place and for a period specified by the authority.

Section 5. Interpreters; oath. Before participating in any proceedings subsequent to an appointment under the provisions of Section 1 of this act, an interpreter shall make an oath or affirmation that he will make a true interpretation in an understandable manner to the person for whom he is appointed and that he will repeat the statements of such person in the English language to the best of his skill and judgment.

Section 6. Interpreters; compensation. An interpreter appointed under the provisions of Section 1 of this act shall be entitled to a reasonable fee for his services, such fee not to exceed \$10.00 per day of service, together with his actual expenses for travel and transportation. When the interpreter is appointed by a court the fee shall be paid out of general county funds and when the interpreter is otherwise appointed the fee shall be paid out of funds available to the appointing authority.

Section 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Note Statutory Section 1001

CONFERENCE COORDINER REPORT ON S. S. 506

Mr. President,
Mr. Speaker!

Your Conference Committee on S. S. No. 506 has met and recommends that both the Senate and House of Representatives records from their respective positions, and that the attached Conference Committee Submittals to S. S. No. 506 be adopted.

FOR THE SENATE

[Signature]
SENATOR, 25th District
[Signature]
SENATOR, 48th District
[Signature]
SENATOR, 21st District

FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Signature]
REPRESENTATIVE, 15th District,
P. S. 1
[Signature]
REPRESENTATIVE, 7th District
[Signature]
REPRESENTATIVE, 7th District

ADOPTED IN SENATE
APR 29 1904
[Signature]

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