

WASLI Newsletter 2008 - 01



WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I write this, on the first day of 2008, it is a good time to reflect on the past year and consider what the New Year will bring. Over the past year, WASLI's website has been the source of much information for those interested in the field of signed language interpreting, and members of the Executive Board have worked tirelessly to provide advice and support, responding to hundreds of queries, and making presentations about its work. Each member of the Executive Board is so in an entirely voluntary capacity, (WASLI is not part of any business and its Board receive no salary), and without their enthusiasm and energy, and selfless commitment to advance the profession, we would not have made such progress in such a short time. They are to be warmly thanked.

For many of us, the highlight of 2007 was WASLI's second conference in Spain, attended by 255 delegates from 41 different countries, the signing of the joint WASLI/WFD Agreement to work together on our common goals, and for the WASLI Secretary and myself, the opportunity to subsequently meet and form supportive links with many representatives of National Associations of the Deaf who were participating in the World Federation of the Deaf Congress.

As a comparatively new organisation, WASLI has little money and is dependent on the support it receives from its members, which is why it is heartening to acknowledge that it was only with support from you, fellow interpreters, that 20 from income poor countries were sponsored to attend our conference. In the coming year, the WASLI Executive is committed to strengthening the work being carried out in the regions of the developing world as a priority.

Today we are in touch with interpreters from 117 nations, and whilst we are from diverse cultures and have different languages, we share that common sense of global community as interpreting colleagues from around the world. We are supporting each other towards our goals of raising the standards of signed language interpreting in partnership with Deaf people. There is much work to do, and we need your help to do it.

With every best wish for 2008

Liz Scott Gibson
WASLI President

IMPORTANT

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