

# WASLI Newsletter 2008 - 12



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

- WASLI in Barcelona, Spain – FILSE Conference
- WASLI in Gran Canaria
- Announcement – World Federation of the DeafBlind, WFDB 9<sup>th</sup> Helen Keller World Conference and WFDB 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly
- WASLI Executive Board meets in London

## WASLI IN BARCELONA



3<sup>rd</sup> FILSE CONFERENCE “*Interpreting the future*”  
Barcelona 6-8 December 2008.



Area: 504,782 sq km  
Population: 40,491,052  
Capital: Madrid  
Language: Castilian Spanish (official), Catalan, Galician, Basque are official regionally  
Currency: Euro (EUR)  
GDP: \$33,600 per capita

(Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sp.html> )

It was an honour to be invited to attend this triennial event organised by the Spanish Federation of Sign language Interpreters (FILSE), hosted by the Catalan Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ACILS) in Barcelona, Spain.

The event was over 3 days that coincided with Spain celebrating the anniversary of the ratification of their constitution.

There were a number of presenters from all over the country and the congress was very well attended by practicing professionals and students. Some of them were practicing their skills, during conference, at the back of the room.

I presented two papers, one about WASLI and its current work and the second was entitled, "Interpreting in Europe" and it was an excursus of various current topics all related to the aftermath of sign language recognition. I presented the first presentation in International Sign and the second one in a pseudo-Spanish.

I would like to thank everyone that supported me with my presentations, including the patient translators and the interpreters and the audience for their flexibility.

A particular thanks goes to Brendan Costello (FILSE international representative) who was my contact person as well as guardian angel.



*Above is a picture of the opening of the event and at the table you can see from the left to the right: Ms Enarne Muñoz (President of the Catalan Deaf Association); Ms Gemma Carreño (President of ACILS); Jose A. López Muiño (President of FILSE); Ms Luisa Peñas Roldán (Executive Director of the permanent office specialised in disabilities of its respective Governmental Council); Angel Reguera (moderator and former president of ACILS and FILSE as well as representative for efsli). Nieves Pérex Tubilleja (Interpreter coordinator).*

It was great to meet new faces as well to reconnect with colleagues and friends from the distant and not so distant past.

I hope to be able to produce a slightly longer and more detailed report of the conference and some of the topics covered that might be of interest to you.

For more information about FILSE please visit their website [www.filse.org](http://www.filse.org)

*(Report by Marco NARDI, WASLI European Regional Representative)*

## **WASLI IN GRAN CANARIA**



Gran Canaria is an island of the Canary Islands located in the Atlantic Ocean 210 km off the northwest coast of Africa.

There is an Interpreter Association of the Canary Islands (ACAILSE). In Gran Canaria there is a Deaf Association (ASPGC) and also another organisation which is the Federation of Deaf Associations of the Canary Islands (FASICAN).

These 3 organisations worked together and jointly hosted a Conference for Sign Language Interpreters and as WASLI Secretary I was one of 4 speakers invited to speak. I gave 3 presentations on relevant topics: (1) Ethics – An International Perspective, (2) Who should be in charge of Interpreters Services? What about Deaf Interpreters?, and (3) Standards of Behaviour – Professionalism. (I need to thank the WASLI Executive Board and our WFD liaison person Knud Sondergaard for their help and guidance in the preparation of the presentations).

The other speakers were wonderful and I was able to learn much from their presentations: (1) Training of Sign Language Interpreters in Spain 'A Continuing Evolution', (2) The Interpreting Process – A Psycho Neurological Perspective, and (3) The Experience of an Employer of Interpreters.

There were around 130 delegates made up of interpreters, student interpreters, interpreter trainers and members of the Deaf community. Most of the questions from the presentations were from the Deaf community and that also was a positive because they were able to share their views and experiences in the context better understanding.



*(Above: WASLI Secretary with the other Conference Presenters: Asunción Mancebo Barrios, Raquel Díaz Cardiel and Mar Gallego)*

The photograph below was taken at the end of the day, when I presented representatives of ACAILSE, APSGC, and FASICAN with gifts and thanks for their generosity and great hospitality.



*(Above: WASLI Secretary with the representatives from the 3 organisations who collaborated in jointly hosting the Conference)*

*(Report by Zane Hema, WASLI Secretary [secretary@wasli.org](mailto:secretary@wasli.org))*



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

### World Federation of the DeafBlind, WFDB 9th Helen Keller World Conference and WFDB 3rd General Assembly

Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, Uganda, October 22 - 27, 2009.

Hosting organisation: The National Association of DeafBlind people Uganda, NABDU

Call for abstracts:

Abstracts of plenary presentations or workshops covering one of these areas, can be sent to the WFDB office before February 1, 2009 see address below.

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Website: [www.wfdb.org](http://www.wfdb.org)

## WASLI EXECUTIVE BOARD MEET IN LONDON



The WASLI Executive Board meet in London 6-7 November 2008 for the first time since Segovia 2007. There was quite a lot of business to discuss and news of some of those discussions will come your way through this newsletter or through your Regional Representative or from the Secretary.

One of the important discussions we had was the need to establish Task Groups so that we can begin to further the work in 2 important areas:

1. Interpreter Education & Training, and
2. Interpreter Assessment & Certification

Please keep an eye out for the next newsletter because there will be Call of Interest going out around the world for people to come forward to work together to develop guidance.

## NEWS CLIPS FROM THE USA

### FLORIDA - COUNTIES TO BROADCAST ALERTS IN ASL

Edinburg - A state programme will enable the Deaf community to receive emergency alerts broadcast in American Sign Language (ASL) as early as May 1st, says *The Monitor*. The programme covers 22 coastal counties. Interpreting services will be provided by Deaf Link Inc., a company based in San Antonio, Texas. It will provide interpreted alerts, such as for recent forest fires. The state will use \$300,000 of the US Department of Homeland Security budget for the program. Website: [www.deafink.com](http://www.deafink.com)

### NEW JERSEY - SCHOOL SETTLES WITH DEAF MAN REGARDING LACK OF INTERPRETERS

Denville - A deaf man who communicates in American Sign Language has received \$175,000 from the Morris County School of Technology to settle a federal lawsuit. The case charged the school with discrimination by failing to provide interpreting services in their classes, says *The Star-Ledger*. In addition to the payout to Alexander Veman, 24, the vocational school will post signs stating that the school is responsible for providing interpreters and will set up procedures to ensure interpreters are booked when needed.

### TEXAS - CITY SETTLES CASE REGARDING LACK OF INTERPRETERS

New Braunfels - The City of New Braunfels has settled a lawsuit charging that its police department did not provide interpreter services to communicate with deaf woman Maria Salinas during the investigation of the death of her fiancé. When Ms. Salinas arrived home from work in September 2004, she found her boyfriend dead on the couch. She claimed that she could not communicate with the officers and they refused her continual requests for sign language interpreters. She said that she was confused and worried that she may be considered a suspect and was baffled by the police searching her apartment. With the help of over 30 deaf people, supporters and Advocacy Inc, she filed a federal a federal lawsuit claiming that the city of New Braunfels violated the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Ms. Salinas will be awarded \$75,000. The city has agreed to provide sign language interpreters in the future as required by the ADA.

### NEW JERSEY - HUDSON JURY AWARDS \$400,000 TO DEAF PATIENT

A Hudson County jury's \$400,000 verdict for a deaf patient whose doctor refused her an interpreter may be a wake-up call for all professionals -- including lawyers -- that they risk liability for disability discrimination

<http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1202425326286>

## IMPORTANT

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To make a contribution or to advise of any change of an email address please contact [secretary@wasli.org](mailto:secretary@wasli.org)

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