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SIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNISED IN MACEDONIA

On 18 Aug 2009 the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Law on Sign Language. According to the Commission of Sign Language of the Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Macedonia 'this is an historic moment for Deaf people in Macedonia because Sign Language is recognised as a language equal to other languages.'

UNITED STATES



Area: 9,826,675 sq km
Population: 307,212,123 (July 2009 est.)
Capital: Washington, DC
Language/s: English 82.1%, Spanish 10.7%, other Indo-European 3.8%, Asian and Pacific island 2.7%, other 0.7% (2000 census)
GDP: \$46,900 (2008 est.)

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

RID CONFERENCE REPORT

The RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, United States) recently held their national conference in Philadelphia, August 1-6 2009. At the Opening Ceremony President Cheryl Moose and National Association of the Deaf President Bobbie Beth Scoggins signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This document codifies the strong and enduring collaboration between the two organisations and enhances the organisations' commitment to work in close partnership for the future benefit of the Deaf community, the sign language interpreting community and for all people who use sign language. A copy of the Memo will be posted on the RID web site and hung in the RID National Office! A signing ceremony will also be held at the 2010 National Association of the Deaf Conference. This document has been uploaded (with permission) to the WASLI website, go to www.wasli.org and click on JOINT AGREEMENTS.



NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins watches while RID President Cheryl Moose signs the Memo of Understanding

WASLI was well-represented at the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) conference with three Board members in attendance: José Luis Brieva Padilla (WASLI Latino America Representative), Daniel Burch (WASLI Treasurer), and Debra Russell (WASLI North America Representative). While there, José provided a WASLI presentation to the Mano a Mano conference of Latino American interpreters.

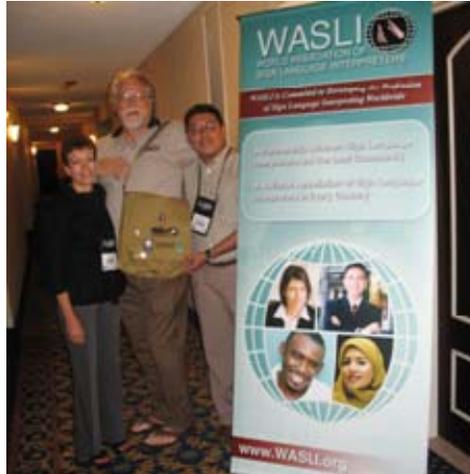
A meeting was held in the 2007 RID Presidential Suite between RID, WASLI, Mano a Mano, Puerto Rico, and

the Latino America Forum. The Latino America Forum, recently established in Bogotá Colombia, requested representation from the United States due the States' large number of Spanish-speaking Latino American Sign Language Interpreters, CODAs, and Deaf men, women, and children. Many Latino Americans living in the United States want to give back to their families in Latin America. Representation from the United States in the Latin American Forum would help to facilitate this process of giving back.



L to R - Rafael Trevino (WASLI Translation Department), Edgardo Figueroa (Puerto Rico Vice President), Paola Morales, Angela Roth (Mano a Mano Founder), Cheryl Moose (RID President), Ricardo Ortiz (Puerto Rico President), Jose Luis Brieva (WASLI Latino America Region Representative), and Daniel Burch (WASLI Treasurer)

The Latino American Forum was formed as a result of the first South American conference for Sign Language Interpreters. This conference was held in conjunction with the Sixth conference of the Deaf. It is a virtual forum and seen as the first step in the evolutionary development of national associations of Sign Language Interpreters throughout the region. President Moose assured everyone that RID is in full support of the work and Latino America. A decision will be made regarding United States representation, and full consideration will be given to a Deaf/Hearing representation team. Furthermore, President Moose explained that the translation of RID documents into Spanish has already been added to the Association strategic plan. All look forward to a great amount of progress in the near future.



**North America Regional Representative Deb Russell, Treasurer Daniel Burch
and Latino America Representative José Luis Brieua**

WASLI OPEN HOUSE AT RID

On August 03, WASLI held an open house at RID. The event was hosted in the RID Presidential Suite, and attended by some 80 people from the across the US, Columbia, Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Many thanks to Nicole Montagna for producing a fabulous five minute video of images of our past WASLI conferences - this played throughout the event and inspired many people to think about attending our next conference. The video will be uploaded to the WASLI website soon. José Luis Padilla Brevia, Daniel Burch and Debra Russell offered words of welcome, and each brought their message of what individual interpreters can do for WASLI and to support our goals and aims. The conversations were rich with laughter and the spirit of collaboration.



At the WASLI open house

NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL MEETING

Deb Russell, WASLI North America regional representative

Interpreters from the North America region were able to meet face to face while at RID, with Tarren McKay, AVLIC Past President, Cheryl Moose, RID President and Fidel Montemayor Zetina, ANIL President in attendance. Our thanks to RID for providing us with space and refreshments for our shared time together.

Such face-to-face meetings do a great deal to advance the collaboration across our region, and we were thrilled to have six Mexican sign language interpreters be able to attend the conference. There are significant opportunities facing each of the three associations, and each of the organisations have also enjoyed successes over the past year.

Just a few examples of success - Mexico has been able to move forward on passing legislation that recognises the need for professional interpreting services to be provided to Deaf citizens and they have produced their initial set of standards to qualify LSM (Lengua de Señas Mexicana) interpreters. Canada has been able to implement the new Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) and the ASL translation describing both the DRP and the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct. RID has grown to 15,000 members, signed an important agreement with the National Association of the Deaf to continue to work collaboratively on issues of shared interest and concern, and has completed a complex strategic plan to guide the organisation. One of the exciting discussions that each of the associations will take back to their Boards of Directors is the possibility of holding a regional conference in Mexico in 2012. Should this happen it would be a tremendous event for interpreters from all three countries

EUROPEAN LEGAL INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

For some time now the EU (European Union) Commission DG Justice, Freedom and Security has felt the need to be able to consult an organisation that is representative of the legal interpreters and translators in the EU. Other legal professionals such as public prosecutors, lawyers, judges or police officers, all have their EU associations and can be heard on matters that are of interest or concern to them in the European Commission. The legal interpreters and translators, as yet, do not have such a representative body. That is why a consortium of academic and professional organisations have proposed the establishment of EULITA, the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association.

To mark the launching of EULITA and reflect on the opportunities and challenges before us in the field of legal interpreting and translation, the participants in the EULITA project would like to invite you to a three-day conference:

Aspects of Legal Interpreting and Translation

Antwerp, 26-28 November 2009

On the first day of the conference, the mission statement, the constitution, organisation, website and envisaged activities of EULITA will be presented and discussed, followed by the official launch of the association at the new Antwerp courthouse. The following two days will be devoted to sharing information on interesting and relevant aspects of legal interpreting and translation training and practice. The following link will direct you to information about EULITA and the conference program. Registration for the conference opens on August 25.

<http://www.lessius.eu/tt/nieuws/eulita/default.aspx>

We very much hope that you will want to support the effort to establish this EU-association and to share information about quality standards in legal interpreting and translation. And may we ask representatives of associations of (legal) interpreters and translators to be so kind as to pass this information on to their membership. We look forward to welcoming you in Antwerp. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any queries.

IMPORTANT

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To make a contribution, please contact austoceania@wasli.org

To advise a change of email address, please contact secretary@wasli.org

WASLI EXECUTIVE BOARD

Officers: Liz Scott Gibson (President); Juan Carlos Druetta (Vice President); Zane Hema (Secretary); Daniel Burch (Treasurer)

Regional Representatives: Emiko Ichikawa (Asia); George Major (Australasia & Oceania); Philemon Akach (Africa – official representative); Jack Owiti (Africa – temporary representative); Selman Hoti (Balkans); Marco Nardi (Europe); José Luis Brieva Padilla (Latino America); Deb Russell (North America); Anna Komarova (Transcaucasia & Central Asia)