Hi SCRID,

For this President’s update I thought I’d do something a little different and refer us to a 2019 article from Street Leverage that holds a great deal of potency when we sit with it and consider how it applies intimately to us, in our local communities and amongst each other as sign language interpreting professionals. The article is “Is There Disruption in the Sign Language Interpreting Profession?” by Jemina Napier, and is a publication of her 2018 presentation at Street Leverage - Live.

In the past few years we’ve all experienced so much disruption, it feels a bit prophetic to look at the date of this presentation. Recent disruptions forced us all to put a freeze on life for a minute, take a step back, and figure out exactly how we were going to move forward in a successful way. We’ve had to consider what we truly value, and have reassessed our relationships with work, with those we’ve been sharing the same walls with all day every day as outside engagements shut down, and oftentimes with ourselves. The practice we’ve had in responding to these disruptions has trained our mental muscle memory, and life has provided ample opportunity to flex those growing muscles.

One direction toward which we may consider flexing our practice is how we bring ourselves to our work as sign language interpreters, and gaining clarity on what values we hold that underlie our approach. Recognizing the heavy life impact our work has on others’ lives, what is our relationship to that work, and how do we move forward successfully with this responsibility? What disruptions do we see amongst those in our field and within our own selves, that we would benefit from responding to in a proactive way? What patterns of professional behavior have we settled into that do not serve growth and effect positive change?

If we desire to improve our skills at work, and/or to see greater positive change in our field, to work with more qualified teams, to clean up the issues interpreters like to talk about that are frustrating in doing the work (because we all know we like to get together and decry the poor state of interpreting and all the wrong that happens, right?) then let’s consciously look for the authentic root of those disruptions. What values are at play that support or ameliorate the disruptions? Because once we look beyond the form of the disruption to the values playing out at the root, we discover the power to actually move in our personal and collective actions to shift the results positively.

I would posit we all know our internal excuses in response to this call to action. I definitely have my own lengthy list of reasons it’s easier to continue complacent-ly, going into and out of work, and leaving it at that. The reasons are varied. Yet there is one trait highlighted by Ms. Napier in her presentation that seems to underlie many disruptions. This trait is negativity; a tendency to see and dwell on problems (I’d add both historic and current), while not recognizing the many positives we also have.
This statement provides a great deal of fodder for unpacking. But I’d like to attend here first to the idea of complexities. Life is not simple, and as we well know, one’s view of a situation is truly one’s own interpretation of a situation, that could be seen and understood in a myriad of ways, according to context, schema, etc. What if, in assessing our relationship with the SLI profession, and SCRID’s relationship with us, rather than sacrificing ourselves to the hard taskmaster of the binary, we accepted the grace of complexity? Could we find just a bit of time to engage SCRID in stewarding our profession locally, rather than trying to eat the whole elephant in one bite and overcommit ourselves? Could we hold memory rather than trauma of old slights, while authentically looking to consider whether circumstances have changed, whether there is space for you at SCRID and where you and others may claim a seat at the table? Could we come together bravely and humbly to the truth of diverse experiences? Could those who feel SCRID is not for them proactively take space at the table and change the narrative? Could we consider whether we at times have shut down the space of others, and respectfully open to understanding and change?

Ms. Napier is right. We are lucky. We do have it good. We have ready means of creating our local profession in a way that reflects our identities, upholds best practice, and supports each other in our professional development. We have current leaders, and plenty of future leaders who just need training and support. The vehicle is ready and available. So what if we disrupted our patterns and truly engaged? As my son likes to say…Imagine!!

This highlights the second form of disruption - a pause for reflection. Our lives and profession have been disrupted, providing the opportunity to reassess, to determine if the approach we’ve been taking is truly a healthy one. How healthy is my, or our, relationship to the work that we do? To SCRID as a vehicle positioned with power to enact change and provide support beyond what one individual could provide? What values are we working in, and are they truly the values we desire?

Once these questions are assessed, comes the opportunity for a third form of disruption - new action. Here we forge a new path, or continue to better the path that we’re on. This is where we get to begin to see the results of change, to see growth and feel the benefits of making the way that much easier or more effective for ourselves and for others. This is how we take what we are given and grow in strength and kindness.

Regardless of our actions, life provides plenty of disruption. We see many in relation to SCRID and among our peers. The question is, how do we respond? What do we choose to make of our experiences? How do we want to impact others? And how can we best work together, noting that together-ness requires individual presence, to turn negative disruption into positive disruption?

As an interpreter, I of course love the play of this statement by Ms. Napier: “We can work together to effect change. Disruption (disorder) can become a different type of disruption (interruption), which leads to a better disruption (alteration).”

This, to me, is a prime challenge. Next time life takes a disruption, accept the opportunity for consideration of complexities, impacts and intents, and use your values to inform what you can do to influence change. And the next time anything frustrates you in the profession or disrupts you from bettering your work, do the same. Because together, we truly can impact change. Together, and only together, do we have the power to impact systems and heal those things we see and dislike around our work.

At SCRID, we seek to enact positive change. We invite you in, to leverage this space for relevance, support, and right action toward our professional selves, each other, and the operations and impacts of sign language interpretation in our local communities. Together, let’s be the change.
Talking Circle/Open Forum 2022 Zoom Online Meetings

The SCRID Board and Committees would like to whole-heartedly thank those of you who attended our first few Talking Circles/Open Forums and invite you to join us again in the new year, 2022! Any and all attendance/active engagement will continue to help shape the direction of SCRID and our collective response to changes in RID at the national level. These sessions are a way to come together, in community, to share, support, and learn from each other’s diverse experiences and wisdom. We all have much to share and so much more to learn. Join, meet and greet, and network!

**Time:** 2nd Tuesdays every month

**Upcoming Dates:**

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Contact Person: Bob LoParo
E-mail: MembershipChair@scrid.org

Emerging Practitioners Committee

SCRID recognizes a need to support and engage emerging practitioners in professional networking and development. To this end, the Board of Directors has created the Emerging Practitioners Committee (EPC) as a way to facilitate this goal. This committee is charged with information sharing between SCRID and local colleges’ and universities’ Interpreter Training Programs, ITP Faculty, and ITP students. The Advisory committee to the EPC allows for stability, given the turnover in ITP programs.

One of the major goals of the committee is to assist practitioners who are new to the field to “bridge the gap” between graduation and work, graduation and continued education, or graduation and certification. Keeping new practitioners connected to SCRID and the interpreting profession can not only successfully support new practitioners with those goals, but will also invite new practitioners to be active in SCRID and RID, helping them influence the future of the field.

If you want to join either the EPC or the Advisory Committee, please send an email to Emerging Practitioners Advisory Committee.

Chair: Steve Barnthouse: emergingpractitioners@scrid.org

Congratulations to the cast members of CODA;
Emilia Jones, Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur, Daniel Durant and Eugenio Derbez.

In March 2022, CODA made history by winning the Best Picture Oscar at the Academy Awards. Since premiering at Sundance in January 2021, it’s been the little indie that could. The film first showed it was a standout by winning four Sundance Film Festival awards, including an audience pick and a jury pick for the best U.S Dramatic Competition.

The 28th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards presented CODA with the Outstanding performance by a cast award. Troy Kotsur was named outstanding performance by a male actor in a supporting role. The victory makes him the first deaf male actor to win a solo SAG Award.

Altogether CODA had 61 wins and 132 nominations!!!
In Loving Memory of Jeffrey Lenham

Jeffrey Lenham, 73, passed away on January 29, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. He was a long-time Hermosa Beach resident of 46 years. Jeff worked as a Professor, Deaf Specialist at El Camino College as well as an ASL teacher at CSUN. He is survived by his loving wife, Sheila, his three daughters, Jami, Mandy and Tammy, son-in-laws Eric and Andrew, and grandchildren. We will miss him dearly.

Celebration of Life will take place at 11:00am on March 20th at Canyon Crest Country Club in Riverside, California. Memorial donations may be made in Jeff Lenham’s name to California School for the Deaf, Riverside. Please sign the guestbook at dailybreeze.com/obits.

3. Workshop Review and announcements

BASL, WHAT THAT?

December 4th, 2021, SCRID hosted the workshop “BASL, WHAT THAT?” Presented by Vyron Kinson

Below is a sampling of comments SCRID received.

- Wonderful presentation by Vyron and the other two ladies.
- Enjoyed this workshop would suggest not answering questions during presentation but rather have it at the end. It stopped the flow of presentation.
- The information was great and I learned so much!! I think his delivery was great and he showed so much grace when answering questions.
- Great presentation! I loved it. Thank you for putting it together. I definitely learned a lot.
- Fantastic info. I wish it could be longer and would love to have him present on any other topic.
- This presentation was very insightful and by far my favorite related to BASL. I look forward to seeing this presenter more in the future.
- Excellent presentation! Would also love one discussing more about BASL signs and culturally appropriate decision-making for interpreters.
- Excellent speaker. I thought he would teach some BASL but understand he wants us to learn that from the community who uses BASL.
- This was an amazing start (seed) of information on a subject "little known". Thank you so much and I look forward to more in the future. I wish this one could have been longer.

● Great presentation! I loved it. Thank you for putting it together. I definitely learned a lot.

● Fantastic info. I wish it could be longer and would love to have him present on any other topic.

● This presentation was very insightful and by far my favorite related to BASL. I look forward to seeing this presenter more in the future.

● Great presentation! I loved it. Thank you for putting it together. I definitely learned a lot.
Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Calendar

Board meetings present an opportunity for members to raise discussion points on anything relevant to SCRID and our interpreting profession. Time is scheduled directly to allow this opportunity. What questions do you have related to interpreting that would be beneficial to discuss as a community? What would you like to see from SCRID that would raise its relevance to you and our local profession? This is an opportunity for members to get involved and create the relevant organization we all desire!

SCRID will continue to hold meetings and events on Zoom until we can safely meet face-to-face again. At that time SCRID plans to offer two options for participation. In person or online. Unless otherwise stated, our Board meetings are open to SCRID members and non-members. These meetings are your opportunity to raise your concerns and share your ideas. What questions do you have related to interpreting that would be beneficial to discuss as a community? What would you like to see from SCRID that would raise its relevance to you and our local? This is your opportunity to get involved and create the relevant organization we all desire!

To view the fiscal calendar please click on the calendar.

Board of Directors

President: Stephanie Webb
vicepresident@scrid.org

Vice President: Kathy Goodson
vicepresident@scrid.org

Secretary: Andrea Lust
secretary@scrid.org

Treasurer: Marjorie Foster
treasurer@scrid.org

Deaf Member-at-Large: Keith Gamache, Jr.
deafmemberatlarge@scrid.org

Diversity Member-at-Large: Vacant
diversitymemberatlarge@scrid.org

Interpreter of Deaf Parents Member-at-Large:
Paola Morales
dpmemberatlarge@scrid.org

Committee Chairs

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