

2017 IAD and IRID Conference

Illinois Association of the Deaf (IAD) and IRID (Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) partnered together to host the 2017 IAD and IRID Conference from June 22 - 25, 2017 at the Hotel Indigo in Naperville. The conference was a smashing success with more than 300 people in attendance!



Conference Highlights

The four-day conference highlighted improving communication access, fostering client/interpreter relationships, and enabling collaboration between the Deaf and Interpreting communities.

- Keynote presenter was Howard Rosenblum, CEO of NAD, who presented “Advocacy, Bridges, and Communication: A Roadmap to Success.”
- Plenary speaker was Ryan Commerson. Ryan presented “Deconstructing Disabilities.”
- There were a number of additional workshops, allowing deaf individuals and interpreters to share their experiences and perspectives.
- A handful of well-known sponsors and vendors such as Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD), CHS (Chicago Hearing Society), CAIRS, Sorenson, DEAF Inc., Purple, Interprettek, Morgan Stanley and Vineya were present to showcase their products/services and answer questions.



- Aside from speakers and presentations, there was also time for entertainment during the evening hours: youth talent show, dinner outings and improv comedy shows. Since downtown central Naperville is home to many local restaurants, parks, small specialty stores and bars within walking distance from the hotel, conference attendees did not run out of things to do. Additionally, parking was plentiful, free and some of us did not have to use our cars for several days.



- A silent auction with different items ranging from craft products, to wine baskets, even a flat screen television was held during the conference. There were many entered bids, and bidders had their fingers crossed to win the item(s) they were interested in at the conclusion of the conference.



- On the last day of the conference, the newly elected IAD Officers and Board Members met to discuss the newly identified priorities voted on by the members. The 2017-2019 priorities are as follows:

1) Education Strategy Team

IAD shall have an Education Strategy Team consisting of key stakeholders (e.g., teachers, interpreters, Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind, and parents) to identify the top issues in Deaf Education in Illinois, conduct outreach to solicit feedback from the community and determine a course of action pertaining to deaf education reform, including a Deaf Child Bill of Rights and promotion of bilingual education.

2) Illinois Deaf Alliance

IAD shall take the lead in establishing an alliance of organizations serving individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and/or DeafBlind.

3) Captioning in all Public Places

IAD shall develop a task force to develop recommendations for proceeding with legislative action to mandate captioning in all public places in Illinois.

4) Interpreting Rules and Regulations

IAD shall collaborate with the Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (IRID) to develop comprehensive recommendations for interpreting rules and regulations.

5) Establish a Jr. IAD Program

IAD shall establish a formal Jr. IAD program.

- IAD held its elections to nominate or re-nominate officers for the 2017-2019 terms. Election results as followed:

IAD Officers for 2017-2019 (as shown from left to right)

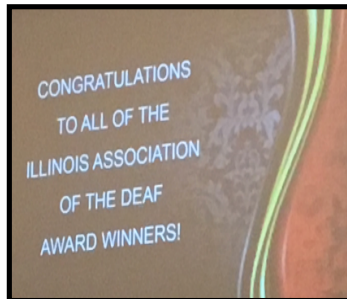
- **President:** Corey Axelrod (re-elected)
- **Vice President:** Kevin Ryan (re-elected)
- **Secretary:** Leon Devriendt
- **Treasurer:** Lisa Roth (re-elected)
- **Membership Secretary:** Elke Weinbrenner



Trustees

6 years: Ramesh Phadke
4 years: Marietta Coufal
2 years: Deloris Summers

Special Recognition Awards were given to recognize individuals and organizations for their contributions to IAD and the deaf community.



- **Meritorious Service Award:** Carol Nemecek-Kowalski
- **Sprit of the IAD Award:** Deloris De Summers
- **Lowell J. Meyers, J.D Award for Excellence in Accessibility Advocacy:**
 Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf
- **Youth Leadership Award:** Andrew Wisniewski
- **Senior Citizen Award:** Jim Lomanto
- **Michael K Berger Presidential Award:** Jason Altmann

Additional Highlight: IRID also held their officer elections during the conference. Teri Hedding, who is deaf and works at Sinai Health System as the Sinai Deaf Community Relations and Research Coordinator, was nominated the first ever Deaf President for IRID. Congratulations, Teri!

If you ever bump into any of the newly/re-elected officers or award winners - be sure to congratulate them!

Lastly, we want to again thank our numerous IAD and IRID volunteers, IAD Committees and vendors who helped make this conference a success.

August 2017

by Donald Moore, IAD Media

Details for the next biennial conference in 2019 will be determined and announced sometime in the near future. We hope to see you at the 2019 IAD Biennial Conference!