



Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc.

P.O. Box 10085
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2015 KAD Conference Highlights

The 43rd Biennial Kansas Association of the Deaf Conference was held in conjunction with Kansas Association of Interpreters-Registry Interpreters for the Deaf (KAI-RID) at KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kansas on June 11-13, 2015. It is the first time in history that both organizations working together which was awesome. Chairperson Lorrie Shank and her committee consisting of an equal number of both organizations did an amazing job as teamwork of hosting the conference. The conference's theme was "Express Yourself: Allies through Sign Language." The conference attracted 241 registered people - both Deaf community and Interpreters. It had 24 Exhibition Booths and twelve (12) sponsors, plus six (6) in-kinds.

On Thursday afternoon, June 11th, the conference kicked off with three (3) workshops and KAI-RID Business Meeting from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at KU Edwards. The workshops were as follows:

"Update on KCDHH and Interpreter Registration" by Robert Cooper

"Cherish Your Deaf Club" by LaDonna Snyder

"Kansas Community Action Plan: Protectors of Kansas Rights" by Mindi LeMoine and Kim Anderson

On Thursday evening, June 11th, the President's Welcome Reception and Networking was held at Hawthorne Suite Executive Village, that was where most of the participants spent nights at the hotel. It attracted about 70 registered participants, and had refreshments consisting of various wines and cheese, crackers, fruits. President Ann Cooper and KAI-RID Acting President Kim Bates each gave welcome remarks with introduction to Jenny Buechner, NAD Region 2 board member who was present, and RID Region IV representative Connie Herndon who was not present.

On Friday, June 12th, the conference keynote speaker Nigel Howard, a CDI from Vancouver, BC, Canada gave his presentation, "Deaf and Hearing Spaces: Enculturation and Acculturation" that lasted for two hours. On the rest of day, there were 12 workshops were conducted as follows:

"The NAD-Where are we Headed?" by Jenny Buechner

"To Be, or Not to Be, an Ally of Deaf People" by Chriz Dally

"Why is the Deaf Community Changing?" by Robert Cooper

"Dynamics of Power and Privilege" by Stacy Storme and Heidi Storme

"CDI/DI Teaming: Concept and Construct" by Kimberly Kasick

"Interpreter & SSP: Effective Training with the Deaf Blind" (Part 1) by Harrison Jones, DeLinda Kelly and Scott Dollar

"Deaf Rights vs Interpreter Rights" by Kimberly Kuhns

"What is Really Deaf Interpreting?" by Nigel Howard

"Language of IPEs" by Kym Symansky

"Deaf Whole: Using a Deafhood to Shape our Future" by Chriz Dally

"Just a Pen: A Playful, Creative and Meditative Tool in Doodling" by Kimberly Anderson

"Emergency Preparedness in the Village" by Lisa Bothwell (later cancelled)

On Friday evening, June 12th, there was an entertainment performed by the Anderson Twin Comedy Show by twin brothers Clay (CODA) and Levi (Deaf). Both brothers performed the comedy, telling various stories making people laugh out loud. More than 100 people attended and had marvelous time!

On Saturday morning, June 13th, KAD General Meeting was held from 8:00am to 12:00 noon. There were over 40 registered members in attendance. The meeting covered President's Address (2-year Highlights), Officers' Reports, Resolutions, proposals for both Bylaws and Finance, New Business, 2016 picnic/workshop, election and oath of 2015-2017 officers. One of the motion made in the New Business during the meeting is to have another conjunction conference with KAI-RID in 2017.

The 2016 KAD Picnic/Mini-workshop was awarded to Olathe. The 2017 KAD Conference, again in conjunction with KAI-RID, will be determined at a later time during both KAD and KAI-RID Board meeting together in the coming weeks.

Officers' elections were held and the officers are:

- President: Ann Cooper, Gardner, re-elected
- Vice President: Kym Symansky, Olathe, newly elected
- Secretary: Christine Mosiman, Olathe, newly elected
- Treasurer: Lorrie Shank, Leavenworth, re-elected
- Youth Coordinator: Jean Scammey, Olathe, newly elected
- Two Appointed Board Members: Chriz Dally, Olathe, and Mary Hughes, Lenexa, both appointed by KAD Board
- K-CAP Chairperson: Kim Anderson, Lansing, elected by K-CAP committee members
- The 2017 conference chairperson position is currently vacant, and when chosen, that individual will join the new 2015-17 KAD Board in the near future.

Right after the conclusion of the KAD General Meeting, a youth workshop, "Youth Program at NAD" was conducted by NAD Region 2 Board Jenny Buechner with 3 youths plus numerous of participants after they go and grab the box lunches.

On Saturday, June 13th, the continuous of the last 11 workshops were conducted as follows:

- "The Art of Sounding Good in the Hot Seat" by Theresa Richard
- "Interpreter & SSP: Effective Training with the Deaf Blind" (Part 2) by Harrison Jones, DeLinda Kelly and Scott Dollar
- "Interpreting in Medical Settings" (Part 1 in the morning) by Nigel Howard
- "Seeds of Language" by Kester and Petra Horn-Marsh
- "Aiming High & Hitting the Mark: Professional Growth" by Kim Bates
- "Ethics in Action - Steps toward Ethical Decision Making" by Theresa Richard
- "Developing Strength & Resiliency as Sign Language Interpreter" by Kimberly Enos
- "Interpreting Word Problems" by Molly O'Hara
- "Interpreting in Medical Settings" (Part 2 in the afternoon) by Nigel Howard
- "Working Within the System" by Robert Cooper
- "Kansas Fun Facts" by Kym Symansky

On these three days, a total of twenty-six (26) workshops presented at KU Edwards Campus. However, only one was cancelled. Most of the workshops are applying to participants (mostly interpreters) who needs to earn their CEU (Continued Education Unit) to continue their interpreting services. The CEU becomes a mandate for those Deaf community who wishes to become a CDI (Certified Deaf Interpreters) in the future. The CEU is offered to the interpreters for all RID (Registry Interpreters for the Deaf) approved certifications such as KQAS, MICS. These participants need to be in workshop the entire time (not 15 minutes late or 15 minutes leave early) in order to earn points in CEU. The CEU tracking were handled by the Conference Support Staff.

The participants also must complete online evaluation forms for each workshop. This also applied to the participants who are the Social Workers attending some workshops and earn CE (Continued Education).

Also the special accommodations for these participants (non-signer, deaf-blind) were provided so everyone could learn about various resources that can be used. The equipment/services used for these participants were called Typewell service, DI (Deaf Interpreters) service and Tacile (by hands) service.

On Saturday evening, June 13th, the Closing Banquet - Buffet Style was held at KU Edwards Conference Center. The banquet covered chicken and roasted beef, oven roasted potato with mixed vevs, 7-layers salads, rolls for the buffet dinner, with apple crisps for dessert. Photos of the 3-days events were shown on the screen running continued until both KAD President Ann Cooper and KAI-RID Acting President Kim Bates took the floor and gave short presentations thanking everyone for the successful conference. The committee decided to give a free t-shirt to Nigel Howard as our appreciation for him to come, and he was very impressed to see both Deaf community and interpreters together in one conference.

KAD awards were given as follows:

- One (1) Distinguished Service Award to Robert Cooper for his working hard to get several issues resolved; gave more information on his powerpoint slides during each of commission meeting; ability to attend several meetings on the behalf of KCDHH. He also got several people (both Deaf and Hard of Hearing) working together and ability to track and reach out to these Kansans.
- Two (2) Meritorious Award to Chriz Dally for her wonderful work, and has two positions of representative on the behalf of KAD as KCDHH commission member and Deaf Cultural Center board member, also contacted several legislators on the behalf of KAD and K-CAP, and the coordinator of Deafhood classes. To Ann Cooper for her continuous with many events and gone to different meetings for years on the behalf of KAD, also gone to several sites and give the powerpoint presentation about KAD's history, and started the K-CAP program and on committee for two years.
- Two (2) NAD Golden Hand Awards to Kim Anderson, Chairperson of K-CAP that was created after the Legislative Training on April 2013, and continues as the role of facilitator. To Lorrie Shank for her role as a chairperson of the 2015 KAD/KAI-RID Conference that brought in as many as 26 workshops
- One (1) President's Award to Kansas Community Action Plan (K-CAP) which is in active with over 20 committee members under chair of Kim Anderson, continuing the monthly meetings on the first week (Monday and Thursday by turns) each month, working on K-CAP's priority areas.
- Each gift of a little heart jewelry box with each board members' names and positions engraved were given out to the Board members given by President Ann Cooper

After the KAD awards, everyone went to the lobby area for group photos. Next, the board had a wrap-up meeting for about an hour.

This concluded the SUCCESSFUL conference and the wonderful chairperson in Lorrie Shank, until the next one in 2017. Next...see you all at the 2017 KAD/KAI-RID Conference!!!

It was good opportunity for interpreters, especially new interpreters, to interact with Deaf members and they developed better appreciation for Deaf Culture and Deaf people's abilities, thus helping them learn how to become allies. And, also, another important thing was that trust and respect was developed between both Deaf and interpreters on the committee which will transfer in discussions on other community issues such as KCDHH's transition to NIC and K-CAP's goals to improve standards of interpreting for the Deaf.