NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2002

IMPACT

INDEPENDENTLY MERGING
PARENT ASSOCIATIONS
OF CALIFORNIA

Together for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kids

1-877-322-7299 WWW.DEAFKIDS.ORG

In this issue:

Statewide Educational Interpreter Standards

2002 Cal-Ed / IMPACT Conference Coverage

2002 Deaf Academic Bowl

Summer Camps

Parent Links "Key Parents" Needed

IMPACT Newsletter
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CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

On March 8th, families and teachers from all over California converged on the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento to work towards a common goal – improving the quality of educational programs for deaf and hard of hearing children statewide. "Treasuring the Past...Blazing New Trails" was a tremendous success this year -- literally a sold-out show -- and the conference organizers, Sandy Harvey and Nancy Grosz-Sager, worked hard to ensure that the conference offered something for everyone. Cheri-Barden and Linda Ross rose to the challenge of providing a children's program for twice as many children as had originally been planned for (!) and families were uniformly enthusiastic about the quality of their efforts. NorCal Center on Deafness graciously donated a team of their best interpreters in in a show of support for IMPACT, Cal-Ed, and an event that has become so important to so many parents, kids and teachers.

(continued on page 4)

IMPACT BOARD

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E-mail addresses for board members can be found at:

WWW.DEAFKIDS.ORG

What is IMPACT?

IMPACT is an organization of parents, teachers and professionals serving deaf and hard of hearing children. Our organization was established in 1986 with 12 parents and has a current membership of over 400. We are supported and encouraged by a host of organizations serving the deaf community. IMPACT's purpose is to meet the needs of the parents we serve.

IMPACT Mission Statement

We as parents, members and professionals of the deaf and hard of hearing community are rising up as a single voice. Regardless of communication modalities, we stand united in the task of getting the very best for our children. We will take no less than quality education for our children, support and early intervention for our families, information and education for our parents.

Support IMPACT

IMPACT needs your support to continue advocating on the behalf of you and your deaf or hard of hearing child. We currently offer four levels of membership. For as little as $30 a year, you can support our efforts and qualify for a registration discount at our annual Cal-Ed/IMPACT conference. All members of IMPACT also receive a copy of the IMPACT newsletter mailed directly to their homes.

If you would like to learn more about IMPACT or need this organization's assistance in any matter related to your child's education, please feel free to contact us at 1-877-322-7299 or visit www.deafkids.org.

Interpreter Standards Need Your Support

Dear Interested Folks:

I wanted to let everyone know that the California Department of Education has proposed regulatory language that will establish qualification standards for educational interpreters in California's public schools. The standards have been sent out by the State Board of Education for a 45-day public input period There will be a public hearing regarding the standards at the State Board meeting on May 30.

The entire standards are posted on the CDE website at:

www.cde.ca.gov/regulations/

(Scroll down to find "Educational Interpreter Standards")

In a nutshell, the regulations propose that, by January 1, 2007, all educational interpreters in California shall be "RID certified or equivalent."

The wording "RID certified or equivalent" was chosen because: 1) it is consistent with other state laws, 2) it allows us to consider the RID and NAD certifications, as well as assessments that have been developed specifically for educational interpreters and have been nationally recognized, 3) it allows us to accept the RID/NAD combined certification when it is ready, and 4) in the unlikely event that the RID goes belly up, we won't be left with nothing.

In our original proposal to the Board, we asked for *both* certification and completion of an interpreter training program (ITP).. The fiscal office denied that request, saying to require both would impose a state-mandated cost. We opted for certification as the requirement, feeling that most interpreters would not be able to pass a certification assessment without having completed an ITP anyway.

Please read through the information on the website. I strongly encourage you to send letters and/or provide testimony at the public hearing.

Nancy Sager

Nancy Sager *is the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs Consultant for the California Department of Education, and serves on the boards of both IMPACT and Cal-Ed.*

If you are would like to contribute a letter or article to the IMPACT newsletter, please send your information, along with a phone number and e-mail address (when available) to:

IMPACT Newsletter
c/o Jason Gillespie
626 N. Arbona Circle
Sonora, CA 95370

IMPACT Membership Application

Full Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms _____
Address: _____
City:_____ State: ____ ZIP: _____
Home Phone: _____ (Specify voice or TTY)
Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

_____Parent **_____Professional**
_____Student **_____Social Agency**
_____Business **_____Legislator**

Enclosed is my contribution:
_____ Advocate ($500)
_____ Supporter ($300)
_____ Booster ($100)
_____ Family/Individual ($30)

I am a:

____ New Member **_____Renewing**

Please complete this form, clip it out, and mail it along with your check to:

IMPACT Treasurer
42101 Camino Santa Barbara • Fremont, CA 94539

Conference

(continued from page 1)

Working at the registration tables on Friday afternoon, I was impressed with the diverse backgrounds of people attending the conference. “Veteran” IMPACT families, parents of newly-identified babies, teachers, members of the Deaf community, researchers, paraprofessionals and so many other people with the desire to enrich the education and lives of deaf and hard of hearing children...in a word, wow. I was touched considering the ways in which this conference had impacted my life in the past, and the ways in which it would touch others’ lives over the course of the next three days.

As a board member, one of my frustrations has been that I no longer have much time to attend the various workshops. It takes a concerted effort on the part of many devoted volunteers to pull off a conference of this size and scope. At the very least, I was able to attend the keynote addresses, the luncheon, the Saturday-night “hoedown” and a few other isolated events. Some conference going-ons were especially memorable to me this year. Doris Thomas, a deaf woman belonging to the Whistling Water Clan of the River Crow, performed a Native American Blessing at the luncheon that was quite remarkable. I also have a fond memory of a long line of children - little ones - being herded along inside the labyrinth of corridors and hallways that made up the conference hotel. Each child was clutching a single balloon, smiling or laughing as the many volunteers from the children’s program scrambled alongside and behind them. And although both keynote speakers were excellent, I was especially impressed with Mary Pat Moeller. Her speech focused on the special challenges of designing parent education programs that not only support and teach parents, but help to *empower* them as well -- giving them the confidence to become active, skilled teachers for their own children.

I was very pleased to meet a young Spanish-speaking family, first-time conference attendees, arriving at the registration table. They were quickly joined by a young woman who introduced herself as their Spanish interpreter. I’m not sure why I felt excited to see them there -- maybe because I know that reaching out to Spanish-speaking families is a challenge that many of our programs are facing, or because I believe these parents to be generally underserved in California -- but I felt very proud that IMPACT and Cal-Ed were there to offer them our support, our understanding, and our encouragement as they took their first steps into this new and sometimes overwhelming world.

Onward to the 2003 conference!

One Parent's View

By Kay Robles
IMPACT Board

This was my first visit to the Cal-Ed/IMPACT conference. The keynote speakers, Dr. Robert Davila and Mary Pat Moeller were informative and inspirational. When Mary Pat Moeller said "If you create a program that meets parents' needs, they will come", I prayed that our administrators who were in attendance would pursue that advice.

The workshops had a variety of topics to choose from. I really enjoyed the "Technology in the Classroom" workshop which modeled for us some of the computer programs (Clicker, Inspiration, and KidPix) that are educational, visual and vocal. Ensuring Equal Access to Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: A View from OCR was also an informative workshop that included a discussion on our children's rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The roundtable discussions also had a variety of topics. I went to the advocacy table that was set up by Norcal (The Northern California Center on Deafness). This was a good choice to go to as it was the only place I found information on parent resources such as parent groups, NICHY, KidsWorld, Deafnet, ASDC, Listen-up Web and other information specifically for parents.

I got a wealth of information from the exhibitors, including NTID, Gallaudet University, CSDF, California State University Northridge, CCHAT, California Telephone Access Program and many others. The Gallaudet University exhibit was where I picked up the majority of my exhibitor information. Besides information on the University, they offered booklets on such topics as *Student Life in the New Millennium: Empowering Education for Deaf Students*, *Planning for Literacy: Guidelines for Instruction*, *The Shared Reading Project: Evaluating Implementation Processes and Family Outcomes*, and so much more.

I want to say thank you to everyone who so graciously volunteered their time at this conference and especially to the volunteers at the children's program; it was fantastic. All 3 of my children attended the program which included a field trip to a railroad museum and a trip to the mall for the older kids. My children made new friends and are already making plans to attend next year's conference. The kids did a closing performance for us that brought tears to my eyes. It was a wonderful experience for my family.

Impact Awards 2002

Teacher of the Year
Alice Tenscher Dunbar
Infant / Preschool Teacher
Placer County

Administrator of the Year
Shelly Gravatt
Curriculum Specialist - Special Needs, Career and Technology Education and Work Experience Program at CSD Riverside

Professional of the Year
Rosemary W. Diaz
Executive Director
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center, Fresno

Outstanding Contributor
Harley R. Lee
Producer of dDeaf World
Local cable channel on sign language and deafness

Legislator of the Year
John A. Dutra
Assemblymember, 20th Assembly District - Supporter of AB855

The George Attletweed Award
Richard Crow
Retired; Formerly with State Special Schools and Services Division, CDE
(and much, much more!)

Uni Deaf Academic Bowl team heading for nationals

By Vu Nguyen
Irvine World News
April 11, 2002
Reprinted with permission

Although it is two weeks away, University High Deaf Academic Bowl team member Alaina Talbot said she's already thinking about bringing home the school's first national title.

The senior's season abruptly ended last year when the team took third place in the Western Regionals.

But this year's squad swept through the Western Regionals in Fremont going undefeated against 13 schools from California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Colorado on March 2. In the championship game, the five-member team dominated their cross-town rivals, the California School for the Deaf, Riverside, 75 to 32.

"They won eight straight matches," said University High School deaf and hard of hearing program principal, Jon Levy. "This is a huge accomplishment for these students. They have been working hard for the last five months to prepare for this competition."

The five students and their coaches have their bags packed for the April 20-23 national tournament at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. and will be competing against the top ten deaf schools in the United States. "They did outstanding," said first-year head coach Alan Davary. "The team's dynamics were wonderful and they placed way above expectation. They practiced for two hours on all ten categories every Wednesday since the fall."

Junior Aston Sanderson said he is confident that the team will do well in the capitol. "I think we have a really good chance of winning this year. Everyone has this expectation for us to bring home a national title, but we'll relax until it gets close," he said. "Nationals is a precarious competition. It's the epitome of the academic experience."

The Deaf Academic Bowl works similarly to the television game show Jeopardy with questions that range from literature, history, and science, to mathematics, deaf studies, and entertainment. Teams compete by submitting their answers to questions on a screen that projects to the audience and judges. The team that gets the correct answer up on the projector first wins the point.

Three-year veteran Nate Elliott said in the past the team relied on one member to score the majority of the points, but with the new format, everything is dependent on cooperation. Talbot agreed with Elliott. "It's all about trusting your teammates," she said. "Teamwork is so important here because some people have strengths and it makes better sense to focus on one task."

Levy said he knows his students will have a strong showing this year, but he hopes that they get more out of competition than just winning. "They are a sharp team and they have a good chance," he said. "But just the opportunity to compete in the national level, I think they are champions already."

University High School Deaf Academic Bowl team for 2002, from left to right: Clay Stearns, Nathan Elliot, Josh Allmann, Alaina Talbot, Ashton Sanderson, and coach Alan Davary

A program of the California Coalition of
Agencies Serving the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

KEY PARENT LINKS WANTED

The feeling of being connected or linked may be one of life's sweetest moments – when someone understands you, really understands you, because they have "been there".

If you would like to be a volunteer ***Link*** (resource, friend, seasoned parent) for a family just finding out their baby is deaf or hard of hearing, please fill out the attached form and return it to

PARENTLINKS
1820 Tribute Road, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95815

Additional information about **Key Parent Links** will be sent to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Age of your deaf/hard of hearing child _____

School/Program your child attends _____

Program funded by The California Endowment

Summer Camps for deaf and hard of hearing kids 2002

Camp Grizzly
NorCal Center on Deafness
(near Nevada City, CA)

August 18-24, 2002
$150 by July 22, 2002
Register early!
Contact: Camp Grizzly
1820 Tribute Rd., Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 921-1045 TTY?Voice
(916) 921-1199 FAX
CampGrizzlyLC@aol.com
www.NorCalCenter.org

Camp Pacifica
California Lions Camp
(near Yosemite)

Session 1: July 28-August 3
Session 2: August 4-11
$300 per child; scholarships available. Register early!
Contact: California Lions Camp
Bryan Berrett, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2035
Clovis, CA 93613
(559) 323-9995 Voice/FAX
(559) 323-8194 TTY
CaliforniaLions@netscape.net
www.californialionscamp.org

Other Camps to Consider

Camp Sylvester
Pinecrest, CA
Contact: Beverly Proppes
Lions Wilderness Camp for Deaf Children
1409 Jackson
Selma, CA 93662-2538
(877) 896-1598 voice/TTY

Deaf Kids Camp
P.O. Box 4190
Lancaster, CA 9538-4190
Attn: Buffy Sproul

Girl Scouts of America Camps
P.O. Box 2249
Oakland, CA 94621-0149
1-800-447-4475
joan@girlscoutsbayarea.org

ARC San Diego Camp-a-Little
9285 Chespapeake Dr., Suite O
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 874-3243 voice
(858) 874-3250 FAX

This is only a partial listing! A complete and up-to-date camp listing is maintained at www.deafkids.org.

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www.deafkids.org

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