

December 19, 2011

Greetings Interpreters,

First of all, thank you for electing me as your president. In spite of my term starting July 1st, I think the board would agree with me when I say that we are just now feeling as though we have a better grip on what we have tasked before us. With that in mind I'd like to take a moment to let you know about some of the latest news:

- The priority for the board, once we took office, was getting the website up and going again. We were thrilled that Brenda Carpenter agreed to head the Website Design Committee. She has already done great things, and I am thankful to her and those who serve on the committee with her. Some of you may not know that in years past Brenda's work won OKRID recognition on the national level for the website. I am thankful for Brenda and her effort on this task. If you have not taken a look at the website, please do. <http://okrid.org>.
- The 2nd major focus was finding someone to chair the OKRID conference for 2012. We were thrilled to have Rhoda Smietanski take that position. She has jumped into the work with both feet, and it is clear that the conference is coming together very well. Chairing a conference planning committee is time-consuming and carries a big responsibility. I hope you will join me in thanking Rhoda and her committee members for all the work, time and creativity they have invested in making the conference great for interpreters.
- Something that greatly affects you and causes some grief for the board is dealing with the membership cycle and renewals. The OKRID bylaws outline that the membership term runs from July 1st to June 30. The practice of many Oklahoma Interpreters is to renew in or around January of each year in correlation with the annual conference. Because of that, many interpreters are not currently members. With the reduced pool of interpreters, the board has its' hands tied. We cannot act on many tasks. For example, individuals who have been nominated for awards cannot be considered because those individuals are not members. The way to resolve this is to renew July 1st. You will enjoy a full year's worth of membership and be contributing to your organization tremendously.

Soon we will be meeting at the conference. I am looking forward to all that has been planned. OKRID needs your help before the conference. We need for you to consider nominating someone for the Richard Mullins Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Please contact Suzanne Graham with your nominations at [fingerscreamer@yahoo.com](mailto:fingerscreamer@yahoo.com).

Another item that needs your consideration before the conference is the nomination for President-Elect. I am willing to serve another term, but you may have someone else in mind. If so, please be sure to let Suzanne Graham know. She will need to verify if the person meets the

qualification requirements, according to the bylaws, before announcing the candidates to be voted on. Nominations can be made at the beginning of the conference.

With Christmas and New Year's just around the corner, I hope that you will be spending and enjoying time with family and friends. As you look to 2012, I would ask that you consider getting involved in OKRID. Becoming involved is as simple as serving on a committee. If we all serve a little, OKRID could do amazing things.

The OKRID board is here to serve you. We want to see the interpreting and deaf community's benefit from our organization, but we need you to do it!

Merry Christmas!  
Janice Woods, President  
OKRID 2011-12