

# Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



## President's Updates

Hello ALRID Members! I hope each of you are doing well. This time of year is abundant with change. The leaves are changing colors and starting to fall to the ground. The time change has brought a darker ride home. The weather continues to cause confusion with it's changes- sleeve length is always in question! With any change, there can be a range of emotions, from apprehension to excitement, but with in each change is always a new opportunity.

ALRID has seen several changes recently- a new board, a new vision, and even a new Facebook page! Unlike the weather, these changes are not creating confusion but creating clarity. I know I am so thankful for the opportunity that has come from this change to serve on the board and connect with the communities within ALRID. One the first opportunities the board had was to attend and participate in a strategic planning retreat. The Board met in September to discuss our mission and vision. We had an incredible time together learning more about one another, but more importantly gained a renewed excitement for serving the communities of ALRID. We brainstormed areas in which ALRID could lead, serve and connect within the profession of interpreting as well as the Deaf community. One of our action items as a board is to host a Meet and Greet in each region in the state. The purpose of the Meet and Greet is to meet the members and community in that region as well as share the direction we are going. I would like to personally invite each of you to attend the meet and greet in your region as well as seek out an opportunity for you to lead, connect and serve. You can contact your region representative or myself if you need some help plugging in.

The renewed vision and direction of ALRID is really nothing new, it really comes from the rich history that first established ALRID years ago. There is a legacy of interpreters and Deaf people that have led, served and connected within our state. They created change that impacted the profession and community, which opened the door for numerous opportunities for each of us today. I look forward to meeting each of you and serving alongside you as we create change within the state of Alabama.

Your President,

Chris McGaha

November 2016

### Board of Directors

- **President:** Chris McGaha (Chelsea)
- **Vice President:** Sue Graham (Sylacauga)
- **Secretary:** Diana Wagoner (Montevallo)
- **Treasurer:** Sharon Spencer (Seminole)
- **Member-at-Large:** Jodie Jernigan (Montgomery)
- **Member-at-Large:** Stacie Yarbrough (Huntsville)
- **Student Representative:** Henley Curry (Troy ITP)
- **AAD Representative:** Ben Hollingsworth (Huntsville)
- **Immediate Past President:** Susan Gordon (Tuscaloosa)

### Region Representatives

**Region 1:** Dawn Vanzo (Harvest)

**Region 2:** Dawn Vanzo (until 2017)

**Region 3:** Pat Smartt (Sterrett)

**Region 4:** Part Smartt (until 2017)

**Region 5:** Amanda Liddie (Montgomery)

**Region 6:** Sophia Nelson (Semmes)

**Region 7:** Judy Robertson (Troy)

## Board Retreat

In September, the board went to Camp McDowell for a weekend of strategic planning focused on our mission statement, vision, and trajectory for the next two years. We worked long hours, discussed lots of information, gained new insights on ALRID, learned a lot, ate some great food, and really got to know each other. Ask any of the board members about this retreat, and they will say it was worth it. Here's a little insight for you all on our weekend ...



## Region 5 Meet and Greet Update

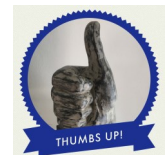
On November 1st, Region 5 held their first Meet and Greet at the AIDB Montgomery Regional Center. The Troy ITP showed their attendance in a big way. There were four deaf and a few of Region 5 interpreters in attendance. Chris shared ALRID's new goals as new board members have stepped up and a lot of different subjects were discussed. Region 5 made a plan for what type of workshops they would like to see in the future. Overall, it was a great time to brainstorm about what direction Region 5 will go in the next two years.



## President's "Thumbs-Up" Corner

The Alabama interpreting community and Deaf community are filled with great people leading, serving, and connecting in amazing ways. Many times, these people go unnoticed. ALRID wants to honor the people and the efforts being made to build and shape the communities in Alabama. I want to give the following people a "Thumbs-Up!"

- \* **Diana Wagoner**
- \* **Sharon Spencer**
- \* **Melvin Walker**
- \* **Susan Lambert**
- \* **Ted Kotis**



Like us at our NEW Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AlabamaRID/](http://www.facebook.com/AlabamaRID/)

Check with your Region Representative about their ALRID Region page!

If you know someone who is impacting the profession and the community, let us know by emailing [president@alrid.org](mailto:president@alrid.org).

# Your Board is THANKFUL...

I'm from Prattville, AL and I'm **THANKFUL** for my close family.  
 -Jodie Jernigan, Member-at-large

I live in Loxley, AL. I am **THANKFUL** for my family, friends & ALRID!  
 -Henley Curry, Student

I'm from Chelsea, AL and I am **THANKFUL** for family movie night, my profession which offers daily challenges and the people on the ALRID Board.

I live in Seminole, AL and I am **THANKFUL** for waking up everyday!  
 -Sharon Spencer, Treasurer

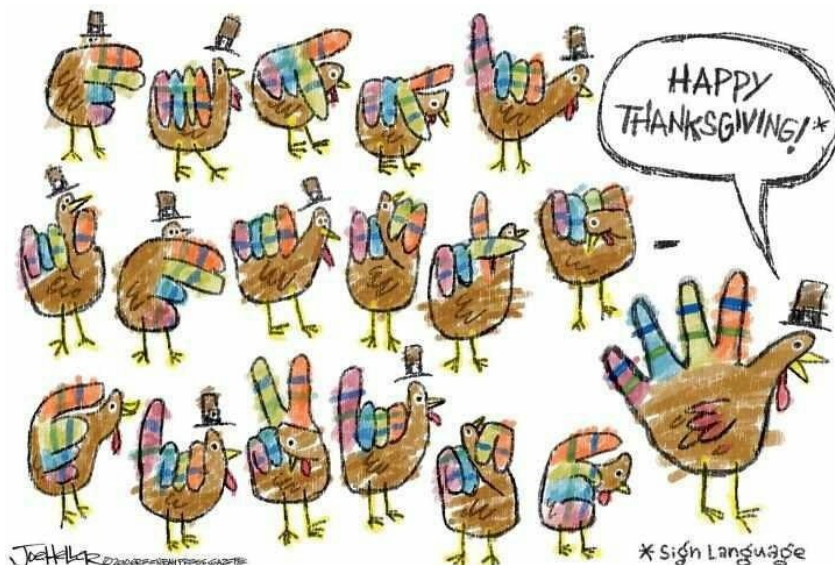
This is Dawn and I am **THANKFUL** for the chance to witness and be inspired by the lives of those around me. The beauty that is being human.  
 -Dawn Vanzo, Regions 1 and 2 Representative

I am Amanda Liddie and I am **THANKFUL** for the people who support me in my professional journey.  
 - Amanda Liddle, Region 5 Representative

I'm in Montevallo, AL and I am **THANKFUL** for my family, my friends, and laughter.  
 -Diana Wagoner, Secretary

I'm from Sterrett, Alabama and I'm **THANKFUL** for my family, my friends and my interpreting colleagues.  
 -Pat Smartt, Regions 3 and 4

I am from Sylacauga and I am **THANKFUL** for surviving Breast Cancer and seeing my great grandchildren.  
 -Sue Graham, Vice President



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
November 29, 2016, 2:00– 3:00 PM	ALRID President and Student Representative to speak with Troy students	Troy Campus	For more information on this event, contact Chris at president@alrid.org
November 29, 2016 6:00– 8:00 PM	Spirit Night with the ALRID President	Chic-Fil– A, Troy AL 1121 US 231 Troy, AL	This event is a fundraiser for the Deaf Learning Program
December 2, 2016	Singing Santa	Brookwood Village Homewood, AL	This event is an in- terpreted event. For more information see their Facebook page
December 5, 2016 12:00 PM	Alabama/Georgia Deaf Sen- iors Lunch	Warm Springs	
December 6, 2016 2:00– 4:00 PM	Christmas Open House	AIDB Montgomery Regional Center	
December 6, 2016 5:30– 7:00 PM	Region 6 Meet and Greet	1535 S. Schillinger Road, Suite B Mobile, AL	For questions or RSVP, please contact Sophia Nelson at re- gion6@alrid.org or 251- 709-1740
December 10, 2016 10:00 AM	Region 2 Meet and Greet	ADRS Huntsville 1000 Johnson Road Huntsville, AL	For questions or to RSVP please contact Dawn Vanzo at re- gion2@alrid.org
December 12, 2016 6:00– 8:00 PM	Region 3 Meet and Greet	North Shelby Library 5521 Cahaba Valley Road Birmingham, AL	For questions or to RSVP please contact Pat Smartt at region3@alrid.org
December 13, 2016	Christmas Open House/ Celebration	AIDB Tusculumbia Regional Center	
December 15, 2016 11:00 AM	Christmas Open House/ Celebration	AIDB Huntsville Regional Center	
December 15, 2015 7:00 PM	ALRID Board Meeting	Virtual/Conference Call	For more details on this, please contact Chris at president@alrid.org

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Have something you want included in the  
next ALRID newsletter? Send it to  
beth.overland@rehab.alabama.gov or sec-  
retary@alrid.org.