

Bonnie-Lynn Barker

Bonnie-Lyn Barker has been signing since the late '70's and interpreting professionally since 1987 when she received her AA degree in ASL/English Interpretation in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She received her B.S. degree in Signed Language Interpreting from the University of New Mexico in 1995 and completed the Master Mentor Program through Northeastern University in 2005. She is one of 50 interpreters who have been awarded certification by the Association of Visual Language of Canada (AVLIC) since it began testing in 1990. She holds her CI/CT and NIC Master certification from RID. She has been an interpreter, interpreter trainer, workshop presenter, and interpreter consultant. She is presently the Interpreter Coordinator at the New Mexico School for the Deaf, and a Master's student in Communications at the University of New Mexico.

Peggy Cobb

Peggy Cobb has been certified and interpreting professionally since 1988. Her current certifications include Texas BEI IV, Court Interpreter Certification and RID CI and CT. Peggy's interpreting experiences include medical, mental health, legal, educational, religious and more. She has presented various skill-building workshops throughout Texas and served on the Advisory committee for Tarrant County College Interpreter Preparation Program for over 10 years. She holds an A.A. degree in Interpreting from Tarrant County College and a B.A.S. degree from Dallas Baptist University. Currently teaching American Sign Language to High School students, Peggy also enjoys Video Relay Interpreting for Sorenson Communications.

Layla D'Entremont

Layla D'Entremont is currently an interpreter with Sorenson Video Relay Service as well as a freelance interpreter. She has been an interpreter educator, an interpreter coordinator, a community interpreter, a workshop presenter, and guest speaker. She has 10 years of experience in the interpreting profession. She has presented on interpreting topics such as: Effective Decision Making Strategies for Interpreters, Team Interpreting, How to Give and Receive Feedback, and Legal Interpreting Settings. She has taught Introduction to the Interpreting Profession and Interpreting I at Collin County Community College. Layla has a passion for interpreting, cross cultural communication techniques, and Deaf Culture. She holds RID CI/CT certification, Texas Level V and Court Interpreter Certification and has an Associates Degree from the Interpreter Training Program of Collin County Community College

Doug Dittfurth

Doug Dittfurth's undergraduate study was Habilitation of the Deaf, Texas Christian University/Ft. Worth and he has Master of Education degrees in Counseling and Psychometrics from Midwestern State University/Wichita Falls. His post-graduate studies have included Chemical Dependency Counseling with the Deaf, University of Minnesota/St. Paul and Community Programming, Gallaudet University/Washington, D.C. Doug is certified by the Texas BEI holding III and CIC certifications. He works as the Outreach Development Specialist for

the Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and part-time works in video relay and emergency room interpreting.

Helene Gilbert

Helene Gilbert is currently an interpreter with Sorenson VRS. She has over 25 years of experience in the interpreting profession as an independent contractor, an interpreter coordinator, a community interpreter, an interpreter educator, and coordinator of Interpreter Preparation Programs. She holds RID CSC certification, Texas Level V and Court Interpreter Certification. She has been involved in translation for cross-cultural research, has developed interpreter education programs, course sequencing and curriculum and taught classes and workshops. She has presented workshops on various topics such as ASL Grammar and Linguistics, ASL Bilingual-Bicultural research/studies, Interpreting Models, Interpreting specializations, Cross-Cultural communication techniques, Skill Development and Certification preparation workshops, Ethics, Role Plays, and many more. Helene has written articles and offered workshops for seasoned practitioners as well as students of interpreting. Helene continues to be fascinated and challenged by Deaf Culture, the interpreting process and cross-cultural issues in the interpreting profession. She studied at the University of Arizona in Psychology, Linguistics and Anthropology.

Amber Goetz

Amber Goertz is a fairly recent transplant to Houston, Texas little over a year and half ago. She had spent the earlier part her interpreting career as a community interpreter in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from San Antonio College with an A.A.S. degree in Interpreting for the Deaf. She is currently pursuing her BA in Psychology. She works as a staff Interpreter for Communication Access Ability Group as a community interpreter as well as a CSD video relay interpreter. She also is an adjunct faculty for Cyfair Community College where she teaches interpreting classes. Currently, she is certified R.I. D. CI and CT, R.I.D. and N.A.D NIC, Texas B.E.I. Level V and Texas B.E.I. Oral Certified: Comprehensive.

Chris Grooms

Chris Grooms has been in the interpreting profession for more than 17 years and holds RID Certification: CI and CT as well as Texas BEI Level IV. He is a strong advocate of the philosophy and pursuit of lifelong learning and is currently employed by Communication Access Ability Group in Houston, TX as the Professional Development Coordinator where he coordinates and provides workshops/training for interpreters' skill enhancement. Chris is the current President-Elect for TSID and serves as the Region IV Representative to the Professional Development Committee of RID.

Leyel Hudson

Leyel Hudson is a Texas BEI Level III interpreter/interpreter trainer with the North Harris Montgomery Community College District in Houston. She graduated from North Harris College with an ASL Skills Certificate as well as an A.A.S. in

Interpreter Training Technology and is presently working toward a Bachelor's degree in interpreting. Leye currently serves as the Professional Development Coordinator for the Greater Houston Interpreters for the Deaf. Occasionally she works freelance for the local Houston interpreting agencies and for Sorenson VRS as a video relay interpreter. In her spare time, Leye enjoys interpreting for area churches and participating in international missions.

Cindy Huff

Cindy Huff began her career teaching deaf and hard of hearing students in integrated and residential settings in the United States and Kenya. After eight years in the classroom, she began training adults and entered the non-profit arena. Cindy designed and facilitated trainings regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs and in the visual and performing arts both domestically and internationally. In 2004, she happily returned to deaf education when she joined the staff at New Mexico School for the Deaf. Cindy coordinates NMSD's Center for Information, Training and Professional Development. Cindy has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Kansas State University and an M.A. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University.

Sharon Johnson

Sharon Johnson trained and performed with Dan Pokorney and Dennis Cokely with Rock Gospel. Her undergraduate study was Curriculum and Instruction, Texas A & M University/College Station and she has a Master of Arts in Education of the Hearing-Impaired from Gallaudet University/Washington, D.C. Sharon is certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf as a CSC and works as a free-lance interpreter.

Poorna Kushalnagar

Poorna Kushalnagar received her B.A. in Psychology at Gallaudet University and M.A. in Psychology with specialization in Clinical Neuropsychology at University of Houston. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience program at the University of Houston. Her dissertation examined the effects of early bilingualism on selective attention in deaf adults. Poorna has published papers and a book chapter on Deaf professionals and interpreters working together. Her research interests include cognitive difficulties in hearing learners of American Sign Language.

Mike McMillion

Mike McMillion is a local Sign Language Interpreter and Consultant. He is employed as a Video Relay Interpreter. He holds a CI and CT, from RID and Texas level IV and court certification. He is a member of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers; National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Transliterators; RID, Inc.; and TSID. He is a state-trained Master Mentor (Fran Herrington-Borre Mentoring Project) and is a licensed Emergency Medical Technician. Mike has recently completed his Bachelor's of Science degree and is actively involved in Search and Rescue.

Lauri Metcalf

Lauri Metcalf is the Department Chair of the American Sign Language, Interpreter Training and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at San Antonio College. She has been a certified interpreter for over 30 years. She taught Deaf children for twenty years before working as an Interpreter educator. She has been actively involved with the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters since 1995 and is currently serving as the Chairperson.

Jon Miller

Jon Miller has a BA in English from McNeese State Univ. in Lake Charles, LA, and then worked on his MA (in English) at McNeese and Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Jon became a BEI Level I in 1989 and began community free lance work part time with Travis County (Austin). Hired as staff interpreter at TX School for the Deaf (Austin) and worked there 1992 - 2003. BEI Level II in 1993. BEI Level III in 1999. Free lance work from 2003 - 2004, then hired as staff interpreter at Houston Community College and CAAG, Houston. Jon has been at Travis County Services for the Deaf since March of 2005 as a staff interpreter, once again doing community interpreting.

Michelle Moore

Michelle Moore is a BEI Level II interpreter and currently works full-time at Montgomery College in Houston, TX. She started her career in Tulsa, OK and is currently certified in both states. She holds an AAS in Interpreting and is a part-time video relay interpreter for Sorenson Communications. She serves as the Secretary for the Greater Houston Interpreters for the Deaf and helps with planning and offering workshops in the Houston area. She has worked in all areas of interpreting and loves sharing her experience with current and future students. In the future, she hopes to become an interpreter educator and supply other would-be interpreters the wonderful foundation that she feels an ITP education gives.

David Myers

David Myers is assistant commissioner of the Division for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Department of Rehabilitative Services in Austin, Texas. He is a graduate of Gallaudet University and has a master's degree from CSUN. His professional career spans over 40 years with state and federal agencies serving persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

Candace Sexton

Candace Sexton was born and raised in Illinois and attended Illinois School for the Deaf. A graduate of Gallaudet University Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education in 1992 and University of Texas at San Antonio Master of Art degree in Bilingual and Bicultural Studies: English as a Second Language in

1999. Have extensive experience in teaching English as a Second Language and American Sign Language. Currently a full-time American Sign Language Instructor for the Interpreter Training Program at Cy-fair College in Cypress, Texas.

Cheryl Sloan

Cheryl Sloan is a RID CI and CT, Texas III and CIC. BAAS from University of Texas at Tyler, Major Sign Language. Currently enrolled in Northeastern University for Master of Interpreter Pedagogy Degree. Certificate from Northern Colorado University in “Interpreting in the American Legal System”. I have worked as a community Interpreter since 1993 in Dallas and Waco areas. Currently I live in Palestine, Texas working in the East Texas area including Tyler and Longview.

Randi Turner

Randi Turner serves as the Communications Access Specialist for the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. She works with federal, state and local agencies and service providers, for profit and not for profit, regarding their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act. She provides statewide ADA training to empower people who are deaf or hard of hearing with knowledge of their civil rights and provides training for the business community on their responsibilities under the ADA. She also provides statewide training for parents of children with hearing loss and their rights under the IDEA. Ms. Turner holds a BAAS degree from Texas State University, an RID CI/CT and Texas level III Interpreter Certification.

Gordon Vernon

Gordon Vernon is the Director of Staff Development at Sign Language Associates, Inc. (SLA) and manages SLA’s nationally renowned Mentorship Program. As an SLA Senior Staff interpreter, Gordon specializes in performing arts, technical, emergency medical, scientific, video remote and video relay interpreting. Gordon served as a Mentor in the SLA Mentorship Program upon joining staff in 1995. He now oversees a team of mentors who welcome several new interpreters each session. Those interpreters are selected based on skill, demeanor, and potential from recent graduates of Interpreter Training Programs and interpreters currently working in the community and educational settings. Gordon is the Immediate Past President of the Potomac Chapter of RID (PCRID) serving the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Gordon served on the PCRID Board of Directors in various positions since 1996 and served as Vice President of the Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf from 1993-1994.

Dawn Watts

Dawn Watts is an Interpreter Educators for ISLR. Held CDI-P certification for 12 years from RID, ASLTA Provisional level certification and a substitute educational interpreter license from the State of Ohio. She is one of the License

Professional Development Committees for ISLR. Dawn was born deaf to deaf parents in Cleveland, Ohio. She is the mother of four hearing children. She holds a BA in Psychology from Gallaudet. Interpreting since 1990, working seven years as a freelance Interpreter. An ASL instructor since 1987 and teaches High Vision Language at Columbus Community State College. She was representative for Region III as SIG: Deaf/Blind and currently is Regional III for Deaf Caucus. In addition, she was a Large-at-Consultant and SSP/Interpreter Coordinator for Ohio Association for the Deaf/Blind for the past 5 years. She is a member of NAD, OAD, OCRID, ASLTA, and OASLTA as Professional Workshop Chairperson.

Erma Webb

Erma Webb is a Texas BEI level III, is the owner of Visual Communication Services, Cypress, Texas, the Chair of the Educational Interpreter Special Interest Group of Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf, Treasurer for Greater Houston Interpreters for the Deaf in Houston, Texas, and a member of Partners with Interpreters in Houston, Texas. She has been interpreting in the educational setting for 14 ½ years. She has held positions from classroom interpreter to Interpreter Coordinator, as well as worked within the community in a variety of settings including medical, legal and video-relay.

Lynne Weisman

Lynne Weisman is the founder and CEO of Signs of Development, LLC, an internationally-recognized professional development organization specializing in providing technical assistance, consultation, assessment, mentorship and training to students and educators of ASL and Sign Language interpreting. She has taught at the Northeastern University in the Master Mentor Program for the past 3 years and currently teaches for DeVry/Keller's Online School of Business. Lynne graduated from SW Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, possesses an undergraduate degree in Organizational Leadership, an MBA, was a member of the first cohort of the University of Colorado's Master Mentor Program and has completed her first year of law school and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Training & Performance Improvement. Lynne has interpreter certifications/licenses from RID including SC:L, NC, IL, MO and TX including Texas Court Interpreter Certification.

Lucy Wood

Lucy Wood is an attorney with experience representing deaf individuals in civil actions. She has represented deaf plaintiffs in federal employment actions and in actions against governments that have failed to provide interpreter services in the context of police services, arrest, and detention.