

Fall Edition



2009

Manitoba Association of
Visual Language Interpreters

Manitoba Association of Visual Language Interpreters Board Members 2009 – 2010

President: Jan Saunders

Vice President: Hubert Demers

Treasurer: Jenn Horvath

Secretary Chairpersons: Dia Chaves & Josie Vitucci

Membership Chairperson: Monica Furer

Newsletter Chairperson: Cindy Boscow

Public Relations Chairpersons: Jodi Knox & Blake Morris

Professional Development Chairperson: Christina Morden

MAVLI Education Committee Chairperson: VACANT

Fundraising Chairperson: Darla Stewart

AEIP Representatives: Sabrina Bosko & Erica Weselowski

Board members' contact information can be found on the MAVLI website: www.mavli.com

Note: All members are welcome to attend board meetings. Please contact a board member for the time and location of the next meeting.

Newsletter proof-reader – Judy McGuirk

Webmaster: Sherra Hall

MAVLI AIM: “To promote the visual language interpreting profession through on-going advocacy and education.”

Editor's Note

The Manitoba Association of Visual Language Interpreters Inc. publishes this newsletter four times a year. Its purpose is to provide members with information on matters related to the field of visual language interpretation. Submissions are welcome from the interpreting community and other interested persons.

Submissions to the MAVLI Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of MAVLI. Submissions are subject to editing.

Please send your submissions to:

Newsletter Chairperson
c/o MAVLI
P.O Box 68056
Osborne Village
Wpg., MB R3L 2V9

Or e-mail: newsletter@mavli.com

Newsletter Deadlines:

Summer Edition:	May 15 st
Fall Edition:	August 15 st
Winter Edition:	November 15 st
Spring Edition:	February 15 st

If you have any questions or comments about MAVLI or its Newsletter, please contact us at the above address. Your input is always appreciated.

2009 -2010 Board Introductions

Jan Saunders

Board Position: President

Years of Interpreting Experience: More than I will admit to!

Years on the MAVLI Board: 1st year on the board

Background:

I have had the good fortune to interpret and work with Deaf communities in cities across Canada. There are always new and exciting opportunities for Signed Language Interpreters which is such a gift. I am currently working at Sorenson Communications as a Video Relay Interpreter and also freelance in the Winnipeg Deaf community.

Goals for the upcoming year:

MAVLI and its board have done some awesome work over the past few years! The present board will need to focus on MAVLI's finances and set some major fundraising goals to develop a stronger fiscal organization. I am also looking forward to getting acquainted with the MAVLI board members.

Something about me people may or may not know:

I love shoes!

Favorite Quote:

“Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.” – Mahatma Gandhi

“In the sweetness of friendship; let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.” – Kahil Gibran

Hubert Demers

Board Position: Vice-president

Years of Interpreting Experience: Several

Years on the MAVLI Board: 2008 - 2010

Background:

Re-incarnated in Winnipeg as an interpreter in 1985. Graduate of RRCC's ITP, interpreted with IIRS/ECCOE, then became an instructor in RRC's AEIP

Goals for the upcoming year:

To assist the organization as called upon.

Something about me people may or may not know:
I was an Educational Interpreting Consultant.

Favourite Quote:
“Life is a daring adventure or nothing at all.” – HK

Jenn Horvath

Board Position: Treasurer
Years of Interpreting Experience: Several
Years on the MAVLI Board: 2nd year on the board

Background:
I grew up on a farm and went to school in Gimli. I took ASL classes during grades 11 and 12, on Saturdays, at RRC. Right after graduation, I enrolled in the first DSP and from there went straight into the new AEIP degree program. Since then, I have worked as an interpreter in mainstream, community and post secondary settings.

Goals for the upcoming year:
I hope to attend all meetings and balance the books without help from the past treasurer. 😊

Something about me people may or may not know:
I have a severe shopping problem.

Favourite Quote:
“There is time for everything.” – Thomas A. Edison

“You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.” – Winston Churchill

Dia Chaves

Board Position: Co-Secretary
Years of Interpreting Experience: 1 year
Years on the MAVLI Board: 2nd year on the board

Background:
I was born and raised in Winnipeg. I became interested in American Sign Language when I was in middle school; my best friend's brother was Deaf. I was intrigued by the language anytime I was at their house visiting, so I decided to take ASL courses while I was in high school. I graduated from the AEIP in 2008 and my first year of interpreting has been great! I have been working full-time as a K-12 interpreter as well as have done some freelance work during the evenings and on weekends.

Goals for the upcoming year:

My goal for this year is to continue to provide clear correspondence through emails to the MAVLI Board and its members.

Something about me people may or may not know:

As of this fall I will be living and working in Steinbach, MB. Aside from that, I will be working in Winnipeg as much as I can!

Favourite Quote:

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." - Maya Angelou

Josie (Giuseppina) Vitucci

Board Position: Co-Secretary

Years of Interpreting Experience: 1 year

Years on the MAVLI Board: 2nd year on the board

Background:

I have completed my first year as a working interpreter and have had many different experiences and have learned a lot. I have had the opportunity to work at both universities and have done some freelance work for ECCOE. I have realized that I really enjoy interpreting in the community and this summer I was fortunate enough to be hired on as a staff interpreter with the agency. So far, I am really enjoying the work and the community and hope that it all continues.

Goals for the upcoming year:

Along with my co-secretary Dia, I intend to continue to fulfill the duties of the Secretary and to work with the Board in what ever endeavors we take on during the upcoming year.

Something about me people may or may not know:

In addition to my Arts Degree (acquired through AEIP), I also have a Bachelor of Science from the University of Manitoba.

Favourite Quote:

"Dance like nobody's watching; love like you've never been hurt. Sing like nobody's listening; live like it's heaven on earth." – Mark Twain

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." – Anonymous

Monica Furer

Board Position: Membership Coordinator

Years of Interpreting Experience: 4 years

Years on the MAVLI Board: This is my 3rd year as Membership Coordinator

Background:

I am married and have two children, a 16 year old son who is Deaf and a 14 year old daughter who is hearing. I graduated from the AEIP in 2005 and worked as a freelance community interpreter for 4 years. I love community interpreting but will be giving it up for a while. I have recently accepted a position as an interpreter for the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Medicine.

Goals for the upcoming year:

To facilitate registration of members and collect proof of qualification as needed. To update the MAVLI membership categories on the website now that the Bylaws have been revised.

Something about me people may or may not know:

I love gardening. I seem to be forever moving around my perennials!

Favourite Quote:

"Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die tomorrow." – Anonymous

Cindy Boscov

Board Position: Newsletter Chairperson

Years of Interpreting Experience: < 1 year

Years on the MAVLI Board: This is my 1st year as Newsletter Coordinator but I served on the board last year as the AEIP Representative.

Background:

I grew up on a farm in southern Manitoba, I recently celebrated my 1st wedding anniversary and after graduating from RRC's AEIP, I interpreted casually for a short period at the Manitoba School for the Deaf. Currently, I am working as an interpreter for the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Medicine.

Goals for the upcoming year:

To try and find new and exciting information on interpreting and interpreting issues and compile them into the MAVLI Newsletter.

Something about me people may or may not know:

I love to golf and spent a lot of time this summer golfing in and around Winnipeg.

Favourite Quote:

"If A is success in life, then $A = X + Y + Z$. Work is X, Y is play, and Z is keeping your mouth shut." – Einstein

Jodi Knox

Board Position: Public Relations Co-Chairperson with Blake Morris

Years of Interpreting Experience: 2 years

Years on the MAVLI Board: Going on my third year.

Background:

I grew up in Brandon, MB and after high school got married. I moved to Winnipeg to enter the interpreting program and have been here for 5 years now. In February, I had a little baby boy named Cole and this August my husband Mike and I will be celebrating 10 years married. I graduated from the interpreting program in May 2008 and have worked as an interpreter since then. Currently, I am on maternity leave and am looking forward to working casually soon.

Goals for the upcoming year:

I recently designated a co-chair so my goal is to teach him everything about PR. I also want to continue to get the word out there about MAVLI.

Something about me people may or may not know:

I can slalom water ski.

Favorite Quote:

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our Light, not our darkness that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves – Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?
Actually, who are we not to be?” – Marianne Williamson

Blake Morris

Board Position: Public Relations Co-chair

Years of Interpreting Experience: 0

Years on the MAVLI Board: 4 months???

Background:

I was born in Winnipeg and moved to Dauphin at the age of 14. During my time in Dauphin, I was fortunate enough to meet many great people, including my girlfriend Jenelle Jensen. I am now entering my last year of the AEIP!!!

Goals for the upcoming year:

I hope to learn as much as possible from Jodi Knox and anyone else I may encounter, in order to become a great PR representative for MAVLI.

A little something about me that people may or may not know:

My favorite sound is a cat purring

My favorite smell is vanilla

My favorite food is steak

Favourite Quote:

"I am lost, I'm no guide, but I am by your side. I am right by your side." – Pearl Jam (Leash)

Christina Morden

Board Position: Professional Development Chairperson

Years of Interpreting Experience: < 1 year

Years on the MAVLI Board: 2009 - 2010

Background:

I am twenty-four years old, and I grew up in Thompson Manitoba until I was eighteen. I then moved to Winnipeg to take the Deaf Studies Program at RRC. I've lived in Winnipeg for about six years now and I have eight fish and two fire-belly newts to keep me company. I graduated from the four year AEIP in 2008 and for the past year, I have been working mainly in the post-secondary setting

Goals for the upcoming year:

Two of my main goals are to:

1. finally get the workshop on "Strategies for Interpreting Music" up and running
2. plan an AVLIC, CES workshop.

If you have any other workshop idea, don't hesitate to send me an email at PD@mavli.com!

A little something about me that people may or may not know:

I am a night owl and therefore not a morning person at all. As a result, I'm a caffeine fiend. I will drink pop, eat chocolate, drink coffee, or anything containing caffeine. I recently discovered chocolate covered coffee beans. They're the Holy Grail of what I need; chocolate and coffee at once!

Favourite Quote:

"I've learned you can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas lights."

– Maya Angelou

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." – Betty Reese

Darla Stewart

Board Position: Fundraising

Years of Interpreting Experience: < 1 year

Years on the MAVLI Board: 2009 - 2011

Background:

I grew up on a farm near Rockglen, Saskatchewan. I moved to Winnipeg 9 years ago to take the AEIP. While taking the AEIP, I worked in and around the Deaf community here in Winnipeg. I recently graduated from the AEIP and have started casual work interpreting at various locations. I am enjoying the work a lot!

Goals for the upcoming year:

In the next year, I am looking forward to putting together some fun fundraising events. I look forward to seeing you all out at these activities, and welcome your ideas and helping hands!

Something about me people may or may not know:

A little known fact about me is that I tatt. Tatting is a form of decorative lace-making using knots and loops.

Favourite Quote:

"The optimist sees the rose and not its thorns; the pessimist stares at the thorns, oblivious to the rose." – Kahlil Gibran

Sabrina Bosko

Board Position: Co-AEIP Representative

Years of Interpreting Experience: 0

Years on the MAVLI Board: 1 year

Background:

I am currently in my final year of the AEIP at Red River College. Due to my student status, any interpreting experience I have had has been under the guidance of the instructors at Red River College.

Goals for upcoming year:

To work alongside Erica in raising awareness of the interpreting profession through various fundraising activities.

Something about me people may or may not know:

I really enjoy taking random classes. For example, the most recent was an archery class.

Quotable quote:

"Give it some time, believing and knowing are two different things..." – Travis Meeks

Erica Weselowski

Board Position: 3rd year AEIP representative

Years of Interpreting Experience: 0

Years on the MAVLI Board: This is my first year

Background:

I grew up in Thompson, MB and moved to Winnipeg 8 years ago for university. I entered the School of Music and during my last year, started taking ASL classes at DCM. I also began working at STCC and continued there for about 1 year. During that time, I had many wonderful teachers and met great new friends in the Deaf community and so decided to continue onto DSP. I am currently entering my final year in AEIP and looking forward to graduating in the spring.

Goals for the upcoming year:

I hope to represent my peers in a positive way and convey their issues and concerns to the board in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Something about me people may or may not know:

I am a percussionist and get to play with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on a regular basis.

Favourite Quote:

"How does one become a butterfly?" she asked. "You must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar." – Trina Paulus

“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.” – Helen Keller

“Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.” – Dr. Seuss



From left to right: Blake Morris, Jodi Knox, Dia Chaves, Monica Furer, Hubert Demers, Jan Saunders, Jenn Horvath, Josie Vitucci, Christina Morden. Missing from photo: Cindy Boscow, Sabrina Bosko, Darla Stewart, Erica Weselowski

African Travels

- Suzanne St. Yves

I had the opportunity to study in East and Central Africa for three months this winter. While I was technically in Africa on an international practicum for conflict resolution studies, I was generously given time by my supervisor there to interact with the Deaf Community at times. I also worked with several spoken language interpreters which was enlightening and a learning curve for me.

I arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) four days after my arrival in Kenya. It was here my first experience of working with a Kiswahili interpreter occurred. I was leading a workshop on the grieving process and as we maneuvered our way through vocabulary, cultural examples, and consecutive interpreting I found myself marveling at the work interpreters actually do. I was totally dependent as the presenter on the interpreter to ensure that my presentation was understood. He often stopped me and we had dialogues pertaining to the concept before he would interpret for the audience. I appreciated his desire to accurately portray what I was saying. Later in the trip, with other interpreters, I had gotten used to the process and was able to know if things were going astray and assist in getting things back on track. Some sessions I would be totally frustrated knowing that I was not getting accurate, message-equivalent interpretations. It has given me a stronger sense of how unfair it is NOT to stop when as interpreters we do not understand a concept or cannot culturally translate something.

The first Deaf person I met was a young woman who lived in South Kivu in DRC. She was participating in a peace workshop which trained women to sew and sell their clothes in the marketplace. With this ability, the women might manage to earn a living and not have to resort to selling themselves. As well, the interaction with women of other ethnicities and religions would increase understanding and tolerance. The Deaf woman was very well accepted into the group, with a friend of her signing and the two teachers ensuring she had hands-on experience in lessons. She told me how she and her mother fled Burundi during the genocide and made their way to DRC since the mother was Congolese, only to get caught in that war. Her father was killed in Burundi and her two brothers remain there but do not financially support her or her mother. I returned about five weeks later and brought her some basic necessities such as flour, sugar, and tea. She and her mother were grateful for the gifts.

I next met a group of Deaf people in Bujumbura, Burundi. Fabien is the president of the Burundian National Association of the Deaf (BNAD) and had at one point been offered a scholarship from Gallaudet but turned it down so that he could remain in Burundi and continue to improve services for Deaf people there. We shared what was happening in both Canada and Burundi. Deaf children are only educated up to grade 6 and then have some vocational opportunities. There are two schools for the Deaf—one in Bujumbura which is the capital city and one upcountry in Gitega. Employment in general is challenging for most Burundians. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world and unemployment is high. It is even higher for Deaf people.

I had the opportunity to assist members of BNAD in thinking about a code of ethics. Currently, they did not have one but in discussing it with Fabien and the interpreters they were interested. On the day of the workshop, all three interpreters were busy working. The one who was

supposed to interpret my presentation was suddenly called away to an assignment. I decided that I would use role plays instead of lecturing, an idea that turned out to be brilliant. A picture says a thousand words and that idiom turned out to be true as people saw firsthand how certain tenets and guidelines might work for them. I was happy to hear that Fabien and others were familiar with and members of WASLI.

One of the first concepts was positioning. I had been a little surprised at where the interpreter had positioned himself at a previous gathering and so I thought that might be a quick and easy lesson. I simply tried various placements and the Deaf people immediately recognized the ease with which they could “listen” when the interpreter stood or sat close to the hearing person and across from the Deaf person. Other lessons were a little more challenging to convey but nonetheless at the end of the morning, confidentiality, impartiality and accountability were all regarded as tenets that the members would want to establish in conjunction with the interpreters. The BNAD would love to have more training (if any of you have a longing to travel and teach) and I would be happy to make arrangements with you.

I had the opportunity to go to the Ephphatha School for the Deaf in Bujumbura which is a school for both boys and girls who are Deaf up to grade six. The children were engaging and happy. One hundred and seven children stayed in the residence while the remaining 27 students commuted. The teachers were hearing but could sign to some degree. One former student ran the Home Economics sewing program. Phoebe, the interim director, met with me and told me how she struggled to ensure the dorm students had food every day, listing off the amount of rice, tea, beans, potatoes, and other food items that were necessary to feed the children per month and the cost. She also mentioned that they needed new mosquito nets since the ones they used now had holes the size of baseballs in them. Having slept in a few lodgings that had similar nets and hence had mosquitoes buzzing around my head, I decided that I would put out a plea to staff at MSD and other friends who might be interested in helping out. The request was answered overwhelmingly. Each student received a new net. In addition, two sewing machines, 50 notebooks and 50 pens and pencils were purchased. Phoebe, the staff and students were thrilled!

After seven weeks in Central Africa, I moved to Kenya. Here I had had contacts with the Kenyan Sign Language Interpreters Association (KSLIA) but never had the opportunity to meet them. Instead, I fell into another community of interpreters simply by attending a mass one evening. There three interpreters were working and about a dozen Deaf worshippers were attending. Apparently, the Catholic community is incredibly progressive there and at least one mass at several churches are interpreted. I was impressed to see the quality of interpreting and the accessibility for Deaf Catholics.

Natasha Tuck, who has Deaf parents and is a Teacher of the Deaf at the Society of Manitobans with Disabilities, had mentioned to me that she sponsors a Deaf boy in Kenya at Humble Hearts School. I offered to bring for her a care package for him and was able to tour the school which caters to Deaf children living in the slums of Nairobi, their hearing siblings and other hearing children from the slums. Beaty is the director of the school and she greeted me with a warm African hug and showed me around all the classrooms, the current dormitory, and then brought me out to the new property where a magnificent residence, garden, school, and barn are being created. Each child in the school receives a hot lunch. Each Deaf child who lives in residence receives 3 meals a day. Not every child is sponsored so there is a shortfall. You can learn more about sponsoring a child at Humble Hearts at <http://www.angelcovers.org/humblehearts.html>, the

American organization that oversees the project. Just click on the Africa tab on the left. Having seen where the children are now and where they eventually could be, I would also encourage you to donate to the Angel Cottage. When I saw the current residence, I could not help but think that some of us have bigger walk in closets and yet, 17 students slept in one of them, sharing 8 bunk beds. The new space will allow for each student to have their own bed. I rationalized that at least these children had three meals a day and were not sleeping in a slum. It is typical for African children to share a bed anyway.

Burundian Sign Language (BSL) and Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) were each different and meant I had to adjust to using two different signed languages. If you want to see how different, take the KSL test at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=learn.whatlike.interactivefeatures.ksl> and try your luck. I scored 3 out of 8 when I took it again when writing this article. I actually found KSL much more challenging than BSL which used the same fingerspelling as we use here and had some overlap with ASL signs. I also have to admit that learning even a little of the spoken or signed languages of each country I was in was always welcomed. We see a similar reaction here when a person such as a government official signs hello and a sentence or two when greeting Deaf people in the audience. Any attempt at being culturally and linguistically sensitive goes a long way in building bridges.

I encourage colleagues who travel to seek out Deaf Communities around the world. My time spent in Africa was certainly enriched because of my interactions with these communities.



Primary class – Ephphatha School for the Deaf
New residence under construction – Humble Hearts School



Employment Opportunity/Deaf & Hard of Hearing Society (DHHS)

Learn about us online: www.dhhs.ca

Position: Manager of Interpreting Services **Terms:** Full time permanent **Location:** Calgary
Salary: commensurate with education & experience **Closing Date:** When a suitable candidate has been found

Abstract: Deaf & Hard of Hearing Society is a non-profit agency that has been operating for 48 years. **Our Mission:** Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services enhances the lives of Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing Persons and Those with Whom They Interact. **Our Vision:** Recognized for Excellence in Communication Equity

Manager of Interpreting Services: Is an exciting senior position reporting to the Executive Director and is responsible for the oversight of the DHHS provincial Interpreting Services Department. The position will be responsible for program grants, evaluation, outcomes and program development. This position will manage contracts and will ensure community relationships and partnership development within the context of our mandate and values.

Education/Experience: Degree in related area along with a minimum of 5 years direct experience in program management. Program development, evaluation and supervisory experience are essential. Knowledge of ASL and Deaf & hard of hearing culture would be considered an asset.

Skills & Abilities: Demonstrate strong written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills with funders, community organizations, service users, committees and volunteers.

Plus: Ability to be flexible in the development of this position, plan ahead, anticipate and manage change; use considerable judgement for day-to-day decisions, prioritize work, work independently and demonstrate initiative. Builds and maintains positive and productive relationships throughout the organization, and the community while maintaining confidentiality when appropriate.

To Apply: Submit your resume in confidence, including cover letter to:

Leslie Brachman, Finance & Human Resources Administrator
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Society
63 Cornell Road NW
Calgary, AB T2L 0L4
C/o email: leslie.brachman@dhhs.ca Fax: 403-282-7006

Thank you. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.