

2017 Recap

As 2017 closes, we are pleased to highlight the following accomplishments:

- The workshop “simultaneous Interpreting In Mental Health” was conducted by Cristiano Mazzei on April 29th. Mr. Mazzei was the Century College TRIN Program Director. Fifty five interpreters received 3 Continuing Education Contact Hours approved by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI).
- ISG, in partnership with the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association and MN Department of Education, conducted the training workshop “Dynamic Duos: Interpreters and Speech-Language Pathologists” on November 4th. The workshop included five (5) demonstrations and six (6) dynamic learning group topics. Workshop participants selected 3 of the 5 demonstrations to attend (Briefing/Debriefing, Articulating Screening, Collecting a Language Sample, Family Interview Regarding Language, Use of a Standard Spanish-Language Test), and 3 of the 6 dynamic learning group to participate in discussion and strategizing (Rapport, Resources, Ethics, Language in the Context of Disabilities, Issues in Educational Settings, Issues in Healthcare Settings).
- Forty five interpreters attended the Nov 4th workshop. Interpreter received 3.5 Continuing Education Contact Hours approved by the CCHI. Fifty six speech-Language-Hearing Pathologists received 0.35 CEU approved by the American Speech-Hearing Association.
- On behalf of ISG, Advocacy Committee Chair Cathy Urbain co-presented at two MN Department of Health (MDH) conferences.
 - “*Bridge to Communication: Qualified Spoken Language Healthcare Interpreter*” was the presentation at the January 2017 state wide annual forum on refugee health for local public health and resettlement agencies. She co-presented with Cristiano Mazzei, Director of Century College TRIN Program.
 - “*Working Effectively with Spoken Language Interpreters*” was the presentation at the May 2017 Minnesota WIC Training Conference. She co-presented with Danushka Wanduragala, International Health Coordinator of the MDH Refugee and International Health Program.
- Sarah Gordon was the keynote speaker at the December 6th Annual Meeting. Her presentation was “*The Role of Interpreters In Diagnosis and Control of Infectious Diseases*”. Ms. Gordon, MPH, NREMTM-B, is the Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program Manager at MDH.

- After discussion with Sen. Wiklund and several Representatives in January, the Advocacy Committee helped write new language for the registry bill in response to feedback from Rep. Ilhan Omar in order to gain her agreement to be chief author in the House. When introduced, the bill became SF1708 and HF2023.
- The Advocacy Committee successfully secured the support of the MN Council on Latino Affairs, the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, and the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to carry the bill in the legislature. Subsequently, the Advocacy Committee had a series of meeting with the three ethnic councils, and provided materials and technical support for their effort, assisted in arranging letters of support for the bill, provided testimony and secured others to testify at the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee hearing, through which the bill passed. The bill did not further advance in the 2017 legislative session because it did not receive an initial hearing in the House.
- Membership Committee helped ISG members with the membership/member account issues. The committee and the ISG board completed the feasibility study of switching to a different membership system. The change to the new system will be implemented next year.
- The Communication Committee published quarterly newsletters, provided communication to members about memberships meetings and training events, posted on ISG Facebook page articles relevant to the interpreting industry and helped promote training events by other organizations. Some postings reached large audience. The top three postings had 485, 817, and 892 readers, respectively.
- Treasurer filed taxes and renewed non-profit status with the MN Secretary of State.
- ISG continued to achieve good financial health. The organization has net asset of \$16936.86 as of December 21, 2017. The financial report is available for review on the “Member-Only” section of the ISG web site.

2018 Board of Directors

The following individuals were duly elected at the December 6, 2017 Annual Membership Meeting to serve on the 2018 Board of Directors. Thank you for serving!

- Board Chair : Chee Xiong
- Board Vice Chair: Anne Thompson
- Secretary: Rich Pierson
- Treasurer: Spencer Mohr
- Advocacy Committee Chair: Cathy Urbain
- Communication Committee Chair: Irina Williams
- Membership Committee Chair: Soon Kang
- Training Committee Chair: Elizabeth Watkins
- Member-at-Large: Erin Villerreal

Volunteer Recognition

We wish to thank all the ISG volunteers who served as board of directors and committee members. Their commitment and hard work contributed to our accomplishments as listed above.

2017 Board of Directors

The ISG Board of Directors is comprised of members from the interpreting stakeholder community. The directors serve in a volunteer capacity for one year term. We wish to acknowledge the Board's commitment and contributions to the stewardship of the organization.

Chair: Eleanor Ling

Vice-Chair: Chee Xiong

Secretary: Rich Pierson

Treasurer: Spencer Mohr

Advocacy Committee Chair: Cathy Urbain

Communication Committee Chair: Irina Williams

Membership Committee Chair: Yvonne Araiza (till January 31)

Acting Membership Committee Chair: Soon Kang

Training Committee Co-Chairs: Judith Custodio (till May 1), Nella Myles (till May 2)

Acting Training Committee Chair: Eleanor Ling

Member-at-Large: Michle Reither

Committee Members

We appreciate the commitment of our volunteers and wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals to our goals and many accomplishments.

Advocacy Committee:

Cathy Urbain, Chair

Eleanor Ling

Xul Perez

Chee Xiong

Communication Committee:

Irina Williams, Chair

Eleanor Ling, (Facebook page administrator and contributor)

Membership Committee:

Yvonne Araiza, Chair (till January 30)

Soon Kang, Acting Chair

Chee Xiong

Training Committee:

Judith Custodio, Co-Chair (till May 1)

Nella Myles, Co-Chair (till May 2)

Eleanor Ling, Acting Chair

Soon Kang

Chee Xiong

Evelin Garcia

Elizabeth Watkins

Nominating Committee:

Carol Berg, Chair

Nataliya Holen

Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee (from October):

Eleanor Ling, Acting Chair

Michelle Chillstrom

Anne Thompson

Nov 4 Workshop Volunteers

We wish to give a big shout-out to the following individuals who assisted the demonstrations and facilitated the dynamic learning group discussions.

Khadijo Abdi - Somail interpreter; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Aida Azzizi - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Linda Cummings - Speech-Language-Pathologist (SLP); Demonstrator

Marilyn Fairchild - SLP; Demonstrator

Kate Hawkins - SLP; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Nataliya Holen - Russian interpreter; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Angela Luther - SLP and Spanish interpreter; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Deanine Mann - SLP; Demonstrator

Franny Marino - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Suusuu Maung - Karen interpreter; Demonstrator

Estela Medina - Spanish interpreter; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Kalli Nielsen - SLP; Demonstrator

Jessica Porath - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Yael Ripoll - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Anna Maria Riveros - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Carmen Rudin - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Sirad Shiridon - SLP; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Nancy Thul - Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Isabel Tomala - Spanish interpreter; Demonstrator

Haley Webb - SLP; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Heidi Wilson - SLP; Demonstrator

Jeimmy Yusty-Rojas - Spanish Interpreter; Back-up Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Chee Xiong - Hmong interpreter; Dynamic Learning Group facilitator

Financial Support

We wish to thank all ISG members for their membership in support of our operating expenses, training workshops, and scholarship fund.

Donated Meeting Place

We thank our partners Allina Health, MN Department of Education, UCare, Pediatric Home Service, The Arch Language Network and University Language Center for providing meeting rooms free-of-charge to conduct ISG training workshops, board meetings and membership meetings.

Donor

We wish to thank Prakash Nepal for his donation.