



Mano a Mano column for the spring 2011 issue of the RID *VIEWS*
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There may be no better way to say it; we're headed full steam ahead, so fasten your seatbelts!

Mano a Mano board members have been putting in many hours to organize programming and resources for the benefit of interpreters throughout the country. We have been busy planning the upcoming trilingual track that will occur within the RID 2011 Convention program, we have been building a new website for interpreters and other colleagues interested in interpreting in Spanish-influenced settings, and members in some regions of the country have been rallying to establish affiliate chapters. The building momentum is exhilarating!

Mano a Mano, in close collaboration with the RID, will be hosting a trilingual track at the upcoming 2011 RID Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We want to extend our gratitude to all those at RID who have been supporting this noteworthy event. This is the first time that the Mano a Mano professional development activities for trilingual interpreters will take place during the RID Convention rather than as a pre-RID conference. Not only will this allow trilingual interpreters to attend the RID convention workshops as they choose, it will allow bilingual (ASL-English) interpreters who are curious about trilingual interpreting and general themes about interpreting in Spanish-influenced settings the opportunity to attend trilingual track workshops. It's a win-win situation for everyone! The program will be announced on RID's website, so watch closely for that. And, make your plans to join us in Atlanta. Don't delay; if you haven't registered for the convention, do so now at www.rid.org!

For months we have been working on our new website, which represents a partnership between Mano a Mano and the Western Region Interpreter Education Center (WRIEC). We are happy to say that we have worked with website developers to create a new logo (included on this page) that will be easily recognizable and will hopefully serve to represent our organization for years to come. In addition, mockups for our new website pages are currently being produced, and we hope to have that new site online very soon. It is our belief that the new website will be an invaluable resource for all those interpreters and other stakeholders who are searching for trilingual resources. Thanks to WRIEC for providing valuable support on this project!

If the top two news items aren't enough for you, let me add that I'm extremely excited to say that we have members from multiple regions throughout the country organizing to establish their own state chapters of Mano a Mano. This will allow them to focus on local and regional needs while also enjoying the benefits of being a part of the larger organization that serves as a resource at

the national level. Mano a Mano, like RID, advocates for all interpreters nationally, though it also relies on people in various parts of the country to work for what is important within their own community. This is indeed an exciting time, and I encourage you to look to our new website for announcements for the newly formed state chapters after that information has become official.

Thus far we have an Illinois Chapter of Mano a Mano (that was our first state affiliate formed nearly two years ago), and that chapter is busy sponsoring workshops on trilingual interpreting. They hosted one in mid-February and they are planning on a weekend conference September 9th through 11th. Make your plans to visit the windy city in early September and gain valuable training at the same time! Stay tuned for more information on our website or contact our Region III representative at region3@manoamano-unidos.org.

What an honor it is to work with so many wonderful people! There are many incredible organizational activities occurring, and I feel strongly that is only the start of many good things for the future.

If you have not renewed your Mano a Mano membership or you wish to become a new member, visit our website at www.manoamano-unidos.org. You need not be a trilingual interpreter to be a supporter of this great effort; you simply need a desire to be a contributor to the making of history. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me (president@manoamano-unidos.org) or any of the other board members, whose email addresses can be found on our website.

I hope to see you in Atlanta and I suggest that you keep those seatbelts fastened!

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