



WORLD

Technology News and Commentary for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People



2023 CONFERENCE RECAP



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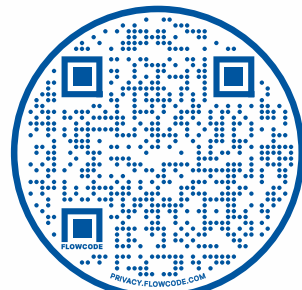


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WHAT WE DO

"TDI shapes the Nation's public policies in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to advance the interests of the 48 million Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deafblind, and deaf with mobility issues."

REGULAR COLUMNS

Board Views, Past and Present..... pg. 2 & 3

Jan Withers, TDI Past President and Board Member, Southeast Region
Mei Kennedy, Ph.D, TDI Current President, Chair of Board of Directors

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Contact TDI WORLD editor for reprints of articles in PDF format.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the last printed edition of TDI World. Archived editions are online on our website, TDIforAccess.org.



**NEW NAME,
NEW ADDRESS,
SAME TDI.**

TDI is now 100% virtual! Rest assured our commitment to excellence remains unchanged.

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Shaping An Accessible World

Board Views

INCOMING PRESIDENT



MEI KENNEDY, PH.D.

*TDI President,
Chair of Board of Directors,
Member-at-Large*

“Together, let’s embark on a journey to improve how we access and understand digital information fostering a more inclusive society.”

*Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at
mkennedy@tdiforaccess.org.*

A New Journey

In a world where technology intertwines seamlessly with our daily lives, ensuring accessibility, equity, and inclusion in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is not just a matter of convenience, but a fundamental human right. At the forefront of this noble mission stands TDI, working hand in hand with its partners to champion accessibility and equality for all.

As a deaf individual who relies on technology, I have encountered communication barriers throughout my life, and witnessed my deaf father struggle with communication barriers while incarcerated. I feel privileged to be part of TDI’s commitment to fostering a world where every deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind individual can fully participate in the digital landscape.

Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Dr. Mei Kennedy and I am stepping into the role of President of the Board of Directors. Having a degree in Instructional Design, I specialize in the strategic integration of technology that enhances learning experiences. Additionally, I am also a member of the CSD board. I am a parent, and an advocate, of a hearing son with autism. I reside in Austin, Texas with my husband and two sons.

As President of TDI, it is with excitement that I introduce our exceptional team of members, including officers, who will be instrumental in leading us through this transformative period:

■ **Dr. Tina Childress**, Illinois, Vice-President, Member-at-Large

■ **Dr. David Coco**, Texas, Treasurer, representing Central region

■ **Jim House**, Washington, Secretary, representing West region


■ **John Kinstler**, Wisconsin, representing Midwest region

■ **Spencer Montan**, New York, Member-at-Large

In addition to our accomplished member and officers, we welcome new Board members whose diverse experiences will further enrich our team:

■ **Lisa Chiango**, Massachusetts, representing Northeast region


Reflecting on the recent TDI conference, I am reminded that true progress is not measured solely by technological advancements, but by how much these advancements uplift and empower every individual in our society. Our work of breaking down barriers and creating a more inclusive future would not be possible without YOU.

Together, let’s embark on a journey to improve how we access and understand digital information fostering a more inclusive society. I invite you to connect with us and discover the benefits of engaging with TDI. 

In Gratitude for Remarkable Leadership

It is with deep respect and appreciation that we announce the resignation of **Curtis Humphries**, our esteemed Vice President of the TDI Board of Directors. His dedicated service of nearly two years has left an indelible mark on our organization.

Throughout his tenure, Curtis demonstrated an unwavering commitment to TDI’s mission and tireless efforts toward its advancement. His vision, wisdom, and expertise have been instrumental in guiding TDI’s strategic decisions.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Curtis for his invaluable contributions, steadfast leadership, and unwavering support as we bid him farewell. We wish him continued success in his future endeavors. 

Reflecting on a Milestone Meeting:

TDI Board of Associates (BoA)

In the fast-paced world of Information Communication and Technology (ICT), accessibility is not just a buzzword; it's a necessity. To chart our course in alignment with evolving trends, TDI convened an extraordinary gathering of influential stakeholders – the Board of Associates (BoA) on July 26, 2023. This meeting, a culmination of anticipation, brought together accomplished professionals who generously shared their expertise and insights to help shape TDI's strategic priorities in the ever-evolving landscape of accessible ICT.

Background on Accessibility in ICT

In an increasingly digital world, individuals with disabilities,


particularly those who are Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled or hard of hearing, face unique challenges in accessing technology and information. Accessibility ensures that no one is left behind, and TDI is at the forefront of this vital mission.

TDI's Commitment to Accessibility

TDI's dedication to accessibility is not a newfound commitment; it's a longstanding mission. Over the years, our organization has spearheaded numerous initiatives to promote accessibility, from advocating for captioning on television to championing the rights of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals in telecommunications.

The Road Ahead

What lies ahead for TDI? The meeting's impact won't be confined to its walls. TDI is committed to translating the BoA's recommendations into concrete actions. In doing so, we will continue to break down barriers, ensuring that accessible ICT becomes the norm, not the exception.

The TDI Board of Associates was not just a gathering of influential stakeholders; it was a pivotal moment in the journey towards a more inclusive digital world. As TDI embraces the recommendations put forth by the BoA, we are not only shaping our own future but also paving the way for a more accessible future for all. 



BOARD MEMBERS



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DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR



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DIRECTOR



LISA CHIANGO
DIRECTOR

Board Views

OUTGOING PRESIDENT



JAN WITHERS

*TDI Past President,
Chair of Board of Directors*

"I am fully comfortable in the knowledge we have a truly talented and dedicated group of people at TDI and the support of so many amazing partners."

A New Era

The foundation has been laid to usher in a new era where the new leadership is prepared to lead TDI through the dawn of a digital age that will undoubtedly reshape how we engage with information and connect with one another.

After eight years as the Southeast representative on TDI's Board of Directors and five years as the President and Chair of the Board, I am proud to say TDI is in a very good place indeed, especially with a new Chief Executive Officer and new Board officers already hitting the ground running. While my departure, due to term limits, is tinged with sadness, I am genuinely excited to see what the new leadership will achieve as it carries out TDI's mission.

This past year has been a period of dynamic challenges, but it has also shown the unwavering resilience and dedication of our team. I am enormously proud of our Board of Directors for working so well together to not only maintain operations but also pull off the Diamond Gala and the 25th Biennial Conference, hire a talented and dynamic new CEO, and ultimately bring us to calmer waters. I am also both gratified and humbled to see how many people are so keen to provide support to TDI in a variety of ways.

I am especially grateful to the following:

■ **Dr. David Coco** for assuming the role of Interim CEO to ensure the smooth administration of TDI.

■ **Dr. Genelle Sanders** for taking on critical organizational and communication responsibilities that ultimately made the Diamond Gala and 25th Biennial Conference not only possible but also hugely successful.

■ **AnnMarie Killian** for initially taking on the role of Development Coordinator, then pivoting to work closely with Dr. Sanders on the aforementioned events, and organizing the successful inaugural meeting of the

Board of Associates.


■ **Mark Seeger** for taking on the role of TDI's Policy Coordinator to maintain TDI's critical and long-standing engagement in promoting policy that supports accessibility in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

■ **Dixie Zeigler, Angie Officer, Holly Bise, and Brenda Kelly-Frey** for serving as co-chairs of the Diamond Gala, which celebrated the 30th anniversary of the nationwide implementation of Telecommunications Relay Services and Claude Stout's retirement after 23 years of dedicated service as TDI's Executive Director.

■ **Chris Soukup and Dr. Khadijat Rashid** for assuming the roles of co-chairs of TDI's new Board of Associates, designed to function as a high-level think tank for TDI's staff and Board of Directors.

I am also grateful to **AnnMarie Killian** for demonstrating her recognition of the value of TDI's mission and its enormous potential to truly shape an accessible world in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by applying for the position of TDI CEO.

Last but not most definitely not least, I am grateful to the members of TDI's Southeast region for giving me the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors and to my fellow Directors for entrusting me with the responsibilities of President and Board Chair. It certainly has been an honor and privilege to work in a variety of ways with so many people who share my passion for the vision of a fully accessible world.

I am fully comfortable in the knowledge we have a truly talented and dedicated group of people at TDI and the support of so many amazing partners. With the new leadership on board, specifically AnnMarie Killian and Dr. Mei Kennedy as TDI's new President, an exciting new era is dawning. 



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JOHN WYVILL
Government Affairs
Manager
Cox



DIXIE ZIEGLER
Vice President
Hamilton Relay



From the CEO



ANNMARIE KILLIAN,
Chief Executive Officer

“As we move ahead,
let’s focus on a future
where technology
brings people together,
drives progress,
and fosters better
understanding.”

Shaping Tomorrow Together

Last July, the various rooms of the TDI conference resonated with the energy of progress, innovation, and transformative change. As we gather the momentum from that incredible event, I am deeply honored to assume the role of CEO and continue our journey of exploration and transformation. Our editorial title, “Shaping Tomorrow Together,” resonates even more profoundly now, as we stand united in recognition of the remarkable strides we are making in the realms of accessibility and inclusion.

“Shaping Tomorrow Together” encapsulates the spirit of collective effort required to navigate this transformative journey. It symbolizes our commitment to explore the broader spectrum of influences that shape our destiny. It recognizes that shaping accessibility and inclusion extends far beyond technology. It includes the spread of awareness and innovation through education, training, collaboration, and effective marketing.


In this era of transformative technological changes, leadership takes on new dimensions. It requires a profound understanding of the technological landscape, a willingness to challenge the status quo, and an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. Just as technology evolves, so must our leadership strategies – driven by the belief that every individual, regardless of background or ability, can contribute meaningfully to our collective journey.

However, as we forge ahead with our vision, it is vital that we pay heed to the next crucial element that will shape the success of our endeavors: the cultivation of the next generation of tech leaders. These future leaders will not only inherit the

advancements we champion today but will be the architects of further innovation, driving the wheels of progress even faster. As we embrace the responsibilities that “Shaping Tomorrow Together” entails, we must also nurture these emerging leaders, empowering them with the skills, knowledge, and ethical compass needed to navigate the ever-evolving landscape.

In our pursuit of progress, we are embracing another transformative change - the evolution of TDI World. Recognizing the trends of our time and our commitment to environmental sustainability, we are transitioning from printed press to digital. This strategic shift has been an outcome of careful consideration and long-term planning, stemming from a realization that the landscape of communication is rapidly changing. This transition isn’t just a matter of convenience; it’s a demonstration of our dedication to staying aligned with the technological currents that shape our world. This shift not only reflects our readiness to embrace change but also ensures eco-savings, contributing to a greener tomorrow.

As we move ahead, let’s focus on a future where technology brings people together, drives progress, and fosters better understanding. Together, we will amplify the voices of individuals, organizations, and ideas that reflect the values of accessibility, inclusion and empathy, ensuring that no one is left behind on this incredible journey.

I am humbled and honored to embark on this journey, armed with the spirit of resilience and tenacity, as we shape the future of TDI and the world it envisions. 

TDI CONF 23



WE CAME, WE PARTIED, WE CONFERENCED!

The theme of 'Digital Inclusion for All' permeated the atmosphere at the 2023 TDI Conference hosted at the Hotel at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. The conference kicked off in style with the glittering Diamond Gala Wednesday evening, honoring Claude Stout and his legendary 23 years of service as Executive Director of TDI, along with the 30th Anniversary of TRS featuring a panel of esteemed TRS leaders. Performances were given by Keith 'Sho Roc' Brown and DJ Nico DiMarco while attendees kept engaged with photo booths and an exciting live auction.





EXPLORING DIGITAL INCLUSION

Thursday morning witnessed a moment of distinction as Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman, Jessica Rosenworcel, delivered opening remarks recognizing the importance of digital inclusion and accessibility. Following her keynote, a thought-provoking Town Hall hosted by representatives from the FCC Disability Rights Office. The theme of digital accessibility remained prominent throughout the day's workshops and ended with the "CVTA: The future of Digital Accessibility" plenary. Attendees then had a respite at the President's Reception before enjoying an exclusive screening of the documentary film, *Being Michelle*.

Friday saw attendees were up, bright and early, eagerly convening for the Carceral Communications plenary, sponsored by ZP Better Together. This session delved further into insights and ideas on strengthening communication accessibility for all within our communities. A series of workshops kept the conversations going about the core message of 'Digital Inclusion for All.' The discussion deepened at TDI's Professional Motivational Luncheon, featuring Chris Soukup, CEO of Communication Service for the Deaf.



TDI AWARDS CEREMONY

As the evening descended, the spotlight shone on notable movers and shakers, including Blake Reid, Tamar Finn, NAD's Zainab Alkebsi, along with corporate contributors like T-Mobile, Microsoft, and the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) for their innovative advancements toward digital inclusion and accessibility. The ceremony also posthumously recognized the contributions of Larry Brick, a stalwart advocate who dedicated his life to creating an accessible society for all.



TDI AWARD WINNERS





DIGITAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Saturday morning served as a platform to consolidate the insights gathered over the past few days, and to understand the significance of 'access' and 'inclusion' in an increasingly digital landscape. TDI hosted a plenary named Digital Equity: Give us a Seat at the Table," which explored the experiences of BIPOC individuals in navigating accessibility and charting a path toward broader inclusivity in our communities to ensure accessibility for all.



As the conference commenced with a flourish, it concluded with an equally spectacular note. Award-winning rapper, Wawa Snipe and DJ Nicar performed a memorable concert leaving attendees, including esteemed TDI members grooving to the beat!

In retrospect, the Diamond Gala and the 2023 TDI Conference will be remembered as a convergence of brilliant minds advocating for digital inclusion and as a celebration of progress made and a commitment to the journey ahead. The echoes of insightful discussions, inspiring keynotes, and vibrant performances by DJ Nico, Keith 'Sho'Roc' Brown, Wawa Snipe, and DJ Nicar continue to resonate, fueling the spirit of unity and purpose. As the curtains drew on this remarkable event, attendees departed with new connections, fresh perspectives, and a renewed dedication to ensuring that the digital landscape remains accessible and inclusive. With the final beats of the music still ringing in their ears, they carry forth the conference's momentum into the wider world, ready to make lasting impacts in their communities and beyond.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Empowering Inclusivity - The CVTA Quest for Digital Accessibility

The Communications Video and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA) stands at the forefront of a transformative movement, aimed at leveling the playing field for individuals with disabilities in the realm of digital communications and video programming. With its provisions set to broaden the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), this legislation

heralds a new era of accessibility, marked by mandatory closed captioning, audio description, bridging 911 emergency service gaps, and the modernization of telecommunications relay services.

The commendable efforts of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) have been instrumental in driving forward the CVTA. Their dedication and advocacy are shining a light on this pivotal legislation, one that is set to redefine digital accessibility and inclusivity for all, not just today, but for generations to come.

To all our allies and stakeholders, we extend an invitation to stand beside us in making a lasting impact. Your voice holds immense power. By taking the initiative to connect with your federal representatives, you can become a crucial part of the CVTA's journey.

Together, we can transform this vital legislation into a reality, paving the way for a future where enhanced accessibility is the norm in our digital world. Let's unite in championing this noble cause and ensure that technology remains a beacon of usability and accessibility for everyone.

Contact your representatives in the U.S. Congress today and ask them to support this vital legislation to ensure accessibility continues for yourself and future generations. www.cvtaaccess.org/home

To find out who your representative in the U.S. House is, go to: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

To find out who your U.S. senators are, go to: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senatorscontact.htm>.

CVTA

Breaking Barriers:
Empowering Inclusivity
Through the CVTA Bill

The Communications Video and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA) ensures people with disabilities have equitable access to evolving digital communications and video programming services.

The highest quality
interpreting on the highest
quality technology –
**because every
conversation matters.**



Better Together

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TDI In Action

February – August 2023

BY MARK SEEGER

Interim Policy Coordinator

!!!SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

Re-Introduction of the CVTA (Communications, Video, Technology Accessibility Act)

With much excitement it was announced on the 33rd Anniversary of the ADA, July 26th, 2023 that Senator Markey reintroduced the Communications Video Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA). Senator Markey shared a specially prepared Video at the TDIcon23 in College Park, MD on July 27th after which the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) hosted a CVTA Panel which was very well attended.

The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) is working to ensure technology is usable and accessible for everyone. The Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA) ensures people with disabilities have equitable access to evolving digital communications and video programming services. To achieve this, the legislation will expand the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to require full access to TV and streaming programs through closed captioning and audio description, close gaps in the provision of 911 emergency services, bring telecommunications relay services in line with modern technologies, and ensure that evolving technology-driven communications empower people with disabilities to communicate effectively in all aspects of their lives.

To obtain information about the CVTA and learn more about how you or your organization can make a difference by contacting your US Senator or Representative, please visit the new and improved CVTA website at: www.CVTAaccess.org or point your phone to the QR code below.



TDI's ADVOCACY EFFORTS WITH THE FCC AND OTHERS

TDI and other advocacy organizations joining us in filing comments have been fortunate enough to receive excellent pro bono legal representation from Blake Reid, Director of the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic (TLPC) at Colorado Law and Tamar Finn, Partner with the Morgan Lewis Law Firm. Both Blake and Tamar were recently recognized with the TDI Humanitarian Award for their years of service to TDI and others at the TDIcon23 in College Park, MD.

TDI would also like to wish Blake Reid much success in his new endeavors at Colorado Law as a tenure-track Associate Professor of Law. His tireless contributions and those of his many law students over the years to TDI and many others will be missed!

Below are some of the comments we worked with other advocacy coalition organizations to file in the areas of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

■ **Broadband Labeling in ASL - February:** TDI was invited to join NAD and others in filing comments about Broadband Labeling in ASL – specifically encouraging information from broadband providers to be available in ASL via services such as Direct Video Connect (DVC).

■ **Carceral Communications - March:** TDI's legal representation was able to support HEARD and others in filing comments with the FCC encouraging increased access to Video Relay Service and Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service for inmates who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind or DeafDisabled – specifically addressing waivers for enterprise use (multiple registered users) of the iTRS numbers assigned given the highly transient nature of inmates.

■ **Closed Caption Displays - March:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to support TDI and others in filing comments with the FCC encouraging providers of Closed Captions to address accessibility deficits in current caption display technologies by emphasizing proximity, discoverability, previewability, and consistency.

■ **Data Breaches Through TRS - March:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to support TDI and others in filing comments with the FCC encouraging notification



TDI In Action

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users of Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) to ensure that TRS users have the necessary information to address the privacy harms from a TRS data breach. This includes a requirement that a TRS breach notice informs a user if data on the content of conversations, like call transcripts, were accessed during a breach. The record also confirms that the Commission should not adopt a harm-based trigger but should expand the definition of breach to include inadvertent disclosures. Such actions will prevent underreporting of data breaches, incentivize TRS providers to enact safeguards protecting consumer data, and provide TRS users with transparency regarding the handling of their most sensitive data.

■ **Ex Parte on Interoperable Video Communications Services (IVCS) – May:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to participate in several meetings with various members of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology along with FCC representatives to encourage the development of accessible solutions to enable equitable use of platforms such as Zoom, Teams, WebEx, and Meet (etc).

■ **Broadband Infrastructure (Digital Equity Act) – May:** TDI's Legal Representation was invited to join TEDPA (Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program) and others encouraging the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) to ensure the inclusion of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled and Speech Impaired users in the allocation of funding as States implement plans to use these funds. The original comments were filed with the NTIA on May 1st and then copies of these comments were filed with the FCC as ex parte on May 8th.

■ **GlobalVRS's Petition DeafBlind VRS – May:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to support TDI and others in filing comments with the FCC encouraging the continuance and expansion of VRS services to people who are DeafBlind such as those provided by GlobalVRS.

■ **CSD's Petition on Direct Video Connect – June:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to support TDI and others in filing comments with the FCC encouraging the inclusion of Direct Video Connect (DVC) as an allowable form of TRS.

■ **Accessibility for Survivors of Domestic Violence – June:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to support TDI and others in filing comments with the FCC

encouraging the inclusion of accessible methods of number separation for survivors of domestic violence who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind or DeafDisabled. Survivors would be freed from shared phone service and the inherent risks involved in Domestic Violence situations.

■ **Inclusion of People with Disabilities and Accessibility Issues with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – July:** TDI was invited to join the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and others in filing comments to advance health equity and inclusion for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind and DeafDisabled.

■ **Wireless Emergency Alerting Systems (WEA) – July:** TDI's Legal Representation was able to support TDI and others in filing comments with the FCC encouraging the inclusion of ASL Videos when wireless carriers are sending out emergency alerts. TDI also shared additional information with reply comments in August which showcased a model pilot program in Washington State that incorporated ASL Videos as part of that State's Wireless Emergency Alert System as well as some encouragement that the FCC carefully consider the quality of the ASL Videos being produced for such purposes and encourage the use of Deaf Talent/native ASL users rather than potentially relying upon ASL avatars.

■ **Next Generation 911 – August:** TDI and others were invited to join NAD's Legal Representation in filing comments about issues including the need for wireless user geo-location information to be passed by the Relay Service agent (IP Relay, VRS, IP CTS) to the Public Safety Answering Point Emergency dispatchers.

■ **Data Caps – August (Pending):** TDI has been invited to join others obtaining support from NAD Legal Representation in filing comments about the impact of Data Caps on people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind and DeafDisabled when attempting to access services such as IP TRS, VRS, IP CTS and other forms of communication access. This action is pending FCC announcement of deadlines for comment at the time this article was drafted.

■ **Interactive Video Communications Services (IVCS) – August (Pending):** TDI was invited to join others obtaining support from NAD Legal representation in



TDI In Action

February – August 2023

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filing comments about the inclusion of various forms of TRS such as VRS, IP CTS, and other types of accessibility including audio descriptions and compatibility with screen readers to enable user equity when using platforms such as Zoom, WebEx, Teams, Meet, etc. This action is pending FCC announcement of deadlines for comment at the time this article was drafted.

Important Announcement from the FCC Chairwoman, Jessica Rosenworcel

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, who recently was the keynote presenter at the TDI Conf 23, announced she shared a proposal with her fellow Commissioners that would for the first time require video conferencing platforms, like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Webex, to comply with the accessibility requirements under the Communications Act and agency rules that govern interoperable video conferencing services.

“The pandemic taught us all the value of video conferencing—to stay connected, to get work done, to stay in touch with our doctors, and much more. But for many people with disabilities, making effective use of these platforms continues to be a challenge,” said Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. “Today, I’ve proposed taking a bold step in ensuring that video conferencing platforms are usable by all who rely on them to stay connected to their family, friends, co-workers, and community.”

To see a full copy of a recent press release go to: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-393447A1.pdf>

TDI Appointed to the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) of the FCC

The DAC provides a means for stakeholders with interests in accessibility issues to exchange ideas, facilitates the participation of consumers with disabilities in proceedings before the Commission, and assists the Commission in educating the greater disability community and covered entities on disability-related matters. The DAC keeps the Commission apprised of current and evolving communications issues for persons with disabilities. For

more information about the DAC please go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/disability-advisory-committee>

Changes in Policy Support at TDI

This past February, TDI was able to secure interim policy support after Thomas Horejcs accepted a new job with CONVO supporting their Government Affairs. Mark Seeger, former TDI Board Member and Retired TRS Manager was contracted as the interim Policy Coordinator during this transition period (February – August, 2023) while TDI completed its search for their newly hired CEO, AnnMarie Killian. Mark will continue to support the new CEO with Policy issues to ensure a smooth transition and looks forward to returning to his retired life later this fall. If you have any questions about the areas of policy that TDI has been and continues to support, please do not hesitate to reach out to our new CEO, AnnMarie Killian at amkillian@tdiforaccess.org.

Additionally, full copies of the comments that TDI’s Legal Representation has filed or that TDI has been invited to participate with at the FCC can be found by contacting TDI at policy@tdiforaccess.org or searching online by searching the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). You can enter the filer name (TDI) and a keyword to search full text that will pull all filings that contain the keyword:

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings>



Sorenson for Zoom



Whether you use VRS all the time or rarely, there are occasions that you need to make a call and want to see who you're contacting and the interpreter at the same time:

- ✓ Impromptu follow-ups with recruiters or hiring managers
- ✓ Talking with family members who aren't fluent in ASL
- ✓ Checking in with the babysitter to see how the kids are doing
- ✓ Touching base with teachers for urgent issues or questions
- ✓ Brainstorming sessions with colleagues or classmates
- ✓ Calls with your doctor

Sorenson for Zoom allows a richer experience of face-to-face VRS conversations, putting control and convenience in your hands: you easily add the app and integrate interpreting for everyone on the call for seamless connection.



You see the meeting and the interpreter on the same screen; no need to look back and forth from a videophone



Participants and interpreters can view shared content and still see each other



Interpreters can see everyone in the meeting to convey unspoken cues and easily identify speakers in group calls



Hearing participants can see the interpreter and allow time for message relay

Sorenson for Zoom lets you invite an interpreter into virtual meetings on platforms most of us already have on our devices. Simply add the app and request the interpreter within your scheduled meeting with a few clicks. And unlike most virtual meetings, the interpreter joins as an attendee, improving the experience for everyone.

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