

From: Jenny Ballew

To: Dan Lasher  
Vice President  
Colorado RID  
vicepresident@coloradorid.org

RE: Fundraising Raffle Item for January 14, 2012 Board Meeting

Dear Dan:

As per your request, I am writing this letter to propose that CRID apply for a State Raffle License to aid in fundraising. I have done extensive research about how raffles work in the State of Colorado, including attending the Games Manager training held in Denver earlier this month, and I am convinced that it could benefit CRID.

Colorado acknowledges that many tax-exempt organizations can benefit from fundraising using raffles and Bingo (I'm not proposing Bingo for CRID) and simply ask that these groups acquire licenses and report their profits and expenditures so that it is clear that no fraud or illegal gambling is taking place. Money that is raised in this manner should be held in a separate account and expenditures should be in line with the mission statement of our group, as stated in our bi-laws. For example, spending raffle funds to pay for workshops, scholarships, and supporting Deaf Friendly organizations would all be legitimate.

This first question I typically get when I talk to the membership about raffles is, "What will we raffle?" My answer is simple. Anything! Just as we do a silent auction at every conference, we could also raffle any items from member-donated crafts to vacations. Understand, however, that if our prize total more than \$1000.00 in value, some additional rules apply. Those raffles would need to be planned well in advance so that the State could approve our ticketing process.

One of the best ways I've seen raffles work in the past has been the 50/50 raffle. This kind of raffle means that people buy tickets and the money paid is put in a "pot". The winner is then awarded 50% of the pot and the other 50% goes toward the organization. When 50/50 raffles are held at business meetings, it can serve as motivation for the membership to attend!

I could not venture a guess as to how much we would make with our raffles, but I would encourage CRID to take it slow. We can start by raffling modest items and see if the membership is as interested in this as I think they will be. 50/50 raffle totals could be controlled by limiting tickets sold. Raffles become complicated when prize values go above \$1000.00. They will also get complicated if we make more money than we can legitimately spend towards the mission of our organization. The safest thing would be to have CRID raffles carefully controlled by the Fundraising Committee, Games Manager, and Treasurer.

[Recipient Name]  
November 13, 2011  
Page 2

The requirements for CRID to get a license are simple. One member needs to become the Games Manager (I am already certified). The license itself costs \$100 per year. Based on what CRID can do with a single silent auction each year, I don't see how cannot at least break even on the raffles. Amber and I have put together the documents we need to apply for the license and the packet is ready to mail upon board approval.

To maintain the license, CRID will need to submit a renewal application (much smaller than the original one) and pay the fee. CRID also needs to submit quarterly reports showing what was made in raffles and what was spent in support of our organizational mission. I believe that the Games Manager, in cooperation with the Treasurer, should be responsible for handling the license paperwork.

Once we have a license, we could hold raffles at any CRID event, including workshops, conferences, and business meetings. It can add fun and excitement to our events and the membership will feel good about supporting the important work that CRID does to support interpreters and the Deaf Community here in Colorado.

I respectfully request being put on the agenda for the January 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Please let me know where and at what time the meeting will be and I will come to answer any/all of your questions. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Jenny Ballew  
NIC, A:EI  
CRID Member, Mile High