

My name is Ricky Taylor.

I grew up in Virginia - my hometown is in Richmond and Hopewell, but my high school was in Staunton at Virginia

School for the Deaf and the Blind. After that, I went to Gallaudet University. I used to live in DC, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Montana and today, I currently reside in Pocatello, Idaho.

When I was a student at Gallaudet, I was involved with Gallaudet's LSGU (Lambda Society of Gallaudet University), RAGU (Rainbow Association of Gallaudet University) and RS (Rainbow Society). Not only that, I also attended many functions that were held by DC's Deaf LGBT organization called CMRA (Capital Rainbow Metropolitan Association).

I should mention that when I was with Gallaudet's Rainbow Society, I was the chairperson who worked with a gay bar named Titan Bar in DC's Logan Circle which finally brought the Gallaudet's LGBT group off the Gallaudet campus to converge at a gay bar. It was a smashing

success with thousands of dollars in profits. At that time, David Anderson was the President of Rainbow Society.

As a Gallaudet student, I went to 2001 RAD Conference in Seattle hosted by NWRAD. I have nothing but high praise for NWRAD who has done an amazing conference in Seattle. Kudos to Karen Atwood and Ricky Dockter for their efforts. What Karen and Ricky did were amazing, to say the least.

When I was at VSDB, I was the Secretary for Junior Virginia Association of the Deaf for two years. When I was at Gallaudet, I was the Corresponding Secretary for Alpha Sigma Pi fraternity.

I also run Thyst Virtual Bar on Zoom which my patrons raised the funds to support the Deaf Queer Resource Center (DQRC) for \$1,000. Not only that, we also raised the funds to sponsor 5 individuals who wanted to sign up for RAD memberships and RAD Conference for the first time in their lives.

When I re-engaged with RAD after a long hiatus in 2019, RAD was in shambles. I felt the obligation to fix things up. I volunteered to be the Editor of RAD Bulletin consisting of 4 issues in 2020 which I recruited and worked with Frank Dattolo (New York) and Michael Krajnak (Georgia) to write and edit the issues. We succeeded in completing the 4 issues, my gratitude goes to Michael and Frank for helping me out with this.

I attended the 2020 Creating Change Conference in Dallas, Texas in last year sponsored by National LGBTQ Task Force ([www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org)) and it was an amazing experience. I met many amazing people at the conference to a point where I sincerely wanted RAD members to attend as well.

Not only that, I also served on RAD Bylaws Committee along with a great group which helped to draft, edit and modernize the RAD Bylaws. It is going to be a very exciting time for all of us. Why do I want to be the Secretary of RAD? The truth is that I want RAD to rocket. I want RAD to

change and be receptive to all types of groups. As Deaf gay white man, I recognize that I cannot speak for other groups but my goal is to make sure that everyone's input is valued and that each meeting must be recorded and that I intend to follow up with different projects that needs to be done in order to strengthen the organization as whole so that it can survive in 21st century and beyond.

With your vote, I hope to make RAD much better in the next two years.

Thank you!