



**NYC Metro RID  
August 15, 2006  
Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Jeniece Frazier, Melanie Girshick, Lisa Kasamoto, Joann Kranis, Cathy Markland, Laurie Nash, Jina Porter, Janice Rimler, Debbie Swamback and Sam Tellerico,

**1. New Business**

***a. Possible President and Vice President Vacancy***

What would Metro RID do in the case that the positions of President and Vice President were vacant? What are suggestions as to how we can handle this type of situation?

**Discussion:**

- i. An ad-hoc or steering committee could be put in place until the Board is able to acquire a President and Vice President. This would provide a shared responsibility and would not require titles such as President and Vice President. This would also allow for the Board to meet the requirements of National RID regarding necessary reporting.
- ii. Co President and Vice President roles could be established. This would take the pressure off of one person and divide it amongst two. This may be a way in which to entice people to run for these positions on the Board and to prevent members from “burning out”. The Rochester RID chapter has “Co” positions with a Deaf and hearing team.
- iii. Phone campaign. To personally contact membership to invite them to be a part of the Board
- iv. Seek people out face-to-face with a personal approach while pointing this person’s skill/talent that they could contribute to the Board.
- v. Revive the role of President Elect, which would allow for a member to learn the ropes under the current President and would then be ready to take on that role the following term.
- vi. Have a Junior and Senior President structure with two-year terms which could eliminate the problem of having no President once one of their terms have ended.

***b. NYC Metro RID Location***

It seems the Lighthouse is reducing the amount of space it is renting; it is possible that we may need to find a new location.

**Discussion:**

- i. Acquiring a Post Office box is thought to be a good idea.
- ii. The National RID office will not store items for affiliate chapters.
- iii. Renting storage space would be approximately \$120/month for a 3’x5’ space.
- iv. Citywide storage space may be cheaper in Queens than in Manhattan.

- v. Lisa who resides in Long Island City has offered use of a space in her apartment as a way of giving back to Metro RID.
- vi. MetroRID may investigate purchasing clear plastic containers for items to be stored.
- vii. Janice will check into locating space for Metro Meetings at The New School. Debbie will inquire about the use of the space where DIRC meetings are currently held. Saint Elizabeth, BMCC and Hunter College are possibilities. LaGuardia and NYU do not have space available for meetings. We may also be able to continue hosting meeting at the Lighthouse.

**c. *Addition to Bylaws***

**Discussion:**

- i. Something to the effect of “In the event that positions of President and Vice President are vacant a steering committee shall be established for the purpose of maintaining the organization and adhering to the requirements and policies of National RID” could be added to the Bylaws. This would allow us the flexibility to determine the best course of action if the need should arise and we are without a President or Vice President.

**2. Old Business**

**a. *Membership Involvement***

MetroRID is facing a problem that has been expressed by other affiliate chapters in Region 1 concerning a lack of membership involvement. What are some possible ways to get the membership more active?

**Discussion:**

- i. The field in general is less community based and more professionally based. The focus is on “me” instead of “us”. Two major reasons people are not involved are, a lack of experience and the feeling that it is too much work. People stopped attending meeting because of feeling unconnected.
- ii. We need to do more outreach to promote awareness to interpreter education programs concerning Metro RID. If a student is required to attend two meeting they should then be required to be in contact with an interpreter member/participant in the meeting as well.
- iii. Dispel myths regarding Metro such as you are required to be certified to me a member of the Board. Also point out the pros and positive aspects of being involved with Metro activities: developing a good reputation in both the Deaf and interpreting communities, the building of long lasting relationships, advancing in the field, the ability to get more interpreting work, social aspects, being in the community and making contacts and networking. Sam agreed to write an article for the newsletter addressing these topics. Emails will also be sent out to the membership regarding this topic.
- iv. Institute a Buddy system which would give members support and help them understand the on goings of the organization.
- v. We may entice more people to be involved with Metro RID with hosting fun events such as interpreter/Deaf softball or bowling tournaments. Also by hosting another mini-allies conference.
- vi. Educate members about the Board by discussing the current members involved in standing committees and their strengths. Also emphasizing the support they give to the Board.

- vii. For meetings, childcare could be provided, food (pizza, potluck) and perhaps cocktails. New Jersey RID has all day meetings that may also be an option for Metro.
- viii. The reason DIRC has continued going strong is that people feel a sense of personal growth and that they have learned something. If this could be applied to Metro meetings we may be able to increase member involvement.
- ix. The meeting structure could be altered to allow for a short meeting and then using the remaining time to do committee work.

***b. Board Member candidates***

**Discussion:**

- i. It seems that there are members interested in running for positions on the Board including President and Vice President. Cathy, chair of the nominations committee will follow up regarding possible candidates.

**3. Announcements**

***a. Region 1 Conference numbers***

Final numbers have not yet been provided, but it was clear that New York had a formidable presence at the conference.