



**NYC Metro RID  
General Meeting Agenda  
October 24th, 2007**

**Standing Rules:**

1. No Smoking
2. Food and drink are allowed, please clean up after yourself.
3. If you would like to speak please wait to be recognized.
4. We encourage the use of ASL but do have interpreters here if you choose to use spoken English.
5. Please make sure you signed in.

President: Lusanne Massaro  
Vice President: Maria Micioni

Treasurer: Kat Dudina  
Secretary: Rebecca Friedman  
Associate Rep: Meri Sulcer

Directors at Large (4): Celeste Owens , Drew Sachs, Dani Schuller and Dina Marconi.

**President's Report/RID National News:**

1. New Region I Representative  
After a rigorous search for a Region I representative to replace Rachel Coppelli, Region I voted in Jeremy Brunson. If you are interested in finding out more about Jeremy, please read the October issue of the Views where you will find an introduction and bio.
2. Director at Large Position  
In order to align MetroRID to National RID's fiscal calendar, current Board members were required to serve one and a half years instead of the typical one year term. Dina Marconi (a current Director at Large) has already served the full 2 years and will not be able to extend it an extra 6 months. Cathy Markland has volunteered to take the responsibility for this position beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 and will complete the term on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Delays In Test Results  
Metro Bits sent an alert to its membership that test results are taking more than 8 months to be received by those who have taken the test. Please bear with National while they review the current batch of tests .

**Announcements:**

1. Drago Workshop  
Reported by Debbie Swamback: The Drago workshop on Transgenderism will be held October 27th from 12:30pm-4:30pm. Payments will be accepted at the door (checks only). Only checks will be accepted. There are a bunch of seats- all the information is printed on the flier.
2. Recent Donations  
MetroRID contributed \$1500 to the IDP/DML Community Forum held in San Francisco. We also bought a page in the NYC NAOBI's journal that was printed for their appreciation luncheon held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three Metro members attended (contribution totaling over \$500). Additionally, PARID made DVD for the National Conference to be held in 2009. They asked if all chapters from our

region could donate \$25 to its production, which we gladly supplied. We also contributed to the National Conference at the Bronze Level (\$500).

3. **Membership Fee Reduction**  
Once again, due to our fiscal year change, we've been having members join with a year and a half membership, which of course means it costs more to join. As of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 (through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008), we've decided to somewhat "prorate" the cost of membership to lessen the burden of those joining a year into the membership period. Therefore, their fee for joining will be half the current cost to join Metro for this year and a half duration.
4. **Nominations For Next General Meeting**  
Our next general meeting will be held in March 2008 and a specific date will be announced at a later time. At that point, we will be taking nominations for our new Board, so now is the time to be thinking about who you would like in the leadership positions. The meeting after our March gathering will be held in June.
5. **New Professional Development Chair**  
In order to focus more energy on DIRC, Debbie Swamback will be relinquishing the position of PDC committee chair at the end of June. We are encouraging everyone to take some time to consider who will be a great match for this position. Thank you, Debbie, for all the incredible work you've done with this committee over the past five years!

### **Old Business:**

1. **Interpreter Recognition/Condolences**  
Just to clarify this point, Metro RID will acknowledge significant events that occur in our memberships' lives by sending a card. Lu Massaro has volunteered to send an acknowledgement on behalf of Metro, so please be sure to contact her if you know of anything that needs recognition.
2. **Mentorship Project**  
Reported by Maria Micioni: Metro has been working with LaGuardia Community College's ITP to help out pre-certified interpreters. We are attempting to set up a mentorship program where a pre-certified interpreter could email their mentor and ask opinions and get feedback. This dialogue doesn't have to entail a long, drawn out process; our goal is to make this program something that will work for both the "mentee" and mentor. Of course, this is a work in progress. If you want to be a mentor, you can contact Dani Schuller through email- fliers are in the back of the room with further information.
3. **Website Update**  
Reported by Rebecca Friedman: At this juncture, the website committee is still receiving quotes from possible vendors. It has been a difficult process in doing so in that vendors need more detailed information in order to provide a reasonable quote. Our priority at this point is to make the website more accessible for our DeafBlind membership, so we will be contacting DeafBlind members in the NYC community as well as taking a look at WSRID's website.
4. **General Meeting Language Modes/ Metro Survey**  
At our last general meeting, there was a question of what language mode should be employed for our general meetings. This question led to a development of a survey to "take the pulse" of our membership to see where we stand. Jeff Jaech was kind enough to report the results and more formalized statistics will be available and discussed at a later date.

### **Committee updates**

## **New Business:**

### 1. Deaf Board Member Position

After a hearty discussion among membership regarding the possible creation of a new position for a Deaf member(s) to be included on the Board, it was decided that the Metro Board would get in touch (and get more involved) with other organizations, see how they are addressing this issue and table this until further process has been made.

### 2. Conference?

Debbie Olsen led a discussion regarding NYC Metro RID having a local conference. Both she and Susie Morgan are willing to research locations and potentially be the co-chairs for the conference. They wanted to make sure there would be membership support. The initial ideas were to have the conference in the Spring, 2008, with cost considerations of course being a large deciding factor. One possible workshop agenda would have different tracks (i.e. Deaf interpreters track, advanced interpreters track, and a pre-certified interpreters track). Another thought was to maybe having a 'Deafhood' conference in order to promote a more inclusive environment. Membership voted and passed a motion to start the research process in order to hold a conference locally. A sign up sheet was in the back for volunteers.

### 3. Community Social

LIRID, Metro, and a few other organizations were starting a dialogue about holding a community social event. At this point, with the advent of a potential conference, the event was put on hold.