



NYC Metro RID General Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov. 16th, 2009

President: Christine Quinton

Secretary: Heather Paradise

Vice President: Chris Tester

Associate Rep: Aviva Ben-Shitrit

Treasurer: Jen Ward

Directors at Large (4): Janice Quiles, Kathy Walley, Andria Alehfi, Sarah Brandenburg

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 have interpreters if you choose to use spoken English.
5. Please make sure you signed in.

Old Business

We have a quorum tonight.

Three people have received support from the Emergency Fund. The fund is currently depleted. Unfortunately, for this fiscal year, there will be no money available for the next people that apply for it. Stephanie Feyne, from the EF Committee, is asking for donations to the Fund. If you make a donation, please put an earmark on the check or note asking that it go directly to the Emergency Fund.

Dana Johnson and Jeff Jaech were given the plaques for last year's appreciation awards.

New Business

The budget. You will notice that the budget has been adjusted to more accurately reflect the organization. For example, the budget lines under "income" for membership and fundraising. We don't have a fundraising committee or chair, so we won't get any income from that.

Lisa Dennett- I'm concerned about making the EM Fund money last longer. As far as more income goes, I wonder if there is a way to find out how many members join in the middle of the fiscal year.

-Membership doesn't have that information.

National RID announcements

Lewis Merkin, National RID Board, Member at Large:

Debbie Peterson has been elected Deaf member at Large.

National RID Board recently had a five-day meeting.

The NIC Task Force had their first meeting on Oct. 10th and 11th. As you may know, Region V sent a letter to RID expressing concerns about the NIC test. They developed a survey and presented results to RID. RID accepted their research findings with enthusiasm. The NIC Task Force is reinvestigating the NIC certification test. The RID Board won't and can't make any unilateral decisions, because the membership as a whole must vote on any decisions regarding certification.

As of Sept. 30th these are the certifications that were awarded:

2115 NIC

403 NIC Advance

244 NIC Master

The NIC Task Force is reinvestigating the NIC certification test.

Philosophy, Mission, Goals, Diversity (PMGD) workgroup.- We will be looking more deeply at our mission and addressing such issues as 'Are we a membership organization or a certifying body or both?' A pilot project is being developed, and a survey will be sent out during regional conferences. The results of the survey will be presented to National RID.

Deaf Advisory Council (DAC)- There had been talk about merging or folding the Deaf Members in Leadership committee. DML met during the Philadelphia Conference and set up a new advisory council. The goal of DAC to encourage more deaf involvement and deaf perspective in all levels of the organization. The people on the council will be responsible for developing a scope of work and an outline of the roles and responsibilities of the DAC. The results will be proposed to the Board.

It was reported that 80% of members didn't like the 8hour business meeting at the National Conference. Only 20% liked it. RID is looking into new ways of voting. Some of these ideas include different media forms, such as web streaming so as to watch the meeting from home. The different options will be presented to the National Board.

Likely location for the 2013 National Conference is Indianapolis.

Possible locations for the 2015 National Conference are Dallas, Denver, and New Orleans.

Since hosting both national and five separate regional conference are so labor-intensive, RID is discussing alternative ideas about coordinating times and locations of the national and regional conferences so as to save money.

Region 4 representative Amy Seiberlich and Region 5 representative Jonathan Webb had to withdraw from their posts. President Moose is now interviewing candidates for Region IV; Anthony Arambo, Chris Grooms, and Lucy James. The deadline to apply for the Region V Representative position is December 4th 2009.

December 10th is the next RID conference call- please contact Lewis with any issues to discuss.

FYI- If there are problems arising with NYC agencies, Metro RID can set up and facilitate discussions. In addition, if you want to initiate a discussion or complaint to National RID, we can help also. Some agencies may be a member of National RID as well.

Deaf Interpreters

Regional Announcements:

Region I conference- Childcare will not be included in the conference fees.

Check out RID bits. Regional news announcements will be sent through there.

Aviva Ben-Shitrit, Membership– There has been no response from ‘mentees’ to the mentorship program. We don’t understand why people aren’t taking advantage. Caroline Burrow will create a survey to find out why. There is also a low rate of interest from associate members in interpreting the general meetings. This is a great opportunity! Please take advantage of it.

Chris Tester, ESAD- They had a very successful conference the first weekend of October. Interagency is looking for 2 new people to join their group. They will be investigating the merit of setting up an agency for Deaf and Hard of Hearing services, such as an agency comparable to the NJ Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Currently NYC does not have an agency like this.

Kathy Walley- We are still exploring new locations to hold our general meetings that would be convenient for members. Another space that we are considering is the Atlantic Theatre company space, which is in the West Village.

Kathleen Taylor-The Harlem Independent Living Center funding has been severely cut. It has undergone two budget cuts already this year and a third is on its way. Rhonda Russo was recently laid off from Catholic Charities. Deaf Service agencies in NYC are being severely affected by budget cuts and I implore the Deaf Community to be voice their protest.

Nicholyn Plummer, Deaf Violence Specialist.- Third annual fundraiser for Barrier Free Living will be held on December 3rd at 6pm. It will be held at the Vincent Fontana Center at 27 Christopher Street. Please RSVP by November 30th. I have handed out a flyer for Signal Language Court Interpreters Task Force meeting that will be held on Monday Dec. 7th at 10am at Barrier Free Living, 270 2nd Street. .

Meeting adjourned. The “State of Legal Interpreting” workshop will begin at 7:45pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:43