



## NYC Metro RID General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 2/10/09 6:42pm

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President: Melissa March / Cathy Markland Secretary: Heather Paradise

Vice President: Sara Kusnetzky Associate Rep: Caroline Burrow

Treasurer: Donna Lee

Directors at Large (4): Rebecca Weinberger, Chris Tester, Pat Dash, Glenn Sheprow

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### 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.

### Announcements:

Melissa: Tonight we have a quorum. We follow the Roberts Rule of Order. A motion is made and 3 people can support and 3 can be against. Then we can vote. Or, a motion can be made to extend the discussion, discuss more, then vote. Certified and Associate members can vote. A majority will pass the motion.

Chris Tester: I will go over the rules of how to use CDI/DI. In this past November's meeting we started using a DI/CDI mentoring team. At that time we didn't have a plan or a clear explanation of how it would work and because of that, the process was a little clunky. The two deaf interpreters, Lewis Merkin and Roni Lepore (along with the two hearing interpreters from that meeting), provided feedback about their experience and from that we came up with better guidelines of what to do for the future.

The goal is to give deaf interpreters a mentoring opportunity. The CDI/DI will be able to work on mirroring and the hearing interpreter has a chance to work on their feeding skills. This process will also give exposure to metro members on how CDI/DI's are used. Different interpreting techniques for different settings will be modeled. The term "Mirroring" means that if you have a question, raise your hand and the President will recognize you. To be clear, the DI does not control turn taking, the President does. The workshop after meeting may or may not have a DI/CDI team. It will depend on the content of workshop. There is a possibility of a deaf/hearing interpreter team for the workshop, if appropriate. Sam Tallerico, the interpreter coordinator, is responsible to arrange the interpreters. Any questions? (none from audience)

Melissa March: I just wanted to recognize Roni and Lewis who were our first 'brave souls'. They did a great job! Figuring out how to incorporate the DI/CDI team into our meeting was sort of like an awkward prom dance...we both like each other and are excited to dance, and then we

mistakenly step on each other toes while figuring out how to work with each other. We have already started getting a better beat and I'm sure we will eventually figure it out and be as smooth as "Dancing with the Stars".

## **Old Business**

President's report:

Melissa March: Motion T has been proposed. The EIPA was set up by another entity and therefore there has been much confusion about those people "certification status". Motion T has come out of this discussion. Motion T recognizes other organization's certification status. RID membership needs to vote about this. There are printouts of Motion T at the front desk. They are asking for feedback. March 31 is the deadline for feedback. Any questions? (no questions)

A yahoo group has been set up for Region 1 members. There hasn't been a conference in a while we are trying to figure out what is going on with EIPA. It has been hard to do this without gathering. Region 1 should have an opportunity to discuss it with the Task Force. Other regions got that opportunity but Region 1 has not. During the NJRID conference they had a Task Force member give presentation. The Region President's have set up a yahoo group so members can submit feedback to the Task Force. In the yahoo group you will find the original motions E-S that were referred to the SCBRTF, the power point given by the SCBRTF, the current discussions, and the timeline for the SCBRTF. Members should sign up and participate. Use your membership power.

There are e-Views being sent out. They contain announcements. Laurie Nash set up the website and added a Region 1 webpage to national's website. Type in "I" in the search. You will be able to see what's happening for Region I, as well as what is going on in other regions. The goal is to unify our interpreting community and share information. Also, if anyone has a member they want to spotlight who is doing something great, it can be published there.

Update on testing results- In the past, some people waited 9 months for their results!!! RID heard your call and now the turnaround time is 3 months. As of Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> there were no tapes left in the office. All have been sent out to raters. If it takes longer than 3 months to get your results, please let us know.

Looking for Region I Conference volunteers- We will have a Region I conference in 2010. Yeah!! It will be held in August of 2010 in Albany, NY. We need people to volunteer. There are many different committees and we have a few spaces left. If you want to network outside of NYC and see what's going on out there, do it! Committee's that are looking for help are; program book, interpreting service, Student Rep., advertising and fundraising, Web master, entertainment, silent auction, audio/visual, CEU, and many more. There are so many options. Pass around the committee list and give it back to Cathy.

President's phone conference- Each of the different RID chapters have a President's conference call. Region 1 will have a rep from the EIPA Task Force talk to them about EIPA. There are many questions about this new EIPA certification. Does EIPA means certified members? They are called certified member...are they certified under RID? What benefits do then receive? What does their participation look like? The TF rep will be at the next presidents meeting. If you have questions for them, let me know and I will bring it up to them.

EFC- Emergency fund committee has a chair- Stephanie Feyne. We appreciate all her time and energy. The committee is made up of 4 members; Lynnette Taylor, Janice Rimler, Pam Maynard and Stephanie. Pam Maynard will sub as chair if needed. They are looking for more people to

join. The Committee has a wonderful energy! If you want to be a part of it, email Stephanie Feyne.

The Metro Board recently went to a NABOI meeting. The Metro Board has many goals and one of priority is to establish stronger connection with other groups in interpreting community. While watching their meeting, there were a lot of techniques that I would love to borrow from them. I asked Robin, the NAOBI president to speak at today's meeting but she couldn't make it. I can't copy her style but I will try my own spin of a dose of thankfulness. With everything that is happening in the country and world, it is important to be thankful for everything we have. It is inspiring to me to know that our community can cause change, for example establishing new programs. Also, Bobbie Barnfather and her work with the City Tech situation. There are people all around us who are inspiring and making things happen in our community. If we work and fight together we can make great accomplishments! Well, maybe Robin would have done a better job with her presentation skills but I just wanted to share my thankfulness :)

Mentoring Committee- Caroline Burrow: We just finished our first 12-week session of mentoring. We sent up pairs of new interpreters to work with experienced interpreters. They can work on whatever skills they want. If you are interested in being a part of it, please contact me.

Budget-Donna Lee:

**Previous Balance (as of 11/12/08) \$19,623.62**

Income

-Donations: \$3,780.00 (Deafhood sponsorship& membership donations)

-Membership

Associate: \$360

Certified: \$560

Supporting: \$15

Organization: \$80

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Total Income: \$4795.00

Expenses

Copying: \$22.19

Membership: \$246.49 (coffee for Nov. gen mtg, Nat'l RID/CMP member dues, LIRID member dues)

Conference support: \$500

(\$500 donation for the 2009 RID National Conference)

Directory: \$861.99 (postage & printing)

Newsletter:\$288.20 (postage & printing)

Professional Development: \$5993.02(Deafhood expenses & nov. Gen. mtg workshop)

Professional Fees/Accessibility:\$350.00(interpreters for Nov. Gen. Mtg)

Rent: \$200 (St. Elizabeth's church)

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Total Expenses: \$8461.89

**Current Balance as of 2/10/09: \$15,956.73**

Melissa: Thanks to Donna! She is fabulous with all that she does for us.

Amending the motion for Emergency Health Fund Benefit-

Cathy Markland: At the last meeting we proposed the EHF will start with \$3000, but there are only three months left in the fiscal year. We want to amend this and make a motion for it to be reduced to \$1500 for the current year. Who would like to motion?

Donna Lee: I motion to reduce the EHF to \$1500 from \$3000 for this year.

Amy Meckler has a question: The budget has already been set up for this year. Weren't we going to take it from another line in the budget? Where are taking the money from? The budget for this year was set up last June then the EHF was set up last month. We all agreed to start with \$3000. Someone looked for the money in the budget. Where did they find it?

Regardless if it is \$1500 or \$3000, where would the money come from?

Donna Lee: We got an anonymous donation of \$1000 and from 3 different categories: conference support, President's Fund and the website line items. This totaled \$500 plus the donation gives us \$1500.

Amy Meckler: I'm satisfied with the answer. Thank you.

Cathy Markland: Who was to speak in favor in motion. (no response) Any opposed? (no response)

Caroline Burrow: I second the motion.

Cathy Markland: ok, now we vote. The motion to reduce the EHF to \$1500 from \$3000.00.

One finger per vote. One proxy vote per finger. Any opposed to motion? (none) Any abstaining? (One person abstaining.) Motion passes with one abstention!!!

Question: Has anyone applied for EHF money yet?

Melissa March: the Fund application process is confidential. We won't know that it has been used until a check is written. We don't know if a request has been made.

Question- what happens if all money runs out?

CM- we can talk about it more outside during the break! The short answer is when the money runs out it is done for the year.

## **New Business**

Melissa: We got a \$1000.00 anonymous donation for the EHF, lets hope it happens again. We hope that person's stocks keep doing well. The EHF is important way to support our community and give relief to a person if they can't support their families. During their time in need we have money for them. The challenge is how to underwrite that fund. We need to figure that out. A motion will be made tonight to increase membership dues by \$5 to cover the cost of the EHF.

Maureen Woods: I make a motion to increase dues by \$5 for next year. This money will go directly to the EHF.

2<sup>nd</sup>?: Phyllis Rifkin

Cathy: Any discussion?

Amy Meckler: At the end of the year is there a budget deficit or surplus? If we tend to have a surplus why would we need to add \$5 to dues?

Cathy Markland: from my knowledge we have a surplus of around \$20,000 every year. It tends to stay at around \$20,000 every year.

Amy Meckler: If we not need to increase dues to balance the budget for the EHF, why do we need to pay 5? Can't we use the budget surplus? Can't we take \$3000 from different line items?

Cathy Markland: The point for the increase of \$5 is that it goes directly to EHF.

Kat Dudina: if no one uses the money, will it double from year to year? Will it go to \$6000 and so on and so on?

Melissa: no, every year it will be \$3000. If it is not used, we won't add another \$3000. That \$5

will be earmarked to EHF only.

Kat Dudina: So, if we put in \$3000, then add \$5 collection...I'm confused.

Melissa; That's a good question, a good one for the EHF Committee. Unfortunately, the EHF committee not here. Stephanie will know the answer.

Amy Meckler: I propose to hold the motion for later discussion.

Debbie Swamback: I second.

Cathy Markland: The motion is passed to table the original motion. In two months will address it again. In the meantime, we will email EHF committee to ask how to address this issue.

Melissa: Any other new business? (none)

### **National RID announcements**

1.

### **Deaf Interpreters**

1.

### **Regional Announcements:**

Debbie Olsen, Scholarship Chair: We have 4 scholarships for \$350 each. The recipient must be a member in good standing for the last year. They would need to commit to being on at least one committee next year. This is not a requirement, but we suggest the recipient write about their experience at the conference for our newsletter. The conference is in Philadelphia, PA and the scholarship will cover the early bird registration fee. If you are interested go to metro website and you will see my contact info. Please send your name, contact info, and which committee you join, There are four scholarships available. The winners will not be chosen by who deserves it the most; it will be a lottery system. At the June 11<sup>th</sup> Metro meeting we will announce who won. If you aren't at meeting we will contact you and let you know you've won.

Bram: if I am already on a committee and get the scholarship, do I have to join another committee?

DO- The guidelines say that you just have to work on ONE committee. Some committees are full, so you must figure out your options.

Chris Tester- should the person go ahead and register and then get reimbursed?

DO- yes. Scholarship will cover early bird registration only. The applicant should be planning to attend and pay him or herself. The \$350 is not a guarantee.

Caroline Burrow- National RID has scholarship also. Can I apply to both scholarships?

DO- maybe looks through National's guidelines. I don't think its says anything about it, but if you apply for the National Rid scholarship, it doesn't disqualify you from Metro's scholarship.

Mellisa-thanks for setting that up, Debbie... and being the chair!

Bobbie Barnfarther- after meeting tonight will have meeting and discussion about the City Tech situation. They stopped interpreting services right before semester finals. Please stick around. We will have discussion about what to do.

Melissssa March as "CQ-" head of fundraiser committee. We are planning a party. It will be in March. Somewhere around the first to last week of March...somewhere around there. We are still looking for a cheap space. If you know someone who knows someone, please contact me.

Kat Dudina- what are the space requirements?

Caroline Burrow- Does it have to be in NYC?

Melissa- We already have 6 cases of wine that are donated! We will host a silent auctions and auction off the special skills our community interpreters have.... Acupuncture, mosaic, etc.

There are so many people who are talented; maybe they can donate a slew of things to raise money for Metro. Please contact CQ about a space and donations.

DIRC- Debbie Swamback: On Feb. 27th there will be a DIRC meeting. Chris Tester will be leading discussion with two other interpreters, Mary Darragh MacLean and Eileen Forestal. It will be a great warm-up for CDI's. It will be a safe place to talk about such issues like: Why do we need CDIs? Should we get rid of interpreters all together?!? It will be a very honest discussion. We want deaf people to show up! If you have strong feelings about this issue or are interesting in becoming a CDI, please come. There will be free pizza and water after the meeting.

It will be at 75 Morton St., NYC. 5:30-7:30. Hope to see you there.

Chris Tester-I would like to announce a workshop opportunity. On Saturday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> we will have a workshop with Mary Darragh MacLean and Eileen Forestal. It will be from 10-6. The subject of the workshop is "teaming and partnership with deaf hearing interpreters". The cost is \$50 for hearing \$20 for deaf. Register by email to Sara Kusnetzky. There is a flyer on table. The info is also on the website also under professional development. You can find Sara's email there. They will accept personal checks at door.

Kat Dudina- Will it have CEU's? How many?

Chris: .65 CEU's. I think they don't want cash. I'm not sure why...I guess people don't want the responsibility of dealing with the cash. Anyway, please spread the word.... Recruit people!

Kelly Carr: this is my first time coming. I live upstate. I have another workshop opportunity to announce. Dennis Cokley will be doing a workshop in April in Fishkill, NY. It's about 1 1/2 from NYC. The workshop will be about ethics and the relationship between deaf and hearing interpreters. He will also be discussion the old code of ethics and the revised code of professional conduct. It will be on April 26<sup>th</sup> but I don't know time. I will get more information and will post it to Metro.

Melissa March- Wow! Thanks for coming all the way here!!!

Cathy Markland: First of all, lets all have a big stretch!!! So, we now have a big Thank you!!!! To Debbie Swamback. Finally Debbie has learned how to say no and is retiring from the Professional Development Committee. She served on the PDC for 6 years!!! You know it involves a ton of planning...all your workshops, all the CEU's. So now its time to thank her!!!! So I will sign a 'call and response'. The response is Debbie's name sign! Ready?

d- dirc meeting  
e- eat all food  
b- brag she your friend  
b- planned "and planned more  
I-best interpreter  
e-excellent  
s- sensitive  
w-wonderful  
a-attitude  
m- makes workshops happen  
b- lecturer....  
a-activist

c-caring

k-knowledgeable. – She has done so much for metro. She has given mind body and soul.

Debbie Swamback- Wow. Committee work is tough. Sometimes you feel alone, like you have no support and sometimes you feel a lot of support. It's important to recognize that this is a volunteer organization, so get involved and build up the community. It's so easy to just sit back and criticize. Then you have wonderful people like Sara Kusnetzky. She will be taking over. Maybe you could show up early and help or stay after and clean up. It's important to volunteer and help lessen the load. Don't worry, I'm continuing with DIRC. I'll see you all at the DIRC meeting, right?

Meeting adjourned: 8:06pm