



## NYC Metro RID General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 4/27/09 6:36pm

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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.

### Old Business

Melissa March: I have one rule to add, if you want to make a brief comment, you can have the CDI/DI copy sign but for longer comments please come to the front of the room yourself.

There will be a Region I conference in 2010 in ALBANY!!! It is very exciting! The dates are August 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Please put it down in your blackberry/ pagers now. And Cathy, you can put it down on paper. It will be held at the Albany Marriott. Each chapter of RID is responsible for a committee. I am happy to say that metro members Debbie Olsen and Chris Tester have agreed to be on a committee. They have volunteered to be the interpreter coordinators for the event. Thank you so much! Of course, I have buttons to thank you!

Now Sara and Glenn are going to tell you about a workshop opportunity in June.

Sara- The Carla Mathers legal workshop will be held two weekends in June. The weekends of June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>. Metro RID and NJRID are co-sponsoring the event. This means that metro members will get the Metro RID rate. I would be great if you join this workshop.

Glenn-We also have scholarships available for the workshop. There are two stipends available, \$200 each. The regular workshop fee is \$450 for NJRID and Metro RID members and \$525 for non-members.

There are a few criteria in order to qualify for the stipend. You must be a member in good standing, be willing to join a committee, and be willing to write an article for the newsletter about the workshop. If you need more info you can find it on the website or email Debbie Olsen at [Indibru@gmail.com](mailto:Indibru@gmail.com). To be considered for the stipend, email Debbie. Please include your name, address, and email address. Put "NJ workshop" in the subject line. We will announce the recipients at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is also information about it on the table by the entrance.

Lu: Are they focusing on NJ or NY law?

Sara- You would need to ask Carla about that.

Stephanie Feyne- I have been involved with that workshop and it's wonderful. It will focus on foundations of court interpreting, so really it is applicable no matter which state you live in.

Glenn- You can go to website to find out more information about the stipend.

Melissa: Thank you to Sara for taking over the PDC committee and for being the liaison between NJRID and Metro RID. Is Amy Meckler here? She's not, ok, that's fine. Ok, Karen Jacobs was the CMP chair for many years and I want to recognize all her hard work. Now she is passing the torch to Amy Meckler...and a big thanks to Amy for taking on this responsibility. I have a pin for her! You all are jealous, aren't you? Now Donna will give the budget report.

Donna Lee- This is the income statement as of April 27, 2009.

Previous Balance (as of 2/10/09)- \$15,956.73

### Income

#### Donations

- Mentoring project donation \$1,440.00
- Anonymous donation (for ER Fund) \$ 1,000.00

#### Membership

- Associate \$125.00
- Certified \$195.00
- Supporting \$ 15.00

Professional Development \$1,040.00

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Total Income \$3,815.00

### Expenses

- Copying \$45.24
- Directory \$210.19
- Donations \$ 650.00

- RID National Conference,  
Debbie Swamback- PDC chairperson  
Janice Rimler- Memorial donation

Membership \$38.71

- Coffee for Nov. Gen'l Mtg.

Mentor Project Contribution \$ 900.00

#### Miscellaneous

- MetroRID business checks \$ 73.75
- Newsletter \$339.24
- Postage \$17.82
- President's Fund \$ 50.00

#### Professional Development

- Deaf/hearing interpreter workshop \$2,598.96
- Professional Fees/Accessibility \$435.00

- Interpreters for Nov. Gen'l Mtg. &  
MetroRID/DIRC mtg.

Rent \$300.00

- St. Elizabeth's Church for PDC wkshp)
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Total Expenses \$ 5,658.91

New Balance as of 4/27/09- \$14,112.82

MM-Thanks Donna. Did anyone notice her fabulous shoes??

Stephanie Feyne- Now we move to the Interpreter Emergency Health Fund. This motion was tabled at the last meeting. Now what is the procedure, do we vote or discuss?

MM-You can explain it, we will have a discussion, and then vote.

Stephanie- ok, I move we increase the dues for certified and associate members by \$5.00 and earmark those funds for the Interpreter Emergency Health Fund.

Janice Rimler-I second.

Stephanie-Both certified and associate members will benefit for from this fund. We need to help out each other and support each other in times of need. It is only \$5, which is the cost of a sandwich or a coffee. It translates to us all donating one cup of coffee for one whole year. It is so important that each of us take responsibilities for other members of the community. If the budget line grows every year, we won't need the \$5 dues money anymore and can reduce the dues by \$5. The student membership dues will not be increased, just certified and associate members. Is anyone opposed to this idea? Do we want to discuss it?

Mary Darragh Maclean- how many members will pay the \$5 increase?

Bram Weiser- We have 117 certified members and 55 associate members, this means a total of 172 members will pay the increase. It will be roughly around \$850 that will go to the EHF.

Lu- Can you define "emergency"? What does that mean?

Stephanie- there is criteria laid out on the website. This is not a fund for something like forgetting to pay your bills. This is for when a huge tragedy affects one of our members. That is an "emergency".

Question- Will the money just be offered to a person...how does it work?

Stephanie- The person will contact me. I will get all the necessary information and go to the committee. This will all be done anonymously. We have a cap of \$1500 per request. Depending on the kind of situation, they may get all or a part of that money. It is not required that they pay back the money, but would be fine if they did.

CQ- Just to clarify, members will pay \$5 per year and the rest of the money comes out of the budget?

Stephanie- yes.

Cathy- Anyone opposed?

MK- Will the dues increase \$5 every year after that or just this next year?

Stephanie- It will increase by \$5 next year and then stay at that rate until we lower it. After next year, Metro can decide what to do, but it would stay at that rate.

MK- \$5 isn't that much money.

Cathy-this will jumpstart EHF...and then it will grow. It really just one cup of coffee, not that much at all. If something happens to you one day and messes up your life, this fund could really help you. I know we can all afford \$5. Any opposed? Let's vote.

CQ- I move to increase dues for certified and associate members by \$5.00 each and earmark those funds for the Interpreters Emergency Health Fund.

Cathy- Who supports it? (all raise hands) Any opposed? (no one) Any abstentions (no one)

The motion passed. Next year dues will be increased by \$5 to go to the EHF. Thank you to the EHF committee.

## **New Business**

MM- Now we will move on to Board nominations.

Cathy- It's that time of the year! We are ready for nomination for a new board. I have asked Lu Massaro to write down the nominee names. This is my third year as the nominations chair and it's going to be my last! Next year will be different! Thanks to Lu and Ray Hoffman (and myself) for calling and recruiting people.

First of all, there are three people are willing to stay on board; Rebecca Weinberger, Chris Tester (he may be changing positions...) and our wonderful secretary, Heather Paradise. Thanks to those three for staying on the board. Now we are open for nominations. Let's start with the "Director at Large" nominations. This position is really the ears and eyes of the board.

Stephanie Feyne- I nominate Janice Quiles for Director at Large. Janice accepts the nomination. I also nominate Kathy Walley.

KW- I accept the nomination.

Sarah Kusnetzky -I nominate Andria Alefhi.

Cathy- She's not here but she accepts the nomination. So we have three Director at Large nominations. Moving on to "Vice President" nominations.

Lewis Merkin- I nominate Chris Tester for Vice President.

Chris- I accept the nomination.

Cathy- So this would move him from director at large to VP. Ok, Now moving on to treasurer. Who could ever replace Donna?

Donna Lee- I nominate Jennifer ward.

Jennifer- I accept the nomination.

Cathy- Any more nominations for treasurer? Nope? Ok.

Janice Rimler- I nominate Heather Paradise for Secretary.

Heather – I accept.

Cathy- ok, now moving on to Associate Rep.

Rebecca Weinberger- I nominate Sarah Brandenburg.

Cathy- Well, Sarah is interpreting right now, but she will accept the nomination. Any other nomination for Associate Rep.?

Melanie Gershick- I nominate Aviva BenShitrit.

Aviva- I accept the nomination.

Cathy- Ok, now to the big job of president. We don't have a President yet. We have a Vice President, but we need a captain for the ship. If we don't have a president our chapter will fold and the ship will sink. It will sink and be left like the Titanic. So, I would love to hear all the nominations. Are there any nominations?

Chris Tester- I nominate Lu Massaro.

Cathy- I nominate Corrie Pond---and I promise to help. Don't say no and don't feel pressure. It will be fun. You get a presidents fund of \$400. You can give it back to community if you like.

Melanie- Maybe Corrie and Chris would be willing to be co-presidents.

Cathy- It could be just like a blind date. Well, I don't want to close nominations...but I don't want t be here all night. What is the protocol Stephanie? Should we table it until June 11<sup>th</sup>? If there are no nominations for President, the VP takes over. What if there is no one willing to be President?

CQ- Can we table it until June 11<sup>th</sup> or do we need to decide tonight?

Stephanie- We don't require nominations now but if we don't have a vote by July...we will be in trouble.

Cathy- Well, the couple of the night, do you want to talk it over and then come back with an answer? It might be good to have a phone date before the blind date. I think we will table the discussion because people seemed scared.

MM- I know she's very worried about it. I understand. I was in that position last year and Lu and Cathy were so supportive. I understand your feeling.

Cathy-We are going to table the discussion.

question-If we table the discussion tonight, what happens if we don't have a quorum at the next meeting?

CM-Don't worry, we will have a quorum. Ok, one last time, do we have any more nominations for President. Remember, Corrie didn't turn it down.

Lewis-Since we vote through mail, maybe people can think about it before we send out the nominations. Just tell us the nominations and we will put it on the ballot.

CM-I think we are going to table the discussion for now. If you come up with names in the next 25 minutes or two months, let us know.

MM-Thank you Cathy for making the calls and for being Co-President as well as Chair of Nominations.

## **National RID announcements**

MM-General announcements-

Lou Massaro- This is not my announcement; this is on behalf of Susie Morgan Morrow who is the co-chair of the National Task Force for Deaf-Blind Interpreting (NTFDDBI) and chairperson of the RID Deaf-Blind Member Section (DBMS).

1. The NTFDDBI has had many different projects happening. One was a needs assessment to all of the ITP programs regarding deaf-blind interpreting education. The task force will have a pre-conference meeting before the National RID to determine next steps. There will also be a presentation during the RID conference on their findings.

2. The DBMS will be hosting a workshop (with CEUs!) and fundraiser event during the pre-conference from 4:30-7pm on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The workshop is called "Achieving Cultural Competence: Interpreters Working with Deaf-Blind People". Please contact us if you have a prize that you can contribute at [DBMS@gmail.com](mailto:DBMS@gmail.com) for more information.

3. The CHARGE conference will be held on July 23-26<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, IL. Volunteer interpreters will be reimbursed for their hotel and travel. Contact Susie Morgan Morrow for more information.

4. The National Conference will have a lot of Deaf-Blind members attending and will have three workshops about Deaf-Blind interpreting. I would encourage you to take these workshops. Thanks.

Lewis- This is an advertisement for me, really. Before I was laughing during the nominations for the board but now I am the one who is running. I am running for the National RID Board for "Director at Large". Please vote by going to RID.org. There are three people running and you can get a description of each candidate on the website. I feel that the RID/Deaf community relationship is strained. My platform is to focus on improving that relationship.

MM- great!

Stephanie- The workshops have been announced for the National conference. One night they will have a forum that focuses on values. It's ironic that they will focus on values AFTER the business meeting. Anyway, I know you all want to go out and enjoy yourselves at night, but this

discussion is important. RID President Cheryl Moose has instituted the forum. She wants to talk about where RID began and what it is like now in regards to values.

Also, IDP will host its second community forum at the conference. We need our members to be involved. Please participate.

Please note that for this year's conference the Business Meeting will be held on two days (and no workshops conflict with their time). The standing rules of the conference business meeting have been submitted for our approval. The deadline for feedback on the standing rules is May 31. (The proposed standing rules are posted on our website.)

Motions for the Business Meeting and Bylaws Amendment motions are due by May 5<sup>th</sup>. So think about motions you want to make.

There was an announcement on the most recent Metro bits about the power that the RID board has. We need to look carefully at these board decisions. We owe it to our community to have an open discussion and address these issues at the conference. We need you to be involved.

## **Deaf Interpreters**

### **Regional Announcements:**

MM- Next we have announcements-

Sara Kusnetzky has been PDC chair this year, and now that the year is up, we need a replacement. If you are interested let me know. If you want more information, ask Sara about details.

CQ- Ok, I hear Debbie Swamback making some noise back there. The Metro fundraiser will be on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be right here, at the church. It will be fun! There is a \$20 entrance fee. You can send a check to me in advance or pay at the door. We will have a silent auction (we don't know if it's a silent or Chinese auction yet.) We will also have a 50/50 raffle. Half the money will go to Metro and half to the person who wins. We will provide wine, soda, and appetizers. Light appetizers, so you may want to eat before you come. The DJ will start at 6:30 because of mass, although the party starts at 6pm. We have lots of people donating things for the silent auction. You can think of fund things to donate, anything is acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact me.

MM-Someone told me that wanted to donate something but didn't know what to donate. They are good with fashion, so an idea could be to donate a makeover. Feel free to be creative.

Glenn- We have more money to give away! In addition to the Carla Mathers workshop stipend we will also have a stipend of \$350 for those people who want to go to the national conference.

Cathy-They have to become President to get the scholarship!

Glenn-In order to qualify, you must be a member in good standing for 1 year, you must commit to being on a committee and must be willing to write an article for the newsletter about your experience at the conference. More information is on the website. The deadline to apply is June 9<sup>th</sup>. The recipients will be announced at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have any questions please contact Debbie Olsen. To apply, email Debbie at [Indibru@gmail](mailto:Indibru@gmail.com) with "scholarship" in the subject line. You must include your name, address, email, contact info, and which committee you will join. If you aren't sure, there is a list of committees on the website.

CQ- I forgot a few things about fundraiser. We wanted to have a personal touch to this party, so we sent out an e-vite. Please check to see if you got it. Also, friends are welcome...please invite them. And I am selling raffle tickets tonight. You have to put your name and phone number on the ticket. Thanks.

MM- There are no more announcements. We are done. Who is staying for the discussion? (people raise their hands). Please come back in three minutes for the discussion.

Meeting adjourned: 7:31pm