



NYC Metro RID General Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2010 6:00-7:30pm

President: Christopher Tester

Secretary: Mandy Heinbaugh

Vice President: Kathy Walley

Associate Rep: Dori Griffiths

Treasurer: Jennifer Ward

Directors at Large (4): Sarah Brandenburg, Jana Owen, Mara Stephens, Janice Quiles

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.

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Chris announced that he recently started his term as President in July for a one year term.

These meetings are used as a safe place for interpreters to be mentored. The structure at these meetings is to use ASL, or if you choose to use spoken English, raise your hand and wait to be identified so that communication is clear.

We have a quorum which means we can vote and hopefully more members will arrive.

If you have a motion you must write it down first as we will need them for our files or if we need to amend the motion. Also, if we want discussion we will follow Robert's Rules of Order. If the motion becomes open for discussion there will be a 3 minute time limit places on any comments.

If you have questions about policy please let Chris know and he can look into it; however, this is a new board and this is our first meeting.

New Business

There are three big general ideas that I would like discuss:

First of all I would like to discuss GAP, and for those of you who went to the Region I conference you might already be aware. My goal is set up this program; however, with the economic climate, budget cuts, etc, these things are really impacting the community and it may prove difficult. This may be too expensive to implement at each agency since there is

competition and there is policy that needs to be followed. Everyone needs to be following standards – people complain, but that is just talk, we need to set up a task force to make people aware and get our name and “voice” out there. It is a big responsibility, and I am not exactly sure how it will work, but it is one big idea.

Another goal is I want to work with NAOBI. What can we provide, what can they provide. How can both organizations work to reciprocate with one another? It is my vision that we all work together and share experiences.

My third idea is to find a group of members who are knowledgeable about bylaws. Because board members change every year by the time they become knowledgeable and comfortable new people come in so often everyone is never fully aware. We would like to set up a group that knows about bylaws and that we can contact when questions arise.

Those are my 3 big goals and I really want to get those going. I also want to think about how can we make board stronger – what do we need to do? When the board doesn’t have an answer where can they go? What can we do so that the learning curve doesn’t happen SO often?

Introduction of new board:

Vice President:	Kathy Walley
Secretary:	Mandy Heinbaugh
Treasurer:	Jen Ward who is on her way, this will be her 2 nd yr
Associate Rep:	Dori Griffiths
Directors at Large:	Jana Owen, Mara Stephens, Janice Quiles and Sarah Brandenburg.

Now a few announcements from DOL Jana Owen:

My focus is legal interpreting. I’ve met many deaf people who experience frustration when going to court and have realized there’s no formal structure or process. I am involved with the New York Legal Interpreters for Public Interest group which is an advocacy group. The Department of Justice and the NYPD have also been trying to find a bridge. NYLIPI wants to be sure they are providing adequate services for deaf people. I soon may have an approved letter regarding access for deaf and providing communication – we will see what happens.

Committees:

For this meeting we have invited committee chairs or members to make any announcements (this will not happen all the time):

CMP: Kathy Walley (for Amy Meckler who is not here). Kathy is the liaison for CMP, chair is Amy. Please ask Amy directly if you have any questions regarding independent studies. You can check the website for general information or to make sure you are on track with your CEUs. You can also check your transcript with National RID. The CEU cycle ends December 31st.

General meeting interpreter committee: Kathy Walley (for Sam Tallerico). Sam coordinates interpreters for the general meeting. Typically this is a certified and non-certified interpreter

working together; however, two certified interpreters can work together if someone wants to work on something in particular. Please contact Sam if interested.

Membership/directory committee: Bram Wiser. The directory will soon be ready and then it will be print and sent. Bram is still collecting info and adding more members. We want to increase our numbers so remind your friends.

Emergency fund: Corrie Pond (for Stephanie Feyne). In 2009-10, 5 people needed emergency fund money. The money was distributed and the funds were depleted. People gave more money and the fund now has \$3,000.00. If people give more and we have funds in excess of \$3K, does that money go to EF or to the general budget? Is EF capped at 3K? What are the “rules” of that budget line item.

Fundraising: Jen Ward, (co-chairing with Sarah Brandenburg who could not be here tonight). Last year there was a 50/50 raffle. Working on ideas for fundraising this year and we welcome your ideas. Feel free to contact me. Chris added that people will be more likely to give if there is a goal.

Office manager: Jeff Jaech who could not be here tonight is our office manager. He collects the mail and gets general email: Info@nycmetrorid.org. He is the LTA at Columbia University and administers the certification tests and keeps record of how many passed.

Mentorship: Dorri Griffiths commented on this committee – the chair person is Caroline Burrow, who couldn't be here. If you are interested in mentoring or being mentored please contact Caroline.

Metrobits: Corrie announced - Janice Rimler is in charge of Metrobits, if you have announcements (such as getting certified, having a baby, needing an apt, etc., contact Janice Rimler. The email address can be found on the website.

PDC (Professional Development Committee): Corrie, who is a member of the PDC announced that members should please stay tonight for the workshop. Also, on Wednesday, October 13th from 6-9 at LaGuardia Community College, Bill Moody will lead a workshop. The topic will be Lillian Beard, who at 101 years old recently passed away and was considered a pioneer in interpreting. Bill spent some time with her and videotaped her experiences with interpreting. If you need more info, we can give you after meeting.

Newsletter: Chris announced that Nicole Montagna is chair for the Newsletter. I think she plans to send it soon, but from where I'm not sure (Metrobits? paper?) I think it may be a PDF and will no longer be mailed so that we can save money and the environment. Nicole just arrived so will find out from her later.

Website: No announcements

Adhoc or Awards: No comments, nothing new

Nominations: Update will be part of new business.

Scholarship: – Chris commented - right now there is nothing, but when we have an event or conference or something to apply for we dole out money we have as we can. Those who receive the scholarships may need to write article or serve on a committee.

Nicole - added to newsletter - if you went to a conference and are interested in submitting something, please send me brief paragraph. I tried to send something on Metrobits, but there was a glitch so there was no official call for submissions. Typically Nicole will send a notice for submissions and there will be a 3 month lead time. Once established Nicole will let everyone know dates. We want people to get excited and submit articles.

Chris will ask Janice how people should best submit articles and we will determine how it will be disseminated.

Motions

There is a budget with one line item – interpreters and deaf education committee. This was set up two years ago and we are not exactly sure what it was for. Every year the budget has \$1,000.00-, but the committee no longer exists. Do we need to vote on deleting that line item and transferring that money into the general budget?

Chris – I motion to delete line item and transfer money.

Rick Rubin – second.

Now open for discussion:

Bill Moody and Lewis Merkin commented and agreed - move to eliminate that line item and transfer money to general budget – so call to vote.

Bram Weiser - second

For (removing line item)-22

Opposed – none

All in favor – motion passes. We will discuss later what to do with money.

Should we vote to review the entire budget? Chris and Lewis agreed that is a discussion for the board. Jen will meet with the board to discuss finances. Perhaps that money can be moved to the PDC or another committee that may need money. If you have questions or suggestions contact Jen. Currently we have \$19,815.00.

We would like to discuss paper vote becoming electronic, but we still need a motion to add that to agenda for next meeting. Last year we had a slight problem with the paper voting so we would really like to switch it over. Kat Dudina is looking into it and still gathering information. Right now there are two options: one option is \$90 for the year. Last year 35 people voted for the board. Taking into account the cost of paper, envelopes and stamps, that is about \$60. For a little more money we can set up electronic voting and it can be a one-time set up. Perhaps we can set it up so that members can register electronically as well. We can get more info from Kat and let everyone know. Lewis just went to National Region I conference and they are looking into electronic voting and registration as well.

New Business:

Chris – back to the discussion about a Government Relations Committee/GAP – the goal is to get people involved and start a working solutions group. Not sure about structure, but want to find a group of people who are interested in brainstorming, make a list, figure out roles, connections to different agencies, perhaps connect with the mayor’s office, DA office, office of interpreting. We want people to know who we are, that we are here and know to contact us. Again, mentioning the connection between NYLofPI and NYPD – many cops don’t know how to use interpreters or how to get involved. Another example is the VESID bidding process. Are they informed about interpreters and do they know what the process looks like? Maybe we could “monitor” agencies? We need to have a stronger voice and help oversee interpreters and services provided. Again, we are up against a lot with the economic climate and more budget cuts to come for government agencies. Jana and I met with one agency about building a relationship and it wasn’t about criticizing but how we can help one another. I am very passionate about this, so if you are interested please contact me.

Comment from Jacob Shamberg who recently set up an interpreting agency. The reason he is here is not to promote it, but metro and interpreting agencies that follow standards need to make some noise. Right now there are many spoken language agencies that have contracts for places needing sign language interpreter.

Comment from Nicole M. – I support this, now is the time, especially with the VESID contract bid is coming up. I sent letter to VESID to let them know what’s going on.

Discussion about a possible bylaws/RRO committee. We would like to set up a group to take a look at the bylaws, some may be outdated, some may need to be edited, etc. We would like to find a few people to clean up the bylaws, become a bylaws “expert” of sorts. We don’t want people to have to re-learn the information every year. Kathy Walley is the liaison – if interested contact her at kwalley2@gmail.com. We will also post on the website.

Comments from Lewis Merkin – DOL for National Board. Next week will be the new faces board meeting (one in fall and one in spring). Region I Rep position is now open and two people are collecting signatures. Michael Cannale in NY and Janice Cagan-Teuber from MA. There is also a position open on the committee for deaf and hard-of-hearing. The deadline is September 30th and then there is a 40 day voting period. It will probably be announced in January. Right now I am acting on the board as a temporary Region I Rep and liaison with the Region I President. If interested in running people must get 25 signatures from members in Region I. I haven’t heard if others are interested. At the Region 5 conference they recently made a motion that everyone use ASL and CDIs during the meetings. This communication policy will be discussed in Atlanta next year. There was discussion about interpreting agencies and the grievance process and how, as members, can we encourage agencies to become members. Region 2 – motion was approved that they have a spoken language policy – opposite from Region 5. Region 4 proposed to accept the BEI certification which is similar to the EIPA. For the BEI, RID will set up a strict kind of evaluation consisting of a board or examiners of interpreters. Michigan used the BEI test. The problems with the NIC test were also discussed. There were many discussions regarding certification. There was discussion of a NIC task force being established. There was a meeting three weeks ago and will continue next week. We’ve

been in discussion with people who know about certification in general (not only connected to sign language). Will have more info on the CDI task force later.

Announcements:

Chris:

NJRID – Nov 5-7th – check website for info

LIRID – Millneck having their Fall Festival Oct 9, 10 from 9-5. www.millneck.org

LIRID – next general meeting will be Saturday November 13th all day. Info on website

NAOBI – meeting is every second Friday of the month in Brooklyn. Check website for details.

Next board meeting, open to membership, – Friday Oct 22 6-8 at LGACC in PDA office blue room. C-204

Next general meeting - Nov 17th Wed 6-9

In February or March the general meeting may be on a Saturday in conjunction with a workshop.

Nicole suggested it may be good idea to alternate days anyway due to people having kids, weeknight commitments, etc. This may help give us a better idea of demographics.

Bill Moody: The famous Finnish deaf rapper Signmark will be performing in Washington Square Park on Thursday, September 23rd. His goal is to have everyone come together learn some rap, learn some ASL and all sign/rap together. There will be UN Delegates there. Information can be found on Facebook and in the upcoming Newsletter.

Jana: National Deaf Congress will come to NY in June 2011.

Corrie: Hands In Motion is having an open learning center Expo Oct 2nd 1-4.

Nicole: In 2011 in South Africa will be the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters Conference. Check out youtube for past conferences.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm