



## **NYC Metro RID Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 12, 2011  
**Attending:** Chris Tester, Kathy Walley, Mandy Heinbaugh, Jana Owen, Sarah Brandenburg, Janice Quiles and Mara Stephens. Also, recent member – Heather West.  
**Location:** La Guardia Community College  
**Commenced:** 6:15pm

### **Announcements:**

- Discussion regarding the March 26<sup>th</sup> all day meeting. Many places are booked; however, the Poolside Café here at La Guardia is available. Would be good to have at LGA because it's easily accessible for all boroughs as well as LI and there is plenty of parking. There are windows which may be a drawback but Saturdays aren't that busy. Can also keep looking or we can ask for different spaces at LGA for the Saturday before or after; however we would prefer to keep the date. Big pro for Poolside Café is it will be free. Possibly BOE will have space? Or again, the week before or after here at LGA if we use a different space – perhaps one of the theatres? We could also contact Janice Rimler about the space she uses for Hands in Motion events, or Columbia University – contact Jeff .

### **Old Business:**

- At the last General Meeting Jana proposed a donation to Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association, but Jen is not here tonight. Chris will email Jen the motion and Jana can bring it up at the next GM if we have the funds.

- Chris still needs to look into storage space for files. Jana said there were old VHS tapes, old award plaques, and a file box with paperwork from 70s she has at her apt. Still stuff is all over the place – where can we keep everything? Maybe we can scan the files and throw out some of the outdated stuff – old awards, VHS tapes, etc. It would be best to first focus on getting everything in one place. We don't have an office that we pay rent for, so should be able to afford a storage space.

### **Committee Reports:**

- 1. PDC Committee Update** - Kathy – Debbie Olsen said they will definitely offer a Jan 26<sup>th</sup> workshop and Dori plans to have an Associate workshop before the meeting. The PDC workshop after the meeting will be: “Ethics in

the Age of Social Media”. It will be more a guided discussion rather than a workshop.

For the March workshop there are still a few options for a longer workshop. We would like to announce the workshop a few weeks before and maybe add a few more avenues where that info is. Maybe discuss further how to get this out there – using social media and using ourselves too – posters at places of work. We would like to have a FB page but would need someone to become responsible for that and we are not sure the RID policy regarding comments. Maybe Corrie would be interested setting up the FB page?

2. **Website** – Our website host is Deaf Vision based in CA. Deaf Vision doesn’t manage our site we really just pay for the name domain, and use their template. Nicole thinks it seems that template is tough to work with so perhaps it might be worth looking for a new host. It is a very old design from the 90’s. Nicole would prefer to step down from the Newsletter and help Amy with the website. Nicole would be willing to set up new template. It would be good to have 2 people on the website committee because it is a lot of work and then there is a back-up (team). Chris had some experience with websites back in HS so maybe he could talk to a few people about designs. People would also like to have paypal set up. Would be beneficial for members and non-members to be able to pay for workshops and pay for renewal, and if it’s automatic – once the transaction occurs the deduction is made and there no need to wait for check to clear or someone to run credit card. See who’s interested (maybe find some student members) and have people research companies and other chapter sites.
3. **Directory** - transfer paper to electronic – Chris emailed Mara and Janice about it, but Bram still has concerns about it being too public if it is digital. One point is most of our info is on RID anyway. We would need to advertise it differently – people from outside would have to buy the directory or info. We have to see how members feel about it being online. Easier to have access to info, we can make access restriction (for example, you can only access if you are a member). We first need to talk through the pros, cons and possible concerns of publicizing private info., etc. How do members feel? Paper – waste, never organized, people don’t carry it with them all the time. It really isn’t a perk to have the paper directory and having our names out there as interpreters and accessible online is a good thing. Chris, Janice, Mara, and Amy will set up meeting with Bram.
4. **Newsletter** – Newsletter needs content, website needs content. Jana said she would be happy to work on Newsletter editing and layout, but we need articles. How often do we want the Newsletter – right now it is every 3 months but Nicole is having trouble getting articles and enough content to put in it to make it worthwhile. The March workshop can be in the NL. The April meeting will focus on nominations.

We missed the deadline for current NL, there is something but Nicole isn't happy with it as is. How do we "edit" this – what do we accept? Anything? What if the grammar is wrong? Right now there are no guidelines – anyone can submit anything. Maybe we could separate – letters to the editors as is, articles will be edited, but set up some kind of guidelines. Maybe send an email to people get their confirmation/ok to go ahead and publish. Maybe have a response section? Swamback wants to add something to NL about DIRC. Then Jana will send to Mandy to have second pair of eyes look over it.

5. **Associate** - Dori – there will be an Associate member meeting and workshop before the next general meeting to try and get more interest. Miriam tomorrow will be there to present on numbers. We hope those members stay for the meeting. So far no one has contacted about mentoring. Maybe on March 26<sup>th</sup> there can be something separate for associate members.
6. **Bylaws** – Jana will identify things the board needs to consider. First – RID has a template form of bylaws – do we want to adopt and follow that? Ours are currently organized a bit differently. Do we want to follow National or keep our own because we ARE also our own chapter. Jana thinks we should adopt the template because it standardizes things. Jana will take a vote on how we feel about following national or keeping our on. Review notes comparing national to our current.

The group recommends a Policy and Procedure manual and/or having a Parliamentarian present (familiar with RRO) who can advise the President how the order goes. Michael and Jana would be willing, but would like to do it together and want to open it up to other members too. Committee members for the ad hoc group met twice. Pat Dash, Michael Anthony and Joann Kranis are interested in serving on the standing committees to do the work. Do we need more people or are the 3 of them enough – do they feel it would be too much work. Kathy would like to remain involved, but not chair it. The revisions and decisions will likely not be finished before the term of his board is over. For the vote – motion to set up a Bylaws standing committee, All in favor – motion passed. Should we have an email thread/discussion for each? Maybe use survey monkey for the discussion and comments at the end instead of back and forth comments overlapping. And the 4 current members can add feedback and discussion.

7. **GRC** - met once in December and had lots of discussion and ideas. MOPD - Mayor of Deaf People with Disabilities. Chris has a meeting set up in about 2 weeks with the committee – Commissioner Sapolin and Beth Prevor. Thanks to the committee members – Anna Carter, Michael Anthony, Beth Prevor, Arlene Weiss, Jana Owen, and Chris Tester with Debbie Olsen attending as the interpreter. Not yet final, still waiting on more confirmation. See from

that meeting where things go. First meeting to get a feel, pulse about how the government feels.

**New Business:**

Jana – thrilled to be involved with Unified Court System. Jana and another interpreter were there for a meeting. There were attorneys, judges, etc. who don't know a lot about interpreters or what they do. This committee wants to update a report from 2006. The next meeting is in January. There were some comments made that offended Jana – one judge suggested simultaneous interpretation, another wanted word for word. A few years ago they implemented an English test. Now for ASL interpreters they will look at certification. Jana is planning to do a show and tell – educate them about our profession. New York is one of a few states who provide interpreters for civil cases so they thought NY was advanced, but NY is actually very behind. Justice speaks – there were some women from that and there will be a meeting in April or May discussing their work.

Different group – Sign Language Court Interpreting task force. There has been interesting developments with this. Chris, Jana, Celeste Owens, Nicolynn Bruce, Lynn Gitlin and Tony Christopher have been attending those meetings. Function has changed and now it is called CLIC – Court and Legal Interpreting Coalition. The next task is a survey. There was follow-up last Thursday and there isn't much info yet. They also want to set up video interviews as well as a survey for other people who come in contact with deaf people in court. Celeste said most of the deaf parents who attended the meeting missed a lot of the information and were frustrated.

Meeting adjourned 8:20