



NYC Metro RID General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19th, 2011

10:00-4:30pm

President: Christopher Tester

Secretary: Mandy Heinbaugh

Vice President: Kathy Walley

Associate Rep: Open position

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 10:12am

Announcements:

We do have a quorum this morning. Please be sure to use Robert's Rules of Order and follow protocol.

Dori Griffith recently stepped down from associate representative due to personal reasons so that position is now available – we will have to figure out if we will fill the position, appoint someone, or wait until next term.

Introduction of the board – President – Chris Tester, Vice President - Kathy Walley, Secretary – Mandy Heinbaugh, Treasurer – Jennifer Ward, Associate Rep - available, and Members at Large – Jana Owen, Mara Stephens, Janice Quiles (not present), and Sarah Brandenburg.

Committee updates:

- **Bylaws Committee** – recently established – Kathy reported, regarding RRO – we noticed during the meetings, people are unsure of protocol, so we've asked if anyone wants to become a voluntary Parliamentarian. If interested contact Kathy at vicepresident@nycmetrorid address. This doesn't mean you have to be present at all meetings. We are also looking for someone to help write a proposal about how to write a motion and if the language correct, and everything in order. Again, anyone interested should contact Kathy Walley.

- **DIRC** - Debbie Swamback reported – DIRC hasn't been active for awhile – no one has contacted her for awhile so she will write an article for the newsletter about what DIRC does so that people are aware and can contact her for any burning issues – deaf, hearing, interpreters, CODA, etc. You can email her at bluemoonhands@aol.com - if you have ideas, suggestions, let her know – she will take care of everything.
- **GRC/Legal issues** – Jana Owen reported – since we see some new faces so want to share information about some of our new groups. There is an advocate group to help improve accepted standards in the court systems. Another group with legal interpreters in court, working with social workers, talking about issues such as domestic violence. There have been primarily six people who have been involved and going to meetings – Jana, Chris, 2 legal interpreters and two others. We have been getting input from community members, police force, etc. as well as getting public interest. We are encouraging the community to become involved. Another group is working with the Unified court systems. We've been discussing – training programs, etc. So far we've had meetings. There will be 2 events in May - Barrier Free Living and Barrier Free Justice which deals with domestic violence issues. Daisy Martinez is the contact person there. They offer workshops and travel all over giving lectures. On May 24th, 25th the bar association will offer a language access panel. We are trying to put all the information on the web and FB and Metrobits, so keep an eye out for the information.

Chris reported on GRC, our local org under GAP. We've been meeting over time, but nothing is officially yet set up. We met in January and February with Sapolin, the commissioner, and the mayor's office of people with DA. Present was Chris Tester, Beth Prevor, and Debbie Olsen interpreting. Commissioner Sapolin wanted to focus on court interpreters and the different issues that come up related to that. There will be another meeting on March 31st with Sapolin and the Administrative judge (not sure how to spell her name), but will meet again to develop a better relationship and eventually establish the committee for GRC.

Last week Chris Tester and Michael Anthony met with some affiliates at CUNY to talk about what it means to be a qualified interpreter. It was a beneficial and great way to meet with affiliates and again, establish relationships. As members we need a disability coordinator under the CUNY system.

- **Mentoring/Interpreters for meetings** – Kathy Walley reported – Sam Tallerico is the contact person for interpreting at the general meeting. Thank you to today's interpreters. This is a wonderful mentorship opportunity, typically one certified and one newer interpreter to get experience. If you are interested please contact Sam Tallerico. Chris added – please remember you must be a member for this mentoring opportunity to work with a certified interpreter in a safe environment.
- **Newsletter** – Jana Owen reported – Nicole M. couldn't be here today, but she had set up NL and recently stepped down to become more involved with web design so Jana has taken over the role for the NL. Now we have the “early edition” ready, you can read it here today and will soon be posted on the web.

- **Scholarship** - Lu Massarro reported – scholarship has 4 stipends for the National conference in Atlanta. The stipend covers registration. Contact Lu by June 2nd, no later than 5pm. Contact information is: lumassaro@gmail.com. Let Lu know you want to apply (you must be a member of RID for 1 year and you need to agree to be a member on a committee for at least 1 year more and write an article for the NL about your experience). Please include your name, address, etc. Stipend is \$375 (amount of early bird registration). If already on a committee you do not need to work on another one, just commit to at least one committee.

New Business

Jen Ward reported on budget – we currently have a little over 18,000.00. We haven't spent much this year. Jen recently wrote a few checks, but nothing all that substantial. No one has contacted about emergency fund money which is good. The emergency fund was set up by Stephanie Feyne and Lynette Taylor to support members if some sort of emergency comes up – related to injury, medical bills, etc. We have 3K set aside and if something comes up you can contact that committee to see if you qualify for funds. Emergency fund information is on the website as well – who to contact, how you might qualify, etc. This money is available through dues and donations and it does not need to be paid back. Nicole M. added – although it is nice if you can pay it back to replenish the fund.

Kat Dudina – reported on changes to nominations and voting. Moving forward, all voting for nominations will be electronic, there will be no more paper ballots. You will get information soon and you fill out your information so you can be registered to receive this info electronically. Electronic ballots will include names plus bios. If you don't want to vote for a particular position just write in “no choice”. There may be separate emails for certified and non-certified interpreters depending on voting capabilities. Kat was researching many sites, the one showed at the meeting, called ballotbin.com, is free and a great site. After voting it will take about 1 month to tally all the votes and get the results. Debbie S. – make sure to remind people to vote so they don't ignore the email. Kat – the site has automatic reminders. Last year we only got 40 paper responses and we have 150 members. Hopefully more people will vote with e-system. We will look into voting on blackberrys and it should be compatible with all computers. If you have problems, let Kat know.

Chris - this will be a great transition. Hopefully it will increase the votes and hopefully with Facebook we'll get more info out there and we will start to become a more “green” organization. Also, the money saved for paper, stamps, etc can be used in other areas. Again, the e-voting will not be used for motions that must be done here at meetings. This is ONLY for membership voting. Kat says we are saving about \$200 and we are saving the trees.

Motions

Motion – Jen – I move to add a line item to the budget for any money above the \$3,000.00 for the emergency fund. When people donate they need to be clear and specific that they are

donating to the emergency fund so that we know what that money is for if it will later be used to replenish the Emergency Fund.

Sarah seconds

Open for discussion

Move to vote

In favor – 17

Opposed – 0

Motion passed

Motion - Mara – I move to investigate the transition from an annual paper membership directory to an electronic version of our annual directory and making this electronic

Kathy seconds

Mara – it's a lot of paper, a lot of work, people lose paper, I think it will be helpful to move it to a PDF electronic version. We will investigate further what it will look like and exactly the company, but the e-version will be more manageable. We do have some concerns about privacy issues, info being public, etc.

Chris recognizes Bill Moody – it is just a motion to investigate, it is not to CHANGE, just want a feeling from the community. Mara – yes – just want to look into it. Nicole regarding website committee, they are also trying to make things more user friendly. Lewis Merkin had mentioned something about National RID and how they interface with affiliate chapters. Also could be a possibility for paying dues – for national and affiliate chapters. Maybe we can use their servers and they reimburse AC. National tabled that, but think it may come up at next meeting. We may link up to national – click on AC see the members there so we don't have to re-invent the wheel. And don't need to worry about security and privacy because national takes care of it. But whatever is on national will be on affiliate. Jana – we had discussed before and NJ AC has a great site if you want to check that out.

CT move to vote – clarify – we just want to vote on whether to investigate further, not to change.

All in favor – 16

Opposed – 0

Motion passed

Part of board goals – is to make things more user friendly take advantage of technology and help the environment, so we'll see what happens.

Motion - Bill – I move that NYC Metro RID donate up to \$1,000 (depending on budget possibilities) to WASLI (World Assn of SL Interpreters) to help sponsor one representative from a South American country to attend the WASLI conference in Durban, S. Africa this summer, 2011.

Rationale:

South American countries, in our own backyard, have traditionally had a hard time organizing SL interpreter associations, and several countries in the region have recently established such associations, with the intention of sending delegates to the WASLI conference this year. But they need help. If METRO kicks off the campaign with \$1,000.00 then METRO members donating an hour's pay each to WASLI via PAY PAL on the WASLI website, we can easily get

the \$4,000.00 a S. American representative will need. METRO should sponsor one of our neighboring interpreter associations.

Swamback – seconds

Bill –Do we have the money?

Jen – I’ll have to check. If this is needed for July that’s soon Board will discuss because we’ve already set budget for this year we will have to rearrange funds from other budgets. Swamback – love the idea, DIRC has 2K maybe can move the money from there since DIRC hasn’t been active. Bill and Nicole become members of ad hoc and create a brother sister relationship. Michael Anthony– maybe amend the motion to say “up to 1K”.

Kathy Walley seconds the amendment

Favor – 17

Opposed – 0

Motion amended

Motion to donate up to 1K– no discussion? Call the question

Vote in favor of donating up to 1K,

In favor – 17

Opposed – 0

Motion passed

Closing Announcements:

Lewis Merkin is doing fine, and says thank you for the flowers, letters, etc. He is resting, working a little bit, and thanks everyone for support.

For Region 1 2012 conference – Boston, Rochester and NJ are options will send an email later but just FYI.

Lewis – in 2014 the Region 1 conference may be here in NYC. If we want it to be here (National takes care of the budget), but if you want to become co-chair for 2014 let Lewis know.

National this summer is taking place in Atlanta – hotels are booking up so if you want to go register now! Philly had close to 3,000 people, there will probably be less people in GA, but that is probably because of WASLI and WFD.

Nominations for the Metro executive board – April 1st. We do have people interested – if you want to make nominations the deadline is April 1st. We will soon make announcements for committee positions for 2013 if you want to be involved in that be aware of that coming up.

Next general meeting – Thursday, May 12th 6-7:30 and will probably have a workshop after – Possibly at St. Elizabeth’s (or maybe see if we can have here again), we’ll see.

Thanks to Ashley Graham and Rob Hills for helping us set up everything for this event.

Katie from NJ RID – Oct. 12-14th – will have ASL weekend conference in NJ. I've left information on the table and business cards if you want information. People can donate, boosters, buy ads etc.

Debbie Swamback – technology and save the trees FYI – cost resources, trees needed for internet, everything submitted electronically also use resources and it's electricity so maybe we're really not helping the environment so much by cutting out the paper.

Bill Moody – sad announcement about Alan Champion (former president and a member). Alan has been in the hospital with cancer. Not doing well, will looking for rehab to get better but right now he is very weak. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Jen Ward – May 1st joined MS walk. My father passed away few years ago from MS, and now my sister has been diagnosed with MS so if you want to donate there are forms on the table.

Chris - motion to close – Sarah seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52am