



## NYC Metro RID General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**6:00-7:30pm**

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President: Christopher Tester

Secretary: Mandy Heinbaugh

Vice President: Kathy Walley

Associate Rep: Vacant

Treasurer: Jennifer Ward

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

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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.

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

### **Announcements:**

We do have a quorum this evening. We will also have a motion tonight and we will follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Thank you to our two interpreters, Corrie Pond and Mara Stephens for interpreting our business meeting tonight.

Kathy Walley, our VP, will be standing in for Chris Tester, our President, who is currently in California.

There is not a lot of new business so the meeting should be brief, and afterward we will have a fundraiser, with wine and refreshments, for WASLI. We have four board members present this evening – Director at Large Jana Owen, myself, Director at Large Mara Stephens and our Secretary Mandy Heinbaugh.

Thanks so much for coming.

Here is the Officer's report from Chris who sent this just tonight – "I am really sorry I could not make it tonight. However, I will be back in July! I thought about making a video, but I just became really sick, and you do not want to see me on the screen.

I wanted to take the time to thank our current board members for their hard work and dedication to the NYC Metro RID and to the Deaf community here in New York City. I

am thrilled to see the progress we've made this year, revamping our organization. I hope you enjoyed voting online for our next Board. That is an example of the projects we have been working on this year, and I hope we will be able to continue that for the next term. Our committee chairs also have been fantastic to work with, being flexible and patient with my request for new ideas and suggest any changes we can make for the NYC metro RID.

We seem to have been blessed with crazy weather (tornado for our first general meeting, and a blizzard for our January meeting and lots of rain. I am hoping for a better luck tonight.”

### **Comments from board:**

Kathy – RRO can be very complicated – so far we have three people who have volunteered to become parliamentarians – Pat Dash, Michael Anthony, and Jana Owen.

If you want to become a Parliamentarian let me know. I've been on the board for 2 years and want to thank everyone for their support and everything I've learned. I look forward to seeing what the next VP does.

Mandy – no announcements.

Treasurer's report – We currently have \$16,511.51 in the budget.

Jana – current editor of the Newsletter (NL), next should come out in 2 weeks time. If you have a submission, please send by June 17<sup>th</sup>. Last NL we printed and mailed to various schools and organizations (all organizational members in hard copy). Cost us about \$40 – if you have any organizations who we can add let us know. NL is also accessible via internet.

I'm involved in the NYPD Advisory Public information Act request. We recently filed a freedom of information act request and are still waiting for response on that (it will take time). I'm also on a committee with the court of administration. For this I am a per diem interpreter in their system (there are a few other interpreters). There have been four meetings and a few updates since January. They've been somewhat resistant to our suggestions and ideas. The last report was the 2007 report by office of court of administration. For the next one, I just received a draft last week and I wanted to make some revisions so we opened a discussion. Kathy was there as well, along with a few interpreters, and some lawyers. The head of OCA said they tried to make improvements 10 years ago (they had been sued). We also talked about difference of interpreters – staff vs. per diem. For spoken language they changed what proficiency and qualifications mean and many people failed. Went to an ethics workshop last year – ASL interpreters are different than spoken language and they don't understand that. Seven staff interpreters for ASL in the court system – only three are certified. We need to be advocates “make nice”, but also improve the system. Mayor's office of disabilities has offered some help, but exactly what we don't know. Hopefully we will have more info soon.

Kathy – thank you Jana. I was on the panel and Jana is such a great representative for us all.

Mara – no announcements.

### **Committee Updates:**

**Bylaws** – Michael - none

**Directory/Membership** – Bram –in 3 weeks everyone’s membership will need renewed – I’ve passed on the info here to those who are present to save on postage.

**General Meeting Interpreter Coordinator** – Sam Tallerico, couldn’t come tonight, but he wanted to say, “Thank you all for allowing me to be the general meeting interpreter coordinator for the past 6 years. Thanks to all the interpreters who responded in a timely fashion to my requests, whether or not they accepted the assignment. To those mentors and mentees who did accept the challenge, thank you for your willingness to serve Metro. Thanks to the meeting attendees who supported our colleagues in a non-judgmental way. Thanks to my Board liaisons over the years for their assistance, especially Kathy Walley. I am available to assist the new coordinator with any concerns about the coordinator position.”

Sam is stepping down so please contact Chris if you are interested in becoming the Interpreter Coordinator.

**Awards** – ad hoc committee. Christine Iacone – can’t be here tonight, but we have 2 awards we want to give – one to an individual and one to an organization. The board members have discussed, but we would like your input for both the Metro award and the Community Service award.

**Scholarship** – no from Lu, we can vote for winners.

**Old Business:** None

**New business:**

Lu Massaro, committee chair for scholarship, will draw 4 scholarship winners. Only 6 people submitted for scholarships which is kind of disappointing. CQ draws – Beth Zuriff, Dana Johnson, Debbie Olsen, and Ashley Graham. Those are the 4 winners and tonight we will send the announcement and then they will choose which committee they would like to join.

Kat Dudina to come up and announce the \*shocking\* winners for the upcoming board: President – Chris Tester accepts one more year, VP – Heather Rossi, Secretary – Mandy Heinbaugh, Treasurer – Heather West, Associate Rpe – Katie Smolinsky, Director at

Large – Michael Anthony and Jen Ward (1 year term),. Also staying on for their second year are Directors at Large Jana Owen and Janice Quiles.

There were 84 votes this time for electronic voting – much more than the 32 we got from paper voting.

**National News:** None

### **Regional news**

Kathy - Yesterday I got information from Janice Cagan-Teuber regarding the rapidly approaching Regional 1 meeting taking place in July – place TBD. There are several committees involved – each has 2 chair people and if you want to join a committee I have the list and you can feel free to come up and look at the list and join a committee. We can also post it on the web.

Flushing will be hosting its 6<sup>th</sup> triennial National Asian Deaf Congress Conference – June 22-26th. You can check out: [www.nadc-usa.org](http://www.nadc-usa.org) for more information.

Next board meeting and general meeting TBA.

### **Member Announcements:**

Bill Moody – there is a new Region 1 rep in Boston and I want to applaud her because she’s a good person and because at the Region 1 conference last year there was a proposal to make the conferences more visually friendly which was sent to national, but we heard nothing. Janice contacted them and asked what was up. When I attended several conferences last year they really had lousy visual tools for us and the lighting is awful. The proposal was passed at Regional level but she’s getting them going at the National level.

Bram – I booked a hotel room for the RID conference in Atlanta – there are still 3 spaces available so let me know if anyone needs a room.

Closing remarks from Chris: “Thank you Kathy, Jana, Janice, Mara, Mandy, Sarah and Jen for all of your hard work this past year. I have enjoyed working with all of you. I know some of you will remain on the board, and I am thrilled to continue to strengthen the NYC metro RID. Again, if any of you members have ideas, suggestions, or a wish list, please communicate with any of us on the board or our committee chairs. Just know that, you will be asked to help out so that your idea may come to fruition.

Have a wonderful summer!”

Meeting adjourned 6:55pm