



NYC Metro RID Newsletter

Fall 2011

NYC METRO MEETINGS

Thursday, January 12
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 24
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

NYC METRO BOARD

President
Christopher Tester

Vice-President
Heather Rossi

Secretary
Mandy Heinbaugh

Treasurer
Heather West

Directors at Large
Michael Anthony
Jana Owen
Jen Ward
VACANT

Associate Representative
Katie Smolinsky

RID Region I Representative
Janice L. Cagan-Teuber

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings members!

I hope you all had a great fall and a great thanksgiving. As my second term is already nearly half way through the year, we continue to modernize our organization. As I am writing this, we are in process of upgrading our website by working with our members and their family members. I look forward to the roll out, which I hope will be in a few months.

One other change we made was to reduce the number of general meetings. We used to host 6 general meetings for the members, however in the bylaws,

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HAPPY HOUR!! JANUARY 27TH

*COME MIX AND MINGLE WITH
NYC METRO RID MEMBERS*

AT MOLLOYS PUB ON

50TH AND 9TH 6 PM - 9 PM



President's Letter (*continued from page 1*)

there is no minimum requirement for general meetings. (There is a minimum requirement of 6 board meetings, which we will continue to do). So the board has decided to host 4 general meetings for 2011-2012 term. We will host 2 meetings during weeknights and 2 weekend sessions. We hope to draw more members to attend the meetings. We average about 30-35 attendees per meeting, however near the end of 2010-2011 term, our last 2 meetings, we had trouble meeting quorum due to dwindling attendance. We are open to any feedback from our members about how we set up your meetings, it is for you, our members to share your voice and concerns and ideas.

If you have ideas, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us on the board or committee chairs.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday.

Christopher Tester, CDI
NYC Metro RID President

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The New York City Deaf & Hard of Hearing Parents Association is sponsoring their annual Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community holiday celebration. This event will take place on December 17, 2011 at St. Francis College, in Brooklyn N.Y.

The purpose of their annual event is to provide an opportunity for the many Deaf & HH families and seniors to come together to celebrate the holiday together as a community. The event will include games, prizes, refreshments and toys distributed by our Deaf Santa.

There will be a lot of Kodas looking forward to the fun so New York City Metro RID is pleased to donate \$150 to support the event. I strongly encourage our members to show support/appreciation for the New York City Deaf & Hard of Hearing Parents Association during the holidays.

SEND DONATIONS TO:
NYC DEAF/HH PARENTS ASSOC.
P.O. BOX 20293
BROOKLYN, NY 11202



APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2011 - 2012

The Chapter Budget went through an update with the transition to a new Treasurer this year. Heather West now uses and accounting program to track our finances. We've moved beyond spreadsheets! The Board approved her budget proposals as our official projections of income and expenses for the coming year.

Income	
2010-2011 Carry-Over	\$5,000.00
CMP	\$140.00
Fundraising	\$500.00
Membership - Supporting	\$250.00
Emergency Fund	\$50.00
Membership - Organization	\$750.00
Membership - Student	\$750.00
Donations	\$1,500.00
Membership - Associate	\$1,500.00
Membership - Certified	\$6,000.00
Professional Development	\$400.00
Total Income	\$16,840.00

Expenses	
Awards	\$100.00
CMP	\$200.00
Conference Scholarship	\$1,200.00
Conference Support	\$500.00
Copying	\$100.00
DIRC	\$1,000.00
Directory	\$250.00
Donations	\$1,000.00
Fundraising	\$200.00
Mentorship Program	\$500.00
Membership	\$50.00
Miscellaneous	\$150.00
Newsletter	\$450.00
Postage	\$200.00
President's Conference	\$300.00
President's Fund	\$250.00
Professional Development	\$3,500.00
Professional Fees & Accessibility	\$500.00
Publicity	\$0.00
Rent	\$700.00
Web Site	\$2,500.00
Emergency Fund	\$3,090.00
Total Expenses	\$16,840.00



NATIONAL TESTING SYSTEM: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This summer new requirements will be put in place for certification test takers.

Anyone Deaf candidate who takes the CDI test after June 30th, 2012 will need to hold an Associates degree. Any Hearing candidate for the NIC, EIPA, OTC or SC:L must hold a Bachelors degree. There will be no 'grandfathering' system.'

This plan was adopted in Chicago at the 2003 RID Conference; national members passed a ements were phased in beginning in 2009 when Hearing candidates were required to have an Associates degree. The final change will happen in 2016 when Deaf candidates will have to have a Bachelors degree.

There is an Alternative Pathway available to interpreters who do not meet the degree requirements. In order to meet the criteria for this option an applicant must document their training and related experience in five categories. Points are accrued in these areas: Formal Education; Work Experience; Relevant Training; Professional Certifications and Leadership and Participation.

Anyone who wants to apply to take the test must provide necessary documentation; once the paperwork is verified (this process will take several weeks), the candidate will received an 'Authorization to Test' Letter that must be brought to the test site on the day of the test. There are likely to be lots of people planning on taking a test in the coming months. If you are too, plan ahead to ensure you can reserve a testing slot.

POTENTIAL NYS LEGISLATION FOR INTERPRETER LICENSURE

by Jana Owen

There is a draft circulating of a proposal to the NY State Legislature that would effect to the way interpreters work in this state. In this plan, an interpreter must be licensed in order to provide interpreting services.

Members of other Affiliate Chapters have reviewed it and NYC Metro RID is interested in your feedback too. The Board will reach out to collaborate with members of the Empire State Association of the Deaf who have been active in these matters.

In the draft there would be two kinds of Licenses an interpreter could hold: a Renewable License or a Restricted License. Both include similar components. All applicants would submit an application, pay a fee of \$140 and evidence of the following:

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POTENTIAL NYS LEGISLATION *(continued from page 4)*

RENEWABLE LICENSE	Education	Credential/Skills Assessment	Other Documentation
Hearing applicant	AA degree in SL interpreting or ITP certificate	RID certificate or ESAD certificate level 3, 4 or 5 or any other certificate later approved	none
Deaf applicant	none	RID certificate	Physician's diagnosis of deafness

RESTRICTED LICENSE	Education	Credential/Skills Assessment	Other Documentation
Hearing applicant	AA degree in SL interpreting or ITP certificate	Verified by ESAD to interpret at level 2 or higher	- Proof of having passed the RID written test - Proof of Associate or Student RID membership
Deaf applicant	- High School diploma or GED - 8 hrs of Ethics training - 8 hrs of Interpreter Role and Function training 40 hrs of additional workshop training	none	- Physician's diagnosis of deafness - Letter of recommendation from 3 certified interpreters - Proof of Associate or Student RID membership

A state Board for Sign Language Interpreting would be created that would be made up of seven people. The leader would be the Executive Director of the Office of Professions or their designee. Three members would be Deaf or Hard of Hearing, two interpreters and one a person or entity representative of a body that hires interpreters.

The second draft is in the process of being crafted. Many of the elements of the first draft would need to be clarified. For example, there is no current ESAD system for assessing interpreting skills so it seems instead the Sign Language Interpreting Board would be responsible for gauging the skills of uncertified interpreters, but this is unclear. There is also additional provisions for out of state interpreters, for a code of ethics governing licensed interpreters and for temporary or permanent exemptions.



2012 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

In that past few months we've made changes to our voting system so it's no longer done by paper ballot. In a similar strategy, this year NYC Metro RID members will not receive a printed membership directory. Instead, with Bram Wisner, Membership Committee Chair, we are working toward an online format that will be available on our website.

We're working on a designing a new look for that website. It's time for an update to the look and the content. In addition to an online membership directory, we'll also have a means of submitting electronic payments so that membership renewals are easier with a simple way of paying dues.

NYC Metro RID is grateful for the laptop that ASLI donated to our organization. It will be available to our treasurer to keep track of our finances, and our secretary will use it at General Membership meetings to make the record.

As a not-for-profit organization, we are able to accept donations and in return, provide the donor with a charitable donation receipt. Please remember NYD Metro RID when you are looking for a place to give. Your donation is tax deductible, and can help the organization serve the interpreting and Deaf/HH communities.

REGIONAL RID CONFERENCE NEWS

- Region I** Thursday, July 26 - Sunday, July 29
Sheraton Atlantic City, Atlantic City, NJ

- Region II** Thursday, August 2 - Sunday, August 5
Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, Fort Lauderdale, FL

- Region III** July 2012 Lisle, IL

- Region IV** Thursday, August 2 - Sunday, August 5
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO

- Region V** Wednesday, June 13 - Sunday, June 17
Waikiki Beach Marriott, Honolulu, HI



CHAPTER BYLAWS

by the Bylaws Committee: Pat Dash, Michael Anthony and Kathy Walley

Over the last several months the Metro Bylaws Committee has reviewed our bylaws with a view toward identifying which ones may need to be amended. As a part of this review process we utilized National RID's Affiliate Chapter Handbook, which contains Sample Affiliate Chapter Bylaws. This bylaws template served as a source of ideas for potential changes we may select for consideration. Ultimately, we determined that some proposed changes would best be decided with feedback from the membership.

We realized that while current bylaws for both Metro and National RID do not permit students voting rights or the opportunity to serve on the board, National's Sample Affiliate Chapter Bylaws do suggest that some voting rights and board service may be granted to an affiliate's student members. In light of this discovery, we decided that changing Metro's bylaws to offer these rights to student members was worth exploring. We further realized that we needed to delve into the pros and cons of such a change by hearing the views of the larger membership.

To this end, a portion of the October 15th General Meeting was dedicated to a discussion of our first topic: "Should NYC Metro amend its bylaws to grant voting rights and board membership status to student members?" Those in attendance divided into four groups, each facilitated by a bylaws committee member, to express their views for and against the proposed amendments. Each group appointed one person as note taker, and another as spokesperson. When the discussion was done, each spokesperson addressed the meeting to deliver their group's conclusion, "Yes" or "No".

We found that one group was strongly in favor and one group strongly opposed, while the other two expressed some support but also some concerns. Some felt that being allowed to vote and serve on the board might encourage more students to join and then become more active Metro members. Others were concerned that while some students have enough local working experience to understand issues that may be put to a vote or come before the board, others do not.

Having taken all this in, the Bylaws Committee will recommend that the Board leave the status of students as is. However, the discussion highlighted the need for Metro to investigate ways to encourage student members to become more involved with our organization but that do not involve voting or serving on the board.



PROXY FORM

At each NYC Metro RID meeting, in accordance to Roberts Rules of Order, we ensure a quorum in order that business may be conducted. We do have a proxy system. If a member is unable to attend the meeting, they may assign their vote to another member who will serve as proxy. If a member holds more than one proxy, that voting bloc may not be split in any vote.

If you want to assign your vote to a proxy, you must fill out this form and it must be submitted at the meeting where you wish your proxy to be represented.

NYC Metro RID, INC

I, _____ a voting member in good standing of
(your name)

NYC METRO RID, INC. hereby designate _____ as my
(name of proxy holder)

proxy, a member in good standing, to cast my vote at the meeting held on

_____. My Proxy named above will take action I might take.
(date of meeting)

This proxy is void if I am at the meeting.

My Membership status: certified associate

PRINT NAME

DATE

Signature

NYC Metro RID members are encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editor and announcements related to the interests of our members. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. Letters to the Editor will be printed with limited editing. Submissions may be condensed or rejected because of length or style; if changes are made, nothing will be published unless approved by the author. In some cases, a portion of an article may be published with a link to the full article on our website. Recent back issues may be found at www.nycmetrorid.org