



NYC Metro RID Newsletter

Summer 2011

NYC METRO FALL MEETING

Our Fall meeting will be an all day gathering to include a workshop and meeting. Date and time will be announced via RIDBits.

NYC METRO BOARD

President
Christopher Tester

Vice-President
Heather Rossi

Secretary
Mandy Heinbaugh

Treasurer
Heather West

Directors at Large
Michael Anthony
Jana Owen
Janice Quiles-Reyes
Jen Ward

Associate Representative
Katie Smolinsky

RID Region I Representative
Janice L. Cagan-Teuber

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we begin to usher in another term of the NYC Metro RID, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for a successful year for our organization. I will continue in my role as President for the 2011-2012 term and am excited to work with all of you for another year.

My vision for this term is to further develop the outstanding work we have achieved together in the last twelve months.

Highlights include:

- Successfully transitioning from paper ballots to electronic ballots for the board of elections. We are one step closer to modernizing our organization, and ensuring that we are accessible to everyone;
- Establishing the By Laws committee, which will now monitor and improve our bylaws that will best serve our members and support the President going forward;
- Establishing a "Government Relations Committee," and developing an ongoing relationship with the Mayor's office for People with Disabilities and its commissioner Matthew Sapolin.

(continued on page 8)



My memories of Alan.

Alan passed away peacefully on April 22, 2011 in Tulsa, Oklahoma after a long battle with cancer. It had been his last wish was to return home to Tulsa, to spend his last days in the same room where his mother had spent her last days and be with his sister and family and I'm very pleased that this did happen.

Before he left for his final trip to Tulsa, he had been staying with me. Those last few months were a combination of hope and possibilities followed sadly by prolonged hospital stays and a gradual decline in this health. He knew what was happening and fought the good fight up until the end. On reflection, this last year with Alan was a roller coaster ride – oftentimes fun and happy (Bill & Ralph, Rick and I took him on his first cruise this past Christmas and it was a wonderful time– with special thanks to so many people who helped make it possible – Lou, Candy, Lynnette and so many others), oftentimes sad (some difficult chemo moments, discomfort, some up and down prognoses, and the surgeries which weren't successful). Whatever he was going through, he always tried to remain positive and hopeful. I think of him often and will always cherish my time with him.

Alan arrived in NYC more than 30 years ago. He was quickly hired by Mary Beth Miller to teach sign language at NYSD and I was in his first class. He soon became a presence here in the city. His theatrical interpreting experiences started shortly after his arrival - he interpreted the first Broadway show – Elephant Man in 1980 and then over 100 more. He was President of Metro - it was Alan who first introduced the idea of Metro meetings being conducted in sign (I remember there was some resistance, so being the diplomat he was, he started it slowly – having every other meeting signed). He instituted a mentoring program of

sorts, pairing hearing interpreters with individual Deaf community members to meet and talk (Debbie Swamback remembers that's how she met Ernest Marshall!). When I worked at NYU, he coordinated several big Deaf community events, including Flick of the Hand and the first Bring Back the Old Signs. His famous themed parties were quite the social event and an invite meant you were part of the 'in crowd'. He left NYC and moved to the New Jersey/Pennsylvania area more than 10 years ago, working at the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as their sign language specialist, but before that, he was ours and he remained a true tri-state presence the rest of his life.

We all thought we knew Alan well but sometimes when you thought you knew him, you'd found out interesting and varied things you didn't know. He was so many things – a CODA, theatrical interpreter extraordinaire, a choir singer with the famous Princeton Singers as well as a member of several Church choirs. He was one of the original creator/instructors of the TDF/Juilliard program to train theatrical interpreters (along with Candy Broecker, Lynnette Taylor and Stephanie Feyne), a program that really meant a lot to him – he loved to encourage and support other interpreters and he was a strong proponent of mentoring. He loved words and language (both in spoken English and sign) and he was a game-show watcher/player (crossword puzzles, Jeopardy, Pacman, old 70's game shows.....). He loved animals (cats, dogs, birds – he bred cats for a while). He loved flowers (he raised orchids for a while). I guess looking back on his life he was a true renaissance man.

He was incredibly charismatic and a definite charmer – a smile with those dimples could take him far and it was an experience to watch him in action.



Even throughout his many stays in the hospital – he would ask for the name of every nurse and doctor he came in contact with. From there it was the challenge of the correct spelling, pronunciation and country of origin. Everyone knew him. Everyone liked him.

In looking back on my year with Alan, I've thought a lot about why people become friends and why we do the things we do for other people. I had always been friendly with Alan – phone calls, dinners, theater, but last year this all changed. I became his caretaker, scheduler, gatekeeper, confident, protector, financial planner,

and so much more. I think I truly became his friend in the truest sense of the word. I've come to the conclusion that some things in life don't have an answer- it's just meant to be. I think that was me and Alan.

Those are some of my many memories of Alan. I think I speak for everyone when I say we have all lost a dear friend much too early. He was one of a kind and will be deeply missed by everyone with whom he came in contact.

Beth Prevor



Alan Albert Champion

July 8, 1955 – April 22, 2011

"Think of me, think of me fondly
when we've said goodbye.
Remember me once in a while,
Please promise me you'll try."
from Phantom of the Opera

We promise Alan!

Alan Champion - Interpreter

We mourn the loss and celebrate the extraordinary life of our friend Alan Champion. Alan passed away peacefully on April 22, 2011, after a two-year battle with cancer.

His contributions to interpreting in the NYC metro area were numerous. Alan was a coda and felt it was important for interpreters to be a part of the Deaf Community. He served three terms as Metro President (in 1984, 1990 and 1991). He was always accessible and approachable to interpreting colleagues about all RID matters.

Alan created the "Bring Back the Old Signs" forum in the early '90s. This forum allowed interpreters to see older, local and regional signs that were not known by younger and newer interpreters. The popular forum was presented again ten years



later in NYC, and in 2009 was presented at our national conference. He honored the tradition of ASL and its ownership by the Deaf community, including the rich tradition of ASL storytelling. Alan helped interpreters appreciate ASL and was a great friend, mentor and colleague.

Alan was instrumental in producing the "Flick of the Hands" series in which Deaf people would act out or storytell famous movies. Some movies were presented from the perspective of a Deaf child in the pre-closed-captioning days, and had little or no bearing on the 'real' movie. The stories, however, were very real to all in the eyes and hands of these 'interpretations'. Alan had the uncanny ability to bring these entertaining, standing room only, productions to appreciative audiences.

In 1980 Alan and Phil Giambaresi interpreted the first sign-interpreted Broadway play, "The Elephant Man." Alan continued to interpret for theatre in NY, NJ and PA, accruing over 100 Broadway credits. He was one of the original four instructors for TDF's Signing for the Theatre yearlong course, along with Candace Broecker Penn, Mary Beth Miller and Alan Barwiolek. When the program became the national "Interpreting for the Theatre" seminar, Alan taught with Candace Broecker Penn, Lynnette Taylor, and Stephanie Feyne, along with twenty Deaf advisors. This program ran for 11 years.

After leaving NYC, Alan continued to interpret on Broadway, off-Broadway, and at regional theatres while he held a staff position at the NJ Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Even with full time work, he made time for his free-lance practice. He knew it was important to be connected to the community at large. He also presented workshops around the country and maintained close friendships with interpreters of all ages and levels of experience. He mentored many of us formally and informally.

Alan was active at national RID conferences, trying to create collaborative opportunities at every turn. At one national conference, it was announced from the podium that writing a mission statement would take too much time. That afternoon, Alan and several Metro members collectively drafted a mission statement and presented it at the business meeting. It was soon adopted by RID.

For those of us who knew Alan well, the loss is significant. For those who only knew him peripherally, he was an inspiration and a genuine one-of-a-kind colleague. He was very proud of his coda identity and generously shared his family, with us whenever they came to town! We salute and miss Alan's infectious laugh, warmth, genuine talent and his high expectations for his work product and our profession.

Stephanie Feyne & Debbie Matthews Arment



NATIONAL RID BOARD NEWS

by Janice L. Cagan-Teuber
Massachusetts

Greetings Members of Chapters in RID Region I. I would, again, like to thank those of you whose votes have afforded me the opportunity to represent the best region in RID! (not boasting, just telling it like it is). I want to also take the opportunity to tell you that I am open to suggestions and concerns to bring to the Board, as well as forwarding information to you, from the Board. My email is region1rep@rid.org. Email is the best way to contact me and, while I am overwhelmed by the number of emails from just the Board and National Office, I WILL eventually get back to you. I will try my darnedest to reply within 2 days, but please be patient with me. This is all new to me.

So ... an update ... the Board is preparing for the Atlanta, GA Conference, being held between July 17 and 22nd, and I hope to see lots of Region I folks there. There will be a Region I Caucus, though I'm not exactly sure what form it will take. If you have any suggestions, please send them my way. In keeping with the philosophy of Region I, the Caucus will be conducted in ASL. I do believe that we will have interpreters for those who feel they are not fluent enough and prefer to listen in spoken English, or to have interpreters interpret into ASL for them. If Oral Transliterations are requested (please let me know as soon as you can so I can inform the interpreter coordinators), we will try to provide them, too.

After the conference, I would like to be able to visit as many chapters in my region as I possibly can. If your chapters are holding retreats, or statewide conferences or regular meetings, please let me know which you would like me to attend. I do need to inform you, though, that travel and lodging will need to be provided by whoever is hosting the meeting/retreat/conference. My preference is to stay with members of the chapters, instead of a hotel (I prefer the personal, face-to-face connection). If the meeting/retreat/conference is being held in a hotel, then I would like to share a room, and not be solo. Just keep that in mind whenever you would like me to join your festivities. I kinda feel like I'm rambling, but there are so many thoughts running through my mind, that I don't want to forget anything, especially since I haven't been too communicative since I was elected. I guess my basic point is ... I look forward to meeting all of you, either at your meetings or in Atlanta. Please come up to me and introduce yourself and let me know I represent YOU! Thank you, again, for putting your trust in me.

_m/ Janice (aka JCT)
region1rep@rid.org



DONATIONS WE'VE MADE

Each year, NYCRID allocates \$1000 in our budget for donations. This money can be used toward any purpose the membership or board deems appropriate. Traditionally, the donations are for events that further the aims of Deaf and Interpreting organizations. Here's a look back at our contributions in recent years.

2011	\$1,000.00	Toward covering expenses for an interpreter from South America to go to the 2011 World Association of Sign Language Interpreters in South Africa.
2011	\$100.00	To the Asian Deaf Congress for the 2011 triennial conference to be held in Flushing, New York
2010	\$500.00	Region I conference
2009	\$300.00	Professional Development for legal interpreting in NJ

If you have ideas about what strategies we should consider this coming year, share your suggestions. You can send a note to a member of the Board of Directors or even post a topic for discussion on our Facebook page.

Best wishes to those who are headed to Atlanta for the 2011 RID National Conference July 17th – 23rd

At the conference there will be time for each Member Section to gather.

- Deaf Caucus
- Interpreters in Educational and Instructional Settings
- Interpreters in Legal and Court Settings
- Interpreters with Deaf Parents
- Interpreters for the Deaf-Blind
- Interpreters Service Managers
- Interpreters and Transliterators of Color
- Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Intersexed, Transgendered Interpreter/Transliterators
- Video Interpreters

There will also be a meeting of Mano a Mano for interpreters who work between three languages. Workshops and the Business Meeting will make up the bulk of the week. And of course, lots of time to catch up with friends and meet new colleagues.



**STIPEND \$\$\$
to Attend RID Conference
AWARDED!!!**

At the June 9th Chapter meeting, names were drawn from amongst those who stepped forward with a pledge to serve a year on a Chapter committee and hopefully, an article about their experience at the conference. There were only six folks who vied for this free money!

The four names that were randomly chosen to receive \$375 to attend the 2011 NYC Metro RID National Conference Scholarship are:

Debbie Olsen

Dana Johnson

Ashley Graham

Becki Krieg

This stipend is made available to any current NYC Metro member in good standing, who is also a member of National RID.

*NYC Chapter History
tidbit*

Our chapter was affiliated on

May 16, 1970.

AWARDS

NYC Metro RID presents two awards annually. The Member Service Award is given to a person or organization that has provided service to NYC Metro RID. The Community Service Award is given to a person or organization that has provided service benefiting the Deaf or Interpreting Community.

The board is currently in the process of selecting award recipients for the 2010-2011 term.

If you know of an individual, group or organization that you feel should be considered for either of these awards next year, make a suggestion!

Service Awards in Past Years:

- 1990 Claude Shirts
- 1991 Eugene Bourquin
- 1992 Laura Conviser
- 1993 JoAnn Kranis
- 1994 Deborah Matthews
- 1995 Alan Champion
- 1996 Beth Prevor
- 1997 Bill Moody
- 1998 -- Cooper Jones
- 1999 Debbie Swamback
- 2000 Pam Maynard
- 2001 Cathy Markland
- 2003 Ray Hoffman
- 2004 Lisa Dennett
- 2005 Debbie Swamback
- 2006 Stephanie Feyne
- 2007 Janice Rimler
- 2009 Dana Johnson



Spring 2011

2011-2012 BOARD MEMBERS

President – Christopher Tester, CDI, President@nycmetrorid.org

(continued from page 1)

We also have room for more improvements and more growth. I am considering only four general meetings in the next term – two on a weekend and two on a week-night. Please keep a look-out for our meeting schedule, which should be announced near the end of the summer.

I want to thank some board members for their notable service this past year: Katherine Walley, Sarah Brandenburg and Mara Stephens. It was great working with the three of you, and I hope you will serve on the board again in the future.

Additional thanks to Mandy Heinbaugh and Jennifer Ward for their eagerness to run again for another term on the board, and Jana Owen and Janice Quiles, both of whom have one more year remaining on their two-year term. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

I also want to welcome Heather West, Katie Smolinsky and Michael Anthony to the team. We are excited to work with you!

Finally, please remember that we are here to support you, our members, as best we can. If anyone has ideas, suggestions, concerns, or other feedback, please feel free to reach out to any of us.

Wishing you and your families a pleasant summer.

Vice President – Heather Rossi , VicePresident@nycmetrorid.org

I am honored to be elected as Vice President for NYC MetroRID and am looking forward to serving on the board for the 2011-2012 term. I have been a member of the NYC interpreting community for almost three years and am so glad to have the opportunity to be more involved as an MetroRID board member. Currently, I am working as a staff interpreter for the NYCDOE Office of Sign Language Interpreting Service as well as the Operations Manager for Mill Neck Interpreter Service. I feel that my knowledge and experience working as an interpreter and an administrator will bring a new perspective to the board and members. I am thrilled to be working with such a great team and look forward to gaining knowledge from their experiences. I plan on taking a very active role in assisting the interpreting community with any resources that they need to establish and maintain a positive working environment. Thank you for choosing me as your Vice President!

Secretary – Mandy Heinbaugh, Secretary@nycmetrorid.org

I recently served as Secretary for NYC Metro RID for the 2010-2011 term and look forward to another year on the board (with some repeat board member and some new faces!). I graduated from LaGuardia's Interpreter Education Projects program in June 2007 and have been NIC certified since last September. Metro members did a lot of great work last year and also made a lot of progress in different areas and it will be exciting to continue on those projects and see how things progress this year. I love being involved in both the Deaf and interpreting communities as much as possible and one great way of doing that is being a part of Metro! Here's to a great 2011-2012.



Treasurer – Heather West, Treasurer@nycmetrorid.org

I am very pleased to serve as Metro RID's new Treasurer. I moved to NYC about six months ago from Cleveland, Ohio. I attended interpreter training classes at both Gallaudet (as a visiting and summer student) and at the University of Akron. From 1998-2007 I served first as the Advisor and later as the Executive Director of an advocacy organization in northeast Ohio, called the Deaf & Deaf-Blind Committee on Human Rights. Working and volunteering for these and other non-profit organizations for the past 20+ years, I have significant experience working with/on boards, developing and overseeing budgets and organizational finances and implementing programming. I have worked as a freelance interpreter for 13 years (part-time for 10 years and full time for the last 3 years) in community, medical, post-secondary, non-profit, political, employment, government and VRS settings. I received my NIC certification in 2009.

This year I hope to work with the Board to keep the budget and finances running smoothly and hopefully to transition our accounting system into an electronic format. As a Board member I hope to hear from and work with Metro members to build a strong supportive community for interpreters in the Metro NYC area.

Associate Member Representative – Katie Smolinsky,

Thank you for the opportunity to be a Board Member of Metro RID. I am looking forward to becoming involved in the community. One of my goals is to get a strong support system in place for interpreters new to the field. I am excited to be the liaison and I will always be open to suggestions on how to strengthen our organization. I look forward to working with all the Board Members, meeting existing members and getting to know prospective members of Metro RID.

There are four Director-at-Large positions; the lengths of their terms vary.

Director-at-Large - Michael Anthony

First, I want to thank the membership for entrusting me with being on the Board. My goal is to interact with as many interpreters in the New York area as possible and see what *their* goals or desires are for MetroRID. For interpreters who are already members, I would like to get their feedback on how we can improve the organization to better address their needs. For those interpreters who have yet to join, I would like to get their feedback on how the organization can better reach out to them. In short, I hope to listen to as many interpreters as possible and gain an understanding of *their* needs and then bring that input back to the Board.

Director-at-Large - Jana Owen, DirectorAtLarge1@nycmetrorid.org

I am one year through a two year term and have enjoyed representing NYC Metro RID at various local events. I was appointed to the Advisory Committee to the Office of Court Administration in the NY Court System; I serve on community advocacy groups who focus on the quality and provision of interpreting services in court, legal and law enforcement settings. This coming year I will ensure local professional development opportunities in legal interpreting topics.



Director-at-Large - Janice Quiles-Reyes, DirectorAtLarge4@nycmetro.org

I am a 2010 graduate of The American Sign Language-English Interpretation Program of CUNY-LaGuardia Community College. I've been involved with Metro RID as a Board member since 2008.

Being a part of the Board has offered me many opportunities to form and maintain professional and lovely friendships that always offer me support as a newbie interpreter. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the "ins & outs" of Metro and I hope to be able to continue to offer my time in helping the development of our organization.

Director-at-Large - Jen Ward

After two years serving as Treasurer, I decided to join the board again for a third year as Director at Large. I wanted to continue supporting the organization but in a different capacity. The Director at Large position gives me the freedom to participate in aspects of the organization that I have yet to experience. I look forward to another great year with a new amazing group of Interpreters.

OUR NEW FRIEND TECHNOLOGY

by Kat Dudina

Let's face it - we interpreters are old fashioned. While others are slaving away at their computers, operating fancy machinery and spending hours making deals through the latest communication devices, we have but one instrument to work with - our bodies. Aside from billing for the work we do, we conceivably never have to come in contact with any form of technology for as long as we have interpreting work and enough stamina to continue doing it. Many of us wish it could always be this way. Yet in this quickly changing world, we have no choice but to stop resisting and accept technology as our friend. Not only are we often forced to learn about technology for the purpose of understanding the content of the message we are interpreting, in order to do our job effectively, but it creeps up on us in our everyday lives as well. And as much as we wish we didn't have to check our email at least once every 15 minutes, if we don't, life will keep on upgrading, leaving us in the dust.

In the last 10 years Metro has taken one very important step toward embracing the modern world of technology - we have built our very first website. Without a website it would be that much harder for us to learn about the latest Metro news, find contact information, and most importantly it would make it difficult for others to locate our organization on the world map known as the Internet.

However, since then we have considerably slowed our efforts to keep up with the rest of the modern world. Only recently did we make our newsletter available through our site; this past year we finally made the transition to an electronic ballot for annual board elections; yet we still cannot renew our membership online (a fact that quite frankly often contributes to my own delinquency) and our member



directory is still not accessible through our site, the way it is on the RID site. There are other fun features we could consider adding at a later date, but I feel having the essentials is vital to our performance and growth as an organization.

Before I got my first cell phone, about eight years ago, my life was considerably slower paced. I could not simply be found at any time of day or night, and that kept me relaxed. I did not own a computer and went to my college computer lab to get access to the internet. Now if I leave my smartphone at home by accident, or if the battery dies, I feel like I'm missing a limb. On the one hand, I want to go back to the days of yore when life was slower and a lot more forgiving. On the other, I know that if I want to move forward and stay on top of things, I have to be equipped for what's ahead. I think it's good to have balance, but also important to have opportunities for participation in the fast paced technology-filled environment of today.

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.

<u>NYC Metro RID, INC</u>	
I, _____ a voting member in good standing of NYC	
METRO RID, INC. hereby designate _____ as my proxy, a member in good standing, to cast my vote at the meeting held on	
_____ or at the adjournment of that meeting. My Proxy names above will take action I might take. This proxy is void if I am at the meeting.	
My Membership status: _____ certified _____ associate	
_____ NAME	_____ DATE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deaf Seniors of America Conference

When: August 10 – 11, 2011
Where: Chicago, Illinois
More Info: www.deafseniors.org click on 'events'

Conference: Strategies in Trilingual Interpreting

When: September 10 – 11, 2011
Where: Chicago, Illinois
More Info: www.ilrid.org click on 'events'

The Intersection of Mental Health & Legal Interpreting

taught by Carla Mathers and Roger Williams

When: November 11 – 12, 2011
Where: Troy, Alabama
More info: Alabama Department of Mental Health & Troy University ITP

2011 RID National Conference

Thursday, August 2 ^ Sunday, August 5
Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA

2013 RID National Conference

August 9 – 14
JW Marriott, Indianapolis, IN

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