



NYC Metro RID, Inc. News

Fall 2010 Newsletter

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NYC Metro RID Board 2010

President.....Chris Tester
 Vice-President.....Kathy Walley
 Secretary.....Mandy Heinbaugh
 Director at Large.....Jana Owen
 Director at Large.....Janice Quiles
 Director at Large.....Mara Stephens
 Associate Representative....Dori Griffiths

NYC Metro RID President’s Letter to the members:: Christopher Tester, CDI



As this newsletter is being sent out, we’re already into September, fall is around the corner, and summer is waning. It’s time to shift gears and begin my 2010-2011 term as President

for the NYC Metro RID. I want to share some of my vision in hopes that we will see a stronger organization and more collaboration among our peers as we face difficult economic times and a changing workscape for our members and friends.

This is my third year to serve on the board and I am excited to begin this term to work with the current board and with all of our members. Ultimately, my goal is to ensure that our affiliate chapter is truly a member driven organization that can and will represent the diverse community that we encompass here in New York City Metro area. I would like to see the NYC Metro RID to be as all-inclusive as possible.



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In broad terms, my vision is the following:

- I want to create a committee that will focus on developing a relationship with the New York City government, such as the Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities and Borough Presidents and Office of Court Administrations. It is important that we are involved in governmental levels in any decision making when it regards our working conditions, expectations and describing our qualifications. With more and more interpreting/spoken language agencies in the city, the working environment for interpreters is changing, and we no longer have the voice in policy making decisions when it comes to defining quality and appropriate services that we know we can provide.
- I would like to see a more inclusive membership to include tri-lingual interpreters, Deaf interpreters, Interpreters of color, CODA interpreters and the diverse deaf community here in New York City. Our board members are tasked to become more involved in different community events to show our

organization's support and for any information sharing.

- Our Board would like to establish a bylaws committee who would have the most familiarity with NYC Metro RID's bylaws and can advise the board on issues that may arise, and have familiarity with Robert's Rule of Order to ensure that our meetings are efficiently run. The goal is to have this committee help make the board transitions go smoothly since the board terms are one year long, which results in high turnover and creates a challenge in being able to have a strong understanding of our organization's bylaws.

While these projects may be a large undertaking for our board, I hope that with our members' support and involvement in different areas we all can make a difference and foster a better and stronger interpreting community here in New York City metro area. While we cannot make the changes alone, together we can create solutions and become a better and stronger organization.

I hope to see you at one -- if not all -- of our general membership meetings. It will be a great place for us to have discussions,



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develop strategies and solutions to our current issues, network, and learn what our organization represents.

I look forward to representing all of you.

Christopher Tester, CDI
NYC Metro RID President

Meet the new NYC Metro RID 2010 Board Members



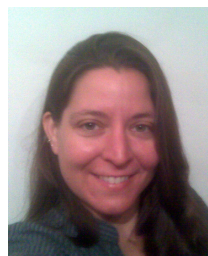
Name: Kathy Walley
Title: Vice President
Certification: NIC Master

Why did you decide to join the board?

Since joining NYC Metro RID, I have found it to be an invaluable avenue and platform by which members of our community can find support to accomplish goals they have for themselves and our community as a whole. By joining the board I hope to learn more about our interpreting community and the complex factors that shape it while simultaneously giving back to the community that has supported me as both a student and working interpreter in the field.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

While there is a long list of goals I hope to accomplish this year, first and foremost I look forward to listening to the membership to ensure that the pulse and goals of the membership are in line with my own. Additionally, I hope to look into the possibility of reviving our mentorship program and providing guidance and support for the mentors as well as those being mentored, improving our organization's process of transmitting institutional memory from year to year, developing creative ways to bring in a larger and more diverse membership to our meetings, and demystifying Robert's Rules of Order for both the membership and board so that we can empower ourselves and get our voices heard at business meetings on the local, regional and national levels. I look forward to serving as your Vice President and welcome your thoughts and input!



Name: Mandy Heinbaugh
Title: Secretary
Certification: Pre-certified

Why did you decide to join the board?

I wanted to become more involved in the interpreting community and get a better sense of how Metro and National operate. It seems like there is either a lot in flux or a lot of changes on the way. Some of it I don't



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fully understand and some of it is concerning. I figured becoming part of the board would be a good way to really learn and to voice my concerns and opinions. I love being an interpreter and enjoy being a part of both the interpreting community and Deaf community and I think this is a great way to really be involved and give back.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

To become more involved and to better understand issues. One specific issue that is concerning to me and was briefly touched upon last year that I would like to see further addressed is the state of freelancing and interpreting agencies.

Name: Jennifer Ward
Title: Treasurer
Certification: NIC

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Why did you decide to join the Board?

Cathy Markland called me and asked if I would accept the position of treasurer. She had heard through the grapevine that I was considering joining the board and they needed someone to fill the position. Who says no to Cathy Markland?? But seriously, I was looking for more networking opportunities as well as becoming more involved in the Deaf and Interpreting communities anyway so joining the board in any capacity made sense. This is my second

term as treasurer and I have enjoyed being a board member.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

Last year I was a bit wet behind the ears and focused on learning the ins and outs of treasury duties. Now in my second year, I am a little more comfortable in my role and am looking forward to being a more hands on board member, supporting the various committees and projects in any way I can.



Name: Jana Owen
Title: Director at Large
Certification: CI, CT, NIC, SC:L

Why did you decide to join the board?

I moved to NYC a year ago from Washington DC. I've met a lot of great interpreters and have gotten involved in the NYC Metro RID Chapter, and other organizations and groups related to interpreting. I joined the board to provide service and offer the perspective and insights gained over 20 years of experience in our field.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

My primary area of focus is on legal



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interpreting issues; specifically, training opportunities for legal interpreters and quality assurance in our court systems. I am also interested in ensuring our membership feels they have a voice in RID, particularly, CODA interpreters, trilingual interpreters, and interpreters from underrepresented communities.



Name: Janice Quiles-Reyes
Title: Director at Large
Certification: Pre-Certified

Why did you decide to join the board?

I became involved with New York City Metro RID as a student. I felt it was important for me to start off as a volunteer and become acquainted with RID in general. My local chapter was the best place to begin this journey. It was a great way for me to start meeting people who would eventually become my peers, mentors and friends. As my relationship with Metro developed, I decided to make more of a commitment and was honored with the position as Director at Large. I decided to run again for this position because I feel I now have a better understanding of Metro's structure and I am ready to allow more of my time and outreach effort to aiding the Board in anyway I can as it develops and continues to

grow.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

A goal of mine for this year will be to try to recruit recent grads, current interpreting students to participate and volunteer for Metro. Being involved with Metro as a student can open many doors, personally via support from peers and professionally getting to know the major players in the field.

I believe that earlier exposure to Metro will also help students learn how to create dialogue about their work and about the field. It's also the prime arena to find amazing support while growing within the profession. This practice early on can help develop a more confident and professional persona. This, of course is just my theory but it's what I experienced and I believe is a great recipe for a starting off point on giving back and getting involved.



Name: Mara Stephens
Title: Director at Large
Certification: Non-certified -Associate member of Metro RID, 2007 Graduate -

Laguardia Interpreting Education Program-Professional Certificate

Why did you join the board?



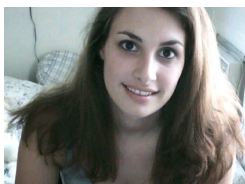
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I graduated LaGuardia's interpreting program at 8 months pregnant. 10 months later I became pregnant again. Hence I segued a bit from embarking on my new career path. Having taken 3 years "off" devoting the time to being at home with my children I am ready to re-enter the field of interpreting. I am finding positive ways of getting back involved. Joining the board of Metro RID is one of those ways. I want to reconnect with friendly and familiar faces and be an active member as opposed to an inactive one. I am excited to be on the board and gain a more intimate perspective about the happenings in this ever-growing profession both nationally and locally.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

My goal for serving on the board this year is to lend a fresh and eager 'hand' to Metro RID. I am motivated to attend meetings and want to represent the interest of all members both active and inactive. I aspire to be more proactive in-between meetings as we have a huge goal list for this year! I look forward to participating in more Metro events, helping to organize professional development workshops and getting more members involved.



Name: Dori Griffiths
Title: Associate Representative
Certification: Pre-

Certified (ITP graduate and passed NIC written)

Why did you decide to join the Board?

I decided to join the Board because I want to improve local Interpreting working conditions and standards.

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

With Aviva's help, I hope to continue to establish a strong Mentorship program and better relationships with affiliate chapters and organizations.

Building Collaboration Around Legal Interpreting Issues

By Jana Owen, CI, CT, SC:L, NIC

NYC Metro RID is working in cooperation with other groups on issues of Legal interpreting services. Here are a couple of the ways that's happening.

The Sign Language Court Interpretation Task Force is a group made up of organizational representatives and individuals who are interested in legal interpreting. The NYC Metro RID has had Christopher Tester as our representative at bimonthly meetings of the Task Force for the past several months. Nicolyn Plummer, a social worker who specializes in Domestic



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Violence services at Barrier Free Living, began the Task Force when she saw the frustrations her clients face in their attempts to get through the justice system. Ms. Plummer and a group of social workers, interpreters, lawyers and social service professionals meet regularly to discuss ways to improve communication access in the courts. The Task Force is currently working on a survey project that will collect anecdotes and information from Deaf people who have requested or used Sign Language interpreters in court. They hope to use that information to gauge how effectively those services are being provided.

In May, our chapter received a note from the Office of Court Administration asking to post a recruiting announcement on our website. Their office is responsible for maintaining a list of interpreters who are eligible to work in the NY Court system. Our Board thought this was a perfect opportunity to make contact with the folks in that office to learn about their programs. We asked to meet with them to talk about issues related to legal interpreting in NYC.

They were quick to reply with an invitation to the OCA office on Beaver Street. In June, Christopher Tester and Jana Owen met with Sandra Bryan and the OCA staff. We wanted to introduce our organization and see how we might work together.

It was a productive meeting that ended with a plan for this fall. Discussion ranged over various issues each organization encounters such as: scheduling and staffing of per diem interpreters, business and billing systems, and OCA infrastructures. We learned that in addition to the effects the NY State budgeting process has on the OCA operations, there are also big personnel changes happening this fall. Many OCA employees are eligible for early retirement incentives and so in the coming months the size of the agency will get smaller as they downsize this way. They will then restructure the remaining staff and systems at the end of this calendar year.

In spite of the fiscal and personnel limitations, the OCA representatives we met with were interested in hearing our thoughts about attracting interpreters to legal interpreting. We answered questions about certifications, qualifications for legal interpreters and best practices in our field. We also talked about the need for support systems and professional education for interpreters who want to specialize in this demanding type of work. There were a number of good ideas and possibilities that arose during the conversation about future collaboration.

One immediate result of our meeting is a plan to give a joint presentation about The New York State Unified Court System and the NY justice system in conjunction with



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our next Chapter meeting in September. The OCA will be at our post-meeting workshop to share information with NYC interpreters about their systems, policies and procedures. Our Board intends that this will be the first of several upcoming workshop opportunities for members who want to hone their legal interpreting skills.

If you're interested in receiving information about legal interpreting issues or workshops, please contact Jana Owen, Director At Large who is now the Board Liaison for legal interpreting matters.

NYC Freelance Interpreting Tips

Do you know of places in the city where you can sit comfortably for a bit, use a clean restroom, maybe even access to some free wi-fi? We want to know! Please send all tips to newsletter@nycmetrорid.org

Thanks to Jose Gomez for these suggestions:

In the Times Square area, the Marriott Marquis 7th floor public lounge is awesome. There are restrooms, Wi-Fi access comfortable couches and Starbucks, sushi, and gift shop with snacks and drinks available.

For the Mid-Town area there's a small cafe place on 27th Street and 6th Ave (Avenue of the Americas) Southwest corner. Wi-Fi capability. Serves coffee, fro-yo, muffins, etc.

Report on the National Symposium on Healthcare Interpreting

By Laurie Nash, MA, CI, CT, NIC

During the summer of 2010, I had the honor and pleasure of attending the National Symposium on Healthcare Interpreting in St. Paul, MN. This symposium was hosted by the CATIE Center of St. Catherine University. During the past five years, the CATIE Center has focused on the healthcare interpreting initiative of the NCIEC (National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers). The content offered through this National Symposium on Healthcare Interpreting is evidence of the comprehensive work that has been done. Guest speakers brought a range of expertise and research to share and it was delivered in a way that accommodated the various backgrounds of those in attendance. Specifically, four tracks were implemented: Deaf Consumer, Healthcare Provider and two Interpreter categories (CDI and hearing interpreters/interpreting students). We were offered opportunities for whole group learning as well as learning within our specific tracks.

Having worked as a healthcare interpreter for over 10 years, much of the symposium content served to reinforce the work that I have done and the information I have taught. It continues to amaze me how much depth there is to the work that interpreters do. In



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this young profession and, especially, in healthcare interpreting, we continue to realize important content in interpreter education. This was especially evidenced on the last day of the symposium. The final day of the symposium was dedicated to reviewing the **Domains and Core Competencies of Interpreters in Health Care** and the application of such. We were treated with presentations from Dr. Laurie Swabey, Karen Malcolm and Doug Bowen-Bailey outlining the Domains and Competencies that have been identified as relevant to the Medical Interpreter. Thereafter, those in attendance chose medical specialties of interest and participated in small group discussions on the application of such domains and competencies. For me, this was the most beneficial of the symposium as it provided practical discussions of how we work in various medical settings. It also allowed for me to learn how interpreters from various parts of the U.S. provide their service and work within various dynamics (staff interpreter, independent contractor or team member). Oftentimes, our professional discussions are limited to colleagues from our immediate area and it is comforting to know that the work provided is in line with how other respected professionals are doing their work. This is the value of a national symposium.

The CATIE Center has developed and made available numerous resources that inform

and support the work of the healthcare interpreter. These materials have been made readily available on the Internet as well as on a DVD that was provided to those in attendance. It is now our duty to share these resources with colleagues and students in our locales to supplement the education of interpreting students as well as ensure the provision of skilled and appropriate healthcare interpreting services. As interpreters, we have the responsibility to be informed and learn what we can prior to accepting work in various venues. While we often learn “on-the-spot”, this symposium shared resources that assist the interpreter to be more proactive in developing skills and possessing relevant knowledge. It is important to mention the trend in the U.S. towards certification of the medical interpreter of ALL languages. The work of the CATIE Center is keeping up with this trend and provides the framework and resources should such certification requirement become a reality. I am grateful to the Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center for the support of my attendance and look forward to the continued development and dissemination of materials/trainings for healthcare interpreters.



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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted: Bylaws Working Group Members!

When was the last time you have taken a good look at our NYCMetroRID Bylaws? Have you ever wanted to learn more about how these bylaws relate to the day-to-day operations of our organization? Are you interested in ensuring that management of our association, the board of directors and membership is in line with the bylaws that govern this work? If so, you may be just the person to join a newly developing Bylaws Working Group.

The bylaws are a set of principles that structure the operation of our organization. While the bylaws are solid, they still make up a living, breathing document that from time to time needs reexamination. We are looking for a group of NYCMetroRID members who would be interested in taking a deeper look at them, learning more about the structure and purpose of our bylaws, identifying any areas that may be in need of amendment, and relaying their findings back to our membership.

This would be a temporary and limited commitment, requiring only one or two meetings at a few hours in length. Should the working group discover that more extensive work is needed on the bylaws a separate committee can be convened to take

it from there.

If you are interested in joining this working group, please contact Kathy Walley at kwalley2@gmail.com.

Calling all Healthcare Interpreters:

I am interested in creating an informal group to discuss the work in medical and mental health settings. If you are an interpreter who works, at least, part time in a medical/mental health/hospital setting and would be interested in participating, please contact: Laurie Nash
917-579-3517 or
LaurieNash@aol.com

Law Enforcement Settings – Wanna know more?

The NYPD offers a Citizen Observation Ride Along program where you can apply to spend 2 – 4 hours with an NYPD officer to learn about their work. You can sign up to get a sense of the environment at a precinct office or inside a police cruiser. “Witness first hand what a police officer on patrol encounters during a tour of duty.”

When you submit an application, they run a background check and if you are approved you get an invitation to a Ride Along in the borough of your choice. When you go for your ride, bring a photo ID but leave your



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video camera at home.

The application is available at:
(http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/community_affairs/community_participation_programs.shtml).

You'll also find a list of other requirements and rules of conduct to see if you meet the criteria.

Afterwards...take it to the next level - capitalize on the experience. Get together with other interpreters doing this activity and talk about your observations. Share what you've learned. We're planning a triple hitter: 1. Ride Along 2. Article review, and 3. A Workshop on Interpreting for the Police. Spend a day together learning about situational, ethical and legal considerations for interpreters working with the police. Get CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Studies) for all three activities!

If you're interested, take the first steps by applying for a Ride Along. Then tell Debbie Olson, chair of the Professional Development Committee, that you'd like to register for the workshop. We'd like to have at least ten interpreters participate; the workshop will be scheduled once we have a sufficient number of folks signed up.

Upcoming ASL Happenings

New York City Black Deaf Advocates

Presents: What is the FCC?

(following the meeting)

Presented by Jody Kulchinsky

Friday, September 17, 2010

6:30-9:30pm

National Action Network, 106 W. 145th Street (between Lenox and 7th Avenues)

Sponsored by Sorenson Communications

For more information contact

NYCBDA@gmail.com

Cleary School for the Deaf is proud to host the film BLACK SAND

Friday, September 17, 2010 - 7:00 PM

Cleary School for the Deaf

301 Smithtown Blvd, Nesconset, NY 11767

\$11 Admission - ASL - English Subtitles

Tickets/Info: Jayne DePasquale - Email: jaynieam@gmail.com

Tickets will be sold at the door

Signmark, the famous Finnish Deaf rapper, will be in NYC to help celebrate the opening of this year's General Assembly at the UN. He will be doing a seminar on equality of opportunity for the delegates, but he will also make two public appearances:

- 1) Signmark's famous "Silent Shout" rap in Washington Sq Park Sept 23 at 5 pm (for about a half hour or 45 minutes). Outdoors,



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admission free! For more information about this event visit www.mysilentshout.com/

2) ASL Poetry Slam at the Bowery Poets Club, 7 to 9:30 pm.

If you could help spread the word, Signmark would appreciate it! This is the first time Signmark has performed in NYC. Not to be missed!

For more information about Signmark visit his website at www.signmark.biz/site/en/home
If you have any questions please contact Bill Moody at billmoody@nyc.rr.com.

Philoctetes in ASL and Voice

It may be a tale of Greek origins, but the story will hardly come across as Greek to anyone.

- * Thursday, September 23rd at 7:30 pm
- * Friday, September 24th at 7:30 pm
- * Saturday, September 25th at 2 pm

The 45th Street Theatre, 354 W. 45th Street in Manhattan (between 8th and 9th Avenues).

Tickets can be purchased for \$10 each at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/121148

This play seamlessly integrates both spoken English and American Sign Languages, making it accessible to all audiences.

The gist: The Tank and Full Circle Theatre Company are producing a monthly staged reading series featuring plays in the public domain with no copyright restrictions. Once a play enters the public domain, it belongs to everyone to do with as they please. As such, The Tank devised the idea of offering up part of the creative process to audience members by selecting the first seven plays along with seven directors, each of whom have very different approaches. Then, by utilizing an Internet voting method, they had their audiences assign a play to each director.

The first presentation, in September, is PHILOCTETES, directed by Garrett Zuercher. The versatile cast is made up of deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing actors, all of whom sign, and includes Rocco Arrigo, Stephen Drabicki, Carmen King, Jared R. Lopatin, Jari Majewski, John McGinty, Catherine Mueller, Heather Paradise, Corrie Pond, among others.

As for the story: what do you get when you mix treachery, morality, wounds that won't heal, Hercules's bow and arrows, a chorus of sailors, and the fate of the Trojan War? The answer: a legend that three of the most celebrated Greek playwrights wrote about.



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After contracting a snakebite on the way to Troy, Philoctetes finds himself abandoned by his shipmates on a deserted island. Ten years later, Odysseus returns with Neoptolemus to double-down on his deceit by nefariously plotting to seize Philoctetes's weapons, which Odysseus needs (according to prophecy) to win the never-ending war.

MICA RUNWAY

(Multicultural International Consortium of {Deaf and Hard-of Hearing} Artists and Advocates

Is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. This year's theme is Green Fashionology, a fusion of eco-fashion, futuristic style and technology.

OCTOBER 8 –10, 2010 in Manhattan, Visit www.micarunway.com for more information.

"The Ethics of Work" with Bill Moody

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

6:00 9:00 pm

LaGuardia Community College, M Building, Little Theater

RID's oldest founding member, Lillian Beard, who recently passed away at 101 years old, challenged and inspired interpreters to focus on where they should put their energy in practical ways in order to do their very best work. During this

workshop participants will view video clips of Lillian's stories that illustrate her work ethic in order to apply them to your work today. You will be encouraged to reflect on your practice and professional development in order to provide the highest standard of Service. The work ethics presented should resonate with every thinking person in the audience.

**Conducted in ASL without English Interpretation **

\$20 general OR \$30 certified interpreters/ACET members

Pre-registration Required! Deadline: October 1, 2010

-To register online:

<http://peopleware.net/ace>.

Select "Interpreter Education Projects Fall 2010." Select "A16INT905A - The Ethics of Work" and follow the prompts.

-To register by phone: Call the Registration Office at 718-482-7244. Course-code: A16INT905A.

For more information, contact Ashley Graham: 718.482.5313 (V), 917.832.1272 (VP) or agraham@lagcc.cuny.edu.

You can search for interpreter related workshops RID website. Go to "Find a workshop" in the Search Tools section at www.rid.org.



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A listing of international Deaf related events can be found at

www.wfdeaf.org/calendar.html.

A listing of international Deaf related events can be found at www.wasli.org/calendar-p3.aspx.

to make it easier to create future editions. I hope to get as many varied submissions as I can from the diversity of our community and create something that our community looks forward to reading! I am also on the website committee and strive to have the two resources compliment each other.

Newsletter news:

Please send all submissions to newsletter@nycmetrorid.org

Is there anyone you'd like to thank?

A very special thanks always to my husband for all his support and understanding when I'm away at Metro meetings or interpreting related conferences. I am forever thankful and grateful that he is also an awesome proofreader.

Thanks also to Jana Owen for being my board liaison and for all her support in getting this first edition off the ground.

Name: Nicole
Montagna
Title: Newsletter editor,
website committee
Certification: CI, CT
**Why did you join the
newsletter?**

I enjoy writing and the sense of accomplishment after producing a document. Being involved with the newsletter is a great way to participate in the local interpreting community, to be in the know of local events and happenings and network with colleagues.

Newsletter Dates for Submission/Publish

Winter: November 1/December 1
Spring: February 1/March 1
Summer: May 1/June 1
Fall: August 1/September 1

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

I want to create a template for the newsletter