

NYC METRO

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NEWS

MARCH, 2004



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By SAM TALLERICO

At our January Metro meeting (the 3rd one in a row without a quorum, I might add), we presented our Metro Service Awards to Lisa Dennett and the Metropolitan Museum of Art for their contributions during the past calendar year. Congratulations to both.

We also put out a call for a few Committee chairs. I'm thrilled to report that Maria Micioni has agreed to be our Fundraising chair for 2004. Thanks, Maria! We're still looking for a Scholarship chairperson. We have money in our budget as well as a plan to give it away. We just need a body to administer the process. If interested, contact me at the Email address found in the Metro Board

information section of this newsletter. While there, you may notice that Mary Beth Imsho is listed as Secretary. That's because KJ Matros chose to resign due to an upcoming move out of the area. I hope you'll all join me in wishing



There's more to choosing whether or not to accept assignments than "Yes, I have that time slot free," folks.



KJ well and thanking her for her service thus far.

Meanwhile, according to our By-Laws, the President is allowed to appoint a replacement until a person is officially elected at the next business meeting. So at our next meeting March 23 (see page 4 for details), you can nominate someone, run for the position yourself, or choose to elect Mary Beth. Of course, we'll need a quorum for that... Help make that happen? If you do show up, you'll also be able to take advantage of a Professional Development opportunity courtesy of Deborah Swamback and the PDC! Gretchen Bowman will present on

NYC METRORID BOARD 2004

President	Sam Tallerico	samtallerico3472@msn.com
Vice-President	Debbie Olson	indibru@aol.com
Treasurer	Ann Gauruder	metrotreasurer@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mary Beth Imsho	maspin@aol.com
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	Directors-at-Large	
	Diane Bostic	dediga@aol.com
	Christine Ianonne	gruvyknees@yahoo.com
	Kathleen Taylor	KDTTerpASL@aol.com
	Christina Trunzo-Mosleh	christinatm2@yahoo.com

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NEXT METRORID MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD @ THE LIGHTHOUSE



“Repetitive Stress Injury” from 6 to 7:30. This effort is worth .15 CEU’s and should be just the ticket for those of us who terp and type too much!

Also please take note of the revised meeting schedule found on page 5. The May meeting will once again be held in the Westchester area--this time at the White Plains VESID office, courtesy of Deborah Kair. Please join me in thanking, Debbie, for her efforts here. At this May 20th meeting, Stephanie Feyne will present on how interpreters can make better decisions when choosing whether or not to accept assignments. There’s more to it than “Yes, I have that time slot free,” folks. And we will have our July meeting in Manhattan with Professional Development, the details still being hammered out by that hard workin’ PDC! Cool, huh?

On the National front, there is still the issue of the revised Code of Ethics to be finalized. Log on to www.rid.org and post your thoughts before it’s too late. And while you’re surfing the web, check out www.ada.gov/tirone.htm for some interesting reading. Also, I will be participating in a telephone conference call with other Region I Presidents just before the March meeting and will share with you whatever I learn then. Any concerns you want me to bring up in the tele-conference?

Speaking of Region I, Joanne Jackowski is resigning as Region I Rep so that position will be up for grabs. Rachel Coppelli from Pennsylvania has expressed a desire to run, and after meeting her in Chicago and being in touch with her since, I am confident she will make an excellent representative for our Region. Not to harp too much on that sparsely attended January meeting (you know, the 3rd consecutive one without a quorum), but during the Fish Bowl session, the topics of “mentoring” and “teaming” were the most mentioned as being issues attendees would like to see addressed. The PDC and Board have been notified and I thank those who participated.

As always, the NYC Metro RID Board stands ready to hear your ideas on how to improve our profession. Please let us know what you need. See you March 23rd!



NEW YORK CITY METRO RID, INC.

Would like to thank the following people for their generous donations:

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreting Service**
- MEJ Personal Business Services**
- Joshua Finkle**
- Blake Goodman**
- Donna Leshne**
- BJ Thomas**
- Lewis Merkin in memory of**
- Nancy Angermaier and Alec Naiman’s mothers.**

AND

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ASL Interpreter Referral Service | Cathy Markland |
| Jane Adler | Maria Micioni |
| Renate Alpert | Ilene Miner |
| Nancy Angermaier | Laurie Nash |
| Lorraine Gold-Appel | Grover Odenthal |
| Sarah Bartow | Kathleen Pilus |
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| Laura Hoffman | Kathleen Taylor |
| Priscilla Jones | Susan Weinstein |
| JoAnn Kranis | Diana DiMonda |
| Pam Maynard | Yastrzemski |
| Mary Darragh | Christina Trunzo-Mosleh |
| MacLean | |



METRO GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 26th, 2004

Meeting began at 7:10m

Presidents Remarks

- Sam (president) welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Interpreters: Lisa Dennett and Jennifer Berman
- Sam briefly explained the rules of the Lighthouse and how we conduct our meetings.
- A brief overview of National RID was explained as well as the revamping of the Code of Ethics. Feedback on the New Code of ethics is needed, you can go on line to view them at www.rid.org
- Sam commented on the article he submitted in the views and in the newsletter explaining how he would like to see the membership of Metro RID voice their ideas so that we, the board, can implement them. Some topics of discussion were about the relationship between Agency's and us as interpreters as well as how the board does with the concerns of the membership. He stressed the importance of the board working hard for its members and urges the membership to let us know how we can work for you.
- Lisa Dennett wrote an article in the newsletter about advocating fair pay for interpreters; sometimes the pay is fixed regardless of the type of assignment.

Announcement

- Helen Epstein was the former Newsletter editor; Metro's new editor is now Alek Friedman.
- Sam asked for a moment of silence for Kevin Lazare, a Deaf man who was shot and recently passed.
- Lisa Dennett announced that Robert Sisco, a Deaf man recently passed and also asked for a moment of silence.
- Alek Friedman announced that Fred Jondrau had passed and Alek requested that we also pay our respects to him.
- Ann Gauruder mentioned that applications for new members are coming in this week.

Introduction of the 2004 Board

Awards

Awards were given out for 2003 Consumer Award by Amy Meckler to Metropolitan Museum of Art's Debra Jaffe and Emily Peck. Christine Iannone presented Membership Award to Lisa Dennett.

Committee Reports

- Ann Gauruder, Treasurer, said we do not have a quorum. Sam added that this is the 3rd meeting in a row where we do not have enough people to vote and hold approval for our minutes from past meetings.
- Stephanie Feyne asked if all of the NYC Metro RID committees were full.
- PDC is looking for new members. Christine Quinton reported that the PDC would like to know if the membership would like to have a 1 hour and 1/2 presentation on "Should we take this job or not, how we chose jobs?" Christine added that if anyone was interested, they should contact the PDC.
- Newsletter Alek Freidman asked the membership to contribute to the newsletter, regarding any ideas or strong feelings about any topic relating to interpreting. If you have any interest in contributing to the newsletter please contact Alek.
- Nominations Alek Friedman is stepping down as chair. Metro is in need of a new chair if anyone is interested.
- Debbie Olsen added that if anyone was interested in joining a committee, we now have a template book. You can feel free to take a look at it. The template describes all the job duties. After the meeting, if you like, Debbie will show it to you.
- Fundraising Cathy Markland will be stepping down as chair, she would like to remain an active member of the committee but is unable to chair this year.
- Scholarship is currently looking for a chair.
- Awards Amy Meckler is stepping down as chair, Awards is currently looking for a new chair.
- Membership Ann Gauruder announced that the membership committee needs someone to develop a Database where we can use Microsoft access. The membership committee is looking for new members.
- CMP committee is full.
- Website Committee is full.
- Metro Rid bits Janice Rimler will continue in chairing that.

The general meeting closed with a Fish bowl discussion about what the members would like to see done in the year 2004 with the time remaining from our general meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Trunzo-Mosleh for KJ Matros

COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
AWARDS	VACANT
CMP	KAREN ROSE
DIRC	DEBBIE SWAMBACK
DIRECTORY	ANN GAURUDER
FUNDRAISING	MARIA MICIONI
GENERAL MEETING INTERPRETERS	DIANA DIMONDA YASTRZEMSKI
LTA	MICHAEL CANALE
MEMBERSHIP	ANN GAURUDER
METROBITS	JANICE RIMLER
NOMINATIONS	VACANT
OFFICE MANAGER	DIANE BOSTIC
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	DEBBIE SWAMBACK
SCHOLARSHIP	VACANT
WEBSITE	KAT DUDINA

The NYC Metro RID Board has accepted the resignation of KJ Matros as Secretary, who will be stepping down for personal reasons. The Board thanks KJ for her service and wishes her and her husband well with their upcoming move.

In accordance with our ByLaws which state that "in the event of a vacancy of any position... nominations to fill the unexpired term shall be made at the next general membership Business meeting and a special election held at such meeting to fill the unexpired term. During this period of vacancy, the President shall have the right to select a voting member in standing to serve as Acting Director."

The Board is pleased to announce that Mary Beth Imsho has agreed to serve as Secretary until a permanent replacement is found. Thanks Mary Beth!

Metro is seeking to fill the Secretary position for the remainder of the 2004 term. The bylaws require an election be held at the next general meeting. Anyone interested in the position or anyone interested in nominating someone for this position should contact either Debbie Olsen at indibru@aol.com or Sam Tallerico at SAMTALLERICO3472@msn.com prior to the meeting on March 23. A special election will be held on that night provided there is a quorum. Thanks for your interest!

New York City Metro RID's newsletter is published by the New York City Metro Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. All opinions are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of NYC MetroRID, Inc. The newsletter is published bi-monthly in the same month as the General Membership Meeting. It is posted first class mail to the members of NYC Metro RID, RID Region 1 Representative, Region 1 Chapters, the Executive Director of National RID and the editor of VIEWS. Address inquiries, corrections and submissions to the editor either by email:

Metroridnewsletter@yahoo.com or by regular first class mail to:

Alek Friedman
226 West 108th Street #5A
New York, NY 10025

SUBMISSIONS

to the MAY edition of the MetroRID Newsletter
will be accepted until MAY 1ST.

Send all submissions to METRORIDNEWSLETTER@YAHOO.COM

**Got a
bulletin for
the board?
Send it to:**

**Metrorid
newsletter
@yahoo.**

IN MEMORIUM:

Frederic A. Jondreau
Age 57
Founder of the
American Sign Lan-
guage Institute in 1987.

We send our best
wishes to his son,
David, and his entire
family. He will be
missed.

Preserve the Rights of People with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed by Congress in 1990 with overwhelming bipartisan support, and signed into law by President Bush. As the ADA reaches its ten-year anniversary, the evidence of its success is everywhere. Handicap parking spaces, Braille instructions on ATM's, and ramps built into sidewalks have all become commonplace fixtures that make an enormous difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. Yet, despite ample evidence that the ADA is working, some Members of Congress are trying to place new roadblocks to justice for people with disabilities.

Earlier this year a bill called the "ADA Notification Act" (HR 728) was introduced by Rep Mark Foley (R-FL) to punish individuals for bringing timely lawsuits to enforce the ADA. Legislation of this nature would punish individuals who do not first notify a business of an ADA violation and then wait nearly three months before filing a lawsuit - even if the business has been breaking the law for years!

Take Action! Urge your members of
Congress to oppose this legislation.

For more information, go to:
www.ACLU.org and click on DISABILITY RIGHTS

General Meeting - 2004 Schedule

Board Meeting - 2004 Schedule

Mon	Jan 26	NYC	7-9:30	Wed	Feb 11	NYC	6-8pm
Tues	Mar 23	NYC	6-9:30	Wed	April 21	NYC	6-8pm
Thurs	May 20	White Pl.	6-9:00	Thurs	June 17	NYC	6-8pm
Sat	July 17	Manh.	10am-4:00	Tues	Aug 10	TBA	6-8pm
Wed	Sept 22	NYC	7-9:30	Mon	Oct 18	NYC	6-8pm
Mon	Nov 15	NYC	6-9:30	TBA	Dec TBA	TBA	6-8pm

Associates' meeting begins one hour before times listed above

(No Associates meetings in March or November!)

NYC meetings take place at: The Lighthouse @ 111 East 59th Street (bet. Park&Lex)

Trains: 4,5,6 to 59th or N,R,Q,W to Lex

METRO RID BUDGET



THE METRO YELLOW PAGES
(LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE TALKING)



NYC Metro RID
www.nycmetrorid.org

TO SEND A MESSAGE TO METRO
MEMBERS THROUGH

RIDBITS:

E-MAIL

METRORIDBITS@NYCMETRO.ORG

TO CHANGE YOUR
CONTACT INFORMATION:

E-MAIL

METRODIRECTORY@HOTMAIL.COM

FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

E-MAIL

METRORIDNEWSLETTER@YAHOO.COM

2004 - Actuals

Income	Proposed 2004	Actual 2004
CMP	\$200.00	\$0.00
Convention Fundraising	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Directory	\$100.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$1,225.00	\$1,135.00
Fundraising	\$2,300.00	\$0.00
Membership - Associate	\$2,200.00	\$1,200.00
Membership - Certified	\$4,000.00	\$3,270.00
Membership - Organization	\$1,200.00	\$800.00
Membership - Student	\$500.00	\$330.00
Membership - Supporting	\$700.00	\$425.00
Professional Development	\$3,100.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$17,025.00	\$7,160.00
Expenses	Proposed 2004	
Awards	\$250.00	\$0.00
Bank	\$150.00	\$9.18
CMP	\$150.00	\$0.00
Conference Scholarship	\$600.00	\$0.00
Conference Support	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Copying	\$150.00	\$0.00
Directory	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$250.00	\$0.00
Fundraising	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$550.00	\$0.00
Mentor Project Contribution	\$500.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$275.00	\$16.23
Newsletter	\$2,100.00	\$399.25
Postage	\$250.00	\$0.00
President's Conference	\$200.00	\$0.00
President's Fund	\$200.00	\$0.00
Professional Development	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
Prof Fees & Accessibility	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Publicity	\$50.00	\$0.00
Rent	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Web Site	\$250.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$17,025.00	\$424.66
Sub-accounts	Income Expense	Balance
Mentor Grant	\$1,000.00	\$1,014.51
Allies		\$881.72
Account Balance as of 1/22/03		\$20,743.80

My Search for Signs of Weapons of Mass Destruction

This is the question: What role should interpreters play in the expansion of the ASL lexicon?

An early disclaimer: I am neither an expert, nor a student in the history or linguistics of American Sign Language. I mainly learned the language through immersion and thus – not unlike my English – I can use it, but I can't really talk about it. But it seems I'll try anyway:

Recently, I interpreted for a panel discussion about (insert absurdly complex, jargon-filled highly academic and idiosyncratic topic here.) The several panelists read all their statements from prepared texts. The microphones did more harm than good. And they DIDN'T say the following, but they may as well have:

"We must understand the new VARIABLES as the IDEOLOGIES of DEMOCRATIZATION, SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM, and post-COLONIAL CAPITALIST GLOBALIZATION coalesce into blah blah blah ... And though TERRORIST cells and WEAPONS of MASS destruction as pursued by NEO-CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGUES in their QUASI-EXISTENTIALIST blah blah blah... And not to mention those musical INSTRUMENTS..."

And the thought occurred to me, "Why aren't their signs for these words?" Now, I don't mean that these concepts can't be interpreted – they can – or that Deaf people can't understand them – they certainly can. What I was wishing for were just a few more single signs to represent single words. Happy = HAPPY. Dog = DOG. Weapon = ???

Why are there just not as many signs in ASL as there are words in English? I know a few of the linguistic arguments: Compared to English, as a language ASL is a mere infant. And I know that we can say "weapon" and "instrument" in ASL by fingerspelling them, then giving some examples, followed by some version of "etc." But when panelist #2 is in the middle of a tangent off of his tangent, quoting Marx verbatim through a sore throat, sometimes you just don't have the time, and a single sign would help.

So I began thinking about the growth and spreading of languages through the media, literature, academia, and in communities. ASL is obviously at a distinct disadvantage in this, not being the language of the majority. But then I thought – I hear these terms every day on the job. And what do I do? Proper, conceptual translation. Which means that next time, I will again have to do proper, conceptual translation. *So that new word is never reaching the Deaf consumers.* And I ask myself: Am I one of the gatekeepers of language who is shutting the gate?

We interpreters, as a rule, do not just make up signs. It's not our language. We're just borrowing it. But if language starts in the mouths – mostly – of the hearing majority, and often (not always, but often) next moves in the ears of interpreters, are these new words not dying then and there in our proper, conceptual translation? Could we make up signs? Should we? Are we neglecting our role in the growth of the language with our proper, conceptual translations?

There are many problems with inventing signs. Few interpreters are linguistically expert enough to do this. Many – myself included – are not. And how would it spread from one interpreted classroom lecture to another and then out into the community? I don't know the answers, but I think the questions are worth asking.

Of course, another possibility is that the signs are out there, being used by members of the Deaf community. But on your average day, we interpreters are not mingling in those circles. (At least, I'm not. I can't speak for anyone else.) So if the signs are out there, how do we get access to them in the kind of way that doesn't result in: "Oh, that's *your* sign for that? Well, that must be a New York/New Jersey/Gallaudet/Upper West Side sign." So maybe our role is simply to fingerspell, and leave the invention up to Deaf signers. But is that missing an opportunity?

So again: With the self-imposed rule against the invention of new signs in the interpreting profession, what role can (or should) interpreters play in the expansion of the ASL lexicon?



FISHBOWL REVIEW

After the business was conducted at the January general meeting a fishbowl was held. The topic, "What would members like to see at General meetings," was led by Christina Trunzo-Mosleh (Director-at-large) and Debbie Olsen (VP). Metro members slowly began to get involved and share their opinions and feeling on what they expect from meetings as well as what they'd like to see in the future. Ideas began to flow. The following is a list of ideas that sprang from the discussion:

- Have small group sessions with predetermined topics of relevance to interpreters
- Conduct committee business after the meeting; break into our committees to do work
- Develop mentoring during meeting
- Invite a presenter to discuss a topic. Not a workshop given by an interpreter but rather a professional in a particular field would come to discuss information to contextualize our interpreting work. (One example given: When interpreting for an ophthalmology appointment, having general information about the eye could increase our knowledge and comfort level)
- Hold workshops (One example given: Values Clarification discussion)
- Have a panel of seasoned interpreters willing to discuss various issues
- Allow time for interpreters to socialize and network in an unstructured way

These are some of the ideas suggested by members in January. Though all of the ideas can't be incorporated into our meetings, this discussion and these ideas it generated will guide the Board throughout the year. Thanks to all who participated! - Debbie



PROXY

I, _____, a voting member in good standing of New York City Metro
RID, Inc., hereby designate _____ my proxy, a member in good stand-
ing, to cast my vote at the meeting held on _____ or at the adjournment of
that meeting. My proxy named above will take action I might take. This proxy is void if I am at the
meeting.

Membership status: Certified _____

Associate _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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