



**NYC Metro RID  
General Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2007**

**President's Report/RID National News:**

1. National RID Board Meeting- March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Park Central New York Hotel, 870 Seventh Ave. Feel free to attend to see what their board meetings look like
2. Rachel Coppelli, our current Region I rep, is nominated to become secretary for the National Board. There is a form on the RID website you can download to nominate a new Region I rep, this is all contingent on if she becomes secretary

**Announcements:**

1. 2006 Metro RID Award Recipients -
  - Individual Award - Janice Rimler –past President in 1996, editor for newsletter, takes care of MetroRID bits, and much more!
  - Organizational Award – OMRDD; for the past 12 years they have donated DIRC space, and deserve a big “thank you” from Metro RID
2. New Office Manager - Jeff Jaech, interpreter coordinator at TC, will be taking over the position. He started last week and will be continuing on
3. General Meeting Interpreter coordinator is Sam Tallerico. Drew Sachs is liaison for the interpreter coordinator.
4. ESAD (Empire State Association for the Deaf) holds their conference every 2 years and this year in it will be held in Rochester, NY from March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1st. Go to [ESAD.org](http://ESAD.org) for more information.
5. Karen Jacobs had baby boy! Adam Benjamin and his mom will be home from the hospital tomorrow

**Old Business:**

1. Lighthouse Update - We no longer hold space at the Lighthouse. As such, all mail should be sent to our PO Box
2. Emergency Fund – We are proposing to add a budget line in case an emergency happens, we can donate money to an interpreter's cause. We need to set up a policy to figure out what constitutes, “emergency.” For those who are interested in being involved with the Ad-Hoc committee, a sign up sheet is available
3. Bylaws addendum -We are a non profit organization, and a law was recently passed saying that non-profits are only allowed to have one chapter per state. We currently have five, which is fine, but if one of us folds, we cannot re-establish. We want to make an addendum to the bylaws saying that if both President and Vice President positions are vacant and cannot be filled, a steering committee will be set up to fill out the necessary paperwork to maintain RID affiliate chapter status. Toni Kretzmer made a motion to accept the bylaws as printed in the agenda, Kat Dudina seconded. The addendum is PASSED. The website will be updated to reflect the new changes.

**Committee updates**

1. DIRC will have meeting Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30. Melanie Girshick and Chris Tester will lead discussion about Deaf Interpreters. DIRC finally has a budget!! A \$25 stipend can be paid to interpreters for Deaf Blind interpreting. Anyone interested in leading a meeting, please let Debbie Swamback know which Friday works best. NAOBI sometimes meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (and we want to avoid a schedule

conflict). Additionally, advanced notice needs to be given in order to book space for DIRC. Presenters should be teams of Deaf/Hearing or Deaf/Deaf facilitators.

- a. VRI –DIRCs Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting might add some information about VRI at Beth Israel
2. PDC –An International Sign Language Workshop, taught by Bill Moody will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am-9pm. There are 20 spaces available, targeted towards people who plan on going to WFD and WASLI during the summer. Twenty more participants can be part of the “outer circle”. The idea is to finish the workshop around 5pm, then invite international deaf people for dinner, and use the skills that were just learned, share stories, food, and culture☺ In Oct there will be a bigger workshop: Drago from California discussing transgenderism.
3. Metrobits - Many members are not on Metrobits and some people miss info on DNN, so make sure to sign up to receive Metrobits
4. Recruitment – Kat Dudina, Lu Massaro, and Dani Schuller went to SJI and LAGCC to talk about Metro RID. A mentor/mentee sign-up sheet was passed around for people to sign up.

#### **New Business:**

1. Beth Israel using Video Relay Interpreting – Josh Finkle reported on behalf of ESAD. Since the DIRC meeting 2 weeks ago addressing the issue of Beth Israel’s switch to VRI, there has been a huge letter writing campaign from the community to the President of Beth Israel. ESAD also wrote a letter directly to Beth Israel. MK Adams, Chris Tester, Lu Massaro, Charlotte Lewis (7-8 people composing a “core” group from the deaf/interpreting community) also signed onto the letter. The next step is requesting an open meeting with Beth Israel and the community to discuss how it will impact the Deaf community and if a meeting is refused, we will contact a public interest lawyer. Letters, e-mails, and deaf news will help. Also, please tell as many people as you can. We need to hear from Deaf people – anyone that can give a personal testimony will be helpful.
2. San Francisco National RID Conference - Aug 3-8<sup>th</sup>, we want to support the conference, but how? Is the membership interested in giving money, sponsoring a workshop, or silent auction? Discussion on this issue will continue and be decided on at the next board meeting in March.
3. VESID Rates - Drew Sachs brought up a point of frustration with many interpreters in regards to VESID having their own fee schedule. Drew suggested setting up an adhoc committee and was looking for feedback. Sam Tallerico commented that he had previously met with a VESID representative who informed Sam that VESID actually pays the same rate across the entire state, so the pay rate upstate is the same as in NYC. They cannot change this, saying as VESID covers the whole state and needs to pay one standard rate. A sign up sheet was placed for ADHOC committee to further discuss this issue.
4. Rachel from OMRDD will ask her boss to write a letter to Beth Israel on NYS letterhead. Sam Tallerico commented that we need to show proof that service with a machine is not equal to a live interpreter. Beth Israel relies on CDIs, which is impossible to use with a monitor.
5. Josh Finkle, board member of NY Deaf Theater, announced that they just hired an official new art director, Aaron Kubey. Vagina Monologues will be performed during one of the weekends in March. The proceeds of the show will go to organizations that help

women who have experienced domestic violence. Keep an eye out for specifics on the show.

6. Thank you to 2006 for leading and thank you for your service!!