



**NYC Metro RID Board meeting Minutes
March 21st, 2007**

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(6-6:40pm)

A) National RID Board Meeting –

March 9th and 10th in New York City. Approximately 8 or 9 people from NYC attended. Agenda for the national meeting was 114 pages in length. Many items discussed. 2010 Region I conference was briefly mentioned.

B) Region I Rep –

The current representative from Region I, Rachel Coppelli, is running for the Secretary position at the national level. If she wins, the Rep position will be vacant as of August. If anyone is interested in running for the position, they should apply through National.

C) Membership Deadline for Directory –

Bram needs people to get their membership forms in as soon as possible. The directory needs to be sent out to the printers, and can not be held for too much longer.

D) International Sign Language Workshop –

April 21, 2007. Bill Moody. There has been a healthy response so far, and even have a few participants coming from out of state to attend. Workshop will include a panel (facilitated by Debra Cole) with several foreign-born deaf, as well as a dinner with other members of the community who were born outside the United States.

2. OLD BUSINESS:

(6:40-7pm)

A) Metro Meeting Location –

Membership felt the previous meeting location was crowded, cramped, and did not have good lighting. They would prefer to find one

location for all three general meetings that will be held over the year. OMRDD (Morton St) is unable to accommodate us. Looking into other possibilities such as St. Elizabeth's Church, YMCA, FECS, or a space in one of the schools. Board members responsible for the follow-up on this issue are: Meri, Rebecca, Celeste, and Maria.

B) File Storage –

The files moved from our former space at The Lighthouse are now being housed in the apartments of Lisa Kasamoto and Rachel Nekoukar. Dani has volunteered to speak with Lisa to make sure it is not an issue having the couple of boxes at her residence for a little while longer, ultimately to move them to Dani's place or another location.

C) Website –

The former Board received a written estimate from a potential webmaster to revamp and maintain Metro RID's website. The current Board needs to acquire this estimate so a decision can be made regarding our technical needs.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(7-7:40pm)

- **PDC** – Debbie Swamback has reported back that 22 participants have registered for the International Sign Language workshop to date. The next workshop is planned for October, and that will have Drago and Jennifer coming in from the West Coast to present. The "mini workshop" after the general meeting on May 16th will be titled 'Powerful Voicing' by Stephanie Feyne.
- **DIRC** – Meeting in April? Keith Wann and Emilia Lorenti showed interest in getting involved with Metro on some level, and it was suggested to have them facilitate a DIRC meeting. Topic would be something along the lines of interpreting and professionalism. Lou will follow-up with them both to see if a date can be worked out for the month of April.
- **Scholarship** – There are four scholarships being offered to membership to use towards the upcoming RID conference in SF. Debbie Olsen is the committee chairperson. To be eligible, a member must: Be a member

of Metro and an active member of a committee for at least a year after being awarded the scholarship. It is also suggested that recipients write an article for the newsletter reporting on their experiences at national conference. The four names will be chosen randomly at the May 16th meeting.

- **CMP** – Karen Jacobs is still the chairperson.
- **VRS** – Stephanie Feyne is the chair, and it is agreed by all parties that this committee is no longer needed in NYC MetroRID.
- **Testing** – Teacher’s College will offer the next written exam on Saturday, June 2nd. Jeff Jaech reports that he has recently administered performance exams for the following certifications:
 - Cert of Interpretation - 2
 - Cert of Transliteration – 2
 - NIC exam – 4
- **Picnic** – Marybeth Imsho has stepped down as chair of this committee. Rebecca will follow-up to see if Jina will stay on or not. Instead of a ‘Picnic’ committee, the Board feels having a generic ‘Summer Event’ may be best. The plan is to solicit committee members at the May meeting.
- **Westchester** - Jody Gill will plan social event.
- **Mentorship** – Participants from Metro and LIRID both truly enjoyed the mentoring project this past year. It was quite costly, so support needs to be found for it to happen once again. Agencies such as Sorenson, SignTalk, DHIS, and LaGuardia are possible avenues.
- **Newsletter** – Janice Rimler has the current newsletter done, printed, and sent out to membership.
- **General Meeting** – Sam coordinates interpreters for all general meetings. He has 6 pre-certified interpreters who are interested working with a certified interpreter for the upcoming May meeting.

- **Website** – Again, the new Board needs to contact Melanie for the proposal for improvements to Metro’s website. Items that need to be discussed and possibly implemented include:
 - dynamic buttons
 - design changes
 - deaf-blind accessible
 - list of available resources
 - PayPal?
 - ability to fill out forms

4. NEW BUSINESS:

(7:40-8pm)

A) Beth Israel –

There was a meeting on March 1, 2007 with Beth Israel Hospital. Issues are still being discussed. Beth Israel administration has stated they may survey members of the community to gauge who could be a potential VRI user. There has been a core group of representatives who are leading this effort. Numerous letters have been sent to date. A DIRC meeting may be scheduled to keep the community up to date on the status of the situation.

B) National Conference –

What is Metro going to do for the National Conference? Possibilities include donating a breakfast, something for the silent auction, or maybe simply a monetary donation. A decision will be made at the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maria Micioni

NYC Metro RID Vice President

