



**NYC Metro RID
General Meeting Minutes
May 16th, 2007**

President's Report/RID National News:

1. Region I Representative - Rachel Copelli has accepted the position as Secretary to the National Board and her tenure will begin in August after the conference. Excellent news, however, we need to replace the Region I Rep. Region I Presidents will be discussing the possible Region I representatives (of which we have a few to choose from). By June 1st we should know who the new Rep is. It will be a one year position
2. New National RID Website-The last time checked, the website was still working out the kinks, but so far it looks good
3. Bylaws correction-clarify – The NYC Metro Bylaws committee discussed how the bylaws needed to be changed and we were informed that each non- profit organization is allowed to have one chapter per state- NYS has 5 chapters. If any of these folds, it can't be reinstated. If for some reason we have no VP or Pres, we obviously don't want to fold, so membership passed an addendum that stated that if these positions are vacant, the remaining members would handle all necessary paperwork for national office to remain an AC. Originally we thought that it was a Federal law to only have one chapter per state, but we were mistaken. It is actually an RID policy that states that an affiliate chapter can't be reinstated once it folds.

Announcements:

1. Educational Interpreting Workshop (Long Island)- Gary Sanderson will be here May 19th and 20th. He will be providing several presentations related to Kindergarten through 12th grade interpreting
2. New CMP Chairperson-Karen Rose Jacob needs to step down as chairperson but will remain on the committee. Dina Marconi will take over that position – thank you, Dina!
3. VRS Committee-Chairperson Stephanie Feyne mentioned that at this juncture there is not much activity with this committee and perhaps it was not necessary. The Board agreed, so there will no longer be a VRS committee. Thank you Stephanie for your time and effort.
4. Website Developer (please contact Secretary: Rebecca Friedman at Secretary@NYCMetroRID.org)- We need to revamp the website. We are looking at a budget of \$850. Jeff Jaech asked that whoever designs the website be knowledgeable in how to design for Deaf Blind users. If anyone knows of any web 'gurus', please contact Rebecca at the above email address
5. Metro RID Scholarships for National Conference- Metro has scholarships for four registrations for National RID conference. Ten people qualified. Rick Rubin volunteered to pick the names. The winners are – Christine Iannone, Christine Quinton, Melanie Gershick, Meri Sulcer. Congrats to you all!

Old Business:

1. Beth Israel Update-Josh Finkle, President of ESAD came to give us an update. Both Mary Kay Adams and Josh went to discuss the issue of Beth Israel's use of VRI instead of live interpreters. Currently, Beth Israel is only using VRI equipment in ER. At this point, they have staff interpreters that are to be laid off and replaced with VRI, but the new administration at Beth Israel is still looking at the budget and nothing has happened so far. Josh mentioned that they were working with a lawyer, however, a lawsuit would take years to go through and asked that all members contact Beth Israel to stress the fact that live interpreters are needed for clear communication
2. RID National Conference (Contribution)-With memberships approval, the Board decided to donate \$500 to the national conference and are a Bronze level sponsor. We will be recognized in the July edition of the Views, as well as the brochure handed out at the conference.

Committee updates

VRS - Stephanie Feyne reported that the Views published a VRS position paper online with a vote that was to happen in May. Members should read the VRS position paper and see if they agree with what is submitted. There is a lot of reference to FCC, some grammatical errors that need to be edited as well as possible other changes, so please read before you vote

PDC-International Sign Workshop went over amazingly well. PDC's budget is \$7500 for this fiscal year. They really did an excellent job with the IS wkshp. Registration brought in \$1735, with all expenses totaling \$1300 for a profit of \$435. The next workshop (held in October) will be presented by Drago who will be discussing transgender issues.

New Business:

1. General Meeting Language Modes- There was a lively discussion held during the meeting regarding the communication policy for MetroRID as to whether general meetings should be held in ASL or English. As a result of this discussion, a survey will be distributed to membership and other groups (i.e. LAG, NAOBI, ESAD) to ask what people would prefer. Results will be tallied and reported on so we have factual data rather than personal opinion.
2. Interpreter Recognition/Condolences and Emergency Fund – No one signed up to lead the Emergency Fund committee, so in lieu of that, please let President Lu Massaro know of any recognition/condolences that need to be made and she will follow up with those interpreters.
3. There is an announcement for a NY Board of Ed 10 month position including benefits & pension in Manhattan.
4. Every Sat an interpreted yoga class will be held from April 21 through June from 1:00-2:30 with a cost of \$20. Information is on the back table, announcement was made by Maria Micioni
5. Please look at the RID Views for proposals that are being made from and for our organization. In May there were some printed and please pay particular attention to the EIPA. Most importantly, if you plan on going to RID National conference, please go to the business meetings to hear what is happening with our organization and changes that we can make to improve our professional affiliations.

6. WASLI will have a booth at the national conference and they need some people to come and help and watch the table and sell things. Please contact Bill Moody if you can lend a hand.