

2009 RID Conference

Motions and Resolutions

Projected Fiscal Impact Categories Changes for which costs or revenues are predicted to be:
less than \$5,000 - minimal
more than \$5,000 but less than \$10,000 - significant
more than \$10,000 but less than \$25,000 - highly significant
more than \$25,000 – critical

The deadline for receiving motions in time to be published was May 5, 2009. Motions received after that will be displayed onsite at the conference during the business meetings.

This will be the only copy of motions printed for the 2009 Conference. You may make any notes and write on this as you wish.

Motion A.

To encourage RID Inc. to investigate ways (online, mail, or other) to solicit more member voting on issues that affect the organization as a whole.

Region III

Motion B.

The board of directors investigate the feasibility of requiring dual membership in the national organization and at least one state affiliate chapter through a combined payment option as the new standard of membership in RID and give the report to the membership at the 2009 RID conference.

Region III

Rationale: The mission, philosophy and goal statements of RID make it clear that the purpose of RID and its affiliate chapters is to create and sustain an organization and relevant forums that further the growth and development of the profession of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English and to support all members in their pursuit of excellence. Membership in both the national organization and its affiliate chapters brings with it not only the benefits of collaboration and networking with other professionals and significant community stakeholders but also validates the inherent credibility of professionals who engage in and take advantage of the opportunities provided by such membership.

A single membership application that allows members to select both national and state membership (where each state chapter sets their own membership dues) will provide the following tangible benefits:

1. Members will have a single portal to join RID and one or more affiliate chapters.
2. Members will be automatically credentialed to vote in all national referendums and elections in accordance with their membership status.

3. Members and affiliate chapters will benefit from a singular membership renewal period and will benefit from the expertise and resources available through the national office.
4. Affiliate chapters will be more representative of and in compliance with their official affiliation granted by the board of directors in accordance with the bylaws of the organization.

Motion C.

Amend RID Bylaws Article VIII. Affiliate Chapters: by removing “In order to be a voting member of an affiliate chapter, a person must also be a member in good standing of the RID.”

Rationale: Enforcing Article VIII as it stands would constitute a continuing burden for affiliate chapters in the tracking of dual membership for voting purposes on the affiliate levels. RID has not enforced Article VIII since its addition to the bylaws since 1989.

Motion D.

That RID establish an ad hoc committee to develop a position paper to address the issues Interpreters face during emergencies/disasters and non-declared local emergencies/disasters.

Region V

Rationale: Currently, federal, state and local governments are addressing the issues of the disabilities and deaf communities in all aspects of emergency management. They are addressing and including stakeholders of the disability and deaf communities and drafting legislation, protocols and plans to respond to these populations before, during and after a situation. Interpreters and the need for interpreters are recognized in all plans, however, interpreters are not at the table to ensure our needs and psychological/emotional well-being are addressed during and in the aftermath.

Motion E.

That members of RID request that the RID Board of Directors rescind board motion 2007.28.

Rationale: The motion is poorly constructed in its mandate to convert all local chapters to sub-committees when there are no related committees. This motion was passed without adequate information and research regarding the effect and impact on the state affiliate chapters.

Furthermore, passing motions that affect the state affiliate chapters without membership input contradicts the spirit and intent of our member driven organization.

Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf

Motion F.

To have the sections of the Policies & Procedures Manual and the Articles of Incorporation of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf which delineate the powers, responsibilities and limitations of the RID Board of Directors and RID members published online within 90 days of the end of the 2009 Biennial Conference and for the documents to be accessible to all members after logging in to their RID account.

Rationale: It is prudent for RID members to be able to access the rights and responsibilities of our membership and our Board of Directors. This will allow us to better understand how our organization functions and allows us to decide if the language reflects our collective desires for our organization as times and challenges dictate.

Karen Beth Staller and Elissa Jill Cohen

Motion G.

To amend the powers of the RID Board of Directors as specified in the RID Articles of Incorporation Section b, 3 to read:

To enter into, make, perform, and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose and without limit on amount with any person, firm or corporation EXCEPT those that change, add or amend certification, testing or membership status (for which the Board needs the express voted approval of RID members with rights to vote on the issue of certification, as specified in the bylaws, prior to entering into a contract); and

Rationale: We understand the RID Board of Directors take actions to support the organization to the best of their abilities; however, in the matter of adopting new certifications, changing our membership status and entering into contracts that have such outcomes, we believe that the membership needs to play the leadership role. Entrusting the membership with such decisions creates more of a sense of ownership of the direction of RID. In addition, our voting members deserve both the right and the responsibility to make such decisions. We believe that such decisions should not be entered into precipitously, and that discussion among the members is a priority. We believe that there is no need to enter into such contracts until the membership has had a chance to assess the impact of such contracts on the future of our profession, on our relationship with the Deaf community and on our organization. We trust the voting members of RID to make educated, reasoned and appropriate decisions.

Stephanie Feyne and Sarah Bartow

Motion H.

To amend the RID Bylaws ARTICLE IV Section 2. by adding language in the body of Section 2 and then A and B containing the following language:

Article IV. DIRECTORS

Section 2. — Powers and Limitations: All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors except as limited by Sections A and B below. Unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable monetarily for any purpose or in any amount. All charges, responsibilities and membership directives shall persist until fulfilled regardless of any changes to the makeup of the Board of Directors. Specific powers and limitations are defined in the Policies and Procedures Manual and are in accordance with the RID's Articles of Incorporation.

A. The Board does not have the power to add certificates to or add or change categories for membership in RID without prior approval of the membership via a vote.

B. The Board does not have the power to enter into a contract that changes, adds to, or amends certification or membership status without prior approval of the membership via a vote.

Rationale: We understand the members of the RID Board of Directors take actions to support the organization to the best of their abilities; however, in the matter of adopting new certifications, changing our membership status and entering into contracts that have such outcomes, we believe that the membership needs to play the leadership role. Entrusting the membership with such decisions creates more of a sense of ownership of the direction of RID. In addition, our voting members deserve both the right and the responsibility to make such a decision.

We believe that such decisions should not be entered into precipitously, and that discussion among the members is a priority. We believe that there is no need to enter into such contracts until the membership has had a chance to assess the impact of such contracts on the future of our profession, on our relationship with the Deaf community and on our organization. We trust the voting members of RID to make educated, reasoned and appropriate decisions.

Glenn J. Sheprow and Elissa Jill Cohen

Motion I.

To amend the 2003 Board motion on formal procedure for rulemaking process to read (changes in bold): **The board of directors will submit all issues regarding testing, certification, categories of membership in RID and any contracts dealing with such issues to the membership with voting rights thereon for discussion, comments and a membership vote. The board of directors will abide by the decisions of the voting membership in all matters of testing, certification and categories of membership.**

For all issues other than testing, certification, categories of membership in RID and contracts dealing with such issues, the board may choose to authorize, by motion, submitting an issue to the membership for comment. The proposed issue or policy is to be printed in association publications on ~~up to~~ **at least** two separate occasions with a deadline for member comments. After the deadline for comments has passed, a listing of all submissions/comments received is sent to the board of directors. The issue is then again placed on the board agenda including all comments from the national office and any applicable national committee. The board then can make a final decision on the matter by adopting the proposed policy, modifying it, or determining not to proceed.

Rationale: We understand the RID Board of Directors take actions to support the organization to the best of their abilities; however, in the matter of adopting new certifications, changing our membership status and entering into contracts that have such outcomes, we believe that the membership needs to play the leadership role. Entrusting the membership with such decisions creates more of a sense of ownership of the direction of RID. In addition, our voting members deserve both the right and the obligation to make such a decision. We believe that such decisions should not be entered into precipitously, and that discussion among the members is a priority. We believe that there is no need to enter into such contracts until the membership has had a chance to assess the impact of such contracts on the future of our profession and on our relationship with the Deaf community. We trust the voting members of RID to make educated, reasoned and appropriate decisions.

Jo Ann Kranis and Deborah Swamback

Motion J.

That RID establish a protocol for online voting that incorporates the following content and timeline requirements, recognizes the different voting rights of RID members, and which is secure enough

to ensure member representation at the level currently enjoyed at national conferences or mail-in ballots:

CONTENT FIRST STEP:

- The content of the motion,
- Rationale of the motion,
- "For" and "Against" Statements written by proponents of each side
- Statement(s) from Deaf community representatives on the impact of the motion
- Location for online discussion of the motion (vlogs, blogs, discussion groups, etc.)

CONTENT SECOND STEP:

- The content of the motion,
- Rationale of the motion,
- "For" and "Against" Statements written by proponents of each side
- Statement(s) from Deaf community representatives on the impact of the motion
- Online voting procedures including instructions and deadline for voting

TIMELINES:

- The CONTENT FIRST STEP information will be sent electronically to all RID voting members and to chapters at least four (4) weeks prior to the onset of the online voting session.
- Venues for discussion of the motion will be established by RID and opened contemporaneously with the dissemination of the CONTENT FIRST STEP information.
- CONTENT SECOND STEP information will be sent electronically to all RID voting members at the opening of the voting period. The vote will be taken electronically. The timeline for voting will be no less than three (3) weeks from the date the CONTENT SECOND STEP is sent to voting members.
- The results will be shared with the membership within forty five (45) days after the votes have been tabulated.
- No online voting will occur less than six (6) months prior to a National Conference.

Rationale: In 2007, the Board conducted online voting. The only information that accompanied the votes was the position of the Board. There was no discussion of alternate views. This led to votes being cast by RID members who had learned neither the history behind nor the potential impact of such items. This motion intends to ensure that RID voting members are given both sides of an issue and have the opportunity to discuss it with peers prior to the vote.

This motion also supports live voting at RID Conferences by disallowing votes to be held immediately prior to national conferences. In 2007, members were drafting motions for the Conference at the same time that the Bylaws were being voted on. The results were not shared with members until well after the deadline for motions submission. This made it difficult to author motions, as they had to incorporate both current and potential language. This current motion would eliminate such difficulties by ensuring members have access to current language and information prior to the deadline for motion submission.

Stephanie Feyne and Lynnette Taylor

Motion K.

That certification results be published in the *IEWS* only with the candidate's permission.

Rationale: This is a question of privacy. It should be the candidate's choice whether his/her results are published.

This is especially true now that we have a multi-level certification system yielding the possibility of a candidate receiving a lower "level" than he or she was expecting. This creates a chilling effect on interpreters certified under a previous version and do not need to take the NIC, but want to show that they have remained current with the changes in the profession. Candidates for certification are not given an option to withhold publication of their results in the Views if they wish to.

They should be given that option.

Nancy D. Sullivan and Laurie Meyer

Motion L.

That RID amend the bylaws to as follows:

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. — Voting Rights and Requirements:

A. In order to be a voting member of the RID, a person must be a member in good standing, belong to a voting category and be a member of an affiliate chapter.

B. Each voting member of this corporation shall be entitled to one vote in meetings, referenda and elections. Meetings, referenda and elections pertaining to evaluations, certifications and standards/ethics may only be voted upon by active certified members.

Members have the right to grant their proxy to another member in good standing provided that the member who will carry the proxy is in the same voting/membership category. No member may carry more than 20 proxies. If any member has more than 20 proxies, they must transfer any excess proxies to another member in good standing in the same voting/membership category or lose the extra assigned proxy votes. The proxy is valid for the duration of all sessions of the business meeting for which it was granted, and shall expire at the adjournment of said meeting. The proxy is rendered void if the member granting proxy is in attendance and voting at the business meeting.

C. In order to be guaranteed eligibility to vote at a National Convention, a member's dues must be received in the national office by July 1st of the fiscal year in which the convention occurs. Any member renewing their membership after July 1st would only be permitted to vote at the National Convention if their renewal can be verified prior to Convention.

D. Any decision of the Board of Directors may be vetoed by a two-thirds majority vote of those eligible and voting during a regular or special meeting of the membership or through mail referendum.

Deborah Matthews Arment and Sue Bassiri

Rationale: While RID has had a proxy system in the past, it was terminated. The two basic reasons were 1) a prior abuse of the proxy system and 2) advice of a parliamentarian. While no one condones abuse of any voting mechanism, a system can be put in place (i.e. limiting the number of votes a single member may carry into a meeting) to prevent such misuse. RID was given incomplete advice from a parliamentarian who stated that Robert's Rules of Order does not allow proxy voting. This is not a complete answer.

While Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) states:

Proxy voting is not permitted in ordinary deliberative assemblies unless federal, state or other laws applicable to the society require it, or the bylaws of the organization authorize it, since proxy voting is incompatible with the essential characteristics of a deliberative assembly. As a consequence, the answers to any questions concerning the correct use of proxies, the extent of the power conferred by a proxy, the duration, revocability, or transferability of proxies, and so forth, must be found in the provisions of the law or bylaws which require or authorize their use. [RONR (10th ed.), p. 414-15.]

Proxy voting is not DISALLOWED. If our bylaws or the state laws in which we are incorporated allow for proxy voting, it is allowed.. The state of California (the state in which RID was incorporated) allows for proxy voting if such a provision is in an organization's bylaws. There is no reason we cannot have proxy voting if our organization so chooses.

One reason, as stated in RONR, for the discouragement of proxies is that the non-present member does not have the ability to participate in debate and to change his/her vote. Yet, the purpose of RONR is to give voice to the minority. With the technology available today via text, twitter and other formal means, we do have the ability to follow debate. Motions can also be posted online, in newsletters and other publications prior to the meeting. Grassroots debate can begin at home before traveling to the business meetings at conventions, thus allowing MORE involvement of members, not less. A local issues forum can bring in not only interpreters, but other stakeholders in our organization together for meaningful discussion.

When someone gives proxy to another, he/she is responsible to choose someone of similar political leanings and discuss his/her stance issues with the member who will carry the proxy, but also entrusts that person to listen to/participate in the live debate and to vote his/her conscience based not only on prior discussions/instructions, but also including the content of the debate and any amendments that may have been made to the original motion

Given the economic climate, fewer people may be able to attend conferences than in the past. Several years ago, many interpreters from a particular city were unable to attend the business meeting because of an emergency need for interpreters involving a large number of the deaf community. These interpreters, committed to the community, were not represented at our meeting. These are but two examples, there are many similar stories.

Other professional organizations have opted to use proxy systems very effectively in conducting the business of their respective organizations.