**PCRID Annual Conference**

**Business Meeting**

November 18-19, 2017

Community College of Baltimore County

800 South Rolling Road

Catonsville, MD 21228

**11/18 Day 1 Call to Order – 2:09pm**

**Introduction**

Gina D’Amore reminded all members who are eligible to vote to make sure they picked up a voting card when entering the room.

Gina introduced the current PCRID board:

Gina D’Amore, President

Sarah Blattberg, Treasurer

Bradley Christlieb, Director of Professional Development

Traci Ison, Director of Community Relations

Kevin Dyels, Director of Membership

Jo Westbury, Director of Communication

D’Lisa Robinson, Director of Meetings (absent)

Gina thanked the board, student volunteers, and CCBC faculty Rebecca Minor and

Su Isakson for all their work on the conference.

**Quorum**

Kevin Dyels reported that as of the count from 30 days ago, 452 active members are eligible to vote. To reach quorum ten percent, or 45 voting members, need to be present. Kevin counted over 50, and so quorum was reached.

Clarification was provided that student members can vote. Supporting members and organizational members may not vote.

**Standing rules**

The standing rules were displayed for all to read. They were unanimously accepted.

**Reading the minutes**

Angelia Thrash-Thomas & Alissa Enders reviewed the 2016 minutes. These minutes are available to view on the PCRID web site.

**Board reports**

*Gina D’Amore, President*

The confusion over PCRID email addresses ending in .net and .org has been resolved. All addresses should now be .org.

Gina attended conferences and meetings during her first year, including these:

* Deaf Interpreter Conference—This new gathering continues to grow. Gina has more information to share with those who are interested.
* RID LEAD Together Conference—This was Gina’s first RID conference, and she was very inspired by the new, proactive approach toward member engagement. PCRID sponsored her attendance, and she will continue to serve as liaison bringing PCRID member issues to RID. Region II met during the RID conference, where Gina learned how some of our neighboring chapters view PCRID as a model chapter.
* Maryland licensure meetings—The group is making progress as it heads toward solutions. More information will be shared at tonight’s Town Hall.
* Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) Conference

The newly forming Mississippi chapter requested support from Region II. Presidents from Region II, including Gina, plan to provide workshops in Miss. in April.

*Kafi Lemons (Jan.-Aug. 2017) and Jo Westbury (interim Sept.-Dec. 2017),   
Director of Communication*

Jo reported on Kafi’s work setting up live streaming for workshops.

As the new interim director, Jo is seeking ways to bridge gaps in member communication. She has an active role in supporting this weekend’s conference.

*Traci Ison, Director of Community Relations*

Traci shared from her experiences at the RID LEAD conference, where the RID strategic plan was discussed in terms of how to diversify the voter base, which is currently 95% white. Affiliate chapters are taking responsibility to diversify their membership. Traci asked for members with diverse backgrounds to run for vacant PCRID board positions in tomorrow’s election.

Traci’s graphic with links to stakeholder organizations, community events, and more can be found at the PCRID web site.

*D’Lisa Robinson, Director of Meetings (absent)*

(From the PowerPoint presentation) This position—formerly the board secretary—keeps accurate records of PCRID meetings as well as handles official correspondence. The Director of Meetings also oversees the annual conference. Board and business meeting minutes can be viewed on the PCRID web site.

Sarah Yates made a request for future conferences to make the full schedule available before the early bird discount closes.

*Kevin Dyels, Director of Membership*

As interpreters move to our area, Kevin contacts them to discuss PCRID benefits and events. He also visits high schools and events to make contact and talk about our profession.

The two members of the membership committee are

* Natalie Van Eman, who handles member outreach; and
* Erin Lappin, who is responsible for member relations.

Membership as of Oct. 19, 2017 = 499

Active associates = 60

Active certified = 364

Active students = 28

Kevin noted that membership renewals are due by June 30 and that despite sending out renewal reminders, 150 people have not renewed over the past two years.

*Bradley Christlieb, Director of Professional Development*

Bradley began this position in the spring. The PD committee includes the following members; positions with \* will be vacant in 2018:

* Mercedes Hunter, workshops chair
* Rose Trabert, mentorship chair
* Erin Schneider, CMP committee chair\*
* Trisha Montgomery, workshops
* Sandy Brown, academic coursework
* Colleen Doyle, PINRAs\*
* Erin Schneider, independent studies\*

Mercedes hosted three workshops—free to members—in 2017:

* “SpaceWalk,” Wink Smith, Jr., 116 registrants
* “Power, Privilege and Oppression Jeopardy,” Ritchie Bryant, 75 registrants
* “Intersections of Interpreting and Race,” Pamela Collins & Tiffany Hill, 60 registrants

These educational activities were processed so far in 2017:

* workshops = 51
* academic coursework = 35
* independent studies = 10
* PINRAs = 72

The CMP committee wanted to give special recognition to Erin Schneider for all of her hard work as outgoing committee chair.

Bradley announced the move to electronic CEU processing for all educational activities except workshops. Electronic processing for workshops is coming.

He thanked Jen Vold for the new web page regarding CEUs, and announced that for the first time PCRID processed CEUs for international activities.

Bradley requested members get their Dec. CEUs in for processing ASAP.

Members should see Erin or Bradley regarding open CMP committee positions.

*Sarah Blattberg, Treasurer*

Sarah explained that five years ago our coffers were full, which isn’t a desirable place to be as a non-profit organization. Thus began quarterly workshops free to members.

She shared beautiful pie charts—created by interpreting students as community service—outlining current revenue and expenses.

Fiscal year 2017 budget highlights:

* Revenue = $49,432. Conference registrations and membership fees continue to be our largest sources of income.
* Expenses = $55,899. Conference is by far the largest expense annually, especially the food.

A question about this year’s conference costs led to the explanation that we might have earned a profit due to choosing a college instead of a hotel.

Sarah ended by reiterating that her position is now up for election. Most of the treasurer’s duties involve tracking funds and filing taxes on behalf of PCRID.

**Unfinished business**

None leftover from previously.

**New business**

Gina announced that two motions were submitted via the web site.

Writers of any additional motions may see Diana Markel of the bylaws committee now for help crafting them.

**Motion:** AC2017.01, Amend PCRID Bylaws, Article VI of the bylaws, Meeting of Members, Section 1, Annual Conference as follows:

* Item 1. “annual” replaced with “biennial” (referring to the conference)
* Item 2. add “During the non-conference year, an annual business meeting shall be held. Workshops also will be offered by the PCRID Professional Development Committee quarterly throughout the year in lieu of a conference.”
* Change numbering of item 2 to item 3.

**Mover:** Bradley Christlieb (in lieu of Kirsi Grigg)

**Seconder**: Amy Lanasa

**Rationale:** PCRID is a membership-based association, and having an annual conference taxes its finances and human resources. Changing to a biennial conference would allow more time for planning and draw more participation from membership. Furthermore, PCRID may experience an increase in funds if we do not have annual expenses for conference planning, thus giving PCRID almost two years to budget and fiscally plan for a biennial conference. By alternating conference and workshops, PCRID may have a healthy budget to sustain over the long term.

The Bylaws Committee recommends that this amendment be adopted.

**Discussion:** A video from the original motion mover (Kirsi Grigg) couldn’t be played, but Bradley summarized it by explaining that Kirsi believes an annual conference takes too much time to put together, and that members find much value in PCRID workshops. Bradley clarified that business meetings would still be conducted annually.

Question from Betty Colonomos about how running workshops plus a business meeting in the off years saves PCRID money.

Responses from Gina and Bradley stated that individual quarterly workshops are less expensive than multi-track workshops offered during conference along with all the other conference activities, which adds up.

Question from Su Isakson about whether the next conference would be in 2019.

Reponse from Gina was yes.

Jen Bell spoke in opposition since the current annual conference is written into our bylaws. She suggested a trial year of quarterly workshops plus a business meeting rather than changing the bylaws now.

Kevin Dyels, as Director of Membership, offered that the conference period is a popular time for people to join PCRID, and that certified members look to our conference as a source for CEUs before their cycles end in Dec.

Question from Patty Moers-Patterson about the number of interpreters in DC.

Response from Gina clarified that members come from outside the immediate area.

Gina noted our time for part I of the business meeting is ending.

Motion from Betty Colonomos to table discussion on this motion until part II of the business meeting tomorrow.

Nancy Bender seconded.

**Vote** to table discussion passed with 3 no votes.

**Adjourn 3:16**

**11/20 Day 2 Call to Order – 1:09pm**

Kevin Dyels established quorum with over 50 voting members present (46 are required).

**New business continued**

Bradley Christlieb moved to continue discussion of the first motion from yesterday.

Candas Barnes seconded.

**Vote** to proceed passed.

Robert Weinstock, parliamentarian, explained that any bylaws changes require 90-day notification to members. Two of today’s motions would require changes to the bylaws. Therefore we will have discussion only today, then vote by mail referendum in 90 days. Robert taught us the important role a comma can play, and Gina clarified that understanding the procedure for changing our bylaws came down to interpreting the meaning of a comma.

Comment from Connor Gillis that if we change to biennial conferences they should take place in the off year of RID conferences.

Comment from Bradley recognizing there are some members who don't wish to change the schedule. He shared that our bylaws do not stipulate how many days constitute a “conference.” If members want annual conferences we need more member involvement and support in planning and executing them.

Gina offered to create some vlogs clarifying the proposed bylaws change during the 90-day period following notification.

**Motion**: AC2017.02, Amend Article VI, Meeting of Members, Section 1, Annual Conference by adding a new sub-section C. that reads as follows:

PCRID will recruit at least ten (10) Deaf community members as attendees with registration costs waived to each annual [sic], to promote greater Deaf community engagement with PCRID. The membership will engage in dialogues with stakeholders about issues of concern to those stakeholders. \*\**(biennial conference—see AC2017.01)*

**Mover:** Juniper Sussman & Jamie Yost

**Seconder**: Su Isakson

**Rationale**: When we gather as interpreters, we engage in discussions and make decisions that impact Deaf people/consumers. Unfortunately these activities often take place without the experience, input and wisdom of Deaf people. In order to insure that we as a community do not perpetuate this dynamic (audist behavior), this motion helps to address this. These stakeholders will be asked to represent the community and must represent the diversity within.

The Bylaws Committee recommends that this amendment be adopted.

**Discussion:** Jamie Yost summarized the benefits of greater Deaf involvement in PCRID conferences.

Comment from Nancy Bender to include DeafBlind in the motion.

Comment from Candas Barnes to add the missing word “conference” and to stipulate the number of Deaf attendees who are persons of color, DeafBlind, etc.

Comment from Lore Rosenthal about why the number ten.

Comment from Jen Bell to establish a committee on the matter rather than changing the bylaws.

Comment from Naomi Sheneman that bylaws have more power and are enforceable. Committee work sometimes go nowhere.

Comment from Nancy Bender in support of the motion as it adds accountability beyond that at the committee level.

Comment from Jen Bell that she’s not opposed to the motion, but that bylaws changes require 90 days’ notice to the membership.

Gina reminded everyone that we’re not voting today, just discussing the matter.

Bradley agrees with Nancy’s comment in support of the motion, because the community is evolving and we must follow. We are responsible to make sure our bylaws are updated and current with the times.

Gina stated that Robert Weinstock (parliamentarian) and Diana Markel (bylaws committee chair) can fine tune the wording of the motion.

Patty Moers-Patterson moved to called the vote, but was reminded we can’t vote.

Comment from Su Isakson that the RID LEAD Together conference discussed the divide between the Deaf and interpreter communities. She noted how the current motion reflects that spirit.

Betty Colonomos moved to call the vote, but was again reminded that we can’t vote on this today. Betty commented on seeing positive changes in PCRID conferences over the years—more people including people of color, more signing. This is proof that we should continue with annual conferences despite the large amount of work they require.

Comment is out of order—relates to previous motion, not this one.

Gina agrees with Betty’s comments on the energy and spirit of people at conference.

**Motion**: AC2017.03, PCRID cover registration and travel expenses for all of the PCRID board to attend the Region II conference in Mississippi in April 2018.

**Proposer**: Bradley Christlieb

**Seconder:** Carla Masi

**Rationale:** It will be important for PCRID to show that we are in full support of a Mississippi affiliate chapter to help them grow and to support them.  PCRID is seen by other regional affiliate chapters as a role model, and the Board's presence at the Region II conference will help us assist other chapters.

**Financial:** Estimated cost to be $8500.

**Discussion:**

Bradley summarized the motion’s rationale.

Comment from Betty Colonomos to continue the PCRID annual conference instead of sending board members to Region II conference.

Comment from Candas Barnes to add a per person monetary limit that would not include all travel expenses.  
Clarification from Gina that transportation, hotel, and per diem would be provided—nothing more.

Comment from Bradley that PCRID has available funds and as a non-profit organization can’t collect money without spending it.

Question from Patty Moers-Patterson about PCRID’s relationship with other chapters in our region.

Gina explained that in meetings with neighboring chapter presidents they agree to offer workshops in support of each other.

Comment from Jen Vold that as past president and vice president of RID she found her attendance at the RID conference invaluable. Freelance interpreters don’t have many opportunities to develop leadership, and she noticed greater involvement and sharing of information and ideas after she attended. Jen noted that the impact of her attendance was much like Gina and Traci’s positive experiences, as recounted in their vlogs.

Comment in opposition from Sarah Blattberg, who pointed out that PCRID monies are to be used for PCRID members. Sending two board members to the RID LEAD conference cost the organization over $6000 with little direct impact on members. She posed the question as to what members want their money spend on. Sarah suggested a monetary limit be added to the motion.

Comment from Betty Colonomos to make an amendment adding mentoring for Mississippi.

Response from Gina was that would be a separate motion, not an amendment.

Motion from Betty to add “and mentor Mississippi” to the motion.

Clarification from Robert (parliamentarian) that the amendment is permitted.

Betty provided the rationale that adding mentoring would address a lasting impact on the investment.

Comment from Bradley that the original motion is about approving the finances, not about mentoring.

Comment from Armstrong Knight, who is here from Miss. to learn from PCRID. He stated that Miss. is asking for help due to no interpreting programs and few ASL classes left in the state.

Comment from Su Isakson regarding the proposed amendment, that the money allotted should be tied to outcomes for measuring the results of sending board members to Region II.

Comment from Patty Moers-Patterson that the three continuing PCRID board members are all white while Miss. is predominantly African American. She expressed concern about the message in sending only white board members.

Comment from Gina acknowledging the issue and noting that the Florida and Alabama chapter presidents are also white.

Comment from Candas Barnes that if after today’s election we still have an all-white board, we should send some board members and some members who are persons of color to Miss.

**Vote** on the amendment to add mentoring: yes = 28, no = 7. Amendment passed.

\*Amended motion reads “PCRID cover registration and travel expenses for all of the PCRID board to attend and mentor the Region II conference in Mississippi in April 2018.”

Motion from Betty Colonomos to further amend the motion by having the board appoint a group of diverse PCRID members to attend Region II rather than themselves.

Su Isakson seconded.

Rationale from Betty is that she trusts the board to make decisions about the finances and diversity involved in this motion. This amendment takes into account the power factor.

Comment from Bradley Christlieb that while he respects the changes being made to his original motion he moves to withdraw it because the amendments have taken it too far from the intended spirit.

**Vote** on withdrawing the main motion: yes = 12, no = 26. Vote to withdraw the main motion failed.

Comment from Traci Ison to reflect on PCRID’s commitment to diversity and support. She suggests we return to considering the Miss. chapter’s request.

Gina did a time check and reminded everyone that elections will take place soon.

Comment from Lore Rosenthal in opposition to the motion, given that it doesn’t state how many people would be attending nor is there a limit on the cost. The estimated cost of $8500 is more than ten percent of our current funds.

Jen Vold called the vote.

**Vote** on second amendment to the motion: yes=25, no=20. Amendment passed.

\*Amended motion now reads “PCRID cover registration and travel expenses for a diverse group of PCRID members appointed by the PCRID board to attend and mentor the Region II conference in Mississippi in April 2018.”

Discussion returned to the main motion.

Comment from Jennifer Furlano in opposition to having all the expenses covered.

Comment from Betty Colonomos that the motion proposal doesn’t mention finances.

**Vote** on the main motion: yes=22, no=28. Motion failed.

Motion from Bradley Christlieb to extend the business meeting by 30 minutes.

Nancy Bender seconded.

Gina clarified that the workshop slot following the business meeting would be shifted so that they have the full time

**Vote** to extend the business meeting by 30 minutes: yes=23, no=4. Passed.

**Board elections**  
Gina announced four open board positions: Director of Meetings, Treasurer, Director of Membership, and Director of Communication.

Clarification question from Jen Vold that three other board positions are continuing.

Response from Gina was yes.

*Director of Meetings*  
Nominated: Toni Ftizgerald

Nominator: Carol Tipton  
Toni introduced herself as a freelance interpreter who graduated from the program at CCBC several years ago.

**Vote**: yes

*Treasurer*

Nominated: Nora Rodriguez

Nominator: Betty Colonomos

Nominated: Nicole Morgan

Nominator: Paris McTizic

Nora introduced herself as a student in Gallaudet’s interpreting program.

Nicole introduced herself as a Gallaudet graduate student and business owner.

**Vote:** Nora=18, Nicole=27

*Director of Membership*

Nominated: Samantha Schein

Nominator: Juliana Emery

Seconder: Jamie Whitbread

Nominated: Paris McTizic

Nominator: Su Isakson

Seconder: Candas Barnes

Jamie described Samantha as very interested in this position.

Bradley described Samantha as friendly.

Samantha emphasized her interest in doing outreach.

Su described Paris as very involved and a good representative of not-yet-certified PCRID members.

Paris emphasized his interest in doing outreach.

**Vote:** Samantha=13, Paris=28

*Director of Communications*

Nominated: Jo Westbury (to official switch from interim to regular)

Nominator: Traci Ison

Traci described Jo as a Gallaudet student in communication studies who has been serving as interim Director of Communications.

Jo offered thanks for the opportunity to serve thus far and described herself as passionate about communication.

Motion from Jaime Coronado to accept Jo by acclamation.

Seconded by [missing name].

**Vote:** yes by acclamation

Gina closed the business meeting by again thanking outgoing board members as well as those involved in the conference, including board, student volunteers, working interpreters, and especially the members for attending.

**Adjourn 2:58pm**

Meeting minutes submitted by Kelli Stein, PCRID member.