

Deaf Caucus Rules of Operation

Approved by Motion #96.18

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1: NAME

The name of the special interest group shall be the Deaf Caucus

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

The principal purpose of DC is to represent the needs and concerns of RID members who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. This includes:

- a. actively assisting in the establishment and maintenance of certificates in interpretation and transliteration for which Deaf/hard of hearing individuals may apply;
- b. continuing to encourage the active involvement of Deaf/hard of hearing persons in RID, Inc;
- c. to provide a mechanism for advising the RID board, National Office, other SIGs, committee members and members of RID, Inc. of the concerns of Deaf/hard of hearing consumers, interpreters and educators;
- d. to serve as a support group for RID, Inc.
- e. to disseminate information to Deaf Caucus members regarding organizational activities;
- f. to prepare position papers and/or statements for the Board of Directors and the RID, Inc. membership on issues of vital concern to Deaf Caucus;
- g. to hold Deaf Caucus meeting(s) at each RID, Inc. convention;
- h. to serve as an additional liaison group between RID, Inc. and organizations of/for the D/Deaf/hard of hearing (i.e. NAD, TDI, ADARA, SHHH, etc.);

ARTICLE II: ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: All members in good standing of RID who support the purposes of Deaf Caucus shall be eligible for membership in Deaf Caucus.

SECTION 2: Dues shall be determined by the membership of Deaf Caucus, not to exceed 25% (twenty five percent) of the dues each member pays to RID, Inc.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: OFFICERS

The officers of Deaf Caucus shall be chair, vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer. These and region representatives from each of the five (5) RID regions shall comprise the council of Deaf Caucus.

SECTION 2: TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS OF OFFICE

Officers shall be elected, as according to Article IV of these rules of operation, for a single term of two years. Each officer shall have been a member of RID for at least one year immediately prior to their election and maintain that membership in good standing while in office. Officers shall be certified or associate members of RID, Inc. Each officer shall be a current member of Deaf Caucus.

SECTION 3: RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE

The Chair shall:

- a. serve as the chair for all meetings;
- b. be able to create and define committees for Deaf Caucus, with the approval of the council;
- c. act as spokesperson between Deaf Caucus and the RID Board of Directors, public and constituent communities;
- d. countersign Deaf Caucus checks; and
- e. have other powers as assigned by the board of RID or Deaf Caucus council/membership.

The Vice-Chair shall:

- a. in the absence of the chair, perform all duties and have the powers of the chair;
- b. be responsible for ensuring that the Deaf Caucus rules of operation are not in conflict with RID, Inc.; and
- c. have other powers as assigned by the board of RID or Deaf Caucus council/membership.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

- a. keep accurate and complete minutes of all Deaf Caucus council meetings and general meetings;
- b. forward minutes to the Deaf Caucus council and the National Office within fifteen (15) days of a meeting, and forward minutes of general meetings to the Council of Deaf Caucus, the editor of the *VIEWS*, and to the RID Board of Directors;
- c. keep a full set of detailed books for Deaf Caucus;
- d. make a report of the books at all general meetings;
- e. make payment of bills within thirty (30) days of approval;
- f. countersign all Deaf Caucus checks, and
- g. act as the main contact with the National Office with regard to financial matters related to Deaf Caucus.
- h. have other powers as assigned by the board of RID or Deaf Caucus council/membership.

The Region Representatives shall:

- a. act as liaisons between members of their respective regions and the council;
- b. conduct or attend informal region meetings during the national convention and present region reports to the membership during the general meeting of Deaf Caucus;
- c. shall reside in the region they are elected to represent; and
- d. have other powers and duties as assigned by the Deaf Caucus council/membership.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: Election of officers shall occur every two (2) years at the RID convention, by secret ballot.

SECTION 2: A call for nominations, stating offices eligible for nomination and election procedures, will be placed in the January *VIEWS* of every odd-numbered year, by the chair. Nominations will be sent to the Deaf Caucus Elections Committee.

SECTION 3: Ballots will be kept for two months after an election, in the event of a request for recount. A request for recount must be submitted in writing to the Deaf Caucus Council within two months of the election. A recount will then be done by the council or its assignees. After two months, the ballots will be destroyed.

SECTION 4: All members in good standing of Deaf Caucus shall be eligible to vote.

SECTION 5: Nominations must be made by voting members of RID, Inc.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The Elections Committee, composed of three Deaf Caucus members, shall be selected by the council. The committee will verify each nominee's willingness to serve and obtain a short statement of why they are running, and submit those for the March issue of the *VIEWS*.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

SECTION 1: Meetings of the full SIG shall be held during each national convention of the RID.

SECTION 2: Meetings of regional delegates of the SIG may also be held during region conferences. Reports of regional activities/discussion during the region conference are to be submitted to the council secretary/treasurer.

SECTION 3: The council shall decide its meeting agenda during each RID convention in conjunction with the national Convention Committee.

SECTION 4: Council meetings may be face-to-face or by conference call.

SECTION 5: All meetings of the Deaf Caucus shall be open to all members of the RID.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT OF THESE RULES OF OPERATION

SECTION 1: These rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership, by mail, or by two-thirds (2/3) of members attending the convention meeting.

SECTION 2: All amendments must be received by the co-chairs sixty (60) days prior to the membership voting on them.

SECTION 3: Changes require approval of the RID Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII. DISSOLUTION OF SIG

SECTION 1: Upon 2/3 vote of the membership of Deaf Caucus, the SIG may be dissolved.

All assets at the time of dissolution of Deaf Caucus will revert to RID, Inc.