

**Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association  
Board Meeting December, 2010**

**Present:** Linda Hughes, Paul Autote, Sheila Moffat, Joseph Murphy, and Karen Dougherty.

**Called to order:** 9:09 am

**Minutes:** not presented, secretary unable to attend previous meeting and substitute minutes were not available.

**Treasurer's report:** Joseph Murphy reported that only \$1300 had been collected from the RIRA sponsored workshop on deaf/blindness, and the cost was \$2,000. However, ORS has not yet paid for their staff attendance. The added cost was for 2 sign language interpreters. It was suggested Joe ask Roberta Greene-Whittemore to fund interpreters out of the training grant.

**President's Report:** Regina was unable to attend the meeting due to an injury

**Committee Reports**

**Program Committee:**

- Linda reported training entitled "Chicken at 11 O'Clock", presented by Paige Berry from the Helen Keller National Center, was well received. While it did not earn a great deal of money, it did not cost the organization anything, and everyone who attended benefited from the information and the networking.
- Regarding the annual meeting tentatively scheduled for January 19, Sheila reported that there was a conflict with booking the Shriner's Hall. The cost of the breakfast would be \$17 and the cost of the hall rental would be \$150. It was suggested she look for an alternate site that did not charge for room rental. Sheila indicated she would call the Radisson. It was also suggested the date be changed to the first week of February because there was not enough time to plan and send out notices for a January 19 meeting.
- Sheila has been in touch with Dr. Marian Mattison, a social work professor at Providence College, who has just returned from a sabbatical on ethical issues in digital communication. In order to meet additional ethical needs of the agency, she will request Dr. Mattison also address interpersonal ethics in the workplace.

**Nomination Committee:**

- Four members of the board of directors, as well as a president, president-elect, treasurer and secretary will need to be elected. Linda offered to be in the running for president, Joe indicated he would remain on as treasurer, and Paul offered to run for secretary. The names of Linda Deschenes, Kathleen Neun, Lynn Paola and Kerri-Ann Sorensen were suggested as possible board nominees. Linda indicated she would put out an e-mail requesting volunteers for members of the board.
- The election will be held at the annual meeting the first week of February.

**By-Laws:** Susan Shapiro has reportedly updated the by-laws which need to be mailed to the membership in order to be voted on at the annual meeting.

**Membership**

- Paul, Sheila Moffat and Karen Dougherty met to coordinate a website for RIRA, which has been set up by Sharon DiPinto through ORS, the address of which is [www.ors.ri.gov/rira.html](http://www.ors.ri.gov/rira.html). The board meeting minutes are not current, and Paul asked Linda to send him the latest minutes in order to include them. He also inquired about any history of the organization in order to include this information
- Sheila, Paul and Karen are also working on folders of information on RIRA to hand out, especially at all training conferences where people who are currently RIRA members may want to join..

**Community Involvement:** It was suggested that RIRA host a group volunteer activity where members can network, socialize and assist organizations who work with individuals with disabilities. All board members present agreed to look for opportunities to do so.

**Old Business:** none

**New business:** none

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 15, 9:00 am, in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room at ORS.

**Adjourned:** 10:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Hughes*