

Region 4 of the National Association for Interpretation
Conference Call Meeting
2 August 2007

Call to order: 11:01am

Participating: Officers: Ginger Murphy (Director), Amy Roell (Treasurer), Leslie Witkowski (Secretary)
Committee Chairs: Haley Samuelson-Couchman (Archives), Pete Stobie (Awards), Rich Niccum (Interpretive Project Grants), Sarah Reding (Nominations), Marvin McNew (Partnership & Advertising), Deb Nofzinger (Publications), Andrea Haslage (Scholarships & Grants), Wil Reding (Student Involvement), Susie Edwards (Ways & Means)
National Staff Member: Deb Tewell

Director of Region 4, Ginger Murphy, welcomed everyone to the call.

National Board Issues Update: Ginger Murphy Reporting

- The national board approved a policy that keeps all funds in the NAI account rather than investing them in mutual funds or CDs. All of our operating dollars, other than what is invested in CDs or mutual funds has always been commingled. The actual dollar amounts for each region or section are tracked on paper and are always available to us to use. The national office has a line of credit that is used when cash flow is low; that often happens in the spring and early summer before national workshop registration dollars begin to come in. The interest charged on that line of credit that we draw on is higher than the interest rate we receive on CDs, and, in general on mutual funds, so it makes sense not to tie up dollars in mutual funds and CDs that limit the organizations cash flow. We're better off to use our existing dollars when possible rather than draw on the line of credit. To compensate regions for the interest lost from converting mutual funds and CDs to cash, the national office will pay each region/section interest on any dollars they have above \$10,000 each quarter. The interest will be paid at the CD rate offered at that time at NAI's bank. For Region 4, this means essentially the same interest rate and will actually increase our interest, since it will apply to everything above \$10,000. This makes sense fiscally for NAI.
- NAI staff is looking into creating a social network online for the growing younger membership NAI is receiving.
- NAI staff has a query online for getting books put online as PDF's for the membership to have access to. They would like to know what books the membership would like to see available online.
- NAI Board will review the resignation letter sent by Tim Merriman during an August 3, 2007 board meeting.

Regional Business Meeting at the 2007 NAI National Workshop: Ginger Murphy Reporting

- At the Regional Business meeting at the National Workshop, we will have a format the same as last year. Each committee chair needs to give a brief report to the Region regarding the highlights of their committee. If you will not be able to attend the workshop, please ask one of your committee members to present your report for you.

Secretary's Report: Leslie Witkowski Reporting

- Leslie e-mailed, at the beginning of July, the minutes from the 2007 Regional Business Meeting from the RIW and the minutes from the 2007 March Conference Call to Frances to be put up on the website. Once Frances gets her computer glitch worked out, she will get them on the website.

Treasurer's Report: Amy Roell Reporting

- We still have a few expenditures out for July.
- We have a balance of \$52,664.34 in our treasury.

- The 2007 Regional Interpreters Workshop was well received and brought in just under \$7,000 for the region.
- For the 2008 budget, be thinking about now the projects your committee will need to work on.
- **ACTION ITEM: All committee chairs need to have their 2008 budget to Amy by September 28!**

Deputy Director's Report: Ginger Murphy Reporting for Julie Champion

- The call for presenting at the 2008 Regional Workshop has been extended by a couple of weeks. The new deadline is August 14, 2007.
- The 2008 committee has a hotel holding rooms for the RIW as well as rooms at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
- Julie is trying to confirm the dates for the 2009 Regional Workshop with Rick Stronks, the 2009 Workshop Chair.
- **ACTION ITEM: Julie Champion will need to confirm with Rick Stronks the best way to go about reminding/assisting Region 4 members on getting/how to go about getting passports for traveling up in Canada for the workshop.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Ginger Murphy and Julie Champion will need to research further into providing a bus for transportation up to the 2009 Regional Interpreters Workshop.**
- 2010 Regional Workshop will be held in Midland, MI with Rachel Larimore as the Workshop Chair. They have started talking about the workshop, but nothing definite has been done yet.

Archives: Haley Samuelson-Couchman Reporting

- Donations have been low for 2007.
- Any items to be donated to the archives can be given to Haley or any other Archives committee member and they will see that it gets to Ball State.
- The committee is looking for all kinds of photos including, prints, slides or digital.
- Haley is looking into synchronizing our donations with the National Heritage donations at the National office.
- Haley will meet with John Straugh (sp?) regarding getting NAI's archived items up on a website.
- **ACTION ITEM: Pete Stobie will get to Haley at the 2008 Regional Workshop all of the award plaques that are full.**
- Haley still needs a committee member from IN.

Awards: Pete Stobie Reporting

- There were 7 submissions from Region 4 for National Awards this year. Five of these nominations were award winners:
 - Kara Haas, Outstanding New Interpreter, Kalamazoo Nature Center
 - Bob Dispenza, Master Front-line interpreter, Allen County Parks
 - Tim Krynak, Master Front-line interpreter, Cleveland Metroparks
 - Ann Bugada, Master Interpretive Manager, Lake Metroparks
 - Dr. Doug Knudson, NAI Fellow, Retired from Purdue University (lives in Colorado; nominated by Ray Novotny from Region 4)
- Dr. Jean Kinneer (NAI Fellow) and Travis Williams (Master Interpretive Manager) were also nominated but did not receive awards this year.

Interpretive Project Grants: Rich Niccum Reporting

- Deadline to receive grants is September 1, 2007.
- The grant application is in the summer issue of Four Thought and the guidelines for applying for a grant are on the website. The grant application itself is not on the website, but Rich is working with Frances to get it on the website.
- Rich is hoping for 10-11 submissions which is the usual amount received.

- The grants will be awarded to the recipients in October.
- **ACTION ITEM: Ginger will send an email reminder about the deadline.**

Membership: Ginger Murphy Reporting for Tanya Brock

- Region 4 currently has 530 members.
- 10-12 people have contacted Tanya so far regarding the 40 at 50 membership drive.
- Tanya is still waiting to hear how the membership survey the Northern Michigan University students were conducting went.
- *Follow-up Note from Tanya: We received a response from Cheryl Teeters. There were not enough responses to the survey to provide any significant results; the students are going to repeat the effort this fall.*

Nominating: Sarah Reding Reporting

- The majority of the write-ups are in. Sarah is still waiting for just a few.
- Slate is as follows:
 - Director: Julie Champion
 - Deputy Director: Tim Krynak/Leslie Witkowski
 - Treasurer: *Susie Edwards/Marvin McNew (Note: We just needed to confirm these – now done!)*
 - Secretary: Susan Williams/Jen Wright

Partnerships & Advertising: Marvin McNew Reporting

- After doing some research regarding ad costs, Marvin suggests the rates we are charging for ads in Four Thought be increased.
- Marvin has found a donor to cover the \$230 cost of having a booth at the National Workshop. Deb Tewell noted that the actual cost is now only \$150. **ACTION ITEM: Marvin McNew will confirm with the donor.**

Publications: Deb Nofzinger Reporting

- Four Thought was sent out to 8 people as an e-version. Deb will continue putting in the hard copy Four Thought reminders that members can receive the newsletter via e-mail. Andrea Haslage suggested listing how large the file is to receive. This may persuade some people to receive the e-version as the file may not be as large as they expected.
- **ACTION ITEM: Ginger's next email will include a reminder that they can get the newsletter electronically. Deb will provide info about the file size for this email.**

Scholarships & Grants: Andrea Haslage Reporting

- The scholarship form for attending the National Workshop was in the summer Four Thought.
- The updated certification application form was sent to Deb to be put in the summer Four Thought, but inadvertently didn't make it in. We have given away one certification grant so far and have 3 left to give away.
- **ACTION ITEM: Andrea will get Ginger the information regarding the certification grant and she will include it in the next e-newsletter.**
- Andrea has received one application so far for the National Workshop grant. Deadline is August 8. We may need to extend the deadline depending on how many applications she receives within the week. A decision will be made once the deadline is here.

A motion (Roell/Witkowski) was made to increase the amount of the National Workshop Grants from \$600 to \$800 for 2007, which passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Ginger will note this in an email update about deadlines for regional members with a reminder about the deadline.

- Certification grants were discussed. Since we have trouble awarding all of these grants as packets, it was suggested to offer a grant for someone to actually travel to a certification workshop instead.
- Andrea submitted a Call for Presentation for the 2008 Regional Workshop on how to complete a certification. A drawing will be done after the session for someone to win one of the certification grants. Leslie Witkowski volunteered to assist Andrea with the session; Tanya Brock also expressed interest in assisting as well as Ginger Murphy (for moral support!)
- Andrea has several new committee members. They are as follows:
 - Skitz Evrard
 - Jules Erwin
 - Carol Ward
 - Jamie Krupka
- Andrea received a letter from a Student Scholarship recipient explaining how she used her scholarship money. Some of the money was spent on rent and auto repairs and Andrea asked the group if this was proper use of the scholarship money. After some discussion and looking it up in the guidelines, it was determined that this was proper use of the money.

Strategic Planning: Sarah Reding Reporting

- Sarah will re-focus her attention to the Strategic Plan once the nominations are over, so everyone expect a phone call from her!

Student Involvement: Wil Reding Reporting

- Wil and Andrea are working on updating the University contact list so they have e-mail contacts rather than snail mail.
- Wil is working with the 2008 RIW committee to see if it would be possible to get reduced room rates for students who attend.
- Wil has submitted a Call for Presenters for 2008 RIW for students to give 10-minute presentations during this time.

Training & Membership Services: Ginger Murphy Reporting for Robin Dungan

- There was a Mini-workshop on July 23, but know one knows the outcome of it just yet.
- If anyone has any ideas for a mini-workshop or would be willing to host one, please get in touch with Robin.

Ways & Means Committee: Susie Edwards Reporting

- Susie has new contact phone #: (513) 563-4513.
- DVD sales are dropping off. The National office and another organization were going to provide reviews of the DVD.
- We are still receiving orders from Acorn Naturalist.
- At the RIW there were some members who showed interest in serving on the Ways & Means Committee, Susie has yet to contact them.
- Susie is investigating the possibilities of the Region acquiring a banner to take to National Workshops instead of the display we currently use. This is being done because it is becoming too costly to ship the display.
- Jules Erwin is working on re-doing the Herps booklet. **ACTION ITEM: Susie needs to contact her to see how far along she has come with it.**
- The price of the booth at the 2007 National Workshop will now be \$150 instead of the \$230 we originally paid for. \$80 will be credited back to the Region.

Website: Ginger Murphy Reporting for Frances Boyens

- Frances had some major computer problems in June. **ACTION ITEM: Ginger will get in contact with her to see if her computer situation is improving any!**

Next Conference Call has a potential date of October 16, 2007.

ACTION ITEM: Everyone, please consult your calendars and let Ginger Murphy know ASAP if this date will work for you for the next conference call!

Meeting adjourned: 12:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Witkowski, Region 4 Secretary