

**Region 4 of the National Association for Interpretation  
Business Meeting Minutes  
November Lodge, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, OH  
10 April 2008**

**Call to Order:** 1:00PM

**In Attendance:**

Officers: Julie Champion (Regional Director), Tim Krynak (Deputy Director), Marvin McNew (Treasurer), Jen Wright (Secretary), Haley Samuleson-Couchman (Archives), Pete Stobie (Awards), Interpretive Project Grants & Webmaster (Rich Niccum), Membership (Leslie Witkowski), Nominations (Ginger Murphy), Publications/Newsletter (Debbie Nofzinger), Scholarship & Grants (Andrea Haslage), Student Involvement (Wil Reding), Ways & Means (Susie Edwards) & many eager Region 4 members.

**Director's Report (Julie Champion):**

- Ohio DNR Hall of Fame Award (Ray Novotney)
  - Bert Sazabo was honored for his years of service.
- Jamie King - NAI membership manager
  - National News
    - Working on a greening campaign. Will be using recycled paper for *The Interpreter* and *Legacy* magazines.
    - *NAI Now* has replaced *InterpNews* and is being mailed monthly
    - As of May 2009, membership directories are going to be online only.
    - The national office is working on soliciting university members (1/6 of Region 4 membership are students, 1/5 of the total NAI membership are students)
    - In May 2008, 3<sup>rd</sup> annual International Conference in Korea will be held and the Portland registration booklet will be mailed to members.
- Jim Covell is our new President on national level.
- National has a new strategic plan

**Deputy Director (Tim Krynak):**

- Committees are working on future RIW's
  - February 2009 – Ontario - Algonquin Park.
    - Chair – Rick Stronks
  - 2010 – Midland, MI
    - Rachel Larimore & Dennis Pilaske
  - 2011 – Indiana
    - Looking for location and committee members

**Secretary (Jen Wright):**

- All meeting minutes and contact lists will be posted on the website within 3 weeks of the meetings.

**Treasurer (Marvin McNew):**

- Region 4 has \$49,400 in our account as of December 31, 2007

**Archives (Haley Samuleson-Couchman)**

- We are tracking the history of NAI, AIN, WIA and our region.
- Our archives are being held at Ball State University.

- If you have photos send them to Haley via e-mail
- If you'd like information call the collection department and you can get up to 20 pages of Region 4 history sent to you.
- Ball State is working on getting the info electronically. You will be able to search word by word.

#### **Awards (Pete Stobie)**

- We recognized all past National Award recipients.
- Note: Early nominations deadline for 2009 awards is Friday, October 31, 2008!!! This is early due to the early date of RIW 2009.
- Next opening for joining the awards committee is December 2009. Ontario is now represented on the awards committee.

#### **Interpretive Projects Grants (IPG) (Rich Niccum)**

- IPG – 35 people have received IPG's and we have given \$20,000+ in grants over the last few years.
- 4 IPG grants were given last year.
- \$3,000 is available for 2008 and applications are online.
- Applications deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup> and grants are awarded in Oct-Nov.
- Committee is looking for new committee members to begin in 2009

#### **Membership (Leslie Witkowski)**

- Pincitive Program
  - Record your service to NAI & Region 4.
  - Once you've earned 20 points fill out the form and you'll get a pin
  - This is the last year for the Pincitive Program – Apply now!
- Complimentary membership give-away. This is carry-over money from the 40/50 program. If you know of someone who wants to join NAI or who was a member more than a year ago and wants to re-apply they can send their info to Leslie.
- National NAI also gives away 2 complimentary memberships/year and applications are online
- Membership committee is looking for new members, desperately!!

#### **Nominations (Ginger Murphy)**

- New officers nominated and voted on in the odd years and then take office in the even years
- We are currently looking for interested parties for next elections. See Ginger if you are interested.
- This past election was on electronic ballots and it produced the best results so far.

#### **Publications/Newsletter (Debbie Nofzinger)**

- *FourThought* can now be sent electronically. Snail mail recipients will get theirs randomly due to bulk mail.
- The latest interpretive booklet (working with diverse audiences) will be sent with the next FourThought newsletter
- Carly Martin & Ken Rosenthal are the editors for the interpretive booklets. Next years topic option vote: "Winter" (31 votes), "Metaphors & Similes" (using stories to explain things) (27 votes)
- The Region 4 voted and winner for 2009 is....*Winter*!!
  - Send your winter activities to Carly & Ken now!

#### **Scholarship & Grants (Andrea Haslage)**

- The scholarship committee has given away:
  - 2 - \$1000 Academic Scholarships (Heidi Mathiott from John Carroll University and Amanda Simmons from Indiana University)

- 3 - RIW grants for 2008 (Justin Smith, Laura Seals & Jules Erwin)
- 2 - \$800 NIW grants available for 2008 (July 1 is deadline)
- Certification grants
  - Karen Kramer-Wilson
  - More \$\$ is available
- New program this year - \$500 available this year to attend and present at a non-NAI workshop.
- Committee is looking for new members

### **Student Involvement (Wil Reding)**

- 1/5 of entire NAI membership are students (1/6 of Region 4)
- Presented a challenge to figure out how to get students to RIW. Surveys will be sent to all Region 4 members to see if there are ideas for getting students involved.
- FREE CD has been put together to show-off the idea of what interpretation is. Is available from the student involvement committee.
- Committee is working on putting together a college database.
- RIW 2008 we are offering the first ever student presentation session.

### **Training & Memberships Services (Robin Dungan represented by J. Champion)**

- 2 mini trainings were offered in 2007
- In 2008 - 3 workshops will be offered (urban design, raptors & astronomy)

### **Ways & Means (Susie Edwards)**

- For Sale at the Region 4 table – New NAI logo mugs available made by Estelle Brown.
- Amelia Hansen note cards, voices for interp history DVD and all booklets still available.
- Exciting news: We have a new Ways & Means committee chair – Theresa Rody has accepted this position.

### **Website (Rich Niccum)**

- Send stuff for the website to Rich Niccum (photos, job openings, workshops etc.) His goal is to get stuff on web within a week of receipt.
- If you see errors or omissions send to Rich.

**Adjourn: 2:00PM**