



NAI Region 4 Regional Board Meeting
Regional Interpretive Workshop, Lion's Camp – Dorset, Ontario
January 25, 2009
All meetings are on Eastern Standard Time

Call to Order: 1:40pm

Board & Committee Chairs In Attendance:

Officers: Julie Champion (Regional Director), Tim Krynak (Deputy Director), Marvin McNew (Treasurer) Jenn Wright (Secretary), Ginger Murphy (Nominations), Teresa Rody (Ways & Means Chair), Pete Stobie (Awards Chair), Haley Samuelson-Couchman (Archives Chair), Jamie Krupka (Publications Chair),

Welcome and Introductions: (Julie Champion)

- Update and explanation of the Meet & Greet at lunchtime. Region 4 give-aways awarded to lucky participants.
- Update on National News –Tim Merriman
 - Certification
 - 7000 certified individuals in 45 countries to date
 - Upcoming courses in Region 4: Pokagon & Ontario
 - Visibility of Interpretation
 - Your True Nature has been a strong partner in the last year and has created such products as the Interpreter Pocket Guides, Posters and t-shirts describing what an interpreter is. Check out the NAI website for order information.
 - We sold-out of 144 T-shirts at the NIW in Portland in November!
 - Best Practice for Interpretation documents are complete and have been uploaded to the NAI website. Can be downloaded for free. If there are comments, suggestions or thoughts direct those to Lisa Brochu.
 - NAI has developed a partnership with Eppley University to develop an online certification service. This is not meant to take over NAI Certification Program but as a supplement. One addition next year will be the incorporation of logic models.
 - Enos Mills Fund is a long-term fund to build cash reserves within the organization. Any contributions above membership level will go into this fund and the additional money will be tracked in individual member accounts. Once that donated amount reaches \$1500 members will automatically receive a life membership.
 - Interpretive Host Training Program – NAI realizes that our guest services hosts provide 1/3 customer service and 2/3 informal interpretation therefore there is great benefit from participating in this certification course.

Deputy Director Update (Tim Krynak)

- Upcoming RIW News:
 - 2010 Midland, Michigan. Planning is underway and we are still looking for a Registration Chair as well as folks to help out on committees. Co-chairs are Rachel Larimore and Dennis Pilaske both from the Chippewa Nature Center.
 - 2011 Indiana – Location TBD
 - 2012 Ohio – Location TBD
 - 2013 Ontario☺ – Location TBD

Treasurer Update (Marvin McNew)

- Region 4 currently has \$59, 510.39 in the treasury and is still going strong.
- Hope is that RIW 2009 will break even with registration
- Previously the board voted on the region to supplement the cost of the tour buses to Ontario up to a specific dollar amount. As of the workshop it looks like we will only have to cover \$200 of that expense.

Committee Updates:

Archives

Chair: Haley Samuelson-Couchman (IN); hscouchman@hcparks.net

Committee Members: Diantha Martin (MI) , Angelec Hillsman (OH)

2008 Highlights:

- All FourThought materials made available on Ball State's Library website and can be accessed through the Region 4 site.
- Began synchronizing the list of current donations with that of the Heritage Library at the NAI National Office.

Coming in 2009:

- More materials made available on Ball State's Library website for reference for members of NAI and Region 4.
- Create a user-friendly digital format for finding information in the current archives. This will also enable donors to discern whether their items are currently in the archives or not and will help to avoid duplication.
- Finalize the current list of donation and synchronize those with that of the Heritage Library at the NAI National Office.

How You Can Help:

- Become a member of the archives committee. We are still looking for members from Indiana and Ontario.
- Clean out your files and donate regional memorabilia and information to the archives.

Awards

Chair: Pete Stobie (MI); pstobie@naturecenter.org

Committee Members: Nora Sindelar(OH), Fred Wooley(IN), Kevin Arnold(MI), Brianne Warthman(OH), Scott Beam (IN)

2008 Highlights:

- Awards included Distinguished Professional Interpreter: Dan Best; Master Front-line Interpreter: Jamie Krupka; Outstanding New Interpreter: Jenny Richards; Sandy McBeath Outstanding Part-Time/Seasonal Interpreter: Karen Kramer Wilson and Amal Farrough; Senior/Retired Interpreter: William A. Whitehouse ;Outstanding Interpretive Program: Deep Lock Quarry Hobo Days; Meritorious Service: Susan L. Boggs; Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer Award: Dave Gates. No nominations for Master Interpretive Manager were received.
- NAI Region 4 National Award Winners included NAI Fellow: Jean L. Kinnear; Master Front-Line Interpreter: Dan Best; Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer: Dave Gates; Meritorious Service: Susan L. Boggs

Coming in 2009:

- Awards are historically presented at the first ever RIW in Ontario at the Lion's Camp in Dorset, Ontario.
- **NOMINATION DEADLINE!** For 2009 Award nominations are *due Friday, October 31!*

How You Can Help:

- Congratulate this year's award winners!
- Nominate a R4 member for a national award *by Saturday, May 31, 2009!*
- Join the Awards Committee – Openings starting December 2010 for one representative from Ohio, one from Indiana and one from Michigan;
- Nominate someone or write a support letter for the 2010 Regional Awards.

Interpretive Project Grants

Chair: Rich Niccum (OH); rich@lickingparkdistrict.com

Committee Members: Katie Adams(MI), Rick Stronks(ON), Jean Kinnear(MI), Cindy Coss(IN), Ann Bugada(OH), Jennifer McDowell(OH)

2008 Highlights:

- Number of applications received: 8 , \$3,000 awarded
- Four grants were awarded to
Cincinnati History Museum (\$400) to update supplies in museum hall

Lake Metroparks (\$600)-1st person interpretation program from a historical figure in their park
Kalamazoo Nature Center(\$990)-Library program
Licking Park District (\$1,000)-update archaeological dig education materials

Coming in 2009:

- \$3,000 will be awarded again this year
- Deadline for applications is September 1; Application form will appear in *FourThought* and is currently on website or you can get them during the workshop

How You Can Help:

- We are always cycling in new committee members (3 year assignment)
Need 1 more person from Ontario this year.

Very easy, review grants in September and review grant app and review sheets during the rest of the year. Not a large time commitment. Get to see a lot of great ideas from all over the region.

Membership

Chair: Leslie Witkowski (IN) lwitkowski@sjcparks.org

Committee Members:

2008 Highlights:

- Complimentary memberships awarded to- Amy Whitehorne/Lauren Metcalf
- PinCentive pins awarded to- Katie Adams, Michaela Klingerman, Ray Novotny, Carissa Lovett, Jeanne Henderson, Ken Rosenthal, Karen Lakus & Doug Wright (The pincentive program was retired at the end of 2008.)
- 2008 Complimentary Membership Drive - # given = 19 complimentary memberships

Coming in 2009:

- Give out two complimentary memberships provided by National NAI
- Designing complimentary membership program for lapsed members.
Two articles in *FourThought*, highlighting two new Region Four members.
- On-going new member recruitment list for related agencies, universities, etc.
- More membership services on Webpage.

How You Can Help:

- New committee chair, new committee members needed for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan!
- Nominate deserving individuals for our two complimentary memberships
- Submit information for organizations, universities, related groups who should be contacted about membership in NAI

Nominations

Chair: Ginger Murphy (IN); gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov

Committee Members: Vicki Basman (IN), Foster Brown (OH), Maria Peacock (IN)

2008 Highlights:

- Prepared for revision of NAI 4 strategic plan.

Coming in 2009 :

- Election of officers for 2010-2011.
Implementation of NAI 4's newly-updated strategic plan.

How You Can Help:

- Consider running for office in 2009 or provide the committee with names of individuals who are interested in running for elected offices

Publications/Newsletter

Chair: Jamie Krupka(MI) jkrupka@oaisd.org

Committee Members: Fred Wooley(IN), Mary Beth Sills(OH), Dorothy McLeer(MI), Jennifer Malinowski(?), Jeanne Henderson(MI), Debra Shankland(OH), Bob Dispenza(IN), Carly Martin (OH),

2008 Highlights:

- New *FourThought* Editor, Jamie Krupka. Thanks to Ken Rosenthal for your service.

Coming in 2009:

- Interpretive Booklet—"Winter" to be printed Spring 2009
- Transition to distribution of newsletter to electronic: based on NAI's new green policy
- Opportunity to receive *FourThought* electronically
- Continued supply of stories, book reviews and articles by reporters and members

How You Can Help:

- *FourThought* reporters aren't the only ones who can submit an article. If YOU would like to submit an article, contact one of your regional reporters or Jamie Krupka.
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Scholarships and Grants

Chair: Andrea Haslage – andrealena@sbcglobal.net, (614) 367-0736

Committee Members: Jamie Krupka(MI), Carol Ward (OH), Amanda Simmons (IN)

2008 Highlights:

- Raised \$2,829 at Regional Interpreter's Workshop annual auction
- Awarded three certification grants, and gave out one at Reg'l Workshop certification session (Karen Kramer-Wilson: MI, Jeff Cummings: IN, Kevin Clutter: IN, Karen Lakus: OH)
- Awarded two \$1,000 academic scholarships (Heidi Matthiot: OH, Amanda Simmons: IN)
- Awarded two \$800 grants to National Workshop (Jenn Wright: MI, Amy Roell: OH)
- Awarded three full-workshop grants to Regional Interpreter's Workshop (Justin Smith: MI, Jules Erwin: IN, Laura Seals: OH)
- Offered one \$500 Non-NAI Workshop grant, no applications received by 11/21 deadline

Coming in 2009:

- Certification grants have been changed – must receive certification first, then submit certificate and application to receive \$125 "reimbursement" grant
- Non-NAI Workshop \$500 grant is currently advertised again – deadline 4/15/09. See current *FourThought* and/or website. Or contact Andrea for application.
- National Workshop, Certification, and Non-NAI grants still to be offered in 2009. Watch *FourThought* or website for applications throughout the year.

How you can help:

- Will need committee chair and 2 committee members in spring of 2010
 - APPLY FOR THE AVAILABLE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS!!!
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Student Involvement

Chair: Wil Reding(MI) sarahrarnwil@att.net

Committee Members: Dorothy McLeer(MI), Dr. Amy Louella Gregg (IN) and Kenneth Bowald, (OH)

2008 Highlights:

- Developing a database of colleges and universities for publicizing NAI activities
- Created a poster that can be sent electronically to be posted at colleges and universities
- Update the existing NAI overview PowerPoint presentation and distribute to members for use
- Evaluate the process for promoting and awarding student scholarships and grants.
- Develop an RIW session for NAI student members to practice and receive feedback on their presentation skills, for the 2008 workshop. 4 students participated.

Coming in 2009:

- Continue developing a database of colleges and universities for publicizing NAI activities
- Student survey will be sent out and results compiled.
- Coordinate a session at the 2009 RIW for students to practice and receive feedback on their presentation skills.

How You Can Help:

- Display one of the posters that help students learn about NAI in areas students will read it.
- Volunteer to lead a regional workshop session designed specifically for students
- Provide us with names of colleges with biology & natural resources programs – and give us a contact name so we can let them know about workshops, scholarships, grants, etc.
- If a student, please fill out the survey.

- If student, become a committee member!

Training and Member Services

Chair: Robin Dungan (OH); RDungan@mail.cosi.org

Committee Members: Danielle Ross(OH), C. Michael George (MI), Angie Manuel (IN)

2008/2009 Highlights:

Two mini-workshops presented:

Sky School-Come back to campus and learn the stars and more
Beecher Planetarium-Youngstown State University, OH
Glaciers, Gravel, Great Lakes Geology Galore!
Kalamazoo Nature Center, MI

Coming in 2009:

- Certified Interpretive Trainer Training at Pokagon State Park-March 16-20
- Stay posted to the NAI Region 4 website for other mini-workshops

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to host a mini workshop!
If you are from Ontario, we are looking for a member to join the committee
Send suggestions for workshop topics to rdungan@mail.cosi.org.

Ways & Means

Chairs: Teresa Rody (IN); trody@dnr.in.gov

Committee Members: Sharon Hosko (OH), Kathleen Dougherty (MI), Foster Brown (OH), Natalie Haley (IN), Amy Roell(OH), Mary Warren (OH)

Thanks to Susie Edwards (OH); and Amy Roell(OH) for their service as past co-chairs

2008 Highlights:

- Selling \$2900 in booklets and merchandise of this, 2/3 through Acorn Naturalists

Coming in 2009:

- Make sure to purchase a mug with the new NAI logo!
- Look for Region 4 t-shirts and hand warmers for sale at the booth.
- Make your Bird-A-Thon pledge for 2009!
- Look for the new "Winter" booklet in the FourThought.
- We will unveil a new light weight display at the National Workshop.

How You Can Help:

- Volunteer to provide images and help design the new display or man the booth at the National.
- Join the Committee, we're looking for a new member from Indiana, Michigan and Ontario.

Website

Chair: Rich Niccum (OH), rich@lickingparkdistrict.com

2008 Highlights:

- Finished complete overhaul and upgrade of website. Continuing to upgrade and add new features. Worked with National to set up online payment system for RIW.

Coming in 2009:

- Updates to regional workshop, procedures manuals, action plans, etc. as they become available
- Keep updating in a timely manner.
- Add new content as suggested and requested by membership and board
- Facebook page added to help keep members in touch with each other. Provide instant notifications of events, etc. Thanks Haley Samuel-Couchman for setting this up.
- Working to set up online payments for R4 store.
- Working with various committees to get all paperwork online and allow online submission of forms for scholarships, grants, etc.

Miscellaneous:

- FourThought Newsletter – In an effort to reduce expenses for the region & become more environmentally conscious in the region we will be moving toward an electronic version of FourThoughts effective immediately.

If you are unable to receive the newsletter electronically or prefer to get a paper copy (remember this does cost the region more money and does not fit with our ongoing efforts to be 'green'), please e-mail Jamie Krupka at jkrupka@oaisd.org.

Adjourn: 1:55pm