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## NIW – Portland

### A Report to Region 7 Members

Linda Strand

Portland was FABULOUS and it was good to see *so many* of the Region 7 members there. The workshop is preceded by two days of Board meetings. First on Monday is the Regional Leadership Council meeting and on Tuesday is the NAI Board Meeting. Following are updates from the two meetings:

- The NAI Board and staff are concerned with the financial situation in the country and its effects on the organization. Membership fees do not cover the costs of delivering services and those costs are increasing. The **2009 budget** reflects a reduction in expenses of \$125,000.00. This will be accomplished by:
  1. A dues adjustment along with the realignment of the membership categories completed earlier in 2008. In most cases, no one will see an increase of more than \$5.00.
  2. Leaving two staff positions vacant at the national office.
  3. Combining the major publications, Legacy and The Interpreter, into one publication.
  4. Build membership in all categories.
  5. Promote the Enos Mills Fund to capture donations for unrestricted operating funds.
  6. Change the newsletter rebate to regions to \$1 whether print or digital.
  7. Increase in number of certification workshops. (Dependent on actual sign-ups.)
  8. Re-visiting pricing strategies of all products, programs and services.

You can review the full **2009 Business Plan** on the website – look under the **Resources for NAI Leaders** on the left navigation and access the Board materials from the Workshop meeting.

- The Board continues to work on a **Standards and Practices** Document. Some of you have been asked to review this document and it continues to be reviewed. It will be brought back to the Board for their next meeting. A new **Elections Manual** is also being developed. It will provide written guidelines for elections.
- NAI is working on a **partnership with the National Park Service and the Eppley Institute**. Many of you have accessed the NPS Interpretive Training programs offered by Eppley on-line. Eppley would like to have coaches for persons using the on-line program who are not NPS employees and will be partnering with NAI trainers to accomplish that goal. If you are a CIT and are interested in becoming a coach, contact Lisa Brochu at the NAI office.
- A **governance group for the certification** programs is being proposed. The group would be independent of the Board and would handle issues related to certification. This issue will continue to be discussed by the Board.
- Two new partnerships are being proposed by NAI. The first with the **American Park Network** would set up a new website, **OhRanger.com**. The site would serve as an on-line resource for questions typically fielded by rangers or interpreters. There is potential for NAI to provide the experts to answer the questions. The second partnership is with the **Civic Tourism** group. A conference is being proposed in 2010 in Fort Collins to advance knowledge about the profession of heritage interpretation to the tourism industry. This partnership was presented during the Portland keynote speech by Dan Shilling. -ML

**MOOSELIPS is going Digital!**

This will be **your last printed Mooselips**. We'll be delivering Mooselips via e-mail starting with the March issue in 2009. The change is in response to two things. First, NAI and Region 7 support the green movement and efforts to reduce the amount of paper we use. Second, the limited budget for both NAI and the Region. In the past, we have been reimbursed \$1.25 for each printed newsletter delivered and \$.75 for each digital newsletter delivered. The NAI Board has revised the reimbursement policy to \$1.00 regardless of the delivery system. Our newsletter is created by volunteers, so our costs to deliver a digital version are far less than the printed version. The reimbursement can be used to bring you additional member services, workshops, scholarships and awards.

***What do you need to do to make sure you get the newsletter?***

1) Check your membership status and make sure you have allowed NAI and Region 7 to communicate with you by e-mail. It's a checked box on your membership information that can be accessed through the website. Go to the NAI website, Membership link, Update Your Membership Info.

***For those of you with Institutional Memberships, please check who the primary contact is on your membership. Notify them to update your e-mail status and remind them to forward the newsletter when it arrives.***

2) If you absolutely cannot get your newsletter through e-mail, you don't have a computer or you have dial-up service that can not download a larger document, you must notify us and we will continue to mail to those members on a limited basis. Again, **YOU MUST NOTIFY US**, by e-mailing [preimer@comcast.net](mailto:preimer@comcast.net) or [ljeanstrand@comcast.net](mailto:ljeanstrand@comcast.net), by calling Linda at 303-745-2026 or by sending a letter to Linda Strand, 13187 E. Bethany Pl., Aurora, Colorado 80014.

*The Earth and the Region 7 budget thank you for your help and your flexibility!* -ML

Kristin Libberton is this quarter's winner of the "Where in the Region?" contest! She correctly identified the picture from Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Southeastern Colorado. As always, we asked her to share a bit about herself:

"I work at Bluff Lake Nature Center in Denver as a naturalist and Volunteer Program Manager. I've been here as an employee over 5 years, and volunteered for 3 years before that. I have 2 dogs, a cat, assorted fish and 2 children, Connor and Erin. My family (including my husband, Kerry) enjoys exploring the out-of-doors and visiting area museums and nature centers. I have attended 3 NAI National workshops, and presented at 2 of those. (I am willing to take my dung show on the road for anyone who's interested!)"

Many thanks to Jeff Wolin, Chief of Interpretation at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, and volunteer Heidi Bailey for submitting the photo and description of the site. (photo courtesy of the National Parks Service) -ML

**Meet Karissa DeCarlo – NEW Region 7 Utah State Representative!**

Karissa is currently the lead interpreter at Timpanogos Cave National Monument, where she has pursued her passion for interpretation through employment with the National Park Service. After three years of service, she has worked at five parks, including Statue of Liberty NM, Lewis and Clark NHT, Cape Hatteras NS, and Wright Brothers NM. Karissa is originally from Morgantown, WV and grew up in Lafayette, LA. She possesses a BS in environmental and sustainable resources (ULL) as well as an MS in parks, recreation and tourism (WVU). Her philosophy on interpretation stems from her research work in theme development. "If you aren't "theme-ing", you must be dreaming." As a new UT resident, she enjoys a daily commute through American Fork Canyon in her Miata, practicing martial arts, camping, hiking and generally exploring all the outdoor pursuits UT offers. She is looking forward to networking UT interpreters and representing our interests within Region 7. -ML

## Region 7 Scorecard

Linda Strand

Were you aware that Region 7 is required every year to meet a set of milestones identified on a "scorecard"? The scorecard results are reviewed annually by the national board. Regions or sections that do not meet the requirements are contacted, may be placed under review and can be eliminated. We're happy to report that Region 7 has met the requirements of the scorecard with work needed in two areas.

The requirements area:

- Newsletter – 4 per year (Region 7 delivered 4 newsletters in 2008. We do not receive the newsletter reimbursement from national if we do not deliver all 4 newsletters.)
- Workshops – 1 regional workshop per year (We held one training session, Graphics for Front Line Interpreters, and joined with COSA to sponsor Sam Ham for a regional workshop.)
- Member Services – must deliver two of the following services; scholarships, awards, mini-grants, website (We offered scholarships for NIW Portland and our website is up-to-date.)
- Reports – 2 reports each year (Region 7 delivered both required reports.)
- Elections – all offices are filled (Region 7 has not held the required elections for 2008, that requirement must be completed before the end of the year.)
- Meetings – The Region 7 Board has to hold two meetings, one is at the national workshop. (Meetings were held in September in Estes Park and at Portland.)
- Fund Balance – must be sufficient to cover all budgeted and mandatory expenses. (Region 7 has approximately \$19,000.00 as a fund balance but expenses exceeded revenues in 2008.)
- Membership – must exceed 50 (Region 7 has over 500 members.)
- Strategic Plan – must have a plan and update it every 2 years. (The Region 7 plan must be updated in 2009.)

We need help with Workshops, Member Services, and the Strategic Plan. If you are interested contact me at [LJeanStrand@comcast.net](mailto:LJeanStrand@comcast.net). -ML

## 2008 NAI Workshop Region 7 Meeting November 12, 2008 Portland, Oregon

Karin called the meeting to order and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Karin reviewed the officers that served in 2008.  
Director- Karin Hostetter  
Deputy Director. -Linda Jean Strand  
Secretary- Ken Soderberg  
Treasurer- Bonnie Jakubos

Karin reviewed the state reps serving in 2008 and asked for volunteers to fill in open seats.  
Colorado- Kristen Libberton, Joy Thompson  
Alberta- Ron Mason  
Idaho- Loni Manning  
Montana- Chris Dantic  
Wyoming- Becky Wiles  
Utah- Karissa DeCarlo  
New Mexico - Kim Scheerer

Karin introduced the scholarship recipients for 2008  
2008 Scholarships:  
Kristin Libberton -Bluff Lake  
Deb Mitchell- Montana Historical Society

Karin stated that elections were not completed as of the NIW but that there is a slate of candidates willing to serve. Ballots will be sent out after we return from NIW.

Karin participated in the Regional Leadership Council (RCL). Linda Strand also attended the RCL and the NAI Board meeting.

Karin asked Linda to report on the Board meeting.

Linda reported on the financial condition of the organization and steps being taken to improve it. Dues do not cover the full cost of member benefits. Programs that NAI runs help offset member benefits. NIW is a significant source of income for NAI (this NIW should make about \$75,000) which contributes toward NAI operational costs, however budget projections show a future budget shortfall. As such, some actions being taken will include a membership fee adjustment and the elimination of two positions in the Fort Collins office. Additionally at NAI two publications, Legacy and the Interpreter, will be combined to save costs. A new fundraising strategy called the Enos Mills fund has also been established. Newsletter reimbursements to Regions will also be changed. Regions will receive \$1 for each newsletter-e-mailed or sent newsletters. (con't)

NIW location selections will be closely evaluated to raise the profit potential for the NIW to be an effective fundraising tool.

Check out the Resources for NAI Leaders page on the Interp net website, to get additional details on the organization.

A series of manuals have been written including; an election manual and a standards and practices manual for the profession of interpretation. A certification governance board is being considered for issues related to certification.

NAI has formed a partnership with the NPS to provide on line learning opportunities through the Epply institute.

American Parks will start a website called OhRanger.com.

Civic Tourism is proposing to hold a joint conference with NAI in 2010 in Fort Collins.

Each NAI Region is rated by NAI through a "scorecard" to rate the regions effectiveness. Region 7 will get a passing scorecard in 2008 provided we get a newsletter out in December. Other factors that contributed to our passing scorecard include; hosting 2 workshops and holding a regional meeting; getting the region website up; filing regional director reports, and holding elections. Region 7 currently has 507 members.

The region would like to move toward sending the newsletter out via e-mail. Financially this would be a better return for us as we get \$1 per newsletter sent whether they go by mail or e-mail. Please communicate any concerns you might have related to this by contacting Linda Strand.

If we get 4 newsletters a year out we get the \$1 per newsletter, if we don't get four out we don't get anything.

Deb Price is willing to serve as Dep. Dir. She is interested in doing a regional workshop in 2009. It is preferred that we not do the regional workshop in Colorado because the Civic tourism workshop will be held there.

Regional workshops are typically 2 days long and are usually around 100 people in attendance.

We need someone to step forward to take on member services. Some of these services include managing the Dick Taylor scholarship fund, helping with membership, contacting new CIGs to welcome them to the region be sure they are getting member services and make those folks feel connected to the organization. (con't)

The new director will be preparing the reports for 2008.

Region 7 currently has a huge fund balance because of NIW 2006, however we still need to generate income so we can continue to keep ourselves in a good financial position.

One of the duties of the next regional director will be to prepare a strategic plan.

There was some general discussion during the meeting that included:

A question was raised on how people that are part of an organizational membership receive NAI Now. This will be checked on a communicated in a subsequent newsletter.

The idea of holding socials was discussed. The size of the region was seen as a barrier. It was suggested that perhaps we do state socials or smaller regional meetings.

A change in the organization is being made so that all members will automatically be a member of the region and will be able to choose a section. Before you chose either a region or a section affiliation.

We need someone to help with scholarships and awards. Please contact Linda Strand if you are interested.

We also need state reps to help advertise workshops contribute to the newsletter. Utah folks will decide which of the four will do the work.

Kim Scheerer volunteered to be the New Mexico representative.

Karissa DeCarlo volunteered to represent Utah.

Linda Lyon agreed to work on scholarships.

Kim Scheerer, AJ Chlebnik, Sue Kenney agreed to work on the workshop.

Kristin Libberton agreed to help keep CIG's engaged and more likely to renew their memberships.

A question was raised related to the website asking if there a place for other workshops to be posted- i.e. COSA etc. We can post those on the website we can put an ad in the newsletter. We can also post jobs on the website.

Any region member can write an article for the newsletter. Articles are always welcome!!

The region has a traveling display that can be sent to anyone that would like to use it to promote the organization.

NIW will be held in Hartford, Conn next year.

Meeting adjourned. - ML

**NAI National Workshop – Up Close and Personal**  
Kristin Libberton

Every time I've attended the NAI national workshop I am amazed by the creativity, passion and energy displayed by both the presenters and the attendees. It sparks my imagination and I'm challenged to stretch my own limits within interpretation. Whether writing, developing a program or delivering old information in a new way, NAI workshops offer better and different approaches to interpretation. Thank you to Region 7 for the scholarship that it possible for me to attend this year's conference.

Here are some of my impressions about the workshop in Portland:  
NAI – Alphabet Soup

Now  
Affordable to  
Individuals, thanks to scholarships

New people at  
All sorts of  
Intriguing workshops and field trips

November is  
Always  
Interesting – the programming, the weather, going kayaking in late fall (AIN –Am I Nuts?)

New luggage that holds  
All my props  
In place

New logo  
All over the place  
Imprinted on pins, clothing and books

Numerous resources  
Abound to enhance our  
Interpretation

Noisy  
Applause  
Indicates an enthusiastic audience

No end of passion  
About your subject  
Inspiring, and being inspired by, others

Now  
All of my  
Ideas need to be put into action -ML

**Region 7 Members Have Volunteered – Give them a HAND!**

**Workshops** – Deborah Price (nominee for Deputy Director) will be looking for help on a 2009 workshop. You can contact her at [dhprice@usa.net](mailto:dhprice@usa.net). AJ Chlebnik, Sue Kenney, Liz Wickard and Kim Scheerer also volunteered to help.

**Awards and Scholarships** – Linda Lyon and Mary Ann Bonnell have both volunteered to help with awards and scholarships. You can contact Linda at [l\\_lyon@umwestern.edu](mailto:l_lyon@umwestern.edu) and Mary Ann at [marybonnell@comcast.net](mailto:marybonnell@comcast.net)

**Membership** – Kristin Libberton agreed to help remind Region 7 CIG graduates to renew their memberships and of the importance of being a Region 7 member. If you are teaching a CIG course, help Kristin by forwarding participant information. She can be reached at [klibberton@blufflake.org](mailto:klibberton@blufflake.org). -ML



**SAVE THE DATE! Colorado Conference On Environmental Education**

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education's (CAEE) annual conference, Teaching OUTSIDE the Box, will be held April 24 – 26, 2009. This year's theme is "A Changing Climate for Environmental Education" with a preconference and sessions focused on the latest science and politics of climate change. The keynote speaker will be Kirk Johnson, vice-president and chief curator of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, who is also a celebrated speaker and co-author of four books on prehistoric life and changes in climates.

Each year, this conference features engaging presentations, networking and resource sharing for classroom teachers, interpreters and naturalists, environmental educators, program administrators, professors, students, and youth group leaders around the state. Topics include nature and the outdoors, stewardship and sustainability, research trends and techniques for EE, arts and culture, technology, and more. Many sessions provide classroom ready activities, new ideas, recent research, and inspiration. For more information, to register, to apply for scholarships, or to apply to present, please visit [www.caee.org](http://www.caee.org). -ML

**Region V 2009 Workshop!**

We are forests and canyons. We are lakes and caves. We are history, and we are the future. We are native legend. We are the Black Hills of the west, and we are inviting you to come join us this April for NAI Region V 2009 Workshop in Rapid City, South Dakota. This unique workshop will be held April 1-5, 2009, at the historic Alex Johnson Hotel. The hotel is taking reservations now and rooms can be reserved by calling 1-800-888-2539.

Registration packets will be distributed in January. You can apply either on-line or by postage mail. However, if you send your application on-line you will be eligible for a prize drawing. There will be several winners in this drawing. The prize will be a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to hike to the top of Mt. Rushmore and stand on the head of our country's first president, George Washington! So send your application in on-line and get your name submitted for this drawing!

Once again we would like to invite you to the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. Join us for the Region V Workshop April 1-5, 2009, in a place "Where it all comes together." -ML

**MOOSELIPS is GOING DIGITAL!**

**YOU MUST NOTIFY US**, by e-mailing [preimer@comcast.net](mailto:preimer@comcast.net) or [jeanstrand@comcast.net](mailto:jeanstrand@comcast.net), by calling Linda at 303-745-2026 or by sending a letter to Linda Strand, 13187 E. Bethany Pl., Aurora, Colorado 80014, if you must receive a **printed** copy...-ML



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## **REGION 7 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS and VOLUNTEER**

### **Region 7 Newsletter Articles Due**

March 1, 2009

Send copy to [p.reimer@comcast.net](mailto:p.reimer@comcast.net)

### **CAEE Teaching OUTSIDE the Box Conference**

April 24 – 26, 2009

[www.caee.org](http://www.caee.org)

**NAI - REGION 7 – ALL OFFICER POSITIONS  
FILLED!**

***MOOSELIPS GOING DIGITAL!***  
**NEXT ISSUE!**

### **Region 7 Newsletter Deadlines**

March 1                      June 1

September 1                December 1