

Region 9 Regional Meeting at the NAI National Workshop 2009
November 18, 2009
Hartford, Connecticut

The regional business meeting was called to order by Director Robin Joy Wellman on November 18^h, 2009. In attendance were the Regional Board Members: Director Robin Joy Wellman and Secretary Sara M. Skinner, NAI President Jim Covell was also in attendance. At least 40 regional members were in attendance.

Items on the agenda (did not get addressed in exact order):

1. Introductions
 2. Jim Covell
 3. Elections Report/Welcome to new officers and thank you to returning ones
 4. Spring 2010 Workshop
 5. Communication and Board Introductions
 6. Treasurer's Report
 7. Membership Report
 8. Newsletter
 9. Website
 10. Scholarship
 11. Updates
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1. Around the room introductions of self and where work.
 - Acknowledge Alan Kaplan for Meritorious Service Award and Bill Lindemann for the Master Front-line Interpreter award
 2. Jim Covell-
 - The board is looking at finances carefully; NAI is doing reasonably well. The finances are okay with Hartford, the conference/workshop is the biggest expense.
 - Looking at Sections and Regions; looking at how to connect with Section members and why there is a drop-off
 - Demographics of organization, aging org, need to look at what future holds and the future of interpretation
 - How can NAI be an organization that serves interpretation
 - Need to have different organization to serve the needs of the younger interpreters; this may take years and the org needs assistance
 - The Enos Mills Fund is one way to work towards not relying on the line of credit,
 - Region 9 has a disproportionate number of life members, there are more LTF members in Region 9 than any other region
 - The EMF is cumulative, if you donate \$5.00 now, then it adds up, if you hit \$1500 then will be considered a life member. Robin asked how many people were EMF members, she asked for people to pledge money with her this workshop

3. Nancy mentioned that elections will start again next fall; she'll be sending out requests for members to run for positions next summer. It's never too early to be thinking of running. You can get the descriptions for officer responsibilities off of the website. The role of being a Regional or National Officer looks good on a resume and can do a lot for you personally and professionally. The investment in our professional organization shows a lot as a worker and interpreter. There are many current/former officers at the national workshop this time around, take the opportunity to discuss the roles with them. If you are a student, being an officer can really launch your career. What you put in will be what you take out; the amount of time per month can vary.
4. The 2010 Spring Workshop will be in Ely, Nevada April 23-25, 2010. There is a current plan to take a bus road trip from the Sacramento area to Nevada with the hopes of stopping at sites along the way. We hope this will be the start of Spring Workshops that travel to areas to meet the needs of all of our members. This opportunity to see this part of Nevada will be a good way to reconnect and raise money for the region.
5. Communication and Board Introductions
 - Robin mentioned that she is sharing all information regarding the organization as soon as she gets it with the list serve emails and updates. Jeff Miller has created and maintains a Facebook page for Region 9.
 - Robin introduced the board, which consisted of her and Sara M. Skinner
6. Treasurers Report: The treasury has about \$18,000 at the beginning of the year. The Spring Workshop cost about \$9900 and took in about \$9000. There will be a gain with the newsletter rebates. The year will end with about \$20,000 in the treasury. The Scholarship Fund awarded two scholarships for the spring workshop and two for the National Workshop. The scholarship fund was \$3500 and now is \$2800.
7. Membership: at the end of September we had about 347 members.
 - This number is down from the 395 we had last year. There is a strong need to recruit members; for every member you recruit you can take \$25 off of your spring workshop registration, up to \$100. The membership brochure is available on the web.
 - There are many new members to the region that are not getting their newsletters. Jamie at the National Office is overwhelmed with work. But, the lists we are receiving are not current.
 - We are looking for a Membership Chair that can track new members and call/welcome them to the region. Alan Kaplan stepped up to handle this.
8. Newsletters: Mary Loan is doing an incredible job at Newsletter Chair. A round of applause was given for her efforts. She really needs articles. She is often called away from her office for work, so just because she doesn't respond right away please know that she will get your emails and contributions as soon as she

returns to the office. We need photos for the website and newsletter. If you write up a release of your park or an event, send a copy for the newsletter.

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9. Website: Robin encouraged people to look at website. Jennifer Stockton is the new website designer. She has made many of the changes proposed at the 2008 workshop meeting. Please take some time to check out the revisions.
10. Scholarship: Sarah Burkhart and Heidi McFarland, this year's scholarship winners, were introduced. They are really appreciative of the effort and award. Thank you to Sara Howlett for chairing the Scholarship Committee.
11. Updates:
 - Nature Education Facilities (NEF) program is a 93 million dollar grant program beginning 2010. Workshop will be held through out the state. Technical assistance workshops, updated timelines and due dates will be posted on our website at www.parks.ca.gov/grants as the information becomes available. Region 9 along with East Bay will plan on hosting one of these workshops just for Region 9 folks. We will have experts in grant writing along with presenters from the NEF grant program. Rick Parmer is setting this up.
 - There is an Art Love Fest being planned where artists, graphic designers, panel creators, etc. can come together to share ideas and talents.
 - We need an Awards Chair; Bill Lindemann offered to serve in this role.
 - The Strategic Planning meeting is being held in February; please let Robin know if you have needs/wants.
 - Mini-grant Committee: thank you to Emily Jacobs for stepping up to serve as Chair.
 - We need a Student Leadership Chair, need a student member on the board. But, there is a need for a board quorum to vote on this. So, Robin will send out to the board for a vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara M. Skinner, December 5th, 2009.