

Region 6 Fall Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Conference Call 10:00 – 11:30 am

Compiled by Andrea Putnam and John Miller

ACTION AGENDA

Items in **black** were provided prior to the meeting. Items in **purple** were added during the meeting.

Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 10:05am with the following Board Members attending:

John Miller, Don Simons, Andrea Johnson, Dakota Russell, Lisa Cole, Leigh Spencer, Jeremy Soucy, Tara Humphreys, Kenton Peters, Gay Brantley, Pat Silovsky, and Kelly Farrell

Approval of Spring Board Meeting Minutes

Gay Brantley made a motion to accept the Region 6 Spring Board Meeting minutes as posted on the Region 6 web site (<http://www.nairegions.org/6/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/2011BoardMtg.pdf>).

The motion was seconded by Pat Silovsky.

Acceptance was unanimous.

Director Report - John Miller

- The hair has grown back and I am ready for a potential 'repeat' at the NIW in St. Paul. Yes, I am a glutton for punishment.

- The state of Region 6 is strong. NAI nationally is enjoying a record number of members at over 5200 members nationally and internationally.

- All offices, chairs, and state coordinator positions are filled with outstanding individuals. Region 6 members will once again receive National Professional Awards at the NIW in St. Paul.

- Region 6's biggest challenge to date is the updating of the Region Strategic Plan. With a little work, we will have that finalized by the Spring Board Meeting.

-I attended (in person) the National Board meeting in Fort Collin CO in May. I highly recommend going to the NAI web site once a month and click on the tab on the lower left side titled **RESOURCES FOR NAI LEADERS**. There is a wealth of information there for copy of the meeting minutes go to:

[http://www.interpnet.com/resources_leaders/reports-](http://www.interpnet.com/resources_leaders/reports-spring11/Minutes_Spring11.doc)

[spring11/Minutes_Spring11.doc](http://www.interpnet.com/resources_leaders/reports-spring11/Minutes_Spring11.doc) . This was a tremendous opportunity to see this world-class organization in action. In addition to seeing the fruits of the

Restructuring Committee with a new 'road map' for NAI's future ([go to: www.interpnet.com/restructure](http://www.interpnet.com/restructure)), I was able to see that the Board really does listen to its members and wants to keep members as active participants in the direction that NAI is going. Although NAI's finances are doing better than last year (nearly \$100,000 less in our line of credit), we still have some financial decisions to be made to keep us financially strong. One of the biggest frustrations has been the new electronic database or iMIS system. I will go into more detail during the upcoming board meeting, but it will not be fully operational until the end of 2011 or early 2012. A recent special Board teleconference call illuminated the frustrations and legalities of the current situation with the iMIS implementation. iMIS is a state of the art software that allows organizations (large or small) to manage and track data and certifications with multiple users and multiple filters. This software is being used by several Fortune 500 companies and will allow NAI to better serve members more efficiently. The unexpected delay to the implementation of the iMIS software was due to the death (by heart attack) of the lead installer. While the surviving business partner had installed this exact software numerous times, he was not certified by the software company to be a lead installer and told he could not install our software unless he became officially certified. Additionally, there has been legal complications to recover some of the funds already spent on the implementations. At a special Board Meeting in July the NAI Board agreed to proceed spend additional funds on a new implementer (a Colorado-based company with 3 certified installers) to install our software. If all goes as planned the new iMIS will be active in late December or early January.

- I would like to know who will be going to the NIW in St. Paul, MN. Of those on the call, the following people will be attending: John Miller, Leigh Spencer, Tara Humphreys, and Pat Silovsky. We have been asked if Region 6 is interested in hosting a booth during the conference. The consensus was "Yes" and we will staff the booth with the above individuals and others from Region 6 like Molly Postlewait and Kathy Miller. In addition to selling "Whisper on the Wind" CDs we will put together a Region 6 Basket complete with items from all 6 states as a drawing during the workshop. John will put out a call for items and other helpers in the upcoming newsletter. I am also looking forward to the 2012 Region Workshop in Austin TX.

- Region 6 is again going to be well represented at the NAI Professional Awards in St. Paul with both Master Interpretive Managers (**Rachel Garrin** – COE in St. Louis; and **Neil Curry** – AR Fish and Game) and the Outstanding Product by Region, Section or Chapter of "**Whisper on the Wind**" story telling CD for its contributions to Region 6. A huge thanks to Molly Postlewait for making that project an outstanding success.

- Finally, I am extremely proud of Region 6 and all of its members. It is been an honor to serve as Director and I intend to seek a second term.

Deputy Director Report - Don Simons

Nothing to report at this time; *other than a great trip to Canada.*

Secretary Report - Andrea Putnam

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer Report - Andrea Johnson

Total Current Assets = \$34,522.70

This includes \$33,922.70 in Checking and \$600 in Advances.

Total YTD Net Income=\$4,225.37

YTD Income (excluding workshop and scholarship income)

Interest =\$41.04

YTD Expenses

Committee Expenses = \$94.94 (Workshop Committee Meeting snack and drinks)

Postage = \$82.80 (newsletter, election, finance)

Membership Costs = \$502.28 (awards, newsletter printing)

Office Supplies = \$3.22 (Envelopes for Election Mailing)

Credit Card Fees = \$451.75 (Workshop Registrations and Scholarship Auction)

2011 Workshop

Registration = \$18,673.50

Exhibit Income = \$150.00

Workshop Costs = \$15,089.68

Workshop Income = \$3,733.82

Scholarship Income = \$4627

- \$4022 from the Scholarship Auction,
- \$251 for selling CDs to go to a free 2012 Workshop – Molly Postlewait
- \$354 for John's "Hair Raising" to go to one National Workshop Registration –Tara Humphreys

Scholarships Paid = \$3041.50

- \$2894 was paid for 3 student scholarships which includes \$700 Scholarship, Workshop Registration Fee, \$150 for travel for workshop and Freeman Tilden Book for each

- \$285 was paid for 1 Full and 4 Half Financial Aid Stipends for Workshop Registration

Elections Chair Report- Kelly Farrell

- Elections will be held this fall for Director and Treasurer.
- Both incumbents have agreed to run again.
- No other candidates have been found at this time.
- We encourage members to consider running for all offices so that there is more than one candidate for each ballot.

Membership Chair Report -Rachel Demascal

Nothing to report at this time.

Scholarship Chair Report - Leigh Whitted

Scholarship season has arrived! The 2012 Scholarship information and application have been updated with new workshop and deadline dates as well as the new chair's contact information. At the last board meeting, it was decided that the third scholarship would be available to either a graduate or undergraduate student, and the scholarship information has been updated to reflect this as well. The 2011 Scholarship information has been sent to be posted on the Region 6 website, and it will be mentioned with a link in the fall newsletter. Within the next two weeks, letters and information will be sent to the colleges and universities in the region to advertise the scholarship.

This year's deadline is October 31. Here's hoping for a great group of candidates! [Reminder to all Board Members to get this information in students' hands to apply for these scholarships.](#)

Newsletter Report - Pam Tooley & Lisa Cole

Your editors don't have much to report at this time. Just a couple of items worth noting:

1) The deadline for the Fall issue of *Visions* is September 3. We should have it sent out to members a week or so after receiving all the articles. Please be on time—this issue includes the awards nomination information, and it needs to go out in a timely fashion. Thanks to Brian Westfall at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Arkansas for a great article which led to this issue's theme, "Memorable Moments in Interpretation."

2) Currently, we send out around 600 emails per issue. There are 80 people who still prefer a printed copy, so we create a separate printed version of the

newsletter. It is formatted differently and has less space available than the electronic version, but we can usually squeeze in most of the articles.

3) We are still open to passing the newsletter on to someone with new ideas, if there is someone interested in taking it on. If not, we will keep on plugging away, as we have done these last 12 years or so! But aren't y'all getting tired of us yet?? Tara mentioned that Katie Raney from TX might be interested in doing the Region 6 newsletter, but would rather wait until after the 2012 Austin Workshop.

4) Lisa mentioned that she has a box of old Region 6 newsletters dating back to the late 1980s. This is a tremendous archive, but no one has ready access to it. In the discussion of scanning these archive issues, Dakota Russell mentioned that he is working with folks in MO to scan old issues of the AMIgo (for the Association of MO Interpreters). When that process is underway, he may offer to work on the Visions newsletters since the process is already underway.

Awards Chair Report - Laura Motley

We have the award information, which will be in VISIONS, and will work with Dakota to get the link put on the web site. Judy and all of the committee have done a fantastic job in my absence. I am not home yet, it will be a little bit longer. The deadline for awards is November 15th. The awards are what we make of them, and what we receive. Awards are to be emailed to me, and mailed to my OKC address as I will be home prior to the deadline. Every year, we look at ways to try and improve the process to get more nominations. So if anyone has ideas, just let me know. Dakota mentioned that the awards information is indeed already on the NAI Region 6 web site.

Region Web Master Report - Dakota Russell

- I assumed responsibility for the Region 6 website in March, following the regional conference. Theresa Randall and Paul Caputo were exceptionally helpful in making it a smooth transition, and switching the site over to a Wordpress format. Thanks also to everyone who offered feedback on the new site. Please feel free to communicate any suggestions to me, anytime.

-I've deputized Jamie Hubert to handle the Facebook part of our web presence, and she's been doing a great job.

- I have been posting newsletters 30 days after I receive them. Would the board prefer I wait until the next newsletter comes out to post the previous one? The board agreed to keep the 30 day 'waiting period' because newsletters are still a member service. While electronic versions can be shared by members, posting them at a later date honors that spirit of members service.

- I read through the "web presence" section of the 2006-2008 strategic plan. Those items that we are not yet doing (photos and bios, forms, links to

member sites) can be easily implemented, if folks can send me the content to post.

- Any content in general is encouraged-- articles, news items, announcements, etc. I can usually get new stuff posted within a week.

State Reports

TX Report - Tara Humphreys

- After 10 years of service to **Texas State Parks, Phil Hewitt**, Director of Interpretive Services, is retiring on August 31st. We'll miss "Dr. Phil", but I'm sure we'll see him kayaking in state parks.

- Congratulations to **Chris Holmes**, who was promoted to the new Director of Interpretive Services. Chris has worked for 10 years in TX State Parks; first as Regional Interpretive Specialist and then as Program Coordinator for the TX Outdoor Family program. Prior to that, he worked for 5 years as an Environmental Education Director in central Texas, and for 2 years with National Parks in New Zealand and Australia. A native of England, Chris spent his childhood playing in England's Peak District National Park. Today, this U.S. citizen can be considered an exotic rather than an invasive species!



- Hungry anyone? **Barb King**, interpreter at **Barrington Living History Farm** will be offering a delicious experience at the farm on Nov. 12th, from 9am-2pm. Join the cooking class for \$30.10 per adult and learn how our ancestors cooked!



- TX like many other Region 6 states is very hot and dry. Please send cool and wet weather thoughts their way.

- TX Parks and Wildlife Commission has undergone a lot of transitions and reductions and had only had to close one park, Sebastopol House State Historic Site. The facility has now been transferred to the City of Seguin.

- NAI 2012 Austin Workshop Update is at the end of these minutes.

Plans for the 2012 Region 6 Workshop are going well. They have a great committee filled with great people and are looking forward to next Spring.

OK Report - Kenton Peters

- The Oklahoma Biological Survey has a new nature poster available for distribution. It is titled: "Life Along a Prairie River: Canadian River, Oklahoma."

For more information: www.biosurvey.ou.edu

Naturalist **Emily Hiatt** started her employment at Oklahoma City's **Martin Park Nature Center** on September 17, 2011. Welcome, Emily!

-**The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History** (Norman, OK) sends us word that **Emily Reynolds** has received a job promotion from her old job of Volunteer Coordinator to her new job as Lead Educator. Congratulations, Emily!

- Naturalist **Amanda Wiley** has been extremely busy with lots of summer programming at her nature center at northeastern Oklahoma's Grand Lake (Bernice, OK).

- The Oklahoma Department of Education has a very unique program that is titled "Bellringers." These short educational videos are for use by parents and teachers for science education. The topics include plants, animals, geology, ecosystems and landforms. To access this site, go to

<http://www.sde.state.ok.us/Curriculum/CurriculumDiv/Science/Bellringers.html>

- Naturalist **Kathy Furneaux** hosted the Central Oklahoma Knap-In at her nature center on Saturday, September 10 (**Lake Thunderbird State Park**; Norman, OK). Volunteers gave demonstrations on how arrowheads are chipped out of stone.

- **Neil Garrison** did some volunteering for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation on September 23-25, 2011. He did a series of flintknapping demonstrations at the Oklahoma Wildlife Expo (Lazy E Arena; Guthrie, OK).

- The **Myriad Botanical Gardens** celebrated the completion of the construction on the grounds, which began April 2010, with a big event, Festival on the Green. A full day of music, crafts, three stages with continuous performances, wandering performers, free entrance into the Crystal Bridge with guided tours all day long proved exciting.

- Good news! Due to recent budget constraints, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (State Parks Division) had to close **Heavener Runestone State Park** (Heavener, OK). Fortunately, the City of Heavener has entered into a lease agreement with the State Parks Division in order to take over administration of this particular state park. In addition, the Osage Nation has agreed to take over management of the **Wah-Sha-Shey State Park** (Pawhuska, OK) from the State Parks Division (...because it was another one of the state parks that was on the budget chopping block).

-**The Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden** (Sand Springs, OK) hosted the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and Mycology Workshop on June 11, 2011. Guest speakers gave programs on fungi, lichens and native plants.

- Amy Stephens from the **Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Gardens** came up with a positive activity for the furnace like heat we have been receiving...take one cookie sheet, place cookie dough on sheet, drive to work and leave pan on the dash while at work all day. Results: "Crispy on the outside and a bit soft in the middle" cookies that zoo staff couldn't wait to eat!

MO Report - Jeremy Soucy

- Missouri is all in preparation for this year's AMI Conference. This year's theme is Fanning the Flames of Exploration and will be September 12-15 in Farmington, Missouri. Stoking the flames of wonder while extinguishing the fires of nature deficit disorder can be challenging. How do we fan the flames of exploration? What can we do to spark connections to our resources? This year's AMI conference is all about reconnecting our visitors with Missouri's rich resources by fanning the flames of exploration.

- This year's conference will feature a keynote address from Missouri's First Lady, Georganne Wheeler Nixon. As first lady, Mrs. Nixon has taken a special interest in promoting causes and initiatives relating to the natural beauty of Missouri. *Since sending in this information, Mrs. Nixon has had a scheduling conflict and cannot be the Keynote Speaker. Workshop organizers are trying to fill her speaker position with a few leads.*

Also featured at this year's conference will be our largest kickoff event to date. Part of this kickoff will be a Play Day event demonstration. This event gives families ideas of things they can do outdoors together, and has been highly successful by those who have put one on. About 75 homeschool kids from the area will be there participating in the event, so AMI members can see just how such an event runs. We chose this demonstration to give members an idea of an event they can do with almost no money and no staff-it runs itself! This event will also serve as our get-to-know-you or get-reacquainted mixer, so come prepared to **play!**

- On a more personal note, this will be my last year as President of AMI. In the last four years, I feel as if I have grown leaps and bounds and this organization and my position has greatly helped. I have been honored and humbled by the organization and its members. I hope to continue to serve the AMI as best as I can and to help pass on its legacy to the next president.

- *Missouri has implemented a multi-agency initiative called "Children in Nature" which aims to get community residents outdoors AND get outdoor curriculum in schools. A part of this program is "Discover Nature Schools". The MO Department of Conservation oversees this program and it has had great response across the state.*

- Missouri interpreters just completed a Certified Interpretive Trainer workshop at Powder Valley Nature Center near St. Louis. Another certification training will take place at the end of September for the Certified Interpretive Host trainer program. Those who complete this training AND are CITs will be able to teach the Certified Interpretive Host classes.

*Aspects of this narrative were written by Andrea Putnam, Michelle White and Jamie Hubert. More information can be found at www.mointerp.net

LA Report - Gay Brantley

- I am very sorry to report that **Fred Christian**, former naturalist at **Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park**, has suffered a major stroke. He is in Promise Hospital, a long-term, acute care facility in Shreveport. Marilyn says that Fred would be very pleased to receive cards from his NAI friends. Correspondence can be sent to their home address:

Fred and Marilyn Christian
924 Lincoln Drive
Shreveport, LA 71107

- **Cane River Creole National Historical Park** was glad to welcome back Teacher-Ranger-Teacher **Chris Evans**. Chris completed the two curriculum-based traveling trunks that she started last summer. The trunks will help teachers teach their students about the Creole Culture and the Civil War's impact on the Cane River region. **Claire Floyd** served as our SCA Junior Ranger Ambassador this past summer. Claire updated their Junior Ranger booklet. Staff members **Jean Carter, Jo Ann St. Clair, and Timmy Ingle** have maintained the park's demo garden which produced okra, cucumber, squash, peas, tomatoes, tobacco, and cotton. The garden is a useful tool for interpreting the cash and food crops grown along Cane River.

The highlight of the summer was the 2nd Annual Cane River Music Festival. The headliners for this year's event were Sunpie and the Louisiana Sunspots featuring **Gina Forsyth** on fiddle. The band include **Bruce Barnes** and **Matt Hampsey**, both rangers at **New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park**. The festival also featured a performance by **Goldman Thibodeaux** and the Lawtell Playboys. **Nathan Hatfield**

-The **New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park** has just finished a film documentary project entitled "Songs of the Lower Mississippi Delta" which coincides with the release of a music CD of the same title. Footage of the documentary will include **Little Rock Central High School, Jean Lafitte NHP&P**, and the **New Orleans Jazz NHP**. The educational music CD will be available as a sales item at park bookstores soon. **Matt Hampsey**

- **Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge.** Refuge “Wet and Wild” day camps were well attended and participants had a great time “learning”. Many local camp groups and school summer programs made field trips to the refuge. Summer outreach included directing the outdoor activities at a week-long Girl Scout day camp, and making presentations for summer reading programs at area libraries.

This fall, **Black Bayou Lake NWR** is hosting a two day “Paddling Workshop” designed to promote eco-tourism sponsored by LSU AgCenter and Mississippi State University, and a two day meeting of the Lower Mississippi River Heritage Group. Preparations are well underway for our Annual Fall Celebration which will be October 15 this year. **Gay Brantley**

- **Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve** offered a little something for everyone this summer.

For Memorial Day, staff and volunteers of the National World War II Museum (200+ volunteers) put flags at every one of Chalmette National Cemetery’s 15,000+ headstones to honor America’s troops.

Scout programs brought nearly 900 Girl and Boy Scouts to the park and nearly 400 children attended summer day camps at five of the park’s six sites. Park staff met with Louisiana state parks Chief of Interpretive Service **Raymond Berthelot** about sharing resources to replicate Jean Lafitte’s Junior Ranger summer camps in the Louisiana state parks.

- The **Acadian Cultural Center** hosted an African-American history exhibit for three months and the Southern Foodways Alliance brought a traveling exhibit about boudin (Louisiana’s favorite sausage!) to the **Prairie Acadian Cultural Center.** **Krisy Wallisch**

- **BREC’s Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center** (Baton Rouge, LA) concluded its “Summer of Groovy” with a total of 240 day campers ranging in age from 5 to 14. Mid-day water games kept the campers cool all summer long. Topics included significant environmental events of the 60s and 70s such as the first Earth Day and the evolution of the Endangered Species Act. Favorite activities included constructing crawfish chimneys, live animal encounters, field trips to Blackwater Conservation Area and Turtle Cove, crafts made from recyclable materials and geode-busting. A chance encounter on site with the History Channel’s Swamp People stars, Troy & Jacob Landry, was the icing on our groovy cake. **Claire Coco**

KS Report - Pat Silovsky

- Delia Lister--Nature Reach

Thanks to a very generous donation in May, PSU Nature Reach will be providing FREE programs to area schools! We were also able to hire Meagan Duffee, a senior in biology at PSU, as a part time assistant naturalist. Finally, our very generous donor provided enough funds for us to purchase a 2012 hybrid Ford Escape. This is such a huge step up for the program as we have always had to rely on old, not so reliable departmental vans to get us to programs. Needless to say, we are very excited about the upcoming year and hope to reach even more students and community members!

- Jared Bixby-Sunset Zoo

Sunset Zoo broke ground on a new John Woodard Memorial Gibbon Exhibit on Saturday, July 16th. This exhibit is being made possible by a generous donation by the Woodard Family in honor of their son. "John had a love for soccer and Sunset Zoo," said Dr. Woodard. "He even had a stuffed gibbon named Monk. The groundbreaking of this exhibit is very special to our family and we are excited to share John's passion for animals with the community." Construction should be completed this winter. Sunset Zoo, Topeka Zoo, and Kansas City Zoo are collaborating with the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri to host their council's 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts Kick Off Event on October 1st and 2nd. This September, I am being promoted to manage both the Education Departments at Sunset Zoo and at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. The Flint Hills Discovery Center will open April 2012, and is dedicated to inspiring people to celebrate, explore and care for the Flint Hills.

- Schanee Anderson -Sedgwick Co. Zoo

Sedgwick County Zoo has been working on Get into Nature a program funded by the Kansas Health Foundation. The program will get families involved in Nature Spots throughout the Zoo, include a Nature Swap program, and have a check out component for schools and families to do on their own.

- Misty Ayers Lee Richardson Zoo

In January of 2011 we did away with our curator position and created three education managers of equal status. I am the Manager of Onsite Programs and Special Events, Tarra Tyson is the Manager of Educational Outreach and Camps, and Whitney Buchman is the Manager of Distance Learning and Technology. We had a very high demand for our summer camps this year so we actually ended up adding another 1st and 2nd grade camp that filled to capacity in a very short time. Next year we are going to add another camp for 7th and 8th grade students (in previous years we only went up to 6th grade). We are busily preparing for our annual "AWild Affair" event that our Friends of Lee Richardson Zoo hosts. The

proceeds will be added to the money we are raising for “Cat Canyon”, a new exhibit for our bobcats, mountain lion, and jaguars.

- Pat Silovsky--Milford Nature Center

We are gearing up for the 2011 ECO-Meet season with 9 regional events and one statewide competition in November. The two table tests this year are Ornithology and Woodland Ecology. Several of the ECO-Meets are growing with more high school participation so we anticipate a very busy season.

- Pat says that KS her agency is now called “Kansas Department of Parks, Wildlife, and Tourism”. Tourism was added recently to the previous Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

- Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe has been awarded 2 major awards. One is the Auricle Storytelling Award thanks to the efforts of Molly Postlewait. The second is the Gold Award of Excellence from the Girl Scouts of America.

- Three of KS reservoirs (including Milford Lake) are experiencing problems with Blue-Green Algae. They will remain closed to swimming and boating through Labor Day.

- Pat mentioned that the 2013 Region 6 Workshop will be in Manhattan Ks near the KSU campus.

AR Report - Jay Miller

Nothing to report at this time.

- Kelly Farrell reports that AR State Parks just concluded their Statewide Interpreters Conference. In addition to strengthening interpretive skills, the conference focused on time and task management to help interpreters be both effective and efficient with their time.

- The National Park Service (NPS) and AR State Parks have done some cooperative programming thanks to the three NPS interpreters who won the Best Workshop presentation in Eureka Springs.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Hosting a Booth at the 2011 NIW in St. Paul

Would those Region 6ers going to St. Paul be interested in staffing a booth? The feedback was very positive. In addition to selling “Whisper on the Wind” CDs we will create a ‘basket of goodies’ as a money making drawing during the event. Those on the call who were going all said that they would be willing to staff the booth. John will contact the national office to make sure of any cost and to put a ‘call out’ for donations for the basket.

Enos Mills Fund challenge.

The Enos Mills Fund is a way for NAI members to make long term investment and stability in NAI's financial future. Donations can be made at many levels. One of the goals of the Enos Mills Fund was to obtain 100 new NAI Lifetime memberships. As of August 2011 NAI is only 20 lifetime memberships from reaching that monumental goal. The 'challenge' is for all 10 Regions to secure 2 new lifetime memberships in order to achieve the 100 goal.

John is asking to put the Enos Mills promotion information into the upcoming Visions newsletter and ask for Region 6 members to consider becoming lifetime member or other level to contribute to this worthy long term goal by the end of the year.

Pat reminded the Board members that Region 6 contributed to the Enos Mills fund at the lifetime membership level the year it was initiated.

Region 6 Financial Aid to the 2012 International NAI Workshop

The 2012 International NAI Workshop will be conducted in Hawaii this coming spring. Yes, NAI is aware that NAI is indeed a US State, but its proximity to the South Pacific and travel to Hawaii not needed a passport made it a great marriage. At least one Region and one Section has offered financial aid (registration and one field trip) to go to the International Conference. The National Office is wanting to help advertise other Regions/Sections if they also choose to provide financial aid to the International Workshop. John is asking if anyone has any creative ways to come up with funding \$2000 to provide financial aid to the International NAI Workshop. No decision was made at the Board Meeting, but suggestions will always be welcome.

Region 6 Strategic Plan

In addition to conducting one Region Workshop, Providing a newsletter 4 times a year, having 2 board meetings, and a Region Membership of at least 50 members, each Region's biannual Scorecard has a place for Region Strategic Plan. Our current Region 6 plan is out of date and needs to be updated.

John proposed using the format of the current NAI National Strategic Plan found at: http://www.interpnet.com/resources_leaders/reports-spring11/Strategic_Plan-2011.pdf Just as Region 6 (and other Regions) have aligned the Region Awards with the National Guidelines, it makes sense not to have to re-invent an entirely new document. John suggested using the format of the National Strategic Plan which contains only 5 Strategic Visions:

Strategic vision 1.0

The interpretive profession will have a foundation of universally accepted standards.

Strategic vision 2.0

The interpretive profession will play a critical role in policy making.

Strategic vision 3.0

The interpretive profession will advance cultural competency and relevance and promote diversity among its practitioners and audiences.

Strategic vision 4.0

The interpretive profession will be universally recognized and valued by the public, management, educational institutions and ourselves.

Strategic vision 5.0

The interpretive profession will be served by a strong, sustainable professional organization.

John suggested the following plan:

- 1) Divvying up the 5 strategic visions up among the Board so that at least 2 Board members would be working on any one Vision. These Board members would then write and propose any goals that they feel is pertinent to Region 6 by December 31st. The goals already established in the National Strategic Plan do not all have to be used by Region 6 and goals not appearing in that same document could be added.

At this time the following Board Members have agreed to tackle these Visions:

VISION #1: Lisa Cole & Leigh Spencer

VISION #2: John Miller & Jay Miller (pending)

VISION #3: Kelly Farrell & Dakota Russell

VISION #4: Pat Silovsky & Don Simons

VISION #5: Andrea Johnson & Tara Humphreys

Other board members are welcome to assist these key committee members to contribute goals.

- 2) All Goals for the 5 Visions would be shared with the entire Board in early January 2012 for review and refinement.
- 3) Final revisions would be made by January 31st
- 4) The new Region 6 Strategic plan would then be shared with the entire Board and voted on at the Spring Board Meeting in Austin TX

Update of the 2012 Region 6 Workshop in Austin TX – Tara Humphreys

Our committee has taken some knocks this year with the reduction in force layoffs in TX State Parks. We've had a few folks that have stayed with the committee on their own time, but we're working through some transitions. Everyone has been great, though!!

According to our timeline and list of duties, we're on track.

Call for Presentations and Posters – Done and will be in next Visions newsletter and on NAI facebook page and Interpnet

Off-site sessions (field trips) – Committee has figured out all of the locations and just securing transportation and site leaders, finalizing costs

Donations – Getting sponsors and auction items

Musical act for awards banquet – Done, he is a CIG with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation

Food – We’re working with the hotel to work on menus in the next month.

Meetings – We’re meeting monthly and our October meeting will be at the hotel so the committee can see the meeting space.

Draft Schedule

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Early Registration 5-7pm

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Pre-conference Workshops

Pre-conference Field Trips

Registration open 3pm

Exhibitors and Vendors 3pm-7pm

4:30pm - 6:30pm– Region 6 Board Meeting at Hilton Austin Airport Hotel

7pm – 9pm – Opening Reception and dessert bar, USFWS Sponsored Welcome

Posters up in room

9pm-11pm – Hospitality Room open

Monday, February 27, 2012

Registration 7am- 4pm

Exhibitors and Vendors 8am-5pm, then breakdown; posters up all day

7:30am – 8:30am – Breakfast Buffet

8:30am – Welcome and Keynote

9:30am – 10:30am – Concurrent Sessions

10:30am-11:00am – Break and time for exhibits/vendors

11:00am – noon – Concurrent sessions

Noon – 1pm – Lunch Buffet

1pm – 2:15pm – Brian Barnette All-American Interpreters’ Quiz

2:30pm – 3:30pm - Concurrent Sessions

3:30pm – 3:45pm – Break

3:45pm – 4:45pm – Concurrent Sessions

Night in Austin with several ideas on your own; free tokens for shuttle transportation

9pm – 11pm – Hospitality Room open

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Field trips off-site 7:30am – 5pm

7:30am – 8:30am - Continental breakfast stuff in Hospitality room (If there’s an earlier trip the room can be opened earlier.)

After Field Trips.....at approx. 6:00pm -

Silent and live auctions at hotel. Heavy appetizers and alcohol provided?

9pm – 11pm – Hospitality Room open (after auction)

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast Buffet

8:30am – 9:30am – Concurrent Sessions

9:30am – 9:45am – Break

9:45am – 10:45am – Concurrent Sessions

10:45am – 11:00am – Break

11:00am – noon – Concurrent Sessions

Noon - 2:00pm – Lunch, business meeting and 2013 preview

2:15pm – 3:15pm – Concurrent sessions

3:15pm – 3:30pm – Break

3:30pm – 4:30pm - Concurrent sessions

6:00pm – Awards banquet and dance

Set next Spring 2012 Board Meeting

4:30pm - 6:30pm– Region 6 Board Meeting at Hilton Austin Airport Hotel

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Move to Adjourn

Motion was made at 11:36am by Leigh Spencer to adjourn the Fall Region 6 Board Meeting

Seconded by Lisa Cole.

Vote was unanimous.

Memorable Moments in Interpretation (TX)

Leanne Beauxbeannes, Interpreter, Hill Country State Natural Area

Late last spring we had our first-ever, large public school groups come out to Hill Country SNA for their field trips. The first was 80 third graders from Alkek Elementary and a few weeks later we hosted 75 fifth graders from Hill Country Elementary School in Bandera.

I decided to divide the kids into four groups and prepared our fabulous park staff to help me at each one of the four interpretive stations. Our Park Manager, Paul David Fuentes, had waived the fees and he took the pictures. Lead Ranger Randy Evans and Ranger Billy Jennings took the kids climbing up the bluff on an eco-scavenger hunt where the kids found "hidden" fossils along the way. Office Manager, Jay Mabry and her assistant Katie Franklin taught the habitat station using two tents in a shelter building contest which was fun and exciting and wonderfully noisy. Seasonal Clerk and naturalist, Augie Medellin took the oh-so-popular live turtle demonstration and I covered the critter finger puppet/mystery box challenge. During lunch I also told the shortened history of the park up to and including their visit which I recorded on a fancy document with their dated signatures. This history lesson was a pre-requisite for their field trip.

The staff had many memorable hours but below you will find the memorable moments of the fifth graders, found in their priceless thank you notes.

I really appreciate all the information about nature and I'm not just saying that, I really had a good time. I'd say my favorite part would be the hike but I hike a lot at my ranch, so I'm used to it. I liked the ranger friend I made when we hiked and I'm not proud of forgetting his name. The red ear slider was also

interesting and the tent set up was fun too. I'm glad we won. I'd say it was a short but fun trip. Thank you From: Derlan

Thank you for taking us on a fantastic adventure. My favorite part of the trip was hiking and the finger puppets. You were so kind for taking time off your jobs and teaching us about nature and everything else. YOU WERE SO KIND TO US. Thank you From: JD

From Mabel we received a very clever crossword puzzle using all of our names. She added her favorite moments all around her card. "Hiking Comanche Bluff-finding fossils" "Having fun sticking your hand in the box and feel around and you don't know what's in the box! " "Learning the red ear slider is the most popular turtle in Texas" "Competing in tent building--Katydid VS. Jaybirds" "Thank you for letting us come for free and now having us go down in history"

I want to thank you for everything and making that field trip one of the most fun I have ever been on. I think you all should get a gold medal for trying to make do with our wild behavior. I think the most cool station was with the turtle. The guy who was the ranger for the turtle. I love your sunglasses. Your friend, Austin