

NAI Region Six Board Meeting Minutes

Manhattan, KS

4:30 p.m. February 24, 2013

In Attendance: John Miller, Pat Silovsky, Andrea Johnson, Clark Hancock, Lisa Cole, Rusty Scarborough, Jay Miller, Laura Motley, Kelly Farrell, Heather Runyon, Kathy Miller, Michelle Michelle Soenksen

Blue text = new information added to the agenda during the meeting.

Officer/Chair/State Coordinator Reports

Workshop Chair's Report (Pat Silovsky):

Pam reported that 140 people registered for either full or partial attendance at the workshop. With the weather forecast for snow, there have been some questions from people with concerns about travelling. Region Six does not have a formal policy regarding workshop refunds—whether we allow full or partial registration fee refunds, and under what conditions (illness, death in the family, weather, etc.). For this Workshop, please refer any questions to the Workshop Committee, but Region Six does need to develop a policy and insert it in the workshop planning documents for future reference. The refund policy should be publicized to workshop participants in advance.

Director's Report (John Miller):

Region 6 is doing great!

- Our Region Membership is over 600 (some folks are members of multiple regions).
- All Board positions are filled with other members showing interest in becoming leaders.
- We are providing good member services such as awards, financial aid, and an outstanding newsletter.
- We are once again blessed to have an outstanding Region Workshop.

National Level (as a Member of the Board of Directors)

- The search for new Executive Director (ED) has been narrowed to three people. We are hoping to have the new ED by April.
- NAI has a new look to the web site. Thanks to some malicious software, the entire website had to be rebuilt. This did some effect on registration for this workshop. The web site is not complete and is still having items added.
- The IMIS system up and running a large portion of the NAI web site. This is the software for which we've been waiting for implementation for two years. As of February 1, NAI members can set up a profile and make corrections to their information.
- Overall, the NAI Budget is doing well. While some regions and sections went in the "red" in 2012, strong increases in the certification program income led to an overall increase in the "black." Regions and sections can still use funds as they wish, but it affects the overall bottom line for NAI.
- 2013 begins a new era for NAI with a new set of bylaws and a new Advisory Council. The Executive Committee and Board are working to create procedures and guidelines as set forth by the new policies and bylaws. One of the most important areas is with the NAI "Units." NAI is no longer locked into 10 Regions and 10 Sections; in fact we can change our name if we wish. There can be more "units" for short-term or long-term opportunities. More clarification will take place this year...we will be seeing some minor growing pains.
- Board is working out procedures of NAI "Units." Units can stay as they are, or can be added to. Units can also be developed to suit a particular short-term purpose.

- Any member can now be on the National Board as part of the Advisory Council, without having previously been on a Regional Board. All Region Directors and Section leaders are on the Advisory Council for one year, until the transition to the new structure is complete.
- Pat asked John whether there are implications to NAI being tax-exempt in Colorado, but not in other states. Can this be extended to other states? This is important to know because NAI has only one set of accounts now, in Colorado, and Region Six doesn't really have its own. John will check on this.

Deputy Director's Report (Clark Hancock):

There's some news to share regarding upcoming NAI Workshops:

- The 2014 Region Six Workshop will be in Oklahoma. Kenton Peters is currently acting as Workshop Chairman. The 2015 Workshop will be in Louisiana. Rusty Scarborough will be contacting state membership and retirees to begin planning.
- Clark talked with Deb Tewell, NAI's Events Manager recently. The National Workshop will be held in Corpus Christi, TX in 2016 and 2021. This may affect our Regional Workshops in those years.
- Discussion from Clark and John—Clark is updating our workshop planning documents for use by future Workshop Chairs. John noted that our insurance policy has changed, which changes what kind of waiver we are required to have for field trips, among other things. This does make it hard to keep workshop planning documents up-to-date.
- Also from John—NAI National has a new workshop strategy, with the continental United States divided into four quadrants, and the workshop rotating through those quadrants. We can get better deals at the hotels if they know we're coming back to their area in four years, and multiple regions can work together in workshop planning.

Secretary's Report (Lisa Cole):

Thanks to everyone for sending in their reports. I can keep this short; I don't have any news to report but will be busy taking minutes and documenting *your* news. Let me know what support you need from me and I will be glad to help.

Treasurer's Report (Andrea Johnson):

- Total Equity = \$24,661.78 (End of Year)
- Net Income (Loss) = (\$8, 681.08)
- Last Quarter Oct-Dec 2012 Expenses= \$211.89
*We have yet to receive the \$2,000.00 replacement check from the USFWS for a donation that was lost. The check was cancelled, but the reissue was pending a new board approval.
- Workshop Finances
\$22,600 in Registrations so far
Plus a \$2,000 donation from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Break-even point was 90 registrants
- Break down of registrations
111 full registrations
90 are regular members
21 are students or seniors
9 one-day registrations
- Westar Energy Donation: \$500 to the workshop, \$1000 to a well-deserving person in Kansas working less than full time or a student in environmental interpretation to attend the NAI National Workshop. Pat is challenging each state in Region Six to find a similar donor to match this donation.

- Thank you to the workshop committee who has worked hard to cut expenses to stay within budget and make a small profit to fund regional expenses for the year.
- When people registered online for the workshop this year, we were charged a 5% fee per transaction. In the future, we may want to put out a donation jar and ask folks to help out with covering that fee. This was done at the AMI workshop, and enough money was raised to cover the fees.

Awards Report (Laura Motley):

We received many outstanding nominations this year. The overall comments this year were, “Wow!” and, “Outstanding!” from my committee! Each one could easily go towards a National Award as well. I have emailed the nominators, and always encourage them to consider putting in for a National Award.

We will be presenting five awards at the Business Lunch during my report: Outstanding Written Article, Outstanding Interpretive Site Publication, Outstanding Multi-Media, Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer, and Bob Jennings Meritorious Service Award.

Seven awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet: Outstanding Special Event, Outstanding Interpretive Program, Richard Baldauf Award/Outstanding New Interpreter, Distinguished Professional Interpreter, Fellow/Lifetime Achievement, Brian Barnette All American Interpreters' Quiz, and Best Region Six Workshop Presentation.

Our beautiful plaques are done by Buds Trophy in Boiser City, LA by Wayman. He has been doing our plaques for over 11 years.

November 15 will remain the deadline for submitting Region Six nominations each year. We should all have that date tattooed on our brains now!

Discussion: Clark asked whether there is good representation from all six states in nomination submissions. John encouraged each state coordinator to solicit nominations within their states. Clark noted that the IMIS software system will make it easier for state coordinators to track down their members.

John reminded the Board to encourage others to submit regional award nominations for the national awards. All that is needed to do this is a change in the cover sheet, as our Region Six award categories are aligned with the National. If you need the cover sheet, ask John or watch the NAI web site (www.interpet.com). Deadline for National award nominations: May 31.

Elections Report (Kelly Farrell):

Recent elections:

In fall 2012 we held “elections” for the positions of Deputy Director and Treasurer. I put elections in quotes because both candidates ran unopposed. Welcome Clark Hancock as Deputy Director and Lisa Cole as Secretary.

While I have confidence in both officers now in position, I also think it is our duty to offer competitive elections with multiple candidate choices for the membership to choose from. Despite my best efforts to find candidates through our newsletter, social media, and personal communication, I have been unable to find multiple candidates for most of the elections I have facilitated during my time as elections chair. This is a trend we repeatedly see in regions and sections across the organization. I do not know how else to seek solutions. I do recommend, at a minimum, that the tradition of holding a leadership meeting during the regional conference be continued, for those interested in elected office and other positions of influence to find out more about how to get involved.

Future elections:

In fall 2013 we will hold elections for the positions of Director and Treasurer. Interested individuals should contact the existing officers or me for more information on the positions' job descriptions. I will need candidate bios and photos by midsummer.

Voting is all electronic now, and easily coordinated through the National Elections Chair. Our staggered elections work well in preserving institutional memory.

Membership Report (John Miller for Rachel Demascal):

Region Six has 729 total members:

Arkansas: 130

Kansas: 67

Louisiana: 21

Missouri: 154

Oklahoma: 44

Texas: 183

Other (including Canada, S. Korea, Grenada, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Panama, among others): 130

Discussion: Rusty needs help contacting members in his state. John will help him gain access to IMIS.

Newsletter Report (John Miller for Jamie Hubert & Katie Raney):

Both Jamie and Katie regret that they are unable to attend the workshop and board meeting in Manhattan. This marks almost year since the official editorial handover from Pam and Lisa. We'd like to draw your attention to the newsletter's new format and increased photographic content. Since we are all-electronic now, we can include more pictures with articles and state reports. State coordinators, please encourage your state to send in pictures with their content! We will also accept standalone pictures with captions if someone has a really great idea, program or exhibit to share.

We also plan to start announcing newsletter themes in advance so that members have a bit more time to mull over ideas for articles or photographs. Keep your eyes open for more changes as both of us continue to settle into this role. We appreciate any feedback you have – large or small – about the content and layout of the newsletter.

Scholarship Report (Heather Runyon):

The 2013 Freeman Tilden Scholarship received several great applicants. After the application packets had been reviewed three scholarships were awarded. The recipients are Amy Brennan (a junior at Stephan F. Austin State University), Meagan Nicole Duffee (a graduate student at Pittsburg State University), and Anne Brockman (a graduate student at Oklahoma State University). Thank you to John Miller, Don Simmons, Andrea Johnson, and Andrea Putnam for reviewing the applicants and selecting the winners.

Website Report (John Miller for Dakota Russell):

There have been some major changes to the Region Six website in the past few months. In early January, the NAI server—which hosted the main NAI site and many of the region and section sites—suffered a major malware attack. Most of the NAI network was down for the better part of January while the server was repaired. To help make the server more secure for the future, Interim Director Paul Caputo asked us to move our website to a free platform off of the NAI server. I registered us at <http://nairegion6.wordpress.com>, which will be the new permanent web address for Region Six. www.interpnet.com/6 also redirects to the Region Six site.

Because the server was compromised, I was not able to retrieve the old files from the Region Six website. I had some of the content on my hard drive, but much of the site will have to be rebuilt from scratch. I'm working as hard as I can on completing this, but it may be a month or two before I can restore all the content. In the meantime, if you need any information that was once on the website, feel free to contact me at dakota.russell@dnr.mo.gov.

In more positive news, Region Sixer Paul Fisher of Texas has scanned 35 of the region's earliest newsletters (some going back to the AIN days!), and we will be making these available on the website in the near future. Our Facebook presence is also growing, with 162 likes of the "NAI Region 6" page, as of this writing. Jamie Hubert and Kelly Farrell have been invaluable in helping me to keep the Facebook page updated and respond to member inquiries.

[Discussion: Clark asked what server houses NAI's electronic documents. John will investigate.](#)

Texas State Report (John Miller for Tara Humphreys):

TX Parks and Wildlife Dept. CIG

Nearly constant rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm and creativity of 23 TX Parks and Wildlife staff attending **Certified Interpretive Guide** training in January. Chris Holmes, Director of Interpretive Services, opened the week with the importance of interpretation in Texas State Parks. Regional Interpretive Specialists Karen Watson, Walt Bailey, Ben Horstmann and Tara Humphreys led the interpretive principle and programming-based class through group work and hands-on activities. The week ended with natural and cultural history programs on a wide variety of topics, some of which included "The CCC: Constructing for the Future," "American Trickster," "Caddo Talk," "Flourishing Life of the Ammonite," and "Treasures of the Bay." The next time you see one of these CIG attendees, tell them congratulations on their hard work! They came from State Parks and Natural Areas all over Texas. They are: Tara Bayliss, Nina Cardenas, Tim Gibbs, Jade Rutledge, Holly Reinhard, Roy Rodriguez, Laura Cude, Amber Conrad, Amy Yachimski, Bertha Schmalfeldt, Michael Haven, Sean Rogers, Barbara Swanson, Lisa Reznicek, Kayla Williams, Fernando Barrera, Luke Stucker, Roger Moulton, Bryan Daniels, Lane Bohannon, Bob Haynes, Stephen Garrett, and Debbie Howard.

TX Parks and Wildlife Ambassador Program

Ky Harkey is leading an effort in TX Parks and Wildlife Dept. targeting Youth Ambassadors aged 16-23. The **Youth Ambassador Program** is a nationwide initiative of **America's State Parks**, an organization that helps capture the collective strength and importance of the great park systems developed in the 50 states. Armed with outreach tools including park presentations, maps and guides, and the support of the TPWD social media team, these seven young advocates will spend the spring semester raising awareness for state parks near their high school and college campuses. Beyond that, they will design, coordinate and implement a final project of their choosing based on their personal strengths and their perspective of what will move their generation forward on the staircase to stewardship. The Youth Ambassador volunteer position will run from January to June and repeat with a new team in the fall.

New Initiatives in Texas State Parks

Tara Humphreys reports that it's an exciting time to be in Texas State Parks! Under the leadership of **Interpretive Services Director Chris Holmes**, we're working on ways to draw in new park visitors. At the same time, we're creating new experiences for current visitors, while honoring each park's sense of place. One of these examples is an **"Arts in the Parks"** committee, in which the group is generating ideas for artistic-based programs, such as photography, drawing, painting, storytelling. Another example is the **Interpretive Resource Trunk** project, in which five or six new trunk topics are researched for content and props each year by Interpretive Service and Park Staff. These trunks are then tested by field staff and modified as needed before being ready to distribute to several state parks. Topics have included: Monarchs, Civilian Conservation Corps, Birding 101, Spanish Explorers, Comanche in Texas, Night Sky, Fossils, the Life of the Cowboy, and Caddo Indians. We're also working on natural history **daypacks**

available for visitors to borrow. These daypacks have a regional focus, and give visitors tools to discover their surroundings. The trunk and daypack initiative is led by Joanne Avant in Interpretive Services.

Arkansas State Report (Jay Miller):

Arkansas State Parks has contracted with Tom Howard of North Carolina to develop a natural resource inventory database, which will be populated with as many species from Arkansas as possible. Park staff will be able to select those documented in each park to create their park-specific database, which can then be cross-referenced by region, park, species and a variety of other ways, plus, from our website the public can see what is blooming or migrating and create customized checklists. We expect completion in less than one year.

Yours truly will be retiring in May after 37 years with Arkansas State Parks. It has been an honor to be associated with so many wonderful and dedicated people in Region Six, and to serve as your Arkansas Coordinator. You will be missed more than I can say. I will be available for training and speaking and I have a blog reflecting thoughts on interpretation. You may find it interesting. Follow it at www.InterpTalks.com. I expect to hear many wonderful things about the continued leadership and success of Region Six.

On December 7, 8 and 9, the 150th anniversary of the battle, **Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park** held the largest reenactment of that battle ever held. Canons roared, cavalry charged, and Union re-enactors surged uphill into the deadly crossfire in the apple orchard behind the Borden House. Yet again the Confederates followed them back down the hill into a hail of deadly rifle and canon fire from the Union troops in the fields below. Over two days the battle raged, and the crowd of thousands stood in awe at the sight and sound. Congratulations to Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park on a very successful event. **Prairie Grove won the National multi-media award in November. *Check this**

Interpreter **Elizabeth Duryea** writes “I read *Legacy* magazine. I like reading about the history of NAI. It was also nice to see an article from Arkansas interpreter **Mystina Swaim**. She is spot on in saying that sometimes it’s about seeing what the audience knows before just talking their ears off!”

NAI members **Ornett Grind** and **Betty Crowder** will be among the many performers when the Arkansas Living History Association meets in Helena in March. Helena, on the Mississippi River, is blossoming with interpretation. With leadership from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and the Department of Arkansas Heritage a lot has been accomplished. The Civil War fort has been rebuilt in time to reenact The Battle of Helena. The fort includes a variety of exhibits and statues. The levee walk now has wayside exhibits and the city has exhibits on blues and famous food. The Delta Cultural Center continues to draw attention and in May, about 15-miles north, the Mississippi River State Park visitor center will swing open its doors.

Arkansas State Parks participated in First Day hikes with 40 hikes taking place across the park system. Interpreter **Krystal Waston** was disappointed... NOT. She writes: “Great distress for my beloved Imboden Girl Scouts, but I was not able to do first day hikes this year. I GOT MARRIED!! I missed them very much, but Brandon and I were married at the church across the road at 10AM that morning. It was nice and quiet, just Brandon, myself, and the preacher.” CONGRATULATIONS KRYSTAL!

Cane Creek State Park has become an adventure destination, first with kayaks, but now with hiking and mountain biking trails. Interpreter **Geoff Wright**, writes: The Flapjack 20 (a 20-mile overnight hike that ends with a pancake breakfast) was a big success this year! There were fewer participants than last year (72 vs.56), but more finishers. This is because those who didn’t finish last year returned this year with a fire in the heart. Or their boots. There was a group last year that hiked six miles in 6six hours, but this year they finished 20 miles in 8 hours. The event was especially exciting for them.

Sarah Keating's Interpretive Methods touring class visited national and state parks across northeast Arkansas including several state parks, the Game and Fish nature center in Jonesboro, and Historic Arkansas Museum and Central High National Historic Site in Little Rock. The students had good discussions on interpretation and operations based on what they witnessed. A good time and a good education were had by all.

Leita Spears of Historic Washington State Park helped coordinate the Fifth Annual Fort Smith History Conference. It was a success, with sessions on historic cemeteries, roles of women in history, and more.

Central High National Historic Site is partnering with the Little Rock Marathon to host a water station outside the visitor center. That's about mile 8.

The Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists are partnering with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to provide CIG training this June.

David Armstrong, seasonal interpreter at DeGray Lake Resort State Park, built a life-size bald eagle nest as a display for the annual "Eagles, Etc." event in January. The nest is so impressive and so popular it has become a permanent exhibit in the lodge lobby.

Louisiana State Report (Rusty Scarborough):

Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, Baton Rouge, LA: Strange and wondrous things are afoot at the Swamp as we begin rolling out expanded programming in anticipation of our newly renovated education center. Soon we'll welcome a new full time Educator to our staff to help with our upcoming growth in programs and facilities. We've begun monthly night programs highlighting everything from owls, coyotes, bats, and even Bigfoot! February's installment of Swamp Nights brought the world of cryptozoology into focus as visitors learned about cryptids and went on a hunt for our very own Swamp Sasquatch. In March, Trail Time for Toddlers, one of our most popular and longest running programs, returns to the delight of parents and children ages 2 to 5 years. Our summer camp sessions will include a new, highly anticipated Counselor-in-Training program for teens ages 14 to 17 years. We are very excited about all of the changes looming on the horizon in 2013.

Matt Hampsey Reports: Big news at the **New Orleans Jazz NHP** is that our park-produced CD "Songs for Junior Rangers" has been getting airplay on radio stations throughout the country and is now available on eParks.com, Amazon, iTunes, and Spotify. One of our recent reviews is by Gretchen Bonfert who is active with environmental efforts along the Mississippi River. JAZZ will also host a performance from one of our guest artists, Aaron Nigel Smith on February 19th which is part of the "Let's Move" campaign.

Louise Todd(New Certified Interpretive Trainer at the **Audubon Aquarium of the Americas**) Reports: The Super Bowl and Mardi Gras brought big crowds to the Aquarium over the past few weeks. Now our focus is looking towards Earth Day. On April 20, the Aquarium will host a Party for the Planet event as a part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums nationwide event. We are very excited about this event as it will bring in a variety of earth friendly presenters to share their knowledge with our visitors.

Here at **Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation / Walter Jacobs Nature Park** we have had a lot of change going on. In September Rachel Demascal resigned to pursue other interests. Her position was filled by one of our part-time naturalists, Hulya Onel, who has enjoyed stepping into the full-time naturalist position and has hit the ground running. On December 3 our long-time mentor Larry Raymond retired after 36 years of service to Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation. Larry had been a champion of interpretation dating back to the Association of Interpretive Naturalists and has been the "go-to" person in Louisiana. The Assistant Director of Parks, Henri Wesley, has moved into the

Director's position and we look forward to his leadership. On February our Parks secretary resigned also and we are currently working to fill that void. So, with the turnover we have been experiencing a lot of change in the Nature Park as well as Caddo Parish. Our programs continue to draw good numbers and we equaled the number of visitors that we did last year, which had doubled the previous year's numbers. In January we presented a CIG training for our staff and had two from the newly opened Red River NWR attend so there will be five new CIG's and registered Region Six members from Louisiana joining our efforts.

At **Cane River Creole NHP** we often consider wintertime to be our "slow" season. However, when reflecting on what we've accomplished these past few months, "slow" is hardly the best adjective to describe the efforts of the park's interpretive division. November and December saw the premiere of the park's downtown walking tours. The downtown walking tours came about as a result of a partnership with the Historic District Development Commission, and provided visitors with a broad overview of the area's history from the early 1700s to the present day. Another December highlight was the park's annual Christmas Downriver event. Now in its eighth year, Christmas Downriver traditionally features live music and Christmas craft activities. On December 8, blues guitarist Buddy Flett provided the music at Magnolia, and on the following weekend Reverend Charley's Patent Medicine Show entertained the crowd at Oakland. Herbalist Dawn Hendrix was also on hand at Magnolia sharing her knowledge of herbal remedies. Oakland's event also featured the grand opening of the park's newly furnished slave/tenant cabin. Elvin Shields, a park volunteer and former Oakland resident, led the effort to furnish one of Oakland's two remaining cabins. The furnished cabin represents the 1950's era, when tractors were beginning to replace human labor. Oakland's cabin is one of the few slave/tenant cabins in the country to be furnished to this period with the help of a former plantation resident. We were able to catch our breath for a moment in January before launching into February's African American History Month programs. Rangers Jessica Scott and Jean Carter led this outreach effort that saw the park present programs to every Head Start classroom in Natchitoches Parish. The year's program highlighted African American contributions to Louisiana's rich musical legacy. February also saw the park's participation in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Rangers Jo Ann St. Clair, Tim Van Cleave and volunteer Anna Tong counted birds with assistance from the first and second-graders from Cloutierville School.

Amy Ouchley and Gay Brantley would like to announce the Explore-a-Swamp Ecosystem Workshop on March 23 at **Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge**. This six-hour workshop will feature the enhancement of nature observation skills through hiking, recording, sketching, journaling, and nature literature. Fifteen participants will explore Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge with two experienced environmental educators and naturalists. Each participant will also receive a new book by author Amy Ouchley, [Swamper, Letters from a Louisiana Swamp Rabbit](#). This book contains 12 letters from Swamper, a swamp rabbit, who writes about the ecology of the bottomland hardwood forest. Gay Brantley illustrated the book, which also contains photographs of the ecosystem. Participants will also receive a nature journal, art supplies, reusable water bottle, and classroom activities.

[The Greater New Orleans Master Naturalist Chapter has formed, and Shreveport is forming an MN Chapter as well.](#)

Kansas State Report (Pat Silovsky):

Pat responded, but has no news for the report at this time.

Missouri State Report (Michelle Soenksen):

John Miller from **Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Center** reports that staff from the MDC Resource Science and Outreach & Education Divisions recently gave a presentation at the MO Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) about the amazing data collected at various MDC interpretive sites across the state. Thanks to the scientific surveys and data analysis, not only have these six interpretive sites gleaned valuable visitor data and demographics, but they have also gotten the results back within

days as opposed to years with the old surveys. The data has resulted in changes in the targeting of programs to specific audiences, shown where visitors get their information, revealed effectiveness of marketing strategies, and helped to justify the expansion of the most highly visited MDC facility in the state. Thanks to the support of these 'number crunchers' in the Resource Science Division, interpretive managers across the state are now able to prove to their MDC administrators what they have been telling them all along.

A **Certified Interpretive Guide** class was held on January 28-29 and February 4-5 at the Springfield Nature Center.

Missouri State Parks is looking to fill seasonal interpreter positions at several sites throughout the state. Also, the annual **DNR Spring Interpreter's Training** is set for May 19-22 at Roaring River State Park. Please contact John Cuning or Kendra Swee for more information.

John Cuning is proud to announce that **Kendra Swee** has accepted the position of Interpretive Resource Coordinator in the Resource Management and Interpretation Program in Missouri State Parks.

Michael Riddle reports that their master interpreter, **Jerry DiMarcellis**, won the Hermann Foundation Outstanding Employee of the Year for the Saint Louis Zoo. This is a real honor in the Zoo world to have a non-keeper or direct animal related position win the top award. He was the face of the Zoo during our Centennial celebration as he did first-person interpretation and in 2012 he started a brand new program, safari tours, that were really successful.

Oklahoma State Report (John Miller for Kenton Peters):

On February 20 & 27 **Roman Nose State Park Interpreter Minoma Littlehawk** will be conducting "Stories of the Elders," a program opened to the general public. It will be held at **Washita Battlefield National Historic Site** near Cheyenne, OK.

At the **Chickasaw National Recreation Area**, fire managers treated an estimated 600 acres with prescribed fire in the Hunting area on February 17. They planned to continue ignitions on February 18 in the Hunting, Five Lakes, and Golf Course areas.

At the **Oklahoma City Zoo** a new exhibit debuted at the ZooZeum. "In Feathered Detail: The Art of George Miksch Sutton" opened February 18.

The **Myriad Botanical Gardens** is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year by being open to the public free on the 25th of every month, except December.

Action Items

1) Approval of Minutes from Fall Region Six Board Meeting (motion by: Clark; Rusty seconded). Motion passed.

Discussion Items

- Ethics forms—all Board members need to fill this out. John can provide; please sign and fax in as requested, if you have not done so.

- Region Six Exhibit—Do we want one? If we go to National, it's nice to have a display to promote Region Six. We have had one in the past, but it was heavy and was decommissioned to Mt. Magazine in AR. Clark notes: large pull up banners cost about \$500, so not too expensive. They are small and easily shipped, and can

be used at events in states/CIG trainings, etc. The Board indicated interest in exploring the possibilities available. The consensus is that a display could be useful in promoting the profession. Rusty is willing to research the possibilities, Clark also says he will team with Rusty to pull together pricing and a proposal by the Fall Board Meeting. Clark asked for clarification: are we paying for design or getting a volunteer to do the design. Board answered: volunteer. Kelly suggested that we remember to consider shipping cost for the final product.

- National Bylaws changes; what it means for Region Six—Region Six will stay as is for now, but we now have the ability to form sub-units, and we will have to see where that leads.

- Fundraising Opportunities

--Pat's Challenge—Weststar Energy donated \$1000 to a KS interpreter to go to National. Pat will announce at the Business meeting a suggestion to seek a matching donation from each state. The KS donor is willing to speak to any contact we give him and sell them on the idea. Clark asked whether we have a donation letter that could be used to promote funding opportunities for companies, utilities, etc.

--CIG stipends—This year we will give out 2 CIG registrations in addition to the workshop stipends we gave, to allow two members to get their CIG cert.

- The Board set a date for the Fall Board Meeting: August 19, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Rusty moved to close the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Compiled by Lisa Cole on Feb. 20, 2013

Edited during the Region Six Board meeting on Feb. 24, 2013

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