

NAI Region Six Fall Board Meeting Minutes

Teleconference Call

10:00 a.m., August 12, 2015

In attendance: Clark Hancock, Andrea Joslin, John Miller, Don Alexander, Katie Raney, Rusty Scarborough, Tara Humphreys, Karena Minor, Robin Gabe, Heather Runyan, Laura Motley, Lisa Cole

Absent: Pat Silovsky, Michelle Soenksen, Stephen Brueggerhoff, Jeanette Larson, Shelley Flanary, Jamie Hubert

Officer/Chair/State Coordinator Reports

Director's Report -- John Miller

The state of "the Humble and Hospitable" Region Six is strong and active.

Leadership Positions

All elected and leadership positions are filled. Region Six continues to encourage and mentor members to become future leaders.

Member Services

Thanks to the leadership of the Advisory Council (AC) a new tool has been developed to help track the success of each Unit's core member services. This tool replaces the old 'score card' which really did not have any successful contributions. The four core services decided on by our Region Six leaders are:

- **Annual Unit Workshop**
- **Leadership and Professional Development**
- **Unit Newsletter**
- **Scholarships**

I will be working with several of the Region Six leadership to make sure our measure of success for each of these four member services are accurately evaluated. We will still track the effectiveness of secondary services because they are also important. One note that will be addressed at the Advisory Council meeting in November is the issue of providing ONLY NAI-provided professional development. The NAI Staff and Board of Directors are looking into IRS guidelines of providing non-NAI professional development such as Project WET, Project WILD, Leopold Project, Project Archeology, etc. This will affect other units who wish to also provide Mini-Grants. More to come in November.

Finances

Region Six continues to have a healthy financial base. Thanks to the Region Six Treasurer, Andrea Johnson, for providing a 2016 budget to the National Office.

National Board of Directors

I continue to serve both Region Six and the NAI members on the National Board of Directors. Please continue to let me know of any concern or issue that needs to be addressed. Currently I am working with the Association of Missouri Interpreters (AMI) with an issue dealing primarily with Chapter/Unit status.

Deputy Director's Report—Clark Hancock

- 1) 2016 Workshop planning and organization is progressing. The Call for papers has been issued and the Registration can be found at https://www.interpnet.com/nai/nai/_events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=r6_2016

February 21-24, 2016 in beautiful Springfield, Missouri.

- 2) 2017 Workshop planning has begun. Lori Spencer is the conference chair. The dates are Feb. 26 to March 1, 2017; location: Rodgers, Ark.
- 3) 2016 National Workshop will be in Corpus Christi, Nov. 8 – 12, 2016. Lari Jo Johnson is the conference chair. Contact her if you or anyone you know would like to participate in the Organizing Committee.
- 4) Recognition should be given to Ken Forman, the current guardian of the Travelling Trunk. He has created a FB page dedicated to the Trunk's adventures: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NAI-Region-VI-Traveling-Case/869600706437869>
- 5) Banner production is proceeding. I am hoping to have a preliminary layout distributed before the Board meeting. They should be available for National in VA. Beach. I am very open to suggestions, additional images, etc. if anyone would like to send anything. Please see the email below from iZone:

Clark,

Thank you for your mail to Linda regarding our offer to provide the NAI Region 6 group our support and specifically assist you with a couple Pop-Up banner graphics for your workshops and other use.

I regret that in the time since your last communications Linda has decided to leave the company but I can assure you her departure will not affect our interests and commitment to supporting our NAI Region Six efforts. I have copied Sheryl Teetz, our Marketing Coordinator, on this communication with confidence that she is familiar with the details of this offer and will be in position to assist us in getting this done for you and confirming the sizes of the banners we would donate.

In respect to how we would like to be recognized for our contribution, I believe the expectation had been that we would get a small credit somewhere noticeable but not too conspicuous on the banners with a logo and a phrase like "Banner generously donated by." I expect that Sheryl will be able to work with you on the design placement and desired messaging that meets your approval.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding of Linda's departure and the opportunity to support you and NAI Region Six on this initiative. We will look forward to further communications next week.

Grady Brown

Secretary's Report –Lisa Cole

I will have a new email address to share with the group sometime this fall. I am not changing jobs, but I am changing employers. There is a new operating agreement for LLELA in the works, with the University of North Texas and the City of Lewisville dividing up who is funding what, including staff expenses. I will likely move from UNT to City of Lewisville employment on Oct. 1 (but that date is a bit fuzzy at the moment). The job is still the same, but there are many exciting new opportunities with the City's larger role in our operations. Like steady funding...

I will make sure you all know how to reach me, as soon as I know more. I anticipate that the City will support my continued involvement in NAI.

Treasurer's Report—Andrea Joslin

Balance

- 2nd Quarter - \$28,622.04 Balance as of June 30, 2015.
- \$806.72 in the black for the year
- A few expenses were miscoded to Region Six that were supposed to be AMI. Two of these have been corrected; I am working on the third. A new reporting system allows us to see all transactions.

Final 2015 Louisiana Workshop Outcome

- **\$2,082 Profit –woohoo!**
- A \$3,000 Grant was received from the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission
- Attendance was 99 (102 paid, three did not attend and received partial refunds)

Current Scholarship Income

- \$4,596.08 was raised for scholarships and professional development. (This includes some money raised from Whisper in the Wind CD sales).
- \$74.92 was charged as an expense for credit card sales. This was 2.7%
- \$3,950 was paid in scholarships and professional development stipends this year.

Other Items

- Currently working on the 2016 Region Six budget.
- Also, I am assisting the AMI treasurer on their budget.

Awards Chair's Report –Laura Motley

Awards deadline will be 15 November 2015. I will have it on the website soon. Please be thinking of those who deserve recognition! Congratulations to Janet Price for her national Master Frontline Interpreter Award! Great job to those who sent in National Award Nominations!

Election Chair's Report –Robin Gabe

Upcoming elections:

In the fall of 2015 electronic elections will be held for the positions of Director and Treasurer. I currently have one candidate for the Director ballot and I am working to persuade a second candidate. There are two candidates on the Treasurer ballot.

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 August 20, 2015 so that I can get them turned in to Alan Leftridge.

Membership Chairs' Report –Jeanette Larson/Shelley Flanary

We have for Region Six as of now: 665 members. Out of this total we have 72 not from our Region. This leaves us with 593 members from Region Six and 72 outside of our Region.

Arkansas - 95 members

Kansas – 45 members

Louisiana – 34 members (They are catching up with Oklahoma and Kansas)

Missouri – 168 members

Oklahoma – 42 members (Almost caught up with Kansas)

Texas – 209 members

Also, we have some memberships from around the world, with 4 members from Bahamas, 1 from Puerto Rico, 4 from Canada, 1 from South Korea, and 1 from England, United Kingdom.

This is great, hard work from each state and we are looking forward to increasing even more next year.

John reminded the group: Each Director can give out two free memberships from each state, so please send him names of worthy folks. It would be a shame for those free memberships to sit unused.

Newsletter Editors' Report—Jamie Hubert and Katie Raney

Newsletter report: Your newsletter team is chugging along as always. If you have any suggestions for upcoming topics you'd like to see covered, please let us know! The next newsletter topic is probably going to be Halloween/spooky/scary items.

Reminder: if State Coordinators need email contacts for their state, contact Jamie or Katie and they can easily provide those.

Scholarship Chair's Report—Heather Runyan

Work has started on the 2016 Freeman Tilden Scholarships. The application has been updated and is on the website. This year, Carrie Miller will include the application, information letter, and flyer in the packets that she sends out to professors in Region Six who teach the CIG curriculum in their college classes. The application, along with a flyer and a letter explaining the scholarship, will be sent to all professors on our list later this month. I have also posted an announcement on the Region Six Facebook page. If anyone knows of a professor who needs to be added to our list, please send their name and email address to heather.runyan@arkansas.gov. Please remember to mention the scholarships to any students you know.

Website Report—Stephen Brueggerhoff

John: said Stephen has been very helpful with Workshop publicity on the web site. Please send him anything you need to share with Region Six members and he can get the information on the web site.

Arkansas State Report—Don Simons

Recently 40 participants from all over the eastern U.S. attended the first-ever Interpretive Naturalist section workshop at Mount Magazine. The Workshop went very successfully.

Kansas State Report—Pat Silovsky

No report received.

Louisiana State Report—Rusty Scarborough

Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park's Stacy Gray has been promoted from part-time to full-time employment at the new Education Coordinator.

Walter Jacobs is hosting a CIG training August 24-27.

Missouri State Report—Michelle Soenksen

John Miller (Branson) reports that this year's Family Fishing Fair event on June 6 was a huge success. This year's attendance was 540 people. While families attended, only the kids (ages 15 and under) got to go fishing for channel catfish and hybrid bluegill. In addition to the fishing activities, learning stations were scattered around the pond for everyone to learn about tying knots, fly casting, how to rig up a pole, fish identification, and ethical angling. Another popular station was the 'First Fish' station where kids who caught their first fish ever got their photo taken and a certificate of their milestone catch. A huge thanks to Leah Eden for coordinating this event with area MDC staff/volunteers, Trout Unlimited, MO Master Naturalists, and the Branson Optimist Club.

Kendra Swee reports that Missouri State Parks held the 76th Annual Spring Interpreter's Training School May 17-20 at Roaring River State Park. Over 100 participants attended the training, including staff and volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Master Naturalists, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Participants learned the basics of developing a good interpretive program, attended sample programs over both natural and cultural resource topics, and enjoyed the stories and songs of a Missouri storyteller. Staff serving as mentors to newer training attendees also received a full day of intermediate sessions focused on content knowledge, interpretive practices, and career skills. The training culminated in first and second-year attendees presenting a practice program within their mentor groups and 12 individuals completing the components of the Certified Interpretive Guide certification process.

Phillip Brinkley reports on this year's AMI conference, The Art of Interpretation in the City, September 13-16. Enrich your intellect and "the kid in you" by joining in this adventure in interpretation in the heart of Kansas City! Sunday, September 13 includes four amazing half-day field trip options all starting at 1:00 pm: 1) Arts Tour, 2) Kansas City Fountains Bike Tour, 3) Mighty MO by Boat, and 4) Bootleggers and Breweries. Monday, September 14 starts with an all-star Conference Kick-off focusing on famous Kansas City people. Amazing concurrent sessions, speed networking and the awards banquet will round out the day. Tuesday, September 15 includes five outstanding field trip options: 1) Historic Jazz District & Negro League Baseball Museum, 2) Outdoor Skills at Burr Oak Woods, 3) Strange and Extraordinary Trees of Kansas City, 4) Missouri Town and Fort Osage, and 5) Nature in the City. The scholarship auction and barbeque dinner will be a magical night at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park. On Wednesday, September 16, discover some awesome Kansas City nature as you explore Burr Oak Woods. Experience the Nature Center as you come eye to eye with some fantastic wild animals, encounter nature's wonders and secrets with hands-on exhibits as you explore at your leisure. Wonderful concurrent sessions and the AMI business meeting (with pizza and salad lunch!) will top off this spectacular conference!

Oklahoma State Report—Karena Minor

This summer Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa is building a huge milkweed garden. They have prepared the area by removing grasses, putting down landscape cloth and covering it with mulch. They have about 100 milkweeds of various species to install. Hopefully it will provide a food source for many migrating monarchs in the months and years to come.

At the Oxley Nature Center river otters have been spotted in Bird Creek recently. Apparently their range is spreading and otters are being seen by more people. It is great to have them join the other water-loving mammals like beavers, muskrats, and swamp rabbits. This will increase the watchable wildlife opportunities at the nature center.

A BIG NAI "WELCOME!!!" goes out to William Wright. He started work on June 14 as the new Superintendent of Chickasaw National Recreation Area (Sulphur, OK). He is a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service. He was the Chief Ranger of Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona) from May of 2010 until his move to his new job in OK. William is a native of Durant, OK and is also a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site has been hosting many different types of events this summer. Many of them new. They are continuing the popular Summer Lecture Series from last summer. They have also started a monthly Star Party and Summer Movies in the Park program. You can find the latest schedule for Washita on their website at www.nps.gov/waba. Come and join in on the fun!

Whoa! What's this?! The "Bat Wing Ding"??? Mike Caywood is the Manager of northwestern Oklahoma's Alabaster Caverns State Park and he was the one responsible for coming up with the eye-catching "hook" that caught the interest of those people who were making plans for what to do with their free time on upcoming weekends. Mike's bat festival featured park visitor participation in scientific endeavors to capture bats alive, conduct data-collecting activities and then release the bats, unharmed, back into the environment. Children also got an opportunity to make bat masks and play bat-related games.

What organizations and agencies conduct interpretation activities in your state? Here in Oklahoma, almost everybody gets into the act! A good "case in point," is the four-day birding convention (in early-May) that was hosted by the Idabel Chamber of Commerce. For the \$125.00 registration fee, participants got to go on field trips to The Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, the Little River National Wildlife Refuge and the McCurtain County Wilderness Area. This bird-rich area is frequented by up to 300 species of wild birds.

Nature hike? ...in the metropolitan area's urban core? Oklahoma City's Addison Ball did just that. He has a Facebook page ("Trailhead OKC") where he gave people a "heads-up!" about his 6.2-mile jaunt through the heart of the city on Sunday, April 19. A large number of people took part in the unique walking tour. The University of Arkansas' Civil War scholar Daniel Sutherland was the guest lecturer at an early-June "History Camp" for Oklahoma high school students (at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma). The 20 students received scholarships that covered room & board expenses. USAO's assistant professor of American history, James Finck, said that the event was created "to give students with an interest in history an opportunity to learn about it from nationally recognized scholars."

Over the past few months, Neil Garrison has been busy with lots of volunteering opportunities. (Neil retired in 2009 after serving 30 years as the Naturalist at OKC's Martin Park Nature Center.) He teamed up with the Sutton Avian Research Center to do monitoring of several Bald Eagle nests near the outskirts of the OKC metropolitan area. In addition to that, Neil conducted some nature hikes for senior citizens from the City of Yukon's Parks and Recreation Department (i.e., bus tours to Roman Nose State Park --Watonga, OK...and...to Red Rock Canyon State Park -- Hinton, OK). Neil was also one of the instructors at the mid-June "Women In The Outdoors" event (i.e., the National Wild Turkey Federation) that was conducted at Edmond, Oklahoma's Lake Arcadia Conservation Education Center.

Jim Pfitzer does a first-person interpretation of the life of Aldo Leopold (i.e., the father of modern wildlife management). Jim was in Oklahoma for a full week in late-April for no less than three of his presentations in several major OK cities. The Oxley Nature Center Association (Tulsa, OK) was one of the sponsors of the event.

Free admission to the museum? That's one way to get more people to come and enjoy your facility! Saturday, June 27, was designated as "Library Day" at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (Norman,

OK). Anyone with a valid library card was allowed free entry into the natural history museum on that special day. People also had an opportunity to buy a membership in the museum (if they wanted to take advantage of the special \$10 discount on the new member fee). Those people who became new members were automatically entered in a contest drawing for a museum gift package. In a deal like that, everyone wins!

The Lake and Stream Youth Camp? "What is it," you ask. This summer, children ages 9 to 13 took part in environmental education activities at the Grand Lake Education Center (Langley, OK). It was a joint project of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's "Blue Thumb" program and the Grand River Dam Authority. Children learned about the fish and insects that inhabit the streams and lakes of northeastern Oklahoma. One aspect of the youth camp was described this way: "...and build a raft to study water flows."

Texas State Report—Tara Humphreys

After 13 years with **Texas State Parks**, **Barbara Parmley** is leaving to join the Dallas Botanical Garden. In her time as Regional Interpretive Specialist, Barbara trained and mentored interpreters, wrote for interpretive media, and provided daily interpretive support for the many parks in her NE Texas region. Barb will be missed, and we wish her the very best! This position will be open soon.

Texas State Parks is glad to be hosting **Certified Interpretive Trainer Training at Bastrop State Park** on Aug. 17-21. Almost 20 students are expected, and Roger Riolo and Emily Jacobs will be teaching the class.

The **TX State Park Regional Interpretive Specialists** are gearing up for a busy training season. They will be leading the 3rd TX State Park "Master Interpreter Training" in November, and they will lead a CIG class at Lake Brownwood State Park on Nov. 30-Dec. 4.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes from Spring Region Six Board Meeting

Lisa Cole moved to approve the Spring 2015 Board Meeting minutes; Katie Raney seconded. The motion passed.

2. Region Six Fundraising Opportunity

Attached (see final two pages of the minutes) is an informal proposal for a fundraising opportunity from Grady Manus in Kansas City. Grady is a past President of the Association of MO Interpreters and was featured on the Region Six "Whisper on the Wind" storytelling CD. He is offering a 60/40 split of the profits of his new book. Region Six would get 60% and he would get 40% of the book sales.

After discussion, the Region Six Board gave a preliminary okay to pursue discussions related to this project. Region Six is not committing funds at this time. Please take a look at the proposal before the Spring 2016 Board Meeting and be ready to discuss further.

Clark Hancock reminded the group that a Fundraising Committee has been proposed before, and that this might be something that would be taken on by that committee. John Miller might be interested in heading this committee once he steps down as Director.

3. Spring Board Meeting will be Sunday, February 21, 2016 in Springfield, MO at the Region Six Workshop.

Time to be determined. Since there will be a new Director and Treasurer, Clark Hancock asked John Miller and Andrea Joslin to plan to attend the Board Meeting to facilitate the new officers' transition. Both agreed to be there.

Congratulations and thanks for a job well done go to outgoing officers John Miller and Andrea Joslin. Your hard work for Region Six has been appreciated.

John Miller called the meeting to a close at 10:52 a.m.

Proposal to NAI Region 6

Publication of:

the nature of things

A collection of poetry by Grady Beavin Manus

Photographs by Lynn Youngblood

Lynn and I would like to offer to Region Six this book as a fundraising gift. The book is a collection of both previously published and unpublished poems that are nature centered. These are, of course, original works. We have suggestions for the printing of the book, but the final decision would rest with you.

These are the arrangements that we would like to make. Questions and comments are encouraged as we want this to be a benefit to the Region. Firstly, we would like you to entertain the dedication of moneys raised from book sales to the scholarship fund. We both wholeheartedly support the scholarship program and would like to see it enhanced. The particulars would be as stated below. The figures used are approximations. The final draft of the book is near completion so a few items such as final page count may vary slightly.

We are asking for a 40/60 split in the profit with Region 6 receiving the 60% share. This will cover our costs and investments in preparation of the manuscript. Region 6 would simply calculate our share each quarter of the year and issue a check. We would also request 25 copies from the first printing. The Region would recover all costs and gain 60% of the profit on each book sold.

We are using figures from Instantpublisher.com as the model for the proposal. The final selection of publishers is up to you all. Interpress would possibly be the most logical choice but we did not get any information on their cost or interest in printing the book. We would suggest a hardcover edition. The final product should be considered and a nice gift item or small coffee table style book. I will be available to discuss by phone or Skype the particulars in paper choices and cover treatments etc. Everything connected with the final product has an impact on the per copy price. We would also propose a printing of 1,000 copies as the initial run. Companies like Instant Publisher can do runs of any quantity (including single copies) and offer discounts for larger issues. Other figures offered below are based on standards; retail price is normally three times printing costs; bulk discounts are normally offered.

Cover: hardbound with linen laminate

Paper: 80# white matte

Size: 5.5 X 8.5

Pages: 60

Contents: 15 full color photographs

45 pages of copy (about 50 poems)

ISBN number assigned

Approximate cost per book: \$7.40

Suggested retail: \$20.00

Profit per each \$13.60 (40% - \$5.44 60% - \$8.16)

Discounts for bulk orders: 10 – 25 copies/ 10%

26 – 50 copies/ 20%

More than 50 copies 40% (profit and split: \$1.64 – \$2.76)

Region 6 would retain the rights to the book. Rights to the individual pieces would be retained by us. This would allow the Region to print the collection as often as they want. We would be able to authorize the printing of any individual piece within the collection. The collection and Region 6 would be cited as the source for any reprinted materials.

It would be possible to have this project done and available at the 2016 Region 6 Workshop. We are currently planning to attend the workshop and would be glad to do a reading and/or book signing if that would be of interest. I would be glad to send a selection of pieces that are being included in the book for your consideration.

Please let us know if you are interested and what questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Grady Manus and Lynn Youngblood