

NAI Region 6 Conference Call Meeting Minutes

1:00 p.m. August 29, 2018

In attendance: Jay Schneider, Chris Pistole, Mystina Swaim, Mel Zabecki, Jerrel Geisler, Lauren Marshall, Tara Humphreys, Rebecca Sellers, Rachel Roth, Kayla Gomance, Donna Horton, Pat Silovsky, Michelle Soenksen

Absent: Shelley Flanary, Robin Gabe, Ken Forman, Don Simons, Rusty Scarborough

Director's Report – Jay Schneider

- National News
 - Bylaws
 - Clarification, who handles each section
 - 10% of membership to vote on bylaws
 - Jay Miller will send an email to members to remind them
 - Elections – regional and national
 - Please vote, your vote matters!
 - Building Fund
 - National office building debt
 - Adding \$18,000 revenue back to scholarships, membership, etc. since we won't have building debt anymore
- National Workshop: New Orleans
 - Region Booth – discussed in “New Business”
- International Workshop
 - Will start to be every other year
- Fundraising
 - Stickers
 - Lapel pins, we will talk about lowering the price on pins since we broke even on our costs - 100%. Discussed in “New Business”
 - Others: NAI logo inventory – discussed in “New Business”
- Newsletter Deadlines – Jerrel will report

Deputy Director's Report – Chris Pistole

- Chris went over his main duties as Deputy Director for those new to the Board.
 - Chris's main duty as Deputy Director is to help with regional workshop planning
- National office asks for us to send any workshop planning requests to them by Sept. 1st if we are needing their help with anything (budget, plans, etc.)
- Future Region 6 Workshop planning

- On Aug. 23, we were notified by Jay Schneider that Paul Caputo with the National office has asked that all requests for assistance on Regional workshop planning from the National office staff for September-December be submitted by September 1 due to their limited staff time as they work on the National workshop in November. National approves all contracts and sets up on-line registration.
- 2019 Region 6 workshop in Wichita, Kansas “Keepers of Interpretation: Past, Present, and Future” – **February 24-27, 2019**
 - Contracts
 - The contracts are signed with the exception of the food. Amanda was having trouble getting the caterer to respond to our initial request for the meals, but has had some movement on this recently. (Note: This hotel does not do the food catering, so a separate contract with a caterer is required.)
Location: Hotel at Oldtown
830 East First
Wichita, KS 67202
316-267-4800 or Reservations: 1-877-265-3869
www.hotelatoldtown.com
Room Rates (Doesn't include tax, bring tax exempt paperwork):
Queen Studios \$99; King Studios \$99; Queen/Queen Studios \$119.00;
One Bedroom Suites \$189. The rooms have a small kitchen in them.
 - Budget
 - The budget is NOT finished yet because of the food catering problem. The workshop committee is working on it.
 - Workshop Committee
 - Delia Lister and Amanda Alessi--Co-Chairs
 - Pat Silovsky and Pam Martin--Programs/Keynotes
 - Alicia Koslowski and Amber Meyers--Field Trips
 - Lori Spencer--Auction
 - Jenn Rader--Hospitality
 - Mike Rader and Jenn Rader--Brian Barnette Quiz
 - Schanee Anderson--Taste of Interpretation (New this year)
 - Rachel Roth--InterpOlympics, Registration
 - Ernie Miller Nature Center Folks--Volunteers
 - Timeline
 - Registration will go out Mid-November. Early Bird Deadline is 2nd Week of January. Call for papers is out and the close will be December 1st
 - Programs

- Keynotes are secured: Monday morning Keynote—Symphony in the Flint Hills Gwen Shirley, Director of Engagement with Brian Obermeyer, TNC. Unique interpretation of the Flint Hills ecosystem through music, art, cultural history and natural history; tying the past to the present with the goal of future preservation
 - Wednesday morning Keynote: Charlie Nilon, PhD, University of Missouri in Columbia. Presentation on understanding global patterns of biodiversity in cities, the filters that shape species composition in cities and the social and ecological factors that shape patterns of abundance in cities, applying the information to management, conservation and planning programs. Additionally, he will speak to lack of diversity in the interpretation/cultural heritage field and efforts to increase diversity.
 - Next committee meeting – September 17th 11am – 4pm at the Great Plains Nature Center
- Chris recommends regional workshop committees to start planning their workshops at least 3 years in advance, especially to reserve workshop location sites (convention center, etc.)
- 2020 Region 6 Workshop in Bartlesville, Oklahoma “Interpretation Connects Nature, Culture and Art” – **February 23-26, 2020**
 - The Oklahoma committee started working several years ago on this workshop and have been meeting and making good progress.
 - Lots of work on the 2020 Region VI conference is already finished! At this point, the basic shape of the workshop is fairly well set. Now we need all hands on deck to take care of details.
 - Chris and the committee met with the conference center and hotel already and feel like it is in-line with our cost expectations, but haven't gotten contracts yet. Chris had planned to dig into the money after our August meeting.
 - As we did in Guthrie, we have a variety of hotel offerings, as we won't all fit in one site. We are also planning to follow a growing conference model and rely less on big buses for transportation. Bartlesville is a "walking-distance" town in most cases and most of our attendees drive vehicles. We have some good options in the works for field trip travel, but we hope to minimize transportation costs.
 - Our committee is still smaller than we hoped, but similar in size to what Oklahoma has had in the past.
 - As you can see from our logo (see Oklahoma report), we are trying to reach a new audience of artists this year--as we feel that many interpreters are artistically inclined. We plan to do an art, nature and culture tract. Plus, Bartlesville is an artsy-feeling town.

- We need to have many of our plans ready before the 2019 Region VI conference in Kansas.
- Field Trips
 - The committee spent most of the last meeting discussing 11 fieldtrips and activities. Some of them still need coordinators.
- Pre-Workshop Speakers and Activities
 - Amy Stephens is pursuing a grant to get a keynote speaker who will also present a pre-workshop on Saturday or Sunday. Some of the field trips (kayaking, dyes, longer trips) might work better as pre-workshops. We are looking for a management pre-workshop, too.
 - Opening mixer- possibly at the Phillips 66 Museum, or a Progressive Mixer incorporating the Phillips House and Price Tower
 - Food options/menus- needs a meeting with caterers in Bartlesville, possibly at the August meeting.
 - The timeline is set for workshop programs, assembly of schedule, and final flyer/brochure.
 - Hospitality suite details taking shape.
- Next committee meeting: Monday, August 27 at 9am at the Bartlesville Library, Room B

Secretary's Report – Mystina Swaim

- InterpNEWS – The International Heritage Interpretation e-Magazine
 - Reaches over 300,000 readers/interpreters and related agencies in 60 countries
 - Subscription to receive the e-magazine is free
 - Interpreters and agencies can submit articles to this e-Magazine
 - Read current and past issues at: www.issuu.com/interpnews
 - Contact John Veverka, InterpNEWS Editor/Publisher, for more information, to subscribe, or to submit articles: jvainterp@aol.com
- Reports and agenda items
 - Thank you to everyone who sent me their reports and agenda items before this meeting. Receiving these reports before my deadline helps me to get the meeting agenda to you in a timely manner.
 - If you did not receive an agenda before the meeting, please email me at mystina.swaim@arkansas.gov to make sure I have your correct email address.

Treasurer's Report – Mel Harvey

- Mel has a new email address: mzabeck@uark.edu
- Balance

- 2nd Quarter – around \$35,097.74 was the balance as of June 30, 2018. Everything from Grapevine Workshop is settled.
- Grapevine, TX Workshop Final Status
 - \$2,221 was made as a profit and \$4,538 was raised during the auction/sticker/gear sales for financial aid scholarships!
- Scholarship Disbursements
 - \$3,401 for 3 student scholarships and \$740 was paid out for financial aid (2 for the Region 6 Workshop and 1 for CIG certification, totaling \$4,141 given out this calendar year. However, if you want to look at it as a fiscal year, we also gave out \$1790 for 2 to go to Spokane last November so we have actually given out \$5931 since last July!
- Other Items
 - Gear sales – Jay Schneider purchased some water bottles, lapel pins, bags, and hats from National Office to sell at the workshop. As the monies are mixed in with the other fundraising, we'll need Jay to report on the inventory to see how much we sold.
 - Sticker sales – We spent about \$415 on stickers and a huge number were sold.
 - The proposed 2019 Regional Budget is being worked on. THERE WILL BE A BIG CHANGE IN THE FISCAL YEAR DATES SO THIS BUDGET PROPOSAL ONLY INCLUDES JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019. Mel has not submitted the regional budget yet as it is due Sep 1, so please let her know if there are any expenses that are expected.

Awards Chair's Report – Lauren Marshall

- Gearing up for the 2018 awards season
 - Lauren is sending out email reminders for those who have requested it
 - Encouraging everyone to get support letters now
- Jerrel from Texas and Lily from Louisiana have joined the Awards Committee
- Some people get the Awards Committee and Scholarship Committee confused
 - Lauren forwards scholarship needs/information to Rebecca when this happens
- Cyndi Cogbill mentioned Lauren should help the workshop planning committees with the session awards at the workshop

Election Chair's Report – Robin Gabe *(Jay Schneider gave the report in Robin's absence)*

- 2 positions open this year: Director and Treasurer
- Kayla Gomance is our new treasurer – she works with Arkansas State Parks, is a Certified Interpretive Guide and member of NAI. She has been working with Mel to learn her duties and make the transition into her new role on the Board.

Membership Chair's Report – Hollie Berdeja *(Jay Schneider gave the report in Hollie's absence)*

- 946 current members in Region 6
- We gained 163 new members since the last Region 6 workshop (2017)
- State breakdown of new members
 - Arkansas: 14
 - Kansas: 2
 - Missouri: 26
 - Texas: 69
 - Louisiana: 9
 - Oklahoma: 1
 - Out of Region 6 states: 42
- 98 memberships needing renewal by the end of September – be sure to check your account!
 - Hollie needs help with a “Don’t Forget” graphic
 - Could someone with graphic skills create a whimsical postcard that Hollie could send to members to remind them their memberships are due? Like "Don't Forget" or "Wish you were here"...style. Our members get a notice from the national office, but this would be a fun, friendly nudge from us.
- Communication with Emily Jacobs recording concurrent sessions for membership use in our region
 - In the last meeting we discussed the possibility of taping or streaming Region 6 concurrent sessions to share with the membership or receive free webinar access. Hollie talked with Emily about the logistics of this project and discovered the following:
 - It is not recommended to record or stream concurrent sessions unless we can afford really good software to do so and technical support. It will come across as unprofessional and not user friendly. Not being able to see the PowerPoint or the speaker moving outside the camera view are both common and is frustrating to the viewer.
 - There are many challenges to overcome. It was suggested Hollie also talk with Paul Caputo about the Interp Tech Conference which was live streamed on Facebook, only because they had a partnership with an entity that had the very expensive software to use. It was also suggested to learn more about recording sessions from Region 10. Region 10 hosts a virtual conference because they are such a large region.

Newsletter Editors’ Report – Jerrel Geisler

- Newsletter has been delayed due to Jerrel dealing with the hurricane and editor transitions
- Fall newsletter deadline date is September 1st

- Let the editors know if we want anything included in the newsletter
 - Member articles
 - Member photos
 - Work with InterpNEWS –international e-magazine
- Updates are needed on board member information on the newsletter and the website
- Newsletters need to be included on the website. The last one is from 2017. Jerrel will be working with Rachel
- Jay mentioned we want the lag in the posting of the newsletter so members can get the most of their membership
- Jerrel mentioned trying to find a place, within the national office or otherwise, to store all the archive newsletters and content in case something happens to the editors.

Scholarship and Professional Development Chair's Report – Rebecca Sellers

- The National Conference scholarships are open through Friday, August 31st.
 - Advertise scholarships on our Facebook page
- The first recipient of a Professional Development Scholarship attended a CIG training before the Grapevine 2018 workshop. She received confirmation of her certification a few weeks later and has been reimbursed.
 - Jay mentioned a write-up on Shannon, our scholarship recipient, on our Facebook page to give kudos to her and to advertise the scholarship
- We have not received any more applications for professional development scholarships
- Any lengthy scholarship bios can be included in a website blog

Website Report – Rachel Roth

- Website visit numbers have been down since the last workshop
- Share with Rachel anything you want to add
- She will be working on updating the board members information

Arkansas State Report – Jay Schneider (AR Coordinator Don Simons was absent during the meeting and no report was given)

- Neil Curry retired from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Hollie Berdeja has been promoted to that position
- Arkansas State Parks just had their Annual Interpretation Workshop last week and celebrated the retirement of Mary Gillihan after 44 years with Arkansas State Parks

Kansas State Report – Pat Silovsky

- Keynote speakers for the 2019 Region 6 Workshop

- Gwen Shirley
 - On Monday morning, we will be having Gwen Shirley, the Director of Engagement with the Symphony in the Flint Hills talk about how the Symphony in the Flint Hills started, how this unique ecosystem is being saved, and how the Symphony in the Flint Hills has interpreted the Flint Hills with music and art. From their website: "In 1994, Matfield Green rancher Jane Koger celebrated her birthday by inviting the public to a "Symphony on the Prairie." More than 3,000 people from far and wide congregated at her Homestead Ranch for a magical union between symphonic music and the prairie landscape.
 - Ten years after Jane Koger's legendary birthday concert, Chase, Lyon, Morris and Wabaunsee County leaders founded Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc. to heighten the appreciation and knowledge of the tallgrass prairie. In 2006, the organization held the first of its annual prairie concerts, a Kansas tradition that now attracts approximately 7,000 attendees from all over the world."
- Dr. Charles Nilon
 - The keynote for the Banquet will be Dr. Charles Nilon, Professor of the School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia and also a professor in the Black Studies Program.
 - Nilon's research considers the impact of urbanization on wildlife habitats, populations and communities. Because urban areas are homes for people as well as wildlife, Nilon's research also considers the role of nature as part of an individual's day-to-day environment, and environmental justice issues associated with access to nature. Nilon and his students have worked on projects in Kansas City and St. Louis that seek to understand how people perceive open spaces in their neighborhood. Recently he has collaborated with colleagues from the MU School of Medicine on a project studying the kinds of open spaces where children are active. Since 2010 Nilon has been a principal investigator on three different synthesis projects that are compiling data from more than 150 of the world's cities. The projects seek to understand global patterns of biodiversity in cities, the filters that shape species composition in cities, and the social and ecological factors that shape patterns of abundance in cities, and apply that information to management, conservation and planning programs.
 - He also plans to talk on diversity within the field of wildlife and how to improve it.
- 2019 Workshop Plans
 - Workshop is February 24-27, 2019 in Wichita, Kansas
 - Workshop plans are moving along and the contracts for the food should be signed within the next few days. The conference hotel is the Hotel at Oldtown

but we have offsite evenings at Museum of World Treasures (opening session) and the auction at the Mid-America All Indian Center.

- We have a pre-conference trip planned for Sunday. Richard Pitts, executive director of the Wonder Workshop, proudly presents a journey back in time to Underground Railroad sites in Riley and Wabaunsee Counties. This tour will travel to various sites within fifteen miles of Manhattan, Kansas.
 - At each site, (there will be seven stops made on this tour) participants will be presented with information regarding its historical significance. Travelers will learn about the famous Beecher Bible and Rifle Church, Captain Mitchell, Strong Farm, Reverend Blood, and others who helped to make Kansas a free state! Your group will take part in interactive activities along the way. This adventure will place you in the shoes of enslaved Africans, Slave Owners, and Abolitionists as you learn about the true meaning of strength, courage, and endurance experienced by those early Human Rights activists whose broad shoulders we all stand on!
- We have one \$2,000 sponsor – KDWPT.
 - We are working on others
- Photographs of past, present, and future interpreters needed for 2019 workshop
- 2019 Region 6 Workshop call for presentations – **Deadline Dec. 1, 2018**
 - Conference theme: “Keepers of Interpretation: Past, Present and Future”
 - We are searching for proposals that inherit from the past, maintain the present and preserve the future, igniting a passion for **communication, investigation and inspiration**. Take this opportunity to be “Keepers of Interpretation”, making connections to the past that are *communicated* to the present through *investigation*, stimulating *inspiration* for future interpreters.

Louisiana State Report – Rusty Scarborough *(Jay Schneider gave the report in Rusty’s absence)*

- 3 members are attending the National Workshop in New Orleans this November 28-December 1
- The Walter Jacobs Nature Park is gearing up for their fall festival booths and celebrations
- The Walter Jacobs Nature Park is preparing for their largest event of the year on October 27th from 5-9pm: Bugs, Bats, and Bones. Café Insecta is also included in the event
- WJNP is also hosting Art in the Park on November 3rd from 12-4pm

Missouri State Report – Michelle Soenksen

- John Miller is retiring. His retirement party is October 21st in Branson, MO

Oklahoma State Report – Donna Horton

- Current News from Tulsa
 - Naturalist Amy Nickel joined the education staff of the Gathering Place in Tulsa
 - Naturalist Amy Nickel left her job as naturalist at Sequoyah State Park this summer to join the education staff of The Gathering Place, a unique urban mega-park due to open in Tulsa Sept. 8th.
 - The Gathering Place – a new unique urban mega-park due to open in Tulsa
 - If you have not heard of The Gathering Place, check out this New York Times article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/10/arts/design/tulsa-park-gathering-place.html>
- The next CIG workshop at Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa will be held Tuesday-Friday, October 2-5, 2018
- Oklahoma City Museum of Art's trompe l'oeil paper costumes collection
 - An unusual collection of life-size, trompe l'oeil paper costumes made its debut at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art this summer, in "Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning Art From Paper". It runs from June 16 - September 9, 2018. See the museum's website (www.okcmoa.com) for a calendar of curator-led tours of the special exhibits, and the many scheduled programs. The OKCMOA is closed Mondays, but open till 9 pm on Thursdays. (photos attached)



- Grey Miller is the new Director of Education and Training at the Science Museum Oklahoma
 - Our congratulations go to Greg Miller. He has a new job: Science Museum Oklahoma's Director of Education and Training. The Science Museum Oklahoma is adjacent to the Oklahoma City Zoo.
- Don Reeves is retiring from OKC's National Cowboy Museum after 38 years as curator

- After a career spanning 38 years as a curator at OKC's National Cowboy Museum, Don Reeves has embarked on a new endeavor: retirement. Congrats, Don!
- Updates from the National Park Service in Oklahoma City
 - Interpreter John Withers resigned
 - Longtime interpreter John Withers has resigned his position there, due to some issues with his position and offices miles and miles away. We look forward to hearing what John will pursue next, with his thoughtful and solid interpretive skills.
 - Athena Gonzalez is on a detail at Chickasaw National Recreation Area
 - She should be back to OKC around the time of the Bombing Anniversary.
 - Dan McKee and Ian Harvey are sharing their knowledge
 - Mary Collins completed her CIHT certification and will begin CIHT for NPS in Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Biological Survey launched a unique event last April. It is a virtual census of OK flora and fauna
 - In what must be the perfect marriage between computer technology and the outdoor world, the Oklahoma Biological Survey launched a unique event on Sunday, April 1, 2018. It was dubbed a "virtual" census of flora and fauna in the state of Oklahoma. Arrangements were made to award prizes to the top-performing observers in this spring season "BioBlitz." The event was coordinated through iNaturalist.org.
- Donna Horton reviewed [The Invention of Nature, Alexander von Humboldt's New World](#) by Andrea Wulf for the Tulsa City-County Public Library's "Books Sandwiched In" series
 - Donna recommends putting Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) into the history of interpretation
 - Interpreters and environmental educators owe as much, or perhaps more, to Humboldt than to Tilden. The book includes thumbnail biographies of some of the many people he influenced: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Thomas Jefferson, Simon Bolivar, Henry David Thoreau, Charles Darwin, George Perkins Marsh, Ernst Haeckel, and John Muir. Keep a notebook handy; you will want to jot down things to look up as you go along (i.e. who was Mary Somerville, the foremost woman scientist of the early 1800s?)
- The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum hosted OK's first Train-the-Trainer workshop for CIHTs last February
 - No report yet on how many attended or completed the workshop, and of course, the participants have a year to finish their essays and assemble their portfolios of work for evaluation. It will be good to have the excellent Certified Interpretive Host training going on at more locations around the state!
- January 20, 2018 was the re-opening celebration of the Citizen Potawatomie Nation Cultural Heritage Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma

- One of the interpretive exhibits in this facility was a display of 86 moccasins that were handmade by Citizen Potawatomie Nation members. Each pair represents 10 people who walked the "Trail of Death" during the tribe's move to reservation lands.
- Naturalist Neil Garrison injured his foot during a birding trip
 - "YEEEEEEOW!" A comment somewhat like that escaped naturalist Neil Garrison's mouth as he was mid-way through a birding field trip that he was leading. (Explanation: he had jumped across a small ditch that was alongside the nature trail, and landed wrong on his foot.) The injury was on January 9th. Surgery to repair the tear was on January 25th. Neil says: "I do not know what is worse - the pain of the original injury, or the pain from the current Physical Therapy sessions as the repaired tendon is stretched back into proper shape."
- Planning continues for the 2020 Region 6 Conference in Bartlesville
 - It will be held February 23-26, 2020 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma at the versatile Bartlesville Community Center, located next to the Price Tower and walking distance from Bartlesville's downtown area. The theme is "Interpretation Connects Nature, Culture, Art." Start thinking now about making a workshop presentation in 2020! The "Best Workshop Presentation" plaque would look great hanging on your wall! (photo attached)
 - The workshop decal is in the art-deco style because the workshop location is near the Price building that centers around art.
 - We have the community hall reserved for the workshop and it is acoustically built
 - While we are in Bartlesville, we would like to get the community involved in seeing what we do as interpreters so the city mayor cannot mistake us for language interpreters
 - The workshop site does not do food so we are working on getting caterers



Texas State Report – Tara Humphreys

- 13 Texas State Park interpreters participated in CIG training in June
 - Texas State Parks holds at least 2 CIG training per year – the next one will probably be in January
 - One for full-time interpreters
 - One for staff who would like to gain more experience in interpretation
 - There has been an increase in programs and roving interpretation opportunities offered as more staff are empowered with interpretive skills
- The Texas State Parks Interpreters' Advisory Group (IAG) is finishing up its first year.

- 18 staff members, including managers, maintenance rangers, park police officers and interpreters are putting together a list of interpretive best practices to share with all Texas State Parks
- These recommendations “for the field by the field” approach is to increase communication and ensure all have a voice, which is challenge in this huge state
- Split into 2 different groups: Interpreter Retention and Interpreter Culture



New Business

- Working the booth at national workshops
 - Selling lapel pins and other items to offset costs
 - Some NAI members at the national workshops look for their region booths and don't see them because they aren't there, so we want to make sure we are there for our region members
 - Do we want to have a booth at this year's national workshop?
 - Tara asked who from our region is going to the workshop that can work on the booth. Our region members attending: Tara Humphreys, Chris Pistole, 11 members from Texas State Parks, Hollie Berdeja, Ken Forman, and Arkansas State Parks is sending 7 members including Jay Schneider
 - Pat moved to have a booth and Mel seconded. Motion carries.
 - Pat wants us to sell stickers at our booth
- New stickers
 - Rachel says we can have new stickers made for the national workshop
 - Add the NAI symbol and Region 6
 - Do we need national approval for using the NAI symbol? Jay says we can do the sticker design with the NAI symbol and send it to Paul Caputo for approval
- NAI Shining stars for our Region: Rebecca Sellers, Kelly Farrell, John Miller
- NAI logo item sales

- Are we still in favor of selling these items? Discussion: storage is not an issue. Reorder items before national workshop to sell at that workshop. Donna moves to spend up to \$600 of our budget to acquire new inventory. Pat seconded. Motion carries.
- New price on our Region 6 lapel pins – was \$5
 - Chris moved to reduce our price to \$2 to move sells quicker since we have broken even on costs. Pat seconded. Donna abstained. Motion carries.

Next Board meeting – **Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 3pm** at the 2019 Region 6 Conference in Wichita, Kansas

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.