

NAI Region 6 Workshop Board Meeting Minutes

3:00 p.m. February 25, 2018

In attendance: Jay Schneider, Chris Pistole, Mel Harvey, Mystina Swaim, Don Simons, Tara Humphreys, Donna Horton, Robin Gabe, Lauren Marshall, Hollie Berdeja, Rebecca Sellers, Rachel Roth, Jerrel Geisler, Pat Silvosky, John Miller, Katie Raney, Rusty Scarborough

Review minutes from last meeting- Mel moved to accept meetings as they are, Pat seconded. Minutes were approved.

Katie Raney gave a report on the Grapevine workshop. In case of rain, there are plans. 180 plus/minus in attendance at the workshop. 92 rooms were booked at the host hotel. The National Board will be in attendance Monday.

- There were 5 or 6 “sampler” registrants that are non-members “testing” out the workshop.

Director’s Report – Jay Schneider

- National workshop in regions, in place of regional workshop and split profits (when the national workshop is held in our region)
 - The National Board had some discussion with having national and regional workshops coincide in the same year
 - Jay argues that we easily make nearly \$5000 in our workshops just with 180 members attending. This amount is similar to the national workshop auction
 - Can our region have more say in the national workshops that are held in our region? Especially local businesses verses major companies used for the workshop
 - We don’t want to lose the regional ambience verses the national workshop atmosphere because some people like to attend regionals more than nationals for this reason
 - Jay will keep us informed
- National workshop booth
 - Our region usually has a booth at the national workshop
 - We should be required to have a booth so that all regions have a booth so every member can find their region
- Video the presentations at Regional workshop
 - The workshop committee should work on video recording the concurrent sessions at the workshop
 - Katie is concerned with needed equipment to do this

- Chris is concerned with what this may do to our conference attendance since everyone will now be able to see the sessions online instead of traveling to the physical conference
 - At the national workshop it is optional to put your session online as a webinar, but not required
 - There have also been instances where the top rated sessions have been put online
 - It would be great to see a session you attended at conference later, or show co-workers that did not get to attend the workshop or sessions
 - Can the membership get one free webinar access? This is something we can look into
 - Hollie will be working on setting up something for the membership webinar/online concurrent session
- Logo material for sale
 - Jay met with Kathy Evans and purchased at surplus cost water bottles, national lapel pins, hats, buttons, etc. that we can sell in our region as revenue
 - National office was renting space to store items and they have moved out that stuff and now do not have enough for the online store
 - This money will go into our region's general fundraising
- New Stickers
 - Rachel designed stickers to sell for the region
 - There was a member's concern that the NAI logo was not on the new stickers, but it would have been a long process for us to use the national logo, but we may do this in the future
 - These will sell for \$3 each
- Check your email list when sending emails to the board members
- A scholarship recipient is requesting a refund for the pre-workshop session only due to a carpool member having medical issues. Rusty moved to refund recipient, Tara seconded. Motion carried.
- Rachel is our new board member in charge of our website, we had discussion on her official title
 - Rebecca moved to change her title to *Digital Communications Chair*. Motion carried.
- If you need a tutorial on using the dashboard, meet with Jay or Paul Caputo who will be at the workshop
- Other fundraising
 - Poem book – John Miller has reached out to Grady and we are waiting to hear back on that

Deputy Director's Report – Chris Pistole

- Updates on Region 6 workshops
 - Wichita, KS – February 24-27, 2019
 - Rachel Roth designed a great logo for the theme “Keepers of Interpretation: Past, Present, Future”
 - Amanda Alessi and Delia Lister are co-chairs of the workshop
 - “Visit Wichita” video
 - Hotel at Old Town contract is signed
 - Finalizing things with F&B Company
 - Workshop opening at the Museum of World Treasures
 - Workshop auction at the Mid America All Indian Center
 - Field Trip committee chair needs to be filled
 - Next committee meeting is March 30th in Wichita
 - Bartlesville, OK – February 23-26, 2020
 - Workshop to be held at the Bartlesville Community Center
 - Want to lock-in 2017 rates
 - Amy Stephens and Laura Motley will be co-chairing
 - Menu and food chair position needs filled
 - Amy Nickel is looking for a co-chair on the Programs committee
 - Kyle Thoreson is the Bartlesville liaison and is working on keynote ideas
 - Neil Garrison is working on Hospitality
 - Still have a lot of committee positions to fill – especially treasurer and budget analyst
 - Next committee meeting is from 10am to noon March 8th in Stillwater, OK
 - Discussion for a 2-tier registration pricing (similar to National workshops) at our Regional Workshops
 - If you don’t stay at the conference hotel, you may have to pay a little extra on the conference registration
 - We may have our 2026 workshop in Sulfur
 - 2021 workshop will be in Louisiana
 - The national workshop in New Orleans will be a good opportunity the get members thinking about planning the regional LA workshop
- Connie (Elpers) Leger Student Scholarship
 - Connie, a distinguished member of Region 6 since NAI began, passed away in 2017
 - We would like to honor her memory by naming one of the student scholarships after her
 - Rebecca suggested we name the scholarship for the national workshop (to send someone from our region to national workshop). After discussion, Connie was a big part of the student scholarship auction so we decided it would be more

appropriate to name the 3 student scholarships after her. Pat moved to name the scholarships the “Connie (Elpers) Leger” Student Scholarships, Katie seconded. Motion carried.

- State Fish Challenge – John Miller
 - 2 states in our regions do not have a state fish.
 - Students brought the proposal to the state legislature.
 - The directors of regions 4, 5 and 6 will challenge fellow NAI members within the last 5 remaining US states which do not have a current recognized state fish (Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Ohio), to secure official state fish designations through their respective state legislatures

Secretary’s Report – Mystina Swaim

- Minutes are available on our Region 6 website under “Board”
- NAI International workshop in France coming up – April 16-20
- Call for presentations is open for the National Workshop in New Orleans – deadline is April 2nd

Treasurer’s Report – Mel Harvey

- Balance
 - As of 2/22/18, our balance is \$39,412.43
 - 2017 in review
 - 4100.06 Workshop Registrations \$124,327.03
 - 4200.06 Member Networking Revenue \$5,715.00
 - 4300.06 Fundraising Revenue \$17,478.23
 - 4400.06 Miscellaneous Revenue \$3,942.55
 - 5100.06 Workshop Expenses (\$112,761.95)
 - 5200.06 Member Networking Expenses (\$2,216.74)
 - 5300.06 Administrative Expenses (\$1,802.70)
 - 5400.06 Fundraising/Scholarship Expenses (\$21,124.09)
 - 5500.06 Miscellaneous Expenses (\$1,960.22)
 - Total Balance \$39,412.43
 -
- Grapevine, TX workshop final status
 - Lisa Cole and Elizabeth Bittner have been keeping very close track of everything and though they don’t anticipate a huge profit, they are still in the black for their workshop thanks to various donations that came in.
- Scholarship Disbursements
 - We gave out 2 scholarships for people to go to Nationals in Spokane, totaling \$1790 (registration \$790 and stipends \$1000), we gave out 2 financial aid registrations for \$360, and we gave out 3 scholarships totaling \$3401 (for

registration, stipends, and books). So we gave out \$5551 in scholarships and financial aid for Spokane and Grapevine.

- Spokane Booth
 - \$150 paid to have a booth at National conference
 - We made \$105 on raffle tickets
 - Overall loss of \$47

Awards Chair's Report – Lauren Marshall

- 11 submissions for 6 different categories
 - Each state nominated someone or something
 - We need to push the Bob Jennings award
- Lauren will continue to reach out to different agencies and encourage them to submit regionally and nationally
- Just finished and updated the general information manual of Award Chair duties
- Lauren needs an award committee member from Texas

Election Chair's Report – Robin Gabe

- No elections in the Fall of 2017 to get in alignment with our bylaws (3-year terms)
- Terms are up in December of 2018 for Director Jay Schneider and Treasurer Mel Harvey
 - Elections for these 2 positions will be in Fall 2018
- Fall 2019 we'll hold elections for Deputy Director and Secretary
- Interested individuals should contact the existing officers or Robin for more information
- Candidate bios and photos by midsummer 2018 for Fall 2018 elections

Membership Chair's Report – Hollie Berdeja

- Region 6 membership total = 670
- The national membership is almost 7000 members
- Regions 6 saw an increase (almost double) in new members in 2017 – we have 331
- You can search in the directory for CITs or certification training workshops
 - Advertising on our Facebook page
- Hollie will be reaching out to the members who will be expiring in March to remind them to renew

Members 2/2018	Current	New Members	Expire soon	Attending Workshop	
	Roster	Since 3/1/2017	by 3/1/18		
Out of Region	258	331	114	Registrants Total	185
				Students	12
Out of US	11			Retired	4
				non-members	20
In Region				volunteers	7
Arkansas	101			seasonal	2
Kansas	82			professional	119
Louisiana	27			life	19
Missouri	139			institutional	2
Oklahoma	49				
Texas	272				
Total In Region	670				
Roster Total	*939				
*The online roster spreadsheet total differs from the dashboard total by 35 members.					

Newsletter Editors' Report – Katie Raney and Jerrel Geisler

- Katie is looking to step down as soon as there is a replacement
 - As co-editor for 6 years, she has been gathering submissions, editing, and distributing the newsletter
 - Jerrel Geisler will continue as co-editor, doing the layout and design of the newsletter
 - Let Katie and Jerrel know if interested in a co-editor position
 - **Note:** *At the conference lunch business meeting, the board voted and accepted Ken Forman as the new Newsletter Co-Editor*
- Adobe Suite software or membership for the board/region
 - Used to create the newsletter
 - Could also be used to create marketing materials, logos for conferences, etc.
 - Jay suggests for them to put together what works best for us
 - Donna suggests putting a “Join Now” link on the website and have it connected with the newsletter
 - When things are late getting to the newsletter, then it won't be added to keep the newsletter getting out on time
 - Discussion on ways to receive reports easier and faster

Scholarship and Professional Development Chair's Report – Rebecca Sellers

- Our region awarded our first National Conference scholarships in November 2017
 - Student scholarship was awarded to Amanda Alessi (Wichita State University)
 - Professional scholarship was awarded to Ken Forman (Fred Berry Nature Center)
 - Their essays on their experience to be published in the next newsletter or in a blog
- 3 students attending the Regional Workshop on the Freeman Tilden Student Scholarships – all 3 are international students studying here
 - Leif Nordstrom (University of Missouri)
 - Ashley Kelly (Kansas State University)
 - Andres Leon-Reyes (Kansas State University)
- Our first Professional Development scholarships in the Fall of 2017
 - The recipient has already chosen a CIG training for their certification
 - They will be reimbursed for the cost of the workshop and certification after successful notification
 - The next round of applications is open now until March 31st
- Rename one of our scholarships after Connie (Elpers) Leger, a longtime NAI member from Kansas who recently passed away
- We are not getting a lot of requests for scholarships or professional stipends so we need to take responsibility and advertise and encourage others needing these awards
- The Jon Brown University in Springdale, AR has a great outdoor education program that had no idea of the scholarships; Jay informed them so hopefully we will get scholarship applications from them
- Discussion on workshops possibly paying for or donating lodging during the workshop to offset the students' expenses to come to the workshop to receive the scholarship

Website Report – Rachel Roth

- The Region 6 website has between 75-500 visitors each month in 2017
- Views ranged from about 200 to 1,700 with the most views in January and February looking for annual workshop information
- Posts for 2017 were on par with previous year
- NAI Region 6 Facebook page has 468 likes and 463 active followers
- In December we posted the most popular post to date – the “You Might Be A Naturalist...” photo and call for ideas
 - Reached 73,000+ people and was shared 470 times
 - Reactions, comments and shares totaled 5,427
- Other Facebook posts in 2017 were between 60 – 5,200 people
- “You Might Be A...” stickers
 - 3 were designed to sell as a fundraiser for our region

- 450 were printed
- Each cost us \$.74 to make (total cost including tax = \$357.98) and we will sell them for \$3 each for a revenue of \$992.02
- The designs are poster size so they can be repurposed for other projects in the future
- Let Rachel know if your contact information changes so she can get it changed on the website

Arkansas State Report – Don Simons

- Shea Lewis is the new Deputy Director of Arkansas State Parks
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission broke ground on a new nature center in Springdale in northwest Arkansas
 - The 36,000 square foot building will be surrounded by 61 acres
 - It will include a state-of-the-art educational building, indoor and outdoor classrooms, educational pavilions, traditional and 3-D archery ranges, watchable wildlife walking trails, wildlife habitat areas, a creek boardwalk and overlook, native plant gardens, wildlife viewing blinds, and other amenities
 - Construction will take about three years
- City of Fort Smith is celebrating its centennial so there will be a lot of events this year
- Don won a national award at Spokane national workshop

Kansas State Report – Pat Silovsky

- Teacher workshop co-sponsored by KACEE, PSU Nature Reach, and Southeast Kansas Nature Center held at the PSU Campus on June 19th
- Peruvian Amazon Rainforest study abroad style trip in July 2019
 - Cost will be between \$3500-\$4000 including airfare from Tulsa or KC, room and board, guide services, ground transportation, and gratuity.
 - Trip is open to college students, environmental educators, interpreters, and cool people who like to travel to exotic regions
 - Contact Delia Lister for more information
- Ted Cable is retiring!
 - He and his co-authors have revised their interpretation book *Interpreting Cultural and Natural Heritage for a Better World*, now available
 - Ted and Larry Beck will be the keynote speakers at the NAI International Conference in France this April
- Jim Mason retired in December after 39 years and 4 months of service as an employee of the Wichita Park Department and Director of the Great Plains Nature Center
 - Editor of the pocket guide series – Stream Fishes, Spiders, Land Snails and Amphibian, Turtles and Lizards (contact the Great Plains Nature Center for copies)

- Mary Clark retired in December after 40 years of service to the Dillon Nature Center and Hutchinson Recreation Commission
 - Mary's retirement reception was held at the nature center and approximately 300 people attended
- Dillon Nature Center held its first Foodie Fest on the Trail and Farm to Table Dinner last August
 - Goal is to educate and encourage our local community to make healthy food choices and purchase fresh, healthy food from local growers, farmers, and producers
 - This year's Foodie Fest will be August 5th from 1 – 4pm
- Amber Myers from the Flint Hills Discovery Center will be the recipient of this year's Connie Elper's Rising Star Award given at the KACEE awards banquet in April
- Jean Aycock is heading back to Mississippi to be an Outreach Educator with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

Louisiana State Report – Rusty Scarborough

- Barksdale Global Power Museum in Bossier City received a major donation that will fund all new interpretive panels for their airpark
- Shreveport Aquarium has seen over 80,000 guests since it's opening in November 2017
- This winter marks a milestone for a major project at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge to install nearly 65 informational and interpretive wayside signs and trailheads throughout the refuge – they will be unveiled in March 2018
- 40 new Master Naturalists
- The city of Natchitoches has helped Fort St. Jean Baptiste Historic Site's efforts in the preservation of our birds and water fowl by declaring Natchitoches a bird sanctuary
 - The killing of any birds, especially songbirds, is prohibited within city limits
 - Staff members of FSJBSHS have been making homemade bird feeders for migratory birds that stop by



- The Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park had a successful “Owl Night” for the 13th year
- The Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is starting two new citizen scientist programs – NestWatch and FrogWatch starting in early March
- Next event at WBJMNP will be Fairy Houses and Gnome Homes set for April 7th at 11am
- WBJMNP will soon get a gift shop



- Louisiana State Parks March 2018 Calendar of Events

Missouri State Report (given at Business Meeting) – Michelle Soenksen

- Missouri State Parks are hiring seasonals
- Janet Price has retired
- The National CIG training team held a workshop in Missouri
- John Miller will soon be retiring

Oklahoma State Report – Donna Horton

- The fall CIG workshop held at Oxley Nature Center in Tulsa added 10 more trained interpretive guides to our region
 - 25 CIGs at Oxley Nature Center
 - 18 acquiring certification

- Other fall CIG workshop participants were from Tulsa Zoo, NPS, Oklahoma State Parks and Arkansas Frog Watch
- The spring CHI and CIG workshops at Oxley Nature Center will take place in March 2018
- A new event management company in Oklahoma City
 - “Destination Oklahoma” – offering daily walking tours of Oklahoma City or themed excursions to places like Guthrie and Pawhuska
 - Their mission: to inspire both residents and visitors with an appreciation for Oklahoma’s wealth of history, architecture, and culture
 - They will soon move their office into the historic Santa Fe Depot near Bricktown
- Snowy owls are invading Oklahoma
 - Locations include Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge in Yukon, OK, at Will Rogers International Airport in Oklahoma City, at Lake Arcadia in Edmond, OK, at Covington, OK southeast of Enid, near Guthrie, OK, near Oologah, OK, and near Caney, OK in Atoka County.



- 126 species observed during Oklahoma City’s Christmas Bird Count
- 19 Oklahoma State Parks participated in America’s State Parks First Day Hikes, a nationwide initiative
- Dale Chihuly’s “Magic and Light” show fills a series of galleries at the Oklahoma Museum of Art and features his well-known stunning blown glass forms
- Oklahoma Museum of Art opened “The Art of Oklahoma” on November 16, 2017, the 110th anniversary of Oklahoma’s statehood

Texas State Report – Tara Humphreys

- Two upcoming CIG trainings in Texas – June 2-5 at Clear Lake Park and June 12-15 at Houston Zoo
 - Contact CIT Amber Pepper for more information
- Adrien Hilmy is the new Education Coordinator at the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program Preserve
- The Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge had a very exciting winter of bird watching – 2 tundra swans and a trumpeter swan
- Texas Parks and Wildlife is now filling many positions, including Texas State Park interpreters, after the 2017 governor-mandated hiring freeze in 2017
 - CIG workshop held in January and another one is scheduled for July for the new park interpreters

New Business

- NAI Advisory Council – Jay is the chair now! 😊

Adjourn

-Rebecca moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.