

**NAI Great Lakes Region 4 Meeting  
RIW Board Meeting  
March 25, 2021  
1:00 pm EST  
Zoom**



Present: Debbie Nofzinger, Jennifer McDowell, Mandy Martin, Kaitie Janecke-Soltesz, Marie Laudeman, Hannah Teshka, Paul Cypher

**Director Update:**

Deb- glad to see everyone even though virtually

RIW committee has done a great job this year adapting to Covid and the virtual sessions

This will be Deb's last regional workshop as director. She shared it has been wonderful experience including visiting great places and people and seeing so many interpreters. This RIW in particular has been rejuvenating

Special thank you to Jennifer Kirts and Bob Dispenza as their terms on the regional board ended this past year

New faces included Mandy Martin, secretary and Renell Roebuck, treasurer

Thank you to Aaron Douglas as committee chair for communications. Thank you to Paul C for awards chair.

Kaitie Janecke-Soltesz has taken over for Aaron as communication chair

New exec director of National. Milward Simpson. He's jumped in feet first and hit the ground running

Deb shared some information regarding the NAI National webpage and encouraged everyone to check it out

New initiatives

Jedai community

Sustainability community

Region IV budget submitted in financial good standing.

Submitted core services all in good standing- including scholarships, RIW, etc...

Ways and means- new swag on the way

**Marie- Scholarship co-chairs**

Shared there were the 7 scholarship winners - Nicky Ball, Dylan Allison, Will Reding, Casey Jezewski, Jamie Krupka, Marina Opitz and Stellar Mason, Maureen Stine-professional development winner in December 2020. There are still professional scholarship funds available this year.

National scholarship deadline coming this summer.

26 people turned in hiking log sheet for the hiking challenge to Hannah and 41 people signed up from Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Everyone will get a sticker for participating. Send in your mailing address if you signed up and didn't turn in your log sheet.

Marie thanked sponsors for their support – Friends of Indiana Dunes, City of South Bend Venues, Parks and Arts and Mendoza Creek Designs

Marie- shared photos from hiking participants and their travels themes were water, food, dogs and spring phenology

Favorite pic was the barred owl eating a crayfish by Kristen Osborne from Ontario

Prizes were awarded by drawing from the wheel of names website.

NAI region 4 prize pack-winner Ray Novotony (Michelle will send that to him)

Next prize is \$50 amazon gift card-Gail Vander Stoep

Jill Vance won the most miles on the hiking log sheet with 87.98 miles recorded with 761.58 total miles recorded collectively among all participants.

Andrew McDowell-won prize pack from RIW committee

Kaitie shared a special thank you to Acorn Naturalists for the sponsorship as well