



## NAI Great Lakes Region 4

### October Email Updates

Reports Received From: Deb Nofzinger, Jenn Kirts, Jill Vance, Cookie Ferguson

- Director's Report –Deb Nofzinger
  - Deb is working on an informational video for incoming directors; it is currently at headquarters being assessed; the deadline is Sept. 1 for feedback. The first one includes information on the history, bylaws, and constitution of NAI.
  - They are updating the community manual on a national level
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee; Environmental Sustainability Committee
    - On the national level there has been discussion on whether these stay a committee or become a community.
  - Diversify Outdoors: NAI pledge can be found here:  
<https://www.diversifyoutdoors.com/nationalassociationforinterpretation>
  - Interpretive Media Section presently has no director or other leadership and are not meeting their core services responsibilities. They are currently searching for someone to take the lead on this.
  - Deb is going to look into budget accountability with national because right now there isn't really any accountability for it as far as what we have, what we've spent and on what. She's going to see if there's a way to get more current information (beyond a monthly report).
  - New Deadline Dates
    - Budget: March 30
    - Core Services: March 30
    - Code of Ethics: First week in January
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- Deputy Director's Report – Jennifer McDowell
  - Regional Interpreters Workshop – 2020  
Cleveland OH, Crowne Plaza
    - Co-Chairs Becky Parkin and Renell Roebuck are working on finalizing budget with committees so can set registration fee soon in the next month or so
    - Sponsorships
      - Wil Reding, \$100
      - Acorn Naturalists, \$250
      - Committee still continuing to send requests
    - Concurrent Sessions
      - Deadline for submissions was 9/27.
      - Waiting to hear how many were submitted, if there is an extension
      - One Keynote speaker from Cleveland Foundation
    - Mobile Workshops

- Best of Unique Cleveland Museums – Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Museum of Art, Maltz Museum, Mitchell’s Ice Cream
  - Finding Cleveland Culture Outdoors – Lakeview Cemetery, Cleveland Art Museum for lunch, Cleveland Cultural Gardens, Terminal Tower
  - Urban Birding Adventure
  - Cleveland: A Foodie Town – Cleveland Convention Center, Rust Belt Riders, Great Lakes Brewery, Westside Market
  - Top of the Tower, Bottom of the Gulch – Holden Arboretum
- Regional Interpreters Workshop – 2021  
Grand Rapids, MI
    - Working on conference center/hotel – preferred location is Prince Conference Center with rooms on property, as well as dorm opportunities at Calvin College. Calvin’s Ecosystem Preserve and nature center are just behind the Prince Center.
    - Committee has also been in contact with Experience GR (the CVB)
    - Pushing for 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March, 2021 as that is Calvin’s spring break
    - Co-Chairs – Kaitie Janecke Soltesz, Melinda Robinette and Jeanette Henderson
- Regional Interpreters Workshop – 2022

REMINDER – NO REGIONAL WORKSHOP, NATIONAL WILL BE IN CLEVELAND IN 2022

- Secretary’s Report – Jenn Kirts
  - Minutes from this email update will be sent out once they’ve been approved by Deb.
- Treasurer’s Report – Bob Dispenza
  - Region 4 received a \$250 sponsorship from Acorn Naturalists for the 2020 RIW. It is in the mail to national.
  - Net profit for 2019 through the second quarter is \$3,096.93. At the end of the second quarter we had just over \$39K in the account.
- Committee Reports
  - Archives – Cookie Ferguson
    - Continuing to track down missing links as time allows.
  - Awards – Laurel Zoet
    - No report submitted.
- Communication – Aaron Douglass
  - We have 39 new accounts before we reach 2,000 people. We will either need to purge again or pay \$29.99 a month for the next upgraded plan. According to mailchimp, the upgraded plan comes with "batch mailing" which should prevent our emails from going into spam folders.
  - The most opened emails are ones having to do with job opportunities or scholarships. It appears money is a leading factor for our membership.

- We had almost no content sent in for the fall emails. This is typical considering the summer time is when it would have to be written. I need to do a better job of seeking content creators out instead of hoping they will find me.
- Interpretive Project Grants – Victoria Zablocki
  - I have compiled the four applications that were eligible for consideration for grants and sent them off to the committee members for review. I have asked them to complete their scoring by November 8<sup>th</sup>. Of the five applications I believe that four are eligible based on the three eligibility requirements on the application and those are the four that I have sent forward for review. Kelly Bentley would like to remain on the committee as a member so I have included her and Jim Witter as new members this year.
- Scholarships and Grants – Jill Vance
  - National Conference: no scholarship awarded for the 2019 conference
  - Regional Conference: application for the 2020 conference scholarship will be available around the end of the year
  - Professional Development: scholarship of \$115 awarded to Ellen Holste to participate in NAI's Social Interpretation training in early December 2019
- Membership – Renell Simrau
  - No report submitted.
- Student Involvement Committee – Will Gosnell
  - No report submitted
- Ways and Means –Michelle Fournier
  - No new information. A survey on content for stickers will be sent out via the Four Though sometime this fall.

**Meeting “closed” on 10/21/2019**