



Present: Renell Simrau, Aaron Douglass, Deb Nofzinger, Jenn Kirts, Bob Dispenza, Nora Sindelar, Becky Parkin, Jill Vance, Liz Emerson, Jenn McDowell, Cookie Ferguson

Director's Report – Deb Nofzinger

Deb Nofzinger recommended including the full names of people in the minutes so it's clear who did what in the future.

Action: Jenn will make those adjustments to the January meeting minutes.

Motion: To approve January minutes – Bob Dispenza moved, Deb Nofzinger second, motion passed

National Update – The board is coming in for RIW. Flights and rooms are scheduled, some are presenting. This is the first time the board is holding their 2-day meet at an RIW. Their goal is to hold board meetings at the same time/location as different Organizational Updates.

Policy Manual update – Deb Nofzinger has received several updates but is still waiting on others. We will hammer this out during RIW with the goal of completing the updates by the end of the RIW.

Regional Business Meeting – March 22 at Regional at 8:30am – There has been an effort in the past to make this more engaging and fun. This year we are not going to do an overall theme or plan, each person will be responsible for presenting their own stuff. We may make use of the format from last year.

Action: Send Deb Nofzinger a picture of yourself. If you want to, send information to Deb for bullet points. Otherwise, just plan on chatting about your information.

Deb Nofzinger will do a general welcome and overview. National Board members will update on National stuff and we will do individual committee/chair updates.

Jennifer McDowell – Deputy Director – RIW Conference regular registration ends this weekend – we currently have 121 (or 119) registered. We are hoping to pull in a few more people in to the conference through social media and 4 Thought blasts. Jennifer McDowell will email Jill Vance an update to post on Facebook. Jennifer McDowell is working with Renell Simrau for a new members' thing. Lots of great concurrent sessions will be offered by members. Longer descriptions of the sessions will be available soon. The committee is working on logistics and bills right now (transportation and food) and being sure they get everything they need to get paid from National. Cabelas will donate items for our auction. The RIW committee has been working really hard on this and we really appreciate their dedication.

Ontario RIW for 2017 – Jennifer McDowell has been trying to get in contact with the Ontario committee. We don't have anyone from Ontario attending the RIW this year, so Jennifer McDowell has requested a promotional presentation from them. The 2017 RIW will be in St. Catharines in Ontario. We should plan to do a reminder about what people need to do to get their passports and the timeline for that as part of the promotion for 2017.

We are looking for some Michigan folks for the 2018 conference. There's been rumbling out there, but nothing definitive has come to the surface

Jenn Kirts – Secretary – Minutes were submitted from the January meetings and contact information was updated.

Bob Dispenza – Treasurers Report – He just recently got detailed information for 2015. Bob does not currently have an electronic budget sheet from Jenn Wright so Deb will work on getting access to that. He has not yet been very involved with registration for RIW. He has requested petty cash for the auction at RIW. The National office should have the

information on how much money we have brought in and should be able to share that with us soon. The contact that the RIW committee has been using is Jamie King.

Committee Reports

Archives – Cookie Ferguson – No archive updates. Please send things to Cookie for the archives. She will be at RIW to collect items.

Awards – Liz Emerson – We received 29 nominations this year which was a significant increase from last year (3x more than last year). In some categories the scoring of nominees was very, very, close. Liz Emerson has reached out to nominators to encourage them to re-submit in future years. Nine awards are being presented. The committee is working on remarks and 40 second 4 thought announcements. The plaques are in production. Recipients will receive 8x10 plaque while the institution will receive a 6x8 plaque. The NAI Logo will be on the 8x10 plaques. Liz Emerson will be requesting assistance for presenting awards from the board as some of the committee members will not be able to attend.

Communications – Aaron Douglass – The 40 Second 4 Thought has been going out. Jessica and Aaron Douglass went through the policy manual and made lots and lots of changes. They are going to talk more at the RIW to make sure they are on the same page. One issue they wish to resolve is how we spell 40 Second 4 Thought. They feel this should be consistent. Aaron Douglass asked the board to keep sending stuff to share on the 40 Second 4 Thought.

Interpretive Projects Grant – Kelly Bentley – She emailed information because she wasn't able to call in. Deb Nofzinger shared her report. The 2016 application has been updated and will be sent out via 40 Second 4 Thought and posted on the website. Kelly Bentley will need to send a pdf of the application to Dan or Aaron Douglass. Kelly Bentley is working on getting someone to promote IPG at region (she can't attend). They need more committee members, including 2 from Indiana and 1 from Michigan. They will also post the need for members on Facebook. The committee receives the reports from recipients of the grant a year later – so we now have the reports for 2014 awards, but not the 2015 awards as they were just awarded this fall. We'd like to acknowledge the winners of the IPGs at the RIW.

Membership – Renell Simrau – The deadline for the application for free memberships is at the end of April. They will be awarded in June. Renell Simrau requested a table at RIW and will do meet and greet for new members at RIW.

Scholarships and Grants – Jill Vance – We received 12 applicants for the Regional Grant. The people awarded RIW scholarships were Marilyn Williams, Hillary Lenton, Julie Bartolone, Kristen Hoogstra, and Christina Snyder. They have all be contacted and processed. 5 RIW Grants were awarded. National Grant Application is now on the website. The due date is June 30.

Student Involvement – Jenn McDowell – Students will be doing a poster session at the Marketplace of Ideas. This gives them good exposure to professionals in the field.

Ways and Means – Nora Sindelar and Becky Parkin – T-shirts will be for sale at the RIW. They should cost about \$15, and are gray with the Great Lakes on it and says National Association for Interpretation Great Lakes Region. This has been the major effort in the committee and the goal is to have it ready for the RIW. Becky and Nora encouraged the board to buy the t-shirt from them early in the conference so other people can see them and be motivated to purchase them.

Action: Aaron Douglass will send out a message in a 40 Second 4 Thought about the t-shirts. Nora and Becky will get photos and information to him.

Deb Nofzinger – May be in contact with you looking for due dates so they can be provided to people at the RIW.

The Next Meeting will be at the RIW on March 22 at 8:30am.

The next conference call will be on July 7 at 2:30pm EST.