

National Conference GLR4 Meeting – Monday, November 9, 2020 at 12pm EST

Present: 46 members including Deb Nofzinger (Director), Bob Dispenza (Treasurer), Jenn Kirts (Secretary)

National News

- Deb Nofzinger welcomed everyone.
- Great Lakes Region 4 membership is currently at 1154. Deb encouraged members to reach out to one another to brainstorm and see what is working for everyone.
- There are 125 Region 4 members registered for the National Interpretive Workshop this week.
- National Award Winners from Great Lakes Region 4 include:
 - Evie Kirkwood (St Joseph County Parks) - NAI Fellow; nominated by Ray Novotny
 - Amy Roell (Great Parks of Hamilton County) Master Interpretive Manager; nominated by Ray Novotny
 - Julie Gee (Ohio State Parks; Burr Oak) Master Front-line Interpreter; nominated by Ray Novotny
 - Bert Szabo (Summit MetroParks) Special Award
 - December 4 Bert will be 100 years old. If you have the opportunity to see him or talk to him, wish him a Happy Birthday!
 - National Interpretive Workshop Scholarship recipients this year are Kayla Leach and Christy Graser.
- The Executive Director position for NAI:
 - Margo Carlock's last day was October 23. She has retired.
 - Milward Simpson will be the new ED. His first day is November 18, but he will "pop in" throughout the conference to say hi. He has worked for both state government agency and nonprofit organization. His most recent gig was serving as Wyoming State Director for The Nature Conservancy.
- New Communities have been added
 - JEDAI – Justice Equity Diversity Accessibility and Inclusion – Meeting Monday, 11/9 at 8pm. Brian Forist is a good contact for this community.
 - Sustainability – Meeting Monday, 11/9 at 6pm; it may not be open to folks who are not registered for the conference and you may need to add it to your schedule; They will be in the Expo Hall daily. There is also an active Facebook page for this community. Andrea Krava is the Director for this section.
- International Conference
 - The conference scheduled for South Africa has been postponed with hopes of holding in 2022.
 - They have now moved toward an International Virtual Conference called the Forum for Interpretation in the Americas held Feb 9-11, 2021; More information will be available

online as they become available. It will include Interpretation Canada as well as Interpret from Mexico.

GLR4 News

- Recently held a successful election
 - New Treasurer will be Renell Roebuck (Geauga Park District) -> Bob Dispenza is the outgoing Treasurer
 - New Secretary Mandy Martin (Dark County Parks) -> Jenn Kirts in the outgoing Secretary
 - The transition will take place in January during the annual board meeting. It will likely be a virtual meeting.
- The Regional Interpretive Conference for 2021 was scheduled to be in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 - Katie Jenecke Soltesz shared a video about the conference “Interpret the Rapids of Change”
 - The conference will be focused on community, conversation and open discussions will be planned. We are hoping for a good turnout.
 - Schedule for March 23-25, 2021 – Will be a virtual conference; lecture and small group opportunities, behind the scenes tours, scheduled for half days in the afternoons with social time at the end of the day
 - The fee will be \$80 for the full conference.

Reports

- Treasurer – Bob Dispenza
 - No money has been spent or come in since the spring.
 - Our upcoming budget is projected to be a deficit due to the fact that we did not have a conference in 2020.
 - Deb noted that we did not lose any money in cancelling the 2020 conference. We have been working to bring down our total account.
- Deputy Director
 - Not present, no report
 - Her responsibilities include supporting the regional workshops
- Secretary
 - Minutes are available on the website
- Awards—Laurel Zoet -> Ray Novotny
 - Laurel is not here today.
 - Ray and Paul Cypher have been writing up 4 Thoughts about the Regional Award Winner
- Archives-Cookie Ferguson
 - Not present, no report
 - Deb summarized role. Our archives (stuff from Region 4) are stored at Ball State University. If you find any Region 4 stuff in your personal stash, please get it to Cookie.
- Communications—Aaron Douglass
 - Not present, Deb shared
 - They are seeking submissions for the 40 Second 4 Thought – book reviews, funny stories, thoughts
 - He finishes his term this year and they will be seeking committee members

- Katie also requested photos for Instagram and Facebook
- Interpretive Project Grants—Victoria Zablocki
 - Not present, Deb shared
 - This year we reduce the amount to \$2,000 from \$3,000. This is a program that does not have a revenue source but we use surplus for it.
- Membership—Renell Roebuck
 - Not present
 - Comp memberships are awarded every year. This is funded through Bird-A-Thon. Ohio won this year (Ontario has been regularly winning). This year we awarded two memberships.
- Scholarships—Hannah Teshka & Marie Laudeman
 - They are planning to award scholarships for 2021 RIW.
 - They are also looking for folks who have experience with virtual fundraising experience as we seek to raise funds for future scholarships.
 - They also have a professional development scholarship available.
 - Applications available here: <http://nairegion4.weebly.com/scholarships.html>
- Ways & Means-Michelle Fournier
 - Developing a new item. We would usually sell them at the RIW. This year we are going to make 1 item available on the National website.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51pm