

NAI Great Lakes Region 4 Annual Meeting 2021
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2021
10:30 am EST
Zoom



Present: Debbie Nofzinger, Paul Cypher, Aaron Douglas, Brianne Warthman, Hannah Teshka, Jim Witter, Michelle Fournier, Kaitie Janecke-Soltesz, Jennifer McDowell, Renell Roebuck

Director's Report: Debbie Nofzinger

- Jen moved to approve meeting minutes. Deb seconded the motion.
- Introduction of new people. Many emails went out about election
- National elections are done. Three people on national board. Jay Schneider from Arkansas, Amy Roell from Great Parks of Hamilton County is treasurer and Debbie Nofzinger is on the National board as member at large
- New director is going to be Aaron Douglass and deputy director is Michelle Fournier. The new membership chair is Brianne Warthman,
- In Victoria's place will be Jim Witter as chair of interpretive project grants
- Working on being diligent on making what's going on at national level being more transparent for all of the regional organizations. Anyone is allowed to sit in on national meetings as guests. It's very beneficial for the community directors to attend the national board meetings.
- Updates from National: budget is very strong, funds from the national conference and CIG courses has been very successful, pulling in memberships and money that way. Trying to make sure that we can retain the new members longer and encourage renewal of memberships. Looking into ways to earn interest off of the current budget, possible endowment funds
- Region IV should have approximately 38k in our budget
- The advisory council procedure manual is complete. Appendices in back will be regional information.
- The definitions project was focused on the def. of interpretation. Was a 3-year project. Very intensive. Theresa Coble, PhD from Missouri put it together
- NEW Definition: Interpretation is a purposeful approach to communication that facilitates meaningful, relevant, and inclusive experiences that deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and inspire engagement with the world around us.

- Article in Legacy refers to it as the arc of interpretation now and how to facilitate it. Emily is in the process of figuring out how the CIG trainings are going to change. January 1 will start using the new definitions
- CIG may be changed from a certification program to a certificate program.
- Scholarship accountability was discussed. When scholarships are being given out there hasn't been any accountability in place for the recipients on national level. Region 4 does have an accountability process but it's not been across the board through all regions.
- National also would like to encourage more DEI throughout the organization. They're proposing to dedicate two-member at large positions one to encourage young professionals 30 and under and then one for a person of color. They have created a task force to look into it to see if it would be feasible.
- Debbie would like to discuss annual meeting which typically takes place at Pokagon.
- Regions are not supposed to be strategic planning. We can umbrella under national's strategic plan. We would just have to compliment national's strategic plan.
- Deb proposes executive committee come on Weds. evening. Have exec board 8am and have rest of the board come in that afternoon. Then talk about national strategic plan and put it into our region. Following day would be our entire board meeting-Friday. Weds-Friday (Thursday and Friday)
- How does January 13/14 look. Looks good for everyone. Region pays for lodge but not food We can bring snack to share as well. We will be able to order out for lunch. Meet in lodge for breakfast and go out in evening Thursday night.

Awards Committee: Paul Cypher

- 5th person now on committee. Amy C. Janecke from Indiana
- Following award ceremony discussion included advertising the award recipient, award committee will be receiving media contacts for all award recipients, will be awards in the spring even though there is no regional conference, Deb mentioned the national workshop committee still hasn't met. Paul would like to see region IV get some award time in the spotlight at national. Will wait til committee meets to see if anything comes about.
- Deadline for spring submissions will be Feb. 1. Update information on website about Sandy McBeth.

Communications: Kaitie Janecke-Soltesz

- Sara is no longer in editor position due to personal issues.
- Two new members Cherise and Melinda. Cherise is from Ontario.
- We will hopefully be incorporating French for our Ontario French speaking members. We have a website counter now. Tracks visitors and how they're using it. Average of 5 per day.
- Use this to monitor effectiveness of each part of the website. Deb mentioned Kaitie is doing a great job with the website and job advertising.
- We will all be getting NAI gmails to make transferring information. A clearinghouse to keep all of the important information for future members. Will need to document to keep all passwords and all will have a backup email for now from the communications email. Security phone number will be your personal cell number.
- Calendar is on the one drive with important dates. Working on prioritizing a weekly newsletter.

Interpretive Project Grant Committee: Jim Witter

The committee has decided on the grant awards.

- Great Parks of Hamilton County \$780 for their project Unwrapping the Secret Life of Birds
- Sandusky County Park District \$420 for their project From Farm to Market
- Grass River Natural Area \$500 for their project Reaching all Visitors with Interpretation: Interpretive Trail Guides
- Great Parks of Hamilton County \$300 for their project Growing Together
- We had submissions from organizations outside of the region
- There was discussion about that and the fact that there were two awards given to the same organizations.
- Jen suggested award media contact information Jim has, could be helpful for Paul Victoria sent Paul the information already.

Membership Committee: Brianne Warthman

Will have access to OneDrive soon and will be working on learning her role

Scholarship Committee: Hannah Teshka

- Mandy Martin received the scholarship to National conference
- Did all of the funds from Grand Rapids get taken care of?
- Deb believes so; Kaitie can double check
- Questions about auction in 2022. Deb said we can discuss doing a virtual fundraiser. We have the OOMI auction and the hiking challenge sticker can still be used
- Financially the scholarship fund is doing ok

Ways and Means Committee: Michelle Fournier

- Items for ways and means are in nationals' hands for a website store
- Jamie said it should be pretty quick to get it going
- Ideas for logo request will be sent to Kaitie soon; hopefully a winter project for some
- Michelle may have some potential candidates for chair. She will be reaching out to those who have expressed an interest. If that doesn't work out then advertising will be in the regional Four thought

Deputy Director's Report: Jennifer McDowell

- We do not have anyone who has stepped up for Indiana RIW in 2023.
- Aaron had a couple ideas, possibly Brown county
- Kaitie suggested reaching out to Scott Beam
- Renell has RIW bins.
- Debbie thanked Jennifer for all of her fantastic work

Secretary Report: Mandy Martin

- Mandy thanked the scholarship committee for awarding her the National conference scholarship. She is really looking forward to the opportunity to attend in December
- Still updating the committee members on the OneDrive especially since they have changed
- Asked all members to email the updated/new member list for each committee

Treasurer's Report: Renell Roebuck

- Need reaccess to OneDrive.
- Finally got a new Geauga park district email, still no phone.
- Lost all previous emails.
- Birdathon was \$330 virtually.
- Deb will send the report to Renell