

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AIANEA teleconference
April 8, 2005

Participants: Crystal and Audrey Leonetti, Ivan Dozier, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro Lo Pinto, Pat Broyles, Anna Whitebird Perales (also attending for Leota Burnett), Yvette Dulle, David Elliott, Glenn Lamberg, Noller Herbert, Larry Coburn

Minutes of the March teleconference were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tanya reported on the Treasurer's Report that was emailed to the National Council prior to the teleconference. She reported that on March 28, funding was transferred to a money market account as approved by the Council and this will show up on the May Treasurer's Report. Tanya discovered that the Silent Auction money from 2004 AIANEA meeting was not deposited into the scholarship CD. She will move the funds after the books are audited. Ciro moved to approve the report. David seconded. Motion carried.

Tanya said that Wells Fargo Investments has a better rate for CD's than Wells Fargo Bank: 2.8% -- 4 months; 3.05% -- 6 months; 3.15% -- 8 months; 3.25% -- 9+ months.

Tanya reported that she had submitted the W-9 certifying tax ID to IRS. There was discussion about the three signatories – Treasurer, Secretary, and 2nd Vice-President. David is not near a Wells Fargo but Crystal is. Julia agreed to call to see if the signature card at the Wells Fargo in Van Wert, Ohio is still good. Tanya said that she will have bills coming soon and the Bylaws require two people to sign checks over \$300. She asked the Council if they would consider waiving that requirement to pay for the pins, bags and drums. Glen so moved. Crystal seconded. Motion carried. Ciro moved to name Crystal as the third signatory replacing David. David seconded. Motion carried.

Tanya reported that two registrations for the conference have been received but not yet deposited. Also, there are some membership dues received but not yet deposited. Tanya submitted the Arizona non-profit incorporation information in with the \$10 fee. Tanya said that the former Treasurer had sent the IRS reporting information to her.

David suggested that the By-Laws be changed to have the audit done by February 15 rather than the currently stated December 31. This proposed change would need to be on the web for 30 days for member review.

It was noted that the audit completion deadline for 2004 would need to be extended. Pat moved that the audit date of December 31, 2004 be waived due to change in Treasurer's position and that it be completed prior to June 28, 2005. David seconded. Motion carried.

Ivan reported that he has gone through the treasury boxes and will give to Lori Gottula to complete the audit.

Regional Reports:

East: Ciro reported that the Oneida's lost their case – waited too long to reclaim. It was determined that just because you bought land does not mean that you can add to Tribal land. There are implications, e.g.,

reclaiming taxes. Only the federal government can create a reservation. NEDC is offering training for working on Tribal lands. Ciro did not go to training in Reno – tight state budget. Ciro stated that he has been assigned to a CSP watershed and will contact land managers about CSP on Tribal lands.

Northern Plains: Pat reported that the Tribal Scholars information was mailed out to members of Northern Plains and the SAIGE listserv. Pat stated that Kimberly Stein was participating for Earth Day.

Midwest: Glenn working with Native American outreach. There is a travel freeze in Michigan – approval for AIANEA meeting is on hold. Plant Materials Center is working on season extenders and developing a community garden guide. <http://plant.materials.nrcs.usda.gov> Glenn has given Tribal Scholars information to Tribal colleges.

South Central: Ann reported that Leota had no report.

Southeast: Larry reported that the Southeast Indian work group is moving forward on their conference – waiting for budget approval. Poster update: Larry said State Conservationist, James Tillman has approved - pending funding. Larry said that Noller is looking for funding. Andrew Johnson has offered a verbal commitment of \$2000. Larry said that everything is ready to go when the money arrives.

Liaison Report: Noller reported that the Tribal Scholars program is release on the web with the Pacific Islanders program. A NEDC course is being developed for program delivery to Tribes – putting a design team together to develop the course. They will poll people at the AIANEA annual meeting and will hold a teleconference before June. Posters – hard to find money now but we still have some time. Noller reported that four Native American students have been placed in NRCS for the summer through the WINS program. Noller said that the MOU with the BIA available on the web needs to be updated. People may send their comments to Noller. FSA has agreed to update. Noller stated that August 12-14 are the dates for the Museum of the American Indians' Powwow. In May, Noller will be in Alabama to work on program delivery to Tribes.

Ivan asked Yvette for an update on membership. Yvette reported that there are 56 members – 38 lifetime and 18 yearly. A reminder letter will be developed and sent out to renew. Yvette said that the minutes are posted on the website.

2005 AIANEA Conference Report: Herb sent out the budget. It is about \$6000 less than what he thought; approximately \$28,000. We will break even with 94 paid attendees. The budget is based on 150 attendees. 36 people have registered at the main hotel and two have registered for the conference. Pat said that Herb has some ideas – to add a social on Monday and to have a lunch buffet where people pay for their meal. Pat said that we have the speakers we wanted – though some high officials are tentative due to schedules. The agenda is to be sent to Anna by June. There was discussion about waiving fee for Tribal Scholars. One suggestion was to waive fee for any student accompanied by an NRCS employee – another to establish a student registration fee category. Noller suggested that a policy be developed to handle this situation in the future. Need to decide next month after we hear from Leisa Young.

Pat said that the Giveaway will be held in the gym if there is rain. Herb will take Elders to the site. Food may be transported to the Giveaway site. Roylene and Martin are developing guidelines for the Giveaway. Tanya will email out the guidelines.

David suggested that 2005 dues be discounted for people paying at the conference. We would need to amend Article VII and post on the web for 30 days. Noller suggested that there be two billing cycles.

After some discussion, David moved to amend Article VII to state that new regular members may pay dues at half-price at the Annual Conference. Ciro seconded. The motion carried.

David is looking at establishing a uniform poster size. Noller proposed 18" X 24." AIANEA will send letter of recommendation on size guidelines.

Other business: Tanya talked to the wife of Chief Looking Horse about request for money for World Peace and Prayer Day – June 18-21 in Elk Creek, South Dakota. June 21 is the U.N.'s Honoring Sacred Sites Day. Tanya said that, in the past, we have given sponsorships for name recognition on programs. Ciro moved to send \$250 toward the event. Glenn seconded. The motion carried. Tanya will send a letter and a check.

Ivan asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Ciro so moved. Glenn seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – May 13th.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hinders, AIANEA Secretary