

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AIANEA Teleconference
May 13, 2005

Participants: Ivan Dozier, Crystal Leonetti, David Elliott, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Julia Hinders, Felix Nez, Patrick Broyles, Leota Burnett, Ciro Lo Pinto, Noller Herbert, Larry Coburn, Anna Whitebird Perales

Two voting members said that they would not be able to participate for the entire teleconference. The agenda was adjusted so that issues needing a vote could be addressed while there was a quorum.

Pat recommended a photography committee be formed to be responsible for taking pictures and developing photos on compact discs to hand out at the conference. He also reported that wooden name tags are \$3 each and can be made up to 10 days before the conference. **Pat moved to purchase 100 name tags. Ciro seconded and the motion carried.** Tanya asked if we need to order name tags for speakers and dignitaries. Pat will send the names to Tanya.

Pat said that Herb is working with a company which embroiders and asked if we would want to purchase apparel to sell or give as gifts. **Ivan suggested that Herb check and see what can be initially purchased with \$200.**

Pat stated that a traditional cook will be needed for the meal at the Giveaway. There was a discussion of possible persons and what the travel costs would be. **Pat will talk to Louie Dick to learn more about the culinary stipulations for the Giveaway.** Pat said that Herb is making the frames for the drums which keeps the costs lower. There will be large and smaller drums. Drums will be given as gifts but people may also order them.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the April teleconference were emailed out to the National Council prior to the teleconference and reviewed. Crystal moved to approve. Felix seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was emailed to the National Council before the teleconference. There was a discussion regarding the rollover of the Certificate of Deposit (CD) and the addition of funds from the silent auction. The scholarship CD matures May 27. **Pat moved put the scholarship CD money into the money market account temporarily and to have money from the silent auctions 2004 and 2005 added to the money from the matured scholarship CD to create one CD. Ciro seconded. Motion carried. This action will take place after the audit and after the 2005 conference ends.**

Tanya reported that the conference CD matures on June 4 and that the association is in good financial shape for the 2005 conference. **There was discussion about rolling the CD over into a Wells Fargo Investment account with the highest interest rate. Cirso moved. Leota seconded. Motion carried.**

Tanya reported that the August 15 extension with IRS had been filed and that she will submit by that date after the audit is complete. Pat moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Felix seconded. Motion carried.

Tribal Liaison Report: Noller reported that American Indian/Alaska Native policy Title 410 is being revised and that Alaska Natives are providing recommendations. The Tribal Scholars application period closed and an announcement will be made at the end of the month.

Southeast Region Report: David reported that they had a good meeting in Alabama. It was the last meeting of the former southeast region. Their workgroups may be moved to the national level.

West Region Report: Felix said that discussions have begun on the 2006 AIANEA conference. There is a new facility opening in May – a Radisson Hotel with 240 rooms. The Gila River Sheraton Hotel is also very nice with 500 rooms. The hotel is separate from the casino. There was a discussion about a possible joint meeting with the Hispanic employees' organization to avoid a future scheduling conflict.

North Plains Region Report: Pat sent an e-mail to all Northern Plains members requesting nominations for an award. Pat reported that NRCS provided \$57,000 in financial assistance through EQIP to the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi. Kimberly Stine, an AIANEA member, went to the Potawatomi Tribe's Earth Day celebration for the NRCS. Pat said that he is being moved to the Emporia, KS field office where he will be a Soil Conservationist - effective May 30. The Plant Materials Center will stay open.

South Central Region Report: Leota reported that she worked with Miami Tribe on EQIP. She has not been able to reach Norman Lopez (tribal elder and Drum Group lead singer) regarding the Giveaway. Leota said that she mailed the Drum Group's music to six participants in preparation for the upcoming AIANEA meeting. She assisted in the State's Envirothon. There were seven groups of five students from all over Oklahoma. She chaperoned a group of girls overnight and led the Ninnekah group through the four stations. Edmond North won the Best Presentation, Aquatic's and Overall Competition, Wyandotte school won Forestry and Wildlife, and Ninnekah won the Soils Division. Leota said that Harold Bryant will miss the conference this year but will send a jacket, blanket and seeds for the Giveaway. Leota said that she would miss the June teleconference but said that she will appoint a representative from the region to give the report and would email the region report to the Julia.

Membership: Ivan said that Yvette reported the association currently has 62 paid members. Ivan reported that letters to the State Conservationists went out and that the conference/dues reminder letter was being sent so membership might be increasing soon.

Awards Committee: Crystal reported that May 16th is the deadline for nominations.

Elders Committee: There was discussion about approving new Elders so that they may attend the upcoming conference. Ann said that the committee will submit recommendations for an email vote by the National Council.

Other Business: Ivan said that now that we have a new Photography Committee he will send out an updated Committee Lists for review and approval. Tanya said several representatives from other NRCS employee organizations will be attending the conference. Tanya stated that she will be on vacation the week before the conference and that she has made arrangements to have last minute registrations mailed to Herb's home so he can provide them to her on June 26.

Next teleconference will be June 10. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hinders, AIANEA Secretary