

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AIANEA Teleconference

September 9, 2005

Ivan called the meeting to order at 11:37. Roll call indicated those present were President Ivan Dozier, First Vice President Crystal Leonetti, Second Vice President David Elliott, Treasurer Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Regional Representatives Ciro LoPinto, Glenn Lamberg, Leota Burnett, and Pat Broyles, and Membership chair, Yvette Dulle. Guests included acting National Tribal Relations Coordinator Jerry Thompson, member Buster Landin, APIO representative Manny Wei, and joining later, SAIGE President Cheryle Zwang.

Tanya provided an electronic version of the Treasurer's report via email and provided a verbal description on the activity. An erroneous charge has been corrected. More details came in about the conference costs. The end result is positive. We still need to resolve an issue with a CD. David made a motion to accept the report. Second by Glenn. Motion carried. Ivan reported that the 2004 audit is progressing again. There may be some more information needed regarding last years conference. Tanya reported that the reports are due to the IRS by November 15. Ivan will pass that along to Lori Gottula.

Ivan introduced Manny Wei from the APIO. Manny said APIO was excited about partnering for the 2006 conference. They are proposing a face to face meeting with key planning committee members. They would like us to consider meeting at the Black Employees conference in December. The APIO would also like us to consider an earlier time frame for the 2006 conference. Discussion was that the dates are still flexible. A joint AIANEA/APIO teleconference is being planned for October 4 to start planning.

Cheryle Zwang, President of SAIGE, talked about the organization and discussed their second annual conference. She said their attendance nearly doubled from the previous year. They would like to hold their conference in conjunction with our 2006 meeting and perhaps share a day. They have designated representatives to work with our planning committee and have offered assistance in looking over hotel contracts.

Jerry Thompson reported that Annabelle Romero was leaving her position and a search would be underway for a replacement. Jerry also reminded the group that Noller's position was advertised. He is working on an assignment to compile a history of NRCS assistance to tribes. Pat, Glenn and Crystal offered information past activities and suggested a request for updated information.

Buster gave a report on an inquiry he made in regard to pro bono legal assistance. This issue came up previously when the hotel contract for the 2006 conference was discussed. The request went out through the Native American Bar Association and three offers for assistance came back. Ivan asked if the request was for a specific contract or if it was open. Buster said it was open. David suggested we should also have a contract with our partners for the conference and it should be reviewed. Leota made a motion to request pro bono assistance from the Indian Law Center in Madison. David seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ciro suggested we may want to give consideration to form an Indian Law committee in the future.

Regional reports:

Leota – said she had been keeping busy at work and would provide a report on a request from the Kickapoo in Eagle Pass, TX later on the agenda.

Ciro - talked about the efforts to get a consultation course in New York. He also provided updates on the Cayuga land case. He offered to send more information out to those who were interested.

Pat – sent out a note to all NP members for the NCRC committee vacancy also the Tribal Relations Coordinator vacancy. The South Dakota STC reported to Pat on an EQIP/CSP public information effort directed at several tribes in SD. They also plan a joint meeting with ND to cover the Standing Rock Reservation. These efforts were made in part due to recommendations by the SD tribal Advisory committee. Pat also reported that there were two new SEPMs in the region, Cloyce Smith of Utah and Mark Janzen of Kansas. Pat had sent some information to Cloyce.

Glenn – filled in for Ivan at an Environmental Diversity Summit in Michigan. It was a good networking opportunity. Question has been asked as to why we don't have centers for excellence at Tribal Colleges? Jerry will do some follow-up on this.

Yvette reported that we have 106 members to-date. The directory has been updated. We have a request to post a link on our site. We have no established policy on this. Yvette will draft a policy and we'll send it out for a vote. In the mean time, because this request was from a reputable member and another member in good standing recommended the site, Glenn made a motion to establish a link to the Native American Youth website. Crystal seconded and the motion carried.

Crystal gave a report on the 2006 conference. We are starting off well with communication our partners. We are looking at other hotels and flexible with dates too. We need a planning committee meeting soon though so we can lock some of these things in.

2008 and beyond proposal was discussed at a special meeting. We are locked in for 2006 and 2007 and are open to having an "all association" meeting in 2008. We are also willing to set some guidelines on how we would like to see our conference schedule planned. Herb Webb is preparing a questionnaire to solicit comments from the membership. INCA's dates are set. Leota reported that Harold Bryant had a request from the Kickapoo Tribe in Texas. They have a new facility and would like us to have a conference there. We will add it in for consideration.

We need to prepare for the upcoming election. Ivan will get with Julia to see what terms are up.

Other items discussed: The committee chairs need to submit an activity report. Some council members did not get copies of the picture CDs from Montana. Ivan still needs to send out the DVDs from the ceremony at NHQ. Welcome letters have gone out to new elder advisors Joe Joaquin, Marie Meade and Billy Smith. Ivan and Ann are also working on getting comments back from the elders about the composition and selection of the committee.

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Crystal seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm