



---

## American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

### AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION FOR NRCS NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE March 5, 2008

**Those present:** Millie Titla, Dave Wise, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen , Levi Montoya, John Rogers for Leota Burnett, Ciro LoPinto, Herb Webb, Buster Landin (briefly at the beginning), Phillip Dixon (briefly at the end).

President, Millie Titla called the meeting to order at approximately **1:10 pm CST**.

#### Approval of Minutes

The February 2008 minutes were reviewed and approved by the National Council members.

**MOTION: 02-14-2008-1:** Motion was made to accept the February minutes.

Motion made by: Dave Wise

Motion seconded: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion passed: Unanimously

**Millie will email the minutes to Yvette Dulle to be posted on the website.**

#### Treasurer's Report

The February Treasurer's Report was provided to National Council members prior to the teleconference.

**MOTION: 02-14-2008-2:** Motion was made to approve, as presented, the AIANEA February Treasurer's Report for March 2008 AIANEA monthly teleconference.

Motion made by: Levi Montoya

Motion seconded: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion passed: Unanimously

#### Petty Cash Fund

Millie described recent National Council action to approve minor spending for items that could be covered by a petty cash fund and would not require National Council approval. Such items might include flowers, memorials, postage, and other low cost items. She reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws, which does not address this issue. Millie suggested guidelines be developed for this.

The National Council showed support for this idea. Tanya stated that it would make things easier for the Treasurer and entire Council. She stated that she has a guideline document that could be reviewed and revised to fit the AIANEA situation. She chairs the Budget and Finance Committee and offered that this committee could take the document, review, revise, and provide recommendation back to the National Council.

**Tanya and the Budget and Finance Committee will develop a recommendation for the National Council regarding use of a petty cash fund.**

NHQ/Tribal Liaison: Edith Morigeau –

Edith Morigeau was not available for the teleconference.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**AIANEA Committees/Chairs –** Dave Wise sent an email to the National Council with the committee lists that have been updated. The other committees are still being updated. It was determined that the Visioning and Strategic Planning Committees are the same. We need to get this finalized and posted on the website.

**When finalized, Dave will email the list to National Council and to Yvette Dulle for the website.**

**AIANEA Newsletter –** Buster reported that he needs help with the newsletter. He needs assistance with putting it together and articles. During the January teleconference, National Council determined that the next newsletter should include the list of committees, President's letter, 2008 conference information, and Treasurer position vacancy. Buster currently has only received three articles for the newsletter. Yvette offered to take over putting the newsletter together.

**The National Council will offer to assist if possible.**

**Regional Representatives will submit regional reports for the newsletter.**

**Yvette will begin developing the newsletter.**

**Send all articles to Yvette from now on.**

**2008 Conference-** Ciro reported on recent developments of the joint AIANEA and APIO conference planning committee. We had a teleconference on March 4. The letter to the Chief is going to be sent this week. We are still working on agenda development, especially topics and speakers. During the teleconference, we determined the general flow of the agenda as shown below:

Monday –	SEPM training all day
Monday evening –	Greeting circle and social event
Tuesday morning –	Official beginning of conference Joint general session
Tuesday afternoon –	Joint general session until around 2:30 pm, including the visioning facilitator giving a Keynote Approximately 2:30 – 4:30 – breakouts, including visioning facilitator
Tuesday evening –	Banquet, to include cultural entertainment
Wednesday morning –	Joint general session Joint Awards Luncheon
Wednesday afternoon –	Separate cultural sessions
Wednesday evening –	AIANEA Visioning Session APIO business meeting
Thursday –	Two tours
Thursday evening –	AIANEA business meeting Joint Auction
Friday morning –	Joint general session
Friday afternoon-	Travel

Next teleconference is April 1. Proposed registration fee is \$400 pre and \$425 full. Shiraz Vira is looking into an overflow hotel nearby, as we may not have enough sleeping rooms during peak nights.

**National Council members will send any ideas for topics and speakers to Tanya, Ciro, or Millie.**

**Membership Dues –** Yvette reported that the Membership Committee developed a list of member perks and a brochure. She emailed individual dues notices to all members. She emailed the notice, brochure, and perks brochure to Lifetime members to encourage them to participate on committees. One of the Membership Committee members suggested having a contest to recruit new members and provide a prize (ie: AIANEA shirt) for the winner. National Council supported this idea.

Yvette reported that we need to do a better job of marketing AIANEA as many do not know we exist. We need to inform states when employees receive awards, have accomplishments etc., so that members can also be recognized within their state. Yvette sent some specific suggestions to National Council to review.

The Membership Committee will develop guidelines for a recruitment contest.

Millie will contact a member that showed interest in becoming more involved in AIANEA regarding the Treasurer position.

National Council members will contact potentially interested members regarding the Treasurer position.

The Membership Committee will send information to all SEPMS and Tribal Liaisons regarding the training conference and the association in general.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws – Millie discussed a potential need for an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws regarding National Council members being current, paid association members. Currently, the Constitution and Bylaws only requires officers (President, Vice President, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President) to be paid members. The National Council agreed that all National Council members should be paid association members, whether elected, appointed, voting or non-voting members. The Council also agreed that candidates for National Council positions should also be paid association members. This would be included in Article X. Elections, in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Tanya and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will work on developing this amendment to bring before the National Council.

Regional Reports and Alternates – Millie asked several questions of the Regional Representatives:

“Should alternates be from the same region?”

“Do Regional Representatives want to develop guidelines for teleconference attendance and finding an alternate?”

It was suggested that the Constitution and Bylaws could be amended to require National Council members attend a certain number of meetings/teleconferences per year. It was also suggested that Regional Representatives try to assign a standard, set alternate to sit in for them. If this takes place, those alternates should receive all meeting minutes so that they can participate effectively. It was suggested that National Council members attend a minimum of 51% or 7 meetings. It was also suggested that the alternate can sit in on the teleconference even if the Regional Representative is present. Several options for identifying an alternate were discussed: identify a member that hasn't been involved (cultivate new National Council members and get more members involved); the past Regional Representative; past Presidents.

We will try this approach and consider amending the Constitution and Bylaws in 2009 to state a required percentage of participation if needed.

Regional Representatives will identify a standard alternate prior to the April teleconference and let Millie know so that she can include them in correspondence.

Millie will send a letter to the National Council regarding this.

Elders' Committee Report – Tanya reported that the Elders' Committee had a teleconference on February 19. Joann Herrera has volunteered to be the committee secretary. During the teleconference, the Elders gave input regarding the 2008 training conference. It looks as if they would like to again have Elder breakout sessions and an Elder panel. Tanya reported that progress is being made toward AIANEA having an association drum, as approved previously by the National Council.

Prior to the teleconference, Tanya emailed a recommendation from the Elders' Committee to the National Council regarding guidelines for the Roles and Responsibilities of the AIANEA Elders. Several Council members have concern about a portion of the recommendation.

National Council members with suggested revisions to the Elders' Roles and Responsibilities recommendation will email their suggested changes to Tanya no later than March 21, 2008. Tanya will take those suggestions before the Elders and committee.

Visioning Committee Report – Ciro reported that the RFP for a visioning facilitator is now available for the National Council and others to forward to anyone they know that might be interested. The RFP will also soon be on the website. During the training conference, the facilitator will provide a keynote address and a breakout session, which APIO has agreed will be considered a conference expense and will be shared by the two organizations. The visioning process with AIANEA members will take place Wednesday night of the conference. That expense will be fully covered by AIANEA.

Ciro will submit a newsletter article regarding this to Yvette.  
National Council members will send out the RFP to interested individuals.

Other – Levi shared that the Tribal Liaison position will soon be advertised for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado.

### Review of Action items

Items marked in red.

Next meeting – Setting a consistent day of the month for future teleconferences was discussed. Council members agreed that the second Wednesday of each month would work for the National Council teleconferences to take place at 12:00 pm Arizona time. Millie provided a website to assist in determining time zone differences. Once daylight savings time begins, Arizona time becomes the same as the Pacific time zone.

The next meeting is April 9, 2008. Call in information will be provided.  
12:00 noon, Arizona time

Respectfully Submitted by Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen for Carol Vallee Crouch, Secretary