



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

August 20, 2009

Welcome and Roll Call

Dave Wise, Levi Montoya, Millie Titla, Harold Bryant, Phillip Dixon, Gina Kerzman, Sharron Santure, Leota Burnett, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Carol Crouch, Nels Liljedahl, Blythe Koyiyumtewa

Not present: Ciro LoPinto

Meeting began at 11:05 AM MST.

Approval of June Minutes

The June minutes will be sent out since not all of the National Council received a copy. This topic will be tabled to next month.

2009 National Training Conference – Open Discussion

Sharron noted that she had the opportunity to review some of the conference evaluations. Leadership commented that they weren't able to attend all breakout sessions since they were attending the Working Effectively with American Indians Executive Session held at the same time. All trainings were good; there was just a lot of overlap and not enough time.

Tanya and Dave – There was a lot of information to present at this year's meeting. It's possible that there might have been too much good information to present. For the future, we will try to mesh the topics and breakout sessions better.

Tanya – Suggest posting the Visioning presentation and other Power Points presented at the conference to the AIANEA website for future reference.

Sharron will set up a meeting to review the conference evaluations next week on August 25th or 26th, as post conference close-out and planning for the future.

Dave – The individual contributions to the conference summary report was good input from everyone. This was a good strategy and approach to accomplish the report. Suggest adopting this approach for future training conferences. Need to determine who should receive the final conference summary report (i.e. State Conservationist's, conference attendees, AIANEA website, etc.). The option is still open for individuals to send the final report to their contacts.

For the future, we need to define and improve the reimbursement process and policy for registration. Doing reimbursements costs AIANEA money regardless of the time specified for individuals to cancel paid registrations. Suggest figuring in the transactions fees and interchange fees into the overall registration fee. Need to discuss this further as time progresses.

Harold will discuss the reimbursement process/policy with the conference planning committee for the registration fees assessed when registration is paid via credit card. Discussions will be related back to the National Council.

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report – Edie

No report was given at this time.

SEPM National Report - Carol

Carol reported that the Diversity Training conference is scheduled to be held in April 2010 as a Joint Diversity Training conference. It is confirmed that Carol will be conducting the SEPM training at the 2010 AIANEA training conference.

Carol held her SEPM teleconference and reported that the SEPM's in the states are working on their next SEPM Fiscal Year budgets and should discuss them with their State Conservationists. She recommended to her SEPM's to plan to attend both trainings. Carol stated that the April 2010 training will be mandatory for all SEPM's.

Carol has completed the compilation of the conference evaluations. Evaluations were clear as to how the rankings came out for the breakout sessions and the speakers. There were also quite a few comments regarding the elders. There were a few requests for the AIANEA to bring in elders from the area in which we are holding the meeting. Also, AIANEA should critique our concurrent sessions and determine if there are any topics that are being repeated yearly.

Carol will forward the evaluation compilation to the National Council for review.

Discussion regarding the April 2010 Diversity Training conference – if this is going to be mandatory, then it is possible that some people won't be able to attend the SEPM training at the 2010 AIANEA training conference. Who is requiring that the April meeting be mandatory? The SEPM training is for all SEPM's from all respective areas and not singled out to certain groups. As of now, the National SEPM training is scheduled for every three years, which may correspond to holding the all-employee joint association meetings also every three years. Overall, will this affect attendance the 2010 AIANEA training conference?

Carol has put together a "white" paper on this SEPM training; she will provide a summary of the information to the National Council.

Carol also reported that the AIANEA Training Conference Summary Report was delivered to the Chief of NRCS.

OTCAC would still like to support AIANEA scholarship. The idea of the "Feather" sponsors at the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Symposium in Las Vegas covered the booth/display fee as well as a conference registration fee. This was considered the same as a sponsorship and could be a consideration for future AIANEA training conferences.

2010 Training Conference – Tanya

- a. **Grant Opportunities for Host Organizations**
- b. **Tribal College Partnership – Dave**

Tanya, Ciro, and Sharron met with individuals from the North/South Dakota planning committee at the Green Bay conference this year. The local planning committee will meet once more before moving fully to the planning committee composed of volunteers at the 2009 business meeting. The outgoing North Dakota State Conservationist will encourage support of the conference planning to the new State Conservationist.

Tanya – discussed that traditionally, the AIANEA Regional Representative has chaired the conference planning committee for the conference held in that area. For next year's conference, Levi is the Northern Plains Regional Representative, who will look into this opportunity. A person from the Dakota's has also volunteered to chair the committee if needed.

Sharron will send an email to Levi with information regarding the Planning Committee Chair position.

Levi will see if he will be able to assume this position for the 2010 Conference Planning Committee and let the National Council know.

Dave - Having a co-host at this year's conference was a great partnering opportunity. We should consider carrying this over to next year's conference for a tribe, college, or another partner that is interested.

Dave will check with USDA and others for grant/partnering opportunities.

The discussion is open for thoughts on what points we need to bring to the attention of national leadership regarding the diversity/joint training conference. Find out what the agenda is for the 2 ½ days of training being planned at the April 2010 SEPM Diversity Training versus the one day that is provided at the AIANEA SEPM training conference. We need to find out why the April meeting is "mandatory".

The message needs to keep being delivered to NHQ and others that working with American Indians and Alaska Natives is not a civil rights issue. Working with AI/AN's is a separate issue that needs to be addressed separate from the other employee organizations. AIANEA Elder Louie Dick has always said that we must meet solely as the American Indian/Alaska Native Employee Association with national leadership and not meet jointly with all other organizations. We must educate everyone on the needs in working with American Indian and Alaska Native people.

2011 Training Conference Location (East) Discussion

Dave – need to determine the proposed location for the 2011 training conference. Nels suggested Bangor, Maine for the federally recognized tribe located about 8 miles from there. Discussion was begun for a location in the south, which David Elliott and Elder Billy Smith will provide more information on.

AISES Sequoyah Fellow Award for 2010 – Tanya

Paperwork for the AISES Sequoyah is due soon. AIANEA needs to determine who will be the next recipient of the Sequoyah Fellow award. Do we need to only select an elder to receive the award or can we select a person from the membership? After some discussion, the suggestion is to stay with the initial decision of awarding an elder with this award.

MOTION: 08-20-2009-1: Motion was made to select the named AIANEA Elder for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Sequoyah Fellow award and move forward with the paperwork with the payment of \$1,000 to AISES.

Motion made by: Gina Kerzman

Motion seconded: Leota Burnett

Motion passed: Unanimously

Tanya will contact Carol to see what needs to be filled out and will forward the completed paperwork to Harold Bryant for payment processing.

AIANEA Scholarships – Leota

One scholarship recipient has submitted his paperwork for his school registration to the Scholarship committee. He begins school next Tuesday.

Information on the Tribal Scholars program will be coming out soon.

INCA Partnership – Dave

Dick Gooby and Dave Wise discussed establishing a partnership between AIANEA and INCA. An invitation will be extended to Dick Gooby to attend the monthly AIANEA teleconferences.

Committees, Call for Volunteers – Tanya

New AIANEA members from the conference are interested and inquired into becoming involved on AIANEA committees. Deb Clairmont was putting a letter together to invite volunteers for the Visioning Committee and other committees. A suggestion was posed to combine the Silent Auction committee and the Scholarship committee since they have the same goal. This would also ease the recruitment of members to serve on both committees. There was discussion on promoting the Silent Auction in a more creative way to help increase the number of donations as well as increasing profits during the auction at the conference.

Gina will contact Felix Nez, Scholarship Chair, and Leota Burnett, Silent Auction Chair, to ask for their input on combining the committees.

Changes will need to be incorporated into the Constitution and Bylaws, which when ready, will be forwarded to Ciro LoPinto as the 2nd Vice President.

Elections, Call for Nominations – Dave

Elections are coming up soon. Solicitation for nominations will need to go to membership in September, with election finalized in November so that new National Council members can join the December teleconference.

Tanya will look into which positions/terms are scheduled to end at the end of this year.

Dave will work on the call for nominations and send out ballots to the membership for the vote.

Visioning Update – Ciro

The next Visioning Committee teleconference will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, at 4 PM ET.

Treasurer's Report – Harold

Still need to send out the Spirit of Colorado DVD's to the membership. There are about 100 DVD's still waiting to be sent out. About 50 were handed out at the conference. A note should be sent out to the membership as to why this DVD is being sent out. Harold is working with Yvette to get the mailing labels for this. Yvette suggested sending out the membership cards for new/renewal membership in the same mailing.

Dave will send a hard copy of the cover letter to Harold to include with the disbursement of the DVD's.

Tanya suggested sending out the Visioning Plan to the membership as well. Need to determine the best way to get the plan sent out. Suggestions were to upload the plan onto the AIANEA

website, scan and email the plan to the membership, or to send out the plan in the regular mail. Harold commented that mailing the hard copy of the plan will pose a significant cost.

Sharron recollected that the Visioning Plan will be posted on the website, per previous discussion from the Visioning Committee.

Review of Action Items

Action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Central

The meeting concluded at 1:38 PM MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary