



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
February 2, 2010**

Welcome and Roll Call

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ralph Goh, Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, Nels Liljedahl, John Harper, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Harold Bryant, Ann Perales (for Ciro Lo Pinto).

Not present: Levi Montoya, Gina Kerzman, Ciro Lo Pinto

Meeting began at 12:05 PM MST.

Tanya welcomed the National Council.

Approval of January Minutes

MOTION: 02-02-2010-1: Motion was made to accept the January 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: John Harper

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Blythe will provide the January minutes to Yvette Dulle to post on the AIANEA website. Completed 02/02/10

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report – Edie

Edie was not present due to her detail to USDA.

SEPM National Report – Carol

Action Item: Tanya will forward Carol's SEPM report on email. Completed 02/08/10

The SEPM Joint Training Conference will be in March 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri. The overflow hotel information includes: The Crowne Plaza Hotel and Hotel Phillips, within the same block of the host hotel, the Marriott. The registration deadline was January 30th. Hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible under the name "2010 Joint Training Conference" to get \$107/night room rate. There will be no need for taxis or shuttles.

Hotel Phillips
106 West 12th Street
Kansas City, Mo. 64105
816-221-7000 (hotel)
816-221-3477 (fax)
816-346-4422 (direct)
<http://www.hotelphillips.com/>

Crowne Plaza Kansas City Downtown
1301 Wyandotte
Kansas City, MO 64105
816.474.6664 direct |
www.crowneplaza.com/kansascitydwtm

The link below can be helpful.

http://www.nophnrcse.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=56&Itemid=77

2010 Training Conference – Tanya

Last month's Planning Committee monthly teleconference was held on January 14, 2010. Discussion included the full agenda and working toward posting the information on the AIANEA website. There was a smaller, separate teleconference for budget discussion – speaker fees, details, etc. Information on the 2010 training conference has been sent to the Chief of NRCS, Leadership and USDA. There was a response from Chief's staff, saying that the Chief accepted the invitation to attend. The national bulletin will be released in the near future with his signature.

The registration fee structure will be slightly different – AIANEA Member vs. Non-member (difference of \$25 for Non-members). May 10, 2010 is the Early Bird registration deadline, with the fee increasing by \$25 for Member/Non-Member after this date. Other employee associations use the split fee and it has been effective. Separate fees will be included for students, 1-day and 2-day attendance, guest banquet, etc. A cancellation fee will be implemented this year due to costs associated with credit card payments that are later cancelled. A fee won't apply if a substitute person is selected to fill a paid registration using the same credit card. A credit card can be used for purchases during the auctions for an item bid on at a higher value (~\$100 or more).

Visioning Committee, Leadership, Growth and Mentorship subcommittee (Millie Titla, Lead) – A Youth Fee will be used for students younger than college age. There will be a separate registration fee/agenda for these students.

Encourage participation from College-age students (locals, Tribal College), with a separate College student fee for the conference. These fees will be clarified on the registration form.

Next Planning Committee teleconference: February 11, 2010.

Next Elder's Committee Teleconference: February 22, 2010 to discuss conference items.

Treasurer's Report – Harold

Action Item: Information on investment/account balances will be forwarded to Tanya when received from the bank.

Mail received at Harold's mailing address, c/o Julie Hinders. No information on this, disregard. National Finance Center – There was some Non-employee compensation information received by Harold in the mail. Harold contacted NFC and found there was an error in sending out this information.

Action Item: Harold will submit the Tax-exempt status (501c3) for AIANEA meeting in the Dakota's. A separate Tax-exempt status for sleeping rooms will also be addressed.

Investment Ad Hoc Committee Update - Harold

Harold is pursuing Investment discussions with investment bankers for the existing scholarship fund and any other endowed funds in the future. The Ad-Hoc Committee consists of Felix Nez and Ciro LoPinto. They received information from Harold on policy and investment criteria and are reviewing for ideas for new funding groups. New funding group ideas will be forwarded through budget/finance committee then forwarded to the National Council for approval. The question is, "How will the funds be invested for a good return in the long term?". The NC will need to give approval based on the recommendations of Felix and Ciro, hopefully to be in place by April. For the future, payments to scholarship recipients will be made out of the interest/dividend rather than directly out of the general fund. The Scholarship fund is currently the only "identified" fund. The goal is to add three endowment (investment) funds – Youth activities, Elder Travel and Special

Projects (i.e. AIANEA drum). The Vision is for sustainability of the association financially. Incoming funds will need to be evaluated to be divided among the endowed funds. Some donations will be allocated for certain funds, such as the scholarship fund.

Action Item: Harold will provide a timeline to Felix and Ciro to submit their recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee. This will allow time for the National Council to review the recommendations and provide an approval for the investments. Goal is to put investments in place by April.

Harold discussed some of the items he's been working on with the banks, investments, prohibitions, etc. as AIANEA Treasurer. We should strive for long-term commitment for investment of AIANEA's assets.

Visioning Update – Tanya

Opportunities for New Regional Representatives

The Visioning Committee teleconference was held in January. An alternate date was selected for this committee's teleconference due to conflicts in schedule. Teleconferences will now be held every second Wednesday of the month at 12 PM ET.

There are three subcommittees: Relationship Among AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes; Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing; and Leadership, Growth and Mentorship. Each group contributes updates during the main teleconference, as they've been working in their sub-committees. Ciro is currently seeking a replacement for his position as the Relationship Among AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes subcommittee Chair.

The committee is currently seeking more members to help carry out the AIANEA vision. Newsletters will include visioning updates to the members. Crystal is working on her NLDP project in coordination with the Visioning plan. Invite new Regional Representatives (Ralph, Stacy, John) to join a committee. Stacy opted to join the Relationships subcommittee (**Action Item: Stacy will make contact with Ciro**); John selected the Elder's subcommittee and Ralph would like to review the Visioning document with the goals of each subcommittee before selecting one to join.

Action Item: Blythe will forward the electronic Visioning document to Ralph. Completed 02/02/10

Scholarship and Auction Committee Discussion - Gina

Table this topic to March teleconference.

Miscellaneous

Ciro is in contact with the Committee chairpersons to update the committee membership lists.

Deadline for upcoming training conference proposals: February 26, 2010 for the 2011 training conference. Proposals from all regions will be accepted. David Elliott will be forwarding a proposal for Alabama for decision in March teleconference, in conjunction with the rotation to the Southeast AIANEA Region.

Tanya will begin a new RC&D position on March 15, 2010 in Iowa. Her contact information will be updated at that time.

Harold mentioned that Membership Dues collection has been very light for 2010 thus far.

Action Item: Regional Representatives will send out a reminder to their regions to update their membership dues.

Review of Action Items

All action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2010 at 1:00 pm Central time.

MOTION: 02-02-2010-2: Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion passed: Unanimously

The meeting concluded at 1:25 pm MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary