



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE January 5, 2010

Welcome and Roll Call

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro Lo Pinto, Gerry Rouse for Gina Kerzman, Ralph Goh (late), Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, Nels Liljedahl (late), John Harper, Blythe Koyiyumptewa (late), Harold Bryant, Carol Crouch (briefly for National SEPM report), Herb Webb.

Not present: Levi Montoya

Meeting began at 1:03 PM Central time.

Tanya welcomed the National Council to the 2010 year and especially the new Council members: Stacy Kimble, Midwest Regional Rep; John Harper, Southeast Regional Rep; Ralph Goh, West Regional Rep; and Gina Kerzman, newly elected 2nd Vice President (former West Regional Rep).

Each National Council member introduced themselves and Tanya opened up a time for new members to ask questions. Stacy asked how to gain access to contact information for members in the Midwest Region. New Regional Reps were encouraged to get the list of members in their region from Yvette Dulle and also encouraged to inquire of the Regional Rep they replaced for more information. **Action Item:** Tanya will email Yvette Dulle's (Membership Coordinator) email address to all Council members. Complete 1/08/10

Approval of November Minutes

MOTION: 01-05-2010-1: Motion was made to accept the November 2009 minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: Leota Burnett

Motion passed: Unanimously

There are no December 2009 minutes to approve since there was not a quorum.

Action Item: Blythe will provide the November minutes to Yvette Dulle to post on the AIANEA website. Complete 1/8/10

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report - Edie

Edie was not present. She is on a detail to USDA. Edie provides the teleconference line for our monthly meetings and provides valuable information from a national level when she is able to join our teleconferences.

National SEPM Report - Carol

Carol reported that AgLearn is set up for registration for the joint employee organization conference and joint SEPM training March 15-19 and will be coming out soon. The SEPM training will take place on Monday and Thursday of that week.

The American Indian Heritage Month poster for 2010 will be done jointly between Oregon and Washington. This is a great partnering opportunity. Washington will take the lead. The 2009 posters were delivered successfully to all states. There are 2100 left at Landcare, 3800 have been sent out. The 2008 posters are gone, with 5900 being delivered. There are only 60 2007 posters left.

Carol was on a National SEPM teleconference today. There are 33 confirmed SEPMs that will attend the AIANEA conference and SEPM training. Most of these will also attend the joint training in March. The agenda for the SEPM training in Rapid City in June is complete.

Carol also has been serving as the American Indian female on the National Civil Rights Committee, with her term ending Sept. 30, 2009. She was advised in December that she is still in that position until a decision is made regarding the next term. Selections were made on December 23, 2009 and letters will be sent by the middle of the week of Jan. 11.

2010 Training Conference Update – Levi

Levi was unavailable so Tanya provided an update. The conference planning committee had their last teleconference the middle of December. The draft agenda is almost complete and is looking good. Tanya had hoped to get the paperwork to Chief White and other national contacts by the end of December, but there were some items that still needed decisions. Her goal now is to send introductory letters the week of Jan. 11 and a conference packet to Chief White the week of Jan. 18.

The agenda and registration form should be ready to post on the website very soon. The next committee teleconference is scheduled for Jan. 14.

Treasurer's Report – Harold

Harold shared the current balances by email in late December and has not received additional information from the bank yet. Stacy asked Harold to confirm that some pending issues regarding 2009 conference registrations from Michigan were being taken care of. Harold is working on this.

Investment Ad Hoc Committee Update – Harold

Harold met with Felix Nez in Las Vegas, while at the IAC/INCA conference regarding investments. Harold will be talking to an investment banker soon and then will discuss what he learns with Felix and Ciro.

Action Item: The committee will provide a report to the National Council at the February teleconference. Complete 02/02/10

Visioning Update - Ciro

Ciro reported that there isn't much to report at this time. The sub committees are working to accomplish items on the action plan. Tanya reported that, under the Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing part of the action plan, a committee has been developed to possibly create a Tribal Youth Camp project. The committee plans to hold their first teleconference Jan. 7. NOTE: The teleconference is being rescheduled due to low attendance because of widespread weather issues.

The next Visioning Committee teleconference will be Jan. 13.

Awards for State Conservationists – Leota

Leota reported that AIANEA has been fortunate to gain a lot of support from State Conservationists in the states that most of the Elders live. They have provided funding for the Elders to attend the annual training conferences. Leota proposed that AIANEA present an award to the State Conservationists that have provided this type of support for 2 years or more. The National Council supports this recommendation.

Herb mentioned that AIANEA has done this in the past, even for support given that was not associated with the Elders. Examples include states that approve a large number of employees to attend and provide other types of support. He suggested we consider all states and State Conservationists in this (all that provide support). This would especially include the Dakotas for 2010. He suggested we make this something we do annually.

Interest was shown in having the award be items made by a local native artist. The conference planning committee members that are local to Rapid City can be helpful for 2010.

Other

Tanya reported that an email went out today to all members soliciting for proposals for 2011 conference locations. Hopefully, the proposals will be received early enough that we'll have time to thoroughly review them and make a decision during the March teleconference.

The next issue of the AIANEA newsletter will be coming out in late January.

Ralph Goh joined the teleconference and shared that he would like to get members to be more active and is interested in any suggestions the National Council has.

Review of Action Items

Action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting: February 2 at 1:00 pm Central time.

MOTION: 01-05-2010-2: Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: Nels Liljedahl

Motion passed: Unanimously

The meeting concluded at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, President