



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
August 2, 2011**

Meeting began at 11:09 AM MST.

Welcome and Roll Call

- a. **Additional agenda items** – Nothing to add at this time

Voting Members: Gina Kerzman, Blythe Koyiyumtewa (for Ralph Goh), Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, David Pesicka (late), John Whitney (late).

- A quorum of National Council (NC) members was not reached today.

Non-Voting Members: Harold Bryant, William Parrish (in and out due to cell phone coverage)

Not Present: Ciro Lo Pinto, Levi Montoya, Ralph Goh, Jack Lewis, Sherry Cosper, Edie Morigeau, Carol Crouch

Review action items from previous minutes

Updated list of action items

Approval of July Minutes

MOTION: 08-2-2011-1:

Minutes were reviewed by all participants. Motion was made to accept the July 2011 minutes, with a vote to take place post teleconference with a National Council quorum.

Motion made by:
Motion seconded:
Motion passed:

Action Item: Blythe will provide the approved July minutes to Yvette Dulle to post on the AIANEA website following a vote by the National Council.

NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau

Edie was not available for the teleconference. No update provided at this time.

National AI/AN SEPM Report – Carol Crouch

Carol was not available for the teleconference. No update provided at this time.

Assessing skill sets and availability for Details/Special Projects/Leadership Opportunities for AIANEA members, SEPM's and Tribal Liaisons – Input and vote regarding survey - Gina

The survey was distributed via email to the National Council prior to today's teleconference for review. Stacy provided comments on the Tribal Knowledge and Experience section. Blythe suggested changing

the self assessment rating categories, "Low Knowledge – Average Knowledge – High Knowledge", to something more like, "Aware – Understand – Perform with Supervision – Perform Independently – Able to Train Others". This may be more helpful for participants to fill out and be less intimidating. Gina explained her thoughts and experience as she filled out the survey. Overall, the survey is good with some verbiage updates based on the reviews provided.

Action Item: Gina will provide the comments and suggestions to Ciro from today's review of the "AIANEA: Details and Skills" survey. For any changes incorporated, Ciro will send out the revised survey for final review and vote.

MOU with Outreach and Advocacy/Chief (example AAPI) - Stacy

Stacy has reviewed the AAPI example and has polled the Midwest Region members to have them offer their assistance in this process. The AIANEA MOU is a unique opportunity using the Seven Generations Visioning Plan as the basis for our MOU.

Joint Employee Association Task Force – Gina

There are no new developments that Gina is aware of, but she will go back through her email and determine what new information there will be.

Action Item: Gina will provide an update on the Joint Employee Association Task Force, if any.

2011 Annual Business Meeting – Input on agenda items – Gina, Harold, and William Parrish

A teleconference was held on July 8th. AIANEA Bylaws require us to hold an annual business meeting. Some of the logistics have been researched as far as day/time to hold the meeting, via teleconference, costs for lines calling in, voting options, etc. There are various thoughts and options being discussed for the business meeting. The following was provided to the NC via email prior to today's teleconference.

Alternatives for Holding the 2011 Business Meeting

Hold business meeting via teleconference

Hold conference in Alabama as planned, and employees travel on own expense on government time.

Regional meetings in lieu of national conference

Possible Agenda Items for 2011 Business Meeting

Open with traditional song and prayer

-honor loss of Leland

Greeting circle (can also serve as roll call)

Previous business meeting minutes

Regional Report on tribal activities by region

Treasurer's Report – include memorial fund reminder

Scholarships

Annual awards

Elections – heads up

Task force with other organization presidents

Send item to each person who attends (key chain, etc., if held via teleconference)

John Whitney brought up a question regarding non-profit law and possible state-specific requirements to hold face-to-face meetings. AIANEA is incorporated under the state of Arizona.

Action Item: NC members, please send any additional Business Meeting agenda items to Ciro.

Action Item: Harold will research the Arizona non-profit laws to determine if there is a said requirement for holding face-to-face meetings.

Proposed meeting dates are September 24th, October 1st, or October 8th. These are Saturdays, but it was discussed that a date on a Sunday might also work. The other option is to hold the meeting during the evening on a weekday.

Discussion was held regarding AIANEA making a final decision in order to notify to the Tribe/Hotel for the 2012 AIANEA Training Conference in Alabama. AIANEA has until October 1, 2011 to provide a response. Information to make an informed decision will be shared with the NC. There will be a final vote to determine whether or not to proceed with the 2012 Conference, which will take place during the September 6, 2011 AIANEA teleconference.

Action Item: The Regional Representatives will follow-up with their respective members to determine their responses regarding the 2012 AIANEA Training Conference in Alabama and bring those thoughts to the September teleconference.

Treasurer's Report – Harold Bryant/William Parrish

- a. **Monthly report** – Harold provided an update regarding the AIANEA accounts.
- b. **Other communications** – The Elders Memorial Fund is up and running, available for donations at this time. Any donations made to AIANEA are tax-deductible. Blythe suggested updating the AIANEA website homepage with information on making donations to AIANEA.

Reports on Standing Committees - Levi

Levi was not available for the teleconference. No update provided at this time.

Visioning

- a. **Leadership and Mentoring** – Progress from the committee on the leadership and skills assessment survey, as well as the application for the Leadership and Mentor program.
- b. **Elders and Youth** – No update at this time.
- c. **Tribal/Agency/Organization Relations** – No update at this time.

Additional Notes

John Whitney will be leaving tomorrow for Denver, CO to attend the "Our Natural Resources" conference, being led by the National Congress of American Indians.

Review of Action Items from current meeting

Blythe and Sherry reviewed all the action items with the NC.

On-Going Action Items from June 2011 teleconference:

Action Item: Any National Council and AIANEA members interested in volunteering for the MOU subcommittee please contact Stacey/Ciro. **On-going,** Stacy is generating interest as time progresses.

Action Item: **Ciro, Gina, Harold and William will work on putting the 2011 Annual Business Meeting together in July and work on getting this information out in the next AIANEA newsletter.** **On-going,** a teleconference was held in July; Gina presented the results at the August 2011 teleconference.

Action Item: **Ciro will follow-up with the Awards Committee to see if any of the committee members will be willing to sit in as Chairperson for the time being until a new person is selected.** **Ciro was not available for today's teleconference. No Action Item update provided at this time.**

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 6, 2011 - the first Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM EST

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM MST

Respectfully Submitted by,

Blythe Koyiyumptewa (for Sherry Cosper, Secretary)