

National Association for Interpretation
Region 2 —Chesapeake
Monthly Board Meeting
14 July 2021
Meeting Notes



Attending:

Sammy Zambon
Chris Kemmerer
Jackie Raiford
Kate Crane
James Hersick
Amy Stahler Henry
Maggie Cavey
Tiffany Jenkins
Susan Matthews

Chat before meeting while members are arriving

- Sammy mentioned that Yvonne is currently hiking in Shenandoah National Park. She was unable to find a good connection and join us for this meeting.
- Suzanne Moss has stepped down from her role as Acting Co-Secretary for the board. She has a busy schedule coming up. She will be returning to classroom teaching this Fall.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Yvonne, please contact NAI and ask them to add our new Maryland Co-Rep's Maggie Cavey and Tiffany Jenkins.

Review of Minutes

Sammy's last name was miss-spelled in the Spring Workshops section. Sorry Sammy!
No additional corrections. Last month's minutes were accepted.

Newsletter (Cynthia Rabbers)

- Sammy talked with Yvonne. Yvonne sent out an email blast requesting a call for articles. The due date to submit articles is August 15th.
- **ACTION ITEM:** What is the theme for our next Newsletter?

Website/Facebook (Jackie Raiford)

- **ACTION ITEM 1:** Please contact our new Maryland Co-Rep's Maggie Cavey and Tiffany Jenkins to collect their photos & bios for the website.
- **ACTION ITEM 2:** Add our new Maryland Co-Rep's Maggie Cavey and Tiffany Jenkins photos/bios to the website.
- **ACTION ITEM 3:** Add the MD DNR job announcement for the Program Manager III position to NAI Region 2's website/Facebook pages.
- **ACTION ITEM 4:** Add information regarding our scholarships for the National Conference to Facebook/website

Scholarships (Chris Kemmerer)

- We have received four applications so far for the National Conference scholarships.
- So far, more people are interested in the scholarship to attend the conference in-person.
- The deadline for applying for these scholarships is 7/28. That way people will know if they got the scholarship before the register to attend the conference.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Chris will send information regarding our scholarships to Jackie so she can post information on Facebook/website.

Awards (Dodie Lewis)

- Sammy said that we will be offering awards at our Spring 2022 Workshop.
- Nothing else to report regarding awards.

Spring Workshop (Sammy Zambon)

- We held our first Spring Workshop meeting on June 16th.
- We now have a date and a location for the workshop
- Tues. March 1st at Frying Pan Park (1-day workshop)
- This is going to be a really nice location. Frying Pan Park is a working farm. There are three spaces for break out sessions
- They are waiving their facility fees for our workshop!
- This will help us keep our costs down
- We are starting to estimate costs
- Currently considering a Simulcast (both virtual/in-person)
- Presenters may have to give their presentation 2x (once in person/second virtually)
- The suggestion was made to record the presenter's talks and share them
- Amy said DNR has microphone equipment
- They will discuss this more during the next Workshop meeting which will be on July 21st.

Outreach (Patricia Dietly)

- Nothing new to report. James has not connected with Patricia since our last meeting.

Discussion Items (Yvonne Johnson)

- Sammy said that Yvonne did not have any discussion items to report.

State Representative Reports

Pennsylvania (Chris Kemmerer)

- State parks are back to normal pre-COVID levels
- They are encouraging staff to offer a mix of 30% virtual programs/70% in-person programs
- Not sure about attendance totals. They let their staff set the cut-off totals for programs. To keep the program totals at levels they are comfortable with..
- Upcoming events: PA Sci. Teacher's Assc. meeting 8/16-8/18
- PA Parks for All Strategic Plan coming out next Wed. –Gives Direction for the next 25 years

New Jersey (Vacant)

- No report.

Virginia (Catie Drew)

- Sammy gave a Virginia updated.
- He said that Virginia State Parks are eliminating single-use plastics from their parks.
- Virginia just opened it's 41st state park called Clinch River State Park
- They were going to offer a CIG training this Fall but they decided to move it to the Spring instead
- This past year was really tough. Interp. Staff didn't return until May
- No school groups
- Focuses now on Quality vs Quantity

Maryland (Amy Henry)

- She introduced our new Maryland Co-Rep's Maggie Cavey and Tiffany Jenkins.
- Maggie Cavey is the Marketing and Communication Specialist at Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Tiffany Jenkins is a Park Naturalist with Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission/ Montgomery Parks
- She shared that Britt Slattery with MD DNR is retiring and the Program Manager III position is her position. This position supervises 10 education staff members and as is the liaison for the green classrooms program. This position will only be open for 2wks.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Amy will send information regarding the Program Manager III position to Jackie so she can post information on Facebook/website.
- She also shared that Kerry Wixted is leaving her position with MD DNR. Kerry will be working for the Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in DC.
- She said that two more educator positions a new MWEE ambassador educator and a Fishing Programs educator position. These positions will be posted in a few months.
- Tiffany asked what the best way would be to contact members in her state? Sammy helped compile the list for her by going to NAI's Interp.net and accessing our Region portal. You can access the membership for Maryland on the community dashboards. That's where he compiled the roster list.

Delaware (Kate Cane)

- The nature center is busy with programs/summer camps
- Program caps are 20 people for indoor/outdoor programs
- Staff still need to receive special permission from higher ups to hold a class above those limits.
- First time they are offering online registration for paid programs
- Working with Nemours Children's Hospital -planning activities where patients can see different sites/planning activities they can do in the hospital

West Virginia (James Herwick)

- They are back to normal
- Canon Valley Master Naturalist Training Aug. 22nd
- Gov. announced West Virginia is going to host a large outdoor adventure and patriotism festival at Summit Bechtel Reserve on Sept. 11th
- They are finishing up a new recreation trail in downtown Martinsburg.
- Working with Potomac Valley Audubon-to help them create a nature center

Washington D.C (Jess Greensmith)

- No update. Jess was not on the call.

Beltway Chapter

- Sammy shared that Yvonne has added Mona back on our email invites.

Director's Comments (Yvonne Johnson)

- Sammy said Yvonne did not have any Director's matters to report at this time.

Yvonne scheduled 11 months ahead for every 2nd Wednesday of the month. It should be in your calendars.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 11 at 4 pm.

Meeting adjourned.