



AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes

Monday, January 29, 2018

Respect, Harmony and Beauty

Council Members & Guests Attending:

President

Kirt Peterson, Colorado

1st Vice President

Cameron Clark, Wyoming

2nd Vice President

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

Interim Secretary

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

Treasurer

Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania

Guests Attending

None

Past Presidents Attending

Dr. Carol Crouch

Meeting Minutes:

- a. Meeting was called to order at 11:05 am (Central) by Kirt Peterson, President. Kirt extended his appreciation to all of those who attended the meeting.
- b. Welcome, introductions & roll call
A roll call of those in attendance was taken by Melissa. A quorum was not achieved, so business before the Council was limited.
- c. Our Message:
Kirt shared his thoughts and vision for this year as incoming President for the Association, but also for the next three years. Kirt stated that he wants to work with Cameron and Melissa so that we complement one another and have a cohesive direction for the Association. Kirt explained that he wants to help move us forward. Guiding questions we should be asking: What have we accomplished? What can we do? We are struggling in some areas. How do we engage our members? Discussions followed.
Suggestions included opening meetings up to a wider audience so that we can extend our networking. Kirt asked Cameron and Melissa to share their thoughts and vision for the Association. Cameron stated that we need to figure out how to engage our periphery. Cameron continued, "We have things going on. How do we keep our members involved? We need to continue to build and develop our network." Melissa agreed and echoed Kirt and Cameron's comments. She stated that she wants to help extend our network, but also make our network stronger; "beef up our infrastructure." Melissa wants to see us expand our webpage presence and use of Facebook, too, as well as our newsletter. Carol commented that our workloads are so extensive and because our members are NRCS employees, we need to try to find a way to bridge the gap. Carol added that with the upcoming national training, we need to involve our members. We can also recruit new members. Carol added we need our bylaws updated and remove a lot of the things no longer relevant and part of our day-to-day operations. Carol offered that we might have a business meeting more often than once a year. Melissa commented that she has talked with several Past Presidents and asked them about this, and all were receptive to forming this committee. Melissa elaborated by sharing that as we move forward

and have a vision, we need to involve the voices of our past - our Past Presidents. All on the conference call agreed that in past years, we have duplicated and re-done things simply because there was no consistency from year-to-year as leadership has changed. Melissa suggested that we form a new committee or a President's Council that is made up of our Past Presidents. The details and structure can be worked on, but what she envisions is that much like our other committees, this one would function in an advisory capacity, and they can meet and have a Chair. But, the goal is to have at least one representative from the "President's Council" attend the National Council meeting and provide representation and insight to the National Council. Melissa feels that by including them, we have representation of the past to help guide us with our vision. Melissa also stated that our Past Presidents are the same in principle as with our Elders – we rely on our Elders to guide and teach us, and we always need them as part of us, especially as we move forward. The same holds true with our past presidents; we need them and their wisdom. Carol offered to Chair this committee and help get it started. Melissa stated she would gather a list of Past Presidents and send this to our Council members.

d. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was emailed to the Council. Bill introduced himself to Kirt and explained to the leadership his role in the Association the past few years. Bill provided additional information about the financials. Kirt asked about the trend of the accounts, and Bill stated that overall, there is a downward trend because we no longer have an annual conference, and we have no income for the most part. Cameron asked how we can use these funds to help build our Association without abusing it. Discussions followed.

e. Minutes for Review

Melissa is working on the minutes and will forward those to the Council for review.

f. New Business

Awards for 2017? This item was tabled for right now.

g. Everyone extended their appreciation to Carol for all her work and service this past year.

h. Kirt extended his appreciation to the Council members attending and with no further business, the Council meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am, Central.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Sturdivant, AIANEA National Council Secretary (Acting).
Please respond to melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov with questions or comments.