



AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Respect, Harmony and Beauty

Council Members & Guests Attending:

President

Dr. Carol, Crouch, Oklahoma

2nd Vice President

Cameron Clark, Wyoming

Secretary

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

Treasurer

Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania

Northeast Regional Representative

Cassius Spears, Rhode Island

Southeast Regional Representative

Melissa Allen, Virginia

West Region Representative

Susan Looper, Nevada

South Central Region Representative

Derek Kelso, Oklahoma

Guests Attending

Deborah Clairmont, National AIAN SEPM

Past Presidents Attending

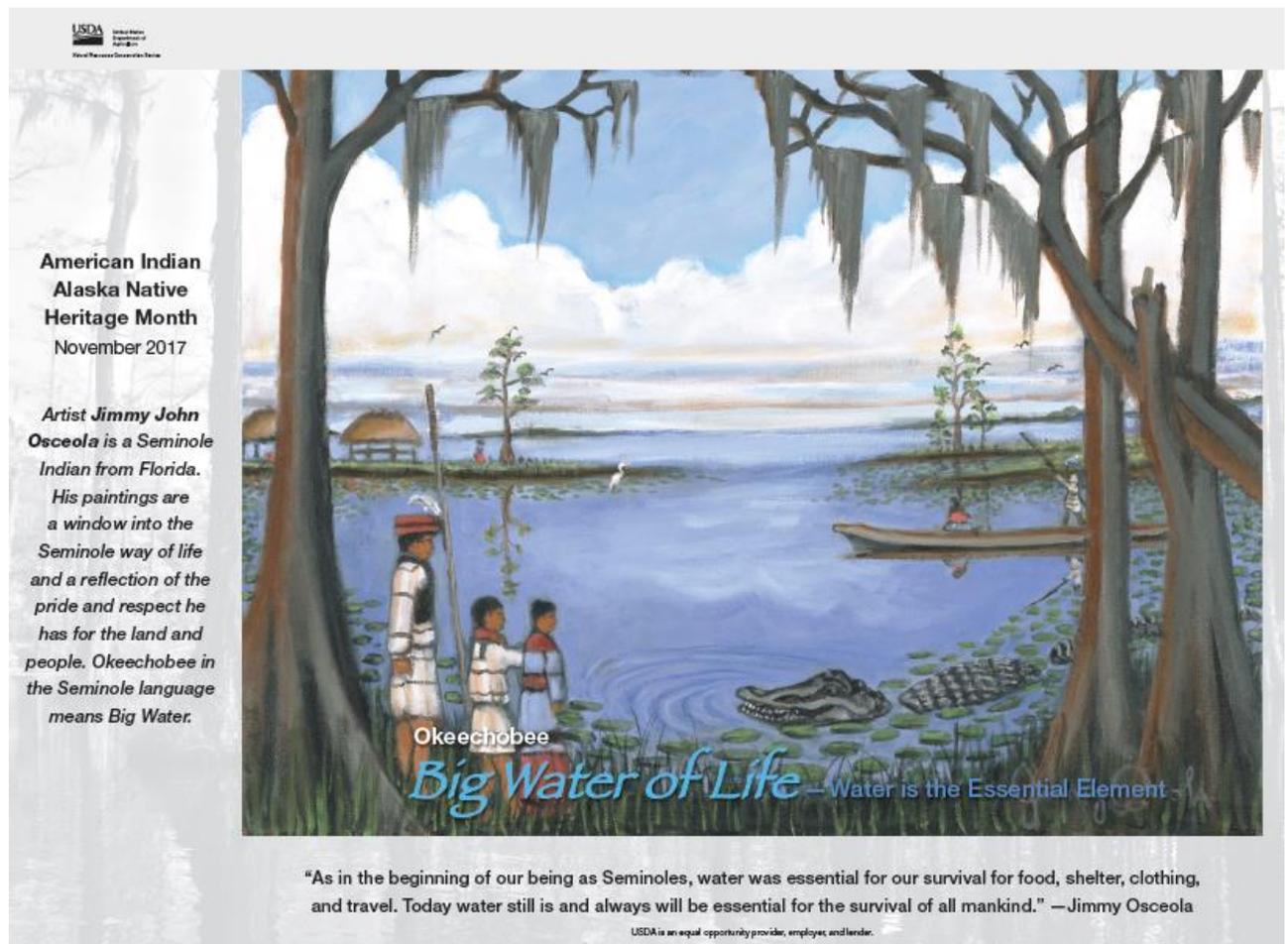
None

Meeting Minutes:

- a. Meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Dr. Carol Crouch, President.
- b. Welcome, introductions & roll call
A roll call of those in attendance was taken by Carol and Melissa. A quorum was not achieved, so business before the Council was not conducted initially. However, Derek and Susan called in later as the meeting was underway. A quorum was achieved and business before the Council was conducted.
- c. Treasurer Report
The treasurer's report was emailed to the Council. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted.
Motion: Derek Kelso
2nd Motion: Susan Looper
With no opposition, the treasurer's report was accepted and recorded.
- d. Minutes for Review
The minutes were emailed to the Council. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted.
Motion: Melissa Allen
2nd Motion: Derek Kelso
With no opposition, the minutes were accepted and recorded.
- e. National AIAN SEPM Report
Facilitator: Deborah Clairmont, NAIANSEPM
 - 1) Carol indicated that she met recently with Deborah while at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference and told her that AIANEA was updating the bylaws. She asked Deborah to review the portion related to the American Indian Heritage Month Poster and to

provide input regarding this before we make changes to this portion of the Bylaws. Deborah reported that she had not reviewed them yet, but will get this done and get back with the Council.

- 2) Deborah reported that she had an excellent team of cadre members on hand and in full force at the AISES National Conference to conduct outreach at the Career Fair and during the Networking Suites conducted as part of the conference.
- 3) Deborah reported that as part of NRCS' support of AISES, six students received travel scholarships to attend the conference. Deborah also participated as a Judge for the high school poster session.
- 4) Deborah extended her appreciation to everyone who has helped in gathering our annual observance posters.
- 5) Deborah reported that the AI Heritage Month Poster is at printing and will be distributed from the USDA Distribution Center by mid-October. Deborah will forward a copy of the poster. Both Deborah and Carol mentioned that the artist for the artwork participated at the recent Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) session in Florida. Following the Council meeting, Deborah forwarded this info to the Council asking for assistance in getting word out about the poster: 25,000 posters have been printed. Please help distribute them to tribes. Melissa will send the file electronically, too.



f. Regional Representatives' Reports
Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch & Regional Representatives

1. South Central Region Representative, Derek Kelso
 - a) Carol reported that the Central Region's Regional Tribal Advisory Council (RTCAC) face-to-face meeting is planned in December in conjunction with the Intertribal Ag Council meeting in Las Vegas.

b) The following information was provided related to events planned in Oklahoma:

<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AISES Annual Recruitment Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Denver, CO – Dr. Carol Crouch • Oklahoma State University 	<p>9/22 to 9/24/2017</p> <p>9/11/2017</p>
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chickasaw Nation Festival • Cheyenne & Arapaho Soil Health Tour • Choctaw Nation Soil Health Workshop • Chickasaw Nation honoring NRCS and 7 Tribes for their Monarch and Pollinator work • NEDC WEWAIT workshop • NEDC WEWAIT workshop • IAC conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hard Rock Casino and Hotel ○ Las Vegas, NV 	<p>10/6 and 10/7</p> <p>11/16</p> <p>10/23 and 10/24</p> <p>10/28/2017</p> <p>11/27 to 12/1</p> <p>4/9/2017</p> <p>12/11 to 12/14</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCS will be featured in the Winds of Change Magazine – AISES in the next issue • AISES Annual Conference will be held in Oklahoma next year 	

2. Southeast Region Representative, Melissa Allen

Melissa did not have anything to report at this point, but she will begin to work on this for next meeting. She extended her appreciation for everyone providing assistance as she transitions into this position.

3. West Region Representative, Susan Looper

a) Susan commented on the item regarding the bylaws, and Carol clarified that we were asking for input from Deborah until we make a change on the bylaws.

b) Susan reported that the West Region RTCAC met in Wyoming and it was a very successful meeting. Some discussions involved NRCS and their involvement in the RTCACs and not involving the Tribes. Susan will prepare a written report, but just touched on this as a discussion item that will probably be transmitted to the other RTCACs. Some RTCAC members were asking why AIANEA was involved in the RTCAC, and Susan explained AIANEA's role and provided some background information to the members attending. Susan went on to say that the RTCAC members really want Tribal Liaisons present at these RTCAC meetings, especially the National Tribal Liaison Officer, Barry Hamilton. Discussions followed.

g. National Tribal Liaison Officer Report

Facilitator: Barry Hamilton, National Tribal Liaison Officer

Barry was not at the meeting but forwarded this information to the National Council: The IAC meeting is being planned and a National Bulletin should be coming out soon for registration.

h. Committee Updates

Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch & Committee Chairs

1. *Scholarship Committee* – Susan Looper & Melissa Sturdivant

Susan reported that she and Melissa continue to work on the application.

Susan added that she submitted a request for the filing forms to the IRS specifically asking for a copy of the Form 1023 and the Determination Letter for AIANEA seeking its 501(c)3 status. The IRS states that it can be up to 100 days or so to get a response.

Melissa added that she talked with Pam and reported that Pam has not been able to find a CPA yet as Pam was waiting on a list of specific questions to ask the CPA from Melissa and Susan. So, nothing has really been done in that area. Melissa added that the paperwork that Susan referenced is really needed before we can formulate some of the questions, so we are in a holding pattern waiting until we receive those documents.

Carol asked about the possibility of releasing the application by the end of the year, and Susan said that she and Melissa will meet and see where we are in releasing this information. Bill commented that our award of scholarships is contingent upon maintaining our 501(c)3 status with the IRS as an educational entity. Carol voiced her concerns about the need to award scholarships.

2. *Bylaws Committee – Melissa Sturdivant*

Melissa reported that the bylaws are being worked and edited.

i. Old Business.

1. *Status of Transferring 501(c)3.* Melissa reported that she had talked with Pam and Pam told her that she is having difficulty getting ahold of someone with the Texas Comptroller Office to see about registering AIANEA in Texas. She is still working on this.

2. *Status of Regional Rep & VP Positions.*

Carol wants Yvette to send an email calling for nominations. These positions will be advertised as accepting nominations.

Northern Plains Regional Rep – This position was vacated when Cameron Clark took on the leadership role as 2nd Vice President.

South Central Regional Rep – Carol shared that Derek has taken a new DC position, but would consider continuing to work as the South Central Rep. and will re-submit his name when the ballot is prepared.

Northeast Regional Rep – This is the same situation with Cassius' position, and he will submit his name to continue as the rep for this region.

Therefore, elections for regional representative positions for this year will occur for Northern Plains, Northeast and South Central positions. Candidates would be nominated, and elections held by December and they would take office in January 2018. It is a two-year commitment for these positions.

The 2nd VP position will be open for nominations as well. Carol will send an email to Yvette and see if we can recruit for these positions and prepare the ballot for dissemination.

Susan asked if Carol would be willing to serve another term as President. Carol commented that her position as President ends at the end of this year. But, she and Cameron are ready to lend a hand to Kirt as he transitions into this position. Discussions followed. Carol added that we don't want to lose our momentum, so we will work collaboratively as we move forward, and we will be working more as a transition team. Discussions followed.

National Council Vacancies. Melissa needed to get on another teleconference and she asked Carol if we could discuss the finalization for accepting Melissa Allen as the Southeast Regional Rep as this needs a vote of the National Council while we had a quorum present. Carol explained to the Council that the Southeast Regional Rep position was originally filled by David Elliott but David felt that he could not continue in this capacity. David had asked Debbie Henry to sit on the Council on his behalf and Debbie had been able to do this in the interim, but she asked that we seek out someone to permanently fill this position. Melissa Allen sat in for Debbie on several teleconferences. The SE position term will end in 2018, so the person appointed for the remainder

of the term would be in this position until December 2018. The President has the authority to appoint someone to complete a term with concurrence from the National Council.
Motion to accept Melissa Allen to fill the vacancy of the Southeast Regional Rep for the remainder of the existing term in place of David Elliott.

Motion: Susan Looper

2nd Motion: Derek Kelso

All voted and with no opposition, Melissa Allen will serve as the AIANEA SE Regional Rep for the remainder of the term to the end of 2018.

3. *2019 National Training.* Carol reported that we are starting to develop the planning committee for the training, and she asked for volunteers to help with this. The training will be conducted in Spokane. If anyone is interested, please send Carol an email. A planning conference will occur on October 23, and Carol encouraged our Council members to attend. Carol asked Cameron if he could attend and she said she would forward him the info on the planned conference call.
4. *Articles of Incorporation.* Carol recapped that Millie requested to be removed as the POC in Arizona. Carol reported that the changes were made to the Articles and Pam sent this back to Arizona, but there are still problems. Carol added that Pam is still working on this as Melissa had reported earlier in the meeting.
- j. Carol asked that we look at our calendar and see if we can forecast out to get meetings planned as there are conflicts with our Council members with attending several other meetings. Discussions followed about everyone's calendars. Melissa Allen offered to create a Doodle poll and survey the Council members to see which dates are best until the end of the year.
- k. Carol extended her appreciation to those Council members and guests attending and with no further business, she asked for a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 1:18 pm, Central.

1st motion: Susan Looper

2nd motion: Cameron Clark

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