



THE CENTER

Spring 2010

Dear Naomi,

Welcome to *The Center*, the newsletter of the Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section of the National Association for Interpretation.

Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section Pre-Workshop Nature Center Road Show Grant 2010

If you are an interpreter who works in an interpretive facility or is aspiring to be in a managerial / supervisory position and a member of the NCDA Section you won't want to miss this opportunity! The NCDA Section is awarding a grant in the amount of the pre-workshop Nature Center Road Show in order for **two of our members** to attend this excellent training.

The application and more information can be found at <http://www.naisections.org/NCDA>.

Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section National Workshop Attendance Grant 2010

Would you like to attend the next NAI National Workshop? NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a \$1,000 grant that can be used to cover costs to attend the next National Workshop. This year, the NCDA Section will offer **two grants**.

The application and more information can be found at <http://www.naisections.org/NCDA>.

Roadshow Report

-2009 Roadshow Grant recipient, Jenn Wright

The 2009 Interpreter's Road Show in Hartford, CT proved to be 2-days of fun-filled, informational and interpretive stops in and around the Hartford region. From the Westmoor City Park and its farmyard to the home of

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Harriet Beecher Stowe to the site of an original dinosaur dig at Dinosaur State Park, participants were toured through some of the region's most historic & educational attractions.

The behind the scenes glimpses at how other interpretive sites operate offered something for everyone. Whether you were a manager or an educator, each stop gave concrete examples of interpretive techniques and provided nice comparisons between the many ways that the visitor experience can be developed at a site. The Interpreter's Roadshow, once again, proved to be a highlight on the NIW circuit!

View pictures from 2009 Roadshow Grant recipient, Jaime Krupka, at <http://www.naisections.org/NCDA>.

NCDA Section Meeting Minutes

National Workshop
11/19/09

Agenda

Introduce Board
Nation Updates
Survey Results
Member Services

Travis introduced present board members.

Treasurer's Report- The section has just under \$14,000, highest fund balance of all the sections. The Road Show is our major source of income. This year we gave away two scholarships for the Road Show. Those went to Jamie Krupka and Jenn Wright. We also have an application form available to cover the costs for the CIM packet (\$125).

Membership in NCDA stands at 300, down from 552. Section membership is down 36% across the board. All sections except for the International Section and the newly named Interpretive Media section have experienced this decline. Please check your status with the National office and be sure you are still registered as a member. Not a lot of understanding as to why, but the fact that NAI restructured membership and where you used to get both a region and a section which professional standard, now you need to sign up for professional plus probably has played some sort of role.

Overall membership in NAI is also changing. Our membership is getting older and there are not a lot of new, younger members coming in. The baby boomers are starting to retire. We have 1200-1800 new members join each year and 1200-1800 leave each year. The SLC is requesting that we find out why. Perhaps the overall structure of NAI needs to be changed or services offered, how they are offered needs to change. Possibilities suggested include a section-wide newsletter-if you are a member in a section, you get every section's news. Another suggestion your membership entitles you to a region and a section. Also enforce that the

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Member sites highlighted
[Mt. Magazine, AR](#)

[Outdoor Discovery
Center, MI](#)

[Kalamazoo Nature
Center, MI](#)

Do you want your
Center or Park
referenced here?
Contact [Naomi](#).

The Center deadlines
Spring: March 1

Summer: July 1
(Roadshow PR)

Fall: September 1
(articles about member
sites)

Winter: December 1
(workshop recap)

Did you know?

sections are doing what they are supposed to be doing. This situation is not at a crisis point, but just showing that we need to change. Another suggestion-have a 'member-only' quiz for each newsletter and for those that respond to each issue's quiz, their name gets thrown into a hat for a chance at a free national Workshop registration prize. Other noted suggestions-Sections need to market what they offer better. There are probably many members that don't know or understand what each section does. Possibly as someone joins NAI, the national office could send out a welcoming e-mail with their personal ID number and all that the organization has to offer.

Road Show highlights were given and additional comments were made-this year too diluted with cultural history sites, best part of the conference. Mary Loan was suggested as a contact for 2010. Contact has been made with the 2010 planning committee-Amanda Rowland with the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership has many good ideas. Amy will contact after the holidays. 2010 will need to be planned by February if deadlines are similar to years past.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter is now online. The first e-newsletter went out in September, so all should have gotten it by now. December 1st was deadline for winter newsletter. It goes out about a week after the deadline. (I got mine by the way and I checked to see if my membership included NCDA and it does.) Newsletter deadlines are Dec. 1st, March 1st, July 1st and Sept. 1st. NAI gives \$1 rebate per newsletter sent out after all four newsletters are sent out for the year.

Website updates-Naomi tried to put everything up on there. All of the grant forms are there. She is still trying to work on the skills bank idea. If you are interested, please get list of skills you have to share with others to Travis and Naomi will work on getting a skill bank on the website. The idea is that if you are looking for someone with a certain expertise, you can check the list and get a name and contact information to begin a dialogue.

Other discussion items:

Eco-tours-this could be part of the skills bank. If you want to start this type of thing, contact a member where you want to go to help set it up.

Reviews from members about international sites-nature centers, interpretive sites, websites, and review of sites here in the states. E-book?

Facebook page for NCDA? NAI and some regions have a Facebook page.

Roster of members with pictures and bios (skills bank?)

Fundraising

How do you find out about grants? Contact local stores that are national chains about their community giving programs. All Wal-Marts have green

Past issues of The Center and highlights from past Interpreter's Roadshows can be found at the NCDA website
www.interpnet.com/about_nai/regions_sections.shtml

The Center is published quarterly by the Nature Center Directors and Administrators section of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The NAI mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance natural and cultural interpretation as a profession. Visit: www.interpnet.com for more information.



committees so do Sam's Clubs.

American Academy of Dermatology has a program for shade structures.

Join us on Google Groups

You have to be invited to join the group by me as the administrator of the group page.

Group home page: <http://groups.google.com/group/ncda-section>. Choose 'Sign in and apply for membership'.

You can also contact me at n.thompson@stonemountainpark.org. I can invite you to join the group.

We have already had some discussions and exhibit pieces are posted for sharing.

NCDA Mission: To provide leadership and inspire excellence in nature center administration
