



Summer 2013

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

Just a note...

From Director Amy Roell

Ahh, summertime and the livin' is easy. At least that is the general perception. It is time to kick back and relax, take a vacation, slow down and enjoy the things around you. I am not sure who that is true for, certainly not those of us in the interpretive field!! This is the time of year things kick into high gear. As the temperature heats up, visitation soars, programs increase, guest concerns might also see an uptick and of course, this is exactly when you are going to have a water main break occur! How's a person supposed to keep up with all of it without turning into one giant ball of stress? My suggestion-take five minutes, make a phone call or e-mail a colleague in NAI, better yet, the NCDA section. See how they are doing, ask how they would handle a situation, run an idea by them or connect via social media. Just making that connection can relieve a lot of the stress you are feeling.

The NCDA Section is a strong section, made up of 1,156 members who make it that way through volunteering and participation in section events. We routinely have interesting articles appear in the InterSection, consistently sell out for the Interpreter's Road Show and have a strong showing at our conference round table session and meeting. This high level of participation keeps our section vibrant and growing. But in order to keep that momentum going, we need you to continue to write, attend, and participate!! If you are interested in writing an article, please contact Naomi Thompson. If you are interested in attending the Road Show or conference, apply for a grant, perhaps we can help send you to the conference this fall! In 2012, the NCDA section was able to award (1) CIM grant, and (4) National Workshop scholarships for a total of \$4,125.00 to support our members. You will see calls for applications in this newsletter. We encourage you to apply!

I would like to welcome Brian Thill, our newly elected Deputy Director, to his new position. He has been working hard to prepare a fantastic Interpreter's Road Show in Nevada this November. I hope we see you there and you get a chance to join the Road Show, I know you will not only enjoy it, but get a lot out of it as well.

Oh, one last thing- take some time this summer to kick back and relax!

National Workshop and Interpreter's Road Show Attendance Scholarship

Would you like to attend the next NAI National Workshop and the Interpreter's Road Show? NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship that can be used to cover costs to attend the next National Workshop and the Interpreter's Road Show.

The Interpreters Road Show provides an intensive behind-the-scenes, two-day tour to a variety of nature centers,

visitor centers and other interpretive facilities. The host sites share their program ideas, facilities, and management practices with the group. Conversations about the various issues of management-personnel, coaching, fundraising, working with volunteers, trainings and much, much more takes place as the participants begin the invaluable practice of networking. Two spots will be held aside to accommodate scholarship registrants.

This year, the NCDA Section will offer two grants. Recipients will be chosen based on financial need and/or involvement in NAI. Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section.

Scholarship Online Application

Grant applications must be received by **August 1**. Applications will be evaluated and recipients will be notified of their award the first week of August.

Contact **Amy Roell**, 513-521-7275, aroell@greatparks.org with any questions.

Note: You should register now for the Workshop and/or Road show if you plan to go to the Road Show regardless of scholarship or not. If your Road Show attendance hinges on the scholarship, you can wait until winners are announced because two Road Show spots are held for scholarship winners. Do not wait until the winners are announced to register for the overall workshop. If you get a scholarship, then you will be reimbursed for registration and Road Show once the scholarship winners are announced. Remaining funds will be given out after you attend the National Workshop.

Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section CIM Certification Grants 2013

Would you like to become an NAI Certified Interpretive Manager? NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a grant that will pay for the cost of **one certification packet** (value \$125), per individual in the CIM category. This year, the NCDA Section will offer **two grants**. Recipients will be chosen based on financial need, NAI involvement, and/or the desire to become certified.

Once the recipient receives the packet, he/she must complete the written certification test and provide evidences of performance to the NAI Certification Program as required. Certification is granted upon successful completion of the test and successful review of the required evidences of performance. (The NCDA Section is not responsible for evaluating or granting certification.)

Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section. **Certification Category/Package is for the Certified Interpretive Manager only.**

CIM Online Application form

Grant applications can be submitted at any time during the current (2013 postmark) calendar year. Applications are evaluated as received and grants are awarded until the total dollars budgeted for the years are distributed. Applications submitted after certification grant funds for the year have been exhausted must be updated and resubmitted in the next calendar year.

Contact **Amy Roell**, 513-521-7275, aroell@greatparks.org with any questions.

NAI Workshop registration is open

Registration for the 2013 NAI National Workshop, November 6-9 in Reno, Nevada, has opened. We hope you'll join us to commemorate our 25th anniversary at this very special Workshop! Register early for discounted registration rates and to secure your place in events with limited availability. Download complete information and register online at www.interpnet.com/workshop.

Early Registration closes July 15.

2013 Interpreter's Road Show

Join us on the Interpreter's Road Show in Nevada as we visit five unique sites in and around the Reno area that have a little bit of something for all participants.

During this year's Road Show, we will visit the highly interactive Nevada Discovery Museum; Oxbow Nature Study Area, a local model for wildlife education; Animal Ark Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Center, combining wildlife education with their captive wildlife collection; the Galena Creek Visitor Center and Recreation Area with its unique partnerships; and finally the Thomas Long Education Center located at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Studies "green" facility where science research and education are forefront.

This professional development opportunity will include time to talk with staff to learn how they manage volunteers, programs, building and facility development, master planning, funding development, unique partnerships, creative new exhibits, and much more. Participants will have time to discuss things they see along with their particular situation during meals and travel time between locations. The Road Show will enable the participants to network and learn from their fellow NAI interpreters and administrators.

All transportation, lunch both days, and dinner Tuesday night are included in this trip. There will be no off-site, overnight lodging during this trip. Participants should make sure they reserve lodging for Tuesday night.

Register now. This popular preworkshop fills up quickly!

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

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