



THE CENTER

May 2017

Dear Naomi,

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

Just a note...

Setbacks, we all experience them. It might come in the form of a program that did not go as well as expected or hoped. Maybe it is something that is out of your control—changes in your duties or job title based on reorganization. Whatever form the disappointment takes, how do we get ourselves through it? There are a myriad of reactions you can have, but there are a few things I think are imperative to remember as you work through this situation. First, keep it in perspective.



If it is something within your control, review what you think could have been done differently to change the outcome. Write down the lessons you learned through the process so you can internalize it. If it is something outside of your control, allow yourself to privately be upset. Give yourself a determined amount of time to work through your emotions. Write out a flow chart of your options, sometimes it doesn't seem as ominous when you can actually see there are alternatives. Look at the new situation and find those items that can provide you a chance to learn new things, develop new skills. Focus yourself on the things that are important to you-

Upcoming Events

[NAI National Conference](#)

November 14-18, 2017
Spokane, Washington

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Visit: www.interpnet.com for more information.

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what you value and the skills you bring to the table. I strongly encourage you not to react out of anger or despair. Find a way to keep your cool and provide yourself ways to regain a sense of control over your situation.

However you decide to handle the situation, to me, the important thing to remember is that others are watching you and looking for a leader to follow. Maybe the change affects them too, maybe it doesn't. They may just be watching to learn how to handle things as they happen to them. What do you want people to say about you and your example?

These are just some suggestions to work through these types of situations, you may have others and I encourage you to share them on our NCDCA Facebook page.

Take care of yourselves, take time to take inventory of the value you bring to your organization and identify areas you need to work on and set a plan to improve. You can only control yourself after all.

Take a new path - join the NCDCA Board



Your skills and energy are required to keep the NCDCA Section moving forward. Our Secretary and Treasurer positions are up for election in 2017. The terms of office are 3 years. Candidates may be any NAI and region/section member in good standing at the time of nomination. Candidates must maintain an active individual membership throughout the election process and their term of office, if elected. Candidates must state a willingness to sign the NAI Code of Ethics for Elected Officers.

The NCDCA Secretary position records Board meeting notes, sends in the application for and runs a Roundtable presentation at the National Conference, keeps notes from meetings at the National Conference (if attended), and helps determine scholarship recipients.

The NCDCA Treasurer position fills out paperwork required by NAI for the Road Show scholarships awarded in summer, a Certified Interpretive Manager scholarship awarded during the year, and Road Show paperwork in November. The Treasurer also works with the Director to set

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the budget and review the expenses/revenue from the Road Show. NAI provides training webinars, very good support, and online forms for the Treasurer.

We are still accepting nominations for Secretary or Treasurer until the end of May, 2017.

If interested, send a candidate statement and headshot to Naomi at n.thompson@stonemountainpark.org.

Candidate statement should be written in a Microsoft Word Document. Statement should be a narrative in two parts and cannot exceed 300 words for the entire document. Part 1 is a short bio, no more than 150 words. Part 2 is an intent statement, no more than 150 words. Send a candidate headshot in a jpg format.

Interpreter's Road Show Attendance Scholarship



NCDA Section members are invited to apply for a \$600 scholarship that can be used to cover costs to attend the Spokane Interpreter's Road Show in 2017. This year, the NCDA Section will offer two \$600 scholarships.

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.

[Roadshow Scholarship Online Application form](#)

Recipients will be chosen based on involvement in NAI and the interpretive field. Applicants must be individual NAI members and a member of the NCDA Section. Recipients are automatically registered for the Road Show. NCDA will pay the Road Show fee and the remaining amount will be sent to the recipient for use to cover other meals during the pre-Conference.

Grant applications must be received by July 12. Applications will be evaluated and recipients will be notified of their award soon thereafter.

2017 Road Show in Spokane

Join us for the 2017 Road Show as we visit a variety of sites to examine exhibits, discuss volunteer programs, discover new ideas, and network. We will be visiting the [Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture](#), the [Dishman Hills Natural Area](#), and the [Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge](#).

Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, a state and member supported site, has over one million artifacts that protect the artistic and cultural memory of the Inland Northwest people. Museum curatorial staff practice preservation best practices, rotate public displays, and offer programs. Dishman Hills Natural Area is a 30 year old protected area of 530 acres providing wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. A county, state, and nonprofit partnership continue to preserve the unique geology and ecology at this site. Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge has interpretive materials and programs about the more than 18,000 acres of this wildlife habitat. Volcanism, glaciation, and floods created the unique landscape and the National Wildlife Refuge System created waterfowl habitat on over 3,000 acres of wetlands.

We challenge you!

NAI's Great Lakes Region has thrown down the gauntlet! Help our unit beat them in donations to the NAI Legacy Fund.

View [this video](#) to learn more.



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