



NATURE CENTER
DIRECTORS & ADMINISTRATORS

THE CENTER

March 2017

Upcoming Events

[NAI National Conference](#)

November 14-18, 2017
Spokane, Washington

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

Just a note...

Me?

'What could I possibly have to offer?'



We need a little help.

'I'm not sure I have the time.'

'I'm not as experienced as I need to be to be able to hold an office.'

I'm sure we have uttered those same questions/statement when asked to run for an office in an organization. I know I have.

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.

NCCA Section

www.interpnet.com/ncca

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I uttered them when asked to run for Treasurer of the Great Lakes Region and when asked to be Secretary for the Nature Center Directors and Administrators Section. I continue to ask them still [today](#) when approached. But, the old adage, 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' is so true in regards to getting involved in NAI. Once I became involved, my career back in my park system took off. I learn so much from my colleagues at NAI that I can apply back in my everyday life, it amazes me. When I got started, I didn't go for the big jobs right away, I started small- a regional reporter, a member of the strategic planning committee... I got me feet wet so-to-speak. Then, I threw caution to the wind and ran for Treasurer. Learned a ton and got hooked. I looked for other ways to get involved because the Return On Investment was definitely weighted in my favor!

Now I am asking for help from you.

We all know the importance of volunteers. Many of our sites could not function without them. NAI is also like that. We are as strong as we are because of volunteers donating their time, talents and often their treasure too! The Nature Center Directors and Administrators section is looking for a few good people to get involved and share their time and talents to make this OU (Organizational Unit) as strong as it possibly can be. We need a newsletter editor. Someone who can collect articles and notices, then put it together four times a year and send it off to Paul Caputo for mass email to members. It takes a few hours compiling everything every three to four months.



This year, we are also in need of a Treasurer and Secretary as the terms for Naomi and Randy are expiring. They have given over 10 years of service to the section and are ready to take on new opportunities. The election will be held in the Fall but we need to line up candidates now. As Treasurer, you handle submitting paperwork for payments a few times and assist the Director in preparing an annual budget. As Secretary, you take meeting notes, submit proposals for the Roundtable session at the national conference every year, and lead that session if you are able to make it to the conference. For more information about the time commitment for these jobs, please reach out to one of the officers listed on the side of this e-newsletter. We very much would like some new faces, new ideas, and new energy to be infused into the Nature Center Directors and Administrators...is it yours?

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Take a new path - join the NCDA Board



Your skills and energy are required to keep the NCDA 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 & 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 NCDA 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 NCDA 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 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 currently 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.

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.

