



## ***Buffalo Bull*** Heartland Region Newsletter

Winter 2020  
Volume 32, Number 4

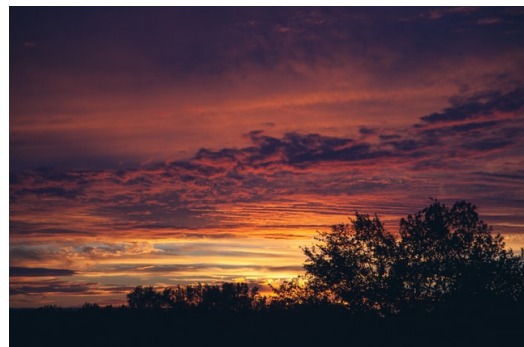
### **A New Look for *Buffalo Bull***

Welcome to the updated *Buffalo Bull*! After several years of gentle nudges, our email distribution system finally shut down the email template previously used for *Buffalo Bull*. Hopefully this new format will be more mobile friendly and responsive while still providing you, our Heartland members and friends, with everything you need. There will undoubtedly be bugs to work out, so please don't hesitate to share suggestions or recommendations.

### **Director's Note**

Wow. 2020. No explanation needed.

This has been a difficult time for many. Colleagues and friends have faced layoffs and furloughs, job redeployments, and working from home. This winter will be a challenging one as we continue to stay home. The next few weeks will be most trying without normal gatherings of family and friends for the holiday season. Remember, the night is darkest before dawn. 2021 is looking bright with vaccines starting to roll out in the days ahead. Hopefully at this time next year we will have some sense of normalcy again.



As we near the end of what will arguably be one of our most memorable years for the history books, I reflect on how interpreters have triumphed through the pandemic, and pivoted multiple times to connect people with our places in new and exciting ways. I have been very inspired in how interpreters across our Region have leveraged technology and found innovative ways to continue your important work and studies. We'll be able to take these new tools and creative programming post-pandemic.

I hope you have a joyful holiday season at home, and are looking forward to a bright new year.

Stay Safe, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,  
Sloan Cathcart  
Heartland Region Director

## What Happened to Our Conference?

Workshop, conference, whatever you wish to call it, the 2021 Heartland Region Conference: Interpretation Plays in Peoria, has been postponed until March of 2022, when we can, hopefully, be face-to-face again.

In the meantime, the 2021/2022 Committee is happy to announce the **2021 Heartland Region Not-A-Conference: InterPretive Practice in a Pandemic!**

This Zoom-based event will take place on **Friday, March 26** from 1:00 - 5:00 PM Central Time. A variety of sessions will be available in which participants can share recent interpretive successes as well as plans for a post-pandemic world.

There will also be some fun surprises, our regional awards, and a look ahead to the 2022 Regional Conference. Watch for further announcements through email and on the regional website as March 26 approaches.

Contact Bob Carter  
Conference (and Not-A-Conference)  
Chair

## Financial Assistance for Certification Courses

Heartland Region members can now receive financial assistance for in-person or virtual certification courses offered by NAI.

Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and the recipient and Heartland Treasurer notified. The National Office will be notified and will register the participant. **Recipients must pay any outstanding balance *within one week of being registered* or the scholarship is forfeited.**

Upon course completion, recipients are expected to submit to the *Buffalo Bull* editor a photo/bio and a brief written summary of their certification experience and how it will benefit them in the profession. Failure to complete this final step in the process will make the recipient ineligible for future scholarships.

Funds are limited. Apply ASAP.



### Certification Courses

*(\$200 max per scholarship)*

- Interpretive Guide
- Interpretive Host
- Interpretive Guide Train-the-Trainer
- Interpretive Host Train-the-Trainer

### Professional Certification

*(\$125 max per scholarship)*

- Interpretive Trainer
- Heritage Interpreter
- Interpretive Planner
- Interpretive Manager

Available on a first-apply basis until

Current Certification  
Opportunities

Apply for Assistance

Contact Jenny Sazama  
Scholarship Chair

funds depleted.

One scholarship per member.

Applications must include a statement of financial need and the dates of the certification course.

Note: Receiving a scholarship does not guarantee a space in the certification course of your choice. An alternate course would need to be selected by the recipient.

## Support Your Heartland Region!



Make a New Year's Resolution to become more involved with the Heartland Region! We currently have a handful of open positions that need to be filled, and **you** are exactly the person we are looking for!

Check out the job descriptions on the Heartland Region website and contact Heartland Region Director, Sloan Cathcart, to learn more.

Job  
Descriptions

Contact Sloan Cathcart

## Award Nominations Now Open

Hey You! Please nominate someone for a Heartland Region Award!

Do you know or work with someone deserving an Award? Of course you do! So many individuals (and groups) in our Region are talented, dedicated, hardworking, & underappreciated. Please share how special they are by honoring them with an award recognizing their abilities and contributions to the field of interpretation.

The Heartland Region has 6 award categories to choose from to fit your nominee: Master Front Line Interpreter, Master Interpretive Manager, Meritorious Service, Outstanding New Interpreter, Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer, and Excellence in Interpretive Support (non-members of NAI can qualify). All regional awards qualifications are aligned with the NAI national awards standards. The Heartland Region Board may nominate recipients of regional awards for National Awards.



Nomination forms and letters of support must be received by February 12, 2021.

The awards will be acknowledged virtually March 26th, 2021 during a regional event. Full awards recognition will be part of the Heartland Region Workshop in Peoria, Illinois held in March 2022.

Make a  
Nomination

Contact Jen Guest  
Awards Chair

# Mini-Grant Applications Open January 1

The mini-grants committee is excited to offer another cycle of grants to help the Heartland Region accomplish great interpretive projects and programs in 2021. Grant funds can be used for things such as exhibit design and production, workbooks, equipment, living history props, research, planning, and educational materials.

Applications will open January 1 and are due March 1, 2021. Grants will be awarded to successful applicants by March 31, 2021.

[Mini-Grants Webpage](#)

[Contact Debra Nowak  
Interim Mini-Grants  
Chair](#)

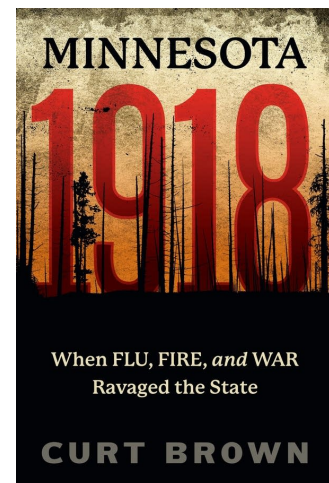
## ***Minnesota, 1918: When Flu, Fire, and War Ravaged the State***

A book report submitted by Rick Magee

Minnesota, 1918: When flu, fire, and war ravaged the state.

The United States, 2020: When flu, fire, and war ravaged the country.

The parallels between the events of 1918 and of 2020 are eerie. In the midst of the Great War a pandemic virus struck down people in the trenches of Europe and back in the farms and cities of North America. Catastrophic fires in October of 1918 erupted in northeastern Minnesota that directly caused more than 450 deaths and burned over 1500 square miles. There was tension between immigrant communities and more established citizens. This book, published in 2018, seems to foreshadow current events.



The “Spanish flu” was given that name for political purposes. Rumors circulated that it was spread by agents of the enemy German government. Evidence shows that the probable source was a farm in Kansas. There was reluctance by many to follow the social distancing prescribed by public health authorities. An example given is Martin County, Minnesota, abutting the Iowa border. Deaths mounted in Fairmont, Welcome, and other communities. Movie theaters shut down, schools and churches closed. But after two weeks the town fathers of Fairmont declared the epidemic was declining and permitted reopening. Quickly the deaths resumed.

Like the 2020 pandemic, the 1918 flu was the catalyst that brought about other mortal conditions, usually pneumonia. Many who survived battles in Europe, or lived through the terrible fires in Minnesota, were struck down by influenza. Unlike the current coronavirus, the age groups hit the hardest were young children, young adults through age 40, as well as people over 70. Today COVID-19 seems to be wiping out the older generation; young people are largely likely to survive.

In the fall of 1918 the ground was extremely dry, and the winds were strong. Sparks from trains started several fires. The fires overran farms, destroyed entire communities. Some towns came back. Survivors received aid from the Red Cross, Minnesota and Wisconsin state governments, and a generous public. Many of the survivors were immigrants who relied on each other and their own hard work to rebuild. It took about 15 years before Federal aid was finally provided to the survivors.

The author, Curt Brown, is a newspaper reporter with an interest in history. His book reads like a news report in that it is told by using eye-witness accounts found in

newspapers, memoirs, and personal letters. The many people mentioned by name throughout the book make the story personal and interesting.

Read this book to learn more about the tragic events of 1918. There were lessons that we should learn to better deal with the events of our time. It may help us develop a pertinent, historical perspective for future interpretation.

## Connect with the Heartland Region

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