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By Bob Carter, Heartland Region Director

TIME TO VOTE! Very soon the annual NAI election ballots will be coming to your e-mail boxes, if they have not shown up already. Please watch for them and make it a point to vote. Voting for the board members who represent your interests at the national level is always important but this year your vote is even more important. The current national leadership has been working hard on new bylaws that will help NAI run more efficiently in the future and the adoption of those bylaws requires a vote from you, the members. So please, go to the national web site, mouse over the "About NAI" tab and click on "Elections" to read about bylaw and constitution revisions. And when you get your ballot: vote. One way or the other, pro or con, vote. In advance, thank you.

There is one other national office initiative you should look at: the Journey Home campaign. Your national leadership is hoping to retire the mortgage on the NAI headquarters building early in order that the money now spent on annual interest can be redirected to member services, maintenance reserves, and other considerations. There are many ways to participate and contribute and you can learn more about them and monitor progress on the national site. I encourage you to do what you can as every little bit helps.

So what else is new? I am glad you asked.

In recent months it became clear that we needed a new regional exhibit and the board voted to move forward on the production of economical and easily transportable display materials. One of the items we are hoping to have is a small, self-contained, continuously running slide or video program that can run on a computer or tablet and be transported on a travel drive. Considering the talent we have here in this region, the idea is have it developed by one or more members of the region. Anyone interested in participating on an ad hoc regional committee to develop such a presentation should send me an e-mail at bob@interpworld.com.

We have also learned of small banners that are easily transported and set up and you will be able to see these in action if you are at the national conference in New Orleans, next year's regional workshop in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and future events. They will be sitting on top of our nice, new, table drape.



The National Association for Interpretation Heartland Region membership consists of interpreters from state parks, county agencies, museums, zoos, park districts, recreation facilities, and many other public and private organizations from Illinois, Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Our mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage

interpretation as a profession.

Quick Links

[National Association for Interpretation](#)

[NAI Heartland Region](#)

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Submit to Buffalo Bull!

All are welcome to submit to Buffalo Bull. Please read our [publishing policy](#) prior to submission.

Submission Deadlines:

Winter Issue	December 1
Spring Issue	March 1
Summer Issue	June 1
Fall Issue	September 1

Email:

education@winneshiekwild.com

Last thoughts: Remember that as Heartland region members you not only have access to our regional mini-grants, but also to national and regional scholarships as well as to student membership grants. And don't forget the regional awards. We have six categories now, but during the last award cycle we only had 3 award winners out of 5 categories. Give Jen Guest and her committee a little more to do! They'll appreciate it and so will whoever you nominate for an award.

Until next time,

Bob Carter
Heartland Region Director

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2019 Heartland Regional Workshop

Sustainability on Point
March 20-23, 2019
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
[Workshop Website](#)

Updates from the workshop planning committee:

Call for Presenters: Deadline Extended!

Did you miss the September 1 deadline for proposal applications? Fret not! We have extended the deadline to October 1, 2018! Share your expertise and experiences with fellow interpreters during a one- or two-hour session. [Applications can be found here!](#)

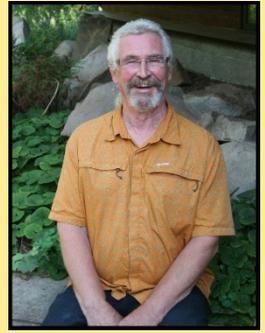
Keynote Presentations

The workshop will include keynote presentations by Stanley Temple and Ron Zimmerman. Temple is a Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation and was Professor in Conservation in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison, a position first held by Aldo Leopold. He says he continues to be inspired by and indebted to Leopold and will continue striving to convince people to tackle what he called "the oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."



Stanley Temple.

Zimmerman was hired as the first Director of Schmeckle Reserve in 1979, a natural area on the UW-Stevens Point campus, where he helped to develop one of the largest college interpretive training programs in the country. He is co-author of the renowned Interpreter's Handbook Series and founded the Schmeckle Reserve Interpreters consultant team. Ron retired as Director in 2015.



Ron Zimmerman

Field Trip Spotlight

This year, art and nature meet during a field trip to Wausau, WI. Participants can explore the beautiful grounds of Monk Botanical Gardens and the exquisite exhibits at the Woodson Art Museum. [Monk Botanical Gardens](#) is a 21-acre property filled with a variety of gardens for all visitors to enjoy, creating a perfect space for education and recreation with a wooden treehouse, kitchen garden, meditation garden and more.

The [Woodson Art Museum](#) works to "enhance lives through art." The museum cycles exhibits throughout the year, including its Birds in Art exhibit. This exhibit is world renowned and is shown every fall with a variety of avian-inspired works. While this exhibit may not be around for the spring Workshop, this



Woodson Art Museum

March will bring the [Cut Up/Cut Out exhibit](#). This

exhibit will include works of art created by altering materials through cuts. Materials may include maps, metals, leaves, and more that go through techniques similar to those used in the ancient art of paper cutting.

Looking for More Information?

Keep an eye out for updates! Also, feel free to check out our [website](#) or contact workshop chair Dr. Brenda Lackey at brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu. We hope to see you in Stevens Point!

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Awards: Nominations Open and a New Category!

By Jen Guest, Awards Chair

Kick off the fall by nominating someone for a Heartland Region Award!

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



Traditionally, there have been five regional award categories to choose from to fit your nominee: Master Front Line Interpreter, Master Interpretive Manager, Meritorious Service, Outstanding New Interpreter, and Excellence in Interpretive Support (non-members of NAI can qualify). **This year we are adding a new category: Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer.** All regional awards qualifications are now in-line with the NAI national awards standards.

Visit the [Heartland Region website](#) to download full award descriptions and a nomination form and contact Jen Guest if you have any questions: jguest@fpdwc.org or call at 815-722-1648.

Nomination forms and letters of support must be received by January 16th, 2019.

The awards will be presented at the annual Heartland Region Workshop in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on March 22, 2019.

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NAI Heartland Region Mini-Grants

By Debra Nowak, Mini-Grants Chair

NAI is proud to offer a mini-grant program to help members accomplish some great interpretive projects throughout the Heartland Region.

On an annual basis, the mini-grant committee will consider funding for interpretive projects and programs completed within the region.

The fund, up to \$500, may be used for things such as exhibit design and productions, workbooks, equipment, living history props, research, planning, and educational materials.

Projects are evaluated based on four different criteria areas:

- Preservation
- Interpretive Value
- Uniqueness
- Project Viability

Applications will be available January 1st. Start planning out your projects now! Applications will be due February 28 and grants are awarded at the end of March. Applicants selected for funding will have until April 1 of the following year to complete the project and required project completion materials.

This is a great way to help achieve some of your 2019 interpretive goals! Check out past projects below and for more information, visit the [Heartland Region Website](#).



Forest Preserve District of Will County
Channahon, IL
River of Trash - 2016
An art piece that connects people to their impact on waterways.



Heckrodt Wetland Reserve
Menasha, WI
Children's Adventure Bridge - 2017
This project protects key habitats while creating a new area for free play.



Ushers Ferry Historic District
Cedar Rapids, IA
Living History Foodways Program - 2014
Replacing historic foldaways equipment that was damaged or destroyed by flood.



Sugar Grove Nature Center
McLean, IL
Large Format Board Game - 2013
Part exhibit, part game, participants learn local natural and historical facts while racing towards the finish.



First Division Museum at Cantigny
Wheaton, IL
First Division Educational Videos - 2015
The videos help tell the story of the First Infantry Division as it grows over time.

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Membership Grants for Full-time Students By Jenny Sazama, Scholarship Chair

NAI is a great organization full of opportunities for students who want to network, find employment and gain professional skills in the field of interpretation. The Heartland Region wants to encourage students to become members to take advantage of these opportunities and benefits like mini-grants for projects and scholarships to workshops by providing grants on a first-apply basis. Awardees will be selected by the Scholarship Committee through a lottery.

To be eligible for an NAI student membership grant the student must be at full-time status and must submit the following:

- A letter from a university/college faculty or staff verifying that the student is full-time
- A 200-word statement on why he/she wants to be a member of NAI

Submit these documents along with your contact information to:

Jenny Sazama
LCFPD-EE Services
1899 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048
jsazama@lcpd.org.

Questions? Contact Jenny at 847-968-3482.

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Heartland Region Media

Find out more about workshops, scholarships, mini-grants, and the Heartland Region in general!

- **Website:** <http://naiheartlandregion.weebly.com/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NAIHeartland>
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/NAIHeartlandRegion

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***Around the Region:* Workshops, Resources, and Announcements**

NAI CERTIFICATION and CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Training Workshops

The Certified Interpretive Guide program is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. It combines both the

theoretical foundations of the profession with practical skills in delivering quality interpretive programming to visitors.

Lincoln Park Zoo

October 15-19, 2018

Chicago, Illinois

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

Touch of Nature Environmental Center

November 2-5, 2018

Makanda, Illinois

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

National Great Rivers Museum

November 5-8, 2018

Alton, Illinois

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

Brookfield Zoo

February 11-15, 2019

Brookfield, Illinois

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

**Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Train-the-Trainers
Montana Wild**

October 15-19, 2018

Helena, Montana

[Visit the workshop website for more information.](#)

NAI Webinars

Don't forget about NAI's webinars! [Check them out here!](#)

NAI Credits

Members can now earn credit toward conference registration fees, membership renewals, and re-certification fees in one of two ways: referring a new NAI member or serving as a peer reviewer for certain documents. If you have ever done either of those in the past, you may have credits available. A new section on your "My Account" page on the NAI website lists credits available on your account -- Please note that they do expire.

**EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, and
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

NAI Field Trip: Paddle Monee Reservoir

September 15 from 1-3pm

Monee, Illinois

Get fresh inspiration for your site! Join naturalists as we discuss the different types of paddle programs offered with the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Get hands-on with safety equipment, different boats, and paddle techniques. Try-it all on the water with a tour of Monee Reservoir. Hosted by the Illinois State Chapter. Please email slyttle.nai@gmail.com to RSVP. Deadline to RSVP is Thursday September 13th. We will need a minimum of 5 participants.

Minnesota Master Naturalist courses are now available.

[Visit the program website for more information.](#)

Project Underground

September 21-23, 2018

Jewel Cave National Monument

Custer, South Dakota

This workshop is geared for environmental educators, teachers, park rangers, or others who develop programs and activities related to caves and karst resources. Funded in part by the Monument's non-profit cooperative partner, the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. For more information and to register, contact Bradley Block, Chief of Interpretation, at (605) 673-8330 or bradley_block@nps.gov.

Iowa Association of Naturalists Fall Meeting

November 7-9, 2018

Black Hawk County

[Learn more on the IAN website.](#)

Minnesota Naturalists Association Annual Conference

November 9-11, 2018

Eagle Bluff ELC

Lanesboro, Minnesota

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Illinois interpreters gathered in River Forest to learn from the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Senior Wildlife Biologist, Chris Anchor. Chris presented on which turtles are thriving and which are declining in our area. He also discussed what kind of research is being done and the information it is revealing. At the end, interpreters got to get their hands dirty by viewing a handful of live turtles including snapping turtles, a stinkpot, red-eared sliders, and more! A few lucky participants got to help collect data and insert pit tags so the turtles could be located throughout the study. Photo by Suzy Lyttle.



RESOURCES

Find out about happenings in Environmental Education and jobs in Minnesota at the [SEEK \(Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge\)](#) website. Browse all [Minnesota Department of Natural Resource events here.](#)

Looking for a job or internship? Don't forget to check out these great resources from NAI and the Heartland Region!

[NAI's Career Center](#) (National Office)

[NAI Heartland Region Job Board](#)

[SEEK](#) (Minnesota)

[MyCountyParks](#) (Iowa; seasonal and full-time)

Call for Articles: InterpNEWS

If you are interested in submitted articles and/or research to this free, international heritage interpretation e-magazine, please contact John Veverka (CIT, CIP, NAI Fellow) at jvainterp@aol.com. [Click here for more information on InterpNEWS.](#)

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