NEJNAMC Annual Meeting By ZOOM

Friday, October 9th, 2020

10-11:30 AM and 2-3:30 PM

Prior to the meeting starting, Suzanne Duchesne, the Communication chair, gave instructions on how the group will meet through ZOOM.

1.  Welcome was done by Pat Parent.  Cyndi Kent, chair and Sandi Cianciulli (Vice Chair) were both not able to make the meeting so Pat, as secretary, chaired the meeting.

2.  Roll Call of Voting Members--Eastern PA--Suzanne Duchesne, Sherry Wack and Verna Colliver; Greater New Jersey--Cynthia Mosley, Anna Gillette and Rev. Joshua Gribbin; New England--Pat Parent, Todd Warfield and Breanne MacFarland; New York--Holly Haile Thompson, Patty Richardson, Elaine Winward and Claris Skeritt; Pen/Del--RagghiRain and Jennifer Kerby; Susquehanna--Richard Robinson; Upper New York--Kae Wilbert, Sharon Schmit, and Bethany Printup-Davis; Western PA.--RoBear Wilson, Naomi Bowyer, and Neil Straub; West Virginia--Karen Tate, Ellesa High, and Richard

Shaffer.

Those who were also in attendance were:  Bishop Peggy Johnson, Pen/Del and EPA, Rev. Andrew Foster, EPA DS East District, Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, General Commission on Religion and Race, Rev. Dr. David Calhoun, DS of the Sea Coast District, NE Annual Conference.

3.  Morning Devotion was given by Sharon Schmit.  Scripture shared was 1 Corinthians 13:  8-13.  May we always walk this good way.  Love will never end.  Sharon shared three ribbons---Blue for Hope, Red for Love, and Yellow for Faith.  When we braid them together, Hope, Love and Faith come together to be one.  This is the way we are also connected.

4.  Approval of the Agenda:  Holly Haille Thompson made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of discussion on the POA.  Seconded  by ????  Motion carried.

5.  The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed.  Ellesa High made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections.  RoBear Wilson seconded the motion.  Motion carried.

6.  Treasurer and Audit Report--please advise.

Closing comments before the end of the morning.

Afternoon session

Ellesa High gave the Opening Devotion.  It was good for the group to gather.  Coming here respecting ancestors and elders.  This is an opportunity to listen and learn.  A time to support one another.  Her prayer was for everyone to be blessed by the Creator and by each other.

Election of officers--RagghiRain, Nominations Chair.  Ragghi Rain shared the names of the nominees.  Pat Parent, Chair; Bethany Printup-Davis, Vice Chair; Ellesa High, Secretary; Kae Wilbert, Treasurer; Cynthia Kent, Nominations.  She asked if there were other nominations.  After discussion all of these were elected unanimously.

Recognition of the outgoing officers--Ragghi Rain and Sharon Schmit.  Our outgoing leaders are Cynthia Kent, chair; Sandy Cianciulli, vice chair; Pat Parent, secretary, Sharon Schmit, treasurer and Ragghi Rain, nominations.  Ragghi reminded us that Chiefs give and don't take.  They work to make better lives for the people.  They keep things moving so that life is better for even the seventh generation.

For those who are the incoming officers, Ragghi sees them as mentoring the next group of members.  Keep them strong in their work and strengthen them in their work.

NEJNAMC Statement.

The group worked on the NEJNAMC Statement.  Holly felt advocacy was important and Robear added advocates with our strong Native American communities was also important.  Holly would like to add NEJ and beyond, adding in NEJ.  Karen Tate thought that the section related to how gathering related to partners, educators and advocates.  This did not flow with listening and support.  The emphasis should be on partner, educators and advocates.  After this discussion, a new Statement was developed.

Revised Mission Statement--lead by Sharon Schmit.  With God's grace and guidance, The NEJNAMC will serve as the body that gathers to listen, love and to support fellow Native United Methodists, partners with all native people, educate nonnatives and advocate for native issues and communities in the NEJ and beyond.  The Statement was accepted by consensus.

Committee Reports

Communications--Suzanne Duchesne.  Suzanne shared the website with the group.  People thanked her and her committee for their excellent job.  Anne Gillette indicated that she would like to be on the Communications Committee.

Advocacy--Ragghi Rain and Sherry Wack.  This committee sends our information to members on native issues.  The primary work was on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women.  This information is also put on the website.

Bylaws, Role of CoNAMs and Role of the Local Church Representative.  Pat Parent asks that this information be put on the website for people to see and utilize.

CoNAM reports were also put up on the website and accepted by consensus.

Position Paper on Two-Spirit people presented by Advocacy Committee by Sherry and RagghiRain it was decided to call a special meeting after the new year to review.

Subcommittee formed for reviewing and updating the NEJ Plan of Action. RoBear Wilson volunteered to head the committee and asked for representatives from each CONAM to respond by January 1, 2021.

Set the date for the 2021 NEJNAMC Annual Meeting--October 15, 2021.  Hopefully our 2021 meeting will be face to face and if so, it will be hosted by the Greater NJ CoNAM. Future hosts discussed: 2022 Western PA, 2023 Eastern PA Conference.

Closing Devotion was done with Heleluya sung by Bethany Printup-Davis, Amazing Grace sung in Cherokee by Kae Wilbert and Ragghi Rain and God Be With You Til We Meet Again by Pat Parent.  The closing blessing was given by Bethany Printup-Davis.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by the Executive Committee.