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**Southern Exposure: September 2020**

1 message

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**National Association for Interpretation** <naimail@interpnet.com>  
Reply-To: rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 12:01 PM



Photo by Rhana Paris: Persistent tree growing in western Virginia

September 2020

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

It's an analogy we've all heard before, I'm sure, but here it is again: creating a successful program is like following a recipe. You need the right ingredients, patience, and probably some salt. The ingredients change depending on what program you're creating—a nature center program needs the outdoors, some soil, maybe a tree or two for garnish. A science museum program requires some safety goggles, an ability to pronounce really complicated chemical names, and perhaps a fire extinguisher. Regardless of your program's theme, finding the right balance of ingredients is absolutely essential. Too much of any one element and the entire cookie will crumble!

If your workplace hosts more than one person, you can take the analogy even further: an interpretive site is like a restaurant. It takes an entire team of people in the kitchen, all working on different recipes, to put together a delicious menu of programs. Your Head Chef (the fearless Manager) guides the entire kitchen by interfacing with the Executive Chef, managing staff, networking with suppliers, and keeping an eye on kitchen costs. The Sous Chef (the assistant manager) handles the day-to-day needs of the kitchen, filling in for the Head Chef as needed and working closely with the team to ensure the food is prepared correctly. Then you have the Chef de Partie (our frontline interpreters), a role vital to the system, but split among many different people. It may seem overly complicated, but each person plays an important part in keeping the interpretive kitchen running smoothly. If even one chef is lost, the entire menu can fall apart.

The leadership for the Sunny Southeast Region works like a kitchen. If we do our jobs correctly, then all of you Chefs de Partie can enjoy a smoothly running region. The officers (a team of Head Chefs) work with the NAI Executive Team while the state coordinators and committee chairs (the Sous Chefs) work more directly with the regional membership. To keep our kitchen running smoothly, we need another Head Chef to fill our vacant Secretary position! This position manages regional records, notes from workshops and meetings, and helps keep the other Head Chefs on track. As we move into a new age of digital interpretation, this position will also begin handling the setting up of virtual meetings for leadership and membership via Zoom or Skype. If you've ever wondered what it might be like to be a part of the Leadership Team for our Region, now is your chance to find out! To throw your toque blanche into the ring, please send an email to Chris Smith ([christopher.smith@naturalsciences.org](mailto:christopher.smith@naturalsciences.org)) and myself ([Christine.Lawson@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Christine.Lawson@mecklenburgcountync.gov)) no later than October 6, 2020. We will need:

- your name and contact info
- JPEG head shot
- Candidate statement in a Word doc of 150 words on your background and 150 words on how you would help our community in this role (total of 300 words)

I hope many of you will seriously consider applying. I, myself, started in the Secretary position and it was an incredible experience. I look forward to hearing from some of you soon!

Bon Appétit!

—Submitted by Christine Lawson, our regional director

# REGIONAL MEETING AT THE VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

We will have a regional meeting during the virtual NIW this year on Nov 9th. You will need to register but there will be no cost to attend this meeting. Stay tuned for details and time!

## WE NEED A REGIONAL SECRETARY!

If you know of someone or if you yourself are interested, please contact Chris Smith, our elections chair. This position helps us keep track of the goings on! Deadline is Oct 6th. For more info, read Christine's Director's Note above. p.s. you should have received an email recently that gives all the details about this position. If you didn't, please let Chris Smith know!

## INTERESTED IN MEETING THIS SPRING?

The regional officers and chairpersons are looking at ways to get us together for our annual meeting—it will be two years since our last one and we need to reconnect! As we understand that budgets are tight and Covid-19 might still restrict travel and group size, they are looking at a couple of strategies to make some form of meeting happen:

- plan a virtual meeting,
- take a chance on being able to meet live in February in Myrtle Beach, or
- promote state meetings which can stay small.

Be looking for a poll via FaceBook or email or contact your state rep to let your voice be heard!

## NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR STATE REPS

If you are a State Rep, stay tuned for an update in expectations being discussed by the regional executive committee. Some ideas being discussed include term limits, holding state meetings, and zooming with the executive committee. If you have thoughts on what you would like to see in a state rep, you can send them to Christine at [Christine.Lawson@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Christine.Lawson@mecklenburgcountync.gov).

## WANT TO BE AN EDITOR?

Rhana has been doing the regional newsletter for 12 years—yikes! Time for a change? If you are interested in taking on this fun and challenging task for the region, contact Rhana or Christine!

# STATE BY COMMONWEALTH BY TERRITORY

## **Puerto Rico**

From Eliezer, “We have a [Facebook group](#), NAI Puerto Rico, not only from Puerto Rico’s NAI members, but open to all, including NAI non members (yet), other Latin Americas Interpreters and others NAI regions members. ! We are doing Great! “

## **South Carolina**

From Ashley, “had a brown bag lunch planned this Fall, but we have decided to post pone it until we can have it in person.”

## **Tennessee**

From Laura, she is working on programming on the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

# CERTIFIED INTERPRETIVE GUIDE TRAININGS IN OUR REGION

Visit [www.interpnet.com/certification](http://www.interpnet.com/certification) for information.

## **Virtual Trainings**

October 19-29, 2020

Instructors: Megan Trumper and Brian Mast, Pensacola, FL

November 16-23, 2020

Instructor: Megan Trumper, Pensacola, FL

December 7-17, 2020

Instructor: Megan Trumper, Pensacola, FL

## **In-Person Trainings**

February 1-4, 2021

Roswell, GA, Chattahoochee Nature Center

March 26-29, 2021

Clermont, KY, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

## REGIONAL OFFICERS

Director  
[Christine Lawson](#)

Deputy Director  
[Brian Mast](#)

Secretary  
Vacant

## COMMITTEES

Awards & Scholarships  
[Jessica Goodrich Watts](#)

Webmaster/Blogmaster  
[Katie Hicks](#)

Finance  
[Kate Mowbray](#)

## STATE COORDINATORS

AL: [Helena Uber](#)  
FL: [Allyson Gantt](#)  
GA: [Kate Mowbray](#)  
KY: [Wren Smith](#)  
MS: [Bob Brzuszek](#)  
NC: [Eli Strull](#)  
PR & VI: [Eliezer Nieves](#)  
SC: [Ashley Zalabak](#)

TN: Laura Franklin

Treasurer  
Anjoli Reynolds

Student Rep  
Henry Thompson

Membership  
Gretchen Greminger

Elections  
Chris Smith

## SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Next submission deadline: November 1 for publication in December.  
Contact editor Rhana Paris [rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com](mailto:rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com).



[www.interpnet.com/3](http://www.interpnet.com/3)

National Association for Interpretation | 230 Cherry Street, Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80521

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