***Present:*** Delyne Kirkham David Rowell

Monique Royal Margi Garner

Marie Hoffpauer

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm Eastern Time, led by Dave Rowell (note this meeting was rescheduled from the normal day/date time due to conflicts). The following agenda items were discussed:

***Diversity Council Business:***

Laura Furgione approved the nomination of Delyne Kirkham for the vacant **Council Vice Chair** position. An all-hands announcement will go out in the very near future. We are very excited to have Delyne with us.

Dave reported that at the request of the essay selection committee, and agreement by OEODM, the **Essay Contest** will be redone due to lack of submissions. A new announcement is forthcoming from OEODM.

The second issue (Winter issue) of **Diversity Matters Newsletter** is being put together at present and should be ready for dissemination very shortly. The Newsletter will be distributed to all Focal Points and also posted to the OEODM Diversity website. It was expressed that hopes are high that the Newsletter not only is read in the field but also becomes a source of inspiration for activities, discussions, …

Though neither was on a recent team call both Dave and Delyne noted that they understood the **Training Team** to be very near completion in reviewing courses. It was a tedious undertaking hindered by team member busy schedules but the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight. Dave expressed both on this call, and in an email to Todd, interest in seeing the benefit of this effort being fully realized – that it get due marketing to ensure NWS staff actively seek out the courses. Delyne noted that the courses and the associated certification were at one time highlighted on the CLC. She also noted that SOOs can be used to push the courses. Members of the council are asked to consider additional means of marketing.

As reported by Dave the **Recruiting and Retention team** has done outstanding work and have a (2nd) draft ready for final review. It is unknown/unclear however what the next steps are and the timing for completion.

Dave reported that there were no new **Ambassador** calls held, or scheduled. It was noted however that a new Ambassador has volunteered to step in and cover the area of Mental Health Issues – that person being Jason Wright (WFO Nashville). Jason’s real passion in this was noted, as well as support for his assuming an Ambassador role. No objections were voiced on the call. It was also noted that Jason is also the new NWSEO representative to the council. We very much look forward to working with Jason in both capacities.

Dave reminded the Council that he had suggested that **NWS Diversity Awards** be brought back in some form**.** On the January call Council members Pat, Sabrina, and Mary volunteered to brainstorm ideas (form, scope, nominations procedures …). Dave expressed his hope that a new Award(or award*s*) be in place for FY16 at the latest.

Finally Dave noted the low turnout for this call as a likely product of both his rescheduling and the weather. However Council members need to use a little peer pressure to increase participation. Dave also noted that Hope has been asked to review the Council member list and verify active membership. Much appreciation goes to those who have attended.

***New business:*** none

***Roundtable HQ and Regional Reports:***

It was asked if there would be a KC Diversity Workshop this year – and the answer given by Dave was that due to the unavailability of key players this Spring the idea is on hold.