

NWS Diversity Management Council Meeting
2:30 p.m. ET, Wednesday, March 19, 2014 Minutes

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Present: | Ursula Jones | Dave Rowell |
| | Hope Hasberry | Marie Hoffpauer |
| | Sabrina Johnson | Cheryl Latif |
| | Diane McArthur | Tony Merriman |
| | Kim Montgomery | Gena Morrison |
| | Monique Royal | Pat Taylor |

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm Eastern Time, led by Ursula Jones. The following agenda items were discussed:

Diversity Council Business:

Theme Poster Contest – Hope reported that the Women’s History Month poster contest concluded and the winner, Steve Smart, also won the Disability Awareness month contest last fall. There were a total of 9 submissions. The DAA and AA have signed Steve’s poster, but it has not been given to him yet. Here is the link to his NWS Insider article -

<https://sites.google.com/a/noaa.gov/nws-insider/news-from-hq/winnernamedinthenws2014women%E2%80%99shistorymonthposterdesigncontest>.

You can view the other submissions at

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oeodm/women_hist_poster_contest_2014.php.

Essay Contest – There should be a note going out in early April announcing the essay contest. The plan is to have generational differences or generation as the theme for this first essay contest. The contest would look for one page submission, with the contest running a month to a month and a half.

Mentoring – The Council discussed mentoring and it was thought that if we pursued it, we would need to have a new angle. There are currently several mentoring programs available and the group decided that a newsletter article sharing mentoring information may be the best way to approach the subject.

Training Team – Todd reported via email that they team is just now spinning up at the holidays and furlough. He did report that they would be losing a team member and that he was seeking new ones. Currently, there are two main issues the team is addressing:

- One is the 'continued' technical issues as these courses use older versions of Java supported by older browsers. This one did slow down the team last year. People are having issues with the older courses in getting them to play and respond.
- The other pending issue is that the CLC is moving to a new provider. SkillSoft courses such as the current courses right now are supported, but there is chance that our work may be for naught. At this time, we have been informed that the new provider will likely continue to support the newer Skillsoft courses, but it is not guaranteed.

Newsletter – Ursula fielded the idea of a diversity newsletter that the Council manages. Hope thought it was a good idea and Dave liked the idea. The newsletter link would be shared all-hands – via email and in the NWS Insider. Ideally, the Council thought that publishing

NWS Diversity Management Council Meeting
2:30 p.m. ET, Wednesday, March 19, 2014 Minutes

quarterly would be good and to have it contain at least three definite subjects. A Focal Point spotlight could be in each issue. The plan is to have the first issue in early October with a contest being announced to name the newsletter before the first issue.

April meeting date – The April meeting date is now April 30.

Roundtable:

Regional Reports –

Hope shared that her office put together a program on Women's History month at Headquarters. This year there were vendors for community outreach, American Heart Association, varicose vein scanning and more. The program also had presenters discussing the six obstacles of women in the Federal Government.

As a reminder, meeting minutes are located on the web at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oeodm/diversity/counc_notes.php

Toni is working on Central Region's newsletter and is seeking articles. He did mention that this newsletter has been a struggle due to lack of articles.

Hope mentioned that her office had put out an announcement for the webinar "Toxic Talk: Tackling Rumor and Gossip in the Workplace" which is planned for Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2014 at 2:30 pm ET.