

NWS Diversity Management Council Meeting
2:30 p.m. ET, Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Minutes

Present: Ursula Jones Dave Rowell
 Hope Hasberry Sabrina Johnson
 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 Disability Awareness contest ended, with the usual fanfare: poster printing, letter, and NWSNews article submitted.

Woman’s History Month will be the next contest month, with the announcement being sent out near the end of December or beginning of January.

The Poster Team is looking at pursuing different poster contests in the future, with Mental Health Awareness as an option.

Essay Contest – Dave suggested that the Council create an essay contest as another opportunity to raise awareness about diversity. The idea is to have the poster contest for one month and then have an essay contest as an alternative so that employees don’t get burned out on poster contests. Mix it up a little. The essay contest would be along the same lines as the poster contest with the idea that regional focal points and ambassadors would be involved with contest announcements. A “Generations” theme may be a good idea for the first contest and Dave will work with Joshua Scheck to move this forward.

Webinar on Gender and Science – Dave will be presenting a webinar on Gender and Science on December 4. The webinar is scheduled to be 90 minutes, but the overall presentation should only be about an hour, leaving time throughout the presentation for audience participation. Hope will try to setup recording it.

Focal Point Certification Guide – Pat stated she was adding the final touches to the Certification Guide. There was some discussion about the

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certification portion of the guide and Pat plans on asking Jerry Griffin at the CLC about issuing certificates of completion.

Roundtable:

Regional Reports –

- a) After several years of being a member of the Council, Jim Su is resigning. When asked, he did say he is willing to become an ambassador. He will prepare a narrative on being an ambassador and provide to Hope. Thanks for all you did, Jim!
- b) Hopes office held an information session earlier this month on the NOAA campus, about military benefits and various health issues that can affect military personnel more prevalently than a typical individual. The idea was to offer assistance to military personnel in locating benefits available to them that they may not be aware of and to help bring an awareness to non-military staff about health problems that affects so many members of the armed forces.
- c) The information for the Nursing Mother's Program was shared and there is a web page discussing the program at - <http://www.wfm.noaa.gov/workplace/NursingMothersProgram.html>. Hope said that some program highlights are: 24/7 access to Lactation Consultants, private space for breastfeeding mothers to express milk, breastfeeding and return to work webinars, peer support network activities, and educational resources.
- d) For the Week of Service, WFO Juneau prepared and served a dinner at the local homeless shelter. It appeared to be a success because some attendees came back for "seconds" and "thirds".

Next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2013 at 2:30 pm ET.