

Council on American Indian Concerns  
Regular Monthly Meeting, October 10, 2007  
Conference Room, DNR Office Complex, Atlanta

Council members in attendance: Nealie McCormick, Marilyn McGaughey, Tom Gresham, Ralph Crews, Sarah Hill, JB Jones and Royce McCrary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:35 pm. Ralph Crews led the group in an opening prayer.

The August 8, 2007 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members, were approved with no corrections. [note: there was no September meeting]

Invited guest Paul DeLargy, director and founder of Georgia REAL spoke to the group about this entity's ongoing programs and future goals, especially as they relate to American Indian tribes and communities. He related that REAL is a multi-faceted program to teach and encourage entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas. Dr. DeLargy, a former teacher, principal and university professor, founded the program in 1979 and it has now expanded to virtually every state and many foreign countries. One of the main programs is hands-on teaching of entrepreneurship in K-12 grades of public schools. He said many poor and rural people do not have experience with entrepreneurship, and his program seeks to provide some basic familiarity with the subject. The program is very flexible and also can target adult audiences. He said that the REAL program has worked with several Indian tribes, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee, in obtaining two million dollar grants from the Kellogg Foundation to implement the program in tribal school districts. DeLargy informed the Council that he and Georgia REAL stand ready to work with Georgia tribes or communities that have an interest in implementing or further looking into the program. He suggested that Indian groups should consult with their tribal members, local school systems and government leaders to see if there is any such interest. He handed out brochures with contact information and cited the group's web address of [www.gareal.org](http://www.gareal.org). The Council thanked Dr. DeLargy for coming and presenting this information to the Council.

In old business, Marilyn McGaughey led with recent news items relating to Indians. She read two announcements, one from 1787 by Georgia Governor George Mathews, bemoaning the Creek Indian situation and the other from 1792 posting a reward for returning escaped slaves who were living with Indians. She contrasted these with a recent UN declaration of Native Peoples rights. She then mentioned an article about Nike making athletic shoes especially designed for Indians. Another article discussed the recent exposure of dugout canoes in south Florida, a result of the ongoing drought. Finally, she noted that there is a new book on General George Custer and the battle at Little Big Horn, a topic that always fascinates Americans. Sarah Hill discussed an article about certain "tribes" selling membership to illegal aliens, purportedly as a means to remain in the U.S. legally. This is a scam. Nealie informed the group that law enforcement in his area had recently arrested a woman doing just that. JB informed the group about an article in a Veterans of Foreign Wars news magazine about the substantial role Indians have played in the U.S. military over the years.

Marilyn McGaughey reported that the president vetoed the bill to enhance the SCHIP program so the status of the PeachCare program in Georgia is static.

Nealie McCormick asked Vonnie McCormick to report on the Governor's Interstate Indian Council conference that they attended at the request of Governor Perdue from September 9-13, 2007. Vonnie listed the major topics discussed at the conference, which were relations with China (Chinese are fascinated with American Indians), homeland security, US Civil Rights Commission, state recognition of tribes (currently 60 such tribes), and a motor fuel compact. Vonnie reported that Nealie was elected to the board of the Interstate Conference. Vonnie showed the Council the annual reports and information booklets about state's Indian Commissions or Councils. It was agreed that our Council should produce a similar document for next year's conference.

Ralph Crews reviewed plans for next month's meeting, which will be held in Camden County on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13 and 14, 2007. We agreed to arrive at Crooked River State Park Tuesday afternoon/evening in time for a 7:00 p.m. Council meeting at the main park building. Council members will meet informally at Cedar Creek restaurant in downtown St. Marys at 6:00 pm Tuesday for dinner. We will have cabins reserved for us at the park for the evening of November 13. . Everyone who is planning to attend must notify interim Council liaison Pam Meditz by tomorrow so that she can reserve cabins (there is no lodge at Crooked River). Ralph then said that we would need to be at the gate of Kings Bay Naval Base by 9:00 am the next morning for a tour of the base and a submarine. Since Crooked River does not serve food, we will need to depart early enough on Wednesday to eat breakfast at a restaurant. Ralph reiterated that we all will need photo ID and carry no weapons or car mounted radar devices to enter the naval base. The tour on Wednesday (November 14) is part of Native American Indian Heritage Month Celebration, which is culminating on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be events happening all day on the base. We are invited to lunch on the base. Events should wrap up in the afternoon.

We were introduced to Frankie Mewborn, manager of the recently created Historic Sites Region of Parks and Historic Sites, and Pam Meditz, administrative operations manager for the region. Both, but especially Pam, will be filling in for Linda Moye, who is out on a 45-day medical leave. We reviewed Council procedures to insure that mail, email and telephone calls to the Council, which usually come through DNR, are addressed. Nealie McCormick stated that if Pam has any questions she should not hesitate to call him, or Marilyn McGaughey if he is not available. Tom Gresham can be consulted about clerical (secretarial) and archeological matters.

Tom Gresham handed out tentative contact information sheets for the Council and its liaisons, and several corrections and additions were made. Tom will integrate these changes and present Council members with an updated contact sheet at the next meeting.

Tom Gresham handed out copies of the Council's FY 2007 annual report to the Governor, which was submitted to the Governor on August 13, 2007. As mentioned before, we have agreed that this report will serve as a template for future annual reports.

In new business, Tom Gresham reported that Dennis Blanton, curator at the Fernbank

Museum in Atlanta, copied the Council on their recent submittal of an inventory of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony to the NAGPRA program office. Ferbank Museum falls under NAGPRA jurisdiction and is reporting their recent and ongoing acquisition of large quantities of American Indian artifacts from St. Catherines Island, Georgia. These materials were excavated from many sites in the past couple of decades by the American Museum of Natural History under the direction of Dr. David Hurst Thomas.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Pam Meditz, Dan and Dola Davis, Vonnie McCormick, Paul DeLargy