

Refugee Educators' Network
Meeting #1, 2003-04
September 26, 2003, 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Attending: Judy Lewis, Anita Freitas, Lue Vang, Amy Tan, Carol Dunstan, Julie Hoskins, Lorie Hammond, Maria Gutierrez-Stearn, Diane Bruckner and Leticia Martinez.
Guests: Mark Tanaka, Jim Huber and Akili Moses-Israel.

1. SEACRC Update: Judy

Judy gave a review of the history of SEACRC. She announced that all streams of funding have dried up. The clerk ended on 6/30/03, so there is no check out. We are finishing up the \$5000 grant from the Sacramento Regional Foundation with the revision of the new website.

So where do we go from here?

In the past we spent \$5000 - \$10,000 per year on books for the collection. There has been no money spent since 1996. So, the collection is valuable for the time period of 1970 – 1996.

2. The 2002-03 financial statement was reviewed.

Julie Hoskins moved to accept the budget and Lorie Hammond seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. The 2003-04 budget was reviewed.

We added the following to the budget:

\$1500 for webhost fees

\$3000 for web design and maintenance

\$1500 for the clerk to work 100 hours @ \$15/hour

Leticia Martinez moved to accept the budget. Lorie Hammond seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Mark Tanaka reported on his volunteer work for REN:

1. He has questions about the continuation of using Southeast Asian refugees as the focus. This has been our chief asset.
2. He is looking for funding for the Center. His focus is on private funding, rather than public.
3. Mark sees possible issues with duplication of the website with other organizations.
4. REN must quadruple its income to survive the next 5 years. Small private foundations might be a good source of funding.
5. Board restructure is another possibility. It might be advantageous to bring on other people from other realms to provide more insight into financial matters.

5. Discussion based on Mark Tanaka's report:

1. Judy said that she had spoken with Anne Frank at UC Irvine where they have a grant for a Southeast Asian archive. They are interested in having the SEACRC materials.

2. Mark queried whether we could be a sub-contractor to the UCI project.
- Discussion continued
3. Judy mentioned that the new campus of UC at Merced might be a possible home for the collection.
4. Lorie commented that there are 2 components to the collection:
 - a. denser information mostly useful to graduate students and other researchers
 - b. more accessible books for teachers
5. Mark suggested that we hold a meeting to discuss strategy
 - a. It was decided to do this at the next REN meeting November 21.
6. New and returning participants and guests introduced themselves
 1. Diane Bruckner from the International Studies Project at University of the Pacific described her program as long-term staff development for teachers focused on 6th, 8th and 10th grade students. They conduct Performance Assessment, and focus on unwrapping the Standards. They also host a program on Gender and Global Issues at UC Davis.
 2. Maria Gutierrez-Stearn from the International Studies Project at Stanford is involved with the Contemporary World History Project. They have an on-line simulation program.
 3. Jim Huber from Burbank High is implementing the small learning communities scheme at Burbank.
 4. Akili Moses-Israel is also implementing the small learning communities program, but at Hiram Johnson. She said that the small communities are mostly career related. They have a community studies focus community where they do oral history projects. They are working with the Ethnic Studies Department at CSUS.
7. The group reviewed the REN Board list. Julie made a motion to accept the revised list. Amy Tan seconded the motion. The motion passed.
8. Judy reviewed the new website: [www. RENINC.org](http://www.RENINC.org)
REN members are to send material to Judy for the website.

Next meeting November 21, 2003 Be There!!!

Refugee Educators' Network

2002-03 Budget (Sept 02)

Projected inflows

Individual subscriptions to Context	\$0
District bulk subscriptions	\$0
Dept of Education bulk subscriptions	\$0
Book sales	\$3,000
Proceeds from 02 conference	\$6,371
Reprint fund forward	\$13,392
Other forward	\$1,536
Sac Reg Fdn grant (Sep 02)	\$5,000
Ca Endowment grant	\$0
Subtotal inflows	\$29,299

*LV/AF
passed*

Component expenses

SEACRC clerk thru September	\$5,000	14880
SEACRC operations	\$2,000	2000
Subtotal	\$7,000	16880

\$10,500

Develop SEACRC website

Context online, index	\$1,000
Develop REN website	\$3,000
Last issue of Context (edit, mail)	\$1,000
Online catalog of resources	\$1,000
Online database of users	\$0
Update links, etc	\$500
SEARAC translation	\$2,500
	\$9,000

Undesignated **\$13,299** **\$3,419**

bal 21,299

Refugee Educators' Network
Meeting #2, 2003-04
November 21, 2003, 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Attending: Judy Lewis, Lue Vang, Carol Dunstan, Julie Hoskins, and Leticia Martinez.

1. Info and Updates:

Lue Vang reported that at least 8,000 Hmong refugees originally from Laos who have been camped at the Wat Tham Krabok temple in southern Thailand, are going to be relocated in the U.S.

2. SEACRC update: Judy

- a. Judy provided a review of REN/SEACRC. She announced that several of the books are selling, which is providing some revenue. St. Paul schools are developing little books to go with the Hmong primer.
- b. Kieu has already worked more than REN had budgeted for. Do we want to approve more funds for Kieu's time?
- c. Senh and Justin have almost used up the \$5000 from the Sacramento Regional Foundation grant. REN has a balance of \$3000, which we can use for Senh to continue to revise and add to the website.
- d. No quorum is present to approve the minutes from September, so Judy will ask members to approve by email.
- e. Judy showed the new RENINC.org website. It will eventually have a searchable database of all SEACRC materials, and all Contexts from 1987-2002. From 1980-87, the bulletin was called Refugee Updates and was not computer generated.
 1. Information needed for the website:
 - a. Radio Outreach
 - b. Change Evergreen to WUSD Writing Project
 - c. Mark Hopkins
 1. Parent classes
 2. Hmong literacy classes
 - d. Southeast Asian tutor programs

3. Where are we going?

- a. Consideration of revising the Mission.
- b. We are a conduit between the refugee communities and resources.
- c. Developing literacy materials for new small underserved refugee

communities.

- d. We will keep the Mission statement as stated.

- 4. Judy defined Title 3: Federal money for limited English speaking students or immigrants, born outside the US and in the country or school 3 years or less.

Approved: _____

Next Meeting: January 23, 2004

Future meetings:

March 26, 2004

May 28, 2004



Friday, March 26, 2004, 9:00–11:30

Minutes (unofficial)

1. Introductions and updates

In attendance: Lue Vang, Amy Lin Tan, Leticia Martinez, Julie Hoskins, Anita Freitas, Peter Whittlesey, Diane Bruckner, Judy Lewis, Robin Ryan, Tatyana Malinovskaya. Add Tatyana to Grant's listing on sidebar, add Diane Bruckner (omitted from September meeting). We welcomed Robin Ryan as a visitor/participant.

2. Business:

- a. ACTION: Approved minutes, November meeting.
- b. ACTION: Approve budget/expenditure update (Vang/Hoskins; unanimous). REN has a balance of \$8,603 (Feb 2004).

i. Balance forward, July 2003	\$10,859
ii. Income (book sales)	\$ 4,680
iii. Expenses	\$ 6,742

(website: \$3,000; library clerk time: \$1,680; postage \$337; income tax \$166; tax preparation \$200; software update \$410; misc supplies/subscriptions \$296).

From the balance, \$1,000 will go for about 66 hours of website development, completing the Sacramento Region Foundation work, and about \$90 per month will go for webhosting fees.

- iv. In addition, the REN account has deposited \$16,160 in parent fees for the Saturday Schools; added to \$700 balances forward and subtracting \$1,626 in expenses, there is \$15,235 that will be transmitted to Folsom Cordova USD to offset the costs of Saturday School teachers and custodians.

- c. INFO: Tax form 990-EZ and 199 filed 11/03; charitable trust registration/renewal form (ct-RRF-1) also submitted. For FY 2002 (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003), the REN showed total revenue of \$40,663, and total expenses of \$50,402, for a deficit of \$9,739. Beginning year balances of \$21,299 were reduced to \$11,560. Program services (\$45,547) included Saturday school grant (\$29,509); library clerk grant (\$14,454); and the providing of information to interested parties (\$1,584).
- d. INFO: Fund-raising database (written update from M. Tanaka). Delayed to May meeting.

3. Projects

- a. Sacramento Region Foundation, 9/11 Fund: Approved letter of completion for RENINC Website conversion (see attached) (Vang/Freitas; unanimous).
 - i. Still need info for empty placeholders on website (LINK, lesson plans, projects). Peter will forward link to his website, and will keep an eye out for new books. Others will send info/photos as appropriate (for example, poetry winner from Washington's writing project).
- b. RefugeeWorks: Reviewed concept papers, possible new future for REN: Slavic "Passport to the Future" services and guide; REN staffing and growth, with focus on information about refugees.
- c. Central Valley Foundation: Requests will be part of package developed by RefugeeWorks, and should target newly arriving Hmong refugees from Wat Tham Krabok.
- d. ITVS: Ideas generated for increasing awareness of and participation in "Worlds Apart, Common Voices" activities; watched brief clip from "Refugee;" most have already seen "Death of a Shaman." Members will go back to communities and do outreach; will bring info on specifics to May meeting. (related lesson plans at UNHCR.ch)
 - i. REN will mail cards to those refugee/immigrant coordinators in northern California districts/schools/counties that have significant populations of Mien and Khmer students.
 - ii. International Studies (UOP) and Washington USD will either incorporate activities or inform participants about activities at their staff development workshop (Golden State Middle, April 24, 2004).

- iii. Grant JHSD librarian will think of opportunities to use video/activities.
- iv. Sac City USD will continue to work with ITVS on ideas.
- v. United Iu-Mienh Community is doing a fund-raiser preview/meet videographer Saeyang on May 22.
- vi. Links have been posted on the REN website and REN members will receive updates as they come from ITVS (April).
- vii. Peter would encourage a similar program for the film "Bombies," about the unexploded ordinance in Laos.

e. Peter Whittlesey: REN agrees to accept \$180 donations from individuals/organizations to fund the creation, delivery, and training associated with the "Book Box Library" project ("National Library of Laos Reading Promotion Program"). About 100 books are put into a shelved wooden box, and delivered to village schools in remote Laos by the Deputy Director of the National Library of Laos. About 1,000 schools have signed up to receive this small library, often the only books for practicing reading in village schools. (peterlaos@hotmail.com)

4. **Information** on Wat Tham Krabok (Hmong) refugee resettlement (Lue Vang). About 2,000 Hmong (1,000 or more children) will begin arriving in Sacramento in late July or early August, moving probably to areas with low rents or relatives. These families are the remnants of the refugee camp population, who did not return to Laos or choose to go to the US when the camps closed in the early 1990s. Their sanctuary on the temple grounds ended with the death of the monk a couple of years ago. Very few children have been to school (10-15%). Most of those under 25 years of age have never lived in a traditional setting, but have been raised in camps. Lue is working with local organizations and agencies to raise awareness and plan for the arrival of these new students and parents. Sac City is expecting the largest share of the new arrivals, but areas in the north (Grant and its feeder elementaries) will likely also be impacted. He shared information from other states, along with a handout given to relatives of Wat Tham Krabok residents that explains the processing to the US. Local May Ying Ly is currently in Thailand assessing the situation with media representatives, and Ka Ying Yang, former ED of SEARAC will be reporting at the Hmong National Development conference in North Carolina in April.

5. **Other.**

Peter: Amazing Hmong exhibit developed by an elementary

principal in Wasau MN. Wonder if we could get something similar here?

Next meeting: May 28, 2004. On the agenda: update on new Hmong children; update on Common Voices events/activities; update on RefugeeWorks efforts and REN's potential role as lead agency for refugee education projects.

Notes taken by Leticia Martinez; typed up by Judy Lewis, 3/24/04

Date approved: 9/24/04

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LH 2nd
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