

## PAIGH U.S. National Section Monthly Meeting – November Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Meeting attendees: Julianna Aynes-Neville, Deirdre Bishop, Dana Caccamise, Emily Carlson, Emily Day, Lidia Lopez, Emilio Lugo, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, Tom Sandoval, Eric van Praag, Evan Ward, Patrick Wilkerson

### 1) Welcome

- Paul Riley and Deirdre Bishop welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2) Update on 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting

- Paul provided a high-level overview of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the technical meetings, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic October 30-November 3, 2023.
  - Six members from the U.S. National Section (USNS) attended: Deirdre, Paul, Julianna Aynes-Neville, Lidia Lopez, Eric van Praag, and Evan Ward. Patricia Solís also attended as PAIGH President.
  - The members of the Dominican Republic National Section were incredibly gracious hosts and were proud to host the General Assembly meetings.
  - The first day, members attended the inaugural ceremony and listened to a number of dignitaries including the President of the Dominican Republic National Section, the PAIGH President, Vice President, and Secretary General.
  - USNS members attended technical meetings, including Cartography, Geography, Geophysics, and History Commission meetings.
  - During the Cartography Commission meeting, Max Lobo gave updates on the state of the commission as well as the improved process for article submission.
  - Alvaro Monet from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) announced that the Americas Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and the CEPALSTAT (<https://statistics.cepal.org/geo/geo-cepalstat/?lang=en>) geoportal platforms have gone live.
  - The General Secretariat reported increased financial health of the organization, partly due to payment of delinquent quotas.
  - The General Secretariat also reported 31 research projects and 121 scholarships awarded across all the commissions for 2023, compared to 79 scholarships awarded in 2022.
  - 16 of the 21 PAIGH member states attended this year's General Assembly. Spain and South Korea also attended as observer states. There was higher attendance by Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives this year.
  - The Assembly agenda focused on the work of three formal working committees: the Scientific Policy Working Committee, the Financial Policy Working Committee, and the Administrative Policy Working Committee. This year, Deirdre was nominated as the President of the Scientific Policy Working Committee.
    - Deirdre gave a presentation on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) and gave an update on where PAIGH member states are in implementing the UN-IGIF.
    - Patricia gave a presentation on Youth Mappers.
  - There were 15 resolutions introduced and approved during the General Assembly.
  - Locations for the upcoming General Assembly meetings were decided.
    - The 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will be hosted by Chile in 2024,
    - The 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will be hosted by Honduras in 2025, and
    - The 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting will be hosted by Bolivia in 2026.

- Deirdre mentioned that overall, it was a wonderful week of engagement with colleagues from the Americas and reiterated that the Dominican Republic went above and beyond to make them feel welcomed.
- Evan mentioned that attending the Assembly was a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of the section and spend time together.
- Julianna added that she was very impressed with PAIGH, the work the organization does, and how well everyone works together. Deirdre thanked Julianna for her guidance and leadership during the trip.
- Lidia added that she was also impressed by the General Assembly and the Technical Commission Meetings and that the different representatives of the commissions worked well together.
- Lidia asked if the elevation from the Geographic Names Working Group to a formal committee would have any effect on the PAIGH Liaison Officer to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Deirdre confirmed that the formation of the Committee would not change the role of the Liaison Officer, who is currently designated as Sergio Rodriguez. She suggested that it will be important for Sergio to stay abreast of the work occurring and decisions made by the Committee.

### 3) Update on the Amazon Sustainability Knowledge Train

- Paul provided an update on the Amazon Sustainability Knowledge Train:
  - The Amazon Sustainability Knowledge Train will be meeting in Washington, DC at 4:00pm on Friday, November 17 at the Museum of Natural History.
  - Those who did not receive an invitation for the event and would like to attend should reach out to Paul Riley for event details.

### 4) Walk on Topics

- Eric van Praag provided an update on the PAIGH ArcGIS Online account. Eric, Erick Langer, and a few Georgetown University students met and attended a presentation on how to build Story Maps. They have selected a topic and the History Commission will work with the students to create a story map to be uploaded to the PAIGH ArcGIS Online account. There will be recurring meetings to monitor progress and provide support for this project.
- Eric van Praag asked if there had been any discussion of renewing the ESRI—PAIGH MOU at the General Assembly. Paul said he had not heard anything about it at the Assembly.
- The USNS December monthly meeting will be December 12, 2023, at 2pm EST.