

PAIGH U.S. National Section Monthly Meeting – September Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 4, 2024

Meeting attendees: Deirdre Bishop, Emily Carlson, Emily Day, Christina Heifferon, Lidia Lopez, Alejandra Magallanes, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, David Salisbury, Diana Sinton, Betty Smith, Charlotte Smith, Evan Ward.

1) Welcome

- Paul and Deirdre welcomed everyone to the September monthly meeting.

2) PAIGH General Assembly Meeting Update/7th United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) High Level Forum

- The 25th General Assembly of PAIGH will be held November 19-21, 2024, in Santiago, Chile.
- Five USNS members have expressed interest in attending the General Assembly Meeting.
- The USNS drafted a delegation memo and submitted it to the State Department this past week. Once the memo is approved, the list of U.S. delegates will be sent to the PAIGH Secretariat by October 4, 2024.
- This year the General Assembly will focus on administrative, financial, and scientific policy matters, with formal discussions regarding resolutions and there will be no technical commission meetings.
- Members traveling under an official U.S. Government passport will need a Visa to enter Chile. The State Department plans to check in with those traveling on an official Government passport to make sure that country clearances get submitted and approved prior to departure. Anyone with questions on the travel process should reach out to Christina.
- The 7th UN-GGIM High Level Forum will take place October 8-10, 2024, in Mexico City, Mexico. Paul sent information related to this meeting in an email with the August meeting notes.
- Eight USNS members have expressed interest in attending the High-Level Forum.
- Following the keynote speech on October 8, Deirdre will lead a session on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 agenda using the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). Following a coffee break, Tim Trainor will lead a session discussing the barriers to implementation of the UN-IGIF and how to prepare for the future.
- On October 7, UN-GGIM: Americas will host their annual regional meeting. The meeting will only be one day this year and will be a closed session due to limited space. The PAIGH Secretary General has confirmed that he plans to host a reception at the PAIGH Palace Headquarters starting around 6pm that evening. Details will be made available once finalized. All USNS members and other PAIGH national section members are invited to join.

3) Updates to the USNS Website

- The updated [USNS website](#) went live last week. Deirdre and Paul both reviewed and approved the changes.
- The main page has been updated to include graphics and links to the PAIGH website.
- The USNS leadership section has been updated with biographies and photos.
- The 'Outreach Materials' and 'Projects' pages will be updated within the next couple of months.
- There are sections for annual meeting notes and monthly meeting notes going back to 2022. Emily Day has received access to the USNS Google Drive and plans to upload historical documents pre-2022 within the coming months.
- The commission pages have been updated using member lists and project reports from the 2023 Annual Report. Commission leads with more to contribute to their commission pages should reach out to Emily.

4) Annual Report

- Emily has begun drafting the 2024 USNS Annual Report.
- As of this week, only the History Commission has sent their commission report.

Action items: Commission leads who have not yet sent in their commission reports should send their reports to Emily Day as soon as possible.

5) Commission Updates

- Erick Langer, David Salisbury, and Erick van Praag were not available to provide commission updates this month.
- Evan is working on reading dissertations for the prize committee that will be made at the General Assembly in Santiago.
- Lidia is working on getting feedback from Geophysics Commission members for the annual report. She is also interested in having one of her colleagues from the Office of Geomatics give a presentation at the November monthly meeting. Lidia asked Paul and Emily if it was alright to provide a public releasable link from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in the annual report. Paul replied that it was okay.
- Lidia is always looking for new members of the Geophysics Commission. If anyone knows anybody in the Geophysics community, please direct them to Lidia. She will also be attending a meeting in December called the American Geophysical Union in Washington, DC (<https://www.agu.org/annual-meeting>).

6) Walk on Topics

- The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies Conference will be held November 8-9, 2024 in Chicago, IL. Those interested in presenting a paper should submit an abstract by September 15, 2024. This interdisciplinary conference welcomes professionals, students, and academics. The theme for this year is 'Democracy in the Americas' (<https://www.malasnet.org/>).
- Lidia just finished taking a course on Geospatial Leadership through the NGA and suggested that the USNS compile a list of available geospatial courses for reference and which organizations they are sponsored by. Diana provided a link to the NGA GEOINT Learning through Academic Initiatives Program (<https://usgif.org/usgif-assembles-academic-consortium/>).

7) There will be no October monthly meeting. The next meeting will be November 12, 2024.