



# AIANEA Annual Business Meeting

## Teleconference Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2015

4:30 pm Pacific, 5:30 pm Mountain, 6:30 pm Central, 7:30 pm Eastern

*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

### Council, Elders, Association Members & Guests Attending:

#### AIANEA National Council:

##### President

Steve Durgin, Washington DC

##### First Vice President

Athena Pratt, New Mexico

##### Treasurer

Pam Crow, Texas

Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania

##### Secretary

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

##### Northern Plains Regional Representative

Cameron Clark, Wyoming

##### West Region Representative

Susan Looper, Nevada

#### AIANEA Elders:

Elder Norman Lopez, Colorado

Elder James Sappier, Maine

#### Association Members:

##### East Region

Charlotte Pyle, Connecticut

##### Southeast Region

Barry Hamilton, Virginia

Nat'l Tribal Liaison Officer

##### Midwest Region

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Iowa

Sharron Santure, Illinois

##### South Central Region

Garry Stephens, Texas

##### Northern Plains Region

Darrel Du Vall, South Dakota

David Pesicka, South Dakota

Herb Webb, Montana

##### West Region

Jay Johansen, Oregon

Robin Slate, Washington

Millie Titla, Arizona

#### Meeting Minutes:

- a. *Welcome & Introductions.* The annual business meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm EST by Steve Durgin, President. Steve introduced himself and welcomed all those attending. Steve asked the members of the National Council to introduce themselves to the membership.
- b. *Roll Call & Greeting Circle.* A greeting circle was initiated by Herb Webb and each of the members introduced themselves by geographical region. Elder Norman Lopez offered a blessing to open the annual business meeting.
- c. *New Agenda Items.* None were indicated at this time.

- d. *Review of 2014 Annual Business Meeting Minutes.* Melissa indicated that 43 members and guests attended the meeting that was conducted during the national training hosted by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Melissa provided a synopsis of what occurred during the annual business meeting conducted in 2014. No changes were recommended and the minutes were recorded as such. As Melissa reported, the minutes for this meeting were previously approved by the National Council in December 2014 during a regularly-scheduled National Council meeting.
- e. *Year-end Financial Report.* Pam reported that the financial report is presented as of December 1 pending receipt of the year-end statements. Current account balances are as follows and the annual report is attached (Attachment B).  
Wells Fargo account - \$40,264.11  
Frost Bank Investment accounts - \$129,471.29

Pam reported that the Wells Fargo account is still carrying a larger than normal balance because she is trying to set-up the account for the Harold Brant Scholarship fund separately. \$20,000 will be transferred from this account to a new account once it is opened and available. Bill echoed the good work accomplished by Pam and with her keeping our finances in order, especially with the conference being completed.

*Motion to accept the financial report as submitted.*

*Motion to accept the financial report.* Steve Durgin

*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion:* Herb Webb

Motion passed unanimously by acclamation. No further discussions.

- f. *President's Message.* Steve reported that the closing of the year is very positive and a lot has been accomplished this year.
  - 1) Steve thanked everyone for all their hard work throughout the year.
  - 2) Steve reported that we had a lot of great representation by our Regional Representatives, and he extended his appreciation for their support and participation.
  - 3) Steve indicated that the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils (RTCACs) process has been reinvigorated this past year and it looks hopeful that the regional councils will be up and running for 2016. Steve reported that the West RTCAC had a very productive meeting this past year and we had AIANEA representation attending.

Steve reported that on the West RTCAC, we have Noller Herbert as the Primary AIANEA Representative, and Susan Looper designated as an Alternate Representative. Elder Norman Lopez serves as our AIANEA Elder representative serving on the RTCAC. Steve added that Noller was unable to attend but Susan attended the meeting which was held in Alaska and she provided a comprehensive report to the National Council about the work accomplished.

The remaining RTCACs (Central and East) are still in development and the AIANEA representation is still pending the Chief's (NRCS Chief) selection and appointment. However, AIANEA Elders Ted Herrera and Loretta Metoxen serve as our AIANEA Elder Representatives to the RTCAC in the Central Region, and Elder Billy Smith as the AIANEA Elder for the East Region.

This reinvigoration will help to strengthen the bond and communication between tribes and our agency and help us to do better at providing services in Indian Country.

- 4) Steve commented on the success of the AIANEA Cookbook, and how it successfully evolved from Harold Bryant's idea to its completion this past year, and that the sales have been really good. Steve extended his appreciation to both Yvette Dulle and Melissa Sturdivant for leading this project and getting it to completion.
- 5) Steve reported on the *Elders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* book project and that we are looking forward to this book's completion and are excited to tell the story of our Elders.

- 6) Steve commented that the Association awarded college scholarships this past year.
- 7) Steve shared that another milestone accomplished this year was the establishment of the Harold Bryant Scholarship Fund in honor of Harold's dedicated work to the Association over the years. All of this was brought about by a generous donation of \$20,000 from Harold's wife, Judy Bryant. Steve explained that this is in addition to our normal scholarships that are awarded each year, and that this will be a named and separately-funded scholarship done in Harold's honor.

Pam provided more information regarding the donation and the specific requests from Mrs. Bryant. Pam stated that Mrs. Bryant asked that this money be held right now until some more can be added and the funds accumulated; she did not want to issue a scholarship in 2015, but for us to plan for next year hopefully. Mrs. Bryant also stipulated that she wants the endowment to be sustainable and only wants to use interest monies earned from the principal investment to be used to fund scholarships, at least until the funds are further developed. Pam reported that Mrs. Bryant is planning to deposit monies at the beginning of each year. Pam stated that she will work with the Scholarship Committee to develop the guidelines and to further develop the scholarship.

Garry Stephens commented that Harold Bryant was a driving force behind the Association for many years, and added that his wife, Judy, was right along his side all those years. Garry continued and stated that Judy suffered another loss recently with the death of her son as a result of an automobile accident. He asked that we keep her and the Bryant Family in our prayers.

- 8) Steve encouraged the Association to begin thinking about planning a national training in 2016 or early 2017. Steve commented that Jeff Dziedzic, Director of NEDC, whom Steve had worked with to develop the program and get NHQ approval, had commended the Association for the training that was developed, and really encouraged the Association to work to develop another training such as this as it was very much needed. Steve added that all of the feedback from those attending the national training was very positive, and he thought it was a great accomplishment for our Association and extended his appreciation to all those involved in bringing this together.

g. Regional Representatives' Reports.

- 1) Northern Plains Region, Cameron Clark

Cameron echoed Steve's comments about the national training that was conducted, and he felt that it was the highlight of last year, and events such as this allow for great networking. Cameron stated that he appreciates the opportunity to work with colleagues in developing such a training, and he looks forward to helping work on the next national training.

Cameron reported that a lot of his efforts this past year were dedicated to pulling various mailing lists together to develop the database. He is hopeful that this database will help us stay in touch and network with one another across the regions. Steve commented on the database project, and added that the project continues to develop. He extended his appreciation to Cameron for his hard work in bringing all of this information together. Steve also extended his appreciation to Ann Perales and Carol Crouch for the email listings that were added to this database.

Cameron reported on the conservation projects underway in Herb Webb's area of Montana, and that a CRP Project along the Little Bitterroot River is helping to protect seven miles of the river. Riparian buffers line the river and help filter nutrients from runoff, trap sediment, cool water temperatures, stabilize stream banks and sequester carbon. Cameron commented that projects such as this are a great indication of the work NRCS is doing in Indian Country.

Cameron extended an invitation to other regional representatives and suggested they try to stay in touch and continue to network. Cameron's annual report is attached (ATTACHMENT C).

- 2) West Region, Susan Looper

Susan reported that in her last eight months while serving in this position she worked primarily on the scholarship committee work and thought this was a great experience.

Susan's annual report is attached (ATTACHMENT D).

Susan attended the West Region RTCAC meeting held in Alaska. She shared that this was an amazing experience and she learned a lot from attending that meeting.

She was able to bring representatives from Alaska together with representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation to get them in communication with one another.

Susan reported that in Nevada, they are working to find alternative resources for funding and are contributing resources to fund tribal employee positions to assist with Farm Bill delivery to the tribes in her state. She hopes that with her work as the West Regional Rep, she can help facilitate better communication and service to the tribes.

Elder Sappier asked about having a USDA NRCS employee designated to help provide services to a respective tribe, especially to address the concerns of many tribes – climate change. Susan indicated that there a lot of avenues to get this accomplished, but we need to do a better job of walking them through the process to make sure it happens. She hopes that the contribution agreement with Extension will continue to ensure a high rate of return and getting services to the tribes. Steve commented that this is one of the main reasons why the RTCACs should work and make this more workable and get communications out to the tribes and make sure services are being provided.

- 3) Midwest Region, Debra Walchuk  
Debe was not able to attend; however, her annual report is attached (ATTACHMENT E).
- h. National Tribal Liaison Officer Report, Barry Hamilton
  - 1) Barry thanked Timothy Oakes for putting together a national directory of all of the Tribal Liaisons. He plans to distribute this list to the Association, tribes and all of the Tribal Liaisons in the country.
  - 2) Barry indicated that the United Southern and Eastern Tribes, Inc. regional meeting was scheduled for February and invited members of the Association to attend. Chief Weller will be in attendance and speaking at the event.
  - 3) Barry's annual report is attached (ATTACHMENT F) and provides information about the various methods in which the agency works with tribes in the different regions across the nation, in addition to the work with tribal colleges and other entities. Steve discussed the opportunities and potential for networking and sharing of information especially with the work to reinvigorate the RTCACs in the various regions, and hopes that this will continue to improve our communications and services provided.

Susan Looper joined the teleconference.

Discussions followed:

Elder Sappier asked about the regional offices and how they correlate to the EPA's regional offices. Steve explained the NRCS boundary locations and the structure of the regional conservationists and the function of the RTCACs which are being developed further. Elder Sappier shared some of the techniques used by his former employer to provide services in the various regions. Steve agreed that the Regional Conservationists has a means to be involved and to help individual State Conservationists as needed especially in regard to tribal needs specific to the state(s).

- 4) From Barry's report, Steve shared that the newest federally-recognized tribe is the Pamunkey Tribe now recognized in Virginia. Steve also shared from Barry's report that one of our Association members, Melissa Allen, was recently named as the new Tribal Liaison for the state of Virginia. Because now that Virginia has a federally-recognized tribe, they now a new Tribal Liaison for the state. Steve congratulated Melissa on this new appointment.
- i. National AIAN SEPM Report. Steve reported that Deborah was not able to attend the meeting. Steve discussed all that was accomplished this past year and he extended his appreciation to all the work

the National AIAN SEPM (Deborah Clairmont) has done. Steve asked Melissa Sturdivant about SEPM activities that could be elaborated upon in general, and Melissa reported that there are new outreach banners available through the LandCare Distribution Center. Melissa added that these can be reserved, checked out and they can be shipped to you for use at any time. She indicated that there are a series of three banners that can be used together or individually depending on the space you have. Melissa indicated that Barry had used them recently, and that she had also used them recently in various outreach events in her state. Barry added that when he used them, they were well-received and that a young lady who has her photograph as part of the display was actually at an event, and he said that was pretty exciting. He said there were a lot of folks that stopped by to get their picture taken with the banner. Steve thanked them for their comments. Steve added that hopefully if there is enough demand, hopefully, we will get several outreach kits made for check out.

j. Committee Reports.

- 1) Bylaws and Constitution Committee. Steve commented that Carol is working to get some things accomplished with the revision of the bylaws.
- 2) Elders Committee. Tanya Meyer-Diderikson commented that a lot of work is going on right now and there are many volunteers who are working and committed to projects underway.
  - a) Tanya reported on the current status of the Elder's DVD project which was intended to be used as part of the Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) training sessions, especially if Elders were not available to be in attendance. Tanya reminded folks that many of the interviews were completed last year during the national training held in Alabama.

Tanya described how the video interviews have been transcribed and they are working with the videographer to select the audio portions which will be used. Tanya indicated that they realized that a script was needed and it has been written, and also that a narrator was needed. Roylene Rides at the Door was selected and she will narrate the DVD. Tanya reported that they hope to have the DVD project completed in 2016 but may not have it done by the first WEWAI training planned for March.

- b) Tanya indicated that the Elder's biggest project has been their work on the *Elders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* book which is in development. Tanya extended her appreciation to our Elders: Ted Herrera of Texas, James Sappier of Maine, Roy Doore of Montana, Loretta Metoxen of Wisconsin, Billy Smith of Alabama, Jerry Wolfe of North Carolina, Joe Joaquin of Arizona, Norman Lopez of Colorado, and Marie Meade of Alaska.
- c) Tanya also extended her appreciation for all the work being accomplished by the volunteers working with the Elders in order to conduct the interviews and to write the transcripts for the book. She acknowledged the work contributed by Gina Kerzman, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Garry Stephens, John McCoy, Gerald Allison, Allen Maez, David Elliott, Nels Liljedahl, Ann Perales, Crystal Leonetti, Charlotte Pyle, Cindy Sultenfuss, Ciro Lo Pinto, Kirt Peterson, Roylene Rides at the Door, and Melissa Sturdivant.

Tanya acknowledged the loss of two of our Elders in recent years, Leland Debe and Louie Dick, and stated that special sections will be included in the book to honor each of them, as well as for Evan Spino who was previously on the Elders Committee, but had to discontinue his service because of other commitments.

Tanya indicated that the book will guide us in respect to when it will be completed. It is an in-depth process and will be completed in its time. Tanya reported that we have a lot of the components completed and are continuing to work on each of the Elders sections and it will be a beautiful product.

- d) Tanya commented on the Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) trainings that are scheduled for 2016. Tanya reported that the WEWAI cadre are excited to continue the involvement of our Elders with the training sessions, and indicated that since this started in 2013, each of the WEWAI sessions has had an Elder present and they are excited to continue

this tradition. For the 2016 year, Elder Ted Herrera will participate in the session planned in Oklahoma. Elder Loretta Metoxen will participate in the WEWAI session planned for Minnesota, and Elder Roy Doore will assist with the session planned in Washington state later in the year.

In 2015, four WEWAI sessions were conducted with one being held in Colorado with Elder Norman Lopez participating, a session in New York with Elder Loretta Metoxen participating, one held in North Dakota and another in Alabama with Elder Billy Smith assisting with the session.

- e. Tanya reported that the National Council voted earlier in the year to provide a hardback copy of the AIANEA Cookbook to each of the Elders or their families. She indicated that in a couple of situations, a copy was gifted to the Elder's tribal community. The tribal home of Elder Leland Debe received a copy and it is on display at the museum.

Tanya reported that she had received favorable comments from some of the Elders. She read a thank-you note from Elder Louie Dick's wife, Marie Dick, a letter that Melissa had received from her.

Elder Sappier extended his appreciation to Tanya for all her hard work.

- 3) *Awards Committee.* Millie reported that the committee met recently. Millie presented to the National Council at the December meeting a recommendation for award categories and brought a budget before them as well. She indicated that once this is approved, the call for nominations will be distributed to the membership.

Millie also commented that the committee is looking at adding new members to the awards committee and encourages members to get involved.

Elder Sappier asked about the award of scholarships and if partnering with other agencies might be an option to broaden the outreach. Is it an option to partner with the Department of Education? Steve thought this might be something the National Council can work on and discuss. Tanya also mentioned this might be something the Elders Committee can discuss as well.

- 4) *Visioning Committee.* Steve reported that David Wise was in a car accident a few weeks earlier, but is home recovering right now, but should be back to work soon. Steve reported that David has worked closely with this committee in past years and he hopes they will get this re-invigorated as we evaluate our visions plan.
- 5) *Communications Committee.* Gina was not on the call, but Steve reported that she has been working with the committee to revamp the communications outreach, especially for the newsletter and webpage. Gina sent in a report that detailed the committee's work to develop a business plan that will help guide the committee's work for the Association. (ATTACHMENT G)
- 6) *Scholarship Committee.* Susan Looper, who serves on the scholarship committee, brought up that there were a lot of questions brought to the forefront as part of the application process during this year's scholarship review process. Susan hopes that the committee can re-work the application process and also look at how other scholarship processes are completed. Susan admitted that she had a lot of questions and she wants to make sure that we are consistent.  
Susan also reported that this event opened a lot of networking opportunities that she had not had previously.
- 7) *Elder Sequoyah Fellowship.* Steve asked Melissa who was the recipient of the Sequoyah Fellow award this year at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's conference. Melissa reported that Elder Roy Doore was this year's recipient. However, Melissa explained that as Elder Doore was en route traveling, he was snowed in and was unable to make it to the ceremony. Melissa reported that Nathaniel Todea's mother accepted the award on his behalf and Carol was making sure he was to receive it.

- 8) *Member's Database Ad Hoc Committee.* Steve reiterated all the work that Cameron and Barry have contributed to creating this database. Steve indicated that this continues to be developed and is hoped to be a resource for us in the future.
- 9) *Cookbook Ad Hoc Committee.* Melissa reported that since the publication of the cookbook one year ago, 75 books have been sold. She indicated that she and Yvette sent out a reminder to the membership about how to order online directly from the publisher, and she indicated that two books were ordered this week as a result of that news release.

Melissa reported that this year, she was able to set up a more automated, electronic process versus the manual purchasing system used earlier in the year. Melissa explained that customers can purchase directly from the publisher's website, and the mark-up is built in to allow for collection of monies for support of the scholarship fund. Melissa reported that we now have a PayPal account that the publisher deposits royalty funds to and then once a quarter, these funds are transferred to our Association's checking account. She hopes to get this information on our webpage in the future.

Melissa reported that she did order the AIANEA Cookbooks for each of the Elders. She prepared a letter which was enclosed with each book in the shipment.

- k. *New Business.*
    - 1) Elections. Steve commented that this is underway and the ballots are out.
    - 2) David Pesicka reported that he recently heard Joann Day, a designated Ombudsman, serving Indian Country, and this might be an option for people needing assistance in Indian Country. David indicated that this is a new position resulting from the *Keepseagle vs. Vilsack* settlement.
  - I. Tanya extended her appreciation to Steve for his work the last two years as our Association's President. Everyone was appreciative of his hard work, especially for making the face-to-face training a possibility. Steve thanked everyone for their support and hard work.
- Athena echoed Tanya's comments. Athena also looks forward to re-designing the monthly meeting to involve and highlight what the Association and its members are accomplishing. She shared her vision for the upcoming year and stated that she looks forward to working with everyone.
- m. *Closing Prayer.* Jim Sappier, Elder  
Jim provided a touching prayer to close the annual business meeting.
  - n. *Adjournment.* Steve extended his appreciation to those members and guests attending and with no further business, he adjourned the annual business meeting at 9:55 pm, EST.

attachments

- A. AIANEA Annual Business Meeting 12/17/2016 Agenda
- B. Annual Financial Report
- C. Northern Plains Regional Report
- D. West Regional Report
- E. Midwest Regional Report
- F. National Tribal Liaison Officer Report
- G. Communications Committee Report

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Sturdivant, AIANEA National Council Secretary. Please respond to melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov with questions or comments.



# AIANEAA Annual Business Meeting

## Teleconference

December 17, 2015

4:30 pm Pacific, 5:30 pm Mountain, 6:30 pm Central, 7:30 pm Eastern

This meeting will take place by teleconference.

**Call-in number:** 888-844-9904

**Passcode:** 5203411

December 17, 2015	
Topic of Discussion	Facilitator
Opening, Welcome and Introductions	Steve Durgin
Roll Call / Greeting Circle	Steve Durgin
Call for New Agenda Items	Steve Durgin
Review of 2014 Annual Business Meeting Minutes	Melissa Sturdivant
Treasurer's Year-end Financial Report	Pam Crow & Bill Parrish
President's Message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success Stories</li> <li>• Elections</li> <li>• Committees</li> </ul>	Steve Durgin
Regional Representative's Year-End Reports	Regional Representatives
National Tribal Liaison Report	Barry Hamilton
National AI/AN SEPM Report	Deborah Clairmont
Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bylaws and Constitution</li> <li>• Elder's Committee</li> <li>• Awards Committee</li> <li>• Visioning Committee</li> <li>• Communications Committee</li> <li>• Scholarship Committee</li> <li>• Sequoyah Fellowship</li> <li>• Ad Hoc – Database</li> <li>• Ad Hoc - Cookbook</li> </ul>	Committee Chairs
New Business	Steve Durgin & All Members
Closing Thoughts & Comments	Steve Durgin & All Members
Adjourn	Steve Durgin

**ATTACHMENT B**

<b>BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b>	
Beginning Balance - Jan 1. 2014	\$ 800.08
Payroll Contributions and Donations	\$ 219.99
Total Interest Paid in	\$ 0.30
Closed account transferred to Basic Business acct	\$ (1,020.37)
Ending balance -	\$ -
<b>FROST NATIONAL BANK INVESTMENTS</b>	
Memorial Scholarship Fund 037 259586	
Beginning balance (Value)	\$ 69,654.93
Additions to fund	\$ -
Total Portfolio Value (EOY)	\$ 72,735.11
Net Income (EOY)	\$ 3,080.18
Elder Travel Fund 037 259578	
Beginning balance (Value)	\$ 24,984.12
Additions to fund	\$ -
Total Portfolio Value (EOY)	\$ 1,028.21
Net Income (EOY)	\$ (23,955.91)
Youth Activities Fund 037 259594	
Beginning balance (Value)	\$ 12,833.10
Additions to fund	\$ -
Total Portfolio Value (EOY)	\$ 13,373.03
Net Income (EOY)	\$ 539.93
Special Projects Fund 037 259608	
Beginning balance (Value)	\$ 12,833.10
Additions to fund	\$ -
Total Portfolio Value (EOY)	\$ 13,373.03
Net Income (EOY)	\$ 539.93
Elder Memorial Scholarship Fund 037 267945	
Beginning balance (Value)	\$ 2,866.95
Additions to fund	\$ -
Total Portfolio Value (EOY)	\$ 2,969.94
Net Income (EOY)	\$ 102.99
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	
Beginning Balance Value	\$ 123,172.20
Additions to Funds	
Total Portfolio Value (EOY)	\$ 103,479.32
Net Income (EOY)	\$ (19,692.88)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 103,479.32</b>

# Checking Account

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DATE	CHECK NO	GIFTS, FLOWERS, ETC	NON CORP FILING	AUDIT TRAVEL	ED SCHOLOR	AISES MEMBERSHIP	COOKBOOKS	INVESTMENT BROKERAGE FEE1/13/14	CC FEES	INTERNET SERVICES	CONFERENCE	ELDERS TRAVEL	TOTAL
1/2/2014	2922							\$ 36.00					\$ 36.00
1/13/2014													\$ 30.00
1/21/2014	2923								\$ 30.00				\$ 500.00
1/27/2014	3053				\$ 500.00								\$ 500.00
1/27/2014	3054				\$ 500.00								\$ 500.00
3/24/2014	3055												\$ 750.00
void	3056												\$ 750.00
4/5/2014	3057			\$ 19.04									\$ 19.04
4/17/2014	3056								\$ 49.80				\$ 49.80
4/28/2014	3059								\$ 57.70				\$ 57.70
4/30/2014	3060		\$ 10.00										\$ 10.00
9/5/2014	3061												
10/21/2014	3062	\$ 225.00								\$ 8,000.00			\$ 8,225.00
10/21/2014	3063									\$ 580.00			\$ 580.00
10/21/2014	3064									\$ 80.00			\$ 80.00
10/21/2014	3065									\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00
10/21/2014	3066									\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00
10/21/2014	3067									\$ 50.00			\$ 50.00
10/21/2014	3068									\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00
10/21/2014	3069												
10/21/2014	3070												\$ 561.58
10/21/2014	3071												\$ 1,033.10
10/21/2014	3072												\$ 480.95
10/21/2014	3073												\$ 345.69
10/21/2014	3074												\$ 103.50
10/21/2014	3075												\$ 393.50
10/21/2014	3076												\$ 1,073.52
10/21/2014	3077												\$ 465.00
													\$ 515.58
													\$ 515.58

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## Checking Account

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	<b>MERCHANT CARD</b>		
		<b>FEE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Jan			
Feb			
Mar			
Apr		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
May		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
June		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
July		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Aug		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Sept		\$ 35.10	\$ 35.10
Oct		\$ 99.94	\$ 99.94
Nov		\$ 609.08	\$ 609.08
Dec		\$ 669.81	\$ 669.81
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,563.93</b>	<b>\$ 1,563.93</b>

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*Conference Expenses*

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Check No	Amount	To	Description	Deposits	description	Bankcard Fees
3055	\$ 750.00	Windcreek Hotel	Deposit	\$ 1,834.00	live auction	\$ 495.00
3061	\$ 8,000.00	Windcreek Hotel	Meals, breaks, hotel rooms	\$ 20,800.00	registration	\$ 95.00
3063	\$ 580.00	Margaret Baggett	conference gifts	\$ 1,742.00	meals	\$ 18.48
3064	\$ 80.00	Mary Jane Tullis	conference gifts	\$ 1,146.50	silent auction	\$ 99.94
3065	\$ 100.00	Eldnar McGee	conference gifts			\$ 94.40
3066	\$ 100.00	Melvin Manning	conference gifts			\$ 564.64
3067	\$ 50.00	Madison McGee	conference gifts			
3068	\$ 300.00	Joyce Jackson	conference gifts	<b>\$ 25,522.50</b>		<b>\$ 1,367.46</b>
3069	void					
3070	void					
3071	\$ 480.95	Marie Meade	elders travel			
3072	void					
3073	\$ 103.50	James Smith	elders travel			
3074	\$ 393.70	Jerry Wolfe	elders travel			
3075	\$ 1,073.52	James Sappier	elders travel			
3076	\$ 465.00	Roy Doore	elders travel			
3077	\$ 515.58	Ted Herrera	elders travel			
3078	\$ 987.10	Norman Lopez	elders travel			
3080	\$ 300.00	Medicine Trail Dancers				
3081	\$ 43.87	D Elliott	supplies			
3082	\$ 1,162.29	James Sappier	elders travel			
3083	void					
3084	\$ 1,067.70	Roy Doore	elders travel			
		Poarch Creek Boys & Girls Club				
3085	\$ 250.00					
3986	\$ 393.50	Jerry Wolfe	elders travel			
3087	\$ 987.10	Norman Lopez	elders travel			
3088	\$ 292.00	Gray Wolfe Trading	auction items			
3089	\$ 1,275.00	Melvin's Cherry St BBQ	Tour lunch			
3090	\$ 2,393.44	Windcreek Hotel	elders rooms & snacks			
3091	\$ 59.00	Herb Webb	J Wolfe award, shipping drum			

10/6/17

# Conference Expense

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3093	\$ 522.19	Loretta Metoxen	elders travel					
3094	\$ 598.97	Ted Herrera	elders travel					
3099	\$ 761.21	Mary Meade	elders travel					
Total	\$ 24,085.62		Disbursements					
13 registrat	that have not	been paid						

1/20/14



## AIANEA NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S 2015 YEAR-END REPORT

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*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

Submitted by: Cameron Clark

This past year, I was active on the National Council, attending most of the teleconferences and I worked with Ann Perales and others to compile our various contact lists into one master list. The list contains names of AIANEA members, AIAN SEPMS, Tribal Liaisons and RTCAC members. It is currently in Excel format but can be transferred to another format, such as Access, if need be. The list is intended for internal use (to contact or organize the people in a region, etc.) and shouldn't be distributed.

I would like to establish better contact with the people in the NP Region, as I am a bit isolated from the "action." Let me know what type of communication you would like and what kind of information you aren't getting already and I will try to get that established. My goal is to get a network of people in the NP Region sharing information and support back and forth with each other.

Thank you!

*Submitted: February 16, 2016*



## AIANEA WEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S ATTACHMENT D 2015 YEAR-END REPORT

### *Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

Submitted by: Susan Looper

As the AIANEA West Regional Representative, I first worked towards updating the West Region contact list which includes over 70 contacts for AIANEA, where only about 25 contacts are actually AIANEA members (AIANEA Members, SEPMs, Liaisons, RTCAC Representatives).

#### AIANEA Representative Contributions 2015:

- Attended the WEST Regional RTCAC Meeting held in AK August 3-5<sup>th</sup> as the Alternate Rep:
  - Assisted National (Yvette) with outreach to the Tribal Representatives for the WEST RTCAC and learned that many of the Tribal Reps no longer served their Tribal Council.
  - Provided a Summary Report to the AIANEA National Council about the RTCAC Meeting.
- Served on the AIANEA 2015 Scholarship Committee:
  - Widely contacted by American Indian educators and students with questions about the scholarship protocols, application process and criteria to apply.
  - I was asked by Steve Durgin to comment about the Scholarship Committee and reported that the scholarship itself was a great opportunity for tribal students to connect with NRCS, but there were some issues with the scholarship application process which generated a lot of questions from educators and students. I commented that I hoped the scholarship application process for next year could be re-evaluated.
- Success stories with the Nevada Tribes in the West Region include:
  - Nevada NRCS has significantly increased participation in Farm Bill (FB) Programs by tribal individuals, Tribal Councils and communities. Specifically, Nevada NRCS efforts to outreach to Nevada Tribes has increased the number of FB Applications that go to Contract. This outreach effort included a Contribution Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno Extension to hire (2) tribal individuals to assist Nevada NRCS with promoting FB Programs across the state in all agricultural tribal communities. Nevada NRCS also shared this Contribution Agreement with Barry Hamilton, National Tribal Relations Liaison Officer. I had commented that a Contribution Agreement was great alternative funding to increase NRCS services to Nevada Tribes.
  - Nevada NRCS obligated 3 million dollars to the Duck Valley Sho-Pai Tribes in 2015 for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project that includes irrigation improvements, such as pipe line, land leveling and livestock water developments.



## AIANEA MIDWEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S 2015 YEAR-END REPORT

*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

Submitted by: Debe Walchuk

1. The Midwest region of AIANEA includes 8 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.
2. Debe Walchuk participated in AIANEA National Council meetings, submitted monthly reports, and conducted AIANEA business as the MW Region Representative beginning in March, 2016.
3. The MW Rep. coordinated with other representatives to update the MW region membership list.
4. Members of the MW region received National Council meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and requests to submit member news updates from each state to share with the National Council.
5. Midwest Rep. suggested an annual reminder be issued nation-wide to invite employees to join AIANEA.
6. Midwest Rep. coordinated with Melissa Sturdivant and other representatives to address AIANEA participation on the NRCS regional tribal conservation advisory councils when vacancies were identified and requests for nominations were received to fill these council vacancies.
7. Midwest Rep. coordinated with Melissa Sturdivant to provide a new and relocating Intertribal Agriculture Council employee information regarding available NRCS training, employment, internship, outreach, and youth and college student recruitment information.

# ATTACHMENT F

From: Hamilton, Barry - NRCS, Washington, DC  
To: Sturdivant, Melissa - NRCS, Goldthwaite, TX; Allen, Melissa - NRCS, Culpeper, VA  
Cc: Durkin, Steve - NRCS, Washington, DC; Oakes, Timothy - NRCS, Philadelphia, MS; Henry, Debbie - NRCS, Colquitt, GA; Harris, Ronald - NRCS, Washington, DC; Hamilton, Barry - NRCS, Washington, DC  
Subject: AIANEA Nat'l Council Meeting and SEAIWG  
Date: Monday, November 30, 2015 8:28:15 PM  
Attachments: [ron\\_Factsheet\\_11-24-15.pdf](#)

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Good evening Melissa, Melissa, Tim, Debbie and Steve,

I will not be able to participate in tomorrow's meeting. I am in preparation of my meeting and presentation for the IAC Members Meeting in Las Vegas next week. Please share the comments below in the Council Meeting. I have been on a detail assignment occupying two positions and sometimes three limiting me to what time that I have in an 8 hour day in Headquarters. I should return back to the Office of Outreach and Advocacy in January. Melissa, Debbie and Tim please share the same report and request for FY2015 accomplishments below with SEAIWG members.

## **IAC Members Meeting December 7<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>**

The attached Factsheet will has been presented to all Tribes by OTR, IAC and other partners. It is possible that your Federally recognize Tribe could have been missed, if so please forward accept our apology and forward the attached Factsheet to them and have them to contact me if they have any questions. We will be hosting the following...

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** – The flag-ship program of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and re-authorized under Farm Bill, Sections 2201-2208, the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. We will be sending out additional information with links to materials and updates from the Public Comment Period as soon as possible. Point of Contact: Barry Hamilton, National Tribal Relations Liaison Officer; email: [barry.hamilton@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:barry.hamilton@wdc.usda.gov) ; telephone (202) 260-8540 Office; (202) 260-9158 Fax

Address: The Flamingo Hotel  
3555 S. Las Vegas, Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Program	Agency	Date	Time	Room
Highly Fractionated Indian Land Program	Farm Service Agency	12/7/2015	10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Laughlin Room I
Environmental Quality Incentive Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service	12/7/2015	11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Laughlin Room I

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## **Council for Native American Farmers and Ranchers**

I will be presenting at the CNAFR meeting on December 9, I want to share with you Action Items generated at the September meeting related to EQIP since our Dec 9 presentation on NRCS Conservation Programs is to include EQIP.

### **NRCS Action Items identified in the table below?**

Council Member Gilbert Harrison of New Mexico will be presenting prior to you about his experience using EQIP for an irrigation project. Some of the questions below were generated by him at the September meeting. Items B, C, E, and F were asked by Mr. Harrison, among other Members as well.

Council for Native American Farming and Ranching Action Items Generated at September 2015 Meeting Updated November 30, 2015				
#	Action Item for Follow-Up	Agencies and Points of Contact Responsible	Follow-Up/Response	Status
6	<b>EQIP</b> A. Review regulations and procedures to lessen limitations on program participation due to land fractionation and need for program participation by all landowners. B. Review statute and regulations to determine if progress payments can be made. C. Allow original loan documents to be modified to reflect revised project costs. D. Beside EQIP funds, what other USDA loan or grant funds can be used? NRCS is to ensure its field staff know of these resources and advise applicants of them. E. Streamlined project approval/management process needed by NRCS due to lengthy timeline adding significantly to the project cost; with improved communication between NRCS and applicants about and during the process. F. Over engineering can significantly inflate the cost of a project. Specific example for NRCS response: Why does NRCS accept only 80% of the industry standard for water pipe? G. Can unused state-allocated funds for socially disadvantaged applicants be re-directed to states where the available funds are oversubscribed?	Natural Resources Conservation Service: Noller Herbert Mark Rose		

We accomplished a lot in Indian Country in FY2015. Below is a paragraph of one of our most favorable accomplishments. We are just beginning our journey with the TCU's and we know that there is so much potential and benefits working with them. We have gained new partnership with other federal agencies and Tribal organizations, combining our resources to do better good to serve in Indian Country. We will continue to explore new educational and outreach opportunities moving forward to protect the resources of Mother Earth.

Summary – We are looking for one (1) priority accomplishment in Indian Country per state per Tribe Federal or State that you would like to tell Tribal Leaders about and share with NRCS Leadership. Please state in the subject if this is a Federal or State recognize Tribe accomplishment.  
Try to limit the information to a one no more than two written pages and you can provide as many pictures as you would like to show your states accomplishments.

Example **BUT NOT LIMITED TO**: New xxx program from the Farm Bill was introduced [date]. In FY2015 xxx tribes/tribal participants were awarded xxxx, resulting in xxxx. Plus a few explanatory sentences. – or – Program changes were made to XXXX Program, creating significant benefits for Indian Country ....

NOTE: This is for one major accomplishment – hopefully one that had an effect across Indian Country. Imagine you are using it as advertising to get Tribes to apply for the program or learn more about NRCS programs and your state initiatives.

## From NHQ

### FY2015 Major Accomplishment Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU's)

In 2015, NRCS funded AIHEC to support a range of enrichment and intervention strategies by Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) designed to support American Indian farmers, ranchers and communities in strengthening their agricultural, financial, and natural resource management practices. An important component of the project was for TCU students and faculty to provide support to their Tribal agencies involved in resource assessment and climate change vulnerability analysis. The College of Menominee Nation in Keshena Wisconsin, Salish Kootenai College in Pablo Montana, Stone Child College in Box Elder Montana and Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency Montana were identified to work with local farmers, ranchers and communities, which included assisting them in accessing USDA resources made available through the 2014 Farm Bill. In addition to these colleges, Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates North Dakota, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College in Baraga Michigan, Dine College in Tsaiie Arizona, Fond du Lac Community College in Cloquet Minnesota and Northwest Indian College in Bellingham Washington were recruited specifically to carry out community-based climate change projects. From this work emerged a project being funded by NRCS to AIHEC in 2016 in which VISTA volunteers are being recruited to work through a pilot cohort of four TCUs to facilitate Tribal community stakeholder involvement in climate change adaptive response work. K-12 and college students, farmers, ranchers and other local stakeholders will be recruited to help identify and address local climate change response priorities. The TCUs and their community stakeholders will be supported with technical assistance from national climate change resources including the USDA Climate Hubs. There will be one VISTA volunteer placed at each of four pilot TCU sites. AIHEC will put out a request for applications to all of the TCUs and give priority to those colleges with ongoing climate change projects and established partnerships with their Tribal leadership. Each VISTA placement is budgeted at \$20,000 which will include the volunteers' stipends, training, and program administration. The host colleges will provide each volunteer an office/duty station, and will assign a TCU faculty member to serve as supervisor/mentor. AIHEC hopes to eventually expand the project to include all 37 TCUs.

Ahéhee',

"Shush"

BARRY A. HAMILTON  
National Tribal Relations Liaison Officer  
Tribal Climate Change Coordinator  
USDA NRCS  
1400 Independence Ave, Suite 6007-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
(202) 260-8540 Office  
(202) 260-9158 Fax  
[barry.hamilton@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:barry.hamilton@wdc.usda.gov)

[www.nrcc.usda.gov](http://www.nrcc.usda.gov)

"The glory of life is to love, not to be loved; to give, not to get; to serve, not to be served"

COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR THE AIANEA**OBJECTIVES**

1. To promote awareness of the services that our association provides
2. To promote membership in our association
3. To promote national support for our association

**AUDIENCES (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)**

## INTERNAL:

1. AIANEA members

## EXTERNAL:

1. NRCS employees
2. NRCS leadership

**KEY MESSAGES**

- 1.) **Our association members serve on the front line for NRCS trust responsibilities with tribes**
  - We have members that are providing services to reservations, Indian country, individual landowners and serve on the frontline.
  - We have the means to be the first line of communication for those who have consultation responsibilities.
  - We provide a reminder to the agency of our trust responsibilities
  - AIANEA is a resource for tribal and non-tribal employees for work on and off tribal lands
  - Can be the buffer between headquarters and program design to field office level.
  - Vision plan – guides our association
  - Provide guidance on policy
- 2.) **Our members serve as cultural advisors to NRCS at the field, state and national level**
  - Cultural advisors – to communicate to our agency cultural awareness and understanding
  - Elders – pass down traditional knowledge
  - Help understand Native American culture and issues that aren't obvious to non-natives
- 3.) **AIANEA provides top quality training that meets the general manual requirements as well as requirements set forth in the USDA Action Plan on Consultation**
  - Training resource- NRCS, externally to other federal agencies
  - Serve as a resource for AIAN SEPMs
- 4.) **AIANEA provides support to NRCS employees**
  - Safe harbor for our employees who are American Indian – away from home – support group

- Anyone can belong – you don't have to be Native American to belong
- A place for those who are working on reservations to find solutions to some of their challenges
- Network for them to use – support group

## DELIVERABLES

The major communication components are:

Item	Description	Audience	Specialist(s)	Deadline	Notes
website	Needs to be reworked	Internal and external			
newsletter	Consider continuing or own newsletter and research if Sandy Penn would be interested in assisting				Charlotte Pyle contacting Sandy
Facebook Page	Improve the input and use of this as a resource		John Whitney		
Provide training to the SEPM network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider offering honorary membership for their term of service to promote membership</li> <li>○ in return ask them to promote the association when giving presentations</li> <li>○ Provide a canned presentation for them to present at meetings with a message of what the association offers</li> <li>○ They are part of the civil rights advisory committee and have access to the state conservationist</li> <li>○ Cultivate them as advocates for the organization</li> <li>○ Provide info to Deb Clairmont to distribute to SEPMs</li> <li>○ Make it clear that ALL are welcome to the organization</li> <li>○ This is a welcoming, nurturing organization for NRCS employees</li> </ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rank and position are not important – State con and technician of equal importance</li> </ul>				
Training Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Conference</li> <li>○ Webinars</li> <li>○ VTC</li> <li>○ DVDs – elder</li> <li>○ WEWAI</li> <li>○ SEPM share work with tribes – showcases differences in tribes</li> <li>○ Trust responsibility videos</li> </ul>				
Regional Reps network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide information and tools to the Regional Tribal Representatives to use within the membership to promote the AIANEA</li> </ul>				
National Council	Provide information and tools to the national council to reinforce the trust responsibility message at the national level				
Access database	Use the access database under development to spread information about the association				