

RESPECT
HARMONY
AND BEAUTY

AIANEA

The Four Winds

"Before our way of life came to an end, our natural resources were sacred. Our ancestors prayed for the survival of their descendants, that they would keep their ways and protect their natural resources. We are those descendants."

~**Ted Herrera**



2018 President Kirt Peterson

Hello from Colorado! It's an interesting time to be President of AIANEA. We're a small but strong group of people that are admittedly stretched thin as we carry on an important cause and purpose.

Though the purpose of AIANEA will vary from member to member, I believe we remain unified and strong through the recognition of what the Native peoples bring to our culture and - for those of us lucky enough to have spent time with them; our elders.

Losing Roy Doore as suddenly as we did. Now Jerry Wolfe. It's a reminder to slow down and listen...but that's easier said than done. For me, at least.

I think this time speaks largely to the Native culture as a whole: a whirlwind of activity bears down on our culture so loudly that it's difficult to hear one another. Our culture was developed to sit, listen and contemplate the heart of an

issue. Not to leap from fire to fire. But here we are - adapting, firefighting, and still trying to come together and sit, listen, contemplate amidst the noise.

We're an organization of few people, so many expectations, and so few times to be together to sit, listen, and contemplate as we once did. As for tonight, writing this message amidst a whirlwind of thoughts, I'm centered by reflecting on the times I had the chance to sit with my Elders of AIANEA.

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Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Membership Meeting

December 2017, Las Vegas, Nevada; USDA/NRCS:

Cody Kartak-Soil Conservationist and SD AIAN SEPM; Mary A. Scott-SD Rosebud Tribal Liaison, Lorne Aadland-SD Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Liaison.

Ross Racine- IAC Executive Director, gave the opening remarks and Astor Boozer, NRCS West Regional Conservationist, conducted introductions of the 20 to 30 people in attendance. An overview of Farm Bill Programs from tribal perspectives was provided and participation with NRCS Conservation Programs was highlighted and discussed.

Sessions presented at the conference showcased ideas on how the USDA/NRCS and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) can support and collaborate with Tribal Conservation

Districts, Tribal Advisory Councils, State Technical Advisory Committees, Technical Service Providers, Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and tribes. USDA/NRCS Kevin Farmer, Watershed Program Team Leader, presented different watershed programs NRCS has offered to tribes.

Tribal youths in agriculture competed by writing essays, and the top three student finalists presented their essays for the IAC Youth Essay Award. The winning essay was titled "Why Indian Country Needs the Farm Bill." All of the essays were read by USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

Chris Roper, Director of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, and John Lane Berrey, Chairman, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, presented success stories about the cattle,

buffalo, goats, security dogs, produce and other products possible with the assistance and partnering with NRCS and their conservation programs. A

Approximately 60 tribal youths from various tribes/nations attended with ages ranging from 15-18 years old. Round Table Discussions on "Pursuing a Career that Brings You Home" were featured to students along with NRCS Nine Steps in Conservation Planning.

In summary, this opportunity gave NRCS more information about other tribes/nations and partners to build stronger relationships. Conservation is strengthened by working together to protect, maintain and improve our natural resources. There were some very good presentations that showed how others were able to find harmony in working with the land.

"Indian Agriculture...the Future of American Food Security"



Tri-Centennial Event by *Elder Ted Herrera*

American Indians had been living around present-day San Antonio, Texas for over 10,000 years before European contact.

Representing those indigenous tribes at the San Antonio, Tri-Centennial celebration were members of the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions, Tehuan Band of Mission Indians and the Rio Grande Native American Church, whose drums and chants fueled an American Indian deer dance, bird songs and round dance Saturday, March 10, 2018.

In March 2017, I was very pleased to have been asked by the Canary Island Descendants Association on behalf of the City of San Antonio to initiate the planning for the Native American community to be represented at the Tri-Centennial observance. After a year of meetings and planning, the big day finally arrived on 10 March 2018. The weather was sunny and clear, the temperature was in the mid 70's, and a huge crowd came out for the event.

Our Native American community educated and entertained the crowds as we represented the first component of the reenactment of the founding of the city in 1718.

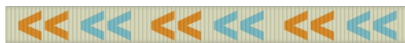
The program continued with representatives for the 1718 Spanish Presidio soldiers that had settled in the area along with the Catholic clergy. The third component was composed of Canary Islands descendants from the original 16 families who founded San Antonio in 1718.

President's Message (Cont'd)

When I think of Roy Doore, I think of his characteristic grin amidst the shine of personality, mischief, and wisdom through those eyes. You knew he had something to say but Roy was selective with his words. He saved them for when it mattered. Cutting through the silence you could feel a smile that carried something beyond mere humor. Each grin from Roy contained compassion, wisdom, and character building. I'm grateful to have met and grown from Roy. His wisdom lives on through his family and those of us who were lucky enough to know him; however long, however brief.

As for Jerry - I did not get to know him personally but was fortunate enough to hear one of his stories. I can't do that story justice in writing - anyone who's heard an elder's story knows what I mean. What I can say is that in the midst of the whirlwind around our lives...when our Elder spoke? We listened. There was no whirlwind and the only fire was from one that our ancestors had lit with the purpose of us to gather around, listen, and contemplate. For a moment everyone in that room time traveled and it changed us forever.

Such sacred moments are why we're part of this organization.



"A very great vision is needed and the man who has it must follow it as the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky."

Crazy Horse, Oglala Lakota Sioux



As to the future - I'm excited and grateful for the opportunities ahead. We are actively planning our organizations meeting in Spokane, WA, spearheaded by our very capable and dedicated upcoming President's Cameron Clark and Melissa Sturdivant. We're being aided by our former President Roylene Rides at the Door and we have partnered with other organizations to be successful and carry on this mission. Whatever that mission is to you, I hope you'll step up to the cause and the challenges our organization faces. We must recruit, we must pause, we must carry on a flame in a different way.

Here's to less fires unless they're around the tee-pee ;) Take care, stay involved - keep us going.
~ Kirt

HONORING OUR AIANEA ELDERS

FIND EACH OF THE WORDS AND CELEBRATE OUR ELDERS. ELDERS, THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR WISDOM AND WALKING WITH US ALONG THIS PATH.

M	A	I	N	D	I	G	E	N	O	U	S
E	S	T	O	R	Y	T	E	L	L	E	R
D	H	U	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N
I	H	U	F	S	L	R	S	A	R	O	Q
C	C	E	L	A	O	F	M	F	Y	C	G
I	E	E	R	N	M	O	L	N	J	N	E
N	R	I	O	I	D	I	P	H	I	X	E
E	E	H	Z	S	T	X	L	R	Y	L	L
C	M	X	I	K	V	A	A	Y	K	D	D
R	O	W	R	V	W	H	G	S	V	G	E
X	N	S	Y	M	S	I	L	E	B	O	R
B	Y	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	T

heritage	Elder	knowledge
sharing	indigenous	honor
ceremony	tradition	storyteller
medicine	family	wisdom



We Say Goodbye to our Beloved Man, Elder Jerry Wolfe

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, AIANEA Elder Committee Chair

This past week, we sadly lost one of our long term AIANEA Elders. Jerry Wolfe, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, passed away on March 12, 2018 at the age of 93. Jerry joined the AIANEA Elders' Council in 2002. He has been sharing his immense wisdom about Cherokee culture, traditional plants, songs (I hope you all were able to hear him sing *Amazing Grace* in Cherokee), storytelling, and his never-ending effort to teach and uphold the Cherokee language to AIANEA members and NRCS employees ever since.

Elder Wolfe was a treasure. He was a truly caring man with a sense of humor that quietly created a laugh and a big smile. In the middle of a conversation, Jerry would so easily segue into a Cherokee story and captivate anyone within hearing distance. We were all honored to spend time with Elder Wolfe at the AIANEA conferences, the last one being in November 2014 when we honored Jerry for his years of service and celebrated his 90th year on this Earth!

In the fall of 2012, I was able to vacation in Tennessee and North

Carolina and planned ahead to meet up with Elder Wolfe while in Cherokee. It was a wonderful experience to spend time with him and hear the Cherokee stories, including the traditional stories of the mountains surrounding Cherokee.

John McCoy served as Jerry's Elder Representative on the AIANEA Elders' Committee since 2002. John traveled with Elder Wolfe, so he could provide education and service to AIANEA and the NRCS Southeast Region American Indian Working Group for many years. We thank John

for the loyal assistance he provided, which allowed all of us to become enriched by Jerry's giving heart and sharing of wisdom.

Very deservedly, Elder Wolfe was named the Beloved Man of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee

Indians in 2013. He was the first man to receive this honor in over 200 years. Jerry received many honors in his lifetime, including an

(Continued on next page)



Elder Jerry Wolfe and John McCoy

Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Western Carolina University in 2017. I recall when a group of AIANEA members toured the National Museum of the American Indian during its grand opening in Washington DC in 2004, one of the displays in the museum featured Elder Wolfe! He was known and honored far and wide.

Our hearts are saddened by our loss of Elder Wolfe. We will miss him. We are reminded that our Elders are leaving us; Creator is calling them Home. While we are saddened, we are also honored and grateful for knowing the Elders and the time we have been able to share. Elder Ted Herrera recently said, "We have more yesterdays than tomorrows". In 2016, we lost Elder Roy Doore and we lost Louie Dick and Leland Debe in 2011.

All of the Elders are currently involved in work to complete the *Elders in the 21st Century* book, which is their vision. As this work continues, we realize that we need more

photos to capture our time

always remember

with each of the Elders. If you, our AIANEA Family, have any photos of any of our Elders that you would be willing to share, please email them to Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen at tanya.meyer@ia.usda.gov or tanyadideriksen1@gmail.com or Melissa Sturdivant at Melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov or msturdivant76834@gmail.com.

We take this time to say a prayer to Creator to show our gratefulness for all of our Elders and the cherished time we have with them. We are all truly honored and blessed to be given this opportunity.

Thank you for the blessing of your friendship, Elder Wolfe.

Replica of Jerry Wolfe in the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, NC



When someone you love becomes a memory that memory becomes a treasure

*Thank you for all the treasures you shared.
-Your AIANEA Family*

IN MEMORY OF

DUPGA "Beloved"
Jerry Wolfe



Photo Source: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, <https://ebci.com>

MENTOR
volunteer
learn
tutor
listen
inspire
art of hands & feet
TEACHER
BELOVED



Mural at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This mural portrays a ceremonial dance dedicated to rain-making spirits. Male and female dancers give thanks for the beauties of life, abundant rain and plentiful crops.

<https://www.indianpueblo.org/>



Celebration of American Indian / Alaska Native Heritage Month
Lydia VerBrugge, American Indian/Alaska Native SEPM, Missouri NRCS



NRCS recognizes November as American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month.

In November 2017, Missouri State Office staff toured the newly-opened Museum of Anthropology at Mizzou North, just a short walk from the State Office. Led by Assistant Curator Amanda Staley Harrison, groups viewed artifacts from North America including the Jaguar Gorget from Benton County, and ancient shoes from Arnold Research Cave located in central Missouri. State Office staff also participated in a luncheon where people contributed native-inspired food.



2017 AIANEA Scholarship Awards Announced

Greetings! This past year, the American Indian-Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA) Scholarship Committee underwent some leadership changes that included a co-chairing effort by the AIANEA West Regional Representative, Susan Looper and AIANEA Secretary (newly elected 2nd VP), Melissa Sturdivant. The continued support of scholarship committee members Pam Crow, AIANEA Treasurer and AIANEA members Noller Herbert, Felix Nez, David Elliot, and ad-hoc committee member Cameron Clark, AIANEA 1st VP, made the 2017 scholarship awards possible.

The Scholarship Committee and AIANEA National Council worked hard to implement the changes recommended by the committee. Going forward, the committee was aiming to effectively grow student participation in the scholarship program and develop a more efficient management strategy to encourage AIANEA members to serve on the committee. The committee also focused on improving public communication and fiscal administrative management of the scholarship program. It's still a work-in-progress and will be fine-tuned as the program grows, but the Scholarship Committee accomplished the following in 2017:

- Updated the scholarship application form for the 2017 application period;

- Added a "Scholarship" webpage tab on the AIANEA website to serve as the first point of contact for scholarship application information, including phone number contact information for co-chairs;
- Created an email address, aianeascholarship@gmail.com, for AIANEA Scholarship Award Program communications and submission of scholarship applications by students;
- Created an "email blast" template public announcement that was used by each AIANEA Regional Representative to send out to their respective AIANEA Members and community contacts;
- Developed scholarship program policy, with the help of a CPA, to create greater transparency for the program which the committee is still working through;
- Developed a more efficient application evaluation process and tracking system for applications submitted;
- Updated the AIANEA Scholarship Committee bylaws language;
- Identified a delivery timeline which the scholarship announcement and awards would affect greater opportunity for High



School graduates and college students to apply;

- Identified information provided on the AIANEA brochure about the scholarship program that needs to be updated.

With the support of AIANEA National Council, the Scholarship Committee pushed forward on November 1, 2017 and publicly announced that AIANEA would be awarding (4) \$500.00 scholarships by December 18, 2017, including:

- One \$500.00 AIANEA Natural Resources Management Scholarship Award;
- Two \$500.00 AIANEA Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Awards;
- One \$500.00 AIANEA Harold Bryant Scholarship Award.

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2017 AIANEA Scholarship Awards Announced (cont'd)

The 2017 AIANEA Scholarship Award Recipients included students from Montana, Utah, Oklahoma, and Georgia, with a wide range of interests, talents, determination, and vision for their educational goals. The 2017 AIANEA Scholarship Awardees included:

Harold Bryant Scholarship Award

Photo not available

Recipient: Terra Brauhn, MT, majoring in "Early Childhood Education PK-3"

Natural Resources Management Scholarship Award

Photo not available

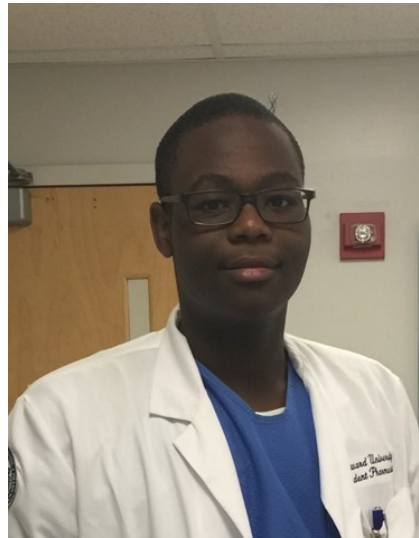
Recipient: Kasey Jo Blevins, OK, majoring in "Natural Resources and Animal Science"

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Award

Recipient: Meeya Yazzie (and husband), UT, majoring in "Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences"



Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Award
Recipient: Terrance Mitchell, GA, majoring in "Animal Science and Biology"



We want to congratulate each of the 2017 AIANEA Scholarship Award Recipients and thank all students who applied for a 2017 scholarship award. We want to encourage all students who did not receive an award last year to apply again in 2018.

Currently, the Scholarship Committee is preparing for the 2018 AIANEA Scholarship Award season and will be updating the Scholarship page on the AIANEA website at aianea.org soon. The Scholarship Committee hopes to announce the scholarship application timeline before this summer.

Once the 2018 AIANEA Scholarship Award Program information is made available on-line, please direct all inquiries about the scholarship program to the AIANEA website Scholarship page at www.aianea.org. Thank you to our AIANEA members for your continued support and contributions over the years that have made the AIANEA Scholarship Award Program a great success!

Respectfully, Susan Looper & Melissa Sturdivant, AIANEA Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs



"When you know who you are; when your mission is clear and you burn with the inner fire of unbreakable will; no cold can touch your heart; no deluge can dampen your purpose. You know that you are alive."

Chief Seattle, Duwamish

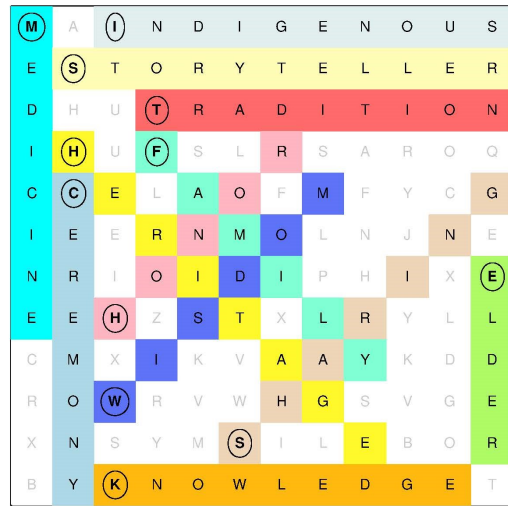


Find each of the words as we celebrate our Elders. Elders, thank you for sharing your knowledge and walking with us along this path.

**FIND US
ON THE WEB**



<https://www.aianea.org/>



heritage ↘	elder ↓	knowledge →
sharing ↗	indigenous →	honor ↗
ceremony ↓	tradition →	storyteller →
medicine ↓	family ↘	wisdom ↗

12 words in Wordsearch: 3 vertical, 4 horizontal, 5 diagonal, (0 reversed)



LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!

AIANEA is now on Facebook! AIANEA wanted to take advantage of the most popular social media tools to stay connected. This will give AIANEA the opportunity to stay connected not only with our membership, but with partners, friends, students and associates. AIANEA and Friends can use Facebook to post pictures of our events, share activities with tribes, share our journeys and participate in discussion forums. Please take advantage and stay connected!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Indian-Alaska-Native-Employees-Association/160121254007738?sk=wall>



like **US**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues

Student - \$10.00

Regular - \$25.00

**Tribal College -
\$100.00**

Tribal - \$500.00

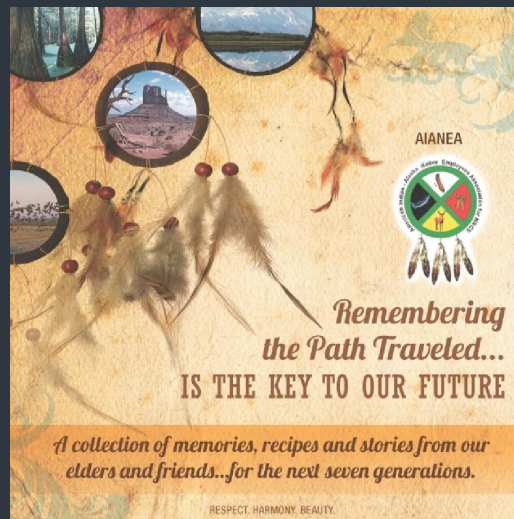
Lifetime - \$250.00

**1 x payment/or
payable in 4
installments of
\$65/year**

Please mail payment to:
Pam Crow
Treasurer
101 So. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501

2018 AIANEA National Council

Kirt Peterson – President
Cameron Clark – 1st Vice President
Melissa Sturdivant – 2nd Vice President
Derek Kelso – So. Central Region Rep.
Melissa Allen – Southeast Region Rep.
Susan Looper – West Region Rep.
Debe Walchuk – Midwest Region Rep.
Cassius Spears – East Region Rep.
Kelly Barkell – Northern Plains Region Rep.
VACANT – Secretary
Pam Crow – Treasurer
Bill Parrish – Co-Treasurer



AIANEA Cookbook is now available directly from the publisher's webpage. Our business account is now setup and we can receive payments from the publisher for books that are purchased and this will be in the form of royalty payments to our Association checking account.

You can go to <http://www.bookemon.com/> and search 'AIANEA' in the search bar. It brings up the two cookbook editions (e.g. paperback and hardcover).

This is a link to the hardcover edition, and it sells directly to the public for \$60.00 - \$7.50 from the sale of each book is returned to the Association in royalties to fund scholarships. http://www.bookemon.com/book_read_flip.php?book_id=439549

Here is the link for the soft cover edition. It is available for purchase for \$35 and \$7.50 is returned to the Association as described above (to a scholarship fund). http://www.bookemon.com/book_read_flip.php?book_id=442656