

The Four Winds

Newsletter of the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA)



Spring - Niihin 2012

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Elder Quote

Indian people are lost when they forget that they come from the ground."

Norman Lopez, 8/12/08

Respect, Harmony, and Beauty

Please send articles on what is happening in your area. News stories, articles of interest, gatherings, pow wow's, whatever you want to share! Email to membership@aiana.com

Message from President Gina Kerzman

Greetings AIANEA Members,

It is time for our annual election of American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association national council members. First I would like to thank the entire national council for their dedication to the membership during 2012. Thank you to all outgoing members of the national council for a job well done.

We have some major needs in the association this year. Due to personal reasons, both our first vice president, Levi Montoya, and second vice president, Stacy Kimble, have resigned from their positions. That means that you will be nominating someone to serve as President for 2013, along with first and second vice president... basically the entire executive committee. Ciro Lo Pinto has graciously stepped in to finish out Stacy's term as 2nd VP and is assisting with the elections.

More than any time in our association's history, we need people to step up and lead this organization. I have been asked by the national council to extend my presidency through the month of January while a new national council is on-boarded.

Please send your nominations to Gina Kerzman at gina.kerzman@wa.usda.gov or Ciro Lo Pinto at Ciro.Lopinto@pa.usda.gov by January 8, 2013. The following are the rules for nominating, as well as the positions for which we are seeking nominations. And remember... you can always nominate yourself!

Once again, the election rules are as follows:

You must be a dues paying member to nominate someone for a position.

You can only nominate a dues paying member who is in good standing

You can only nominate someone for a Regional Representative if you work in one of the States represented by that Region

Any dues paying members can nominate someone for the Second Vice-President position

We will take nominations until **January 8, 2013**, at which time another email will go out to the



membership that lists the candidates for election

The election will conclude at the end of the day, January 15, 2013. All votes will be tallied by Gina and Ciro on January 16 and then announced to the membership

When nominating, please send your nomination to Gina Kerzman and Ciro Lo Pinto. When nominating, please state your name and the State that you work in, as well as the nominee of whom you are nominating and the position for which you are nominating them.

The following are the 2013 positions for which we are seeking nominations:

South Central Region Representative – (currently held by Leota Burnett, Oklahoma)

Northern Plains Region Representative – (currently held by David Pesicka, South Dakota)

East Region Representative – (currently held by John Whitney, New York)

First Vice-President

Second Vice President

President

Thank you for your continued support,

Gina Kerzman, AIANEA President



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:

Harold Bryant
 Treasurer
 1510 29th Street
 Hondo, TX 78861

**PENALTY/
 FRANKED MAIL &
 OFFICIAL
 STATIONARY.
 YOU MAY NOT:**

Use official government envelopes (with or without applied postage) or official letterhead stationery for personal business.

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>

A Visit with Jerry Wolfe by Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

In November, my fiancée' and I were on vacation in Tennessee and North Carolina, enjoying the Smoky Mountains. I made arrangements with John McCoy beforehand to try to ensure a visit with AIANEA Elder, Jerry Wolfe. John informed me that Jerry works at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. So, we traveled to Cherokee on Wednesday of our vacation and went straight to the museum. It was a wonderful travel back in time as I remembered the 2002 AIANEA conference there in Cherokee. It also brings about strong emotions and feelings as this was the homeland of my ancestors.

Those of us that know Jerry, know that he keeps very busy and this particular day was no exception. The man at the desk told us that Jerry was at a meeting and would also be attending a traditional lunch and would be back soon. So, we enjoyed the lobby of the museum, the gift store and then walked across the street to the Qualla Arts and Crafts store. We waited several hours for Jerry to arrive but I was so thrilled when I saw him walk in the door of the museum with his signature black hat on. He told us how he had been at the school, telling the children about the Cherokee traditional games. And, of course, Jerry immediately started telling Jim and I Cherokee stories.

I gave him a gift, the hat he is wearing in the photo. He accepted it with much emotion and showed us how worn his black hat has become. When we were finished taking photos outside, we stood there in the beautiful fall air as he showed us the mountains and told us the stories. He went into the gift store with us and I was able to quiz him on the Cherokee rolls and showed him how I had actually found some people whom I believe were my ancestors in some of the rolls.

When we were ready to go into the museum for the tour, Jerry signed one of the museum brochures and showed us the replica of him shown on the cover (see the photo). He watched the introductory film with us and shared some additional information to the stories and then we were on our way to tour the museum. By

the time we were finished, Jerry had gone home. But, I was so honored to be able to spend this time with him and hear his voice once again. Our Elders are such gifts and treasures to us.



Elder Jerry Wolfe



Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, and Elder Jerry Wolfe



2012 Business Meeting Minutes DRAFT December 6, 2012

Prayer song - Levi Montoya opened with a prayer song.

Prayer – Ted Herrera offered a prayer before the meeting began.

Greeting Circle (roll call) –members present by region:

Northeast – Charlotte Pyle, Bill Parrish, John Whitney, Charlie Kesterson, Ciro Lo Pinto

South East– Jack Lewis

Midwest – Tanya Meyer, Jerry Thompson, Dave Wise, Samantha Lawien

South Central – Carol Crouch, Pat Broyles, Pam Crow, Ted Herrera, Melissa Sturdivant

Northern Plains – Herb Webb, Levi Montoya, Dave Wise, Cameron Clark, David Pesicka,

West – Gerald Allison, Thomas Tso, Richard Begay, Allen Dart , Millie Titla, Gina Kerzman, Athena Pratt, Martin Bales, Ralph Goh

News and Update on Leota

Thursday Leota went to the hospital for emergency surgery. She is being watched closely and will take some time to heal, she isn't in ICU but still pretty critical. She may go home next Tuesday.

Leave and Donor status – Individual members have inquired about donating leave to Leota. If Gina hears anything, she will forward the information to the AIANEA membership.

2011 Business Meeting minutes – Discussion, motion to accept with the provision that the statement of “motion to accept 2012 business meeting minutes” be changed to “motion to accept 2010 meeting minutes”

Motion to accept minutes with changes (made by Ciro)

Second made by Charlotte
no discussion

all aye, opposed 0, motion passes

Regional Report on tribal activities - (presented by regional reps)

North East - John Whitney

Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council meeting: State Conservationists did attend and thought it was successful. There were organizational glitches regarding the meeting. AIANEA needs to be kept informed so that we can help our members (the AIANEA rep and the elder) get the information in a timely fashion.

John attended a meeting in CT in Oct. The annual meeting of the south and eastern tribes (USET) and David Elliot had been the main NRCS contact with this group and he participated in a variety of ways. The CT staff was invited to do a presentation on GPR in evaluated cultural resources. Demonstrate the technology and the cultural concern.

John has been in discussion with USEF reps to try to bring in eastern tribes to participate in the INCA and IAC conference in December in Las Vegas. It would be nice to make the conference more nation-wide relevant and there hasn't been much participation lately. AIANEA perhaps can be more supportive of that and hope to bring in more eastern reps to that conference.

South East – Jack Lewis

There has been a lot of outreach to the different tribes for program participation. There has been good elder participation on elder teleconferences.

A resource concern in these areas are the long leaf pine preservation and as well as river cane.

State con for Georgia and Alabama presented Keith McCormic in GA and Billy Smith in AL with certificates of appreciation.

They had a really good year overall

Midwest – Samantha Lawien

This past year has been a bit difficult and trying for all

NRCS employees, especially with budgets and deadlines and the drought. There was a lot of our area that was hit pretty badly and there was substantial damage to quite a bit of cropland. (The Oneida Nation lost a number of buffalo in their herd due to lack of water.... It was a sad day in the community). I would like to say thank you to all of those who are in this region! There is so much good work helping Tribes and Native people and here is a sampling of it:

Minnesota:

Partnered with IAC and held outreach meetings for the Keepseagle Settlement.

Has 10 DC's assigned to serve as liaisons to 11 Tribal Nations, one full time liaison serves the White Earth Tribal Conservation District, and one full time liaison serves the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Filled the newly created position, State Tribal Liaison, and the STL's start date was November 28th, 2011.
Debe Walchuk

Attended Rural Council Native American Food and Agriculture Round Table hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

FDLTCC Liaison was selected to serve as AIANEA representative on RTCAC.

Held NEDC course: Working Effectively with American Indians, utilizing a cooperative agreement with the White Earth Band of Ojibwe to plan and deliver the training to 28 MN NRCS employees.

Engaged in educational meetings and an on-farm demonstration.

Engaged in Plant Materials Program activities.

Advanced the development of the MN TCAC.

Attended ceremonies, ex: release of sturgeon stock.

Attended career fairs, science fairs, math and science academies.

Assisted 1 person to become a certified Tribal TSP and subsequently entered into over 150 EQIP contracts for forest management CAP's on allotted land.

Delivered financial and technical conservation

program assistance to individual Native American producers and Tribal Governments.

Dave Wise is working with the Tribes to help apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge to practice standards for wild rice, maple sugar, etc. Otherwise, the Tribes hear too often that these traditional methods do not fit. Also, he worked to simplify the plant materials request form to streamline the process for our Tribes to participate.

District Conservationist and NRCS Tribal Liaison, Kelly Elijio, with the Bois Forte Band of Minnesota Chippewa in north central Minnesota wrote 158 EQIP contracts with the tribe for Forest Management Plans on all of the allotment parcels on the reservation. They have hired a TSP to write the plans. The TSP is making great progress in accomplishing all of the plans.

There were certainly many issues to work through to get to the contracting phase – internal NRCS issues on just how to contract on 158 parcels, control of land documentation, BIA involvement, Tribal legal counsel consultation, how to address cultural resources in the plans, and contracting in the middle of a tribal council election which could have changed signature authorities mid-stream, etc. Etc. Etc. It required a lot of open communication and time.

Iowa

There was not a response to the request of "Happenings in Indian Country" that was sent out.

Illinois

There was not a response to the request of "Happenings in Indian Country" that was sent out.

Indiana

Has been working with the Potawatomi Nation to restore marshlands through the WRP program. About 683 acres of warm season grasses and forbs along with wild rice was planted in this parcel.

Missouri

There was not a response to the request of "Happenings in Indian Country" that was sent out.

Ohio-

A tribal member won a law suit against USDA for \$67,000.00. He lost his farm due to not receiving

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services from FSA. The Keepseagle Claim.

We have been having problems with people desecrating Serpent Mound. We have hundreds of mounds in the state.

Ohio does not have any federally recognized tribes in the state.

We do have tribes that were removed from the state and have a lot of cultural resources, sacred sites, cemeteries that we still have to notify before we start any projects.

Wisconsin

The Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has shown the WI NRCS how the EQIP program uses the 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management standard to help in the restoration of Wild Rice beds. Their work has taken place in the Kakagon Sloughs estuary at the mouth of the Bad River on Lake Superior.

The Forest County Potawatomi Potawatomi Community has helped the WI NRCS adapt it's 560 Access Road and 578 Stream Crossing standards to meet the forest management needs of Wisconsin Tribes.

The Ho Chunk Nation has helped the WI NRCS make 655 Forest Trails and Landings, and 666 Forest Stand Improvement practices work on Tribal Lands in Wisconsin.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians helped the WI NRCS use the EQIP program in new ways to convert on a commercial cranberry marsh to wild rice fields. The project will provide a stable source of wild rice for reseeding projects down the road as well as a stable source of wild rice for food for the community.

The Lac Du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has shown the WI NRCS how well the Conservation Security Program can work on Tribal Lands in Wisconsin. In 2012 they were kind enough to provide advice and training on CSP to the other WI Tribes.

The Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and the

Menominee Tribal College were crucial partners in the WI NRCS's successful efforts to certify tribal staff across Wisconsin to write EQIP 142 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan CAPs and 106 Forestry Management Plan CAPs.

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin has helped the WI NRCS understand how Farm Bill conservation programs can work on Tribally owned cropland. They have entered into EQIP contracts involving 138 Organic Transition Plan CAP, 393 Filter Strips, 590 Nutrient Management, and 595 Integrated Pest Management.

The Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has helped the WI NRCS develop a scenario for beaver dam removal under the 396 Aquatic Organism Passage standard. It is an important practice for anadromous coastal brook trout restoration in Lake Superior. They also demonstrated how the 798 Seasonal High Tunnel for Crops can be installed using traditional materials for the framing. This methodology has been accepted on a National level. The use of traditional materials will be particularly useful in remote communities where the cost of delivering a prefab kit may far exceed the cost of the kit itself.

St Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the Mole Lake Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians are constructing walleye rearing ponds utilizing EQIP funding. The tribes were very helpful in our efforts to develop suitable 2013 EQIP scenarios for 397 Aquaculture Pond, 382 Fence, 521A Pond Sealing or Lining Flexible Membrane, 533 Pumping Plant, 587 Structure for Water Control, 620 Underground Outlet, and 642 Water Well, all of which are necessary for the construction of walleye rearing ponds. Both tribes will be raising walleyes in their ponds for stocking in lakes in the Ceded Territories in Northern Wisconsin to improve a heavily utilized walleye fishery.

Stockbridge - Munsee Indian Community – Has shown the WI NRCS how the wetland restoration practice standard can work to restore natural communities on Tribal Lands.

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) has received some USDA grant funds to

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conduct Tribal USDA trainings around the country. We do this in partnership with INCA. With our grant funds WTCAC can sponsor the training and pay for travel & per diem for up to two participants from each Tribe or Tribal Conservation District. Jerry is in the process of scheduling these training sessions right now with interested States, and have funds available only until the end of August. We have funds still available to schedule about 3 more. If you are interested in such a Workshop please contact Jerry Thompson ASAP.

Michigan

The Bay Mills Community College is the host for a small scale agriculture operation, more of a teaching, research, and demonstration facility as a part of the Land Grant mission. The farm is on 40 acres of Bay Mills Indian Community tribal land. Technical and financial assistance from the USDA played an important role in the success of the farm. Rural development provided financial assistance for the construction of a storage building, FSA assisted with installation of fencing and watering facilities and NRCS helped fund the purchase of a seasonal high tunnel.

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community worked on expanding the habitat and passages for fish while building new road culverts. A replaced county road crossing will give native brook trout and other fish access to more stream habitat for feeding and spawning. This project is partially funded by Great Lakes restoration initiative funds through the NRCS wildlife habitat incentive program. There are five road crossings being replaced were all identified as impeding fish passage during low or high water conditions.

Northern plains – Dave

Didn't get a hold of members, but in South Dakota there is a tribal advisory committee in place to get their input on the programs.

This year we had some fires that wiped out quite a bit of fencing. NRCS has put aside funds to rebuild the fences.

There is a pond initiative on tribal land which is above and beyond the normal EQIP practices. The

Native American society for Range Management Society, how they can help, February 7th is the next meeting in Ok.

They have a soil suit for outreach – amazing!!!!

Nothing from WY

West – Athena

Overwhelmed with EQIP workload and it keeps getting bigger

The tribal initiative was successful for conservation of cultural significant areas and help the non recognized area with small gardens. Overall work has been continuing with RC&D and their tribes.

Something to think about: How do you bring the organization to the forefront, how to see the value of AIANEA and strengthen our membership. She wants to do more recruitment

Washington

Washington NRCS sent representatives to workshops facilitated by the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. We sent our tribal liaisons to the training and tribal advisory committee and formed a WTCAC basing it on their model.

Tribal resource assessment in Washington State assembled together a view of resource concerns across the state. Put together a list of ranking questions for tribal land. 29 tribes, although not all are active they are all invited to attend. Each tribe has a representative from tribal council and a technical representative to make sure that they are always represented. NRCS sponsors an annual face to face annually and provides travel costs for WATCAC members. This year it is on the west side in January.

Martin Bales says hey!!! 28th of December is his last day with NRCS! Can finally go and travel His wife is cancer free!

Utah (submitted by Richard Vigil)

1) I will be working extensively with Barry Hamilton who is the Area 3 Area Conservationist for NRCS Utah. Barry and I will be working with the Strike

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Force program which targets its efforts to address the needs of low income, socially disadvantaged, Tribes, Hispanic, and Women producers. Barry and I will work with the Navajo Nation and the BIA to get approvals for successful NRCS FB programs. Barry and I have meetings set for January and February 2013.

2) I will be working extensively with Dave Varner on increasing American Indian TSP contracts and finding American Indian TSP contractors. Dave and I will set up an "outreach" model to accomplish outreach to the federally approved Indian tribes in Utah. Dave and I have met once to discuss strategies and setting realistic goals.

3) My main concern are the "22" Action Items identified in Jimmy Bramblett's report. There are some big ticket items to be done by Astor and some STC's. I guess this is the "learning" curve we will be on with this group...how to report on these action items and will the tribes feel justified by these accomplishments.

4) I am also establishing an intra-state relationship with Ed Naranjo of the Goshute tribe at Ibapah, Utah. When Utah gets a travel budget then I will meet with Ed to brain storm on ideas for Utah tribes. Ed is a "Tribal Representative."

South Central – Leota Burnett

Due to Leota's health issues, she was not in attendance to give a report.

President report –

There was a teleconference with the presidents of the employee associations. The associations are moving forward to make an MOU to establish formal relationships with NRCS. Stacy Kimble did a lot of work on that. Gina met with the presidents who are assembling all the MOU's to be submitted to the Chief. The deadline for associations to submit their MOU's is the 2nd week in January. The NOPBNRCSE surveyed their membership to determine interest in holding their own conference. They decided that if they want to have a meeting then they are going to have to do it on their own, without NRCS financial assistance. They successfully held a conference in

November as an "Ag Expo." There were about 200 people in attendance, of those 20 students 50 landowners.

Due to personal circumstances our VP and 2nd VP stepped down as well as the secretary. There are 3 regional rep positions open at the end of this term. We have to get some nominations as soon as possible and some serious consideration. We are calling for those who are willing to stand up and lead. Gina feels that she could have done more and she wants to do more. It has to be decided that are we are in this for the long haul. If we want to have a conference we need to decide soon. Gina would like to offer her assistance. Contact our partners and hold our meetings jointly. There is some leg work to be done but it can be done. Outgoing message as President, she will extend duties through January to ensure some consistency to the next council. She encourages everyone to seriously consider getting involved with the association if it is to survive.

Discussion and Question regarding the President's report:

Is this an NRCS sponsored program? No, it is a stand-alone association and is a 501c3 (nonprofit)

Do you need to be an NRCS employee to be accepted? No, anyone can join.

Can we apply for grants and scholarships? Yes, but have to be careful regarding federal employee involvement.

Martin would like to be able to see a non NRCS (retired) person write grants and have them attend to the duties behind the grant.

Ciro – last year we talked about smaller regional meetings and charged the regional reps to do that – that hasn't really worked. Try and host a gathering for the members in that region to have an elder and a council member present. Consider using venues such as colleges when campus is empty? Hold it on the tribal land.

We could possibly partner with the Society of American Indian Government Employees in Spokane, WA in 2013.

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The strength of our membership came from being around each other. But we are so spread apart.

Ted – It would be a good idea to invite members in the area to the RTCAC meetings when they take place. Even if it's just local people there is some good information available. We could ask Tom Christiansen to convene the meetings in a place where more people can attend.

Other possible partners include the Intertribal Ag Council and Forest Council. By joining with them, it would give us time to build relationships with the partners.

Ciro suggested consulting with past presidents to put together a general agenda and possible meeting structures and provide this to each region as a catalyst to possibly plan regional meetings and /or a national conference.

Motion – To establish an ad hoc regional meeting taskforce with suggested representation from all active past presidents and regional reps as may be available and interested and other members interested up to ten members (one or 2 past presidents). The goal of this committee would be to establish standard framework for regional meetings for the regions to base meetings off of. Once framework has been disseminated to the region, it is up to the region to make it relevant to their constituency and possible partners. A report of progress will be given to the National Committee by the end of the second quarter.

Second – Giro

Point of clarification – Gina asked if this motion needed to go to the national council for approval – no

Opposed – none

Motion passes

Ciro –we should put an announcement out for members to join the committee

Action for Gina- Send a letter to the past presidents requesting their participation in this committee.

John Whitney, Gina and Giro volunteered for the committee

Treasurer's Report – Harold Bryant/Bill Parrish

Report was given by Bill Parrish.

We have been paying liability insurance – don't need it for the national meeting insurance anymore

Not having a national meeting means we aren't getting the income

The national meeting encourages membership and membership fees

5 investments:

Memorial scholarship fund

Elder travel fund

Youth activities

Special projects

Elder memorial fund

Depending on the direction of association – there needs to be some serious discussion on these funds.

A problem – 2011 the funds were jumping up and down and 102,000 to 99,000. We didn't lose the money, only when we go to cash it in.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report

Herb motion

Ciro second

Aye, oppose 0

Motion passes.

Investment Funds – explain their formation, purpose and reminder of opportunity to individually and organizationally support these funds

Scholarships and National SEPM report – Carol Crouch had to leave the meeting early and did not give a report.

Awarded two scholarships this year. The awards committee did select three winners, but national council has to decide whether or not to award a third. There were enough funds generated in the scholarship fund to pay for two scholarships this year. See the following information on scholarship winners.

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Morgan Hennigan

GPA: 3.76

Enrollment Status: Full time (12 hours)

NRCS Earth Team Volunteer

East Central University

Tribal Membership: Chickasaw

Degree: Bachelors of Science Degree in Environmental Science – 457 Series Goal

*All required AIANEA scholarship documents received

**Scholarship committee recommends: \$500.00 scholarship be awarded

Erin Boyd

GPA: 3.50

NRCS - Plant Materials Center, Student Trainee, Tucson, AZ

University of Arizona

Enrollment Status: Full time (12 hours)

Tribal membership: Navajo

Degree: Bachelors of Science Degree in Environmental Science – 457 Series Goal

*All required AIANEA scholarship documents received

**Scholarship committee recommends: \$500.00 scholarship be awarded

GPA: 3.54

Enrollment Status: Full time (12 hours)

Fort Berthold Community College

Tribal Membership: **Three Affiliated Tribes** of Fort Berthold Reservation, **North Dakota**

Degree: Bachelors of Science Degree in Environmental Science – Range/Fire (Goal work for Tribe)

*All required AIANEA scholarship documents received

**Scholarship committee recommends: \$500.00 scholarship be awarded

Annual awards – Lee Reeves

No one present – Gina wants to have someone volunteer for the committee. The awards were not distributed to the recipient. Lee Reeves called to try and work it out. There is some work to be done, there have not been nominations gone out this year so far. Ciro –there were members that did not get their awards. Have to make an effort to bring it back around. We need the list of recipients at least.

Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (RTCAC) meetings

John Whitney touched on the east region RTCAC during his regional report. All regional RTCAC's met this year. First time in history. AIANEA helped choose the AIANEA representative and an elder to sit on each regional council. During a conference call with the other employee organization presidents, Ron Harris from the civil rights division joined the call and asked how his department could better partner with the employee organizations. Gina mentioned the RTCAC's to Mr. Harris and commented on the tremendous opportunity these councils present. She told him that there was some confusion regarding the meetings and that it was very short notice for the elders and the AIANEA reps.

Representatives for AIANEA are as follows:

East – John McCoy and elder Bill Smith

Central: Dave wise and elder Ted Herrera

West: Richard Vigil and elder Norman Lopez.

They have met once and there are some minutes available but have not all been seen. It was great to see that representation from across the nation

Ted – Tom C. advised them before these things were happening, budget constraints, no farm bill and pending fiscal cliff – Ivan Dozier has replaced Pat Leavenworth on the central region RTCAC. Have a meeting in the spring – Oklahoma state con has been doing a lot of traveling for prep of the PBS dust bowl and brought a survivor with him, state con Kansas – the Kickapoo tribe and gathering of raw materials, the Kickapoo go to Illinois for gathering supplies for ceremony, the states are helping each other. Texas – our liaison Jerry has some vegetation that would allow

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people not to travel as far to get the resources they need. Soil health/no till presentation was fantastic and should be in Texas. Hopefully in the spring

Action Item: Outgoing president – send to each of the RTCAC who members are and who are the presidents and who they have to notify for meetings. Send Ron Harris a letter as well for notification.

Detail survey database – Gina Kerzman

Steve Durgin, our historian, was creating a database for us to quarry the “detail survey.” There were a few bugs in the system. Steve has left for NHQ as the new national design engineer, but before he left Washington State, he handed the project off to Kelly Scott in the Washington state office. Kelly has the database to the point where we can run queries, but he has to build the form for the average layman to run reports.

We have to have some mechanism to add new people – can Kelly put it in a malleable document by March 1st, 2013.

Action: Completed the quarry form for the database to the point where it is user by March 1st.

Action: Gina – contact state cons and national headquarter to tell people that this is available

Kelly can run the reports for state cons and NHQ until the form is in place.

Elections

Taking nominations until January 8. Ciro has stepped in to finish 2nd VP term

Seeking nominations for the following positions:

First VP, Second VP, Northeast regional rep, Northern Plains Regional rep, South Central Regional rep.

Reports from Standing Committees

Audit Committee Report – presented by Pam Crow– everything in good standing and accurate – they meet in person in Texas.

Elders Committee Report – submitted by Tanya

Meyers

The Elders Committee hasn't been very active lately with not much business to accomplish. We did work with Edie Morigeau, Roylene and the Elders to identify Elders to be part of each of the three Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils. We also identified alternate Elders in case the assigned Elder is unavailable for any meetings, teleconference etc. I will be scheduling a teleconference for the Elders and Elders Committee for January. We do have some business to attend to now. One item will be to identify Elders that are interested in assisting with the Working Effectively with American Indians trainings.

I've had some recent communication with several of the Elders and they seem to be keeping just as busy as usual and doing well. We lost 2 of our Elders since March 2011 and we are sad about that. I had the opportunity in November to spend a bit of time with Elder, Jerry Wolfe, while on a personal vacation. It was wonderful. I've submitted an article and photos for an upcoming AIANEA newsletter.

Seven Generations Vision Plan Update – Dave Wise

Our vision is alive and is serving very well. In these tough times, we came together into the document. We need to pull together a meeting and get more members active. This will help us to guide us in the direction where to go. There was a letter to solicit ideas from new members. Try and get together a meeting soon to get a replacement for Deb Clairmont and need someone to fill that position. Take a look at the visioning plan and see where they could put some input. So that we can see where we can move forward and what is going to make a big impact on Indian country and help them be better recognized and help our employees move on up. A lot of good things that are going on even though we aren't meeting. Shoot for February to get those committee heads back together – one of more active committees is the mentorship one.

Cookbook proposal

In Harold's absence, Gina mentioned a possible fundraising opportunity presented by Harold Bryant. She did not want to get into this too much, but would

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like interested individuals to hold a teleconference with Harold and investigate this idea further.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Samantha Lawien and Gina Kerzman

The idea is to put together a cookbook with traditional American Indian recipes gathered from our membership. We could place the cookbook for sale on our website. Harold has talked with a company that provides conference lines, and they have offered him one free conference call. We would like to use that for a cookbook committee proposal and get to working on it.

Please visit us on Facebook!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Indian-Alaska-Native-Employees-Association/160121254007738>

Bill Parrish – This is more than a fund raiser. The cookbook is also a way to preserve Indian heritage. This is a chance to get them to the future generations.

Interested individuals send email to Gina and she will forward that to Harold so that they can have a conference call.

There are companies that provide this service, and they do it pretty efficiently. It was suggested that the committee check out existing cookbooks for sale on Amazon to get a good example and see how to market it.

There needs to be a marketing plan put together. We can document this all we want but to get it out to the people is another issue.

Action: Gina is to mention the idea of serving on this committee in the body of the email when she sends out the minutes.

Comments and questions for national council

Pat Broyles: Thank you for all of your support while I was in Iraq.

Dave Wise – Gina did a good job as president and really appreciate all of your hard work and thank you for keeping things rolling ahead.

Bill Parrish –Gina give Harold a call and get the tables from the budgets to put into the minutes

Gina – thank you for participation

Closing Prayer - Ted

Meeting Adjourned



AIANEA Join Today

Celebrate our rich culture which includes tribal government, food, native traditions, natural resources, education and family connecting with the Natural Resource Conservation Service employees, Diversity of Tribes and Tribal Elders from 100's of different tribes across the United States.

- Who can join AIANEA? **Anyone**
- Are you required to be of American Indian or Alaska Native heritage to join this employee association? **No**
- What are the benefits of becoming a member?
 - * Network with NRCS employees throughout the United States
 - * Learn about diversity of American Indian Cultures and Traditions
 - * Mentor or become a Trail Blazer (*protégé*) in the **Bi-Cultural Mentoring Program**
 - * Educational Opportunities
 - * Support Tribal Youth Activities
 - * Leadership Opportunities

How to join the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association
<http://www.aianea.com/index.html>

You can also visit us on Facebook

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

Membership Form

American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

www.aianea.com

Please make checks payable to AIANEA and mail your membership form and dues to:

Harold Bryant
1510 29th Street
Hondo, TX 78861

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Office Address: _____ New Address?

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax _____

e-mail: _____

Tribal Affiliation (optional) _____

Type of membership. (Membership is for one calendar year **January 1 to December 31**)

My membership is for the year 20____.

Regular-\$25.00 Check here if this is a renewal membership

Student -\$10.00 full-time high school or college students

Lifetime - \$250.00 or payable in 4 installments of \$65/year

Enclosed is payment # 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Tribal College-\$100.00

Tribal - \$500.00

The 2012 AIANEA National Council

Gina Kerzman – President

Levi Montoya - 1st Vice President

Ciro LoPinto - 2nd Vice President

Leota Burnett - So. Central Region Rep.

Jack Lewis - Southeast Region Rep.

Athena Pratt - West Region Rep.

Samantha Lawien - Midwest Region Rep.

John Whitney - East Region Rep.

David Pesicka - Northern Plains Region Rep.

Sherry Cosper - Secretary

Harold Bryant - Treasurer

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