

The Four Winds

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



Elder Quote

"Today, more than ever, man is contributing to climate change by his careless and irresponsible exploitation of natural resources; worse yet, he is in denial of climate change."

Elder Ted Herrera, Sept. 9. 2016

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@aianeas.com

In this Issue

December 2016

Respect, Harmony, and Beauty

| | |
|---|---------|
| President Message | Page 2 |
| AIANEA 2015 Award Recipients..... | Page 2 |
| AIANEA Award Item..... | Page 3 |
| Tobacco & Corn | Page 3 |
| 2016 Sequoyah Fellowship..... | Page 4 |
| Annual Business Meeting | Page 4 |
| Elders Concerned about Climate Change | Page 5 |
| President Award..... | Page 7 |
| Special Recognition Award | Page 7 |
| Award for Excellence for Mentoring..... | Page 8 |
| Award for Outreach..... | Page 9 |
| Award for Leadership/Visionary Member | Page 10 |
| Award for Training and Support of NRCS Employees | Page 11 |
| Award for NRCS Employee who Provided Benefits to Tribes, AI/AN Clients, or other NRCS Employees | Page 12 |
| Award for Outstanding Member | Page 12 |
| USDA Best SEPM..... | Page 13 |
| 2017 Dues Information..... | Page 14 |
| Find us on Facebook | Page 14 |
| SAIGE Training Conference | Page 14 |
| Working Effectively with American Indian Training ... | Page 15 |
| National SEPM Vacancies | Page 15 |
| Membership Form..... | Page 16 |
| 2016 National Council..... | Page 17 |

Athena Pratt, President Message

Greetings and Blessings! In this issue of Four Winds I am happy to share with you the AIANEA awardees for 2015. The awardees are examples of the dedication and passion that many NRCS employees have for their jobs. These awardees devote particular attention to Tribes, Native Alaskan communities and Native American/Alaska Native clients.

To receive an award the awardee must not have received the same award from AIANEA in the past two years. Some awards are reserved for AIANEA members who have paid their annual dues or a lifetime membership. New this year is an award for a partnership or group effort.

A special category is the President's Award that can be issued to any two individuals the President recognizes for ongoing or special efforts that assisted the Association President. Past President, Steve Durgin, recognizes Melissa Sturdivant and Pam Crow for their tremendous and ongoing assistance in keeping the Association running.

There are many more employees and partners deserving of recognition. Please take the time to think about others who have inspired you, made your job easier, or performed tasks that go above and beyond to educate and break barriers of participation in USDA programs. Nominations for 2016 awards will be announced early in 2017 and we need to hear from you.

Most Sincerely,
Athena Cholas



AIANEA 2015 Award Recipients—Congratulations!

AIANEA Leadership/Visionary Member Award – **Steve Durgin**

AIANEA Member Awards of Excellence

AI/AN Community Outreach – **Herb Webb**

AIANEA Outstanding Member Award – **Cameron Clark**

AIANEA Mentoring Member Award – **Roylene Rides at the Door.**



NRCS Employee Award of Excellence

Provided benefits to Tribes, AI/AN Clients, or NRCS Employees – **Carlee Elkee**

Training &/or Support of NRCS Employees – **Pedro Torres**

Special Recognition Award – Partnership - **Nevada NRCS, FSA and RD (collectively)**

AIANEA President's Award – **Melissa Sturdivant and Pam Crow**

AIANEA Award Item

The 2015 awards will be engraved and the AIANEA logo colorized as shown on the picture. A big thanks to Millie Titla for her years of serving on the Awards Committee. As chairperson this year she organized committee meetings, helped to select the award item and discussed the nominations and deadlines with the National Council. Also a big thanks to the Award Committee members, Herb Webb, Robin Slate and Ann Perales, for their work in making the awards possible.



Tobacco & Corn by Elder James Sappier

+Spiritual, Physical-Nutritional Food+

Years ago Penobscot Nation was in a severe drought and illness affected the entire Tribe. All families were affected becoming ill.

A woman had a dream, a vision, and upon awaking the next morning went to see the Chief and Medicine-man where upon they too had the same dream and when she explained her dream to them, they sent her away. Time passed and more members grew ill, many now at death's door. The woman had the same dream and went to see the Chief and Medicine-man, who again sent her away. Time passed, Tribal members were dying. The third time-the woman again had the dream as did the Chief and Medicine-man.

They, "Yes we will do this thing." So, they killed her.

Dragged her body over the land and when her flesh was all off the bones, took the bones and ground them into fine pieces and scattered the bone fragments over the land.

Where the woman's flesh laid on the earth, corn grew, and, where the bone fragments laid on the earth tobacco grew. Our +Spiritual, Physical-and-Nutritional Food+

Food for the body and food for the spirit, Ghe'Che' Nawais, a gift to Penobscot came from Woman.

Tobacco is used in thanksgiving, for prayer, and is thrown into the wind, into the air, into the waters and into sacred fires, Tobacco is smoked in the sacred pipe, used in the prayer lodge, vision quests, and is considered one of the medicines in all ceremonies, rites, and traditional practices.

Use it with respect and never make a frivolous wish.

Preparation of Tobacco:

Tobacco within its travel to the user becomes tainted, soiled, contains pollutants and chemicals. The purification ceremony for tobacco to become tobacco for use in rituals and ceremonies, requires the burial of the tobacco for 3-nights, removed on the fourth day and dried in the wind.

The tobacco we use has gone through this process. Woliwon GheChe'Nawais.

J Sappier 5/19/2016 Special Thank you to Cecil Currin, NRCS & the farm family.

Elder James Sappier—2016 Sequoyah Fellowship

AIANEA proudly sponsors Elder James Sappier for a 2016 Sequoyah Fellowship from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's (AISES). The Sequoyah Fellowship bestows a medallion and lifetime membership to honor the contributions of the Fellow to science and technology. AIANEA bestows this Fellowship upon Elders who have generously contributed their time and wisdom to preserving Native culture and promoting environmental stewardship. Elder James Sappier urges us all to take steps to reduce our impacts to climate change, protect the health of ourselves and our communities with locally grown and seasonal foods and strengthen our faith in the bounty of our Creator.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

AIANEA Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, December 15, 2016

**4:30 pm Pacific Time
5:30 pm Mountain Time
6:30 pm Central Time
7:30 pm Eastern Time**

**Call In: 888-844-9904
Access Code: 1227741#**

AIANEA Elders Concerned about Climate Change

By Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

The AIANEA Elders and Elders Committee meet by teleconference quarterly to discuss projects they are involved with, including the Elders in the 21st Century book that will be available for purchase, likely in 2018. It will be an amazing book with priceless information provided by our current 9 Elders and past Elders. In addition to our teleconferences, we communicate frequently by email to share information and accomplish our work.

During our teleconferences, the Elders share stories of their past and about their tribes. They share announcements and concerns. One concern that is discussed frequently is climate change. The Elders' concern and discussion of climate change may differ from what you see on the news programs or read in your newspaper. The Elders are concerned about the effects on plant and animal life and the increase in natural disasters, like most of us. Additionally, the Elders are concerned about effects on local ecosystems including traditional foods and the spiritual connection to the land. Native peoples are experiencing immediate and disproportionate impacts from climate change. This is occurring because of geographic isolation of native peoples, their dependence on the landscape and marine ecosystems and a lack of support from some governmental agencies. Coastal native peoples are especially at risk because of the rapidly changing ocean temperature,

sea level rise and ocean acidification, as well as changes in weather patterns and storms.

Four coastal treaty tribes from Washington State, the Hoh; Makah; and Quileute and Quinault Indian Nations, hosted the First Stewards

Symposium in recognition of the rapid changes coastal tribes are experiencing from climate change and changes in marine ecosystems. The symposium convened coastal people from across the United States to discuss the impacts of climate change and strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

On July 20, 2012, Elder Ted Herrera and AIANEA member Ciro Lo Pinto attended that First Stewards Symposium in Washington DC. Elder Herrera served as a Witness during the gathering to hear and observe the many firsthand accounts from indigenous people from the American Islands to the east and west coastal tribes. Elder Herrera says, "The evidence left no doubt for anyone who saw and heard of climate change impacts that have been going on for some time now and continue to worsen with each year that goes by, that the threat is real". Further, Elder

Herrera shared, "I was honored to have contributed in some small way to the Resolution that was crafted and presented to the White House as a result of that conference".

Elder James Sappier is especially concerned about the



Elder Ted Herrera and AIANEA member, Ciro Lo Pinto are shown participating in the First Stewards Symposium in 2012



AIANEA Elders Concerned about Climate Change—Cont.

impact on wildlife and their movement northward to find proper habitat or their actual loss of habitat. Elder Sappier is also an avid proponent of utilizing local and traditional foods. The local ecosystem required by these foods is changing, which impacts tribes as they lose the resources needed to grow and sustain their traditional foods, affecting so much including native people's health.

The tribal concept of an ecosystem is that everything is connected. The ecosystem includes the soil, air, water (surface and ground), wetlands, irrigation, plants (native, traditional and domestic), the people, cultural activities, and all landscape resources (desert, montane, riverine etc.). All of these ecosystem components are connected and ultimately affect the people living from the land and their spiritual and cultural values and practices. When this is threatened, as in the case of climate change, the entire ecosystem or community is affected.

As Elder Loretta Metoxen shared, “We must pay attention to the science of climate change”. A report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) informs policy makers and ordinary people alike. It focuses on drivers of climate change, changes observed in the climate system, understanding cause-and-effect relationships, and projection of future changes. Science says atmospheric concentrations of many gases have increased because of human activities and trap thermal energy (heat) within the atmosphere by means of the well-known greenhouse effect, leading to global warming. Observational records show that 11 of the past 12 years are the warmest since reliable records began, around 1850 and the odds of such warm years happening in sequence purely by chance are exceedingly small.

The 2001 IPCC report concluded that it was *likely* (more than 66% probable) that most of the warming since the mid-20th century was attributable to humans. The 2007 report goes

further, upping this to *very likely* (more than 90% probable). Twenty first century predictions developed through simulations show that greenhouse gas emissions will stay at or above the current rates and changes in climate will be more significant than currently observed.

Recently, Elder Herrera received disappointing news from his state Attorney General, that he is filing a suit against the state of Massachusetts for trying to slow down some environmental destruction. According to a press release from the Texas Attorney General's Office, Attorney General Ken Paxton filed an amicus brief on September 8, 2016 in defense of the First Amendment. The brief explains that the Attorney General of Massachusetts exceeded her constitutional authority by attempting to shut down a viewpoint on an issue of scientific debate, climate change.

At the ‘AGs United for Clean Power’ press conference, a coalition of liberal state attorneys general announced they were going to use their official authority to go after one side of the policy debate on climate change. Attorney General Paxton feels that this overt use of governmental power to shut down particular viewpoints is a blatant violation of the Constitution. In this case, the Massachusetts Attorney General issued a Civil Investigative Demand against Exxon Mobil Corporation for its “marketing and sale of fossil fuel-derived products and securities”, demanding over 40 years of internal company documents. Exxon is seeking to block the Civil Investigative Demand from being enforced.

Attorney General Paxton and ten other state attorneys general are asking the court to grant Exxon's motion for a preliminary injunction against the subpoena. In addition to (Elder Herrera's state of) Texas, the other states who joined the amicus brief are Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama, Michigan, Arizona, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah and Nevada.

The Elders want AIANEA members and NRCS employees to consider the spiritual aspect of climate change along with the science. There is a spiritual facet to all issues related to conservation,



Loretta Metoxen

AIANEA Elders Concerned about Climate Change—Cont.

environmentalism, and climate change. The spiritual side of climate change concerns includes the fact that everything is connected. When one part of the climate or ecosystem is affected, it creates implications for all parts, including the people and their culture. Climate change can create negative impacts on traditional foods, ceremonies and other cultural aspects.

The Elders will continue their concerns regarding climate change and will continue to talk about and share their concerns. This article provides a platform for the Elders to share these concerns with more AIANEA members and NRCS employees.

AIANEA President Award

Pam Crow—Treasurer and Melissa Sturdivant—Secretary

The AIANEA President's Award traditionally goes to an AIANEA member that has assisted the organization in great ways. This year is no exception. Pam and Melissa have always stepped up to assist, and usually lead in any and all areas.

Their dedication and tireless efforts to AIANEA are greatly appreciated by all.



AIANEA Special Recognition Award

Special Recognition Award – Partnership - Nevada NRCS, FSA and RD

The award recognizes the collaborative effort of Nevada NRCS, FSA and RD to assist Native communities. There has always been great teamwork by these agencies to implement StrikeForce and in 2015 the collective effort was over and beyond previous efforts to outreach to tribes.

AIANEA Award of Excellence for Mentoring

Roylene Rides at the Door - Washington, State Conservationist

Roylene Rides at the Door is the first American Indian woman to become a State Conservationist. Throughout her career Roylene has made positive changes for NRCS and other USDA agencies to better provide assistance in Indian country. In a state with tremendous tribal workload and successful partnerships with tribes, Roylene effectively utilizes her vast knowledge and experience to move tribal efforts forward for NRCS by removing barriers and taking advantage of opportunities for collaboration.

Even with her busy schedule as State Conservationist, Roylene serves as the lead training cadre member for the NEDC Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) training course. She makes time to mentor other WEWAI cadre members and shares her knowledge and experience to increase the capacity and skills of current and future WEWAI trainers.

As an AIANEA member, Roylene serves on the Elders Committee and serves as the Elder representative for Elder Roy Doore. Roylene supports and engages other members of the Elder Committee and she blends her role as WEWAI trainer with her role on the Elder Committee to ensure that the Elders participate in the WEWAI trainings. Roylene has inspired many NRCS employees, women in particular, to learn about native history and traditions and to passionately serve for the good of the land and native people. Roylene beautifully demonstrates the humility needed to mentor new and seasoned employees. AIANEA is grateful for her continued support to mentor AIANEA members and is pleased to recognize her commitment to mentoring.



Roylene Rides at the Door after completing a 1/2 marathon with Elder Roy Doore cheering her on

PASSING OF ELDER ROY DOORE

Elder Roy Doore passed away December 7, 2016. He is now a guardian angel watching over us and at peace with his family members who passed on before him.

Our condolences goes out to the Doore family. AIANEA is honored to have known Elder Roy and to have received his knowledge and support.

AIANEA Award of Excellence for Outreach to American Indians/Alaska Natives

Herb Webb—Montana, Tribal Conservationist

Herb Webb's knowledge and skill of conservation planning and tribal outreach with the Salish Kootenai Tribal community is demonstrated in the many positive comments that the tribal members have said about Herb. Those who have worked with Herb speak highly about his friendliness, his willingness to cooperate with others, his involvement with the local producers and community, and for his coordination with the various Tribal departments and Tribal Leaders. These qualities are very important for developing positive, strong, and long-lasting relationships with the tribes and individual

producers that NRCS works with. These positive comments about Herb spread by word of mouth and make the outreach efforts of other NRCS employees easier and more effective.

Herb has also demonstrated his leadership skills as a Tribal Conservationist by conducting and coordinating many trainings at NRCS workshops, at Indian Agriculture Council (IAC) meetings, and Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) conferences on the topics of natural resources, tribal outreach and NRCS assistance.

Herb is an active AIANEA member currently serving on the Awards Committee. Herb also uses his free time to making artwork for AIANEA and SAIGE, which he donates as awards or which are sold to raise money for scholarship funds. Herb has also been a member of the AIANEA drum group and constructed the beautiful drum used by the drum group. The drum was constructed out of various types of wood represented by each Elder's homeland on



the Elders Council.

Herb is proud of who he is as a Native American and he exemplifies the values instilled by his family. Special qualities of Herb are his deep commitment to family, community, culture and overall wellness. AIANEA is very proud to honor Herb with this award.

AIANEA Leadership/Visionary Member Award

Steve Durgin—National Design Engineer

In 2015 Steve volunteered to serve a second term as president when the incumbent president could not serve as was planned. Throughout the year Steve maintained ongoing communication with committees, National Council and AIANEA members, holding regular monthly teleconferences and chairing the annual meeting. He facilitated a smooth transition to new officers in 2016 by informing the new officers of their roles, providing encouragement and advice. Steve demonstrated leadership qualities of professionalism, respect and effectiveness by promoting open dialogue when chairing meetings, delegating tasks to officers and committees and keeping in communication with partners.

Steve has been the point of contact with NEDC and is working to establish an annual AIANEA training seminar in addition to the annual Working Effectively with American Indians/Alaska Natives. He represents AIANEA at the annual Employee Resources Fair in Washington DC with a table on AIANEA and information on traditional plants, such as, sweetgrass and tobacco.

Steve maintains a positive attitude and a desire to see the Association grow. AIANEA commends him for the leadership and support he provided in 2015 to members and the National Council. Thank you, Steve!



Sweetgrass Braids

Sweetgrass includes plant taxa *Hierochloe odorata* and *Hierochloe hirta*. It has many ceremonial uses among most Indian tribes and is often used in conjunction with sage. Its smoke is used for prayer, cleansing and as a healing agent. Sage is first burned to drive away any negative forces, then sweetgrass is burned to summon positive ones. Sweetgrass has a sweet, long-lasting, vanilla-like aroma that is even stronger when the grass has been harvested and dried and is then moistened or burned. Sweetgrass braids smolder and don't produce an open flame when burned. It is frequently used in Sweat Lodge ceremonies, tied to traditional bustles and used as a sachet for clothing.

Other common names for Sweetgrass are Marsh Hay, Holy Grass (or Mary's Grass), Vanilla Grass, Bluejoint, Buffalo Grass, and Zebrovka.

AIANEA Award of Excellence for Training and Support of NRCS Employees

Pedro Torres—California, Area 4 Tribal Liaison

Pedro Torres has been the Area Four Tribal Liaison for California NRCS for 10 years and has worked hard to develop strong, meaningful relationships with many of the tribes in Southern California. Pedro currently works with 26 federally and state recognized tribes. Pedro assists field offices with outreach to Tribes, developing conservation plans and managing EQIP Tribal contracts. In California the Tribal fund pools require a technical team to review the program priorities, conservation practices and ranking questions to ensure that the Tribal EQIP program is meeting the needs of the producers and achieving the goals of the Tribal Advisory Committee. Pedro Torres was the lead technical planner for the FY16 Tribal EQIP Program.

Currently, Pedro is managing 32 active Tribal EQIP contracts and is the lead planner on seven EQIP applications for the FY16 funding cycle. Conservation projects on Tribal land include forest road reshaping and installing rolling dips, pinon stand improvement, forest fuel reduction, removal of invasive plants in willow stands used for traditional gathering and installing solar pumps and watering facilities for livestock. In addition to the workload of conservation plans and Farm Bill contract management, Pedro finds the time to educate NRCS employees and Tribes about NRCS tribal policy, CA tribal fund pools for EQIP, and cultural resources through numerous outreach events such as:

- Area Meetings
- Presenter for CA SEPM Native American heritage celebration
- Intertribal Agriculture Conference



- Farm Bill workshops for CA Tribes
- California Tribal Advisory Council meetings

Pedro has maintained a great working relationship with the local BIA office in which funds for projects are coordinated. Currently, he is assisting with developing policy with BIA and NRCS CA state office where tribes could use NRCS funds to do prescribed burning projects. To many this may not seem to be a monumental task, but for Southern California, this is! Prescribed burns are rarely approved.

One of his great accomplishments is that Pedro played a vital role in staffing a Native American High School as an Earth Team Volunteer at the Escondido Field Office. Exposing Native students to NRCS and the conservation work that we implement is key to increasing the number of Native Americans that ultimately decide to work for NRCS in the future.

Pedro is a great advocate for conservation on Tribal lands and building strong meaningful relationships with Tribes and truly takes his position as a Tribal Liaison to heart. From AIANEA and all the NRCS employees you have supported and assisted, a big thank you and well done!

AIANEA Award of Excellence for NRCS Employee who Provided Benefits to Tribes, AI/AN Clients, or other NRCS Employees

Carlee Elke—Montana, Tribal Conservationist for Chippewa Cree Tribe

Carlee works with the Chippewa Cree Tribe on the Rocky Boy Reservation. Carlee has done extensive outreach within the community including: promoting scholarships, local working group meetings, elder feeds, and informing members of the opportunities available with NRCS programs and technical assistance. Carlee regularly attends tribal council meetings, water board meetings and helps local tribal community members who need NRCS and USDA assistance. Carlee informs the Stone Child College of the AIANEA scholarship along with the students, faculty, and community members to make sure they know that these opportunities are available.

Carlee conscientiously works to fulfill her NRCS responsibilities and contributions to producers, landowners, and local community members she works with. Carlee is always looking for new ways to help the Rocky Boy reservation and members.

This year Carlee promoted the AIAN poster by looking for Native American artists in Montana to enter the contest and is the Female representative of American Indians/Alaska Natives on the National Civil Rights Action Committee.



AIANEA Outstanding Member Award

Cameron Clark—Wyoming Area Resource Soil Scientist

Cameron has a contagiously great attitude, genuinely cares about people and the AIANEA cause and regularly attends the AIANEA National Council meetings. He reaches out to other members and helps keep them informed. Cameron helped lead and organize a WEWAI training in Lander, Wyoming. It was an excellent training and his attitude and humor added something extra.

Cameron currently serves as the Northern Plains AIANEA Regional Representative and helps keep the AIANEA membership list up-to-date. Staying connected to other AIANEA members is what keeps Cameron active in AIANEA. He is also the Male representative for American Indians/Alaska Natives on the National Civil Rights Action Committee.



Striving for Excellence as a NRCS American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager

USDA Best AIAN SEPM FY2015

Washington, D.C.— On November 17, 2016. Deborah Clairmont – NRCS soil conservationist/previous National American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager received the **USDA Best AIAN SEPM Award for FY2015**.

Deborah participated and supported the USDA Departmental Management AIAN SEPM committee comprised of multiple agencies under the USDA led by Fredrick Cheng– diversity and inclusion program manager, Diversity, Recruitment and Work/Life Division, Office of Human Resources Management USDA.

“My main objective was to help all people to understand AIAN cultural differences in order to give the AIAN an equal opportunity in Recruitment, Retention and Promotion. I found that training 55 employees across the nation including Puerto Rico and Guam on AIAN historical knowledge was a most rewarding experience. This award validates that I was heading in the right direction and very appreciative of being recognized. I could not have been successful without the dedicated and passionate NRCS State AIAN SEPM’s.” stated Clairmont.

Clairmont’s National AIAN SEPM position had a wide variety of duties including the creation of a yearly poster celebrating the AIAN Heritage Month in November. In the past three years, she collaborated and implemented making the yearly posters with NRCS staff in New York, Tennessee, and Montana.



In addition, she created the AIAN “Dream Big- Where Dreams Become” banners to tie into recruitment efforts branding ads, created bookmarks and collaborated with the following NRCS AIAN SEPM team members on the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National and Leadership Summit yearly conferences, and the AIAN Heritage Month Poster in 2015:

Steve Durgin, (3rd from right) accepting AIAN SEPM award for Deborah Clairmont



Mitchell Aman– District Conservationist/ Tennessee AIAN SEPM,

Ron Morton-Assistant State Public Affairs Specialist/Georgia AIAN SEPM,

Sandy Penn– 2015 Michigan AIAN SEPM, Susan Looper– Resource Conservationist-Programs/AIANEA West Regional Representative/RTCAC Alternate West Representative/former Nevada AIAN SEPM,

Melissa Allen– Soil Conservationist/ Virginia AIAN SEPM

2017 AIANEA Dues Information



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

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>



SAIGE Training Conference

Make your training request and update your IDP now to attend the 2017 SAIGE Training conference June 5-9 at the We Ko Pa Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Participating at the 2017 SAIGE conference would be beneficial for AIANEA as it will enable us to develop a closer working relationship with SAIGE and provide an opportunity for NRCS employees to become more aware of SAIGE and AIANEA resources.

We need members to assist with planning the natural resources track and promoting the conference. Please contact Athena.cholas@nm.usda.gov to volunteer.



NRCS and Washington Association of Conservation Districts Host Working Effectively with American Indian Training

Washington NRCS partnered with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) to host a national training course titled Working Effectively with American Indians. The course was held on the Stillaguamish Tribal lands from June 27– July 1.

About 45 federal, county and state employees attended the training, representing several federal agencies including the NRCS, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, Rick Management Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Forest

Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Also represented by participation was the Snohomish and Skagit Conservation Districts, WACD and the Washington Soil Conservation Commission.

This week-long course promotes the professional and personal growth of participants in areas such as; tribal government, treaties, tribal land status, trust responsibility and respect for the core values of our American Indian communities.



NB 230-17-2 EOP – Announcement of National Special Emphasis Program Manager Vacancies

Applications for National SEPM for Native American Indian/Alaska Native and other SEPM vacancies are **DUE By: December 18, 2016**

If you are interested in serving as one of these collateral duty National SEPM positions, please complete and submit the application form that is attached to the National Bulletin. Applications should include supervisory approval and must be submitted by December 18, 2016, to Tammie Edmunds at tammie.edmunds@wdc.usda.gov

National SEPMs provide leadership and direction in conjunction with all activities related to the respective special emphasis programs they support under the Chief Human Resources Officer's overall leadership. Travel may be involved and will be paid by the Diversity and Recruitment Branch according to agency policies, Federal travel regulations, and as approved by the Diversity and Recruitment Branch Chief.

Preferably, the applicant should be familiar with issues important to the respective affinity group; must be committed to equal opportunity policies and principles established by law, USDA, and NRCS; and have a demonstrated track record of a fully successful or better performance. Supervisory concurrence is required to apply for this collateral duty position, along with that of the respective State Conservationist or Deputy Chief.

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:

Pam Crow, AIANEA Treasurer

101 So. Main Street

Temple, TX 76501

Date: _____

☐ Click if ok to share Contact info with
AIANEA members

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

☐ Donated Membership - \$25— please select:

This donation is for AIANEA to offer to an individual

This donation is for this individual: Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

☐ 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 2016 AIANEA National Council

Athena Cholas – President

Dr. Carol Crouch - 1st Vice President

Kirt Peterson- 2nd Vice President

VACANT - So. Central Region Rep.

David Elliott - Southeast Region Rep.

Susan Looper - West Region Rep.

Debe Walchuk - Midwest Region Rep.

Cassius Spears - East Region Rep.

Cameron Clark - Northern Plains Region Rep.

Melissa Sturdivant - Secretary

Pam Crow - Treasurer

Bill Parrish - Co-Treasurer

