



---

**American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS**

***“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”***

---

**AIANEA Annual Member Meeting Minutes  
Anchorage, Alaska  
August 15, 2006**

**Called to Order**

Meeting was called to order by AIANEA president, Crystal Leonetti at 7:00 P.M.

**Role Call of AIANEA National Council**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti called roll. Present were Crystal Leonetti, David Elliott, Pat Broyles, Carol Crouch, Ciro LoPinto, Tanya Meyer-Diderksen, Buster Landin, Pat Green and Leota Burnett. Not present: Millie and Felix

**Welcome**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, welcomed the general members to Alaska and expressed the appreciation of the AIANEA National Council for so many members to be able to make the long trip to Alaska and be present at the AIANEA business meeting after a long day of training.

**Introductions**

AIANEA National Council members were introduced as were; Edie Morigeau, National Tribal Relations Coordinator, NRCS and Sarah Braasch, Regional Chief for the NRCS West Region.

**2005 Annual Conference Minutes**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, presented the minutes to the attending members on screen for their review. In addition, she provided a verbal overview of the minutes to the general members present for the business meeting.

**Motion 081506-01:** Motion was made for the general members to accept the minutes as presented.

**Motion made by:** David Elliott  
**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Pat Green  
**Motion passed** Unanimously

**Lifetime/Charter Member Jackets**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, opened discussion to the general members regarding the purchase of jackets for lifetime and charter members of the association. General members suggested/recommended the following;

- Purchase a light weight jacket
  - Reduce cost of shipping
  - Can be used year round
  - Used more for dress
- Reduce cost by using one screen for both jackets
  - Distinguish the jacket by embroidering either
    - Lifetime Member
    - Charter Member
- Possibly lifetime members could purchase jackets at half price.
- 

Ciro LoPinto pointed out; that the original recommendation was for jackets to be provided to lifetime members, when we receive their last payment. Then, a suggestion was made to provide jackets to charter members. The original plan was to make the jackets available at the AIANEA 10th anniversary Annual Conference in 2007. National Council will continue to investigate cost, pursue financing for the jackets and options for the jackets.

### **Conference Partnerships**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, opened discussion to the general members to gain insight and perception of general members regarding future partnering opportunities for the association when holding AIANEA annual meetings. She informed the general members that SAIGE has indicated that they would like to partner in 2008. General members suggested/recommended the following;

- Partnering with others, including other employee organizations at the annual conference for site location
  - Room blocks
- Separate agendas
- Separate registrations
- One joint session to kick-off the conference
- Remain focused on AIANEA conference objectives
- Keep general membership informed and have a better idea of the operation of potential partners' conferences before deciding to partner

### **2008 Conference Location**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, proposed to the general members to consider the site location for the 2008 Conference and put together a proposal for the site by **October 15, 2006**. The proposal for the 2006 Annual Conference location must meet the following criteria, if at all possible;

- Tribally owned facility
- Facility can accommodate a room block of 500 rooms, if partnering
- Proposal should be submitted to the general members AIANEA regional representative

National Council will work on a rotational pattern to hold future conferences and will incorporate the Elders into the discussion through teleconferences.

### **Visioning Process Proposal for 2007 Conference**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, opened discussion to the general members to gain insight and perception of general members regarding the association's desire to gather the members together to strengthen the vision and mission of the association during the 2007 Annual Conference being held outside of Phoenix, AZ, June 2006. Part of the Visioning process will be to consider holding some of the annual conferences near our AIANEA Elders homelands. Two AIANEA members presented the two different Vision processes for the members to consider using during the Visionary process at the 2007 annual conference;

- Buster Landin
  - Vision Quest
- Ciro LoPinto
  - PowerPoint presentation
    - *“Appreciative Inquiry instead of problem solving”*

### **Keepers of the AIANEA Eagle Staff and Hide**

AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, opened discussion to the general members to gain insight and perception of general members regarding the request made by AIANEA Elder, Louie Dick, to have Martin Bales keeper of the Eagle staff and Roylene Rides at the Door keeper of the hide that he presented as gifts to the association. Martin Bales and Roylene Rides at the Door provided some important information to the general members regarding the cultural significance of these items and their responsibilities as keepers of the items. Martin Bales agreed to accept the responsibility as keeper of the Eagle staff. Roylene Rides at the Door agreed to accept the responsibility as keeper of the hide.

**Motion 081506-02:** Motion was made for the general members to accept and approve Martin Bales keeper of the Eagle staff and Roylene Rides at the Door keeper of the hide. Both agree to provide to the National Council a written protocol for the keeping of the Eagle staff and hide that will include getting the items to the annual conference if they can not attend or transfer the responsibility of keeper to another AIANEA member.

<b>Motion made by:</b>	David Elliott
<b>Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by:</b>	Kurt Cates
<b>Motion passed</b>	Unanimously

### **Other Business**

#### **Questions for the Elders**

- AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, advised the general members that the AIANEA Elders had requested, at the Elder meeting, they wished to have the members submit questions for the Elders to answer. Questions regarding cultural and traditional things that the members would like to learn from the Elders. AIANEA Secretary, Carol Crouch advised that a box for the Elder

questions would be available at the NRCS Oklahoma booth for members to submit their questions. Carol will be responsible for collecting and compiling the questions for the elders.

- AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, advised the general members that the AIANEA Elders had requested, at the Elder meeting, they wished to have the members submit questions for the Elders to answer. Questions regarding cultural and traditional things that the members would like to learn from the Elders. AIANEA Secretary, Carol Crouch advised that a box for the Elder questions would be available at the NRCS Oklahoma booth for members to submit their questions. Carol will be responsible for collecting and compiling the questions for the elders.

### **Photo CD of the Conference**

- Pat Broyles announced that he would be working with the APIO, as a joint project, to gather all the photos into one album that can be accessible from each association's web page and/or a CD and/or shared drive. The exact specifications have not been worked out yet. Additional information will be provided to members as it becomes available.

### **Member Comments**

#### **Capturing the Conference**

- General members opened discussion on how to capture the conference for outreach reports when they return to their job. Carol Crouch, AIANEA secretary, agreed to develop a conference report that will capture the conference;
  - Number of attendees
  - Training
  - Speakers
  - Concurrent sessions
  - Cultural awareness
  - Photos
  - Awards, posters
  - Summary conference success
- AIANEA President, Crystal Leonetti, announced that the AIANEA had submitted and received USDA recognition.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Motion 081506-03:** Motion was made to adjourn the 2006 annual meeting at 8:35 P.M.

**Motion made by:** Pat Broyles  
**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by:** David Elliott  
**Motion passed** Unanimously