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

*“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”*

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December 2007

AIANEA Members:

It has truly been an honor to serve as the 2007 President of the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association. I can hardly believe that my tenure will come to an end on December 31, 2007. As I reflect back on the past three years as I started my journey from being elected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President until now, I can only say that it has been a great experience for me. As we celebrated our ten year anniversary this year, I was reminded of the strong leadership of our past Presidents, the wisdom taught by our Elders to help us understand the ways of the past, present, and future, and the members that have and continue to provide strength, stability and vision for this Association.

I would like to thank the following 2007 National Council members: Millie Titla, Dave Wise, Ciro Lo Pinto, Niles Landin, Levi Montoya, Leota Burnett, Pat Green, Felix Nez, Tanya Meyer Dideriksen, and Carol Crouch for their support, understanding and continued leadership. There have been challenges and some struggles; but, like any good team, we have overcome those obstacles and the accomplishments made have been worth all the sacrifices. Your National Council is to be commended for a job well done.

I would like to share again a couple from sentences in my first letter to you back in January 2007. I said: “As we pass through on our journey of life, we hold a brush in our hand and are painting a picture that will last for generations to come. May we seek wisdom and guidance from our Elders, make wise decisions, and have pure hearts and clean hands, and our picture will be one of love, hope, and peace for all people.” My goal was to lead our Association by remembering these few words. I feel I did my best and hope my picture will portray that.

As I pass the baton to our 2008 Association President, Millie Titla, I wish her all the best. I have confidence that she will provide strong leadership to carry us through another great year.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and best wishes to you and yours.

David Elliott  
2007 AIANEA President