



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

January 2008

Dear AIANEA Members:

Da Go Tee. On behalf of AIANEA, I would like to wish you and your family a prosperous and joyous New Year! It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your President this year. It is the mission of AIANEA to provide educational opportunities that foster the recruitment, retention, professional development, and career advancement of American Indians and Alaska Natives within NRCS, and other federal agencies. Therefore, it is my goal to also continue the legacy and foundation that was established by our founding members and its successive leadership with the knowledge and wisdom from our Council of Elders.

For this year's training event we will again be partnering with NRCS' Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO) on August 11-15, 2008, in Spokane, Washington! Through our partnership with APIO in 2006, we made new friends and learn about other cultures, and based on our needs of the Association the National Council decided to partner with APIO again. One highlight about this year's training is the opportunity for our members to give presentations during one of the workshop sessions as a way for them to gain public speaking experience. This will be offered during the "Call for Papers" process. The National Council is also soliciting volunteers from the general membership to join the Conference Planning Committee. If you are interested in joining the Conference Planning Committee to assist in planning this year's joint conference, please let me know and I will forward your name to the Conference Planning Committee.

I would also like to welcome our newly elected officers to the National Council:

Second Vice President: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Des Moines, Iowa

West Regional Representative: Gina Kerzman, Pendleton, Oregon

Southeast Regional Representative: Phillip Dixon, Gainesboro, Tennessee

Midwest Regional Representative: Nils "Buster" Landin, Indianapolis, Indiana

I am also happy to have a new advisor on our Council of Elders, Ted Herrera, from Texas.

Please don't hesitate to call anyone of us on the National Council. Our contact information is available on the website at www.aianea.com.

The beginning of this New Year also brings the need to renew your membership. Membership is good for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31). I would like to encourage you to send those dues in and renew your commitment to the mission of the Association. Thank you to those who have already sent them in.

I look forward to a great year. Goo shoo doo leh.

Ahi'Yee,

Millie Titla
2008 AIANEA President