

Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE)
Annual Report for 2012

It was a busy year in 2012 and much was accomplished. SAIGE again operated with an all volunteer board and no paid employees. However, we contracted with two people who were not SAIGE members during the year to perform services. SAIGE hired an individual to find grants for SAIGE, but this venture did not prove beneficial. The intent was good but did not have the right person hired. SAIGE also hired a facilitator to conduct our Board Long Range Strategic Planning workshop. This proved to be very beneficial and was money well spent.

SAIGE celebrated its 10 year anniversary in 2012 and used this milestone to review and update the bylaws and implement a conflict of interest policy.

SAIGE Board for 2012

Danny Garceau – Chairman
Lori Windle – Vice Chair
Shana Barehand – Treasurer
Fredericka Joseph – Secretary
Phil Hamel
Susan Johnson
Becky Lewis
Susan Marcus
Pedro (Pete) Molina
Sue Morris
Jinny Shulenberger
Brenda Takes Horse
Veronica Vazquez
Millie Titla

SAIGE's Yearly Training Program

The SAIGE Training Program was a great success in spite of some of this year's attendance issues which included a lack of support in authorizing attendees from Federal Agencies to include SAIGE Board Members; SAIGE did not receive the OPM authorization letter until one month prior to the training program; earlier in the calendar year GSA was in the news for wasting travel dollars while conducting their own conference in Las Vegas and because of this the Bureau of Prisons cancelled over 40 of their hotel and conference registrations at the last minute. All government agencies were told to greatly reduce their travel funds to training conferences minute which impacted both financial and convenience compensations by the hotel per our contract. The Yearly Training Program was conducted at the Omni Hotel in Broomfield, Colorado, just northwest of Denver. Helms Briscoe was used to negotiate the hotel contract and registration program. This year's theme was "Serving Our People, Serving Our Nations: Native Visions for Future Generations." The Conference Chairs were Vice Chair Lori Windle and Colorado Front Range Chapter President Carl Etsitty. Attendance for this year's training program included 484

total registrants, our highest total to date for attendance and a Training Program profit of \$130,301.00 after fees were paid. The training program included a Youth Track which was attended by 50 students. Building on the success of last year's conference, this year's Training Program also included an Indian Law Immersion Course and Pow Wow, both were very well attended and well received. New at this year's conference was a SES prep track which was also in high demand. A golf outing was planned but cancelled due to lack of pre registration numbers needed to conduct the outing. Some of the speakers at this year's program were; NCAI President Jefferson Keel, Major General Rita Aragon, Walter Echo Hawk, Gerard Baker and Winona LaDuke.

Partner Conferences - Participation

The following Conferences were attended by representatives of SAIGE.

National Congress of American Indians Winter Session, Washington D.C. – Chairman Garceau, Treasurer Barehand and Secretary Joseph were in attendance. Chairman Garceau signed the Partnership Agreement/MOU with NCAI during an Executive Board meeting. While in D.C. many agency visits were conducted.

National Coalition of Equity in Public Service (NCEPS) Diversity Summit, Washington D.C. – Chairman Garceau spoke on panel, also attended by Secretary Joseph

National IMAGE Annual Training Program, LAX, California – Chairman Garceau spoke on panel, also attended by Board Director Member Vasquez, SAIGE was an exhibitor

Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) Annual Training Conference, Atlanta, Georgia – Chairman Garceau spoke on a panel, also attended by Board Director Marcus. SAIGE was an exhibitor.

Federally Employed Women (FEW) Annual Training Program, Detroit, Michigan – Chairman Garceau and Board Director Marcus attended, SAIGE was an exhibitor.

Blacks in Government (BIG) Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan – SAIGE was represented by Secretary Joseph, SAIGE was an exhibitor.

National Congress of American Indians Annual (NCAI) Convention, Sacramento, California – Chairman Garceau and Treasurer Barehand presented, also attended was Board Director Lewis. SAIGE was an exhibitor. Chairman Garceau was active on the Veterans Sub Committee and Secretary Barehand presented to the Youth program.

National Congress of American Indians Mid Year Convention – Representing SAIGE was Treasurer Barehand and Board Director Lewis.

Other SAIGE Travel

January, Site Visit to 2013 Training Program site, Spokane, Washington – Chairman Garceau, Vice Chair Windle, and Treasurer Barehand were in attendance. In February Chairman Garceau presented an introduction to SAIGE at the winter session of the United Tribes of Michigan. 12 Tribes were represented along with the Bureau of Indians for the State of Michigan. Chairman Garceau also attended the winter NCEPS board meeting in Tampa Bay, Florida, which was paid for by the Tampa Bay Convention/Visitors Bureau. Chairman Garceau also accepted an invitation to visit the Golden Nugget in Reno, Nevada to preview the location as a potential site for a SAIGE Training Program, travel costs were covered by the Golden Nugget. Chairman Garceau accepted a tour of facilities by Mystic Lake, Minnesota and arranged to do this on his travel out to Colorado for the SAIGE Training Program.

In November the SAIGE Board conducted a special long term strategic planning session at Mystic Lake, Minnesota. The decision to hold it at Mystic Lake was dictated by several considerations to include; previewing the property by the board for future consideration of hosting a Training Program, the low cost and central location for conducting this meeting. In attendance were all 2012 Board members with the exception of Directors Hamel and Molina.

Partnerships

SAIGE continued to build partnerships and increase its network. Official Partnerships/MOU's include; AISES, NCEPS, USDA, NGB, GEICO, Grantham University, NARFE, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC, which was signed at this year's training program. In the works for signature in 2012 are Department of Veteran Affairs, The United States Army and the Department of Defense. In addition SAIGE is listed as a supporter of the efforts for a National Museum of American People (NMAP).

SAIGE Chapters

Official Chapters for 2012 were; Colorado Front Range Chapter, Southern California Chapter and Utah Chapter.

Elections

Nominations were taken in October for elections of SAIGE Officer Positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Also up for election were 5 two year Director Positions. November nominations were verified and information gathered for the ballot. Chair and Treasurer Nominations ran unopposed. There were two nominations each for both the Vice Chair and Secretary Positions. There were a total of 10 nominees including 4 incumbents. December the election was conducted. Also in December Luke Jones resigned creating a 1 year vacancy on the board. The following are results of the election and the winners will serve on the 2012 board. Winning election and filling the 5 two year board positions are; Bryan Sappier, Dorothy FireCloud-Prue, Karen Wilde, Sue Morris, and Brenda Takes Horse. Filling the 1 one year board position is Duane Matt. Officer positions were filled by Susan Johnson, Chair; Fredericka Joseph, Vice-Chair; Jinny Shulenberger, Treasurer; and Lori Windle, Secretary.

SAIGE published a fall and spring newsletter, "The Talking Leaf", which was posted on our web site. In 2012 SAIGE published a National Native American Heritage Month poster for the second time in support of American Indian Heritage Month. This year the artist was Alistair Bane and theme was "Serving Our People, Serving Our Nations: Native Visions for Future Generations." SAIGE launched its new website in September of 2012.



Danny Garceau
SAIGE Chair