

# Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE)

## Annual Report for 2015

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) remains busy with dedicated volunteers whose commitment is to help SAIGE continue to grow and move forward. 2015 was the year for elections and there were a number of nominees. Listed below are the results of the election.

### **SAIGE Board:**

Fredericka Joseph – Chair  
Bryan Sappier – Vice Chair  
Lori Windle – Secretary  
Sue Morris – Treasurer  
Kathleen Bergeron  
Teresa Estoril  
Danny Garceau  
Phil Hamel  
Duane Matt  
Jay Spaan  
Brenda Takes Horse  
Veronica Vasquez  
Herb Webb

### **SAIGE Yearly Training Program:**

SAIGE held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Training Program (NTP) at Treasure Island in Welch, Minnesota, owned and operated by the Prairie Island Indian Community. The theme for this year's NTP was: "Growing Native Leaders: Enhancing Our Seven Generations." This theme was developed because of SAIGE's emphasis on our Youth and also President Obama's Generation-Indigenous initiative. A few highlighted plenary speakers included: Bill Mendoza, Generation Indigenous, White House Initiative on Native Youth; Katherine Archuleta, Director, Office of Personnel Management; Anton Treuer, Bemidji State University; and Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. The Training Program Co-chairs were Bryan Sappier and Duane Matt who oversaw the planning and development. It was a very successful NTP to the efforts of the Co-Chairs and the planning committee!

### **Warrior Society:**

The Warrior Society Executive Director is Danny Garceau. The Assistant Executive Director position is vacant. The membership began at 37 and ended the year with 49 active members. Over the past year the group developed the basic Warrior Society Honor Guard uniform. This consists of SAIGE hat; white shirt; black vest with patches; black pants and black shoes/boots. Vests were ordered and when they were received patches were prepared and sewn onto the vests. Nine members ordered their vests and 3 vests were purchased by SAIGE as SAIGE property. The Director has ordered more vests due to requests from the Veterans. The group continues to plan the Veterans Day Program which is an annual one-day training program concurrent with the rest of the NTP. There are speakers addressing topics that are pertinent to our veterans and the Meritorious Awards Luncheon and presentations that are also a part of the training program.

### **Youth Program:**

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) assisted in providing support for SAIGE's youth program. The tribal colleges brought in 39 students in addition to the students from Conservation Legacy's Southwest Ancestral Lands program and SAIGE students recruited by JoAnn Brant, Director for the SAIGE Youth Program. The Central Intelligence Agency held a workshop on leadership and other

briefings, and presentations by Bill Mendoza, Sarah Deer and Chance Rush were the highlights of the youth training.

**Other Activity:**

- SAIGE published our Newsletter, *"The Talking Leaf"*, in the spring and the fall, which was posted on our website. Georgia Madrid, a former SAIGE Board member, contributes her talents to editing the newsletter for the organization. SAIGE continues to provide the national theme choice for Federal agencies to use during National Native American Heritage Month during the month of November, based on the theme of our NTP that year.
- SAIGE has continued to be a part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). A number of our Board of Directors attended several events traveling locally and with their region to represent SAIGE and to make people aware of who we are. SAIGE ordered small items to use as promotional materials at these events.
- A few of my goals were 1) Recruitment and career development, and 2) presentations focused on professional development for all employees in all grades. The first goal to work with our youth in recruiting them into the government is an on-going process. Several students this year were offered positions within the government including the 2014 honoree who developed our SAIGE logo! Over the past few years we have also included tribal employees into our training providing them with information they could use in mapping out their careers both in the Tribal and Federal governments. We continue to reach out to the tribal, state, and local employees.
- The second goal was tougher than I thought. With a volunteer workforce, planning the yearly SAIGE training program has proven to be a large part of what we do. This is important as this is how SAIGE obtains the necessary funding to serve our members with excellent training programs. SAIGE continues to develop partnerships with the help of our Partnership team who reaches out to the Federal government and private industry.
- At the 12th Annual NTP our Vice Chair arranged an evening of bowling and pizza for our Life Time members. Everyone had a great time getting to know each other and have some fun!

**Elections:**

There were six Board of Directors candidates and one Treasurer candidate. The Election committee consisted of two SAIGE Directors and the Vice Chair who oversaw the election. Elections follow the Election Standard Operating Procedures in order to ensure everything is done properly. Each candidate was required to be a SAIGE member in good standing to be eligible to run for office. Candidates were notified of their status after the vote count was completed, and were installed at the January 2016 Board of Directors meeting. One candidate had to withdraw leaving a two-year position. The candidate with the next highest number of votes was offered and accepted this position.



Fredericka Joseph  
SAIGE Chair, Board of Directors