



Society of American Indian  
Government Employees

# The Talking Leaf

Issue #5

SAIGE Newsletter

November 2011

## Message from the Chair, Danny Garceau



### Boozhoo (Greetings) SAIGE family,

It was another impressive year for our organization. We have made some good strides as an organization and we continue to grow both in numbers and relevance.

Our TRAINING PROGRAM at the Tulsa Cherokee Hard Rock was nothing less than amazing. Congratulations and many thanks to the conference planning committee. We must also thank the staff at the Hard Rock along with the support from local tribes and their members. In many ways this conference was our most successful TRAINING PROGRAM to date, with many firsts like a SAIGE Golf Outing, Indian Law Immersion Course and SAIGE Pow Wow.

Another major endeavor for SAIGE was our involvement with the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS). This included a major role in the National Diversity Summit in Washington, D.C. We also attended and promoted SAIGE at the National Image, Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), Federal Employed Women (FEW) and Blacks in Government (BIG) annual training programs. SAIGE members also represented our organization at other local, regional, and national events.

We made huge strides with developing partnerships with both Federal and Corporate Sponsors. We continued to receive major support from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Dept. of Defense (DOD), EPA, US Navy and the Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). The National Guard significantly increased its participation in the SAIGE annual training program. The Guard's cooperation with SAIGE will be formalized with an official signing of a Partnership Agreement in Washington D.C. around Veterans Day. The DOD and the Veterans Administration are also in the final stages of formalizing SAIGE Partnership Agreements. A Partnership Agreement with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was also signed to improve the visibility of SAIGE and to increase our networking capability.

We gained some major membership benefits from two corporate sponsors

this summer. GEICO is offering both a SAIGE member discount on their auto insurance policies along with giving SAIGE a thank you stipend every time someone calls GEICO for an insurance policy price quote and states they are a SAIGE member. So please call GEICO once a year and get a quote to see if they can save you some money, and make sure you state that you are a SAIGE member. We also signed a Partnership Agreement with NARFE Premier Credit Union that will provide great banking benefits for our SAIGE members. You can now apply for a SAIGE personal credit card which displays our proud logo. Every time someone uses a SAIGE credit card, SAIGE will earn a small percentage. So again, I ask you to explore NARFE as a possible replacement or addition to your current bank and or credit card. These partnerships may save our members money, along with adding to our organization's bottom line, no matter where you live. GEICO and

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NARFE are providing a vehicle for SAIGE to receive some much needed generated funds so we can continue to provide our members a second to none training program for a very affordable price.

Our brochures and web site are getting facelifts. They will both be evolving tools for SAIGE and its membership. Your input is always welcome. We can also be found on Facebook, search SAIGE, Friend us! You will find photos, current issues and current events.

Elections are coming up this November so take the opportunity to vote. As in past years we have some very strong nominations and the future of SAIGE is bright.

We will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our annual national Training Program at the beautiful Omni Interlocken Hotel in the shadows of the Colorado Rockies just west of Denver, June 3-8, 2012. The planning is in full swing and it is going to be a very special event with more of what you, our members, have requested. I hope you are all marking your calendars and securing training dollars now so that you will be able to join us.

The strength of our organization can be measured in many ways, one of those ways is in membership, both quality and quantity. We are not lacking in quality but we can increase our quantity. Our membership is open to all government employees who support our mission. I ask each and every one of you to continue to ask fellow workers if they are aware of SAIGE and encourage them to apply for membership, especially if that government employee is American Indian or Alaskan Native. We have over 30,000 Federal Civilian AI/AN Government Employees, another 30,000 plus in the military, and an uncounted number of tribal, state and local AI/AN Government Employees. If they were to belong to one organization, SAIGE should be it. For the cost of one movie for two with shared popcorn and drinks you can pay for an entire year's membership of SAIGE. With the savings alone from GEICO and NARFE, you could benefit many times over the low annual SAIGE membership fee. Help SAIGE grow, ask others to join us. If you yourself have not paid this year's dues please send your check to SAIGE.

2011 was amazing for SAIGE and 2012 promises to be even better. Thank you all for being part of the SAIGE family and spreading the good word about our important organization.

Miigwech (thank you!)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### November is National Native American/Alaska Native Heritage Month

To assist organizations looking for a theme and a poster, SAIGE will use its annual training program booklet cover and theme for American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month. It seems appropriate that SAIGE provide this poster on an annual basis as the only national all government American Indian/Alaska Native organization. This year's theme is: **Service, Honor, Respect: Strengthening Our Cultures and Communities.** You can download the poster at the [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org) web site. This in no way takes away from any agency from developing their own theme and poster on a given year.

### The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and Four Tribes Launch American Indian Responses to Environmental Challenges

The Smithsonian's NMAI, in partnership with four Indian tribes, launched a web site to educate middle school and high school teachers and students on how tribes use their traditional culture, values and indigenous knowledge in combination with contemporary science and technologies to tackle environmental issues. Visit the website at: [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/environment](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/environment).

### Gathering Voices - SAIGE Speakers Bureau

The SAIGE Board of Directors is pleased to announce the formation of the SAIGE Speakers Bureau. Speakers listed will be American Indian and Alaska Native members sharing culture and heritage as well as perspectives relevant to working within Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Government. We respectfully request your participation to join the Speakers Bureau while we continue to Gather Voices, and share cultural richness and heritage of the American Indian in Government. If interested please contact Kimberly Yellow Robe at [Kimberly.Yellow.Robe@ssa.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Yellow.Robe@ssa.gov) to place your information to our special link on the SAIGE Website.

**SAIGE LinkedIn Group** - SAIGE member, Walter Harris, recommended you join the SAIGE **LinkedIn Group**. A great tool to place job openings, other useful information, and to network with SAIGE members.

### NCEPS 2012 Training Events - Mark Your Calendar

FAPAC – April 30 – May 4, 2012, Atlanta, GA - [www.fapac.org](http://www.fapac.org).

**SAIGE – June 4-8, 2012, Denver, CO – [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org).**

FEW - July 15-20, Detroit, MI – [www.few.org](http://www.few.org)

BIG – August 13-16, 2012, Detroit, MI - [www.bignet.org](http://www.bignet.org).

National Image, Inc - September 2012, Los Angeles, CA - [www.nationalimageinc.org](http://www.nationalimageinc.org).



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2011 TRAINING CONFERENCE

By Shana Barehand (with contributions from Sue Morris and Freddie Joseph)

The 8th Annual SAIGE Training Conference in Tulsa, OK was another unique and awesome event. It began with a Hip



Hop session for the Youth Track participants on Sunday Night. The event was led by motivational speaker Chance Rush and Emcee One, who helped the participants get acquainted, break out of their shells and begin to network with each other and with sponsors who were also potential employers. Clearly, JoAnn Brant, Youth Track Coordinator, had designed another brilliant program for the youth.

The Opening Ceremonies on Tuesday started with a traditional show of spiritually balanced patriotism as the Osage Nation color guard proudly carried in our nations' flags followed by a traditional blessing to begin the event in a good way. Attendees were then introduced to 45 Youth Track participants by Ms. Brant. Making their debut on the Hard Rock Stage, and before a crowd of hundreds, each student shared a little about themselves: tribal affiliations, college majors, goals and other aspirations. These introductions were an opportunity for conference attendees to identify students interested in their field of work laying the groundwork for mentorships, internships and job opportunities. Networking with the professional attendees is part of the Youth Track success. (Hear more from the students starting on page 6).

John Berry, Office of Personnel of Management (OPM) Director, then delivered the keynote address. Berry shared his ideas and thoughts about what OPM is doing to create opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). He shared the work being done with veterans and told the attendees that in Fiscal Year 2010 they hired over 72,000 vets into the Federal service which was roughly 2,000 more than in fiscal year 2009. There were also 2,700 more disabled veterans hired during this time.

He mentioned that OPM is pushing the tele work initiative throughout the Federal government to enable employees a better work-life balance, and mentioned the launch of

the "Let's Move! In Indian Country" campaign by the First Lady. He said it was successful in fighting childhood obesity. He asked SAIGE to work closely with OPM to expand the pipeline for AI/ANs into the SES work force. He wanted input especially from the Youth Track on recruiting students and recent graduates into the Federal civilian service.



He talked about how the new Executive Resources and Employee Development, Student Programs and Diversity and Inclusion offices are working together to reach these goals. He asked SAIGE to help reach the goals set forth in the President's Executive Order on Increasing Federal employment of People with Disabilities.

The luncheon featured the musical presentation of the United Keetoowah Band youth choir and admirable speakers such as Navy Lieutenant Commander Ken Vargas, Choctaw. The breakout sessions were then off to a running start. The multitude of breakout sessions were as diverse as the attendees, and there were many to choose from. There were cultural workshops on Osage and Comanche culture; legal workshops on the *Doctrine of Discovery and Indian*



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[Highlights from the 2011 Training Program \(Continued from page 3\)](#)

law 101; Indian Country workshops on *Doing Business in Indian country*, and *Working Government to Government on Intergovernmental Agreement*; and Personal Development workshops on *Networking: Working the Room*, and *Leadership Issues for Native American Women*. You can get a full view of what was offered at the SAIGE website.

The featured speaker at the Wednesday luncheon was Larry Echo Hawk, Pawnee, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Dept. of Interior. Tribal people from around Oklahoma came to hear Mr. Echo Hawk. In his moving speech, he recounted how he came to be the 11th Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs. This position was established by Congress in the 1970s. Mr. Echo Hawk described that in addition to carrying out the Department's trust responsibilities, he is also responsible for promoting the self-determination and economic self-sufficiency of the Nation's 565 Federal recognized AI/AN tribes and their 1.9 million enrolled members.

Mr. Echo Hawk also shared his personal story. Born in Cody, WY, he moved with his family to Farmington, NM, where he attended public schools from first grade through high school and began his football career. He received an NCAA football scholarship to attend Brigham Young University (BYU) where he played varsity football. In 1969, he was named to the Western Athletic Conference All-Academic Football Team. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from BYU and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Utah and an MBA from Stanford.

He emotionally described his campaign for the Idaho Attorney General's post, where he ran and won as a Democrat in a heavily populated Republican state. He attributed his success to his grassroots effort going door to door to meet voters. He became the first American Indian Attorney General for the state and the U.S. In 1991, Mr. Echo Hawk was awarded the George Washington University's prestigious Martin Luther King medal for his contributions to human rights, and was honored as a speaker at the Democratic National Convention. It was truly motivating to hear Mr. Echo Hawk's journey.

DOD hosted its awards program that evening and it proved to be another highlight. The newly formed SAIGE drum group (Ken Vargas, Jesse James, Cedric DeCory and Tilford Brown) sang an honoring song and Wesley Westphal, former SAIGE board member and military veteran, carried in the flag to start the program in a culturally spiritual way. We enjoyed listening to the presentation by Captain Barrett, Under Secretary of Defense's Deputy Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, which then led into the introduction of each of the outstanding awardees.

While SAIGE continues its success of offering multiple training opportunities through its diverse array of unique



breakout sessions, SAIGE has also branched off into specialty areas to meet specific needs of the AI/AN community. This year was the inaugural Indian Law Immersion program that was separate, but strategically coincided with the SAIGE training conference. This star studded program gave its attendees, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit and a chance to be immersed in the area of Indian Law by famed published attorneys, Walter

Echo Hawk, Jack Troupe and Stephen Pevar.

The third annual Veterans Track started with the Comanche Indian



Veterans Association (CIVA) of Lawton, OK who escorted the colors. The keynote address was delivered by Stephanie Birdwell, Cherokee, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations, Veterans Affairs, who shared her vision for the new post. The luncheon speaker was Dr. Heidi Kraft, US Navy Iraq veteran, a clinical psychologist, whose moving accounts of the war and post war experience brought the audience to tears. The Veterans Track is a whole day dedicated and specifically designed to assist Veterans in understanding their benefits, providing opportunities to enter civilian service, aiding in entering the civilian workforce, and support to successfully transition into civilian service. This program by Vets, for Vets, serving Vets is open and free to all Vets.

On the final evening, SAIGE hosted a successful Community Feed, Gourd Dance and Pow Wow.

**DON'T MISS THE 2012 PROGRAM IN DENVER, CO - JUNE 3-8, 2012.**



## FEATURED SES LEADER:

### NANCY A. BERRYHILL, CHEROKEE

*By Kimberly Yellow Robe, Rosebud Sioux, SSA San Francisco Region-  
American Indian Public Affairs Specialist, SAIGE Board Member*

**“The road to public service is to travel it with compassion, respect and integrity” Nancy Berryhill, (Cherokee) Social Security Administration (SSA), Chicago Regional Commissioner, SAIGE Member**

Nancy A. Berryhill has been the Regional Commissioner for SSA Chicago Region since March 2011. The



Chicago Region encompasses the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Within this six state region, she maintains 224 local Field Offices, 7 Phone Centers and a large Processing Service Center to serve the public.

Ms. Berryhill is responsible for the administration of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Programs for the region. Nancy directs over 6,600 federal employees. The Chicago region processes nearly 1.5 million new Social Security claims each year and each month, services over 8 million beneficiaries of Social Security checks and over 970,000 recipients of Supplemental Security Income checks

Prior to reporting to Chicago, Nancy was the Regional Commissioner for the Denver Region from January 2006 to February 2011. The Denver Region is comprised of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah.

Nancy began her career with SSA as a GS-2 student employee. Throughout her distinguished career with SSA, she has held many management positions including Operations Supervisor, Assistant District Manager and District Manager. She was a participant in the Chicago Region Upward Bound development program and served in various assignments in the

Regional Office, at the Teleservice Center and in Field Operations. Immediately before becoming Regional Commissioner, Nancy was the Deputy Regional Commissioner in Denver for two years and Area Director for the state of Illinois in the Chicago Region. She was selected for the Senior Executive Service in October 2002. In 2009, she served as Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Nancy obtained her degree in Computer Science at the Control Data Institute in Chicago. She is a graduate of Harvard's Senior Executive Fellows program.

Nancy has been the recipient of many agency awards including the Commissioner's Citation in 1995, the agency's highest and most distinguished award. Recently, Nancy received the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive.

Nancy believes, "In the work place, we must know our strengths and find ways to leverage them daily." We must be passionate about our commitments and "Every day is an opportunity to teach and coach".

Her passion to serve Indian Country highlights a new type of service method to bridge the distances in rural America. This new service is called "Video Service Delivery". It allows SSA to enhance services to Reservations by bringing our representatives to the reservations via a video channel. This innovated process was recognized by the Harvard School of Business in 2009 and by the Partnership for Public Service in 2010, winning the Service to America Award.

Another significant contribution is the development of SSA's first tribal outreach guide. This guide was designed as a reference book to ensure benefit coordinators are aware of all SSA Programs and entitlements. While in Denver, Nancy ensured all 29 reservations received a copy of the easy to use guide and that all tribal benefit coordinators in the Region received one-on-one training.

# STEPPING OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE:

## Youth Track Students Speak Out

**Willy Bass** is a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. He is currently attending Salish Kootenai College (SKC), majoring in Elementary Education and Native American Studies. His future career goal is to become an Educator. He would like to teach at the different grade levels and uphold the mainstream curriculum but also incorporate cultural values. He said Wilma Mankiller is

an inspiration because she defied all odds against her and still became an iconic Tribal leader in Indian Country.

Willy said that creating and performing the skit with his group of students on stage at The Joint was the highlight of his experience. He said he met a great network of people and learned about Federal opportunities that he wouldn't have been exposed to elsewhere. "I would definitely recommend the Youth Track to other students because it allows the opportunity to explore different career fields within the federal government. It is also a very honorable opportunity for networking and making new friends while exchanging different ideas and perspectives on cultural values and government policies."



**Yadira Caballero** is Navajo and Mexican American. She was born on the Navajo reservation in Tuba City, AZ, and raised in Grand Canyon, AZ. She currently attends the University of Arizona, majoring in Agribusiness Economics & Management with a double minor in General Business and American Indian Studies. Her

future career is helping Indian communities improve their economic development. Yadira was an intern for the Department of Veteran Affairs at the Center for Veteran Enterprise (CVE), and with Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva.

She heard about the Youth Track through the Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS) program. Yadira said that she received information about job opportunities in the federal government and networked with many current Federal employees, tribal members, and students. "I was able to meet with a Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) employer who offered me a summer internship in Washington D.C., but I had to respectfully deny the opportunity because of

summer classes that I was taking. However, he said he would keep in contact for future internships."

Yadira said she was very inspired by Walter Echo-Hawk and his book, "In the Court of the Conqueror: The 10 Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided" is one of her favorite books. She said the Youth Track motivated her to never forget who she is as an indigenous woman, to continue to strive for higher education, and to give back to her Indian community and help others.

**Sarah Dailey** is a member of the Chickasaw Nation. She grew up in Chouteau, OK, and is currently attending Rogers State University, Claremore, OK, majoring



in Psychology and Criminology. Her future career goal is in Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice. "My dream job is a Criminal Profiler, but anything in the general practice realms will suffice!" She is currently a volunteer Police Dispatch for her town and said that volunteering stretches far beyond the momentary feelings of gratitude.

Sarah heard about the Youth Track through the Chickasaw Nation Scholarship Department and was happy to have been selected. "Meeting all the wonderful people and listening to some really riveting stories from the speakers was one of the biggest highlights of my SAIGE experience. It was surprising to me just how I could relate to the speaker's stories. As a student, you sort of walk in to a seminar expecting to be bored to death, however, there were a few speakers who really energized my personal drive to get out there and become more proactive in Indian Country. The idea that I could be the first native ... whatever ... was astounding to me and helped me realize that if I really want my dreams to come true, then I would have to be the person who chases after them because no one is going to make my dreams come true for myself."

**Seth Elsen** is a member of the Brothertown Indian Nation, Fond du Lac, WI. He currently attends the University of Minnesota, Morris, majoring in Political Science and American Indian Studies. He would like to work for one of the Northwest Tribes, doing environmental policy and or legislative affairs. If his tribe gains re-recognition, he would like to give back to his tribe. "I think that someday, I would like to be a guest lecturer or Civics teacher, to show young Native students how they





can fight for representation and improve Indian Country's position in government, as it seems that sometimes our interests are forgotten or not given much attention."

"The highlight of the Youth Track was meeting so many amazing people, especially the rest of the students who I shared not only similar heritage, but also very

similar goals. On top of that, I networked with many great individuals in different federal agencies, as well as some of the chaperones and presenters." Seth said he never really considered a career in the Federal government, but the conference opened his eyes to the possibility. The Youth Track re-affirmed his interest in the roots of his culture, not just current policy issues, but preserving and protecting the culture. "It was probably the best week of my life to this point. Not only do you get to network with a ton of other people, you'll make many great life-long friends, step outside your comfort zone, and learn a lot."

**Ciarra Green** is Nez Perce. She is currently attending Northern Arizona University, majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Psychology. Her future career aspiration is an Educator/Laboratory Manager. She was an intern this past summer with EPA Region 2 in Edison, NJ. "We



did aerial observations of the NY and NJ Harbor Complex and reported debris and oil sheens that are potentially hazardous to the beaches and/or waterways. We also did water sampling along Long Island and NJ to fulfill EPA's commitment to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program."

Ciarra participated in the Youth Track, not only as a student but as a presenter. JoAnn Brant, Youth Track coordinator, met her at the 2010 American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), where Ciarra spoke in front of 4000 people. Ciarra said she enjoyed networking with the other students, and sharing her story, through her presentation, *Talent, Opportunity, and Balance, Finding Your Path to Success*. "I would like to think I inspired and encouraged the students to reach beyond their comfort zone and really test their capacity. Amazing things can be done when you test your limits as an individual. I think it was powerful for them to hear what great changes we as individuals can make if we just utilize our own talents, find fit opportunities, and overall keep a balanced life."

Ciarra said she took away a web of friends and built a new family and support system. "We are all spread out throughout the nation, and are able to relate to each other and be honest and upfront about our concerns, achievements, and challenges. SAIGE showed me the need for Native Americans, especially women, to get involved in government agencies. Through representation, we are able to actively change the way our government agencies view Native Nations, and how consultation and collaboration can be further developed to fit both parties' wants and needs."

**Taylor Morris** is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He is currently attending the University of Oklahoma, majoring in microbiology with a minor in chemistry. Taylor's future career goals include working in Pharmaceuticals (Research and development). "I want to



learn more about immunology and virology so I may one day be able to make vaccines for the current illnesses." Taylor said the highlight of the Youth Track was making new friends from across the nation as well as networking with people who provided advice on his career path. He said it was a great experience that he will always remember and will recommend to other

students. Taylor has done volunteer work every semester while in school. "It is important to help people who are less fortunate. It also opens gives me a perspective to the world I have not experienced. It feels good knowing you helped someone and hopefully brought a smile to their face." "If I could improve the world, I would try and end all the fighting if possible. World hunger is also very bad in other countries. If anything, these two would be my biggest concern. I would like to have peace for the world and food for everyone."

**Tammy Trujillo** is Navajo and grew up in Tuba City, Arizona. She is currently attending Northern



Arizona University, majoring in biology. She hopes to become a Veterinarian. She said she enjoyed meeting other students from different backgrounds and tribes. She learned about the many Federal opportunities offered to Biology majors. "The Youth Track is a beneficial program that assists students in finding careers with the

government and to give them an opportunity to seek different jobs that may have not been in their interest area before.” She said if she could improve the world, she would offer others the help they need and provide them with assistance in finding careers, college and scholarship opportunities, and support them with any and all of their decisions.

**Visit YouTube to hear more from the students experience at the SAIGE 2011 conference at:**

**[www.youtube.com/embed/IW1RwdKbqKE?hl=en&fs=1](http://www.youtube.com/embed/IW1RwdKbqKE?hl=en&fs=1)**



## **STUDENT DEADLINES:**

*Youth Track 2012 Applications will be available on xxxxx. Please visit the website for periodic updates, or contact JoAnn Brant, Youth Track Coordinator at xxxxx*

*The Carol Jorgensen Scholarship for Environmental Stewardship*

*This scholarship provides \$1,000 to a full time student pursuing an undergraduate degree in an environmental stewardship discipline, including environmental studies, natural resource management, the natural sciences, public administration, public policy, and related disciplines. Deadline: June xx, 2012*



## A SPIRITUAL MESSAGE TO AMERICA

As we stand before the dawn of a new millennium, we pray for America's survival, our survival. We pray that we will be given strength by the Creator to follow the footsteps of our forefathers to share our love, respect and compassion for one another. There is good in everyone because our Creator has put a little of Himself in all of us. We pray for forgiveness for the pain and suffering we have caused one another. We pray that our children will not repeat our mistakes. We pray that we can respect the diversity of America; all life is sacred. Every child born is a precious gift of our Creator. It is our sacred trust to embrace children from all walks of life because we are part of the same family. We pray that children will honor and respect their elders-that is where the wisdom comes from. This respect will not allow forgotten elders. We are all equal, with each having our own special gift to contribute. These values allow our youth to become leaders and workers in our society. Children, you are our future and our hope for the people. Stand and be courageous. We pray to learn and use the wisdom of all that has come before us, to achieve personal successes and to contribute to those of others. Only when our young ones learn respect for everything can they evolve.

### **EARTH**

We pray for respect and love of Mother Earth because she is the foundation of human survival and we must keep her pollution-free for those who will travel after us. Protect her water, air, soil, trees, forests, plants and animals. Do not just take and waste resources. Make it a priority to conserve. The land is given to us by the Creator to care for, not to own. If we take care of the land, the land will take care of us.

### **UNITY**

We should have respect for each other. We pray for commitment and responsible behavior in order to help those in need and to give them support and friendship. Be an example in life that others may follow; serve people, community and country. We should all strive to be a leaders and contributors. Do not sit back and let others plan and do all the thinking. Let us unite together so that we may have the strength to protect our future. Strength comes from working through trials and tribulations.

### **HEALTH**

Spiritual health is the key to holistic health. We pray to have the discipline to set healthy examples for our children to follow. Respecting everyone and everything in the universe starts with self-respect. Take time to listen and take care of your body and spirit.

### **FAMILY AND YOUTH**

Family is important and precious. Always let them know that they are loved. Let your children and grandchildren know you are always there to love and support them and that they mean the world to you no matter what they do or say. Children are of infinite value. Live what you teach. Spiritual values, honesty, and integrity start in the home. We pray for the youth. We must teach the youth to work together and respect all that is living on our Mother Earth. We need to convey to our younger generations that the survival of our people lies in spirituality.

### **PEACE**

We pray to learn ways to settle differences peacefully. Teach respect for each other's ideas. Value honesty on all levels, from children to parents to community to governments. We will be happy when we create peace with each other.

### **To the 7th Generation**

Survive	Keep hopes and dreams	Take care of yourself	Remember your spirit
Be there for each other	Respect courage	Share knowledge	Always keep learning
	Remember your true values		

## About SAIGE

### THE TALKING LEAF NEWSLETTER

The *Talking Leaf* newsletter is a publication of SAIGE. The name Talking Leaf is derived from the Cherokee paper that Sequoyah started. We invite you to submit articles and provide suggestions and comments. Please send to Georgia Madrid at [georgia.madrid@noaa.gov](mailto:georgia.madrid@noaa.gov)

### SAIGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contact board at:  
[chair@saige.org](mailto:chair@saige.org)

### OFFICER POSITIONS

- Chair:** Danny Garceau (Lake Superior Chippewa ancestry) - [danieau@msn.com](mailto:danieau@msn.com)
- Vice Chair:** Lori Windle (White Earth Chippewa)
- Secretary:** Fredericka Joseph (Kaw Nation)
- Treasurer:** Shana Barehand (Mono)

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- Phil Hamel (Mohawk ancestry)
- Susan Johnson (Three Affiliated Tribes - Arikara, Hidatsa & Mandan)
- Miguel "Luke" Jones (Pamunkey, Chickahominy, Cherokee ancestry)
- Sue Marcus
- Pedro Molina (Yaqui Nation)
- Sue Morris (Comanche Nation of Oklahoma)
- Jinny Shulenberger (Echota Cherokee of Alabama/Creek)
- Brenda Takes Horse (Kenaitze)
- Veronica Vasquez (Chumash)
- Kimberly Yellow Robe (Rosebud Sioux)

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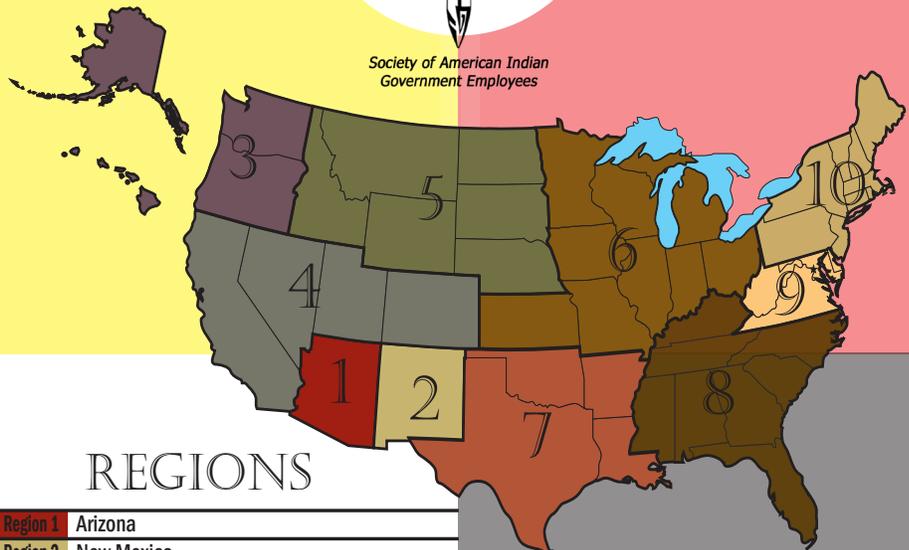
### MISSION

*To promote the recruitment, retention, development and advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native government employees, and work to ensure their equal treatment under the law; to educate federal agencies in the history and obligations of the Federal Indian Trust Responsibility and to assist them in its implementation; to assist government agencies in the development and delivery of initiatives and programs which honor the unique Federal-Tribal relationship; and to provide a national forum for issues and topics affecting American Indian and Alaska Native government employees. For more information on SAIGE, please visit our website at [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org).*

[SAIGE is on facebook!](#)



Society of American Indian  
Government Employees



### REGIONS

Region 1	Arizona
Region 2	New Mexico
Region 3	Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii
Region 4	California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado
Region 5	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska
Region 6	Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
Region 7	Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana
Region 8	Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida
Region 9	Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C.
Region 10	Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts

