



Society of American Indian  
Government Employees

# The Talking Leaf

SPRING ISSUE

SAIGE Newsletter

MAY 2017

## Message From the Chair: Fredericka Joseph



### Greetings SAIGE Members and Friends!

SAIGE has been busy since our last newsletter. We are weeks away before our 15th National Training Program (NTP) kicks off at the beautiful tribally-owned We Ko Pa Conference Center and Resort in Scottsdale, AZ, June 5-9, 2017. The planning committee is checking lists and ensuring we are on target for another successful training. As we all know it takes a village of people to make something like the NTP a success. This year our national theme is "Standing Together" which was chosen by our SAIGE Board. With the current transition and changes

occurring in our lives and the division our country has experienced our board felt that it was important to remember we stand together in unity. Whether we are Federal, State, County, or Tribal employees we work together to accomplish the goals that exist in Indian Country. New this year will be an Open mike to wrap up the NTP. All attendees are welcome to join in with regional talent to sing or participate if inclined. The draft agenda and the registration information is currently on [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org) website. Running concurrent with SAIGE is the Tribal Consultation Training Program presented by Department of the Interior's University staff.

We have been working to get our SAIGE logo trademarked and with the help of the Greenburg Traurig Law Firm the paperwork has been completed and sent forward to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We should receive information regarding our trademark within 5-6 months.

The SAIGE elections were held in December and we welcome the newest Board members, Daniel Holt, Veteran's Affairs and Herb Webb, Department of Agriculture. Re-elected are Sue Marcus, Danny Garceau, Duane Matt, Jay Spaan, Phil Hamel, Lori Windle, Fredericka Joseph, and Pamela Stearns. Congratulations to all!

The Warrior Society currently has over 50 members. Daniel Holt is the new Assistant Director who helps Danny Garceau in conducting and arranging monthly meetings and planning the agenda for Veterans Day at the NTP. Every year speakers bring a wealth of information to help facilitate the necessary information our veterans need to know.

Our Youth program experienced a tragic death in the family. Dallas Peterman who joined SAIGE in 2012 was killed on March 1st. In honoring his legacy of environmental and community issues the youth will be presenting the first annual Dallas Peterman Leadership Award at our Wednesday evening awards ceremony. Dallas' peers were instrumental in making this happen and the Dallas's parents will be attending the event.

Our SAIGE Chapters are actively conducting outreach to their local communities by conducting food drives that netted 720 pounds of food for the local Kansas City Indian Center Food Pantry, conducting school supply and blanket and book drives for Utah children in low income areas, and participation in the Denver Indian Center Job Fair.

We want to thank you for your continued support to SAIGE. Without your support and our partners and sponsors it would be difficult for SAIGE to continue our mission.



## SAIGE NTP 2017 - STANDING TOGETHER

### You Are the Connection!

by Sue Marcus and Danny Garceau, NTP 2017 Committee Chairs

You are the connection between SAIGE and your tribe, your workplace, your colleagues, your family and friends!

We have a full schedule of excellent speakers and workshops, presented in a cultural setting like only SAIGE can provide. The NTP is an excellent opportunity to network and build new relationships to benefit you, your employer and community.

The Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation's We-Ko-Pa Resort is also offering government per diem rate on both ends of our training week so you can explore, learn and experience this part of the country. The resort has two of the top five golf courses in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area, walking trails, a double swimming and activity area with mini golf, fire pit and gathering spaces. Within a few hours' drive you can find yourself in the beautiful Red Sedona mountains or even at the edge of the Grand Canyon.

Please promote the NTP and see you in Scottsdale, AZ!



Photo: Yellow Bird Dance Group Member. Cultural Night presentation.

### Featured Speakers:



Photo: Morgan Rodman, Executive Director, White House Council on Native American Affairs



Photo: Patricia Michaels, Fashion Designer



Photo: Maria Dadgar, Executive Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona



Photo: Chris James, President and CEO, The National Center for Economic Development

### 2017 SAIGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND PARTNERSHIP RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the recipients of the SAIGE Achievement Awards. They will be recognized at the Wednesday evening Awards and Partnership Recognition Reception. Keith Secola, American Indian musician, singer and songwriter will provide the entertainment.

#### Special Emphasis Program Manager Award:

Debbie Rafael, Jesse Brown Veterans' Medical Center, Chicago, IL

#### General Schedule Grades Award:

Sergeant First Class Joseph Morgan, New Castle, DE

#### Leadership Awards:

Chief Master Sergeant Richard Perrier, Tinker AFB, OK

Marcellus Proctor, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Beltway, MD



Photo: Keith Secola

**A Message from the Warrior Society Director: Danny Garceau**



The Warrior Society meets via teleconference every month to plan the upcoming NTP, discuss issues related to the military and veterans along with sharing in the camaraderie of serving in uniform. The group is now officially three years old and continues to build in numbers and involvement.

Daniel Holt, a Veterans Affairs employee and the Assistant Director of the Warrior Society, has been very active in the planning of this year's Veterans Track. The Veterans Track will take place on Thursday June 8th and is open free of charge to both SAIGE NTP attendees and regional military personnel/veterans. This year we will have Dan King, the captivating Oneida Nation Viet Nam Veteran writer and speaker, presenting in the morning. In both morning and afternoon sessions we will have other presenters with updates and information from several veteran organizations.

The Department of Defense will provide a keynote speaker for the SAIGE Military Meritorious Award luncheon.

This year's Military Meritorious Award winners are:

- LTC Jared Ware USA,
- MSG Richard Oxendine USA,

- SFC Lowell Laudert MN ARNG,
- SSgt Trisha L. Ross IA ANG,
- TSgt Kelvin Oxendine USAF,
- TSgt Santrea Buckner USAF,
- TSgt Michael Whitebear Teyyah USAF,
- TSgt Andrea Sanchez USAF,
- SrA Letyraial Cunningham USAF,
- SrA Marisela Roman USAF,
- Mr. Timothy Pyeatt USAF.

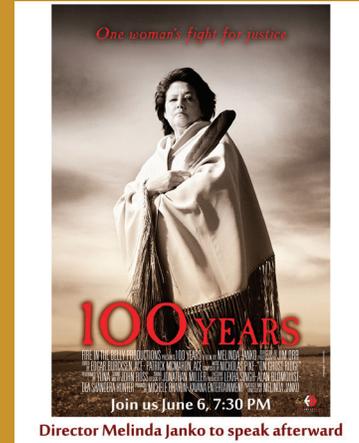
The SAIGE Youth will join the Veterans Track participants for the luncheon program. There will also be several information tables on special veteran programs and organizations as well as Warrior Society hat sales. This is a great opportunity to network and update your knowledge on veteran programs and benefits.

The Warrior Society is always looking to grow with support and membership. Just as with SAIGE, the greater the membership the greater the network, which benefits the members and organization. To join the be a SAIGE member and either currently serving in the military or a veteran. If you want to support or join the Warrior Society, please contact me at [danny.garceau@saige.org](mailto:danny.garceau@saige.org).



Photo: Tilford Brown, Warrior Society member

**"100 Years" Documentary Viewing and Discussion with Filmmaker, Melinda Janko - June 6, 2017 at 7:30 PM**



When Elouise Cobell, a petite Blackfeet warrior from Montana, started asking questions about missing money from government managed Indian Trust accounts, she never imagined that one day she would be taking on the world's most powerful government. But what she discovered as the Treasurer of her tribe was a trail of fraud and corruption leading all the way from Montana to Washington DC. "100 Years" is the story of her 30-year fight for justice for 300,000 Native Americans whose mineral rich lands were grossly mismanaged by the United States Government. In 1996, Cobell filed the largest class action lawsuit ever filed against the federal government. For fifteen long years, and through three Presidential administrations, Elouise Cobell's unrelenting spirit never quit. This is the compelling true story of how she prevailed and made history.



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## 2017 DALLAS PETERMAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

We are now accepting applications for the **Dallas Peterman Youth Leadership Award** for Native American students between the ages of 18 and 25, who demonstrate good academic standing and are currently enrolled or plan to enroll.

Past youth leaders in collaboration with the **Society for American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE)** and **Ancestral Lands** are proud to honor Dallas Peterman through the 1st Annual Dallas Peterman Youth Leadership Award. Dallas was tragically killed on March, 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 by a passing semi-truck while hitch hiking on one of his infamous cross-country treks. Through this award we aim to extend his legacy and continue to support young individuals as they begin their career paths. Dallas believed in the potential of Native youth to change their lives and communities for the better.

The award recipient will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the 14th Annual SAIGE Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona at the We Ko Pa Resort and Conference Center on June 5-8, 2017. SAIGE is a non-profit organization that advocates for American Indian and Alaska Native Government employees in the federal, tribal, state and local sector. As part of the Training Program, the selected winner will participate in the annual Native Student Youth Program. The Selected Applicant will be recognized on Wednesday, June 8, 2017 at the Award Ceremony.

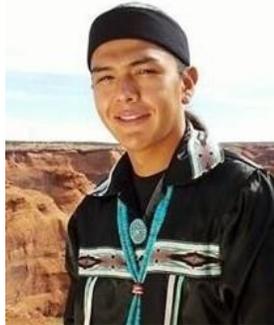
### Application will be based on the following criteria:

- Service • Environmental Justice
- Creativity and Innovation
- Tradition, Culture, and Language



### About Dallas Peterman:

Dallas River Peterman was born on July 22, 1993 in Biloxi, Mississippi. He was delivered by a Captain in the Air Force. His parents are Anthony and Winnie Peterman. He has four siblings and a daughter, Blu Sky Peterman. In his 23 years, he lived a life of adventure, was eager to learn new things, meet new people and most importantly work to better his community. He attended and graduated from Diné College in Tsaile, AZ. Dallas Peterman Participated in the 2012 SAIGE National Training Program (NTP) and Continued to attend until the 2016 SAIGE NTP in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dallas' leadership and charismatic energy quickly earned him the admiration of many. He was known for starting a volunteer trash pickup in his local community, for documenting his hitch hiking adventures, and bike riding every summer.



“ WANT TO  
SHOW EVERYONE  
THAT YOU CAN'T  
JUST TALK  
ABOUT DOING  
SOMETHING...  
YOU HAVE  
TO ALSO PUT  
THE PLAN IN  
MOTION. YOU  
HAVE TO JUST  
DO IT.”

- Dallas Peterman

**ANCESTRAL  
LANDS**

Through this award, we hope to honor his life the best way possible and support the continuation of his legacy.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Application Deadline: May 19<sup>th</sup> 2017

[Click Here to Donate](#)

## CALENDAR OF AMERICAN INDIAN and NCEP PARTNER EVENTS 2017

Date	Event/Conference	Location	For More Information:
<b>June 24, 2017</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Jim Thorpe Run	Albuquerque, NM	<a href="http://nativeamerican5kchampionships.org/register">http://nativeamerican5kchampionships.org/register</a>
<b>July 7-10, 2017</b>	UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) National Conference	Denver, CO	<a href="http://unityinc.org/event/2017-national-unity-conference/">http://unityinc.org/event/2017-national-unity-conference/</a>
<b>July 17-20, 2017</b>	Federally Employed Women (FEW) National Training Program	New Orleans, LA	<a href="http://www.few.org">www.few.org</a>
<b>Aug. 9-10, 2017</b>	Pathways to Respecting American Indian Civil Rights	Denver, CO	<a href="mailto:patricia.mcmahon@eoc.gov">patricia.mcmahon@eoc.gov</a>
<b>Aug. 21-24, 2017</b>	Blacks In Government (BIG) National Training Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	<a href="http://www.bignet.org">www.bignet.org</a>
<b>Sept. 11-15, 2017</b>	National Image, Inc. Training Program	Albuquerque, NM	<a href="http://www.national-image.org">www.national-image.org</a>
<b>Sept. 21-23, 2017</b>	American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference	Denver, CO	<a href="http://www.aises.org">www.aises.org</a>
<b>Sept. 19-21, 2017</b>	Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit – LaJolla Band of Luiseno Indians & Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals	San Diego, CA	<a href="mailto:Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu">Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu</a>
<b>Sept. 19-21, 2017</b>	Diabetes in Indian Country Conference	Albuquerque, NM	<a href="http://www.diabetesinindiancountry.com">www.diabetesinindiancountry.com</a>
<b>Oct. 4-7, 2017</b>	National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Annual Convention	Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.niea.org">www.niea.org</a>
<b>Oct. 5-7, 2017</b>	2017 Women of Color STEM Conference	Detroit, MI	<a href="http://www.ccmag.com/wocitc/">http://www.ccmag.com/wocitc/</a>
<b>Oct. 15-20, 2017</b>	National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual Convention	Milwaukee, WI	<a href="http://www.ncai.org">www.ncai.org</a>
<b>Oct. 19-21, 2017</b>	SACNAS Devoted to Advancing Opportunities for Hispanics, Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference	Salt Lake City, UT	<a href="http://www.sacnas.org">www.sacnas.org</a>
<b>Oct. 26-28, 2017</b>	Society of Women Engineers National Conference	Austin, TX	<a href="http://we15.swe.org/about-we15/">http://we15.swe.org/about-we15/</a>

## Talking Leaf Newsletter

### A Note from the Editor:

As a member of SAIGE, I know there are a lot of news items that can be shared, e.g. member profiles, outreach activities, recognitions, training events, agency highlights, new Native hires, job opportunities. What is happening in your Region? The *Talking Leaf* is your publication. It is published twice a year. I welcome your stories, suggestions, and ideas. You can email me at: georgia.madrid@noaa.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Georgia Madrid

### SAIGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### OFFICER POSITIONS

- **Chair:** Fredericka oseph (Kaw Nation)
- **Vice Chair:** Lori Windle (White Earth Chippewa)
- **Secretary:** Phil Hamel (Mohawk ancestry)
- **Treasurer:** Sue Morris (Comanche Nation of Oklahoma)

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- Teresa Estoril (Cherokee)
- Danny Garceau (Lake Superior Chippewa)
- Daniel Holt
- Sue Marcus
- Duane Matt (Confederated Salish Kootenai)
- Jay Spaan (Cherokee Nation)
- Pamela Stearns (Tlingit)
- Brenda Takes Horse (Kenaitze)
- Veronica Vasquez (Chumash)
- Herb Webb (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma)

## About SAIGE

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) is the first national non-profit organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Federal, Tribal, State and local government employees. Formed in 2002, SAIGE provides a forum on the issues, challenges and opportunities of American Indian Tribal Nations and the government workforce, and to foster a professional network among AI/AN government employees.

JOIN THE SAIGE NETWORK  
[www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org)

## Supporting SAIGE

There are several ways that you can support SAIGE-- even financially-- some at no cost to you.

- GEICO will donate a small amount to SAIGE every time someone requests an insurance quote and says that they are a SAIGE member. For additional information, please contact Danny Garceau at [danny.garceau@saige.org](mailto:danny.garceau@saige.org). You can do it from the website by clicking on the GEICO logo on the left of the page. You don't have to buy anything from GEICO.
- Amazon Smile is a way to get the Amazon Foundation to donate 0.5% to SAIGE when you use Amazon for eligible purchases. There is no cost to you or to SAIGE. The Amazon website looks the same to you, as a user, except there's a smile under the Amazon logo. Once set up, you don't have to do anything else. You don't get a tax deduction because the donation comes from Amazon. You select a charity for your Amazon Smile contributions--of course we hope that you select SAIGE.
- The silent auction at our NTP funds the Carol Jorgensen Environmental Stewardship Native scholarship. If you have a Native-made item to donate, please send a photo and description to Teresa Estoril, [testoril@saige.org](mailto:testoril@saige.org) or Susan Marcus, [smarcus@saige.org](mailto:smarcus@saige.org). Remember that those who bid on items will be traveling home with them, so think packable. SAIGE reserves the right to determine what is appropriate for our silent auction. Please include the approximate value of the item, and if you would like a letter of verification of an in-kind contribution for your tax records.
- SAIGE accepts Donations online at [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org). On the right side of the homepage, you will see the Donate button; then scroll down that page to the Donate area. Or go directly to <http://saige.org/member-resources/products-page/> and scroll down to the Donate section.