



Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Annual Report for 2017

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) had a full year of events but a big shout out to the Officers, Board of Directors, and volunteers who supported SAIGE by helping with the planning of our yearly national training program. Below is our list of Officers and Board of Directors:

SAIGE Board of Directors:

Fredericka Joseph – Chair	Teresa Estoril	Duane Matt
Bryan Sappier – Vice Chair	Danny Garceau	Jay Spaan
Lori Windle – Secretary	Daniel Holt	Brenda Takes Horse
Sue Morris – Treasurer	Sue Marcus	Herb Webb

SAIGE Yearly Training Program:

SAIGE held its 14th Annual National Training Program (NTP) at the We Ko Pah Resort and conference Center in Scottsdale, Arizona June 5th – 8th, 2017. The theme for our training event was: “Standing Together.” Highlights of our plenary speakers included: Morgan Rodman, White House Council on Native American Affairs; Don Chapman, President, Midnight Technologies, Update on the White House National Ocean Council and Tribal Participation; Bears Ears National Monument, Eric Descheenie, Arizona State Legislator; Moving Forward Together: Indian Economic Development by Chris James; Treaty Rights, The Trust Responsibility, and Tribal Consultation, Steven Pevar, Senior Staff Attorney, American Liberties Union. Our Co-Chairs were Sue Marcus and Danny Garceau.

Annual SAIGE Achievement Awards:

Special Emphasis Program Manager Award:

Debbie Rafael, Jesse Brown Veteran's 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

Warrior Society:

The SAIGE Warrior Society serves an important function within SAIGE and is overseen by a retired Command Sergeant Major of the National Guard. Currently there are 51 members made up of both veterans and currently serving military members representing all branches of service. The Warrior Society had a successful event during the National Training Program with approximately 100 attendees for the track and SAIGE fed approximately 175 individuals during the awards luncheon with included the Youth Track joining the warriors. Dan King was a keynote speaker who made an impact on the youth as they sought him after his speech with more questions. The luncheon speaker was Michael Anderson, USAF retired Colonel who gave a message about natives and service to

country. Following the luncheon, the SAIGE Meritorious Service Awards were presented to 12 individuals, 7 Air Force, 3 National Guard and 2nd Army.

The focus on planning the NTP Veterans Track and Military Meritorious Awards program included Mary Culley, Warrior Society member and Veterans Affairs employee who served an instrumental role in the planning of the Veterans Track. The training provided a combination of presenters on veteran and military issues along with the awards program luncheon for the military meritorious award winners. The top 12 nominations were recognized were: LTC Jared L. Ware, US Army; MSG Richard L Oxendine, US Army; SFC Lowell Laudert, Army National Guard; SSGT Trisha L. Ross, Iowa Air National Guard; TSGT Kelvin R. Oxendine, US Air Force; TSGT Santrea D. Buckner, US Air Force; TSGT Michael Allen Whitebear Tieyah, US Air Force; TSGT Andrea L Sanchez, US Air Force; SrA Letyraial S Cunningham, US Air Force; SrA Marisela Roman US Air Force; Mr. Timothy K Pyeatt US Air Force.

Also honored at the NTP was the Piestewa family, a gold star family from Arizona, with a SAIGE prayer jar for their fallen warrior, Lori Ann Piestewa. Sadly Terry Piestewa, the family patriarch and Viet Nam Veteran walked on a few months later and joins Lori at Fiddlers Green, the U.S. military version of Valhalla (Warrior's Heaven).

Danny Garceau spoke at the United States Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. in November for American Indian Heritage Month. He provided a cultural presentation which included historic contributions of American Indians, current statistics, issues along with a native flute segment. The presentation was attended by approximately 100 headquarter personnel and was video taped for broadcast on the U.S. Coast Guard news network.

Youth Program:

Introduction of the Carol Jorgensen Recipients and Winners:

There were five (5) applicants. But only two (2) were selected unanimously by the SAIGE Board of Directors. The two winners were: Karessa Wand who is an undergraduate at Evergreen College and who has attended three (3) SAIGE NTP's was awarded \$1,500. The second recipient was Xavier Lavato who attends New Mexico State University, and who worked with the Tribal Youth Conservation Corps. was awarded \$1,500.

The Dallas Peterman Youth Leadership (DPYL) began because of a young Navajo man named Dallas River Peterman. Dallas was the son of Anthony and Winnie Peterman and had four siblings and a daughter. He lived a full life of adventure and worked tirelessly to better his community. He attended the 2012 SAIGE National Training Program (NTP) and continued to attend until the 2016 SAIGE NTP in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His leadership and charismatic energy earned him the admiration of many. He was known for starting a volunteer trash pickup in his local community and for documenting his hitch-hiking adventures and bike riding every summer. Dallas was tragically killed on March 1st, 2017 by a passing semi-truck while hitch hiking. The SAIGE Youth leaders immediately collaborated and developed the criteria, and eligibility for this leadership award. The Youth leaders not only asked Dallas Peterman's family to review the list of recipients but they also invited his family to attend and be present this award to the first recipient.

Jasmine Jishie is the first recipient of the DYYL. She was from the Navajo Tribe and attended the Dine' College. Her field of study was Business Administration. The criteria included environmental justice, creativity, and innovation, tradition, culture and language.

Chapters:

This is the fifth year the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) IRS Utah Chapter has partnered with the Ogden City School District to help those families in need. To accomplish this, SAIGE organizes an annual school supply drive at the Ogden campus. The donations benefit hundreds of students, teachers and faculty through the local Title VI program

According to Time Magazine, the average American household with school-aged children spent about \$630 for this year's back-to-school shopping. Yet, there are several families in the Ogden area that can't afford even the basic supplies their children need. "For some families, \$20 for school supplies doesn't seem like a lot," said Ogden City School District community liaison Lucille Montana. "For many other families, that's money that can be used for shoes for their children or to put food on the table."

Of the 12,150 students in the Ogden City School District, over 8,000 are classified as economically disadvantaged. The Title VII program is a federal project that specifically provides eligible American Indian, Alaskan Native, immigrant and low- and low- income students with the resources they need to succeed in their education. This year, local businesses and volunteers in the community donated 511 backpacks. IRS employees generously contributed supplies to fill 140 of those. SAIGE volunteers also helped sort, fill and distribute those donations to the schools.

The Kansas City SAIGE Chapter held a Lunch-n-Learn at the Internal Revenue Service Campus. Their guest speaker was Carol Green, President of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. She spoke about world famous Native American athletes from Jim Thorpe to the modern Lacrosse teams, as well as her experiences as a female Native American athlete. Native Americans have made headlines in nearly all sports and won the Olympic gold for the USA. The American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame is under negotiations to move to Kansas City, Missouri after being in Lawrence, KS for decades.

Six members volunteered to man a booth at the Indian Council of Many Nations Pow Wow in Grain Valley, Missouri. We were invited to set up our adjunct table with drinks and chips as a fundraiser for our chapter. We sold water, soft drinks, and chips which saved visitors a trip into town and enabled them to stay at the pow wow longer. The Council expressed their appreciation for our services

Other Activity and Outreach:

SAIGE has continued to be a part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Several 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. Board members attended annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference and National Congress of American Indians Convention staffing an outreach booth to educate attendees about SAIGE and promote our National Training Program.

In 2017 the Board decided that a Youth Liaison to the Board was needed. This position allows the person to attend monthly board meetings to give updates on the Youth program and bring information and proposals to the board for consideration. This is not a voting position. Brian Barlow from the Cherokee Nation was selected to serve as the Youth Liaison. He has served as a Youth leader for several years and brings a wealth of information to the youth program. In addition, Brian was one of the youth leaders who developed the eligibility requirements for the Dallas Peterman Youth Leadership Award.

Elections:

Elections were held in December, and there were five Board of Directors candidates, one Vice Chair and one treasurer candidate. The Election committee consists of two SAIGE Directors and a committee of Board of Directors who oversaw the election. Elections follow the Election Standard Operating Procedures in order to ensure everything is done properly. Candidates were notified of their status after the vote count was completed, and new board members were installed at the January 2018 meeting.



Chair, SAIGE Board of Directors