



Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Annual Report for 2018

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	Sade Ali	Daniel Holt
Jay Spaan – Vice Chair	Kathleen Bergeron	Sue Marcus
Phil Hamel – Secretary	Tilford Brown	Duane Matt
Sue Morris – Treasurer	Teresa Estoril	Bryan Sappier
	Danny Garceau	Lori Windle

SAIGE Yearly Training Program:

SAIGE held it's 15th Annual National Training Program (NTP) at the Oneida owned Radisson Hotel in Green Bay, Wisconsin June 11th – 14th, 2018. The theme for our training event was: "Sovereignty, Trust and Resilience." Highlights of our plenary speakers included: The Honorable Tehassi Hill, Chairman of the Oneida Nation; the Honorable Keith Harper, U.S. Representative, U.N. Human Rights Council; Michael McBride, Chair, Indian Law and Gaming Practices Group, Crowe & Dunlevy;; Wayne Ducheneaux, Executive Director, Native Governance Center; Steven Pevar, Senior Attorney, ACLU; Zina Sutch, OPM. Nobeert Hill was the Tuesday luncheon speaker and Ernie Stevens served as the Wednesday luncheon speaker. Our Co-Chairs were Lori Windle and Danny Garceau.

Annual SAIGE Achievement Awards:

Leadership Award:

Carl Etsitty, USDA/APHIS Tribal Liaison/Assistant Director, Fort Collins, Lifetime and Founding member of SAIGE and an Enrolled member of the Dine' people

General Schedule Grades Award:

Ms. Susan Filkins, Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho

Warrior Society:

The SAIGE Warrior Society re-engaged with the Department of Defense's Diversity Office after a multiple year absence. This included financial support, a team attending the SAIGE NTP and providing the guest speaker for the Military Awards luncheon.

The Oneida Honor Guard presented the colors with SAIGE participation from Tilford Brown and Danny Garceau. Presentation subjects included Tribal Service Officers. Veteran Benefits, Roles and Duties of Tribal Honor Guards and Eagle Staffs. Approximately 100 attended the day event including the local community and the youth from the youth program. Department of Defense Mike Sena was the keynote luncheon speaker and spoke of the great contributions of American Indian Warriors for the defense of this nation. Following lunch, the SAIGE Meritorious Service Awards were presented to ten individuals, 8 Air Force; 1 National Guard; and 1 Coast Guard. The following Awards went to the following:

Lt. Colonel Larissa N Lanigar, Air Force Training Command; CW4 (Ret) William J. White, JHHQ South Dakota, National Guard; Lt Haida J. StarEagle, HQ AMC AIS USAF; SMgt Nicholas J. Sinnott, 48th Fighter Wing USAF; TSgt Wendell L. Bond, 2 MXS USAFT; TSgt Frances T. Dupris, CSG NORAD USAF; TSgt Ragina A. Mallcoat, 57th AMXS USAF; CPO Sheldon Williams, SFLC Alameda US Coast Guard; SSgt Deedrah Y. Seth, Air War College USAF; and A1C Sharel Jones, Air Mobility Command 731st AMS USAF.

Danny Garceau spoke at the National Guard's Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Arkansas during their annual Diversity and Inclusion Workshop in October 2018. The subject of the presentation was unconscious bias; how it negatively impacts not only individuals but also the readiness of our armed forces, emphasizing the Native American/Alaska Native perspectives of this subject

Youth Program:

Introduction of the Carol Jorgensen Recipients and Winners:

The Carol Jorgensen Scholarship Committee have completed a decision on the two recipients to receive the \$1000 award. They are Mateen Hessami who is an enrolled tribal member of the Wyandotte Nation and attends University of Montana in Missoula, Mt. He is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology. Charles Bush is from Pine Ridge Reservation. He attends the Oglala Lakota College and has a strong commitment to the environment and is involved with the Proctor Environmental Action for recycling at his school.

Jared Massey received the 2018 Dallas Peterman Youth Leadership (DPYL) Award. Jared was born and raised on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in Northeastern Arizona and is a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Jared fights daily to preserve his Apache way of life, especially in a progressing and ever-changing world. Through this fight, he has discovered that it's imperative for him to keep his people first, while also remembering that you must also take care of yourself. Jared uses his passion to be a light in his community, and challenges young people to take advantage of opportunities and use their voices to speak life. Jared shares his story to inspire youth in his community that through courage, endurance, healing, education, and perseverance they can never be stopped. As a White Mountain Apache, Jared aspires to bring change to his people, a change that will inspire hope and change lives.

Chapters:

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) IRS Kansas City Chapter held several event outreaching to the local community. The Chapter participated in a food drive to feed children over the summer delivering almost 600 pounds of kid friendly food to the Kansas City Indian Center from their IRS summer food drive. This food fed families with children who receive free breakfast and lunch during the school drive.

During November's Native American Heritage Month, the KC Chapter held a lunch and Learn panel discussion. The topic was: "Why Native American Heritage Month is Important to Me?" The panelists spoke about their personal experience covering the different views of a parent of native children, a mix-raced adult, and a veteran. The audience was invited to join in the frank look at the value and impact of 28 years of national observances.

Other Activity and Outreach:

We added a new volunteer SAIGE Chapter Liaison position. This position is needed to help the Directors establish chapters throughout the country. Coralee Mackay, President of the Utah IRS Chapter was selected to serve in this role. Coralee has extensive experience and has conducted training on establishing chapters at our yearly training event.

This year the attorneys from the Greenberg Traurig LLC worked with the Patent and Trademark Office to trademark our logo. It was something our board has been pursuing for some time but with the help of their patented group we have accomplished that goal we are excited to have accomplished this as it allows us to own our logo without the possibility of losing it to another group.

Georgeie Reynolds stepped up immediately to the Board by attending grant writing classes. The SAIGE Board of Directors are aware that writing grants to supplement our training program is important. The two biggest programs are the Warrior Society and the Youth Programs. Our biggest efforts and generator of funds is our Annual Training Program held every year in various locations. We welcome all agencies, organizations, and tribes to become our sponsors to continue our important training events in training employees. We extend our thanks to the current partners who year after year continue to attend our events and serve as our financial partners in making our training events successful.

Elections:

Elections were held in December, and there were three Board of Directors candidates. The Candidates were notified of their status after the vote count was completed, and new board members were installed at the January 2019 meeting. We extend our gratitude to the outgoing Board members, Daniel Holt, Sue Marcus, and Bryan Sappier for their dedication and service to SAIGE. We welcome the two new Directors to the Board, Juanita Mullen and Georgeie Reynolds.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederica J. Joseph".

Chair, Board of Directors
Society of American Indian Government Employees