



## 4-DIRECTIONS NAIGSO Newsletter



Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office serving the Native American People

#### **2003 FALL EDITION**

#### Exciting things are starting to happen in the Indian AA Community...

## New York GSO Staff Member invited to NAIGSO Meeting in California

On March 23, 2003, the Native American Indian General Service Office (NAIGSO) had a meeting with Ms. Eva Sanchez, GSO Staff Member, at the Many Nations in Recovery Center at San Diego, California. Eva came to the center in place of Mr. Bill Archer, GSO Staff Member, who was invited but Bill felted that Eva was more familiar with the topics to be discussed at this meeting. Eva was at the meeting to tell the members about the review of Admission/Policy/Finance process the Committee and the subsequent denial applications submitted by NAIGSO. Since 1993, NAIGSO had submitted four written applications for delegate participation to the World Service Meeting in New York City. Eva told the members that to participate in the World Service Meeting is important. But it would be beneficial for NAIGSO to have a delegate attend the General Service Conference (GSC) held in New York. She said that all the delegates from the various regions who had attended the GSC are recognized by the General Service Office of AA. Eva had also invited Ms. Phyllis Halliday, Pacific Region Trustee, and Mr. Jim Holt, San Diego/Imperial Counties Panel 52 Delegate, to the meeting. During the meeting, Don W. and Chuck R., gave a power NAIGSO members. demonstration to introduce a proposal to include a third corporation in the service structure. The meeting provided solutions.

#### Pacific Region Trustee and Panel 52 Delegate visits NAIGSO in California

After several telephone calls between NAIGSO and Phyllis Halliday, Pacific Region Trustee, a meeting was scheduled for July 20, 2003 at the Many Nations in Recovery Center in San Diego, California. Mr. Jim Holt, Panel 52 Delegate, was also at the meeting. During the meeting, Phyllis said that she was going to introduce a proposal to the General Service Board requesting that a third Trustee-at-Large be included in the service structure to represent the Native Indians, this proposal will be introduced on August 3, 2003 in New York. Phyllis noted that she needed additional information concerning the Native Indians in the USA and Canada. The information would include the current Native Indian populations, the number reservations/reserves in the USA and Canada. Similar to the recent meeting, Don W. and Chuck R., NAIGSO members, provided a power point to illustrate the inclusion of a third corporation in the service structure. Jim Holt provided information to the members concerning a 2006 Special Forum. A letter was send to Jim requesting that he schedule a special Forum in the year 2006 for the Native Indians. At the end of the meeting, Phyllis said that any changes in the service structure would be very slow. This was a good meeting.



#### September 4, 2003

We here at NAIGSO would like to share our heart with you things concerning NAIGSO's vision of service to the First Nations. We will try to keep it simple. I guess the AA way is to relate in a general way what is used to be like, what happened, and what it is like now.

#### What it used to be like:

The First Nation Peoples are dying from alcoholism related deaths at an alarming rate. AA's service to the nations is non-existent. AA help for US and Canada is not in harmony with the nations' culture and spirituality. The AA Service Structure for United States and Canada does not acknowledge the First Nation's sovereignty and is not compatible with their culture and spirituality. The First Nations do not have guidance for communicating together (binding). The First Nations do not have a voice within AA.

#### What happened?:

The First Nation Peoples continue to die from alcoholism related deaths at an alarming rate. A vision of service came to Earl Lent, a Paiute from Bishop, California, to establish an AA General Service Office for the First Nations (like other nations of the world). This has been accomplished. This Native American General Service Office is in place. It is all volunteering work and self-supporting. It serves AA to the First Nations in concert with their traditional way of life, culture, and spirituality...serving their needs and binding them together.

Four times, over the past ten years, NAIGSO has submitted application for the First Nations to be represented at World Service level of AA. Three times it was denied without explanation. The fourth application(s) was denied - not because of qualifications but because of "unity". It was stated that the First Nations should be represented in accordance with the AA service structure for US and Canada i.e. through their representative Trustee-at-Large. NOW the moment of truth jumps out. Within the existing AA Service Structure for US and Canada the First Nations do not have a representative Trustee-at-Large ....the First Nations do not have delegates.... the First Nations do not have areas or regions...the First Nations are not represented...PERIOD!

#### What it is like now:

NAIGSO has AA New York's ear.... AA NY is actively working with NAIGSO for a better way to serve the nations. A committee of five AA Trustees has been appointed to evaluate and make recommendations back to AA's Board of Directors. The AA Board of Directors in NY is composed of the twenty-one trustees, 14 alcoholic trustees and 7 non-alcoholics. NAIGSO plans to stay in close communication with this committee as they strive to devise a plan to establish AA service to the First Nations.

Now NAIGSO must be painstaking in this phase of development. While this process is going on we must remain steadfast to "the vision". We must not slack off...members need to be painstaking in starting new groups/meetings... in registering groups/meetings that are all ready out there... in individuals registering to the phone list (Loners Directory)... in sending in all Indian Sobriety Events for posting...

The First Nation Peoples continue to die from alcoholism related deaths at an alarming rate. Pray for the People.... pray for AA New York.... pray for us here at NAIGSO.

NAIGSO Board and Staff

Executive Staff	Board Members		
President	Larry N.	Chuck R.	
Vice-President	Vacant	Sylvia W.	
Secretary	Yolanda I.	Don W.	
Treasurer	Judy V.	Helen F.	
Archives	Rachel C.	Josh W.	
Keeper of the Shield	Robert V.		

#### Friend...

Friend-you and me, you brought another friend and than there were three. We started our group; our circle of friends and like the circle there is no end.

Anonymous



Dear Members,

I just want to say that things are starting to happen in the Native Indian AA Community...

This is the first time that the General Service Office in New York has attempted to acknowledge the Native Indians in the USA and Canada. As a First, the Native American Indian General Service Office (NAIGSO) invited a staff member from the General Service Office, a Pacific Region Trustee and a Panel 52 Delegate from California, to a meeting in San Diego, California. At these meetings, a proposal was initiated to include a third Trustee-at-Large in the service structure to represent the Native Indians at the General Service Office in New York City. The meetings are very important to all Native Indians and we encourage your support.

Without your contributions, this "carrying the message" Newsletter could not be possible. This momentum needs to continue with "each member on his or her sobriety birthday contribute one dollar per recovery year to NAIGSO." (see the form on the last page of this newsletter) Thank you for your contributions.

In fellowship and service,

Larry Nahlee, NAIGSO President

August 17, 2003

Hello Larry,

As promised, here is a summary of my presentation and discussion on the NAIGSO to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous during it's Executive Session August 3, 2003.

My presentation included the history and purpose of NAIGSO, nations represented, your office, meetings and structure. I then shared about my visits to San Diego attending your Board and what I had learned about the history of Native Americans and tribal sovereignty. The percentage figures of alcoholism-related deaths among the Native American population were given also.

I relayed your desire to be represented on the General Service Board along with your proposal for a structural change to the Board to add a Native American Trustee at Large (First Nations). This was followed by a thorough discussion by Board members that included their shared experiences from all of U.S. and Canada on the involvement or non-involvement of Native Americans in A-A. groups and our present structure. The interest was very high in searching to find the right or best answer for representation, while considering A A. as a whole (U.S. and Canada). There was a strong • commitment to keep an open mind while we learn and work together to make this happen. As I mentioned before, A.A. works very slowly and any kind of change takes time, whatever the change may be- It was agreed that there is a great deal of learning and information gathering that needs to take place so we are properly informed before any further action. To move this forward, a sub-committee has been appointed. I will be serving as one of four members and Class A Trustee, Leonard Blumenthal will serve as Chair. We plan to hold a conference call this next month and set our agenda. I trust we will be in close communication along the way and I'll be sharing more with you in September when I visit your Board meeting with our General Service Manager, Greg M. No doubt you have already invited our friend and Area Delegate, Jim H. to join in that meeting also. In the meantime, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your dedicated service and for your friendship. I know if we continue to search our hearts and minds, we will reach a common solution for how representation and carrying the A.A. message of recovery will work hand in hand.

In Fellowship and Service,

Phyllis H. Pacific Region Trustee

## NY General Service Manager at NAIGSO Meeting in California

On September 28, 2003, Mr. Greg Muth, GSO General Service Manager, Mr. David Emery, GSO Trustee, and Mr. Jim Holt, Panel 52 Delegate, Native American Indian General attended Service Office (NAIGSO) meeting at the Many Nations in Recovery Center in San Diego, California. The meeting was not related to any specific issue but to assist NAIGSO to understand the process to be acknowledged by the General Service Office in New York City. David Emery talked about his duties as a GSO Trustee. Greg Muth emphasized the need for change by suggesting that the NAIGSO charter should be revised to reflect a more generic plan of operation when dealing with the AA Programs. NAIGSO will attempt to implement these revisions in a meeting on the last Sunday of October 2003.



#### **Native American Indian National Heritage** represented by the Loner membership of NAIGSO 96 Nations are represented

Aleut Nation Apache Assiniboine Avmara Bannock Blackfeet Chauilla Chemehueui Chere Cherokee Chickasaw Chitimacha Chotaw Cocopah

Comanche Cree Creek Crow Cupa Dakaota Deleware Delaware LenapeDin -Navajo

Eskimo Grande Ronde Hidatsa Ho-Chunk igoH Innuit Iroquois Kahnawake Kenaitze Kickapoo Kinistin Klamath Koyoong Kawi

Kumeyaay Lakota Lenni Lenappi Lummi Maidu Manzanita Mau Maw Mayan Menominee

Mescalero Apache Mexican Yaqui

Mi'Kmaq Miwok Mohave Mohawk Mukelshoot Munsee Nez Pierce No. Chevenne

Odawa Ogallala Siox Ojibwa Oneida Osage Paiute Pasqua Yaqui

Pawnee Penobscot Ponca Potawatomi Pueblo Quecham Yuma Rincon Ammamish

Samoa San Carlos Apache Seminole Tribe Seneca Sho-shone Spirit Lake Sioux

Squamish

Standing Rock Sioux

Taino

Teaton Sioux

Three Afiliated Tribes

Tlinait

Tohono O'odham

Tonkawa Tonto Apache

Tsalagi Tunica

Wahpetonwan Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma

Yakama Yaqui Yavapqi Yurok Zia

#### Indian Prayer

Oh Great Spirit Whose Voice I Hear in the wind Whose breath gives life to the world

Hear me

I come to you as one of your many children

I am small and weak

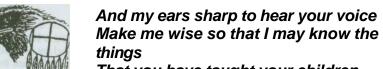
I need your strength and wisdom

May I walk in beauty

Make my eyes behold the red and purple

sunset

Make my hands respect the things that you have made



That you have taught your children The lessons that you have hidden in the every leaf and rock

Make me strong . . . not to be superior to mv brothers

but to able to fight my greatest

enemy: myself

Make me ever ready to come to you with straight eyes

So that when life fades as the faded unset My spirit will come to you without shame

- Anonymous



# TENTH ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE AMERICAN AA CONVENTION

CHEROKEE NC

**Everyone welcome** 

You don't have to be Indian to attend
NOVEMBER 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th 2003
CONVENTION CENTER CHEROKEE
NORTH CAROLINA 28719
Contact Persons:

Herb W. 828-497-7103

Deb C. sobergirl93@hotmail.com



Step Ten
Continued to
take personal
inventory and
when we were
wrong promptly
admitted it.

### Wild Rice Round-up

"Lose Your Winter Blues"

January 16, 17, 18, 2004



Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center Mahnonmen, Minnesota (White Earth Ojibwe Reservation)

Information Contacts:
Wild Rice Round-up
P.O. Box 203
Mahnomen, MN 56557

Fred 218-935-5007 Danny 218-734-2549

Email: <a href="mailto:drgrain@dsl.arvig.net">drgrain@dsl.arvig.net</a>



#### Native American Indian Alcoholics Anonymous Registration Form for Individuals



I am an individual who is willing to be a point of contact to carry the message of AA to the alcoholic who still suffers. I authorize my name and information as I have recorded it on this form to be included in the Native American Indian Alcoholics Anonymous Directory. In order to be included in the directory NAIGSO must receive your original signed copy of this form.

To help us be self-supporting it is suggested that each member on his or her sobriety birthday contribute one dollar per recovery year to NAIGSO.

Name:								
Address:								
City/State/ZIP Code:								
Telephone Number:	E-mail address:							
Tribal Affiliation:								
Signature:			Date: _					
Please return the complete	d form to:							
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Is your group: AA			ALAN	ON				
Group name:								
Meeting location:			_	-				
Address:								
City/State/ZIP Code:								
Reservation:								
Meeting day:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
Meeting time:								
Point of Contact for the grands								
City/State/ZIP Code:			г ч					
Telephone Number:			E-mail	address: _				
Tribal Affiliation:			Data					
Signature:			Date: _					
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