

Four Directions

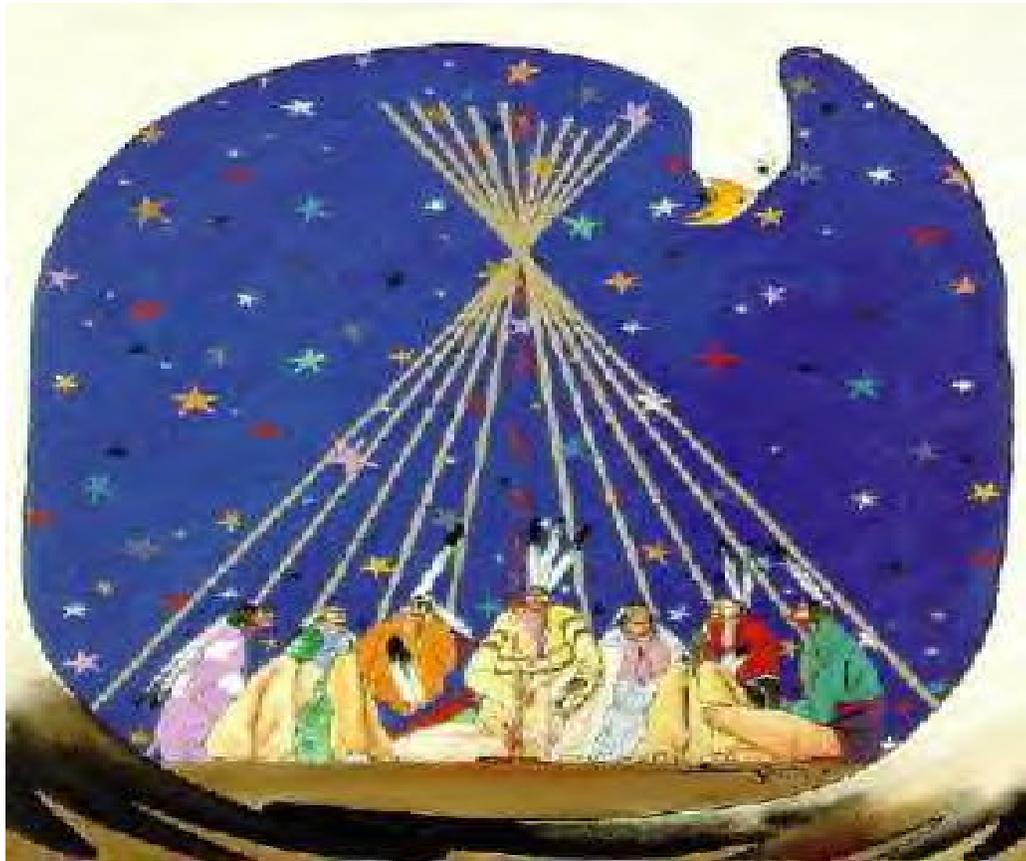


Native American Indian General Service Office

Summer 2005

Pg.1

"All My Relations"



Permission to use artwork from Sam E.

Greetings, this is my first attempt to edit this newsletter. I am honored to serve NAIGSO-AA. Inside, on pages two and three, you will find an article on unity in Alcoholics Anonymous and how it relates to Native American culture. Pages four and five contain the minutes from the June 2005 NAIGSO-AA Board meeting. Page six has our contact information. Pages seven and eight are the registration forms for individuals and groups who wish to join NAIGSO-AA.



Unity

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

(Tradition One- Long Form)

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

(Tradition One-Short Form)

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, "What a great thing A.A. might have been!"....

...The A. A. member has to conform to the principals of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principals. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies. At first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover, he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away. Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the A.A. message. The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made—that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not...

(Reprinted with Permission A.A.W.S.)

Continued Page Three

Unity

Somewhere in the AA literature there is a quote that says in effect; "there is nothing here that should be disturbing to one's belief or ceremonies." There seems to be many parallels between AA teachings and the traditional ways. The sayings in the first tradition definitely follow the teachings of the elders for the survival of the tribe.

Many Native American elders have had visions of recovery and unity for the Nations; that it is now a time for healing.

In the "Third Edition Big Book" there is a story about a man named "Son of Tall Man." He tells of how his father got sober a few years later. His father, "Tall Man," returned to the reservation and started an AA group and then traveled long distances to "carry the message." A Maine newsletter said: "With tireless devotion and humility, this venerable Indian gentleman traveled thousands of miles humbly pleading for sobriety. He planted many seeds, and it will be many moons before another rises to walk in his shoes." Actually he was only one of several who found sobriety in AA and returned home to "carry the message."

Several years have passed and we are now seeing those others "rise and walk in his shoes." The groundswell of sobriety and healing is growing stronger everyday in the Nations. Tall Man's effort to "carry the message" has been repeated in many places by many people.

The "Son of Tall Man" went on, in effect, to tell people to embrace their culture and not to be afraid to join AA.

A sober Indian loses nothing by sharing the "Gift of Sobriety."



NAIGSO BOARD of DIRECTORS



- *Help our Indian people obtain sobriety through the 12 steps and 12 traditions.*
- *Help AA World Services as an information source and referral service.*
- *Provide traditional/cultural means of representation.*
- *Induce Native North American Indian AA groups and peoples to work closely with AAWS.*
- *Support the Native North American people in obtaining sobriety through their own culture.*
- *Provide service in concert with the Native American's traditional gathering(s).*

MINUTES OF THE NAIGSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 26, 2005 (#57) AT MANY NATIONS IN RECOVERY, 3928 ILLINOIS ST. CHET HUNT ROOM, SAN DIEGO, CA 92104.

ATTENDANCE:

Board members present: Robert V, Don W. Sr., Judy V., Joshua W. (via speaker phone), Jim H. and Sylvia W.

Board members absent: Dan F. and Casey F.

Guests: Don W. Jr.

OPENING: Song (Robert V.) Prayer (Sylvia W.) and Pot luck @ 1200

CALLED TO ORDER: @ 12:20 pm

ROLL CALL: Quorum is present for regular business.

MINUTES: Meeting minutes #56 (5-29-05) was approved with corrections.

7TH TRADITION: Collected \$11.00. The total amount of funds for this board meeting is now up to \$180.00. It was agreed that when these funds exceed \$200.00 that \$100.00 would be contributed to NAIGSO.

BIRTHDAY: Don W. Sr. celebrated 37 years sobriety and Robert V. 69 years of Belly Button time. Don W. Jr. and Judy V. presented the cakes, respectively.

TREASURERS REPORT: Approved.

Report encompasses 1-1-2005 to 6-24-2005: Inflow - \$655.67; Outflow - \$389.27; Balance - \$2,892.13

REGISTRAR REPORT: 440 Loners and 80 Groups are registered.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Julio E. (NY GSO staff) will inform Don W. Sr. where in the directories NAIGSO will be listed as "The Central Office serving Native North American People". The N.Y. General Service Conference is being held 17-24 April '05.

Status:

The General Service Conference delegates chose not to address this issue. The report indicates that further dialog is needed. Status of item is ongoing.

- Don W. Sr. made motion for the board to approve the development of an information package (presentation) to be distributed to AA members and AA delegates. 2nd by Joshua W. Passed unanimously.



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Status:

5/29/05: The content of the information package (presentation) has been approved and preparation for mailing is in process.

6/26/05: A mailing has been made to the area offices as indicated on the Internet but we are not sure if this will reach the delegates or not. Julio (NY GSO staff) has been requested to provide NAIGSO GM with an advance copy of that portion of the AA Directories, which lists the delegate names and addresses. The new directories most likely will not be distributed until October but we would like to get this information package to the delegates in a timelier manner. In addition, the NAIGSO GM has emailed the information package to all the Central/Intergroup Offices that have an email address listed (89 of them).

- Dan F. stated that on the last weekend of Sept '05 The Vision Comes Home Group in Bishop, California, plans to sponsor a 'Campout'. He suggests that NAIGSO conduct a meeting or hold a panel at that "Campout". Tabled for consideration during the next NAIGSO-AA Board Meeting

Status:

5/29/05: Dan F. called in to request this item be discussed at the June meeting.

6/26/05: Dan F. absent so item is tabled until next meeting on 7/31/05.

- NY GSO notified NAIGSO GM that NAIGSO-AA, INC. is listed on website www.justgive.org. NAIGSO GM will respond to this inquiry of non-profit status.

Status: Action complete. GM responded by letter with a copy placed in NAIGSO records.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Don W. Sr. made motion to approve the request of member Gary C. to send an information package (presentation) to the Grapevine. 2nd by Robert V. Passed unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Chet Hunt Rm. @12:00 noon, July 31, 2005.

ADJORN: @2:40 pm

Stay in touch by becoming a part of the NAIGSO AA Family Circles online group. We look forward to hearing from you.



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/naigsoaafamilycircles/>

Please join the circle and send us news of what is happening in your area. Share your experience, strength, and hope with the NAIGSO-AA family.

Four Directions is the voice of the people.

Share your experience and your wisdom with the Circle. Please submit articles of interest to Native Americans in recovery from alcoholism by emailing them to: newsletter@naigso-aa.org. Your original artwork is also needed. Any graphics with a Native American or recovery theme can be submitted.

Please do not submit any copyrighted materials.

How to contact the Native American Indian General Service Office (NAIGSO):

NAIGSO

P. O. Box 1253, Lakeside, CA 92040

<http://www.naigso-aa.org/>

951-927-2626

generalmanager@naigso-aa.org

newsletter@naigso-aa.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/naigsoaafamilycircles/>



**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 completed form to:

NAIGSO-AA
P.O. Box 1253
Lakeside, CA 92040
Telephone (951) 927-2626
E-mail: generalmanager@naigso-aa.org



**Native American Indian Alcoholics Anonymous
Group Registration Form**

Group name: _____ Date group was started: _____

Meeting location: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP Code: _____

Reservation: _____ Nation: _____

Meeting day:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Meeting time:							

Contact for the group

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return the completed form to:

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