

**Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE)
Annual Report for 2009**

In 2009 SAIGE grew as an organization as shown in numbers of our annual training conference attendance. Additionally SAIGE took steps to increase its outreach to membership, with the publishing of the first ever SAIGE Newsletter, "The Talking Leaf." Georgia Madrid volunteered to be the publisher of the SAIGE Newsletter. Also in 2009 we redesigned our official web site at www.saige.org which included the adding of photos, upcoming events, leadership news and some similar interest web links. At the end of 2009 SAIGE also joined the ranks of social media by establishing its own Facebook page. In 2009 SAIGE had no paid employees and operated with an all volunteer working board.

Because of a late 2008 Election process, new board members were not seated until February instead of the usual month of January.

Late in 2009 SAIGE also reached out to the Whitehouse with a letter of recommended actions by the Obama Administration in reference to working with Indian Country and efforts to help increase the number of AI/AN in government along with their needed input.

Vice Chair Windle has spearheaded the effort to publish a Training Conference Planning SOP, which will be used to guide future Training Program planning. Vice Chair Windle also worked with developing a partnership with NativeEnergy where individuals could purchase carbon offset credits through the SAIGE web site and SAIGE would receive a percent of those profits.

SAIGE Board for 2009

Danny Garceau – Chairman
Lori Windle – Vice Chair
Shana Barehand – Treasurer
Fredericka Joseph – Secretary
Directors
Cliff Church
Shawna Clay
Max Collier
Phil Hamel
Luke Jones
Georgia Madrid
Duane Matt
Jinny Shulenberger
Brenda Takes Horse
Veronica Vazquez

SAIGE's Yearly Training Program

The Yearly Training Program was conducted at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, California. The theme for this year's conference was "Many Nations, One Spirit." The Conference Chair was Veronica Vasquez with the Southern California Chapter taking the lead on the planning committee. Conference registration was 337, our highest total conference attendance to date. Although SAIGE increased its conference income, high conference and operational expenditures for 2009 put SAIGE at a net loss of \$2,532.00 for the year. SAIGE however still maintained a sufficient balance of funds to ensure funding for the training conference in 2010. More consideration will be given to conference costs (food, speakers, audio visual support and rooms) when selecting and planning future conference sites. Helms Briscoe was used to negotiate the hotel contract. Some of the highlights of this year's conference included the participation of NCAI President Joe Garcia and special speaker Dr. Kim Winkleman. SAIGE also hosted a DOD Banquet, Youth Program with 25 Students and the largest exhibit/vendor participation to date.

Conferences Participation/ Attendance

The following Conferences were attended by representatives of SAIGE.

National IMAGE Annual Training Program, San Antonio, Texas, Board Director Vasquez represented SAIGE.

Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) Annual Training Conference, Houston, Texas – Vice Chair Windle represented SAIGE.

Federally Employed Women (FEW) Annual Training Program, Orlando, Florida – Board Director Madrid represented SAIGE and manned a promotional booth on the exhibit floor.

Blacks in Government (BIG) Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland – Secretary Joseph and Treasurer Barehand represented SAIGE.

National Congress of American Indians Annual (NCAI) Convention, Palm Springs, California – Chairman Garceau and Treasurer Barehand attended and represented SAIGE with a booth and weeklong interaction. Chairman Garceau also attended the Veterans Subcommittee meetings.

AISES Conference, Portland, Oregon – Vice Chair Windle, Secretary Joseph, Treasurer Barehand and Elder Tate represented SAIGE and manned a promotional booth.

Other SAIGE Travel and Outreach

Chairman Garceau travel to Washington D.C. in March for the NCEPS Winter meeting. Chairman Garceau and Vice Chair Windle attended a First Nations Non Profit Fundraising Conference in Santa Ana New Mexico. Former Chair Jason Edwards attended the NCAI midyear conference at Niagara Falls to preview the potential of it being a future site to host our SAIGE Training Conference. In July Chairman Garceau attended and spoke at the AIANEA (American Indian Alaskan Native Employees Association USDA) Conference in Green Bay Wisconsin. In July Chairman Garceau spoke / presented on a panel with the other NCEPS presidents at the annual EEOC EXCEL conference in New Orleans, LA. During July past SAIGE Chair Jason Edwards spoke on behalf of SAIGE at the AISES midyear conference in Washington D.C. In November Chairman Garceau spoke at DFAS in Ohio as the keynote speaker for their Native American Heritage Month program. In December Chairman Garceau along with Conference Planning Chair Jason Edwards and Board Director and Conference Coordinator Max Collier visited the Mohegan

Sun for a site visit. Several other outreach efforts were done by board members in their local areas promoting SAIGE.

Partnerships

SAIGE continued to build partnerships and increase its network. Official Partnerships/MOU's include; AISES, FSIS, Grantham University and NCEPS.

Elections

Nominations were taken in October for election to 5 two year board Director Positions. November nominations were verified and information gathered for the ballot. There were a total of 6 nominees including 4 incumbents. December the election was conducted. The following are the results of the election and the winners will serve on the 2010 board. Winning election and filling the 5 two year board positions are; Phil Hamel, Sue Marcus, Jinny Shulenberger, Veronica Vasquez and Kimberly YellowRobe.



Danny Garceau
SAIGE Chair