

**NAIGSO'S 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**  
**Chet Hunt Room, Many Nations in Recovery**  
**3928 Illinois St., San Diego, CA. 92104**  
**30 January 2005**

**ATTENDANCE** at this Conference was 32 people from throughout Indian Country.

**OPENING PRAYER** was given by Sylvia W. Joshua W. sang the 4-Direction Song and Don W. Jr. read the 12 Traditions. A Prayer Plate and Pot Luck followed this.

**INTRODUCTIONS** were made around the room.

**7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION** basket was passed. The amount contributed was \$155.00

**OPENING REMARKS** made by Don W. (Facilitator) are as follows:

Since the conference was scheduled back in October 2004 NAIGSO has received correspondence from Group Services in NY informing us that NY GSO acknowledges NAIGSO to function as the Central Office serving Native North American People and will include this information in the U.S. and Canadian directories as deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The Conference Committee on Report and Charter has oversight of A.A. directories; consequently, the listing is being delayed to determine where in the A.A. directories the Central Office serving Native North American People might be listed to better serve the Fellowship. The committee will meet during the General Service Conference in April 2005.

The goals and service activities indicated on page four of the latest NAIGSO Newsletter was reviewed to help focus the thoughts of the conference. They are as follows:

The General Service Conference will focus on serving the Native North American People. The NAIGSO goals and service activities we desire to implement and improve on are as follows. You will be asked for your input and asked to take the good news of the conference consensus back home to share.

**GOALS**

1. To help our Indian people obtain sobriety through the 12 steps and 12 traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).
2. To be a helping hand to alcoholics anonymous general services office, New York, NY and alcoholics anonymous world service, New York, NY as an information source and referral service.
3. To provide traditional/cultural means of representation from the AA individual/group level to the AA world services level.
4. To induce Native American Indian AA groups and peoples to work closely and confidently with general services office and world services in AA.

5. To support the Native American people in obtaining sobriety through their own culture.
6. To provide service in concert with the Native American's traditional gathering(s).

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

1. Provide and distribute AA information and materials to members. Publish newsletter and maintain web site containing sobriety meeting and event information.
2. Conduct, coordinate and facilitate sobriety events including pow wows, camp meetings, encampments, conventions and conferences.
3. Provide guidance on how to establish and facilitate AA groups with Native American members while maintaining the twelve concepts, traditions and steps of AA, yet incorporating the Indian's traditional way of life and spirituality. This will also involve the linking of Indian alcoholics of different tribes, in cities, on reservations and in prison settings, in such a way that will be comfortable and compatible for members. These concepts extend to the structural organization of NAIGSO, which means adapting the AA hierarchical system into a circular system to better serve the Indian customs.
4. Provide a path within AA for Indians to voice needs, from individual members to the world service level of AA. Meet requirements for Indian delegate to be seated and represent Indian nations at the world service meetings of AA. Sponsor a General Service Conference from which issues will merge to be brought before the world organization.
5. Provide NAIGSO representatives at sobriety gatherings, to meet members and determine better ways to provide services.
6. Provide directory of persons available to help individual Indian alcoholics.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Don V.** Described a need to have information on our reservation meetings available at the local A.A. Central Offices Telephone Watch Desk. He also recommended that donations be collected for NAIGSO-A.A. in addition to donating to the local A.A. Central Office. Don announced that the aluminum Native American medallions were no longer available but all others were in stock and on hand.

**Paula F.** Remarked about the need for service volunteers to join the 'Contact Release' program, to serve in the jails and help inmates coming out of prison to get established in the fellowship.

**Joshua W.** Expressed that awareness representatives could speak at places like National University, about our goals & service activities.

**Mark D.** Suggested that more urban Native American Indian Meetings be started at ALANO Clubs.

**Vicki F.** Sees a need for a Public Information Committee to make known our Goals & Service Activities. As the Newsletter Editor, She welcomes articles, artwork, and information on new meetings & events all over Turtle Island. Stories are welcomed, also. You may submit items to <mailto:newsletter@naigso-aa.org>.

**Bill R.** Suggested that we all take flyers to other meetings, make extra effort contacting other people & educate local Central Offices about Native American meetings & events.

**Judy V.** as treasurer suggests passing around an additional can at your meetings labeled NAIGSO-A.A. This additional contribution would come directly to NAIGSO and not be included in the pie for sharing of funds.

**Dan F.** Since the first meetings in Bishop & LaPosta, lots of seeds were planted by reaching out to others talking about NAIGSO's vision of service to AA and our openness to Native American traditions, customs, and spirituality. Reach out everywhere because there are four colors in our emblem indicating the different races of people. If we educate everyone I believe that the unity of the AA spirit will spread into Indian Country this generation. Where there is unity and service there will be recovery.

**Shannon B.** Stated that it was confusing, that there were no Native Americans at her Native American Group...How do I reach out to them? Guidance is requested for this type of situation.

**Don W. Sr.** The views of NAIGSO-AA are changing for the better, as we steadfast and follow the 12 Traditions. People are becoming aware that we are not some cult or outside body but truly an AA entity with a desire to serve the Native North American alcoholic.

**Chuck R.** Stated, "that being acknowledged by the GSO in NY" is a historic event. He was thankful to the Elders for their efforts in NAIGSO. He further stated, "Alcoholism is very rampant in the California Native American people residing in Bishop, L.A. & San Francisco" and he gave thanks to the attendees coming from those locations for their faithfulness and good work.

**Allen P.** Stated that he has seen meeting information on the web and would like to see this information handed out at meetings.

**Joshua W.** Expressed that Indian People are watching our meetings, don't be discouraged, they will begin to show up the more they understand we are for real.

**Sylvia W.** Spoke of her four brothers lost to alcohol, that they wanted to get sober but did not have support. We are working diligently to provide this support for native peoples today.

**Don W. Sr.** Stated that when you start a Native American meeting, Native American people will come and take part as they realize more and more that it is their meeting. They will become more comfortable as they are encouraged to include traditional ways into the order of the meeting.

**Bill R.** Suggested that people moving out of the area verify your meeting and your new location to update our NAIGSO directory(s).

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Don W.** The findings of this conference are taken very seriously. When you go home to your residence and/or reservation spread the word - the Native North American people have a voice within AA. We feel that you attendees bring real time feed back to us from Indian Country. Your suggestions and intents expressed have closed the loop and will be used to guide our efforts in the upcoming year.

### ***Footnote***

*I wish to apologize for the fact that all comments made during the conference are not captured in this document. When we changed mikes to a longer cord for better access to the speakers the tape recorder stopped recording. From that time on the comments that were made were not taped. Consequently, we relied on our memory and Robert V.'s notes to compose this document. However, we feel that the discussion items contained in this document are typical and have captured the thoughts of the conference. Don W.*