



NAIGSO-AA General Manager's Report

Sept 28, 2008



Our vision of service to Native Americans is growing and alive! The power of the Creator and AA was an active presence during our General Service Conference. Creator laid his hand on each of our shoulders as we went from meeting to meeting during the conference. The talking circles went for close to three hours and many of us were in tears as we listened and shared.

But one thing weighed heavy in my thoughts during the conference. I observing several times that trying to achieve things in the European lineal structure does not work well for Native Americans.

As a growing and functional Native American Indian General Service Office and General Service Board I believe it is time we rethink how we conduct business meetings. The whole philosophy behind our vision is that AA needs to be structured to the customs and traditions of Native American spiritually, that our gatherings should function in keeping with those customs and traditions.

I envision our meetings being held as a Council Gathering, in a talking circle format. The leader should introduce the items of business and then pass the discussion around the circle for each one present to speak on those topics, tallying the votes for or against. Everyone should be allowed to share, one at a time, with no interruption and the discussion passing completely around the circle. In this manner, we can achieve a good consensus and a group conscience, in keeping with AA and Native American traditions, yet still operate within the perimeters necessitated by state and federal law governing non-profit corporations.

Perhaps, too, each participant will feel the presence of the Creator's hand in our decisions!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary C.
GM, NAIGSO-AA