



**Executive Director's Report for the Period
August 1, 2017 – November 1, 2017
Prepared by Sherry L. Rupert to Nevada Indian Commission Board
Monday, November 20, 2017**

Administrative

- There is one vacancy on the Nevada Indian Commission board created by Commissioner Hansen's expired term. The Executive Director sent out a call for applications and has been informed that there were half a dozen applications received by the Governor's Office.
- The new Program Officer, Sarena (Sari) Nichols started on Monday, August 21, 2017.
- Additional funding was approved at the August 23, 2016 Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meeting for the following activities and the following is an update on progress of each:
 - ✓ Expand and complete the Stewart Indian School Master Plan, to include an interpretive plan, marketing analysis/study and a business plan (BA 2600).
 - H&K Architects will cover this item under Agenda Item IX.
 - ✓ Hire a contractor to complete the National Park Service National Historic Landmark application (BA 2600)
 - Graduate Research Assistant, Amanda Fountain-Scheuerman from the America West Center, University of Utah continues to research information on the Stewart Indian School for the National Historic Landmark nomination application. The goal is to have the application completed by the end of fiscal year 2018.
 - ✓ Purchase a new phone system for the NIC (BA 2600)
 - The new phone system was installed in September. Each of the positions now has a direct line, but all staff can be reached at the main number (775) 687-8333. My direct line is (775) 687-7601.

Government to Government

- The Executive Director and the Museum Director visited with seven tribes June 26-29, 2017 and remaining tribes, August 14-17, 24, 30 and 31. The new Program Officer joined in the final tribal visits. The visits provided the opportunity for the Executive Director to provide information about the NIC, our new website and current activities and initiatives that include Native American veterans, in-state vs. out-of-state tuition for tribal members, and the Stewart Indian School. The Executive Director also uses these meetings as an opportunity to update tribal contacts, find out about new economic development, tourism or infrastructure within their communities, and to find out what their expectations are of the NIC.



Legislative

- SB 244 Requires the NIC to provide potential candidates for Governor Appointments to the Board of Museums and History and the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation. The Executive Director has sent correspondence out to the Nevada Tribes requesting they send nomination letters to the NIC. The Executive Director has also reached out to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada by email and through telephone, leaving voice mail messages for their Executive Director with no response from him or the current Executive Board.

Projects

- The Bi-State Tribal Natural Resources Committee (BTNRC) met on August 10, 2017 and is scheduled to meet again in November 2017. The BTNRC is continuing to draft their by-laws and is developing an outreach initiative that provides public lands agency law enforcement contact information to tribal members and tribal governments to report illegal commercial pine nut pickers. The decision was made to move forward with planning a second Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit for October 2018. The group is developing a Summit Planning Subcommittee to begin planning the event. Other agenda items to be discussed include: the necessity to relocate birds and animals, re-establishing/enhancing public

Presentations/Meetings/Miscellaneous

- The Executive Director participated in the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) Board Retreat August 1-2, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM. The time was used to revisit the organization's strategic plan and integrate the strategic plan for implementation of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act into the overall strategic plan.
- The American Indian Tourism Conference took place September 11-14, 2017 in Green Bay, WI. Both the Executive Director and the Museum Director attended. The Executive Director is the Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee and the President of the AIANTA Board of Directors. She was able to get the Museum Director on a panel to discuss the Stewart Indian School initiative alongside the Carlisle Indian School Project. This was a great national forum to be able to share how we are working with partners to preserve the historic school and develop the Cultural Center and the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy experience.

The Museum Director also accepted the "2017-2018 Best Cultural Heritage Experience" on behalf of the Stewart Father's Day Powwow during their annual Gala Banquet. This is the first national award for the Stewart Father's Day Powwow.

- The Executive Director participated in the September 6 and September 28, 2017 U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board Meetings. The main objective of these meetings was to draft recommendations to the new administration on national tourism strategy revision, to include a new international tourism goal for the nation. The next meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2017.



- The Executive Director is a Commissioner on the Veterans Services Commission and attended the September 28, 2017 meeting in Reno, NV. The Commission voted on recipients for the Veteran of the Month and Veteran Supporter of the Month and took a field trip out to the construction site of the new Northern Nevada Veterans Home. The Board met with the contractor to get a briefing on the project plans and timeline. The Commission also heard updates from the Department of Veterans Services and the many veterans' organizations throughout the state.
- The Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association invited the Executive Director to be a panel presenter in two conferences the week of September 19-23, 2017. The first two days the Executive Director participated as a panel presenter for the Hawaii Global Tourism Summit (their state tourism conference). The Executive Director shared information on award winning tour programs across Indian Country and was able to share information on the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy with the 2,200 summit attendees. The last two days the Executive Director participated as a panel member for the Kipa Aloha Cultural Education Conference. The Executive Director had an opportunity to share information about her position at the Nevada Indian Commission and the long process of securing funding for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy. She also had an opportunity to learn about the Native Hawaiian culture and how their hospitality industry has been able to integrate the culture in all they do and all they offer. The Executive Director was able to gather a lot of ideas and contacts for the upcoming Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference that will be shared with the Nevada Tribes.
- The Executive Director attended the annual Governors' Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) Conference October 1-3, 2017 in Orlando, FL. This year the gathering was two days allowing additional time for each of the attending states to report on the issues and projects they have worked on in the last year. This part of the program tends to be the most beneficial. The organization voted in new officers and the Executive Director was voted into the Treasurer position for an additional term. Next year's gathering will take place in South Dakota.
- The Executive Director was invited by the Nevada Department of Education to participate in a Bias Review panel for seventh grade science tests. The Bias Review took place October 10-11, 2017 in Reno, NV and provided the opportunity to review science test questions from a native cultural perspective. It is important to have someone from the native community participate in these reviews to detect any bias that may affect scores for the American Indian student population in Nevada.
- The American Association of University Women (AAUW) held their 100th Anniversary of their Reno Chapter on Friday, October 20, 2017 at the Atlantis in Reno, NV. The Executive Director was invited to participate as a one of their "Women of Achievement," sharing information on the Nevada Indian Commission, Indian Affairs, and the Stewart Indian School with the evening's attendees.



- The Executive Director assisted with the recruitment of new Board Members for the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA). Chairwoman Neena Laxalt stepped down as did Lisa Manente who was the SISPA Secretary/Treasurer. Kostan Lathouris is the new Chairman and Kelly Krolicki is the new Secretary/Treasurer for the Alliance. Kathleen Quasula remains as the At-large member and the Executive Director is an ex-officio member.
- All Stewart presentations/tours are now reported in the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Report, Agenda Item X.

Upcoming Events

- Governor's Global Tourism Summit, December 4-5, 2017 – Las Vegas, NV

