



**Executive Director's Report for the Period
November 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018**

**Prepared by Sherry L. Rupert for Nevada Indian Commission Board
Thursday, February 22, 2018**

Administrative

- The Governor has appointed Kostan R. Lathouris to the Nevada Indian Commission. Commissioner Lathouris has been appointed to a three-year term beginning December 4, 2017- October 31, 2020.
- 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).
 - The NIC Executive Director and staff have been meeting frequently with the Master Plan team during the quarter. Much of the input has been for the Interpretive Plan and the Strategic Business Plan. The timeline for the Master Plan has the completed Master Plan to be in the hands of the State Public Works Division and the NIC at the end of March 2018. H&K Architects has made presentations on the Master Plan to the NIC Board, the NIC's Stewart Advisory Committee and to the Department of Administration Director.
 - ✓ 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 is now in the second phase of the project and is completing the comparative analysis between the Stewart Indian School and other Indian boarding schools across the nation. Ms. Scheuerman plans to attend the April 2018 meeting of the NIC's Stewart Advisory Committee to share some of her findings with the group. The projected completion of the nomination application is May 15, 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.



- The Executive Director was contacted by Kris Vagner, Reno News and Review for an article on the Stewart Indian School (Past, Present and Future) to be published January 4, 2018.
- The Executive Director was contacted by Teri Vance from Momentum for an article on the Stewart Indian School in the 2018 Carson City Visitors Guide (see your copy)
- The Northern Nevada Business Weekly (NNBW) magazine contacted the Executive Director to let her know she was selected as a finalist for 2018 Most Influential Thought Leader in Northern Nevada.
- Joyce Hollister, a reporter for the Record Courier out of Gardnerville, NV (part of Sierra Nevada Media Group) interviewed the Executive Director on the future of the Stewart Indian School for the 2018 Almanac to publish in March 2018.

Legislative

- Newly enacted legislation, 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 received nominations for both board/commission seats and has consulted with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada as the law directs. This item will be further discussed under Agenda Item XI.

Projects

- The Bi-State Tribal Natural Resources Committee (BTNRC) met on November 14, 2017. The mission of the Committee is to promote, protect and preserve good management of lands in the Bi-state through advocacy and education using a holistic approach. The purpose of the Committee is to educate and facilitate communication between tribes and land management agencies. The Committee provides a forum for tribal members and tribal representatives to address concerns and advocate for good management of lands that would include tribal cultural values.

The BTNRC is continuing to draft their by-laws and is developing an outreach initiative that provides public lands 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 2019. The group is developing a Summit Planning Subcommittee to begin planning the event. The first meeting of the TEK Summit Planning Subcommittee is scheduled for March 20, 2018 and the quarterly meeting of the BTNRC is scheduled for May 17, 2018.

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- The 2018 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction took place Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Governor's Mansion. There were over 150 attendees who honored four individuals for their contributions to Nevada's Tribal communities. The following were the 2018 awardees: Fawn Douglas, American Indian Community Leader of the Year; Lonni Romo, American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year; Quecholli Fortunate Eagle, American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year; and Senator Julia Ratti, Contributor/Supporter of the Year. This year's entertainment was extraordinary with the Yu'pik Dancers from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in attendance. The group of eight Alaskan Native students shared their culture and the dances of their ancestors. The NIC partnered with the Nevada Department of Education, University of Nevada, Reno and the Washoe Tribe to provide a schedule of cultural exchange events while the group was in town. The students also visited the Stewart Indian School for a history presentation and a behind the scenes tour of some of the Stewart buildings. The event raised just over \$10,700 for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy.
- The Executive Director assisted with the recruitment of new Board Members for the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA). SISPA is the fundraising arm for the Nevada Indian Commission's Stewart Indian School preservation efforts. Chairwoman Neena Laxalt resigned as did Lisa Manente who was the SISPA Secretary/Treasurer. Kostan Lathouris is the new Chairman, Dee Freewert is the Vice-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.

The Stewart Indian School documentary is a project of the SISPA, but the NIC is the project coordinator and had the final viewing of the Stewart Indian School documentary on October 30, 2017. The final product will be ready for distribution shortly. NIC continues to work on the text to be included on the back of the DVD case.

Prior to the viewing, Executive Director Rupert shared the documentary with the members of SISPA and received enthusiastic support for the documentary. SISPA is eager to work on the distribution and premieres in both northern and southern Nevada. Some of their ideas include distributing the documentary to local TV and PBS stations, having it available at museum gift shops and cultural centers statewide, as well as online venues. SISPA would like to have the premieres tied to fundraising events. They also would like to have local theater venues premiere the documentary. The Carson City Cultural and Tourism Authority is interested in assisting SISPA with the local premiere. There is excitement about the possibility of holding the first premiere on December 17, 2018 as that is the date that the Stewart Indian School opened in 1890.

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- The NIC is assisting Nevada's Indian Territory with relocation and enhancement of the American Indian exhibit at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The Territory met with Ms. Marily Mora, Brian Culpin and other staff to discuss the opportunity. An RFP for an exhibit designer has recently been released.
- The kickoff for the Old gym roof restoration took place on January 19, 2018. The initial timeline for the roofing project begins August 2018 and could be completed as early as November 2018. There are weather considerations with starting the construction on this project in late August. If the timeline cannot be accelerated, then the final construction may have to take place spring 2019.

Presentations/Meetings/Miscellaneous

- Native American Heritage Month (November) Activities:
 - ✓ November 1, 2017 - Presented on the Nevada Indian Commission and accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native American Club at Chaparral High School, LV, NV
 - ✓ November 15, 2017 - Stewart Presentation to the Daughters' of the American Revolution Carson City Chapter
 - ✓ November 16, 2017 – Invited to provide a lecture on Stewart Indian School at the Nevada State Museum during their monthly lecture series. The event sold out early and the Executive Director was invited for a second lecture in January 2018.
 - ✓ November 30, 2017 – Provided a presentation on the Stewart Indian School to staff at the Nevada Department of Education
- The Executive Director participated in the November 27, 2017 and November 29, 2017 U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board Meetings. The main objectives of these meetings was to approve recommendations to Secretary Ross on how the U.S. Government could strategically engage the private sector to accelerate recovery in the destinations affected by the recent hurricanes and to draft recommendations to the new administration on a national tourism strategy revision, to include a new international tourism goal for the nation.
- The Executive Director is a member of the Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) of Nevada Department of Transportation. The Executive Director attended the December 6, 2017 meeting and was able to provide her knowledge of transportation infrastructure challenges currently experienced by Nevada's rural tribes.
- The Executive Director is a Commissioner on the Veterans Services Commission (VSC) and attended the January 25, 2018 meeting in Boulder City, NV. The Commission voted on recipients for the Veteran of the Month and Veteran Supporter of the Month and Reviewed the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) Annual Report (see enclosed). The NDVS used a photo of

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the Pyramid Lake Veterans and Warriors Association on the cover. The VSC also heard updates from the Department of Veterans Services and the many veterans' organizations throughout the state. The Executive Director was happy to report that the NIC now has a Veterans Advocate, Sari Nichols to answer any questions American Indian veterans may have about their benefits and available veterans programs.

- The Executive Director participated in the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) Board Retreat January 10-11, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM. The time was used to develop a non-profit comprehensive business plan and reorganize the organization's working committees to be more manageable.
- Go International! is a forum created by the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) to bring tribes from across the nation together to learn more about preparing themselves to enter into the international tourism market. The Executive Director was invited to participate on the "Working with Tourism Trade Partners: Local, State & National" panel and the "FAM (familiarization) Tours" Panel. Go International! took place January 22-23, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM. The Executive Director intends to invite a few of the speakers from this training to the 2018 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference in Lake Tahoe, NV.
- The Executive Director participated as a volunteer panelist on a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town Grants Panel from November 2017 through January 2018. Applicants will be notified of awards in spring 2018.
- The Executive Director provided a second lecture for the Nevada State Museum Lecture Series on the Future of the Stewart Indian School, Saturday, January 20, 2018. There were about 50 in attendance.
- It has come to the attention of the Executive Director that the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) AR 810 9 d. inaccurately lists the NIC in determining the eligibility of inmates to participate in Sweat Lodge Ceremonies by stating, "Inmates who successfully obtain written verification of Native American ethnicity from the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC). The NIC should notify the institution/facility Chaplain (via letter or email) of successful verification." This exceeds the legal boundaries of the NIC's role in tribal matters and does not meet any of the provisions of NRS 233A of which the agency is governed.

The NIC has official meeting minutes of the NIC Board (November 17, 2009, and February 25, 2010) and its Advisory Committee (November 24, 2009, February 23, 2010), the NIC did not agree to provide services on behalf of the NDOC, the legal representative for the NDOC acknowledged that the NIC would not be involved in the eligibility process and the NIC does not have statutory



authority to be a determining agency for the NDOC. Therefore, the NIC has requested that Item d under AR 810, Section 9 Native American Worship be removed at the next meeting of the Board of State Prison Commissioners.

The NDOC replied to the request earlier this month and stated that they could not immediately remove AR 810 Section 9 d at this time due to pending litigation. The Executive Director has requested that once litigation is complete, the Religious Review Team and the Board of State Prison Commissioners remove this section.

The NDOC offered to send a notice to all inmates letting them know that the NIC will not provide written verification of Native American ethnicity. The Executive Director has also requested that a memo be sent to NDOC personnel to also advise them of this change. The statements that the NIC is hearing from inmates is that NDOC staff is pointing to this section of AR 810 and telling them that the "Nevada Indian Commission is requiring this section and is the reason they cannot participate in the sweatlodge." The NIC has not provided written verification of Native American ethnicity to any inmate within the NDOC. The Executive Director has asked that the NIC be cc'd on this correspondence and be kept informed of when litigation is complete and when AR 810 Section 9 d. is to be removed.

Upcoming Events

- RES Las Vegas is scheduled for March 5-8, 2018 in Las Vegas, NV
- Nevada American Indian and Alaska Native Education Summit is scheduled for March 22-23, 2018 in Reno, NV
- 10th Annual Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference is scheduled for April 23-25, 2018 at the Hard Rock Casino Hotel Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV.
- A Blessing Ceremony to kickoff construction of the Stewart Indian School Cultural and Welcome Centers has been scheduled for May 3, 2018 to begin at 10:00am at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City, NV. The NIC is currently planning the event.
- Stewart Father's Day Powwow is scheduled for June 15-17, 2018, Carson City, NV