



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty ◦ Preserving Culture ◦ Educating Youth

SINCE 1922

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends of Cultural Sovereignty,

I am proud to present this Annual Report of 2017. AAIA is the oldest Native American advocacy and grassroots organization, having been founded in 1922. Preserving Native cultures while promoting self-determination of Tribes is a priority for our organization and has been for our long history. During 2017, AAIA continued to focus on Preservation of Tribal Cultures (international and domestic repatriation and sacred sites protection), Promoting Sovereignty (federal recognition reform) and Youth and Education (scholarships, summer camps, juvenile justice and Indian child welfare advocacy training, research and legal assistance).

The year 2017 was a transition period for AAIA, as the prior Board President, Faith Roessel, stepped in as the Interim Executive Director in February and into September of 2017. On September 11, 2017, a new Executive Director, Shannon Keller O'Loughlin, was appointed with the explicit mandate to raise the profile of AAIA and take us into the next 100 years of grassroots advocacy and service to Indian Country.

Everyone on the Board and Staff at AAIA understands how important the organization's relationships with its donors are – and some of those donors have been a part of AAIA for nearly its entirety. Now more than ever threats have shown their destructiveness to Indian Nation Cultures, Youth and Education and Sovereignty. AAIA continues to work tirelessly to protect our sacred sites and return our ancestors, their burial items and other cultural patrimony from around the world, the Indian Child Welfare Act is being attacked in court, and sovereignty is being questioned.

The work AAIA undertakes is possible because we are an independent organization. Individuals, Tribal Nations, corporate and other contributors make possible the flexibility we have to put our strength where it is most needed. As we look to our 100th year anniversary in 2022, we ask you to continue your journey with us to support Culture, Youth and Education, and Sovereignty.

Thank you for your continued support to make possible our important assistance to Indian Country.

Sincerely,



Frank Ettawageshik (Odawa)
President of the Board



MISSION STATEMENT

As the oldest Native American service and advocacy organization in the United States, the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) has impacted the lives of Native American and Alaska Native peoples for 95 years. From helping the Pueblos keep their lands and water rights in the 1920s, drafting the Indian Reorganization Act that ended federal policies of assimilation and allotment, the scholarships provided to Native college students in the 1940s, to the Field Nursing Program in the 1950s which sent nurses to reservations, to helping Alaska Natives protect their lands and hunting and fishing rights in the 1960s, and the studies that were done in the 1970s which led to the Indian Child Welfare Act, AAIA was there.

In the 1980s we were still there working to establish the Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act, and in the 1990s we were there to gain enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and ensure its implementation, and helped to protect sacred lands. In the 2000s we were there too—making sure that Tribes have access to funding for their child welfare programs, fighting for the right to use eagles and other birds for sacred ceremonies, providing funding so Native children can attend summer camps that focus on cultural preservation and health education, and helping to change the process by which Tribes are federally recognized. As we move into our 96th year providing grassroots advocacy, training and technical assistance to Indian Tribes and their citizens, we will continue to be here to impact Indian Country for future generations.

AAIA is governed by an all-Native Board of Directors from across Indian Country representing a diversity of Tribes, geography and areas of expertise. AAIA works in close cooperation with Indian Nations, their citizens and other organizations that have similar missions in determining which issues will be pursued. Our national advocacy work and grassroots initiatives are reflected in AAIA's mission to protect sovereignty, preserve culture and educate youth.

To fulfill its mission, the AAIA currently has the following programs:

REPATRIATION OF CULTURAL ITEMS

AAIA has advocated for the protection and repatriation of cultural items over the last 60 years, including the development of the National Museum of the American Indian Act, which provides a mechanism for repatriation of cultural items from the Smithsonian Institution, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which provides for repatriation and graves protection involving museums, and federal and Tribal lands. The Repatriation Program also works on international efforts for repatriation and:

1. Provides a centralized information hub of expertise and information that provides training and technical assistance and supports repatriation efforts domestically and abroad;
2. Develops templates, toolkits and model laws that can be used by Tribes to support repatriation of ancestors and their burial items, cultural patrimony and sacred objects;
3. Advocates for stronger laws and policies that protect ancestors and their burial items, cultural patrimony and sacred objects on private lands, and items held by private collectors domestically and abroad; and
4. Raises awareness and provides educational opportunities domestically and internationally with governments, institutions and the public to influence positive action towards addressing repatriation issues.

The Repatriation Program is advised by the Repatriation Working Group, which consists of Tribal Leadership, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Practitioners, and Spiritual Leaders, as well as archaeologists, academics and attorneys.

PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES,
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

AAIA has provided legal representation and training to Tribes seeking to protect sacred places, including the successful effort to have the Bighorn Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain in Wyoming designated as a National Historic Landmark.

This work:

1. Provides a centralized information hub of expertise and information for training and support of the protection of these sites and properties;
2. Develops templates, toolkits and model laws that can be used by Tribes to support the protection of these sites and properties;
3. Advocates for stronger laws and policies that protect these sites and properties; and
4. Raises awareness and provides educational opportunities with governments, institutions and the public to influence positive action towards site protection issues.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

AAIA has worked actively in the field of Indian child welfare for more than five decades. AAIA developed studies and advocacy that were the catalyst for the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA), and for the new Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations implementing the ICWA in 2016. AAIA has further worked to promote the full implementation of the ICWA by seeking to obtain adequate resources and support for Tribal child welfare programs. In doing so, the AAIA's advocacy helped to expand Tribal eligibility under Titles IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

AAIA also provides extensive training programs for Tribes seeking to institutionalize their own child welfare programs. Recently, AAIA was actively involved in the *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* case (a.k.a. Baby Veronica case), including authoring a brief for 30 Tribes and 8 national organizations. In response to the decision, together with the National Indian Child Welfare Association, AAIA has written law review articles explaining how Tribes and Indian families can appropriately respond to the decision. The AAIA is currently developing a study to document abuses in the adoption industry that are having a negative effect upon Indian children.

AAIA is extremely interested in how Tribes and states work together on Indian child welfare matters. AAIA has developed lengthy reports on Tribal-State Agreements concerning Title IV-E and ICWA, including what are promising practices in the industry.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

AAIA convenes Tribal leaders and juvenile justice experts to explore how Tribes can benefit from alternatives to incarceration of youth, including the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). AAIA seeks to document and address disparities in the treatment of Native Americans by federal and state juvenile justice systems. AAIA is currently undergoing a pilot projects in Indian Country concerning JDAI and culturally appropriate alternatives to incarceration.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

For more than 50 years, AAIA has provided undergraduate and graduate scholarships to native american graduate and undergraduate college students. AAIA scholarships target native students that are not specifically targeted for scholarships by other national indian scholarship programs, including indian students that are enrolled citizens of non-federally recognized indian tribes.

AAIA also provides seed money for youth summer camps generally run by native organizations and tribes. The summer camp program has focused on areas including cultural preservation, language preservation, health and wellness, and diabetes education.

AAIA will also begin, in 2018, developing fellowship and internship positions to bring native undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates, to the dc area to work on AAIA initiatives.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Currently, AAIA is engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process to prepare the organization for its next 100-years. By building internal capacity and efficient infrastructure around our cultural values, AAIA will achieve its vision to ensure “A world where Native American cultures and values are lived, protected and respected.”

But one thing is very clear. We cannot continue into the next 100 years without you. We need your commitment, we need your time, we need your advocacy, and most important, we need your financial support to continue the great path that AAIA has laid down over the last 100 years. Now is the time to commit to the next 100 years of American Indian sovereignty, culture, education and capacity building.

The Association offers opportunities for your commitment at every level. Your support will fund programs that protect sovereignty, preserve culture, educate youth and build capacity. Commit to **100 MONTHS FOR 100 YEARS** and make a reoccurring donation to AAIA every month for the next 100 months. In addition, the Association seeks members of its **LEGACY COUNCIL** to build a \$10 million endowment to fund AAIA’s 100 Year Cultural Sovereignty Campaign. Together we can affect the change necessary to strengthen Indian Country for the next 100 years.

Indian Tribes, companies, foundations, individuals, trusts, estates and other organizations or entities are all invited to take advantage of the opportunities to become a part of the AAIA legacy of success. Relationships are crafted in many ways and can occur in the form of general or designated financial contributions, as well as volunteering time.

GENERAL SUPPORT

AAIA’s service in Indian Country depends on all types of donors. The day-to-day expenses of operations as well as the programs AAIA supports requires regular and predictable contributions from generous Tribal, foundation, corporate and individual contributors. Such contributions are the cornerstone to our foundation of success and help us provide consistent representation of the issues, as well as deliver the results Tribes depend on over the long term. Please consider becoming a regular general supporter each budget year.

DONATE NOW

You can donate online at our website – www.indian-affairs.org, and click on the Donate Now or Become a Member buttons. Please contact Shannon Keller O’Loughlin, Executive Director, at (240) 314-7155 or Shannon.aaia@indian-affairs.org, to explore these opportunities to invest in Indian Country.

AAIA welcomes partnership opportunities with Indian Tribes, foundations, corporations, and other entities and individuals to receive grants and funding towards the achievement of specific program goals. Whether your interest is cultural resources, youth, education or other Indian Country issue, AAIA receives project specific support, which allows AAIA to develop programs in collaboration with those partners.

If the work of AAIA is meaningful to you and your family, you may provide for AAIA with a charitable donation or trust as one of your last wishes. A charitable donation will minimize your taxable estate since charitable donations are exempt from gift taxes.

PROJECT SPECIFIC SUPPORT

AAIA welcomes partnership opportunities with Indian Tribes, foundations, corporations, and other entities and individuals to receive grants and funding towards the achievement of specific program goals. Whether your interest is cultural resources, youth, education or other Indian Country issue, AAIA receives project specific support, which allows AAIA to develop programs in collaboration with those partners.

PROVIDE A CHARITABLE GIFT IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

If the work of AAIA is meaningful to you and your family, you may provide for AAIA with a charitable donation or trust as one of your last wishes. A charitable donation will minimize your taxable estate since charitable donations are exempt from gift taxes.

VOLUNTEER

AAIA has volunteer opportunities for public affairs, legal, accounting, and project specific expertise. Be a part of advocacy in Indian Country by donating your time and effort to changing lives on the ground, preserving culture, and supporting strong Tribal governments.

BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member of the AAIA and stay informed of AAIA's activities and other important news pertaining to Indian Country. You will receive our newsletter published two times a year. Members may also receive periodic "call for action" letters and emails regarding state or congressional action that would adversely affect American Indians. Membership also gives you the opportunity to vote for members of AAIA's Board of Directors and vote for changes to AAIA's corporate charter and by-laws. Membership is included in your donation of \$35 or more, unless you choose to opt out of membership.

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

INDIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT ADVOCACY

AAIA works to promote the well-being of Indian children and families by ensuring the child welfare system preserves the connection between Indian children and their families, extended families, communities and cultures. In 2014 and 2015, AAIA began development of an Indian Child Welfare Tribal-State Agreement report with funding from Casey Family Programs. Throughout 2016, AAIA contacted states and Tribes to gather all ICWA Tribal-State Agreements that were currently in effect and began drafting and finalizing the report.

On October 1, 2017 the AAIA released its report entitled “A Survey and Analysis of Tribe-State Indian Child Welfare Act Agreements, Including Promising Practices” that provides important guidance to Tribes and states regarding the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The “Survey and Analysis” details best practices currently in use by Tribes and states that support the Indian child and family in ICWA matters. The report also includes information about the new ICWA regulations passed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in June 2016 (which the AAIA helped draft), as well as the BIA’s new “Guidelines for Implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act. In the 39 years since the ICWA was passed, only ten states have entered into ICWA Tribal-State Agreements with 37 of the 567 federally recognized Tribes across the country. It is hoped that this report, along with the BIA regulations, will provide Tribes and states strong motivation to renew their current agreement or develop effective ICWA agreements that support the goals of ICWA.

ADOPTION PROJECT

AAIA has been working with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) on a project to review practices by the private adoption industry concerning Indian children. The first objective of the Project was to compile state adoption data and laws, policies and practices relevant to ICWA and the adoption of Indian children.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Native youth are incarcerated at a higher and disproportionate rate than other youth, and for many reasons, spend more time in detention than non-Native youth. AAIA's work has been focused on promoting appropriate and safe alternatives to incarceration for Native youth, whether they are involved with Tribal, state, or federal justice systems. AAIA has developed research regarding Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) implementation at JDAI Sites across the country. AAIA attended the Child Welfare League of America Conference in Washington, DC and the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Conference in Orlando, Florida in 2017 to discuss this research and obtain feedback. AAIA looks to release its research in 2018.

In addition, the AAIA has been working with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to support the implementation of JDAI there. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) is the first Tribal nation to implement JDAI. MBCI's experience implementing JDAI in a Tribal context is unique, and lessons learned will be informative for other Tribal nations addressing juvenile justice reform in general. AAIA previously reported on its findings on the MBCI site, chronicling the accomplishments, successes, challenges, and lessons learned through MBCI's adaptation of the JDAI model. These findings when completed will help to inform Tribal nations addressing juvenile justice reform as well as those involved in juvenile justice about the lessons learned to date from MBCI's project.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

AAIA, through several small endowments, continues its history of supporting the education of Native American undergraduate and graduate students by providing scholarships. Scholarships were awarded to students from federally recognized Tribes as well as to those students from Tribes that are not yet included on the list of federally recognized Tribes.

The 2017 scholars were:

- Amber M. Byars – Choctaw - Institute of American Indian Arts – Studio Arts and Indigenous Liberal Studies
- Andrew Roybal – Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe, Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe
- St. Mary's University School of Law – Juris Doctorate
- Annie Evans – Blackfeet Tribe – Salish Kootenai College – Social Work
- Benjamin M. Cornelius – Oneida of Wisconsin – University of Michigan Law School – Juris Doctorate

- Chase Harmon – Nanticoke – Yale School of Management – Masters in Business Administration
- Christian Wassona – Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes – Southwestern Christian University – Bachelor of Science in Sports Management
- Frank J. Gilbert – Chippewa – Montana State University, Bozeman – Masters in Educational Leadership
- Garrett A. Holm – Cherokee – University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law Juris Doctorate for Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy
- Lindsey Hancock - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma – Oklahoma State University – Bachelor of Science in Pre-Med Physiology
- Maranda M. Byrd - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma – University of Central Arkansas- Masters in Nursing
- Marcene Hoover-Bennett - Navajo - Arizona State University – Bachelor of Science in Communications
- Marcus Bear Eagle – Oglala Lakota – University of California, Los Angeles – Master’s of Arts in American Indian Studies
- Marisa Skolnick – Village of Togiak – Alaska Pacific University – Counseling Psychology
- Megan Susanne Warren – Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska University of Alaska Anchorage – Bachelor degree in Political Science and Law
- Melinda Casey – Navajo – University of South Florida – Doctorate in Nursing Practice
- Morgan Atkins - Delaware & Cherokee Tribes – Ithaca College – Bachelor of Music
- Nicholas C. Hill - Muscogee (Creek) Nation – University of Tulsa – Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Shannon Wentworth – North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians – San Joaquin College of Law – Juris Doctorate
- Taryn St. Louis – Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation – Benedictine College – Undergraduate Undetermined

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

Through the help of annual funding from the Plucknett Charitable Trust, AAIA provides seed money to Native American summer camps that support culture, language, health and wellness for Native youth. 2017 recipients were:

Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul was provided a grant for its American Indian Youth Enrichment Summer Program for Native youth from 30 different Tribes. Each student attended Book-It! Reading Warriors class twice a week to assist with reading fluency. The goal was to support literacy capabilities in order that the youth would build skills to explore his or her history and to learn how to communicate achievements.

Kamiah Nimiipuu Health Clinic received a grant to provide Native youth camp activities that included participating in a variety of physical fitness activities, traditional games and arts and craft activities. The Nimiipuu Health Nurses and Providers shared information on nutrition, physical activity and diabetes prevention. Story telling lessons were given such as Stop the Pop and Drink Water.

Pollen Circles, Inc. was provided a grant for 2 wellness camps, which included a workshop called Sheep to Life; directed outings to sacred sites and gave sweat lodge ceremonies for Native American youth and young adults.

Camp Thunderbird South Dakota was given funding to empower Native American youth of South Dakota through outdoor and educational experiences that emphasize leadership, teamwork, and goal setting skills, and provide a nurturing space for campers to gain self-confidence, make new friends, and explore the natural world.

Pathkeepers for Indigenous Knowledge was awarded funding and provided camp activities for Native youth that included: exploring artistic expression like beading, Native flute, storytelling and Native logic and creative writing; Native horse culture; and Native games and social activities, like lacrosse, Kiowa hand game, powwow singing and dancing. Campers also helped prepare Camp meals, which were all-natural, healthy and nutritious with emphasis on traditional Indian foods.

Summer Youth Corporation, Gallup, New Mexico was awarded a grant and promoted healthy, balanced living by teaching Native American youth about physical, mental, social-emotional, and spiritual well-being (hózhó); increased understanding of environmental stewardship, family, teamwork, and responsibility; worked toward building self-esteem and to taking pride in their community.

American Indian Youth Wellness Camp—University of Arizona was given funding and provided Native youth one week of healthy eating, exercise, learning, and fun while receiving in-depth physical assessments to track progress and personalize pathways to health.

PROTECT CULTURE

REPATRIATION AND PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES

AAIA made significant progress heightening awareness about the protection of sacred places and the important human rights issue of repatriation: the return of Ancestors and cultural objects to their rightful Tribes and communities.

THIRD ANNUAL INDIGENOUS INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION CONFERENCE, "THE JOURNEY HOME"

AAIA hosted its Third Annual Indigenous International Repatriation Conference on September 25-26, 2017 at the Isleta Resort and Casino, Albuquerque, NM. The overall conference kept with the theme Journey Home: Empowering Indigenous Communities in International Repatriation.

Pueblo of Acoma Governor Kurt Riley provided the opening lecture and discussed the status of the Pueblo's efforts to obtain return of the "Acoma Shield," which is currently in the possession of a private French collector.

The Acoma Shield which had been stolen was slated for auction, but through the advocacy of Acoma Pueblo the sale was stopped. AAIA awarded Governor Riley with its first ever "AAIA Visionary Leader Award" in recognition of the Governor's persistence and advocacy in the return of the Acoma Shield and he was presented with a hand crafted sterling silver medallion.

A diverse and expert group of presenters spoke on a variety of topics that related to international repatriation and the trafficking of Native American Ancestors, funerary objects, sacred items, and cultural patrimony.

A panel called "Gaining Insight – The Dynamics of the Tribe-Museum Relationship" discussed how Tribes were building relationships with museums for international collaboration on repatriation. Among the panel members, Neil Curtis, the Head of Museums at the King's Museum, University of Aberdeen in Scotland, provided insight on how indigenous peoples and the King's Museum were developing productive relationships leading to repatriation. Also, Helen Robbins, the repatriation director at the Field Museum enlightened the participants about how the Field Museum had documentation showing how the Museum transferred cultural items to foreign institutions.

Presentations were also given on proposed legislation in Congress to prevent the ongoing trafficking of Native American Ancestors and cultural items, and the need for investigations to be concluded to gather data from Tribal communities and the federal government to shut down illegal activity. Toward the end of the conference, Indigenous Peoples representatives had the opportunity to meet with each other to express shared concerns about continuing trafficking on federal, state, and private lands; the needs for repatriating internationally; and the ongoing issues Tribes have surrounding the lack of meaningful consultations with agencies, federally funded institutions, and other museums.

For the first time AAIA created a Native Youth component of the conference with the generous support of Casey Family Programs. Native high school students were invited to participate in the “youth track” of the Third Annual Indigenous International Repatriation Conference and to share what was most important to them that they could not do without, such as the “sacred,” “hope,” and sacred items that are “culturally important.” Also as part of the youth track, AAIA invited professionals to talk about their work, education, career paths and how they overcame challenges and how culture and language helped them in their work.

Faith Roessel, former President of AAIA’s Board of Directors, and also past Interim Executive Director, developed a Cultural Resources Protection Handbook with Ravis Henry, a National Park Services Ranger. The Handbook was developed through youth input from the Conference, as well as working with public schools in New Mexico.

PROTECTION OF BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

AAIA has been working with Tribal leaders, the Native American Rights Fund, and other individuals and entities to fight against the reduction of Bears Ears National Monument. On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed an executive Order requiring the Secretary of the Interior to review all National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act of 1906 since 1996 that were Monuments over 100,000 acres or had been designated “without adequate public outreach.” The Bears Ears National Monument was established on December 28, 2016 by President Barack Obama and was the only National Monument expressly named in the Executive Order. The Bears Ears Monument is considered sacred by Tribes and is covered by 100,000 plus significant cultural and sacred sites, structures and objects and environmental sanctity. Numerous Tribes worked together to support the proposal for the designation of Bears Ears as a protected National Monument.

On December 4, 2017, President Trump ordered a reduction to the size of Bears Ears, shrinking it to 15% of its original size. The revoked lands are to be opened up to “entry, location, selection, sale” and “disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing” and “location, entry and patent under mining laws” within 60 days, essentially selling the sacred land to the highest bidder. The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is suing President Trump on behalf of several Tribes. Other recreational, scientific and environmental groups have also filed litigation to stop the administration from acting on the diminishment. AAIA continues to work on efforts to reverse the actions of the current federal administration.

SAFEGUARD TRIBAL OBJECTS OF PATRIMONY ACT

On November 22, 2017 AAIA submitted comments in response to the November 8, 2017 Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding Senate Bill 1400, the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 (STOP Act). The STOP Act protects cultural items and archaeological items from export to other countries. Though the Bill only applies to “cultural items” as that term is defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and “archaeological items” defined by ARPA and the Antiquities Act, such a law is significant for the return of Native American Objects that have been improperly taken and have been found for sale in other countries.

AAIA comments strongly support this bipartisan legislation for continued revitalization of Native cultures and support Tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination.

NAGPRA REVIEW COMMITTEE SUSPENDED

In May, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke indefinitely suspended the Native American Graves Protection Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee and there is no expectation from the Department when the NAGPRA Review Committee will be able to fulfill its statutory mandate. Congress mandated that the NAGPRA Review Committee oversee and make decisions about the repatriation of human remains and other cultural and sacred items. The Act states that NAGPRA is based on the unique government-to-government relationship the federal government has with Tribes. The Secretary’s suspension of all Advisory Committees is an overbroad action; though his intention is to make sure stakeholders have a say in what happens at Interior, his action is actually preventing that with Tribes and NAGPRA.

Tribes have been working to get meetings with Secretary Zinke regarding the suspension and have been rejected several times. AAIA has been in contact with congressional and executive representatives regarding this issue.

INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION AND DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

AAIA has participated in a three-year grant entitled “Return, Reconcile, Renew” with the Ngarrindjeri Nation, Torres Strait Islander community, and the Kimberley Aboriginal law and Culture Centre (KALACC) which are Indigenous communities working in international repatriation in Australia, as well as the Australian National University and the Australian Government. This research and culturally sensitive database will help to address one of the greatest challenges of Indigenous communities: finding Indigenous Ancestors and cultural items beyond their country’s borders.

2017 ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

AAIA held its 95th Annual Membership meeting on November 30, 2017, at the Cambria Suites, in Rockville, Maryland. The theme of the evening celebrated “Remembering Our Past and Advocating for the Future” and included a panel of speakers who discussed how best to advocate for Indian Country in the current federal administration. The speakers included, Larry Roberts (Oneida), Attorney with Kilpatrick Townsend Native American Litigation Practice and former Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs during the Obama Administration; Raine Theile, (Dena’ina Athabascan and Yup’ik), Owner of Theile Strategies and former Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs during the Obama Administration; and Gabrielle Tayac (Piscataway), Associate Director for Communications at the Spirit Aligned Leadership Program and Previous Historian of the National Museum of the American Indian. The evening ended with Native American singing and dancing provided by Lance Ma’heonenahkohe Fisher and his drum group.

AAIA held two face to face Board meetings and two teleconference Board meetings in 2017. On November 30, AAIA Board of Directors elected new officers to serve for a two-year term.

The new officers are:

- Frank Ettawageshik (Odawa), President
- Jonathan Perry (Wampanoag), Vice President
- Dee Ann DeRoin (Ioway), Treasurer and Secretary
- Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq), Nominating Committee Chair

AAIA announced the appointment of its new Executive Director, Shannon Keller O’Loughlin. Shannon is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Shannon was the former Chief of Staff to the National Indian Gaming Commission, where she assisted in the development and implementation of national policy throughout the agency, and oversaw the agency’s public affairs, technology, compliance and finance divisions. Shannon has also served Indian Country in the private sector as an attorney, leading a large national firm’s Indian law practice group and bringing more than 17 years of Indian Country legal and policy work to strengthen, maintain and protect Indian nation sovereignty, self-determination and culture.

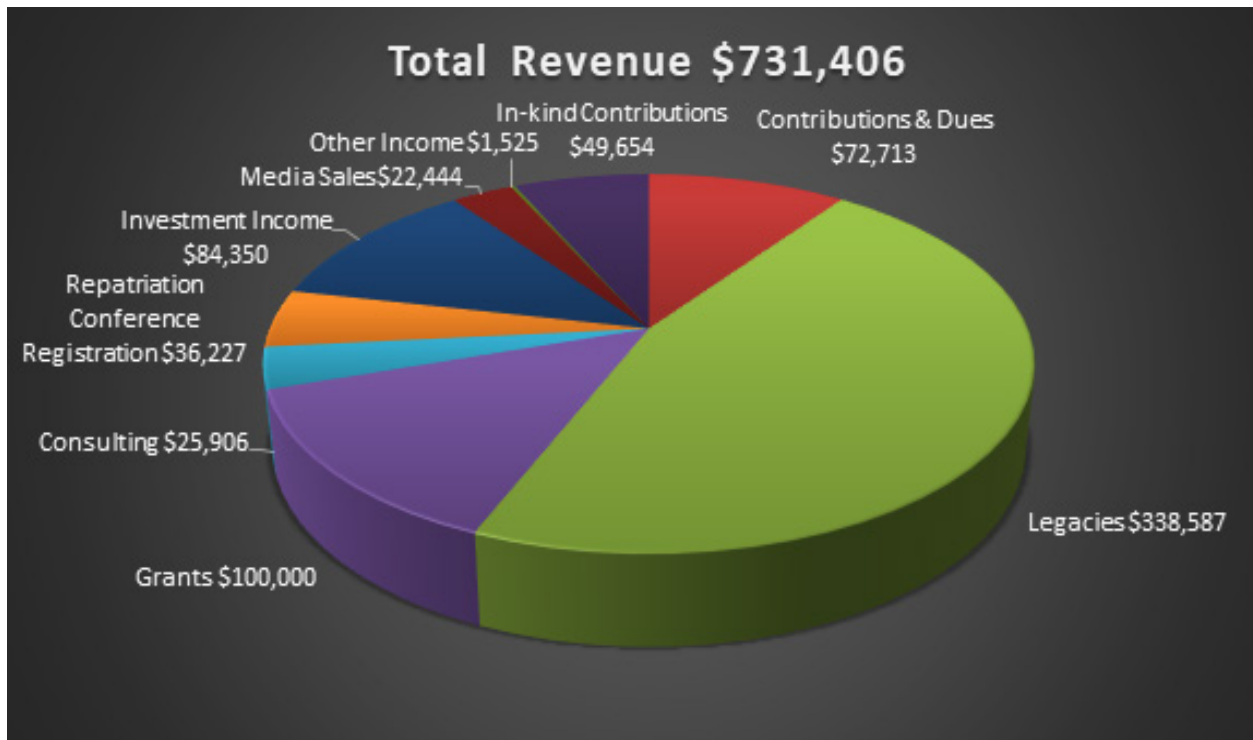
Shannon was appointed by Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Sally Jewell, to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Review Committee in 2013, and was appointed by President Barack Obama in September 2016 to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee within the State Department. Shannon received a B.A. in American Indian Studies from California State University, Long Beach, and joint M.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Arizona in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Shannon worked with AAIA for several years providing legal analysis on AAIA efforts in Indian Child Welfare, NAGPRA, International Repatriation and sacred site efforts.

In November, Faith Roessel (Navajo), former AAIA Board President, received a Native American Heritage Month Proclamation from the Mayor of Rockville, Maryland, on behalf of AAIA. The Proclamation states how Native Americans have shaped and contributed to the United States through every turn in history and that the City of Rockville renews their commitment to our nation-to-nation relationships to give all our people the future they deserve.

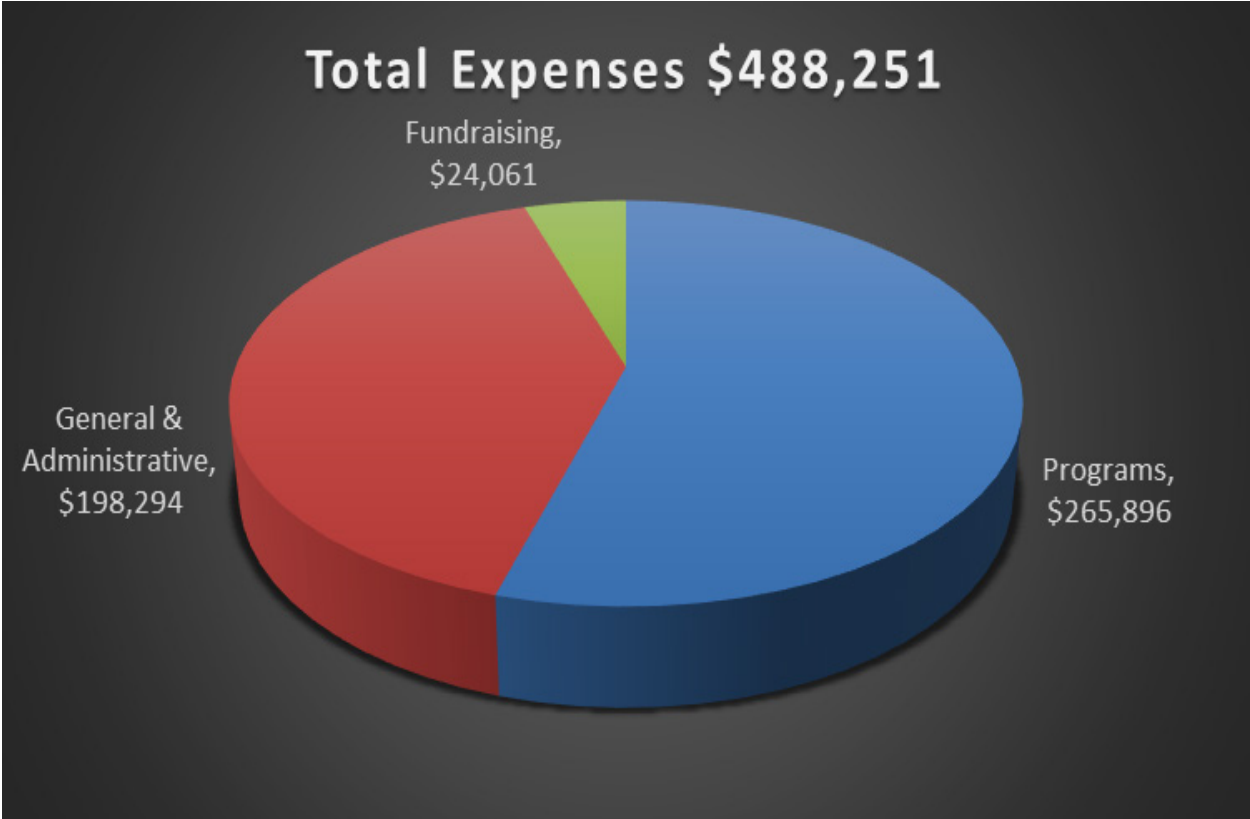
FINANCIALS

2017 continued to show a diverse range of revenue streams. Additionally, there was a broad range of donors reflecting both Tribal and non-Tribal support. Membership numbers stayed level. The Third Annual Repatriation Conference continued to grow both in attendance and revenue. Interest and Investments continue to play a strong role in our overall revenue picture. One large legacy donor made up almost half of 2017 revenue.

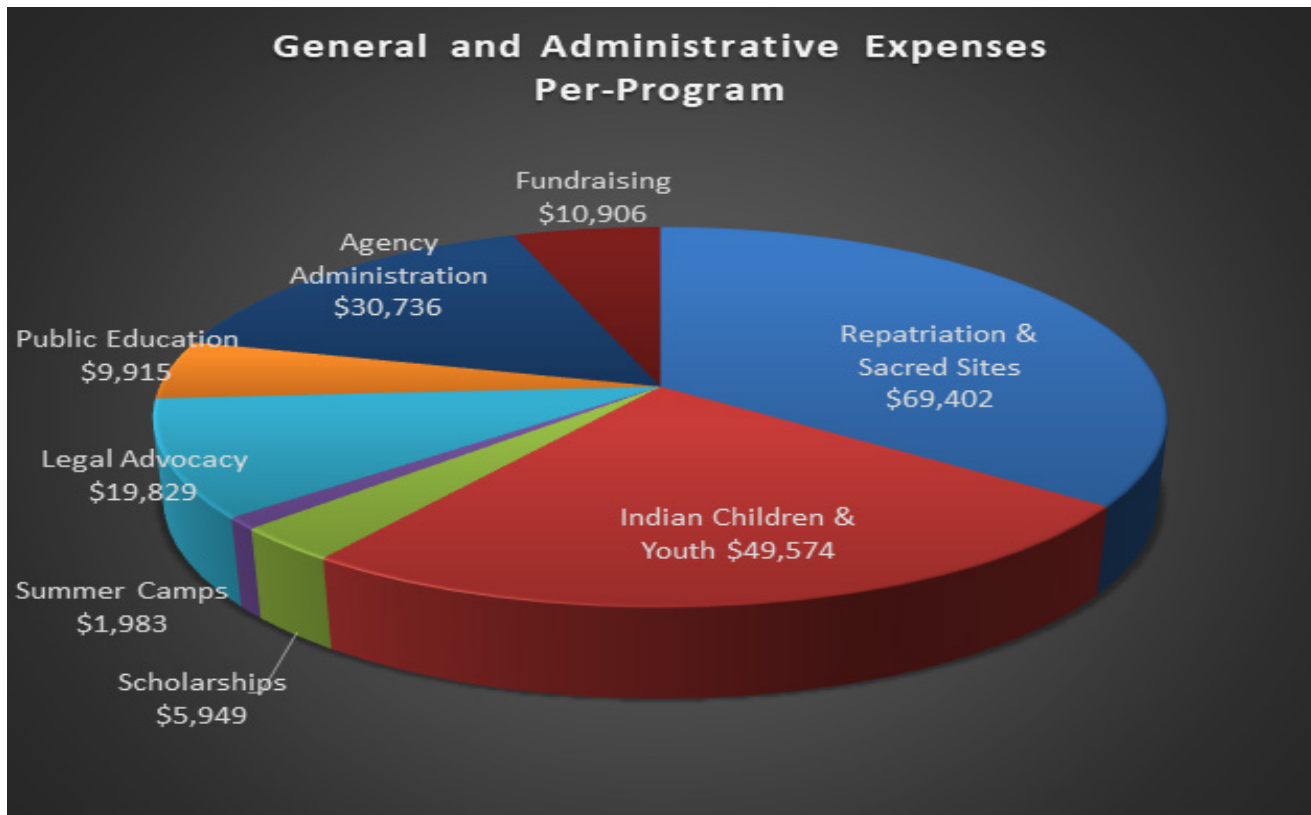
Our End of Year Net Assets totaled: \$1,012,209.00.



Expenses stayed level with the majority going towards running programs to protect sovereignty, preserve culture and educate youth. AAIA will continue to invest in fundraising to ensure future revenue. Because of staffing changes in 2017, there may be an increase in staffing dollars next year.



The \$198,294 total of AAIA's General and Administrative Expenses were broken down by percentage of activity for each program. AAIA continues to invest heavily in Indian Children and Youth along with Repatriation and Sacred Sites, which are at the core of AAIA's Vision and Mission. We continue to support additional programs that align with our overall strategy to serve Indian Country, including our legacy scholarships for graduate and undergraduate Native American students.



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AAIA is governed by an All-Native Board of Directors representing all regions of Indian Country. The collective wealth of knowledge and expertise in diverse areas makes AAIA's Board well suited to develop policies that benefit all of Indian Country.



Frank Ettawageshik
(Odawa)
President



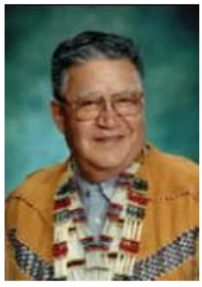
Jonathan Perry
(Wampanoag)
Vice President



Dee Ann DeRoin MD
(Ioway)
Treasurer/Secretary



Sarah Kastelic
(Alutiq)
Chair, Nominating Committee



Alfred R. Ketzler, Sr.
(Athabascan)



John Echohawk
(Pawnee)



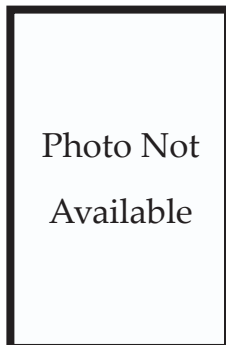
Bradford Keeler
(Cherokee)



Faith Roessel
(Navajo)



Elke Chenevey
(Omaha)



Cheriena Ben
(Choctaw)

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

In 2013, AAIA was pleased to expand its Advisory Board into a Council of Advisors. Based largely in New York where AAIA was established and incorporated, the Council is comprised of individuals who are interested in furthering the work of the organization. The Council holds a wealth of knowledge and various interests, and are prominent in their own fields. The Council's main initiatives consist of raising the profile of AAIA's work, assisting in planning fundraising events, and helping AAIA to network with individuals who can assist AAIA programmatically and financially.

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Martha Redbone (Cherokee/Choctaw)

STAFF



Shannon Keller O'Loughlin (Choctaw)
Executive Director (since September 11, 2017)

Faith Roessel (Navajo)
Interim Executive Director (January through September 2017)

Honor Keeler (Cherokee)
International Repatriation Director (until August 2017)

Danielle Haskins
Office Administration

Nancy Pieriskalla
Office Administration

Betsy Detlefs
Bookkeeper (until August 2017)

Sofia Barrera
Financial Officer

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