

AAIA

Association on American Indian Affairs

2014 Annual Report



Protecting Sovereignty

Preserving Culture

Educating Youth

AAIA: Impacting Lives 1922-2014

We Were There — 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 Natives in many ways over the past 92 years. From helping the Pueblo people keep their land and water rights in the 1920's, to the scholarships provided to Native college students in the 1940's, to the Field Nursing Program in the 1950's which sent nurses to reservations, to helping Alaska Natives to protect their lands and hunting and fishing rights in the 1960's, to the studies that were done in the 1970's which led to the Indian Child Welfare Act, AAIA was there.

In the 1980's we were still there working to establish the Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act, and in the 1990's 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 2000's 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 among other things. As we move into our 9th decade of providing services to Native Americans and Alaska Natives, 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 the country representing a diversity of tribes, geography and areas of expertise. We work in close cooperation with Native Americans and other organizations that have similar missions in determining which issues will be pursued and the amount of emphasis to be placed on each issue. Our national advocacy work and grass roots initiatives fall into three main categories: youth/education, cultural preservation and sovereignty.



Tribal leaders from tribes not yet recognized by the federal government posed for a photo after signing the Declaration on the Exercise of Inherent Sovereignty and Cooperation at the *Who Decides You're Real? Fixing the Federal Recognition Process* conference held at Arizona State University in January 2014.

A Letter from the President

AAIA: Who we are in a snapshot

Dear Friends,

I am proud to present this Annual Report of 2014. Throughout the year, the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) continued to work closely with tribes and other Indian and non-Indian organizations to address vital issues facing Indian tribes, families, children and communities.

AAIA is the oldest Native American advocacy and service organization, having been founded in 1922. Preserving Native cultures while promoting self-determination and the well-being of Indian and Alaska Native children and families is a priority for our organization and has been for most of our long history. During 2014, AAIA continued to focus on Preservation of Tribal Cultures (international repatriation and sacred sites protection), Promoting Sovereignty (federal recognition reform) and Youth/Education (scholarships, summer camps, juvenile justice and Indian child welfare advocacy training, research and legal assistance). This work was done in partnership with Native communities and other Native and non-Native NGOs, wherever possible.

The work AAIA undertakes is possible because we are an independent organization. Although our Board of Directors is made up of respected Indian people from Indian nations from all parts of the country, we are not a tribal membership organization. Individual, tribal, corporate and other non-profit contributors make possible the flexibility we have to put our resources where they are most needed. Thus, we are able to work on issues and problems that are vitally important to Indian people, communities and tribes, but which don't get the attention that they need and deserve.

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

Sincerely,



Alfred R. Ketzler, Sr., President
Athabascan



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Sustain and Perpetuate Cultures and Languages ***Religious Freedom***

For many years, AAIA has worked to protect sacred sites with many positive results, including designation of the Bighorn Medicine Wheel Medicine Mountain sacred site as a National Historical Landmark based upon its traditional cultural value. In 2014, we received a decision in a case in which we had joined in an *amicus* brief (sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation) supporting the designation of Mount Taylor as a registered cultural property under the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act. The New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that the process by which the site was designated was appropriate. Although the designation does not provide complete protection for the mountain, it does trigger additional procedural requirements for proposed development which can help mitigate impacts from development on or near the site. The particular development of concern is a uranium mine. We also reviewed and provided feedback to a pamphlet recently published by the National Trust entitled *Preserving Native American Places: A Guide to Federal Laws and Policies that Help Protect Cultural Resources and Sacred Sites*.



Image of Mount Taylor, New Mexico

Sustain and Perpetuate Cultures and Languages

NAGPRA & International Repatriation

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

The repatriation of ancestral remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony to tribes redresses a long standing human rights violation and helps to heal the historical trauma suffered by tribal communities and peoples caused by the looting of their ancestors' grave sites and the loss of many sacred objects and cultural patrimony. AAIA played an integral role in obtaining the enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in 1990 mandating repatriation by federal agencies and federally-funded museums.

Promoting the full and effective implementation of NAGPRA continues to be one of AAIA's goals. For example, in 2014, we provided training to federal government employees at the Society of American Indian Government Employees convention. We also filed an *amicus* brief in a case involving the remains of Jim Thorpe which are currently in a mausoleum in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. Some of his sons have been seeking to return his remains to Oklahoma, where he had wanted to be buried. In the brief, we urged that the Third Circuit Court of Appeals reconsider a ruling that NAGPRA should not be applied to this case.

International Repatriation by Honor Keeler, Director of the International Repatriation Project

INTRODUCTION

The AAIA made several strides over 2014 in supporting a staffed International Repatriation Project. Honor Keeler (*Cherokee*) had discussed with the AAIA establishing an International Repatriation Project as part of ongoing efforts by Indigenous Peoples to find their Ancestors and cultural items in international repositories and bring them back to their communities. She began this initiative independently several years ago and with the support of a Working Group on International Repatriation, which she organized among tribes. The Working Group on International Repatriation, a grassroots group, now advises the International Repatriation Project. In 2014, the AAIA received a grant, which funded a full-time Director position and an office, which was opened in Rhode Island.

INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION PROJECT INITIATIVES

At the end of April, 2014, the AAIA hired Honor Keeler (Cherokee), as the Director of the International Repatriation Project. She was formerly a Visiting Assistant Professor at Wesleyan University, as well as the Repatriation Coordinator. She has published on international repatriation and worked with Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples on this issue for over a decade. Keeler brought this project to the AAIA, having investigated Native American collections in European Museums and forming the Working Group on International Repatriation with representatives across Native Nations.

Sustain and Perpetuate Cultures and Languages

International Repatriation

The Project has begun to address four major immediate steps expressed by members of the Working Group on International Repatriation: 1) Education about international repatriation to tribal, national, and international communities; 2) Guidance on international repatriation for Native Nations and their peoples; 3) Bringing together Native Nations to discuss International Repatriation and to develop an outcome document and protocols; and 4) Developing a Database so that Native Nations may find their Ancestors and Cultural Items in international and private collections.

Gaining Support Across Indian Country and Internationally

Keeler traveled to Australia in June 2014 to meet with Indigenous Peoples from Australia and New Zealand to solidify a partnership with them and investigate their very successful international repatriation programs for their peoples. This travel was made possible through another grant issued through the Australian government called “*Return, Reconcile, and Renew,*” which will involve a three-year exchange among Indigenous Peoples to further efforts in international repatriation. The grant only covers travel expenses to and from Australia once a year. The trip was enormously successful, as our International Repatriation Program and those programs among Indigenous Peoples in Australia and New Zealand have agreed to alert each other of Ancestors and cultural items located in institutions, if they are found.

Keeler also traveled to Native Nations to discuss the International Repatriation Program and gain support among the tribes. Travel was made possible both through this grant and travel funds provided by other tribes. In June, Keeler traveled to the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference in Maine to encourage Native Nations to pass a Resolution on International Repatriation at the Culture and Heritage Committee. Keeler also met with the Wabanaki Confederacy’s Repatriation Committee while in Maine and solidified support among the Aroostook Band of Micmac, Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and other Wabanaki representatives. In July, Keeler met with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to cultivate support among EBCI repatriation representatives. At present, the EBCI and Cherokee Nation are considering Cherokee legislation on International Repatriation. Keeler is working with both tribes on this issue. In August, Keeler was invited by the Western Apache Repatriation Committee to present on International Repatriation. The Apache Nations and the International Repatriation Project are collaborating on international initiatives to repatriate, and counter stereotypes about Native Americans and common misconceptions museums and others have about repatriation. While in Arizona, Keeler also met with individuals from Zuni, Navajo Nation, and was invited to the Hopi Tribe.

Increasing Education about International Repatriation to Tribal, National, and International Communities

One of the primary concerns expressed by Working Group members is the need to increase awareness of the human rights issues surrounding international repatriation.

Sustain and Perpetuate Cultures and Languages

International Repatriation

Support must be gained from within our communities, and on the national and international levels, to raise awareness, combat misconceptions about Native peoples, and promote repatriation. To do so, the Director began three primary initiatives, partnering with Native communities, students, and a filmmaker to address these issues. Keeler and students at Wesleyan University collaborated with Working Group members to create an international repatriation exhibit. The exhibit is meant to travel to Native Nations throughout the country, and provide a platform of tribal concerns to this topic. We are hopeful that the exhibit will then travel overseas.

In addition, Keeler collaborated with filmmaker Angelo Baca on creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on international repatriation. The first PSA was recently completed and can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_MKUrB4KPM. Baca will also be working on gathering interviews on international repatriation to put together a documentary.

Guidance and Education on International Repatriation for Native Nations and Their Peoples

The Project has completed an International Repatriation Guide for Native Nations, developed the International Repatriation blog to include documents and information that will be helpful to Native Nations, and increased social media presence to share breaking news stories and developments through Twitter and Facebook. The International Repatriation Guide will go live in 2015 and serve as a resource to Indigenous Peoples in international Repatriation. Social media fees were established as follows: Twitter--@Indrepatriation and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/internationalrepatriation>.

Bringing together Native Nations to Discuss International Repatriation and Develop an Joint Resolution and Outcome Document

Another initiative that the International Repatriation Project has undertaken with Native Nations is the planning and development of an International Repatriation Planning Conference. The purpose of the conference will be to bring together as many tribes and traditionalists as possible to discuss international repatriation, and develop further steps and protocols moving forward for international repatriation from private and international collections. The AAIA is fundraising for the conference.

Database Development

One of the primary barriers that Native Nations encounter in international repatriation is accessible and centralized information regarding the location of their Ancestors and cultural items in international collections. The International Repatriation Project, on an ongoing basis, is collecting information, not only on the presence of these Ancestors and cultural items in international collections, but archival information that will assist tribal communities with claims to repatriate. An assessment report of needs was completed and an international repatriation

Sustain and Perpetuate Cultures and Languages *International Repatriation*

Cases

The Director of the International Repatriation Project is also available to assist tribes with international repatriation strategy development, and cases on a limited basis. At present, we are assisting tribes with cases in the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and France. We would like to increase this presence with additional staff in the future to be available to work with tribal communities. However, this will be dependent on additional funding.

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources *Federal Recognition*

By obtaining Federal acknowledgment of their tribal status, Indian tribes are able to have their sovereign activities recognized by the federal government and they become eligible for a wide variety of federal programs that are available only to tribes recognized by the federal government. Because federal recognition strengthens the ability of Indian tribes and their members to survive and thrive in the 21st century, we have long worked with federally unrecognized tribes seeking federal acknowledgement.

Tragically, the process by which the federal government determines who should be recognized as “legitimate” tribes is broken. The administrative process for federal acknowledgement of Indian tribes has become *increasingly unreasonable, overwhelmingly expensive, and unjustifiably unpredictable* and there have been massive delays (a decade or more) in processing petitions. Successful applications once included only a couple of hundred pages of material. Now, tens of thousands of pages of evidence are required, costing millions of dollars, and taking up to thirty-five years for final acknowledgment determinations. After pouring such resources into an intergenerational effort, many worthy tribes are still unreasonably denied.

We have been advocating for reform of this system to make it reasonable, fair and prompt for a number of years and have worked closely with NCAI’s Federal Recognition Task Force and the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes, among others, to achieve this goal.

In 2014, The Department of Interior published proposed changes to the federal acknowledgment regulations. Among the changes proposed in the draft were the following:

- Utilizing 1934 as the date from which petitioning groups must demonstrate community and political influence
- Elimination of the requirement that the community show that it has been recognized by outside, non-Indian sources since 1900
- Providing for “expedited positive and negative findings”
- Allowing for independent review by an administrative law judge
- Clarifying the “reasonable likelihood” standard of proof
- Allowing certain petitioners who have been denied under the previous regulations to re-petition

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources *Federal Recognition*

In response to the proposal, AAIA worked closely with the Federal Acknowledgment Task Force at NCAI, the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes, and attorneys working on federal acknowledgment reform to assist tribes seeking to understand and respond to the proposed rules published by the Department of Interior. AAIA also filed detailed comments directly. In our comments, we noted that these changes would significantly improve the process, but that there were still some issues that were problematic, for example, the apparent veto power that the draft regulations would provide to certain third parties (e.g., the State of Connecticut) in terms of the ability of previously-denied petitioners to re-petition. AAIA is hopeful that regulations will be adopted that will significantly improve the system as a result of these efforts.

AAIA was also actively involved in and presented at a national conference on federal acknowledgment hosted by Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Many believe that it was the largest gathering of non-federally recognized tribes ever. AAIA Board member Frank Ettawageshik was one of the conference co-chairs. A Declaration on Inherent Sovereignty and Cooperation was signed by 29 tribal leaders as an exercise of their inherent sovereign rights.

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources

Indian Child Welfare

Indian Child Welfare Act:

AAIA has worked actively in the field of Indian child welfare for more than four decades. AAIA studies and advocacy were the catalyst for the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, an Act designed to provide legal protections to Indian children and families and promote tribal involvement in decision-making involving their children and families who are at risk. Since that time, we have worked to promote the full implementation of the ICWA and to assist tribes in obtaining adequate resources for their child welfare programs by successfully advocating for expanded tribal eligibility under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act which provides funding for child welfare services and Title IV-E (entitlement program for foster care and adoption assistance) in the Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008.

Much of our work in 2014 involved follow-up to the United States Supreme Court decision of *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*. The case involved the adoption of a young Cherokee girl by a couple in South Carolina, over the objection of her father. By a 5-4 decision, the Court held that

- the heightened standard of proof for termination of parental rights in ICWA does not apply when a parent has never had prior legal or physical custody (although Justice Breyer in his concurrence suggested that there may be exceptions to this rule),
- active efforts are not required to prevent the breakup of an Indian family when a parent abandons a child before birth and has never had physical or legal custody of the child, although the section may apply to a non-custodial parent in other factual circumstances, and
- adoption placement preferences are not triggered until a party within the placement preferences (relative, tribal member, or other Indian person) seeks to adopt the child.

We drafted and filed one of two national tribal *amicus* briefs in that case in support of the father and Cherokee Nation.

This decision raises critical issues about how the ICWA will be applied by state courts across the country. AAIA has been engaged in many ways in efforts to clarify the limited scope of the Supreme Court decision and provide ideas as to how tribal and family advocates can respond to the decision.

AAIA prepared scholarly, yet practical, articles about the case which have been published in the *American Indian Law Journal* and the *Federal Lawyer* magazine published by the Federal Bar Association. We also made numerous presentations based upon the articles, including presentations at the Federal Bar Association annual Indian Law Conference, National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) conference, Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) conference, an Indian Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Conference in New Mexico and at a Montana Tribal-State ICWA Roundtable.

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources *Indian Child Welfare*

In addition, as part of the response to the case, a process has started in the Department of the Interior to determine whether revised ICWA guidelines should be issued (the current Guidelines were issued in 1979) and whether binding ICWA regulations should be promulgated for the first time. We have been actively working to encourage and assist the Department of Interior in this process.

AAIA was invited to testify before the Attorney General's Task Force on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, met with many of the members of the Task Force individually about these issues, and had discussions with staff in the Department of Justice who finalized the report and recommendations for the Task Force. We also took part in listening sessions held by the Department on the Interior concerning whether and how to strengthen their existing ICWA Guidelines and filed joint comments with the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Child Welfare Association to the Department on the Interior describing how the Department could strengthen their existing ICWA Guidelines.

Part of this process is determining whether the guidelines should be changed to binding regulations. AAIA looked closely at this issue through a paper which provided for a comprehensive analysis of the federal government's authority to enforce the ICWA pursuant to a contract with Casey Family Programs. It was included as part of our comments to the Department of Interior and the subject of various discussions with attorneys working for the federal government, as well as with representatives of the Children's Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services. In that document, among other things, we concluded that the federal government has the authority to issue binding regulations.

We have also provided technical assistance to an attorney engaged in ICWA litigation. We example, we provided informal feedback to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in regard to a lawsuit that they have filed in South Dakota challenging a process in that state whereby state courts are refusing to review the legitimacy of removals of children for a period of up to 90 days after removal. A federal court has issued a preliminary ruling finding that the allegations raise legitimate issues of due process and compliance with ICWA. We were also part of a small group that consulted with Alaska attorneys and the Department of Justice in regard to an Alaska Supreme Court decision that would expand the holding of *Baby Girl* to require that a formal adoption petition be filed before the placement preferences are applied in a case that began with a state-initiated involuntary child welfare proceeding.

We have also continued our work on a variety of legislative issues, including proposals by the North Dakota Senators dealing with the issue of background checks, and our work with the Casey Family Programs National ICWA Work Group which is seeking to mobilize tribal leaders to promote the effective implementation of ICWA through advocacy and policy changes.

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources *Indian Child Welfare & Title IV-E*

Finally, our Executive Director served on the Advisory Committee for the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) project, administered by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). The project is designed to develop an electronic process that will allow states to more effectively utilize the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). As a result of our participation, APHSA has agreed to add language to their user guide reminding the state employees utilizing the system that they will normally need to contact an Indian child's tribe to determine whether ICWA applies to that child, since the tribe is the ultimate authority on whether the child is a member or eligible for membership in the tribe.

Title IV-E

The implementation of the Title IV-E tribal provisions has continued to be a priority for our organization. We completed a 123 page analysis of tribal-state Title IV-E agreements and a tribal-state agreement template pursuant to a Casey Family Programs contract entitled *A Survey and Analysis of Select Title IV-E Tribal-State Agreements including Template of Promising Practices*. The document has been posted online on both our website and the Native American Rights Fund ICWA blog and information about it has appeared on other websites, including Turtle Talk. We also made a presentation about the study at the annual conference of the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

We met with Senate staff and worked with NICWA to develop language for legislation on Title IV-E that was ultimately enacted into law. Our language sought to make sure that restrictions on long-term foster care would not negatively impact options for tribes that involve the use of non-relative tribal homes as permanent placements. The enacted legislation did not incorporate our proposed language, but did provide for a 3 year moratorium on the application of the new provision to tribal governments to give us time to develop an acceptable alternative.

As part of our testimony to the Attorney General's Task Force discussed above, we also included ideas about how Title IV-E might be improved, particularly in terms of monitoring outcomes for Indian children and making the process for tribes to directly obtain Title IV-E funding more flexible. We shared these ideas during our meeting with Commissioner of the Children's Bureau and with White House staff. We have also been cooperating with a study by the Government Accounting Office looking at the implementation of the Fostering Connections Act of 2008, specifically the tribal Title IV-E funding provisions that we were instrumental in obtaining.

Finally, in 2014, we provided feedback to the D.C. City Government in regard to their policies regarding transfer of Title IV-E cases to tribes and continued to provide IV-E training, including presentations at a Montana Tribal-State ICWA Roundtable and the Administration for Children and Families Region 8 Title IV-E Summit in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources *Juvenile Justice*

During the last few years, one of AAIA's priorities has been to improve how juvenile justice systems operate in regard to Native Youth that come into those systems. The focus has been both on assisting efforts to develop alternatives to incarceration, particularly in tribal communities, and to develop strategies to address the unequal and disproportionate treatment of Native youth in non-Native systems. To these ends, we focused on two specific projects in 2014.

One of our projects involved working with NICWA on a project to study the implementation and efficacy of a law adopted by the State of New Mexico that requires that tribes receive notice of all juvenile justice proceedings involving their members. The purpose of the study is to determine how this law is working and whether it might be a model for other states that are seeking to reduce the disproportionate treatment of Native youth in their systems. To that end, we convened or participated in a series of meetings during 2014, including a large meeting which included tribal officials, tribal judges, a state Supreme Court justice, state court judges, probation officer and mental health professionals, a meeting with officials and key staff from the Navajo Nation, and the New Mexico tribal-state judicial consortium. These meetings were followed by detailed interviews with tribal officials and judges, state employees and officials, and other interested stakeholders. Our final report and recommendations will be issued in March 2015.

Our other, long-standing, juvenile justice project involves working with the Annie E. Casey Foundation in connection with its Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). JDAI is a system that promotes a method of decision-making that promotes and emphasizes alternatives to incarceration for youth that have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. In 2013, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) became the first pilot site for what is being called "Tribal JDAI". The goal of Tribal JDAI is to utilize the principles of JDAI, but to modify them as needed to reflect the unique cultural and jurisdiction framework within which tribes operate.

In 2014, we continued our involvement in the process of implementing tribal JDAI. We helped develop training materials and took part in training sessions with MBCI. We also developed an informational pamphlet on Tribal JDAI and presented about the work at the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) conference. In addition, we researched key implementation issues, including a detailed analysis of federal funding streams for tribal juvenile detention facilities.

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice

As our juvenile justice work moved forward productively, we began to see potential synergies between the two projects. A meeting was held in Albuquerque between the New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium and the Bernalillo County JDAI program in which we participated that Annie E. Casey Foundation representatives also attended. At that meeting, it was suggested by tribal judges to AECF that tribal notification of juvenile justice proceedings involving their children be added to what is considered to be Best Practices in JDAI sites generally across the country. This discussion is ongoing and we anticipate that it will a significant part of the work that we will be doing with AECF in 2015.

To advance all of this work, we convened a meeting in December of our Juvenile Justice Work Group. This group of tribal leaders, tribal court judges, individuals who have knowledge about or experience working with juvenile issues in a tribal context, and individuals more broadly involved with efforts to develop alternatives to detention for juveniles through the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) first met in 2011 and has been invaluable in ensuring that our work in this area is tribally-informed and meaningful.

Improve Health, Education, and Economic and Community Development

Health, Scholarships & Summer Camps

Health

We have been working with a project implemented by the Arc to develop materials about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder for medical professionals. We helped the Arc reach out to and connect with medical professionals working in the field as part of their needs assessment and provided direct input to the ARC as well to ensure that the materials would be culturally-sensitive and useful to people working with Native Americans. We were also instrumental in connecting Arc staff with the Indian Health Service and particularly with Community Health Representatives (CHRs), who are often the front line staff in Indian country on these issues.

Scholarships

In 2014, AAIA continued to use former scholarship recipients as reviewers of scholarship applications. We are grateful for their support and assistance in service to their peers. 53 students were funded for the 2014-2015 school year, representing 19 graduate students and 34 undergraduate students. Five undergraduate women were the recipients of the new Owanah Anderson scholarship, which is a continuing two-year scholarship for female undergraduate students entering their Junior year.

Youth Summer Camps

A record number of Summer Camp proposals were received in 2014 (17), of which 9 were funded. Camp themes were diabetes prevention and other health related focuses; culture and language preservation. Many thanks to the funders of the Summer Camp Program, including the Ben Plucknett Charitable Trust and the Riverside Church as well as individual donors who have continued to support Native Youth through AAIA's programs.

Improve Health, Education, and Economic and Community Development *Scholarships*

AAIA continued its history of assisting Native American college students reach their educational goals by providing scholarships to 53 students in 2014. Scholarships are 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 in the amount of \$1,500 per school year, \$750 per semester.

Adolph Van Pelt Scholarship -

Scholarships in the amount of \$750 per semester are awarded to undergraduate students in any curriculum.

Displaced Homemaker Scholarship -

Scholarships in the amount of \$750 per semester are awarded to undergraduate students in any curriculum who would not otherwise be able to complete their educational goals due to family responsibilities. Students who receive this award are generally older students who have returned to school after raising a family.

Allogan Slagle Memorial Scholarship -

Scholarships in the amount of \$750 per semester are awarded to graduate and undergraduate students in any curriculum who are citizens of tribes that are not recognized by the federal government.

Elizabeth and Sherman Asche Memorial Scholarship -

Scholarships in the amount of \$750 per semester are awarded to graduate or undergraduate students pursuing a degree in public health or science.

Florence Young Memorial Scholarship -

Scholarships in the amount of \$750 per semester are awarded to graduate students pursuing a master's degree in the arts, public health or law.

Sequoyah Graduate Scholarship -

Scholarships in the amount of \$750 per semester are awarded to graduate students in any curriculum.

David Risling Emergency Aid Scholarships -

Funding was awarded to graduate and undergraduate students in any curriculum who have a sudden critical need that was not expected or that would prevent the student from attending school.

AAIA receives approximately 500-550 applications per year from undergraduate and graduate students from federally recognized tribes as well as from student from those tribes that are not yet on the list of tribes recognized by the federal government.

AAIA's scholarship review team is largely made up of former AAIA scholarship recipients who volunteer their time to assist us in the scholarship review process. They have a strong desire to give back and to help other Native students reach their educational goals. We are grateful to these dedicated volunteers who give of their time and talent to assist us. Without their help, AAIA staff would have a much greater burden reviewing applicants.

Improve Health, Education, and Economic and Community Development *Youth Summer Camps*

The Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) has been providing seed money for youth summer camps in the areas of cultural preservation, language preservation and health and wellness/diabetes education since the 1970's. These camps are run by Native run organizations and tribes from across the country, and are designed to strengthen and preserve the uniqueness of the individual culture of the tribe by providing opportunities for their youth to learn traditional cultural practices from tribal elders and others with specific expertise, while preparing them to live in the 21st Century. Without these opportunities, many of these youth would not learn the traditions of their culture, nor would they achieve academically or in the larger society.

Many of the activities in which the youth participate, such as regalia making, archery, plant identification, and cooking, are meant to strengthen cultural ties. Native language is used to instruct many of the activities, allowing students to strengthen or learn their Native language. Healthy lifestyles are stressed, allowing campers to develop a strong sense of self-esteem, build good relationship skills, develop team building skills, and engage in healthy eating habits and physical exercise, all of which have been shown to lower the use of drugs and alcohol, prevent juvenile delinquency, and lower suicide rates as well as increase the likelihood that students will complete high school and go on to college. Tribes and Native run organizations that have existing youth summer camps apply to AAIA for seed grants to fund specific needs that, without outside funding, would have to be eliminated or reduced. In drastic cases, if no outside funding is received, the camp may be cancelled. AAIA provides funding for critical portions of the camp such as transportation, supplies for activities, camp cooks, stipends for peer counselors and honorariums for elders whose wisdom and insight enables youth to learn the unique traditions of their cultures.

Below are some of the photos which were received from some of the camps AAIA provided funding to during the 2014 summer camp season.



Public Education

Newsletter and E-Newsletter

AAIA continued to publish our bi-annual newsletter *Indian Affairs*, which highlights the work of the Association as well as articles about issues important to the Native community. Hardcopies, which are distributed in June and November, are available to individual members who make a contribution of \$25 or more per year or commercially by subscription. Please contact our Executive Office in Rockville, Maryland for subscriptions. AAIA also publishes a monthly online newsletter which may be obtained by signing up under *Become a part of AAIA* on our website at www.indian-affairs.org.

AAIA 2014 E-Newsletters:

February

*Federal Acknowledgement
Who Decides You're Real?*

March

*AAIA Report: A Survey and Analysis of
Select Title IV-E Tribal-State Agreements*

April

*AAIA's Executive Director Testifies Before
Attorney General's Task Force*

July

*Comment Deadline on Proposed Changes to Federal Acknowledgement
Regulations*

September

Follow-up to July 20 Comment Deadline

October

AAIA Announces New Owanah Anderson Scholarship

November

*Upcoming AAIA Annual Meeting with Native Film and Music Event and Leaders
of Distinction Reception*

December

*Follow Up: AAIA Annual Meeting with Native Film and Music Event and
Leaders of Distinction Reception*

AAIA Honors Northern Cheyenne Leader, Steve Brady, 1957-2014

ACTION ALERT: Apache Salt Flats & Apache Leap

Federal Government to Move Forward to

Assist Native American Youth—Compliance with ICWA

Public Education

Annual Meeting of the Members, Native Film & Music Event and Leader of Distinction Reception

AAIA sponsored its 10th Annual Native American Film Showcase at the Walter Reade Theater in New York City in November 2014. The event, which was held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting of the Members, consisted of the documentary *Playground of the Native Son*, the story of the Hominy Indians football team. The film's executive producer, Celia Xavier, introduced the film and held a small question and answer session afterwards.

Program and financial updates were provided for the members during the meeting. A fundraising reception was held prior to the meeting at which AAIA proudly honored Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, Ernie Stevens, Jr., award winning Native recording artist and activist, Martha Redbone and Shaun Taylor-Corbett, who played Frankie Valli in the touring company of *Jersey Boys* and whose mother Lynn Taylor-Corbett is a member of AAIA's Council of Advisors. Awards were presented by renowned Broadway choreographer Sergio Trujillo. Art was for sale by award winning Native artist and sculptor Diane Shenandoah. Ms. Redbone and Mr. Taylor-Corbett then held a small concert for those in attendance.



From left to right: Ernie Stevens, Jr., Martha Redbone, Shaun Taylor-Corbett



Celia Xavier



Martha Redbone and husband



Shaun Taylor-Corbett

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position-Assets- December 2014 & December 2013 and Liabilities & Assets 2014 & 2013

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 51,036	256,295
Investments in marketable securities	253,927	251,533
Grants and contracts receivable	53,124	3,198
Contributions receivable	25,732	16,797
Other receivables	12,708	-
Prepaid expenses	10,224	6,527
Total current assets	\$406,751	\$534,350
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
Furniture and equipment	26,371	56,030
Less accumulated depreciation	(17,556)	(36,125)
Net Property and equipment	8,815	19,905
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Investments - endowments	652,853	652,853
Security deposits	1,150	1,150
Total other assets	654,003	654,003
	\$ 1,069,569	\$ 1,208,258

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position-Assets- December 2014 & December 2013 and Liabilities & Assets 2014 & 2013

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$	37,300	113
Accrued wages		3,473	10,951
Other accruals		231	947
Accrued vacation		24,051	13,996
Total current liabilities		65,055	26,007

Net Assets

Unrestricted		145,591	455,003
Temporarily restricted		206,100	74,425
Permanently restricted		652,823	652,823
Total net assets		1,004,514	1,182,251
	\$	1,069,569	\$ 1,208,258

Financial Information
Statement of Activities for the year ending 2014
(with comparative totals for the year ending 2013)

	2014				
	Temporarily			Permanently	
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues, gains & other support					
Contributions and dues	\$ 114,926	8,167	-	123,093	179,903
Legacies	29,092	-	-	29,092	383,237
Grants	25,000	356,351	-	381,351	185,250
Consulting	54,800	27,885	-	82,685	105,077
Investment income	5,725	12,832	-	18,557	16,662
Media sales	3,569	-	-	3,569	9,706
Other income	2,293	-	-	2,293	1,475
In-kind contributions	727	28,825	-	29,552	18,075
Realized gains (losses) on investments	28,165	63,147	-	91,312	84,237
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(67,076)	-	-	(67,076)	62,931

Financial Information
Statement of Activities for the year ending 2014
(with comparative totals for the year ending 2013)

	2014					
	Temporarily		Permanently			
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2013</u>
Net assets released from restrictions						
Satisfaction of restrictions	\$ 365,532	(365,532)	-	-	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	562,753	131,675	-	-	694,428	1,046,553
Expenses						
Programs	568,120	-	-	-	568,120	605,665
General and administrative	89,904	-	-	-	89,904	86,377
Fundraising	214,141	-	-	-	214,141	206,869
Total expenses	872,165	-	-	-	872,165	898,911
Change in net assets	(309,412)	131,675	-	-	(177,737)	147,642
Net Assets, beginning of year	455,003	74,425	652,823	-	1,182,251	1,034,609
Change in net assets	(309,412)	131,675	-	-	(177,737)	147,642
Net assets, end of the year	145,591	206,100	652,823	-	1,004,514	1,182,251

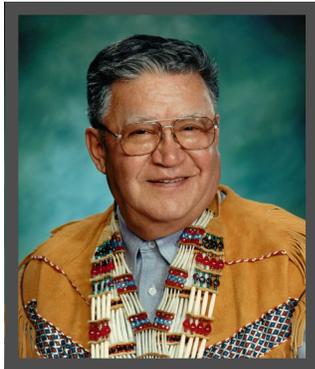
Financial Information
Statement of Activities for the year ending 2014
(with comparative totals for the year ending 2013)

<u>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Change in net assets	\$ (177,737)	147,642
Adjustments to reconcile to net cash provided by operating activities		
Net realized gains and losses and unrealized appreciation on investments	(24,236)	(147,168)
Loss on disposal of assets	3,235	-
Depreciation	7,855	7,334
<u>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</u>		
Grants receivable	(49,926)	44,153
Contributions receivable	(8,935)	59,646
Other receivables	(12,708)	-
Prepaid expenses	(3,697)	69
Accounts payable	37,187	(11,423)
Accrued wages	(7,478)	(1,441)
Other accruals	(716)	(195)
Accrued vacation	10,055	(292)
Net cash (used) provided by operating activities	(227,101)	98,325
<u>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</u>		
Investment sales and maturities	401,161	177,709
Investment purchases	(379,319)	(41,726)
Net cash provided by investing activities	21,842	135,963
Change in cash	(205,259)	234,308
<u>Cash</u> , beginning of year	256,295	21,987
<u>Cash</u> , end of year	51,036	256,295

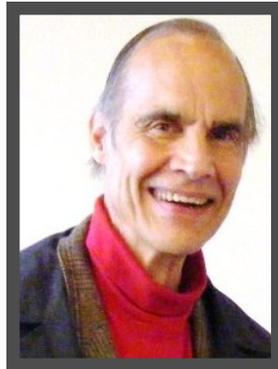
Financial Information
Statement of Activities for the year ending 2014
(with comparative totals for the year ending 2013)

<u>Programming Services</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Juvenile Justice	\$ 41,281	61,105
International Repatriation	119,602	13,320
Medicine Wheel	4,457	-
Steve Brady Fund	750	-
Adoption Project	40,000	-
Scholarships	-	-
Summer Camps	-	-
 Total	 \$ 206,100	 74,425

Leadership *Board of Directors*



Alfred R. Ketzler, Sr.
President
Athabascan



Bradford R. Keeler
Vice President
Cherokee



Faith Roessel
Secretary
Navajo



Frank Ettawageshik
Treasurer
Odawa



Elke Chenevey
Omaha

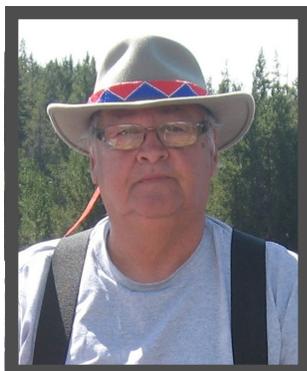


Dee Ann DeRoin, MD
Nominating Chair
Ioway



John Echohawk
Pawnee

Leadership in Action



Jerry Flute
Dakotah



Joy Hanley
Navajo



Sarah Kastelic
Alutiiq

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

Leadership *Staff & Volunteers*

Staff

Jack F. Trope, Executive Director

Lisa Wyzlic, Executive Assistant/
Director of Scholarship Programs, *Ottawa*

Erisel Cruz, Americorps Vista Member
Social Media and Internet Development Coordinator; Office Assistant

Mike Jones, Bookkeeper

Foster Wabama, Federal Work Study,
Office Assistant

James Nelson, Federal Work Study,
Office Assistant

Ebony Cross, Federal Work Study,
Office Assistant

Abhishek Kumar, Federal Work Study,
Office Assistant

Benjamin Pachito, Legal Intern,
Soboba Band of Luiseno

Earl Evans, Development Director,
Haliwa –Saponi

Honor Keeler, Director of International Repatriation, *Cherokee*

Dominic Henry, International Repatriation Fellow, *Navajo*

Although AAIA received very little funding from federal grants in 2014, we have been able to obtain valuable staff members through federal programs such as the AmeriCorps VISTA Program and the Federal Work Study Program. We are also very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers to review applications for our scholarship program and help with fundraising events.

Volunteers

Cynthia Rudder
Robin Wachenfeld



Leadership
Council of Advisors

Howard B. Teich, *Chair*

Nadema Agard, *Cherokee*

Gail Bruce

Kimberly Guerrero, *Colville/Salish-Kootenai/Cherokee*

John Haworth, *Cherokee*

Dennis Hirschfelder

Peter Johnson

Alli Joseph, *Shinnecock*

Hattie Kauffman, *Nez Perce*

Kerry Kennedy

Dr. Francesca Kress

Mary Kathryn Nagle, *Cherokee*

Gloria Steinem

Curtis Zunigha, *Delaware*

*Furthering
the work
of the
Association*

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 Association. They hold 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 the Association's work, assisting in planning our fundraising events, and helping AAIA to network with individuals who can assist AAIA programmatically and financially.

How You Can Help

Consistent financial support helps AAIA continue to fund the programs described in this report. AAIA receives financial support through a number of avenues such as member contributions, on-line contributions, trusts, bequests, grants and foundations. Your support will help us to continue to work for the benefit of Native youth, families and communities through our policy and advocacy work and grass roots programming.

- Membership - Your donation of \$25 or more per year will assist us in providing programs that are vitally important to Native youth, families and communities. You will have the opportunity to receive program updates through our newsletter Indian Affairs, which is accessible online or as a hardcopy by request. You will also be invited to attend our Annual Meeting of the Members (which is open to the public) held in New York City, or to vote by proxy.
- Spread the Word - Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and ask your family and friends to do the same and to join in supporting us too. You can also view our language program videos on YouTube and see our new language program website at www.aialanguageprogram.org. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by visiting our website at www.indian-affairs.org and forward the information to family & friends.
- On-Line Giving - Make a safe and secure donation on-line through Network for Good on our website at www.indian-affairs.org.
- Monthly Gifts - Consider making a monthly gift to AAIA, which can be easily paid by credit card or automatically deducted from your bank account.
- Matching Gift Program - Many companies offer Matching Gift Programs. Visit your Human Resources Department and ask if donations to AAIA can be matched and use their Matching Gifts Contribution form.
- Join your workplace giving program and designate AAIA for your charitable contribution.
- Bequests and Trusts - By remembering AAIA in your will, you can support Native youth, families and communities for years to come. Please consider contributions of a specific sum, a percentage of your estate or stocks and bonds in a bequest or trust to AAIA.



Protecting Sovereignty

Preserving Culture

Educating Youth

AAIA Executive Office

**966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B
Rockville, MD 20850**

Phone: 240-314-7155 * Fax: 240-314-7159

E-Mail: general.aaia@verizon.net

AAIA Field Office

**P.O. Box 8
Hollister, NC 27844**

International Repatriation Office

**1005 Main Street, Suite 1209
Pawtucket, RI 02860**

Phone: 401-727-1400 * Fax: 401-727-1403

E-Mail: hk.aaia@indian-affairs.org

AAIA

www.indian-affairs.org

***The Association on American Indian Affairs is a 501 (c) (3)
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***Donations and contributions to AAIA are tax deductible to the extent
provided by law.***



give.org

**AAIA meets all 20 Better
Business Bureau Wise
Giving Standards**

**AAIA Participates in the Combined
Federal Campaign. CFC #12307**



**AAIA Is a Founding Member of
the Native Ways Federation.**