



**National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.**  
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July 2013 Issue

# **National Indian Council on Aging**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### *Aging in Indian Country*

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Established in 1976, NICOA has become the nation's foremost advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders. Our mission is to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services and economic well-being for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.



## **National Indian Council on Aging**

#### **NICOA's objectives are to:**

- Enhance communications and cooperation with community service providers and other aging organizations that represent and advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.
- Provide information and technical assistance for Native American communities to improve health care for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.
- Network with appropriate agencies to maximize resources, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service delivery systems for Elders.
- Provide information, reports and expert testimony requested by Tribal Nations and the US Congress.
- Provide a clearinghouse for information on issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.

NICOA provides service to our American Indian and Alaska Native community through several grants from agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. One of these very important federal programs is **SCSEP**. NICOA operates as a National Sponsor of the [Senior Community Service Employment Program \(SCSEP\)](#) in 14 states through a grant from the Department of Labor.



# National Indian Council on Aging

## Elder Contributes Greatly to Her Community by Dorinda Fox, SCSEP Director

NICOA's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provides work-based training for eligible elders to improve their chances for new employment. These elders assist agencies with valuable community services within nonprofit and government agencies, including American Indian Tribes.



Recently (June 19), I represented NICOA and SCSEP at the one year anniversary celebration of the K'awaika Senior Center, a support provided the Laguna Rainbow Corporation. It was a gala affair involving tribal leaders, key supporters, a State senator, the NM Indian Area Agency on Aging, and dance groups from Acoma Pueblo and Laguna. There were speeches about the funding and construction of the new center, and thanks to the many supporters of the Laguna Rainbow Corporation which manages the programs there. The celebration included a bar-be-cue lunch, which was well organized and delicious. There was also an award given to a SCSEP participant.

One of the main presentations that aroused loud applause was the presentation of an award to Beverly (Jean) Fernando, a SCSEP participant who was praised for her assistance to the center activities. Ms. Fernando was described as enthusiastic and integral to the programs at K'awaika. She received a large plaque from Activities Director Anna Manner on behalf of the Laguna elders and the Laguna Rainbow Corp. who described Beverly as tireless; she was appreciative of the consistent help provided by Beverly; and said that she always arrived at the center by 8 am to prepare for whatever was planned.

Beverly Fernando has reached her durational limit on SCSEP; after 48 months, she can no longer be paid from SCSEP to work at the center. However, she is continuing to volunteer there, which is recommended by SCSEP nationally. Beverly is an example of the valued services one elder can provide to a community.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Eastern Region  
Northwest Region  
Southwest Region  
Midwest Region

**Eddie Tullis, Chairman**  
**James DeLaCruz, Sr., Vice Chair**  
**Lucia Trujillo, Secretary**  
**Donna Swallows, Treasurer**

Poarch Creek  
Quinault  
Pueblo of Sandia  
Grand Traverse Band

Alaska Region  
Eastern Oklahoma Region  
Great Plains Region  
Navajo Region  
Pacific Region  
Southern Plains Region  
Rocky Mountain Region  
Western Region  
Title VI Association.

Anna Frank  
Rhonda Weaver  
Robert LaFromboise  
Ralph Bennett, Jr.  
Harriet Rhoades  
Anita L. Johnson  
Vacant  
Phyllis Antone  
Vacant

Athabascan  
Quapaw  
Sisseton-Wahpeton  
Navajo  
Sherwood Pomo  
Kiowa  
  
Gila River

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Randella Bluehouse**

Navajo

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION:** If you know of an appropriate candidate to fill this vacant board position, please contact Randella Bluehouse (505-292-2001 ext 25).

## NICOA Is Pleased to be Part of the *National Aging Resource Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Minority Seniors* Randella Bluehouse, Executive Director

The National Aging Resource Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Minority Seniors (Consortium) serves as an interconnected resource center for the Aging Network. The Consortium provides expertise in the design, development and sharing of culturally competent information and materials that can enable the culturally sensitive delivery of services to racial and ethnic minority seniors.

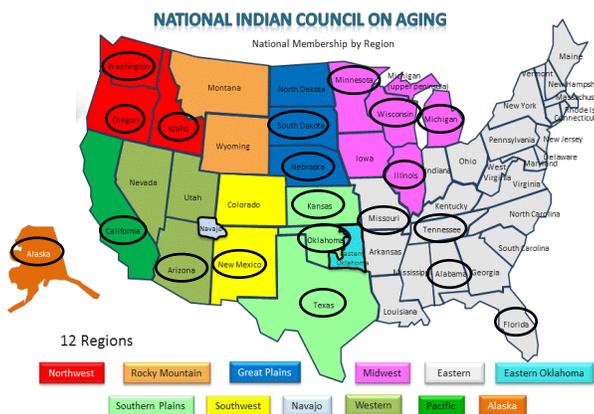
Established by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2012, the Consortium is composed of four national minority aging organizations. Consortium partners include representative organizations for each of the four major racial and ethnic minority older populations.

Through the Consortium each of these organizations have agreed to partner, sharing their distinct strengths for the benefit of racial and ethnic seniors and their families and caregivers. Learn more about each of these important organizations and the way they help to meet the unique needs of racial and ethnic minority seniors by visiting their web sites at:

- Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores (ANPPM): for Hispanic or Latin seniors  
<http://www.anppm.org>
- National Caucus and Center for the Black Aged, Inc.(NCBA): for African American/Black seniors  
<http://www.ncba-aged.org>
- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA): for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) seniors  
<http://www.napca.org>
- National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) for Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian (AI/AN/NH) elders <http://www.nicoa.org>

### *NICOA Regions*

Circles indicate the 20 states from which NICOA members came to the 2012 Conference held in Albuquerque.



NICOA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1976 by members of the National Tribal Chairmen’s Association. Members included the late Wendell Chino (Mescalero Apache), the late Joe DeLaCruz (Quinault) and other tribal leaders.

These leaders saw the need for a national organization whose sole purpose is to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services and economic well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.

NICOA is governed by a 13-member board of directors elected from 12 Regions across the Continental United States and Alaska plus one representative of the National Title VI Association.

**A donation from you and/or your tribe will...  
HELP US meet the Poarch Creek Tribe \$60,000 challenge grant!**

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## *National Aging Resource Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Minority Seniors* As Executive Director

It is my pleasure to invite the new members of our team to introduce themselves

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### **Rebecca Owl Morgan — Project Coordinator**



Hello! My name is Becky Owl Morgan. I am an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. I grew up in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. After our family moved to Montana I attended college and earned a history degree.

I decided library work was the right fit for me, so I traveled to Seattle and studied library science and began to work in lots of different libraries. I worked to build a tribal school library in California and a community college library in Guam.

I found lots of satisfaction during my time as a librarian and hope to use the skills I developed to assist in the work we are completing at NICOA. I feel very privileged to join the hardworking people of NICOA and work to assist Indian Elders and the Aging Network. I am fortunate to share my life with a wonderful husband, 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

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### **Patrick Murphy — Project/Web Assistant**

Ya'ah't'eeh Shi K'e doo Shi'dine'e' (Hello my relations and my people in Dine language)! I am Patrick Murphy, full-blooded member of the Navajo Tribe; born and raised on the Navajo Nation.

My objective as the National Minority Aging Organization Technical Assistance Center Project/Web Assistant in the Albuquerque, New Mexico national headquarters is to use my marketing/communication talents to assist in the success of this new Federally-funded grant program.



Over the past three decades I have learned much in communication having begun my professional career working as a journalist for National Native News, TV News in Albuquerque, AM & FM News and Independent Native News in Anchorage, AK. I have over ten years of experience as Multimedia Specialist at AMERIND Risk Management Corporation, a consortium of Tribal Housing Authorities located throughout the United States.

I look forward to serving in my new capacity here at the National Indian Council on Aging. It is a pleasure to serve our community. I honor my wife Beverly and daughter Kimberly. Ahe'hee' (Thank you).

## ***Help Us Help You by Toby Rose Brown, Research & Marketing Consultant National Aging Resource Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Minority Seniors grant***

It is a pleasure to be working with Rebecca Morgan, Project Coordinator, and Patrick Murphy, Project/Web Assistant with review by NICOA's Executive Director, Randella Bluehouse. We have ambitious goals for this grant; and our main focus at this time will be on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Older American's Act (OAA) and Social Security (SS).

To help you, our NICOA members, we need to understand what information you want to have and the best way to get it to you. From time to time, we will be doing polls, questionnaires and surveys and reporting the results to you. We expect these results will help you make important decisions about health care and well-being for yourself and your family.

So, please send us an email rating the following information gathering methods. Send the email to Patrick at [pmurphy@nicoa.org](mailto:pmurphy@nicoa.org) and put "Helping" in the Subject line. If you prefer you may call or mail Patrick a letter. Just list all the letters in order of preference putting the method you prefer first.

- A) We will send you emails, and you can return answers by email
- B) We will mail by postal service with a prepaid return for you to respond
- C) We will post questions on the NICOA web site for you to answer
- D) We will post a link on the NICOA web site for you to take a survey
- E) We will call you on your telephone
- F) We will invite you to take part in a focus group

It is important for us to hear from you. We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions.

### ***Help Us Help You***

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## **The Affordable Care Act (ACA) & Indian Country**

What is it?

How will it impact me and my family?

Will I have to pay anything? If so, how much?

Will the impact be different for people in Indian Country?

What does it mean to our Elders?

How long will it take for all the changes to take place?

What is a Health Insurance Marketplace?

These are just a few of the questions being asked. As important as answering these questions is what are the best ways to get those answers to our far reaching communities. Here are a couple of web sites that can help with some of the answers. Just type the web site into your browser and hit the enter key.

<http://finder.healthcare.gov/> Answer a few general questions, and you will be directed to information for you.

[www.tribalhealthcare.org](http://www.tribalhealthcare.org) Information about the ACA and being an American Indian/Alaska Native.

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**NICOA received over 50 RFPs for our next Conference.**

**We expect it to be held in September or October of 2014.**

**With the assistance of Sara La Bounty of HelmsBriscoe, the RFPs are being reviewed.**

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