

Letter from the Convention Chair

My name is Ken I am serving as this year's Convention Chair. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of previous NAI-AA Convention chairs. I remember what Vince H. would tell us on the committee. He would tell us that the convention did not belong to the committee. He would remind us that the Convention belonged to the people who attended and supported the convention. That the people were the ones who kept it going, that the committee was only doing service work for the people. If the people stopped coming to the convention the convention would cease to exist.

Over the years I have watched the convention travel around the county. Most of the Conventions were a struggle many times we wondered if the final bill would get paid. A time or two it didn't. Thanks to the hard work of the committee the show went on.

The purpose of the NAI-AA Convention is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to Native people. The convention has been doing that for the past 28 YEARS. It has been a very difficult job moving the Convention from one national location to another. The creator has watched over this convention as the years have passed. I can say this because I have seen solutions to many problems, volunteer wise, finance wise, planning wise, solutions that could only happen with the creator's help. It seems God has always provided when we did the work. Today it seems like almost every area of Indian country has its own AA activity, a camp out, a round-up, a conference, etc. We feel our purpose has been successful.

Now we find ourselves back where we started from in Las Vegas, Nevada. Times have changed. There has been a gradual learning taking place in Indian country regarding Alcoholics Anonymous. Our people have more exposure than ever before to AA. People are learning what AA is and what AA is not. To continue travelling around the United States in today's economy may cause serious financial problems for our convention.

The future plan for the NAI-AA CONVENTION is to make Las Vegas the home for the NAI-AA Convention. We plan to be at the Golden Nugget for the next three years. If everything works well at the Golden Nugget, it could very well be the home for the Convention. Being at one location has its advantages. The convention can grow, the cost to attend will come down if more people attend. Our flag ceremony will have an opportunity to grow into a spectacular part of the Convention. Our Pow Wow can develop. This year 2020 the prices are high. We ask for your financial support.

For those interested in Convention finance please know that our convention space is free provided we buy a little over \$13,000 of Food and Beverage. If we sell 100 pre-registration packages this will cover the food and beverage cost as well as get you a free convention t-shirt. Onsite registration pays for (Printing flyers, website, mailings, cups, t-shirts, lodging for speaker, airline travel for speakers, supplies, programs, storage, software, hardware, etc.). We must sell 300 sleeping rooms between August 19th thru August 23rd or pay for the rooms we don't fill. Please help us by staying at the host hotel. Additionally, if you don't get a room by August 5th you will 99% chance not get one. The hotel is in high demand and fills to capacity almost every weekend.

In closing I want to ask you to help us build the foundation for the convention to be successful financially. Save up for the convention, share costs with someone, pre-register, buy the packet, make your room reservations early, when you buy the Banquet and Brunch tickets you help us pay the final bill. Las Vegas prices are higher but it is an easy to reach destination, it is economically easy to fly into, it offers the combination of Vacation and Convention and it offers a wide variety of attractions not found anywhere else.

Travel safe, introduce yourself to others, make new friends and enjoy the 29th NAI-AA CONVENTION.

In AA Service

Ken S.

NAI-AA CONVENTION CHAIR