

June 18, 2020

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 and helped the convention travel around the country. 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. For example, in Reno Nevada we had our regular 4-5 planning meetings with committee members from multiple states. For me it was 5 trips to Reno, driving. This is becoming more evident with vacancies on our planning committee. People don't have the financial resources to drive or fly around the country planning for the next convention. The creator has watched over this convention so far. 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. Right now, we need AA members so help us fill our committee positions. We need someone to organize the marathon meetings, we need a person to organize the alanon program, we need a person to organize the 6 AA speaker meetings (speakers have already been selected), we need someone to organize the Banquet event and all the details that come with that, we need a person to transition into the Registration Chair with training this year and assume responsibilities next year. Many times, we double up on responsibilities but that only increases the work load for existing committee members. Call or email us if you can help, the contact numbers and email addresses are on the website. Step 12 is a part of our program, working with others helps when all else fails.

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. When we started in 1991 registration was \$15.00 the banquet was \$17.00. 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 the convention will come down if more people attend. Our flag ceremony will have an opportunity to grow into a spectacular part of the Convention. Right now, we have a humble

beginning. Our Pow Wow can develop. This year 2020 the prices are high. We humbly ask for your continued financial support.

Because of the Pandemic we had a choice to either cancel the 29th NAI-AA CONVENTION or move it to November 26-27-28-29, 2020. We moved the Convention. The date on this letter is Mid-June. We have June-July-August-September-October and most of November to plan and prepare. Our convention's financial contract with the Golden Nugget remains. Only the Higher Power knows what will happen between now and November. My hope is that we will have a good turn out and have one of the best conventions ever.

I have already Pre-Registered, I BOUGHT THE PACKET BECAUSE THAT IS THE BEST WAY I CAN CONTRIBUTE AND HELP KEEP OUR CONVENTION ALIVE AND MOVE INTO THE NEXT DECADE. I get a free convention t-shirt for my efforts. I encourage others to do the same. Some of the speakers have already booked flights and hotel rooms.

This year we added an incentive for pre-registration we hope this will help us pay our final bill. If you pre-register and buy the registration packet for \$135.00 You get a 1 registration badge for all convention activities, 1 ticket for the Banquet and 1 ticket for the Brunch, plus we will buy you a t-shirt for the 29th NAI-AA CONVENTION. Our way of giving back and help with the convention cost. I encourage those who are enjoying the fruits of sobriety to do the same. Every little bit helps.

Las Vegas prices are a little pricey 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. Our website is up and running with plenty of information about the Golden Nugget Hotel, a room registration page of our own and an easy registration program for the convention.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Ken S. - NAI-AA CONVENTION CHAIR