



AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Secures a Full Board of Directors at 2013 American Indian Tourism Conference

Squaxin Island Tourism Director Leslie Johnson and Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites' Marketing Manager James Surveyor Join AIANTA Leadership

Albuquerque, New Mexico (October 14, 2013) – The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) secured a full Board of Directors at the 15th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa last month.

The AIANTA Board of Directors (AIANTA Board) is composed of two representatives from six identified regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains, Southwest and two At Large positions to represent all of Indian Country. Each representative is elected by their respective region to serve a three year term and At Large representatives are elected by the entire AIANTA membership. Each member of the AIANTA Board brings a multitude of varied expertise and resources to the national nonprofit organization.

New to the AIANTA Board, James Surveyor, Marketing and Special Events Manager for Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites will represent Indian Country At Large. Surveyor is of the Hopi Tribe of northeast Arizona and the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. In addition to this role at Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites, Surveyor continues to support the Moenkopi Developers Corporation vision of a better, sustainable, economic future for the Upper Village of Moenkopi and the Hopi reservation.

Leslie Johnson, Squaxin Island Tourism Director was appointed to represent AIANTA's Pacific Region, a role she previously held. Johnson is a member of the Puyallup Tribe. Additionally, she is the co-chair of Northwest Tribal Tourism, a consortium of 10 tribes along the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas, and tribal representative for the Washington Tourism Alliance.

Also at AITC, Aimee D. Awonohopay was reelected to serve the AIANTA Midwest Region for another term. She is currently an elected official of the St. Croix Chippewa



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Indians of Wisconsin as a St. Croix Tribal Council Member, and is the previous executive director of Native American Tourism of Wisconsin.

AIANTA Board veteran Janeé Doxtator was appointed to serve as the new Eastern Region representative alongside AIANTA President Mary Jane Ferguson. Doxtator previously served as an AIANTA Midwest Region representative and most recently, she served as an AIANTA At Large representative.

AIANTA Vice President Sherry L. Rupert was reelected to the AIANTA Board as a Southwest Region representative; AIANTA Treasurer Jackie Yellowtail was reelected to the AIANTA Board as a Plains representative; and LaDonna Brave Bull Allard was elected to serve a full three-year term as an AIANTA At-Large representative.

AIANTA Board of Directors:

Mary Jane Ferguson, President – Eastern Region
Sherry L. Rupert, Vice President – Southwest Region
Rachel Moreno, Secretary – Alaska Region
Jackie Yellowtail, Treasurer – Plains Region
Rowena Akana – Pacific Region
LaDonna Brave Bull Allard – At Large
Aimee D. Awonohopay – Midwest Region
Tony Azure – Alaska Region
Michele J. Crank – Southwest Region
Janeé Doxtator – Eastern Region
Leslie Johnson – Pacific Region
William D. Lowe – Plains Region
Kirby Metoxen – Midwest Region
James Surveyor – At Large



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Photo: AIANTA Pacific Region Board Member Leslie Johnson and At Large Representative James Surveyor

About AIANTA:

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit association of American Indian tribes, tribal tourism, cultural and private sector representatives, representatives from the tourism industry, Federal, State and local governments, colleges and universities, and friends that was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. The association is made up of representatives from six regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains and the Southwest. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tourism that honors and preserves tribal traditions and values.

The purpose of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association is to provide our constituents with the voice and tools needed to advance tourism while helping tribes, tribal organizations and tribal members create infrastructure and capacity through technical assistance, training and educational resources. AIANTA serves as the liaison among Indian Country, governmental, educational and private entities for the development, growth, and sustenance of Indian Country tourism. By developing and implementing programs and facilitating economic development opportunities, the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association helps tribes build for their future while sustaining and strengthening their cultural legacy.



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