

**Executive Director's Report for the Period  
May 16, 2015 – August 28, 2015  
Submitted by Sherry L. Rupert to Nevada Indian Commission Board  
Friday, September 4, 2015**

**Administrative**

- The Commission currently has one General Public vacancy on the Nevada Indian Commission.
- The July Governor's Cabinet meeting was rescheduled to September 2015 and the July, August and September Cabinet Team meetings were cancelled. I was unable to attend the one Cabinet Team Meeting in June as I attended the 2015 IPW in Orlando, FL.
- In the 2015 Legislature:
  - Furloughs eliminated effective July 1, 2015.
  - 1% salary increase, effective July 1, 2015.
  - 2% salary increase, effective July 1, 2016.
  - Longevity pay eliminated.

**Projects**

- A full report on Stewart-related items will be given under Agenda Item XI.

- The Stewart Father's Day Powwow took place Friday, June 19 - Sunday, June 21, 2015 at the Stewart Indian School Campus. The event attracted approximately 250 dancers, 80 singers, 35 artisans and 3,500 spectators over the three-day event. The Great Basin Artists also displayed art in the building that will become the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center. Surveys completed showed that of those surveyed, 25% traveled in from out-of-



state, 82% traveled to Carson City specifically for the Powwow, and 34% were first-time attendees. Also, 45% of those surveyed have a family member that attended the Stewart Indian School and 55% did not. This shows us that we are appealing not just to Stewart alumni and their descendants, but to others that want to know more about and participate in the American Indian culture. The Stewart Father's Day Powwow was awarded *Event of the Year* by the Carson City Chamber of Commerce. The NIC staff attended the Chamber's Annual Meeting where the honor was publicly awarded. The Chamber has requested that they hold their 2016 Annual Meeting at the Stewart Indian School next June.

The Stewart Alumni Reception was a huge success. This year we recognized Bernice Wungnema Gorham, Cecile Rambeau and posthumously honored Brady Johnson, Sr. The attendance was so large, there were people forced to stand outside of Building #1, future home of the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. The Powwow Committee is considering moving the event next year to the Stewart Gym.

## Presentations/Meetings/Miscellaneous

- The Executive Director was interviewed by KUNR Talk Radio on the Stewart Indian School as part of a series about the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the Nevada Tribes. And, was interviewed by KTVN Channel 4 and participated on the Insights Morning Show across 6 stations in Northern Nevada to promote the Stewart Father's Day Powwow.
- I attended the 2015 IPW with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, May 30-June 4, 2015. The IPW (International Powwow) is the largest travel and trade show in the United States.
- The Commission assisted in securing the American Indian component of a tour for the Western Governors Association (WGA). Mr. Ben Rupert was the tribal tour guide for the History and Culture tour of the WGA.
- I reported last, that I met with Cory from the Governor's Office and the Bi-State Sage-Grouse Conservation Executive Oversight Committee on the pinion tree issue. At this meeting I was able to convey the importance of the pinion-juniper to Nevada's American Indians and their concerns regarding removal in culturally sensitive areas. The group decided it best to take a holistic approach to resource management that would focus on the ecosystem balance, including the pinion-juniper. It was also decided that the Nevada Indian Commission would take the lead on coordinating a Resource Workshop to bring all parties together. We have formed a planning committee that includes representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Nevada Agency; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest; Nevada BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Inyo National Forest; Bishop BLM; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Tubape Numu Group; and the National Resources Conservation Service (NCRS). We will be holding three listening sessions in three tribal communities (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Bishop Paiute Tribe (CA), and the Yerington Paiute Tribe) that will inform the agenda for a larger Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit around the first of the year. These listening sessions are to take place in September (see attached flyer).

**Listening Sessions to Inform the Agenda for a Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit**



**Who:** All Tribal People, Elders and holders of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and tribal governments and their environmental staff/contacts in Nevada and California (Inyo and Mono counties) are encouraged to attend.

**What:** These Listening Sessions are being scheduled to help inform the agenda for a Tribal Traditional Ecological Summit. The Summit will include discussion on how we are going to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the process that federal agencies will use in management of sagebrush ecosystems (i.e. sagebrush, piñon-juniper, sage-grouse and other wildlife).

**Where:** Reno, NV, Bishop, CA, and Yerington, NV

**When:** **Reno** - Tuesday, September 8, 2015      Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Center  
1715 Kuenzli St., Reno, NV 89502  
**Bishop** - Wednesday, September 9, 2015      Bishop Tribal Community Center  
405 N. Barlow Ln., Bishop, CA 93514  
**Yerington** - Thursday, September 10, 2015      Yerington Tribal Community Center  
171 Campbell Ln., Yerington, NV  
89447

**All Listening Sessions will take place from 4:00pm-7:00pm to allow for staff and community input.**

**Why:** To ensure healthy sagebrush ecosystems while maintaining sustainable traditional resources for future generations.

For more information, please contact Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission at (775) 887-8333 or at srupert@nic.nv.gov



- Chris Ann Gibbons attended the Northern Nevada Military and Veterans Advocate Volunteer Workshop July 24-27, 2015 at Harrah's in Reno. During the three-day workshop, Chris completed 10 out of 20 training modules required to become a Nevada Veterans Advocate. A Nevada Veterans Advocate is a person who helps educate active military members, guard and reserve members, veterans and their families about benefits and opportunities they may be eligible for. The remaining 10 courses will be taken on-line through the Nevada Department of Veterans Services website.
- The Nevada Indian Commission in partnership with Nevada's Indian Territory has just released two official self-guided itineraries that focus on tribal tourism. This is the Territory's first attempt to organize itineraries for travelers coming into the state and includes cultural information, drive times and suggested lodging for both Northern and Southern Nevada. These itineraries have been posted on the TravelNevada, Nevada's Indian Territory and Nevada Indian Commission websites, and have been submitted to AIANTA's newly developed and not yet launched NATIVEAMERICA.TRAVEL website for inclusion in its September launch.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Reno Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Listening Session, September 8, 2015 – Reno Sparks Indian Colony
- Bishop Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Listening Session, September 9, 2015 – Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Yerington Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Listening Session, September 10, 2015 – Yerington Paiute Tribe
- American Indian Tourism Conference, September 13-17, 2015 – Ignacio, CO
- Nevada American Indian Day, September 25, 2015
- National Indian Education Association Convention, October 14-17, 2015 – Portland, OR
- Governors' Interstate Indian Council Annual Meeting, October 18, 2015 – San Diego, CA
- National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, October 19-23, 2015 – San Diego, CA
- Nevada Day Parade, October 31, 2015 – Carson City, NV
- American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction, November 14, 2015 – Carson City, NV
- Governor's Global Tourism Summit, November 16-17, 2015 – Las Vegas, NV