



# Elder Visions

Newsletter of the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.

Fall 2004

from Gary E. Kodaseet, Interim Executive Director

## "Calling All Clans" Conference Successful!

The National Indian Council on Aging's biannual conference "Calling All Clans" was a success according to first hand reports from conferees. The beautiful city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on the shores of Lake Superior was full of Indian elders for three exciting days and nights. We had been told that the name Milwaukee is an Indian word meaning a "Gathering Place" and it lived up to its name. We were so pleased to have so many elders gathered in one place to make their needs known, to learn and to enjoy the fellowship of being Indian elders.

Our Indian elders, the keepers of tradition, language, and the history of our people, gathered in one place... It was fun and interesting to come together to share our culture with one another, to learn, to teach and to let the leaders in Washington, D.C. know of our needs and concerns as Indian elders.

The 2004 biannual NICOA conference provided us with the opportunity to do this and to get involved. We attended the workshops, we went sightseeing, we visited the casino, we visited old friends and we made new ones. We took part in the activities that

the NICOA staff had planned. Everyone enjoyed the Indian style show, the powwow, the story telling, the exhibitors and the Sunday morning Prayer breakfast.

Registration ran smoothly and we want to thank the NICOA staff and volunteers for doing an outstanding job on the daunting task of registering some 1800 elders, presenters, exhibitors and service providers at the conference. Job well done!

*"... Our Indian elders,  
the keepers of tradition,  
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We want to especially thank the Forest County Potawatomi for paying the rent for the beautiful Midwest Airline Convention Center facility. We say M'gwitch to all the tribes who contributed time and money to make

the conference a success, especially: Oneida Nation Commission of Elders, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Shakopee Mdewekanton Sioux Community, Barona Indian Tribe, Sherwood Valley Rancheria, Acoma Pueblo, AARP, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Ft. Belknap Senior Citizens, Osage Gaming and the Pawnee Tribe. Thanks to our friends and the individual contributors: Beth & Boxie Phoenix and Bill & Carolyn Holmes.

*Continued on Page 2*

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*Continued from Page 1*

## **Conference Successful!**

We want to thank the NICOA board members who coordinated the Indian Style Show, Sammy White who emceed the event, Harriett and Tammy who signed up the models. We especially want to thank the models from the different tribes who strutted their stuff across the runway. Beautiful people!

A special thanks, to the Ho-Chunk Nation singers and dancers who sponsored the powwow and prize monies for the dancers. We especially want to thank Dolly Big John and her daughter Mary for taking care of the Powwow at the conference. Everyone enjoyed the powwow!

The tribal Color Guards that opened and closed the 2004 NICOA Conference were great. Thanks to Cliff "Doc" Doxtator, our Color Guard Coordinator, from the Oneida Nation. We wish to thank the Oneida Nation Color Guard, the Chickasaw Nation Color Guard and the Ho-Chunk Nation Color Guard. Outstanding job!

We are including a Conference Evaluation form in this issue of Elder Visions for your comments. Please complete it and return it to NICOA at your convenience. Thank you everyone. M'gwitch.

Look for Resolutions on our website at [www.nicoa.org](http://www.nicoa.org). ■

*Gary Kodaseet, NICOA Interim Executive Director*



**Friends and Fun in Milwaukee**