



# Elder Voices

Newsletter of the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.

Summer, 1995

*Final resolutions include Indian language*

## Success at the White House Conference on Aging

**A** 20-member Native American delegation, assisted by Indian Observers and a dozen state-appointed delegates, secured several key provisions for Indian elders in final resolutions from the May 2-5 White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. Access to federal programs for Indian health care providers, full funding for Titles VI (nutrition and other services) and VII-B (Indian Elder protective services) of the Older Americans Act, and increased emphasis on Indian geriatric care headed the list of objectives sought by the delegation.

A comprehensive resolution re: tribal sovereignty and federal trust responsibility (see insert), developed by delegates at a pre-conference strategy session in Albuquerque, N.M., failed to make the top-50 list of final resolutions. However, with 577 delegate signatures—more than double the number needed to get it on the floor—the resolution appeared to generate substantial on-site support. It was approved by a 654-215 margin during the final day's vote and will be included in the conference Final Report as a "Preference of the Conference."

The White House Aging Conference, required by law to be held every ten years, brought together more than 2,000 appointed delegates from the national aging network. For three days, delegates worked through a series of issue sessions to generate recommendations for the nation's future aging policy.

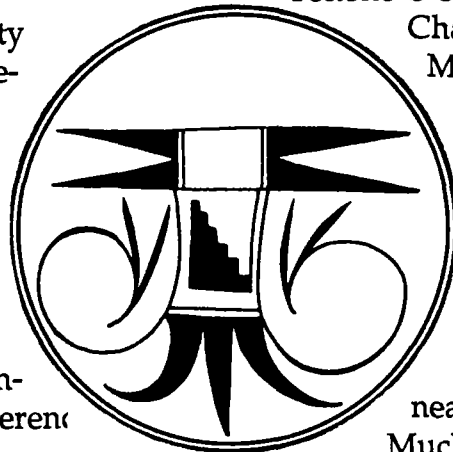
## White House Conference Native American delegates

Native American Delegates and Observers participated together to advance American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian issues at the White House Conference on Aging. A partial list includes: John Aguino, San Juan Pueblo; Haunani Apoliona, Hawaii; Loretta Beralas, Hawaii; Dave Baldrige, Cherokee; Iva Brant, Seneca; Eddie Brown, Tohono O'odham; JoAnn

Chase, Cherokee; Madeline Colliflower, GrosVente; Irene Cuch, Northern Ute; Effie Curtis, Navajo; Julia Davis, Nez Perce; Georgia Gallegos, Delaware; Janet Guthrie, Timpshinean; Sharon Hamilton, Muckleshoot; Hank

Haskie, Navajo; James Hena, Tesuque Pueblo; Esther Koon, Chippewa; Wendell McLester, Oneida; Mildred Pratt, Laguna Pueblo; Carolyn Rackard, Poarch Creek; Marie Rogers, Sioux;

*(Continued on p. 2)*



**The National Indian Council On Aging, Inc.**

6400 Uptown Blvd., NE  
City Centre, Suite 510W  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87110  
505/888-3302  
FAX 505/888-3276

**In Memoriam**

**Woodrow "Woody" Groves  
Dec. 27, 1994**

Board member Woodrow Groves (Cherokee) passed away December 27, 1994, at his home in Sacramento, California. He had been ill with pneumonia. An elected member of NICOA's board since 1986, Woody was active helping elders access services in the Sacramento area.

**Sherman Lillard  
March 19, 1995**

Former board member Sherman Lillard (Cherokee) of Cherokee, North Carolina suffered a heart attack while at home on March 19, 1995. An active board member from 1980-89, Sherman resigned his position to finish his college education at Western Carolina University. He graduated in 1993. Mr. Lillard served in the Marines during WWI, and was a Purple Heart recipient during the Korean conflict.

**White House Conference on Aging delegates (cont'd)**

Paul Stabler, Osage; Sam Stool, Cherokee; Gilbert Towner, Siletz; Ken White, Navajo; Frank Willetto, Navajo; Ann Williams, Cherokee; Steve Wilson, Creek; Patricia Woods, Chickasaw.

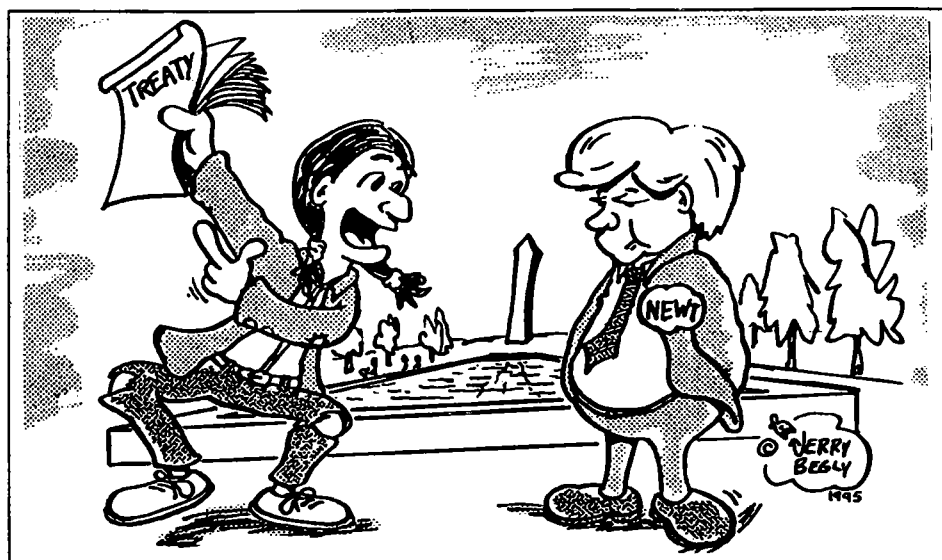
Success in D.C.

**White House Conference Resolutions**

**N**umerous Indian elder provisions were included as amendments to top-50 resolutions resulting from the White House Conference on Aging.

These include: 1) Implement/expand the IHS Elder Health Program, tribal and urban health programs to provide geriatric/gerontological training and elder wellness programs; 2) traditional Native American medicine is a desirable and effective option; 3) promote and enhance Indian health delivery systems to provide a full range of home and community based care, including those funded by Medicare and Medicaid; 4) allow Indian health programs full access to federally-assisted programs affecting long-term care; 5) continue a federal setaside and increase funding for tribal governments within the Older Americans Act; 6) reauthorize and fully fund Title VI of the Older Americans Act; 7) grant greater flexibility to tribal governments in approving and financing innovative, safe, and affordable housing for older people and people of all ages with functional limitations; and, 8) encourage Congress to fully fund Part B of Title VII (Elder Protective Activities for Indians).

Resolutions from the conference "will be helpful as the next reauthorization of the Older Americans Act begins in June," said NICOA executive director Dave Baldrige, "but they don't automatically mean that Congress will act on them. Our work now is to bring these recommendations to the attention of Congress."



**"I'll show you a Contract With America!!"**

*Huge attendance expected*

## '96 NICOA Conference to Albuquerque

**A**fter reviewing initiatives from several cities, including Bismark, N.D. and Denver, Colo., the NICOA board of directors has selected Albuquerque, New Mexico to host the NICOA '96 conference on Indian aging. The Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau has sought the event since December, 1992.

Tentatively scheduled for August 29-30, conference activities will be scheduled at the downtown Convention Center, with conferees staying at a variety of host hotels. More than 2,000 registrants are expected, which would make the conference the largest in NICOA's history.

NICOA's 1994 White House Conference in Spokane, Wash., drew a record 1,670 registrants and more than 1,000 elders, while 1,490 attended the '92 conference in Green Bay, Wisc, including 990 elders from 130 tribes.

According to NICOA executive director Dave Baldrige, preliminary planning for the '96 event began last week with a presentation to New Mexico's All Indian Pueblo Council. "We will need sponsorships of at least \$40,000 to conduct a successful event," he said. "Unlike our past two conferences, we do not have federal or corporate sponsorships to help defray costs. Because we keep registration fees so low for elders, we don't see much profit from our conferences. But they're very important," he added.

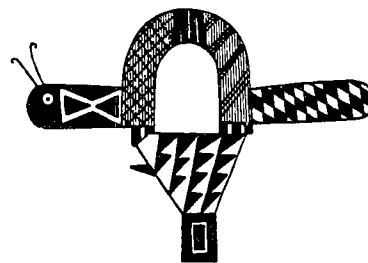
Look for additional conference information, which will be published as it becomes available, in future issues of **ELDER VOICES**.

*Sacramento Area Representative*

## Siva appointed as interim director

**C**alifornia resident Leonard Siva has been appointed to NICOA's board of directors until August, 1996. Representing the Sacramento Area, he will replace former board member Woodrow Groves, who died in December, 1994.

A San Luisano Indian and retired policeman, Siva has lived all his life in California. "I'm honored to have the board position and look forward to helping my people in any way I can," he said.



## NICOA Board of Directors

NICOA's 1995-96 board and officers are:

*James S. Hena (Albuquerque Area)  
Chair) 505/983-2667*

*Pat Woods (Muskogee Area)  
(Vice Chair) 405/436-2603*

*Tammy Sixkiller (Phoenix Area)  
(Secretary) 602/846-7991*

*Madeline Colliflower (Billings Area)  
(Treasurer) 406/673-3428*

*Iva Brant (Central Area)  
716/532-9459*

*James DeLaCruz (National Title VI)  
206/276-8211*

*Georgia Gallegos (Anadarko Area)  
405/247-2448*

*Janet Guthrie (Juneau Area)  
907/886-7191*

*Wendell McLester (Minneapolis  
Area) 414/869-2273*

*Marie Rogers (Aberdeen Area)  
605/342-1706*

*Leonard Siva (Sacramento Area)  
619/742-1627*

*Gilbert Towner (Portland Area)  
208/843-2632*

*Frank Chee Willetto (Navajo Area)  
505/655-3221*

---

*NICOA Board Chairman James S. Hena writes to Congress*

## **The Original "Contract With America"**

**T**he National Indian Council on Aging, along with the nation's tribal leaders, has observed with keen interest the establishment of the Republican party's new "Contract With America." We note that this is not the nation's first such contract. As one Senator reminded tribal leaders last year, Congress ratified many of the 800 treaties that the U.S. Government signed with sovereign Indian tribes. We have not forgotten that all 800 treaties, even though they are recognized internationally as enforceable law, have been broken by the United States government.

We are reminded that in earlier contracts with the federal government, American Indian tribes ceded 500 million acres of their land in good faith; and that they now live on 50 million acres. In turn, we wish to remind the Administration and the Congress that the federal government has a pre-existing Contract With America, and that many of its stipulations have not been fulfilled. Despite legislation such as the Snyder Act of 1921, which provides for adequate health care of Indian people—last year the inadequately-funded federal Indian Health Service was able to meet only 49% of existing needs!

Nutrition and related services for older Indians are authorized at \$30 million for title VI of the Older Americans Act. Yet appropriations amount to just over half that amount, despite Congressional committee estimates that the fully-authorized amount will be needed just to bring existing title VI programs back to 1980 levels of service. Similarly, adult protection services funding for Indian Programs in Part B of title VII is authorized at \$5 million. But no monies have yet been appropriated, leaving older Indians totally without benefit of services specified by this legislation.

Clearly, these and many similar obligations demand the federal government's attention before Congress embarks on a "new" Contract With America. The original Contact(s) with America do not permit Indian programs to be merged with state programs. They do not permit States to determine which block granted funds will be allocated to sovereign Indian tribes. On the contrary, the United States' original Contracts with America establish a direct and permanent relationship between American Indian tribes and the federal government.

Consequently, we urge every member of the Administration and Congress to acknowledge the pre-existence of these contracts, and to honor both their substance and their spirit. Please do not block grant Older Americans Act programs serving Indians. Specifically, title III (Indian Area Agencies on Aging), title IV (research and demonstration projects), title V (Senior Community Service Employment Program), Title VI (nutrition and other programs), and title VII (Adult Protective Services)—all contain statutory provisions for serving older Indians. Indian Country looks to you to keep these programs intact. They were not intended to be administered by states, and should not be block granted now. Or ever.

---

***National Indian  
Council on Aging, Inc.  
6400 Uptown Blvd., NE  
City Centre 510-W  
Albuquerque, NM 87110***

<b>NON-PROFIT ORGANIZA- TION U.S. Postage PAID Albuquerque, N.M. PERMIT NO. 901</b>
---