It has been a great year, full of exciting events, renewed connections, new opportunities, and planning for the future. CNAMF participated in numerous events, highlights include the Talmaks Camp meeting, a gathering of American Indian Presbyterian church members held each summer in Craigmont, Idaho; the Native Americans in Philanthropy Annual Summit and 30th Anniversary commemoration in Chicago, Illinois; and The Big Event and Vah-Ki Camp meetings in Arizona.

We are in the final phases of working on our five-year Strategic Plan having spent the summer months convening focus groups and soliciting survey responses from identified stakeholder groups. We are most excited about the expressed interest of the importance of youth engagement. Board member Vance Home Gun (Salish/Kootenai) presented a workshop on American Indians and Spirituality at the national United National Indian and Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference this past July in Orlando, Florida and the responses we received has inspired CNAMF to move forward with plans for youth focused programing in the coming year.

This year also brought the sadness of a great loss. On the morning of March 25, the C. H. Cook Memorial Presbyterian Church in Sacaton, Arizona was destroyed by fire. Built using adobe, this grand structure was the oldest Presbyterian church in Arizona and had been a cherished landmark in the Sacaton community for more than 100 years. It was the location where Charles H. Cook established his legacy of educating American Indians on our Lord’s teachings. At present, it has been determined the original church will not be restored as the structural damage was too great. However, this will not impact the dream Charles H. Cook had for the future of American Indian people as CNAMF remains poised to continue to grow his legacy through our Seed Grant Program and Sponsorship offerings.

In the coming year we plan to develop culturally based training modules focused on religious education opportunities for youth, organizational development and grant writing. This will empower individuals, small faith based organizations and church groups to share knowledge and serve as effective leaders who make a positive difference in tribal communities.

At this Holy Season and throughout the coming year – may you experience the light, life and love of Jesus Christ each and every day.

Wendy Weston
Executive Director/CEO
Cook Native American Ministries Foundation
The CNAMF Board of Directors recently elected two new members, effective January 1, 2020. Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Alvin B. Deer and Theresa Natoni Price who will be joining our Board. They were selected from an impressive slate of candidates.

**Rev. Dr. Alvin B. Deer** is an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and is also of the Creek tribe. He had a calling to serve his people and worked for four different American Indian tribes and three urban groups from Los Angeles, California and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Rev. Deer is recently retired from full-time ministry with the United Methodist Church.

Over the past 50+ years he has served American Indian tribes and urban groups in the areas of financial management, community planning and business development. He has also pastored six different local Native churches throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Rev. Deer currently serves on the Board of the Native American International Caucus of The United Methodist Church and is also on the Board of the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. He also served on the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits in Evanston, Illinois where he was Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee for 12 years.

Rev. Deer attended Southern Methodist University, University of Oklahoma, School of Science and Arts and the Los Angeles City College.

**Theresa Natoni Price** is of the Qalwungwa (Hopi Sunforehead) clan, born for the Tsenahabilnii (Navajo Sleep-Rock People). She is married to Andrew Price and has four adult children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her oldest son is a pastor at Ferguson Baptist Church in Lehi, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Arizona.

Price is a retired educator, teacher, and media specialist. She was the first American Indian to be hired as the Director of the Mesa Public Schools, Native American Education Program, where she worked for 36 years.

Church and Christian learning has always been a big part of Price’s life and serves as a Sunday School and Junior Church teacher at the Ferguson Baptist Church. She is always willing to help where there is a need to serve people and her greatest delight is to see children have a relationship with the Lord.

CNAMF is excited to begin working with our new Board members and expect their contributions to the leadership to be of immense value to the work we will be doing in the coming years.

Welcome Alvin and Theresa!
Among CNAMF’s primary objectives through its mission is to provide Seed Grants to community-based churches and organizations that offer opportunities for Native people to explore creative ways in which to build and contribute to healthy communities.

Oklahoma is home to 39 Federally Recognized Tribes and Nations so it is no surprise CNAMF has grantees from this tribally diverse state. The Oklahoma City Muscogee Creek Association (OCMC) was established by a group of Muscogee Creek members living in the Oklahoma City area to provide services and resources to Muscogee Creek tribal members, while upholding the tribal values of Respect, Integrity, Responsibility, Humility and Wisdom, centered around reverence to the Creator.

OCMC used CNAMF grant funds to develop and implement a teen empowerment program based on the methods employed through a culturally sensitive curriculum produced by White Bison, Inc.’s Red Road to Wellbriety. The curriculum was presented to the Muscogee youth using the knowledge from Muscogee spiritual and traditional beliefs and customs.

Throughout this past spring and summer youth attended workshops focused on topics such as family and tribal lineage and histories; family and community values; gender roles; relationships and risky behaviors. At the end of eight training modules, youth participated in a “Coming of Age” ceremony, a celebration that acknowledged the accomplishments of each participant through this unique educational experience. They now possess the tools to allow them to make responsible choices as adults in their respective communities. Tribal spirituality and customs were an integral part of the teachings each youth received. Local families took part in the graduation celebration, always acknowledging the presence of our Lord.

The congregation of the Achena Indian Presbyterian Church, located in Maud, Oklahoma is comprised primarily Seminole tribal members from the local area and is part of the Indian Nations Presbytery that serves congregations in central and southwest Oklahoma. Members of the congregation are very proud of their tribal heritage and concurrently affirm their faith to the Christian gospel through service to their church community. The church is built on traditional Stomp Dance grounds and members of the congregation proudly share fond recollections of ceremonial celebration, fellowship and family reunions. This spirit is what inspired the congregation to seek funding from CNAMF.

In contemplation of the future, inspired by the past, Achena Church’s congregation sought funding to use towards stabilizing the operations of the church, build and strengthen the congregation through youth engagement and to develop a strategic plan that will allow them to continue to operate on their sacred Stomp Dance grounds for decades to come.

Their project was designed in two phases. In the first year, a core group of participants worked collectively to identify local Native elders and leaders who could share recollections of the formative years of the church and its relationship with the traditional ceremonial teachings of the tribe. They also embarked on a visioning project for the church that will guide them as they build membership and youth engagement.

In the next phase of the project, the congregation will conduct a visioning project that will inform a strategic plan to realize membership and greater participation from the youth in the community. The community will also be able to hear Native storytellers sharing stories within a church or community gathering and in local schools.

Cook Native American Ministries Foundation is proud to support these projects of faith and service and wish the Oklahoma Muscogee Creek Association and Achena Indian Presbyterian Church much success.
Cook Native American Ministries Foundation
Leadership for Life
1414 West Broadway Road, Suite 122 • Tempe, Arizona 85282 - 1118

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
Tel 480.968.9354
info@cooknam.org
www.cooknam.org

108 Years...

and Dreams continue
1911–2019

Honoring Our Generous Donors

Cook Native American Ministries Foundation would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our Friends and supporters.

We value your financial support.

CNAMF Online Giving!!

You can now make your gifts online! at www.cooknam.org, on Pay Pal, a secured cost-effective way to support Cook Native American Ministries Foundation.

You may use most credit and/or debit cards or write an electronic check from your personal account or pledge payments.

You may allocate your gift to: Areas of greatest need; Scholarships; Endowments; Memorials; or where there is the greatest need.

Click on the word “Donate” and please encourage others to do the same.

Sponsorships

Did you know that Cook Native American Ministries offers sponsorships to your non-profit organization?

The intent of the sponsorship is to promote Cook Native American Ministries through opportunities and partnerships that serve faith-based Native American communities, people and other non-profit organizations. We feel sponsorship activity will help to get our mission out to the public through new and different avenues. Ultimately we are seeking new donors, volunteers, name recognition and spreading the word about our programs and events. For more information please contact us at 480-968-9354.