

**Executive Director’s Report for the Period  
August 29, 2015 – November 25, 2015  
Submitted by Sherry L. Rupert to Nevada Indian Commission Board  
Thursday, December 3, 2015**

**Administrative**

- The Commission currently has one American Indian vacancy on the Nevada Indian Commission.
- I attended the September 2015 Governor’s Cabinet meeting and the November 2015 Cabinet Team Meeting.
- I will be on annual leave from December 18-27, 2015.

**Projects**

- A full report on Stewart-related items will be given under Agenda Item XII.
- The Nevada Indian Commission is the lead for the Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Bi-State Summit 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). Three listening sessions were held at the beginning of September in three tribal communities; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Bishop Paiute Tribe (CA), and the Yerington Paiute Tribe. Of the three



listening sessions, the Yerington session was the best attended. We believe that is because they are closest to the area (Sweetwater) in which the U.S. Forest Service clear cut the pinion trees “on accident.” From these listening sessions the planning committee identified 19 possible topics for the Summit. The committee has since narrowed those topics down to four that are to be addressed at the Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Bi-State Summit. The committee has also made a decision to schedule the 3-day Summit for March at the Stewart Indian School. The first two days will take place at Stewart and the final day will be a field trip to the Sweetwater area. The thought was that by having the Summit at Stewart Indian School, there would be more tribal participation, and the opportunity to bring in traditional foods from the land (deer, elk, Indian tea, elderberries, acorn, etc.) that could be shared with participants. The group is also planning a cultural reception where the tribal people can share their foods and their culture. There are plans to include singers to sing pine nut songs, storytellers to tell their pine nut stories, dancers to dance pine nut dances and artists to share their art as it pertains to the ecology.

- A full report on the 2015 American Indian Achievement Award Banquet (AIAA) and Silent Auction will be given under Agenda Item XII.

### **Presentations/Meetings/Miscellaneous**

- I was interviewed as the Nevada Day Parade Grand Marshal by the Nevada Appeal. This piece was included in the Nevada Appeal’s Nevada Day insert. I was also interviewed by a freelance reporter for the Nevada Appeal on what it meant to be one of three Nevada Day Grand Marshal’s of American Indian descent and the first American Indian female to be given the honor.
- Attended the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention, mid-October in Portland, OR. The main goal of my participation was to attend workshops and observe the format and organization of the convention to assist in planning for the 2016 NIEA Convention that will be held in Reno, NV. Several participated from Nevada Tribes and came back with great ideas for the Nevada Convention.

- Attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention late-October in San Diego, CA. I participated not only in the sessions of the NCAI Convention, but chaired the NCAI Economic Development Subcommittee, attended the Native American Rights Fund Indian Boarding School Healing Coalition Meeting and the annual Governors’ Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) meeting. The Governors’ Interstate Indian Council meeting attracted over a dozen Indian Affairs Directors from across the nation to discuss state-tribal issues and relationships; and to hold elections. I was elected to an additional 2-year term as the Secretary/Treasurer for the national organization.



- As the Grand Marshal of the Nevada Day Parade, I was provided an opportunity to have a space at the beginning of the parade and booth space at the FamFest after the parade. Instead of the traditional convertible, I chose to have an entry that would share the honor with family, staff and Stewart Indian School alumni. We had a 42’ trailer (donated by Southwest Gas) with 35 participants. With Governor Sandoval’s support the alumni will soon be able to share their experiences with the world through the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy initiative.
- Attended the November 2015 U.S. Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (TTAB) meeting in Washington D.C. This meeting was the last TTAB meeting of this term. In order to be reappointed, Board members must reapply in December for a March 2016 appointment.

- While on the East Coast for the U.S. Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, I was able to get a tour of the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, PA. A full report on this item will be given under Agenda Item XII.
- Tours Provided:

**September 22, 2015**

- ✓ Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Stewart Alumni - History and Walking Tour of Stewart Indian School (35 attendees)
- ✓ Nevada State Museum Volunteer Training – History and Walking Tour of Stewart Indian School (40 attendees)

**September 24, 2015**

- ✓ UNR Cooperative Extension - History and Walking Tour of Stewart Indian School (40 attendees)

**September 30, 2015**

- ✓ Governor’s Tour of Stewart Indian School

**November 2, 2015**

- ✓ Nevada Department of Education, American Indian Heritage Month Lecture Series – The History and Future of the Stewart Indian School (15 attendees)

**November 4, 2015**

- ✓ Nevada Association of Legal Services Professionals – Presentation on the Nevada Indian Commission (15 attendees)



**November 6, 2015**

- ✓ Washoe County School District, North Valleys and Spanish Springs High Schools – The History and Future of the Stewart Indian School (80 attendees)

**November 13, 2015**

- ✓ Washoe Tribe Head Start – The History and Future of the Stewart Indian School (20 attendees)

**Upcoming Events**

- Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit, March 1-3, 2016 – Stewart Indian School Gym
- Nevada American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit, March 20-22, 2016 – University of Nevada, Reno