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Update for January 15, 2015 Nevada Indian Commission Board Meeting
Submitted by: Chris Ann Gibbons, Secretary/Treasurer, Nevada's Indian Territory

- In September 2014, four Territory members attended the 16th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference at the Paragon Resort Casino in Marksville, Louisiana. This year there were mobile workshops to the United Houma Nation, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and the Tunica-Biloxi Cultural Center. The conference highlights included a ride on a shrimp boat with an authentic shrimp boil afterwards. Also, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana is revitalizing their language and worked with Rosetta Stone to develop software in their language which has been dormant for many years. The Tribe is now using that software to teach the language to tribal members. Sherry Rupert was a Keynote Speaker at the Conference and spoke about the NATIVE (Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience) Act, an avenue for tribal communities to access federal resources for tourism capacity building.
- The Territory received a NCOT Projects Related to Tourism Grant to fund display cases for the American Indian cultural exhibit located at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The new display cases have been installed and the Territory located additional funding to repair minor damage to the exhibit, replace the Territory Map, change out some of the photos, change out some of the videos and the Territory has replaced the Tule duck decoy and the cradleboard currently in the exhibit (see attached photo). The Territory worked with Reno Space Creators on the modifications to the exhibit.
- Current Indian Territory Projects (all projects funded by Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grants)
 - Indian Territory Photo Library: To date, photographer Larry Burton has taken roughly 18,000 photographs for the project and has submitted all photos on an external hard drive to the Territory. Recent photo additions to the project include the Walker River Paiute Tribe Pine Nut Festival, La Ka Lel Be Powwow, Nevada Day Parade and the Sesquicentennial Honoring Reception for the 1964 Centennial Indian Princess Contestants. The Indian Territory recently received a FY15, 2nd cycle Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grant to fund the remainder of the project which will primarily focus on Southern Nevada. Photographer Larry Burton was again chosen to work on the project.
 - Indian Territory Brochure Revision: The brochure has been completed and 10,000 copies have been ordered for distribution. The new Indian Territory brochure will aid in bringing visitors to the State and give the Territory the attention that is needed to increase awareness to tribal tourism. Also, a copy of the brochure was included in the time capsule to commemorate Nevada's Sesquicentennial birthday celebration.
 - Indian Territory Website Upgrade: The Indian Territory website has been launched and automatically formats to mobile devices. The Webmaster will continue to work with the Territory to add new content and make updates to the site as needed. Also, the Territory will continue working on updating the YouTube, Facebook and Flickr accounts.
 - Stewart Indian School Marketing Video: The Stewart Indian School Marketing Video has been completed and was premiered at the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction in November 2014. The video has been linked to the Stewart Indian School website and a copy was included in the time capsule to commemorate Nevada's Sesquicentennial birthday celebration.

- Tribal Communities Tourism Assessment: The Territory is working on a research based project with Dr. Carla Santos from the University of Illinois to assess tribal tourism opportunities in Nevada. During the month of August 2014, Dr. Santos and Sherry Rupert met with the following tribes: Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, Elko Band Council, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and the South Fork Band Council. Dr. Santos has compiled all of the information into a report which is currently being reviewed by the Territory.
- In December 2014, the Territory received 2nd cycle FY15, Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) Marketing Grants for the following projects: 2015 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, 2015 Stewart Father's Day Powwow, Indian Territory Photo Library and Indian Territory Website Maintenance.
- Territory members will be attending the 2015 Rural Roundup April 15-17, 2015 in the Carson Valley. The annual conference is hosted by the Nevada Commission on Tourism and is aimed toward strengthening Nevada's rural tourism.
- The 7th Annual Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference will be held in Southern Nevada April 28-30, 2015 tentatively at the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas. The Territory is currently working on a theme, lining up speakers and will be working with Southern Nevada Tribes to coordinate a mobile workshop. The mobile workshop may include visits to Red Rock Canyon, Pahrump Paiute Tribe, Tule Springs and the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort. The Territory will be applying for American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) Regional Outreach Program funds. If awarded, the Conference will include AIANTA members from the entire Southwest Region (Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado). Lastly, possible host hotels include the Red Rock Station Casino and the Santa Fe Station Casino.