

From the National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics

The National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics held their first meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana to establish a non-profit organization. The National Center, in support of the Association's efforts, has invited JoAnn Kaufman, Chairman, to describe the initial goals and objectives of this association. We look forward to the future success and continuation of this type of supportive and informational organization--Journal Manager.

On March 1, 1988, over 70 Indian people from 30 different tribes who are concerned about the multigenerational effects of alcoholism and drug abuse on Indian families and communities, gathered to organize the National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics (NANACOA). The Association's purpose is to provide information and support to Indian children of dysfunctional families. The Native Americans were participants in the 4th Annual National Convention on Children of Alcoholics which took place in New Orleans, Louisiana from February 28 to March 3, 1988. An interim Board of Directors was elected to plan and carry forward the mission of the new National Association. The following objectives were adopted: a) to establish NANACOA as a non-profit organization; b) to seek chapter status with the National Association for Children of Alcoholics; c) to plan a National Convention for Native American Children of Alcoholics in 1989; d) to establish a national network and newsletter to promote the exchange of information and resources; and e) to increase community awareness, understanding, and recognition of the needs of Native American Children of Alcoholics of all ages, especially among policymakers.

Members of the interim Board of Directors are:

Chairman: JoAnn Kaufman, Nez Perce, Seattle, Washington

Vice Chairman: Candace Fleming, Kickapoo/Oneida/Cherokee,
Denver, Colorado

Treasurer: Pam James, Colville, Shelton, Washington

Sergeant-at-Arms: Ed Barnhart, Seattle, Washington

The interim Board and interested parties plan to continue defining the goals and objectives at a June, 1988, meeting to be hosted by the Flathead Tribal delegates in Western Montana.

JoAnn Kaufman, Chairman

Comments and/or inquiries can be directed to Ms. Kaufman at the Seattle Indian Health Board, P.O. Box 3364, Seattle, Washington 98104.