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(2019 Board President, Geri Hongeva-Camarillo)

Arizona American Indian Tourism Association Announces 2019 Executive Board and New Board Members

PHOENIX, AZ – In March, 2019 the Arizona American Indian Tourism Association (AAITA) announced their newly elected Executive Board and incoming board members and tribal tourism priorities which will be the main focus of their 2019-2020 fiscal year activities. The new board officers are as follows; Geri Hongeva-Camarillo (Navajo) named Board President, Dorothy Dentsosie Gishie (Navajo) named Vice President, Steve Geiogamah (Kiowa) named Treasurer, and Amanda June (Navajo-Hopi) named Secretary.

The board also welcomed new member; Issac Curley (San Carlos Apache), and returning members, Raphael Bear (Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation), Roann Carmelo (Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation), and Carrie Nelson (Navajo).

Board President Hongeva-Camarillo comments, "I would like to thank my colleagues for having faith in me and voting for me, it has been a joy and a challenge to serve on this board for eleven years now. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected board members."

While outreach and collaboration remain top-of-mind for the board, Ms. Hongeva-Camarillo, points out; the key purpose of tribal tourism has always been about creating economic development opportunity and support to tribes.

"I look forward to serving as president of Arizona American Indian Tourism Association and to assist the twenty-two tribes in Arizona with promoting travel and tourism within the native communities to strengthen their local economy. AAITA has a goal to promote quality hospitality and preserve cultural traditions. We have been very fortunate to have many partnerships to continue with empowerment opportunities for Arizona tribes. AAITA is a 501c nonprofit organization since 1994, we seek funding resources and help develop marketing strategies to increase tourism and strengthen communities by continuing to keep our culture and language alive."

ABOUT AAITA

Arizona American Indian Tourism Association (AAITA) is a statewide, nonprofit 501(c) 3 membership organization since 1994. Overseen by a nine member board, it involves Indian businesses and professionals as members, who voluntarily work together to increase tourism on Arizona Indian reservations. The organization targets the 22 Native American tribes in Arizona. AAITA also facilitates and hosts conferences for Native Americans, speakers on tourism issues, and assists Native American people in effective networking. Our mission: "To promote the development of Indian Tourism in Arizona while respecting the cultural integrity of the tribes."

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