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# The American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Caucus

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Established in 1981, the Caucus is the longest running professional organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian researchers and public health practitioners who work to address the unique health and cultural needs of these special populations.

#### THE AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CAUCUS

The Caucus is a dynamic group dedicated to improving the health of Native people by providing opportunities for public health professionals to share their knowledge and experience.

### FAQ'S

#### Who may join the Caucus?

The Caucus welcomes persons of any racial or ethnic background who are interested in the health and well being of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians.



Caucus Social Gathering

### ACTIVITIES

The Caucus' activities focus on the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting. At the meeting, the Caucus sponsors a variety of scientific sessions; holds the Annual Business Meeting; offers an evening social with traditional foods, entertainment, honors, and networking opportunities for Native and non-Native members. The Caucus also publishes a bi-annual newsletter to its membership and maintains an informational website. The Caucus operates without staff and is an all-volunteer Board.

### What are the benefits of being a Caucus Member?

Membership benefits include, a subscription to the Caucus newsletter, access to the member's roster, access to the member's only section of the Caucus web page, opportunities for an elected position, and voting privileges.

# How are the membership fees used to benefit the Caucus?

Membership dues help defray the costs of ongoing Caucus responsibilities, such as, the coordination of scientific sessions, operations costs, and the Caucus Social Gathering.

# How does the Caucus benefit my Community?

The Caucus supports opportunities to disseminate rigorous scientific advancements in Native public health. It also submits and supports resolutions for approval through the APHA Administration. These resolutions can then be included in lobbying efforts of APHA staff when working with Congress and other legislation-related efforts. Examples of recent resolutions for which local communities benefit include the Resolution on the Reauthorization of the Health Care Improvement Act (passed by the APHA Governing Council on Nov 10, 1999).

## How can I become more involved with the Caucus?

Everyone is invited to the membership meetings held at the annual APHA meeting. The Caucus has volunteer opportunities on a variety of interesting committees. Please contact the membership chair for further information.

#### What is the Annual Social Gathering?

Every year at the APHA meeting, the Caucus sponsors a Social in collaboration with a local Native organization. Everyone is welcome. There is food, local Native entertainment, and a chance to network and visit with other people interested in improving the health and well-being of Native peoples.



June Strickland and Deborah Ishaam

#### For more information contact:

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