

Why join Division 35, Section 6?

Greetings to all my relatives!

Once again I am certain the gathering in Utah is being enjoyed. I am in the middle of moving home and office right now or I would be there. It would be a nice change from moving boxes in the rain!

Pam has asked me to share some background on APA Div 35 Section 6 for Indigenous Women. First let me say, you know many of us concerned with getting indigenous issues addressed:

Secretary, Jacque Gray
Treasurer, Pam Deters
Newsletter Editor-Publicist, Lisa Rey Thomas
President Elect, Diane Willis
President, Iva GreyWolf
Student at Large, Tonie Marie Quaintance
Early Career Representative, Julii Green
Member at Large, Teresa J. LaFromboise
Member at Large, Candace Fleming

Let me acknowledge I feel the pain of paying APA dues every year. This has been a big financial commitment for me since I first moved to Logan back in the 1980's. Back in the 80's, I was fortunate to be selected as an APA Minority Fellow and have felt some loyalty to APA. I was never involved in any depth with APA other than going to convention a few times until 2008.

My eyes were opened to new opportunities for Native voices at that time. The incoming President of Division 35 was from Alaska and asked me to take the lead on moving the committee to section status. If we became a section, we would have presentation time and publication space guaranteed and we would have voting privileges on the Executive Committee. Using technology, we were able to connect the few of us and unite our voices over the great geographical distances between us and we succeeded in becoming a section!

This is not a token presence at the table for Indigenous women. We have been invited to present at the meetings, at the Multicultural Summit, and give input on a variety of issues important to Indigenous people. I have been asked to review articles and opportunities for contributing book chapters have been offered to our members. Division 35 has warmly welcomed our participation and supports addressing our concerns.

We can benefit from increasing our professional network and you can participate without a major financial burden. One does not have to be an APA member to support this section. **If you want to join Section 6 only, it is \$15.** If you are a student, it is \$5. If you want to join the Division 35 it is an additional \$15. One does not have to be female or an indigenous person to support our efforts. We are inclusive. We know there are common concerns that need attention.

Please strongly consider getting involved with policy change. Your voice is important. You may choose to take a more active role in leadership within APA as well as SIP. Many of us are aging out and we want to support the next generation of leaders.

Relatives, the door is open.

My thoughts are with you across the distance.

Iva