



June 26, 2017

Giving Thanks

The Society of Indian Psychologists respectfully accepts the kind gift of a Talking Stick from Grandfather Joseph Trimble. His thoughtfulness and consideration of tribal ideals and rituals helps us carry the word of all our people forward. SIP is growing with greater responsibilities in Indian Country and expectations to be a voice for those who need our support. This alone requires that we think carefully, from a place of strength (Kasastensera) and with a good mind (Kariwii). It has been said that the presence of a Talking Stick creates the time and space to speak with Kasastensera and Kariwii which are paramount to prevent abuse of people and to the containment of hierarchy. Thus the Talking Stick provides an important structure and function for guiding the workings of SIP.

Talking Stick

The origins of the Talking Stick are lost in the history of American Indian culture. It may be called different names such as Spirit Stick, Prayer Stick, or the Truth Stick. The Talking Stick may take many forms in style and design. It could be through a dream sequence or a gift from one's spirit guide or ancestors from the spirit world.

The design of the Talking Stick may contain many significant spiritual elements which are important to the culture and specific American Indian, Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native groups who use a Talking stick.

Use of Talking Stick

The Talking Stick is often used in different ways and has different customs. For some it is only brought out to the Council Fire in times of grave concern or danger. For others it is present at all Councils. It is always centered at Council Fires. It has been said that one must speak the truth and speak in a good way in the presence of a Talking Stick. It has been shared with us that one should be thinking of how our words affect our community when we speak. Also one should avoid negative and bad thoughts toward others when in the presence of the Talking Stick. The Talking Stick is sacred and therefore meant to oversee the good workings and right relationships of SIP.

Care

The Talking Stick should be maintained in a mindful way and should not be sent alone through the mail but rather carried by the caretaker of the Talking Stick. It would be best kept in a reverential place such as a prayer space or other place of respect and honor. It is only brought

out for important events and is not passed from hand to hand but rather kept in the hands of the person tasked with protecting it. The caretaker should be the current SIP president.

Transfer of Talking Stick

During the first transfer, it is to be conducted at the end of the Business Meeting from Jeff King (as the carrier from Joseph Trimble) to Art Blume (as the outgoing President). Then from Art to Gayle Morse (as the newly installed President). Thereafter, the transfer will occur from the outgoing president to the newly installed president at the end of the Business Meeting.