



A Message from Mark Wasler, NABA Board President

A few years ago I didn't imagine I would be here today doing this. My first year on the board of NABA, Lee Pepion was president and told the board that each and every one of us could make a difference in the Native community. We needed to put all of our tribal differences aside and build a strong coalition of Native business owners that are interested in their community's success as well as their business. As I spent time on the board, I came to establish friendships and found that I was in very good company indeed. The national executive director and board members I worked along side with encouraged me to take on challenges and helped me figure out how to handle them. Being on the conference committee and the golf committee helped me to understand the inner workings of NABA. Working with good people offering advice and to delegate to, I was able to make a contribution to those committees. Now, in good company of amazing people in the office and on the board, and learning from those previous committee jobs, I am prepared to do my best as president of NABA.

So, being in good standing and good company as a member of NABA could mean getting involved on the board, but it can also mean putting you in good company to help you attain other goals. NABA is at a crucial juncture in its existence. We need *ALL* members no matter how small or large to reconfirm their commitment to NABA. We need our members to get involved, structurally and financially.

In this age of cyber-everything, there are lots of ways one can learn to improve one's craft and business without leaving home, but I think there is no replacement for having professional peers that you have a personal relationship with. If you are new here, you will make friends that you will be able to count on for advice and help, and be able to do the same for them. NABA is a community you can be a part of and not only have people around you that you can count on, but also have the opportunity to contribute to the Native community. It will pay back in many ways.

NABA will give you the opportunity to be in the company of our industries best from Indian country, and how better to become one of the best than to be in their company. Here you can learn from others around you as our ancestors have done throughout history. There are so many NABA members willing to share their knowledge, you can learn how to improve your craft, your business skills, and if you have been around and have knowledge to share, NABA can give you an opportunity to share that with others at our yearly conference.

The time for action is now! If you are currently a member in NABA, inquire what you can do to make our organization more viable, or if your dues are not paid and up to date, correct that situation so that we may provide you with a membership certificate and all the benefits of NABA.

We need your support, commitment and dedication now.

Respectfully Yours:

Mark Kingfish Wasler

2010- 2012 President

Native American Business Alliance.