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October 2017

For Immediate Release:

### **Conservation Society Elects Margie Arnold as Chairman of NIOSA®**

Margie Arnold has been elected by the [San Antonio Conservation Society](#) as its Fourth Vice President, with the primary responsibility of chairing the 70th presentation of the Conservation Society's "[A Night In Old San Antonio®](#)" (NIOSA®), to be held Tuesday through Friday evenings, April 24-27, 2018 during the city's Fiesta San Antonio celebration.

NIOSA is the top fundraiser for historic preservation in the nation and truly lives up to its motto as a "Celebration for Preservation." This four-night festival in the heart of downtown San Antonio celebrates the city's diverse cultural legacy for more than 85,000 revelers annually. Through the magic of 200-plus food, drink and atmosphere booths; 13 continuous live musical acts; two traditional ethnic dance troupes; children's games; decorations; souvenirs; and costumed volunteers, NIOSA brings the city's heritage alive in 15 cultural areas that celebrate the city's past residents and settlers.

In the past ten years alone, more than \$12 million has been netted at NIOSA to fund the Conservation Society's mission to "preserve historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas and all that is admirably distinctive to the state." NIOSA proceeds support restoration and preservation of historic properties and parks throughout the city and neighboring counties, as well as education and advocacy programs and projects such as the Heritage Education tours, seminars, community tours, scholarships, resource library and house museums.

As the NIOSA Chairman, Arnold volunteers her time all year to plan and coordinate the four-night event, assisted by four NIOSA vice chairmen Sharon Hearn, Dee Wright, Jana Foreman and Glenda Duffin, and NIOSA treasurer Jackie Fellers.

"How appropriate that our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary coincides with the San Antonio Tri-Centennial, considering how integral the Conservation Society has been in the city's history," says Arnold. "I am honored and excited to lead this wonderful group of dedicated, hard-working

volunteers as we volunteer year-round to ensure the best possible event and also to raise funds through other private NIOSITA events throughout the year. We do it because the proceeds provide resources to the Society for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties, and its education, outreach and assistance programs.”

Arnold has a lengthy history with NIOSA as a volunteer—most recently serving as a NIOSA Vice Chairman for three years from 2015-2017. Prior to that she served as Area Vice Chairman of Haymarket for two years, and as a Vice Chairman and Area Chairman of Clown Alley for eight years. She also volunteered in a souvenir booth, the Anticuchos booth, the Finance Room, and Surplus Foods.

She has served the Conservation Society in numerous capacities since she was elected to its Board of Directors in 2013. She served as its Treasurer for 2015-2016, and also has chaired the Advance NIOSA Member Ticket Mailout, Historic Preservation Month and Seminar, Properties Restoration and Utilization, and Community Building Grants committees.

After a 21-year stint in the Air Force, Arnold started working for the Conservation Society in 1998 as an independent contractor doing accounting work, which segued into the NIOSA bookkeeper position in 2000. When 9/11 occurred in 2001, she chose to serve her country again as a Department of Defense and Homeland Security contractor until 2015.

Founded in 1924, the San Antonio Conservation Society is one of the oldest and most active community preservation groups in the United States. Beginning with efforts to prevent historic structures from being razed and to preserve such unique sites as the city’s Spanish Colonial missions, the society has been responsible for saving most of the historic attractions that now make San Antonio one of the top tourist destinations in Texas. The Society was integral in the recent Missions’ nomination as an UNESCO World Heritage Site initiating the UNESCO nomination process in 2006 and continuing to support the nomination until its success in 2015.

For more information on NIOSA or NIOSITAs, visit [www.niosa.org](http://www.niosa.org) or contact (210) 226-5188 or [niosa@niosa.org](mailto:niosa@niosa.org). For more information on the San Antonio Conservation Society, please contact the Society headquarters at (210) 224-6163 or visit [www.saconservation.org](http://www.saconservation.org). Follow NIOSA on [Facebook](#).



*In 2017, for the sixth year in a row, “A Night In Old San Antonio<sup>®</sup>” (NIOSA<sup>®</sup>) earned one of the top levels of certification from the City of San Antonio based on its Green Events Ordinance sustainable policies for medium and large-scale events.*