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For Immediate Release:

### **Conservation Society Elects Patti B. Zaiontz as Chairman of NIOSA®**

Patti Zaiontz has been reelected by the [San Antonio Conservation Society](#) as its Fourth Vice President, with the primary responsibility of chairing the 69<sup>th</sup> presentation of the Conservation Society's "A Night In Old San Antonio"® ([NIOSA](#)®), to be held Tuesday through Friday evenings, **April 25-28, 2017** during the city's [Fiesta San Antonio](#)® celebration.

NIOSA is a four-night festival in the heart of downtown San Antonio that 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; 14 live musical acts; children's games; decorations; souvenirs; and 10,000+ volunteers, NIOSA brings the city's heritage alive in 15 areas: Mission Trail (honors the early years of the city's San Antonio Missions), Arneson Theatre (amphitheatre built in 1941 into the natural curve of the city's river bank), China Town, Clown Alley, French Quarter, Froggy Bottom (pays tribute to the cultural contributions of African-Americans), Frontier Town, Haymarket (celebrates the produce and livestock markets near San Fernando Cathedral during the city's Spanish Colonial period), International Walkway (showcases different ethnic groups that developed San Antonio's unique heritage), Irish Flats, Main Street USA, Mexican Market, Sauerkraut Bend, South of the Border (Northern Mexico influences), and Villa España (Spanish and Canary Islanders heritage).

The NIOSA chairman volunteers her time all year to plan and coordinate the four-night event, assisted by four NIOSA vice chairmen, Charlie Hansen, Sharon Hearn, Margie Arnold and Jackie Fellers, and Treasurer Audrey Haake. This team of volunteers leads the 10,000+ volunteers that work at the event. Zaiontz also is chairman of NIOSITAS®—mini-NIOSAs that are presented throughout the year for any private groups, including conventions and wedding receptions as additional fundraisers for the Conservation Society.

Zaiontz joined the Society in 1971 and became an Active Member in 1994. Most recently she served two terms on the Executive Committee as Secretary and immediate past Area Chairman of the NIOSA Mexican Market area. She has chaired the following committee for the Conservation Society: Community Grants; Revolving Fund & Properties Acquisition; Programs;

Junior Associates; Speakers Services and Neighborhood Liaison. She has also actively served on the following committees: Awards; Heritage Education Tours; Historic Farm & Ranch; Historic Building Survey; Historic Preservation Month; Hospitality; Membership; Special Projects; Parade Activities; Publications/Newsletter; River House; Scholarships; Grants; Steves Homestead; Strategic Planning; Teacher Education Seminar; Yearbook; Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site; Los Pastores; and Las Posadas. She previously served NIOA for three terms as a Vice Chairman; Chairman of Frontier Town; and Vice Chairman of International Walkway. She has also served in Service and Support as chairman of NIOA presale member tickets; maps and poster distribution.

A native of San Antonio, Patti is married to Milton Zaiontz, Jr. and has three children and three grandchildren (all active Society members). She attended San Antonio College, Our Lady of the Lake University and Thomas Jefferson High School, where she is a member of the Thomas Jefferson High School Historic Preservation Society.

“My main goals as NIOA chairman are celebrating the hard work and dedication of our NIOA volunteers and raising public awareness of the good the Conservation Society does with the funds raised by NIOA,” says Zaiontz, “To say I have a personal connection with NIOA is an understatement: My husband and I courted at NIOA. Both his parents and several family members were very involved volunteers and it was very apparent to me early on that participating in NIOA and Conservation Society activities would be a big part of our lives. Our children grew up participating in NIOA activities and Society functions and now we are raising a whole new generation of volunteers with our grandkids.”

NIOA is the top fundraiser for historic preservation in the nation and truly lives up to its motto as a “Celebration for Preservation.” In the past ten years alone, more than \$12 million has been netted at NIOA to fund the 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.” NIOA 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.

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](#).

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*In 2017, for the sixth year in a row, "A Night In Old San Antonio®" (NIOSA®) has 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.*

**MEDIA:** More comprehensive media materials are available on our [news page](#). High-resolution photos, recipes, B-roll, interviews with Patti Zaiontz and more detailed entertainment/food schedules are available from Jeanne Albrecht at 210-392-9047 or [jca@jeannebiz.com](mailto:jca@jeannebiz.com).