

72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace

SAN DIEGO

OCTOBER 18 – 23, 2015



Daily Newsletter: Friday, October 23, 2015

On Friday, October 23, 2015, the NCAI 72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace came to a close. Prior to the last session, the foyer was buzzing with Indian arts and crafts vendors from across the nation. The Seventh General Assembly kicked off with the Treasurer's Report by outgoing NCAI Treasurer Arlan Melendez, followed by the Rules and Credentials Report, and the swearing in of the new NCAI Board Administrative Officers and Area Vice-Presidents.



Jackie Pata and Dakota Brown join in the photo with the newly elected NCAI Board Administrative Officers, Area Vice-Presidents, and Alternates following their swearing in ceremony.

NCAI President Cladoosby led the assembly in the Resolutions Committee Report. Upon invitation to the podium from President Cladoosby, Committee Chairs from the Economic, Finance & Community Development, Human Resources, Land & Natural Resources, Litigation & Governance, and Veterans Committees presented the actions taken by their respective Committees and motioned for consideration and approval of their respective reports. The body approved all Committee reports. Taking a moment prior to the retirement of colors and closing prayers, President Cladoosby

recognized a few special milestones.

Following the Litigation Report by John Echohawk, Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), President Cladoosby recognized Echohawk and thanked him for his and NARF's tireless commitment and work of asserting and defending the rights of Indian tribes and individuals. NARF is celebrating its 45th anniversary this November and Echohawk has been with the organization for its entire 45-year history, and has served as the executive director since 1977. Not to miss a golden opportunity, the NCAI staff found a photo of Echohawk presenting at an NCAI conference in 1978.



Then and now, Native American Rights Fund Executive Director John Echohawk reacts to NCAI Annual Rapid City 1978 photo.

President Cladoosby also called Local Planning Committee Chair Rosemary Morillo, Chairwoman of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, to the stage to thank her for her work and to present her with a token of NCAI's appreciation.

A big thank you was also extended to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation for hosting such an amazing Welcome and Cultural Celebration at the beginning of the week. NCAI offered a special thank you to all of the Local Planning

Committee participants and California tribes for assisting with sponsorships and encouraging tribal leadership and members to register for the conference.

President Cladoosby went on to recognize all of the NCAI volunteers and Volunteer Coordinator Hedi Bogda (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe) who came to NCAI for the week from Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians for coordinating all of the hardworking volunteers this week, including Tribal TANF and North Fork Rancheria.

He then acknowledged NCAI staff alumnus Jason McCarty for taking pictures all week and Cherokee Nation for letting NCAI borrow him for the event. For also lending a hand in communications, President Cladoosby thanked Ricki McCarroll, Nuna Consulting Group Founder & Principal Consultant, who put together the communications pieces during the conference.



President Cladoosby Recognizes NCAI Staff

President Cladoosby also recognized the NCAI staff for all of their hard work and anniversary milestones achieved with the organization: Deputy Director Robert Holden (30 years), General Counsel John Dossett (20 years), Office Manager Nketia Agyeman (20 years), Director of External Affairs Jamie Gomez (16 years), Director of Outreach Bernida Humetawa (13 years), Budget/Policy Analyst and PRC Program Manager Amber Ebarb

(12 years), Legislative Associate Gwen Salt (10 years), Director of Conferences & Events Annarae Steele (7 years), Chief Financial Officer Sam Owl (6 years), Advisor to Partnership for Tribal Governance Sherry Salway Black Senior (6 years), Systems Administrator Chris Pata (5 years), Meetings & Events Coordinator Kellcee Baker (5 years).



Retiring of Colors, NCAI 72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace comes to close.

The Seventh General Assembly came to a close with a prayer and retiring of colors. The assembly moved for adjournment, which formally brought the NCAI 72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace to a close. Please stay tuned next week for a full conference recap. In the meantime, please visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ncai/> to check out moments captured during the week.

