

72nd Annual Convention & Marketplace

SAN DIEGO

OCTOBER 18 – 23, 2015



Daily Newsletter: Wednesday, October 21, 2015



“What matters now is registration drives, getting out the Native vote,” said McCool. “That is what is going to change policy after 65 years of struggle—getting out the Native vote.”

NCAI is connecting Native Vote Coordinators. Please contact NCAI Deputy Director Robert Holden (rholden@ncai.org) or NCAI Policy Research Fellow Jalene Herron (jherron@ncai.org) to become a coordinator for your community.

Honoring Nations brought together six finalists for its 2015 award, who each shared a short presentation on their projects within their communities. The presentations spanned from education of youth through community infrastructure.

“I’ve been told, ‘Indians don’t think big enough,’ but I dream big!” said Lance Morgan, President & CEO, Ho-Chunk, Inc. during his presentation.



Nominations and Speeches for NCAI Board Administrative Offices were next on the agenda. First, Mark Macarro Tribal Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians in Southern California nominated Brian Cladoosby (Swinomish) for NCAI President. With no other

The “First Kids 1st Initiative” took center stage during the Fourth General Assembly with a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

According to the MOU, the First Kids 1st Initiative, “will convey that Indian Country is choosing to put its children first as our number one priority.” After her remarks, NCAI Executive Director Jackie Pata joined NICWA Executive Director Sarah Kastelic, NIEA Executive Director Ahniwake Rose, and NIHB Executive Director Stacy Bohlen in signing the document.

Daniel Craig McCool, Professor of Political Science, University of Utah, gave the Native Vote Update and highlighted the importance of Native voting rights litigation in setting the precedence for driving Native Vote legislative policies.

nominees, Juana Majel-Dixon (Pauma Band of Mission Indians) moved to have the Assembly cast unanimous consent for Brian Cladoosby to be elected to a second term as President of NCAI.

There were two nominations for the position of First Vice-President. Mary Ann Andreas (Morongo Band of Mission Indians) nominated Juana Majel-Dixon for the position of First Vice President and Hiawatha Brown (Narragansett Tribe) nominated Randy Noka for the position of First Vice President.

W. Ron Allen (Jamestown S’Klallam) nominated Aaron Payment, Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe, for the position of the Office of the Secretary of NCAI. Being the sole nominee, Chairperson Payment was elected as Secretary of NCAI by unanimous consent.



Chairman W. Ron Allen

For the final Executive Board position, Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw Nation) nominated W. Ron Allen, Chairman of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, for the position of Treasurer. With no other nominees, Chair Allen was elected as Treasurer of NCAI by unanimous consent.

NCAI received two very generous donations to help support our Native youth and core operations. Roche Diagnostics announced that it will try to give \$20,000 to the health scholarship for each NCAI conference. Last year, nine students benefited from the Roche Diagnostics health scholarship. Vice-Chairman Keith Anderson and Treasurer-Secretary Lori

Watso from the Shakopee Mdewanketon Sioux Community presented NCAI with a donation check for \$100,000 to support our organization’s work again this year.

NCAI would like to thank Roche Diagnostics and Shakopee for their continued partnership and generosity in supporting NCAI and Indian Country.



Shakopee Mdewanketon Sioux Community Check Presentation

The highlight of the day was the National Native American Just Move It! Healthy Lifestyles Walk, Run, and Rally where attendees walked and ran over a half a mile in support of healthier lifestyles for Native communities. Participants received incentives from partners Nike N7 and IHS.



NCAI Health Walk

Breakout session presentations by thought leaders inspired conversation and dialogue amongst tribal leaders and attendees in the areas of water rights, Native youth issues, Native Vote, cultural protection, workforce development, tribal homeland security, international advocacy, food sovereignty, and Indian education.

Are you on social media? Engage with NCAI on Facebook, Twitter (@NCAI1944), and the NCAI app! Use #NCAIAnnual2015 to stay connected!