



National Congress of American Indians

Protecting Sovereignty in the Past, Present, and Future



65

anniversary
1944-2008

ANNUAL REPORT



FPO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has a long and rich history of protecting tribal sovereignty and improving the well-being of Native people. Since 1944, NCAI has been working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As we celebrate our 65th anniversary as an organization, it is important to look back at those original NCAI initiatives and keep them in mind as we look at our work through the eyes of our children.

Our founding fathers had many issues on their minds when they built this organization. They were concerned that our basic sovereign rights were in jeopardy—and they were. And as we are today, they were concerned about Native soldiers who had gone off to fight in war. In one of the first letters commissioned by the organization, dated October 16, 1944, our founders wrote:

“This convention is being called for a special reason. As we all realize, Indians who have been away to war will be returning soon and many of them are going to have questions and perhaps many will be dissatisfied with the way things were before they went into the armed services. They are going to want more to say about management of their local affairs. They will come back with valuable experiences gained in war and feel that their opinions and ideas should be taken into account. The Indians in some states, not all states perhaps, will insist that the state give them the right to vote. Others will insist that their people are entitled to Social Security benefits....Some of us would like to have an active Indian organization in operation when the boys come home, so that we will be in a position to help them present their views to the Indian service, to State Governments, or to Congress. For this reason we need to hurry with our organization plans.”

Our founding fathers were concerned about our troops, as we all are still today, and they also knew treaty provisions were not being lived up to by the government. They knew that Indian people were in danger of losing the ways of life in which they flourished. They saw the need for NCAI. As we look back at the last 65 years, it’s important to note that Indian people are facing many of the same issues as our people did many moons ago.

We must stay strong, keep up the fight and carry on the mission of NCAI into the next seven generations.

—Joe A. Garcia

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Native people have sacrificed a lot to help make this great country what it is today. Our ancestors ceded millions of acres of land to the federal government and in return, tribes received the guarantee that the federal government would protect the tribes’ right to govern their own people and their reservations as homelands for tribal cultures, religions, languages and ways of life.

NCAI is working hard in Washington, D.C. to ensure that lawmakers make good on that guarantee.

The health of our people is imperative to maintaining our sacred ways of life. Native Americans continue to rank on the bottom of nearly every single indicator of good health. The life expectancy for males in the U.S. is 75 years. On the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota it is 56 years, lower than in Haiti, where it is 58 years. Natives also face dramatically higher diagnosis and death rates from chronic illnesses such diabetes, heart disease and cancer. We have worked diligently this year on the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) to try and change these statistics.

Tribal governments must also have the ability to protect their citizens. Today, they do not.

Tribal governments lack the adequate funding for law enforcement training, tribal courts, detention facilities and other basic needs.

Under current funding, tribal law enforcement will receive vehicles but no maintenance, a detention facility but no staff, radios but no central dispatch. The system doesn’t make sense. We need the means to protect our people.

The future of the more than 500 Indian Nations within these United States of America depends not only on Indian warriors of today, but also on the leaders in Washington, D.C. whose job it is to uphold the treaties of yesterday.

We have ceded our lands.

We have honored the treaties.

We have upheld our side of the bargain.

Now it is time for Washington to do the same. NCAI will continue to do the tough work in our nation’s capitol to continue the organization’s mission and protect the lives of Native people.

—Jaqueline Pata

OUR HISTORY

The NCAI was founded in 1944 in response to termination and assimilation policies that the United States forced upon the tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereigns. NCAI stressed the need for unity and cooperation among tribal governments for the protection of their treaty and sovereign rights. Since 1944, the National Congress of American Indians has been working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Over a half a century later, our goals remain unchanged. NCAI has grown over the years from its modest beginnings of 100 people to include 250 member tribes from throughout the United States. Now serving as the major national tribal government organization, NCAI is positioned to monitor federal policy and coordinated efforts to inform federal decisions that affect tribal government interests.

Now as in the past, NCAI serves to secure for ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled; to enlighten the public toward the better understanding of the Indian people; to preserve rights under Indian treaties or agreements with the United States; and to promote the common welfare of the American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Current Issues and activities of the NCAI include:

- ❖ Protection of programs and services to benefit Indian families, specifically targeting Indian Youth and elders
- ❖ Promotion and support of Indian education, including Head Start, elementary, post-secondary and Adult Education
- ❖ Enhancement of Indian health care, including prevention of juvenile substance abuse, HIV-AIDS prevention and other major diseases
- ❖ Support of environmental protection and natural resources management
- ❖ Protection of Indian cultural resources and religious freedom rights
- ❖ Promotion of the Rights of Indian economic opportunity both on and off reservations, including securing programs to provide incentives for economic development and the attraction of private capital to Indian Country
- ❖ Protection of the Rights of all Indian people to decent, safe and affordable housing

THE 1944 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INCLUDED N. B. JOHNSON (CHEROKEE), PRESIDENT; EDWARD L. ROGERS (CHIPPEWA), VICE PRESIDENT; DAN MADRANO (CADDO), SECRETARY; AND GEORGE LAMOTTE (CHIPPEWA), TREASURER



1944

EMBASSY OF TRIBAL NATIONS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FUNDING CONTINUES TO INCREASE for the Embassy and Tribal Leaders Remain Enthusiastic about Having a Stronger Presence in Washington, DC.

Contributions to the Embassy have increased this past year and we have come a long ways since the kick off of our Capital Campaign in 2004. With \$2.7 million in pledges and contributions as of August 2008, we are getting closer to having significant funding to make an initial down payment on a building in Washington, DC. Our Embassy Co-Chairs, NCAI Treasurer gaiashkibos and NCAI Secretary W. Ron Allen have done an outstanding job in leading the effort and outreach to Indian Country and others who are friends and supporters.

"I believe that the Embassy of Tribal Nations has long been a vision and dream of our old tribal warriors of the past. Warriors including Wendell Chino, Roger Jordain, Joe DeLaCruz, Philip Martin, Earl Old Person, Joe Gerry and many more clear back to the origins of NCAI, all have advocated for a strong sovereignty presence in Washington, DC. I believe this is a vision whose time has come. It's up to us in this era of protecting our tribal sovereignty to establish permanent roots in the city that has the greatest impact on our sovereignty, treaty and cultural rights. This Embassy must happen

for our future leaders and children." W. Ron Allen, NCAI Recording Secretary

We are also excited to report the response to the Shakopee challenge has been extremely successful. Since February 2006, we have received \$687,000 towards the challenge contribution. Our Board is actively seeking donations for the remaining balance and we remain confident that we can secure this amount in the very near future.

EXCERPT FROM THE OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF NCAI, DENVER, COLORADO, NOVEMBER 15-18, 1944

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the National Congress of American Indians that there is a serious lack of precise information as to the understanding which Indians of the several tribes may have, and likewise of the opinions which they may hold, with regard to the current policies and actions of the Office of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS, it is obvious that policy cannot intelligently be developed nor action determined in the absence of such information, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the National Opinion Research Center of Denver, Colorado, has the equipment and experience necessary to conduct a poll of Indian opinion, and has expressed an interest in engaging in such a survey,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the National Congress of American Indians take such steps as may be necessary to bring about a cooperative arrangement with the aforesaid Research Center, including the raising and expending of funds, in order to carry out a survey of Indian opinion.

RUTH MUSKRAT BRONSON, 1ST FULL TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NCAI. 1946-1951



“We are thrilled with the tremendous response from across Indian Country to our contribution challenge for the Embassy of Tribal Nations. NCAI is moving quickly to fulfill its goal of having a permanent home and establishing themselves prominently in the family of governments in our nation’s Capital. We are proud to be able to directly contribute to this important endeavor and want to thank all of those who also boldly stepped up to meet this challenge. We remain enthusiastic and hopeful that the Embassy will soon become a reality.”—SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN STANLEY R. CROOKS



INCREASING OUR PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC

In recent months, we have targeted two potential buildings for the Embassy. Both buildings are located in and around the DuPont Circle region. This area provides excellent access to key parts of the District and provides us with an ideal location and opportunity to enhance our presence.

The timing is perfect for us to solidify and strengthen our foundation in Washington, DC. Having an Embassy of Tribal Nations will benefit Indian Country and increase international and national public awareness of NCAI and tribal governments.

Please assist us by investing in our future and long-term financial stability. Your contribution to the Embassy Capital Campaign will go far in securing that future for generations to come.

You can now contribute directly via our website at www.ncai.org. For more information on the Embassy of Tribal Nations Capital Campaign and other ways to contribute, please contact: Jacqueline L. Johnson (Pata), National Congress of American Indians, 1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 466-7767



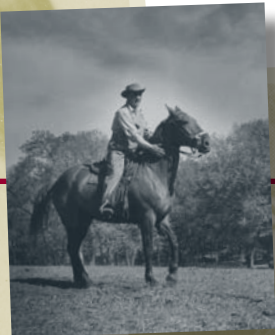
NCAI would like to extend our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the Embassy to date. Thank you to all the following donors:

- EAGLE \$1,000,000 +**
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux • Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- HAWK 500,000**
- RAVEN 250,000**
- BUFFALO 100,000**
Chickasaw Nation
- BEAR 50,000**
Prairie Island Tribal Council • Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
- WOLF 25,000**
SeaAlaska • Santo Domingo • Redding Rancheria • Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Siletz Tribe • Hobbs, Strauss, Dean and Walker
- WILD HORSE 10,000**
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians • Tohono O’Odham Nation
RuralCap AK, LPC • W. Ron Allen
- WARRIORS Up to \$10,000**
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians • Ak-Chin Indian Community • Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribes • San Manual Tribal Administration - Golf • Aqua Caliente • Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians • Keweenaw Bay Indian Community • Coeur d’Alene Tribe • Pakenta Band of Nomlaki Indians • Sault Ste. Marie • Sissestion-Wahpeton • Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribes • Capital Reserve Fund • Quileute Tribe • Coquille Indian Tribe • Oneida Tribes of WI • Oneida Tribes of WI • Swinomish Tribal Community • Seneca Tribe • Pakenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, GOLF • Absentee Shawnee Tribe - Golf Tour • Miami Tribe of OK - Golf Tournament
Osage Gaming Revenue • Coquille Indian Tribe • Oneida Tribes of WI - Golf Tournament • Wiyot Tribe • Table Bluff Reservation • Yavapai-Apache Nation • Hualapai Tribe • Mescalero Apache Telecom - Golf Tour • Conf. Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation • Key Bank, GOLF TOURNAMENT • Andrew Masiel-Luiseno Consulting • Pine Hills Golf Course & Supper Club • Society of American Indian Government Employees • 7 Cedars Casino • Cherokee Nation Enterprises • CVC Investments • Dayon Limited • Faegre & Benson Foundation- Golf sponsors • National Indian Gaming Association, GOLF SPONSOR • Fortune Bay Resort Casino, GOLF SPONSOR • Coochise Consulting, LLC
Gila River Telecommunications • Thomas Harvey • Kevin Seneca • Norbert Seabrook Hill/Mary A. Hill • Leslie/Larry Lohse • Robert L. Blankenship • Loretta Tuell (for Gabrielle) • Irene and Brett Masayesva • Lloyd Miller/Heather Kendall Miller • Phil Hogan - Metronics • Patricia Powers/Thomas Harvey • Dennis Metrokin • Jackie Johnson Pata • NCAI Employee Contributions • Mark D. Lebeau • Vernita Herdman • William Stroud, GOLF • Wally Jones, GOLF • James Roberts • JD Finkbonner • Michele Metz • Joseph Beebe (Veterans) • Sandra Beesley • Brian Richmond • Patricia Zell • John Ramano • Jamie Gomez • Mellor Willie • Rev. Marlene Helgemo • Herman Agoyo • Ralph/Sharon Eluska • Valerie Taliman • Lavina Bowers • Stephanie McGillivray Donation • Wahlesdah S. Dick • Zeki Gunay • Raphael Bear • Mid-Year Cultural Night Collection • Marie Riebe • Beverly Newell

CONVENTION ADOPTS 50 RESOLUTIONS. TRIBAL ATTORNEY BARRY DE ROSE AND CHAIRMAN LESTER OLIVER LOOK OVER DRAFTS OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DELEGATES TO THE MISSOULA CONVENTION, 1958.



FORT TOTTEN, NORTH DAKOTA. FRED DUBOIS, DAIRY FARMER.



ATTENDEES OF THE MISSOULA CONVENTION LISTENED TO STIRRING INDIAN SONGS, 1958.



1950s

MEMBERSHIP

NCAI MEMBERSHIP IS COMPRISED OF TRIBES AND INDIVIDUALS who have met the eligibility criteria and the payment of dues as outlined in the Article III of the NCAI by-laws. All members are determined to be in good standing upon full payment of dues and having fulfilled the requirements of the Credentials Committee.

NCAI's membership shall be of four classes:

TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP: It is recognized as a tribe or other identifiable group of American Indians/Alaska Native by the Department of the Interior, Court of claims, the Indian Claims Commission or a State.

INDIVIDUAL INDIAN MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING INDIAN LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: Recognized as a member by an Indian tribe, or band, or combination of tribes and bands recognized by the U.S. Department of Interior, the Indian Claims Commission, Court of Claims or a State.

INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: This class of membership is reserved for individuals not qualifying for membership for lack of Indian ancestry. Non-Indian applicants may be admitted to non-voting associate memberships.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP: Organizations shall carry such rights and privileges as are accorded to the individual associate member.

In 2007-2008, NCAI membership is at an all-time record high and continues to represent 72 percent of all enrolled tribal citizens in the country. This shows the strength and unity of tribes as we continue to work together in protecting tribal sovereignty and advancing the welfare of Indian Country.

2007 NCAI SPONSORS

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Faegre Benson, LLP	Native American Contractors Association
United Health Care	Walmart Stores, Inc.	Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Bank of America	JPMorgan Chase	Patton Boggs, LLP
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Walt Disney	Pueblo of Acoma
BP Energy	Kauffman & Associates	Seacrest Investment Management
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Wells Fargo	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Cherokee Nation Enterprises	KeyBank Native American Financial Services	SWCA Environmental Consultants
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians	Merrill Lynch	

MEETINGS

2007 ANNUAL

“64 Years: From Emerging Voice to Unifying Force” was the theme for NCAI’s 64th Annual Convention in Denver, CO. The Colorado tribes and Native Organizations were hosts for this convention, held, November 11-16, 2007. The theme was selected to commemorate the first Annual Convention 64 years earlier in Denver. This was also an election year for NCAI. The membership elected new officers and new area Vice Presidents to lead the organization for the next two years.

Other highlights included the 5th Annual Health Walk, Gala Banquet with a political forecaster as the keynote speaker, trade show with exhibits, and many resolutions from the membership to guide the leadership. Activities for the youth included a Youth Commission General Assembly, Youth Initiatives and Reports, and Youth Honor Luncheon and an Ice Cream Social.

Small Business Administration consultations provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to provide input into the development of federal policies that

impact Native communities. Other topics included Tribal Education Departments Forum, NCAI National Law Enforcement Summit, NCAI Meth Task Force Meeting, Tribal Energy Development in 21st Century, The Federal Recognition Task Force, Census Data Workshop, BIA Modernization briefing and Strengthening Tribal Governance. A heavy emphasis was placed on the importance of the Native Vote 2008 Campaign and training.

Highlighted speakers were Judge Robert H. Henry of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit, and Carl Artman, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Other important subjects covered were ways to address crime in Indian Country, growing and diversifying tribaleconomies, economic development and tribal lands, water rights, climate change, trust reform, homeland security and border crossing, emergency management,



JOSEPH R. GARRY, PRESIDENT, NCAI

ZUNI PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO



MEMBERS OF NCAI'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH CONVENTION GUESTS, MISSOULA CONVENTION, 1958.



COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS, MISSOULA CONVENTION, 1958.



FLATHEAD RESERVATION, MONTANA. NICK LASNOW.



tribal government- labor relations, media training, international indigenous initiatives, Land Recovery Task Force and the future of Indian education.

2008 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION

The Tribal Nations Legislative Summit: 110th Congress Executive Council Winter Session was held in Washington, DC on March 3-5, 2008. Significant outcomes from this important Conference included discussion on Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and the Farm Bill Initiative. Scheduled Capitol Hill visits to Congressional Representatives by tribal leaders also played a significant part of this Summit.

Many high profile speakers addressed the Conference including members of Congress, including Senators Byron Dorgan, and Max Baucus. Congressmen Norman Dicks, Alcee Hastings, Dale Kildee, Frank Pallone, Jay Inslee and Dan Boren also spoke.

Important topics covered throughout the week included the Promotion of Indian Child and Family Welfare, the NCAI Tribal Meth Task Force, Federal Recognition Task Force, Homeland Security Working Group, among others. A multi-agency consultation between the Department

of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Housing & Urban Development was also held to address how to enhance public safety and public health in tribal communities.

Other highlights included Youth Commission activities, a Capitol Hill Legislative Reception Co-Hosted by NCAI and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and the 10th Annual Awards Dinner where honorees received recognition for their contributions to Indian Country. The recipients of the awards were Senator Jeff Bingaman, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, Alan Parker, Director of the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the lobbying arm of Quakers.

2008 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

The successful 2008 Mid-Year conference was hosted by the Nevada Tribes, and held in Reno, NV on June 1-4, 2008. John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort was the location for this conference and the theme, "Sovereignty in Action," was carried through in the conference agenda. Welcome Receptions and a Cultural Night hosted by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony included traditional songs, food and dancing. The 3rd Annual Tribal Leader Scholar Forum, which was aimed at helping tribes to use data and implications of research to affect policymaking also took place.

Topics critical to Indian Country covered at the Mid-Year Conference include Indian Tribal Energy, Homeland Security and Tribal ID MOUs for Border Crossing, Task Force on Violence against Native Women, and addressing Climate change, among others.

A special emphasis was given to NCAI's Native Vote 2008 campaign, which culminated in an exciting night at the first Native Vote Jam Session. Many talented attendees shared their musical abilities to promote the Native Vote campaign. Native film and television celebrity, Eddie Spears, and Tribal leader, Arlan Melendez, served as Co-Emcees and Masters of Ceremonies.

BIA/TRIBAL BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

NCAI also partners with federal agencies and other Native organizations on a number of smaller meetings throughout the year. These meetings are important in maintaining the dialogues generated from our larger meetings and Conferences throughout the year. NCAI assisted in hosting five BIA Tribal Budget Advisory Council Meetings this past year.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs/Tribal Budget Advisory Council (TBAC) was established in 1999 to facilitate tribal government participation in the planning of the BIA budget and includes two tribal representatives from each of the 12 BIA regions.

The mission of the TBAC is: to provide an advisory government-to-government forum and process for tribes and the Department to develop budgets that allow for the fulfillment of tribes' self-determination, self-governance, sovereignty, and treaty rights, as well as identifying sufficient levels of funding to address the needs of tribes and their citizens.

DELEGATES TO THE MISSOULA CONVENTION MEET REGISTERED ATTENDEES, 1958.



RAMONA KAISER HAS ATTENDED EVERY CONVENTION, LEADER DAR, RAISES FUNDING TO SUPPORT NCAI HEALTH PROGRAMS



FORT HALL, RESERVATION, IDAHO. PETER POOG, SHOSHONE INDIAN.



NCAI'S POLICY RESEARCH CENTER



IN 2008, THE NCAI POLICY RESEARCH CENTER (PRC)

made great strides in supporting Indian Country in shaping its' own future. Significant progress was made in each of the Center's primary functions. Internal strategies and work aimed at supporting tribal leaders consist of PRC functions like the clearinghouse, building the research capacity of tribal communities and think tank forums. These strategies resulted in newly available data, policy analysis and decision-making tools. An externally-focused strategy, providing research support to scholars and institutions that are doing Native-focused research, complemented the three internal areas of work. New partnerships to support our work were developed. The capacity of the PRC has increased as the Center has turned its attention to strengthening relationships critical to delivering the data that tribal leaders need and disseminating information in a timely and accessible way.

CLEARINGHOUSE

The PRC serves as an information clearinghouse to make data, research and critical policy analyses available in one place for tribal leaders, tribal organizations and research partners. Aspects of this work include our Census Information Center and Communities of Practice.

CENSUS INFORMATION CENTER

The PRC has functioned as a Census Information Center (CIC) for the past two years. This designation has allowed us to provide tribal leaders across the United States with the best available knowledge by increasing access to Census information and data products to use for research, planning and decision-making. In 2008, we conducted workshops on how to locate Census data for areas of interest to tribes, submitted comments to the Census Bureau on the upcoming 2010 Census and launched an information request form to respond to an increased number of requests for data by tribal advocates and decision-makers.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Funded by the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Communities of Practice (CoP) function to connect practitioners, researchers and policymakers around key issue areas in an effort to build new knowledge and produce research and

driven by tribal communities. The CoPs have been organized around three issue areas: child welfare, climate change and tribal governance. The PRC is developing a dynamic website that will provide members of each CoP with the opportunity to share information, resources, experiences and tools. As these stakeholders learn together and build a collective knowledge base, the PRC will work with partners to identify emerging policy issues and strategize about how best to produce the data and information necessary to equip tribes to make informed public policy decisions.

BUILDING TRIBAL CAPACITY

Another core area of focus for the PRC includes building the capacity of tribes, tribal organizations, and Native students to determine local research agendas, collect and analyze data and develop research expertise.

RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES CURRICULUM

With support from the Administration of Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the PRC worked with our partners First Americans Land-grant Organizations and Colleges Network (FALCON) and the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) to develop a five-module curriculum, Responsible Research for Tribal Communities. The curriculum provides tribal leaders with an introduction to research, equips them to make good decisions about research



**POLICY RESEARCH CENTER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

EDDIE BROWN;
CAROL JUNEAU;
ANDREW LEE;
JACQUELINE JOHNSON
PATA; SHERRY SALWAY
BLACK; EDDIE TULLIS;
VICTORIA SUTTON;
RON ALLEN; GRETA GOTO;
YVETTE ROUBIDEAUX

THOMAS SEGUNDO, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PAPAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL, NAMED TO ESTABLISH A NEW RESEARCH DEPARTMENT UNDER NCAI FUND, 1958, TO PROMOTE AND CARRY ON APPLIED RESEARCH IN FIELDS OF CONCERN TO INDIAN TRIBES.



MRS. PERATROVICH WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN FOR ALASKAN STATEHOOD.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGER ERNST BECOMES AN HONORARY ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF NCAI AT THE MISSOULA CONVENTION, 1958



ELKO COLONY, TYPICAL INDIAN VILLAGE IN 1958



in their communities and provides them with knowledge and tools to manage research projects. Once finalized, the curriculum will be distributed to tribal leaders nationwide.

RESEARCH REGULATION PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

This year, the PRC released the second in its series of papers on research regulation in American Indian/Alaska Native communities. The paper, entitled A Guide to Reviewing Research Studies, provides considerations for tribal review of research proposals and discusses opportunities and strategies for ongoing tribal review of research studies. The paper is available on the PRC website at www.ncaiprc.org and was presented at the 20th Annual Native Health Research conference in August 2008.

TRIBAL LEADER/SCHOLAR FORUM

In June 2008, the 3rd Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum was held in Reno, Nevada in conjunction with NCAI's Mid-Year Session. The PRC received a record number of proposals for research presentations, and the highest number of proposals from Native scholars since the inception of the Forum. Six scholars made plenary session presentations. Topics ranged from discussions of citizen engagement, economic development and Native youth in the juvenile justice system. A dozen scholars participated in afternoon breakout sessions designed to apply research findings to tribal and national policymaking and programs. More than 800 tribal leaders participated in the session.

THINK TANK

A critical component of achieving the vision to "support Indian Country in shaping its own future" is to hold think tank conversations and discussions internal to Indian Country that tackle tough questions in a safe environment, generate scenarios for policy development and allow tribal leaders to shape their vision for the future of Native communities.

LESSONS FROM OUR COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCES: TRIBAL PER CAPITA REVENUE DISTRIBUTIONS

In May 2008, the PRC hosted a conversation with a small group of tribal leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by dividend distributions to tribal members. This conversation served as a pre-cursor to a meeting co-hosted with the Native Nations Institute and will form

the foundation of an ongoing effort to provide the resources tribal leaders need to develop distribution policy that best meets the needs and priorities of their communities.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

The PRC's work involves providing research support to tribes, tribal organizations and Native scholars, as well as university-based research centers, mainstream think tanks and scholars with an interest in working with tribal communities.

TRIBALLY-DRIVEN RESEARCH AGENDA

Developed at NCAI's Annual Conference in 2005, the tribally-driven research agenda is a compilation of critical questions—developed by and for tribal leaders—that need to be addressed to better prepare tribal leaders to address the key policy questions they face. The agenda guides the work of the PRC and provides insight to our partners in Indian Country, scholars in colleges and universities around the country and mainstream think tanks and institutions seeking to better understand the unique needs of Native communities. Having worked with the NCAI committees to refine the research agenda, we undertook the ambitious task of presenting the agenda in survey form to NCAI's membership at Mid-Year Conference 2008. Almost 300 tribal leaders reviewed the questions and shared their insights on the key questions that need to be addressed to better prepare Indian Country for the challenges we will face in the coming decades.

COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

The PRC serves on a national advisory council designed to guide a project at the University of New Mexico and University of Washington aimed at understanding the range of practices and principles that are employed in the name of "community-based participatory research." This research methodology considers community members important experts and includes them in the research process. The PRC joined with these universities to submit a Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in May that would allow for an examination of the variation across research projects using community-based participatory research. The project will also identify practices that promote and inhibit authentic community participation in research, in Native communities and other communities of color.

NATIVE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE URBAN INSTITUTE'S SUMMER ACADEMY

This year presented a unique opportunity to partner with the Urban Institute, a key mainstream think tank that influences a wide array of federal policy, to recruit Native applicants for their inaugural Summer Academy. The Academy was designed to address the underrepresentation of minorities and people from disenfranchised communities in public policy research. It offered less than a dozen undergraduates, the chance to come to Washington, undertake a research project and develop skills to attain positions in the nation's foremost think tanks upon graduation. The PRC assisted in the successful recruitment of two Native students who participated in the Academy.



FRANK GEORGE, SECRETARY OF THE COLVILLE NEZ PERCE BUSINESS COUNCIL AND NCAI OFFICIAL, 1958, ADVOCATE FOR INDIAN LAND RIGHTS



BERNICE GREENE



FRED BOWANNIE



We expect this partnership will continue and deepen as NCAI develops our own policy research fellowship program.

PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS

Land Title Recordation Office Study: Options for Expediting Land Title Processing

To address one of the most pervasive barriers to individual and tribal economic development in Indian Country, the PRC has partnered with First Nations Development Institute, NeighborWorks America and Stewart Title Company, to study various means of expediting title processing on tribal lands. Our report, summarizing a range of tribal policy options and assessing feasibility of widespread implementation, is due for release in early fall 2008.

Strengthening Tribal Governance

Two years of W.K. Kellogg Foundation-funded research in partnership with the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona culminated this year in a body of knowledge about tribes' perspectives on, experiences with, and desires for strengthening key aspects of governance. Governing systems reform (constitutions, codes, courts), leadership development (both building the skills of current leaders as well as preparing future generations to assume leadership responsibilities), citizen engagement (both tribal governments' engagement of citizens as well as citizens' engagement of government), and media and public education were the four focus areas that emerged

from the research. Resource papers about each of these issues were commissioned and will soon be available on the PRC website.

Census Data used for Federal Funding Distribution

The PRC was tasked with studying the use of Census data in federal funding formulas and the impact of using single-race versus multi-race data. In 2008, the PRC developed a scope of work for the study and is analyzing the formula utilized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to allocate the Indian Housing Block Grant. The focus of the study will be to determine the importance of various data sources in allocating resources to tribal housing programs.

National Native Youth Survey

In partnership with several organizations that support the development and well-being of American Indian youth, the PRC has launched a survey to gather information on the social needs, sources of support and community contributions of American Indian youth. Responses will help NCAI and other partners better understand the aspirations and goals of youth and the support needed to develop this next generation of leaders.

PARTNERSHIPS

Children's Savings Accounts

Our work on per capita distributions has piqued the interest of several advocates working on economic policy at the state and federal policy level. This work has provided us with the opportunity to make presentations to leading mainstream conferences addressing policy options for increasing economic opportunity for all Americans. Our partners include the Aspen Institute's Initiative on Financial Security, the Corporation for Enterprise Development and the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St Louis.

OTHER MAINSTREAM RELATIONSHIPS

As the profile of the PRC's work increases, so do requests for us to help shape the work of national policy coalitions and foundations. In the past year the PRC has joined the steering committee for the National Rural Assembly, an initiative aimed at developing a cohesive and inclusive policy agenda for rural America. We have also participated in processes to give input into the work of various national foundations, including the Annie E. Casey, Ford and W. K. Kellogg Foundations.



CHIEFS DANEE HONORING JOS. R. GARRY AT TIME HE WAS NAME "OUTSTANDING INDIAN IN NORTH AMERICA". NATIONAL INDIAN ENCAMPMENT PENDLETON, OREGON, JUNE, 1959

NAVAJO BANK AT BISTI TRADING POST, NEW MEXICO

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION, DENVER COLORADO, 1960



1960s

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2008 STATE OF INDIAN NATIONS ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT JOE GARCIA



THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN: HOPE FOR A RESTORED NATIVE AMERICA

“Looking at life in Indian Country through the eyes of a child, there is often more risk than opportunity. Poverty, lack of jobs and preventative health care, inadequate juvenile rehabilitation, shortfalls in education—all these problems push too many young people into failure, robbing them of full and worthwhile lives. So our needs today are profound.”

“Yet in the face of all this need, I think of the day I held my children for the first time, and then when I held my grandchildren. I remember a flood of emotion. This new life meant new joy—and new responsibility—in my own life.

I remember realizing in a personal way just how helpless children are. They are shaped less by their own decisions than by ours. So I want to spend a little time with you today addressing the challenges that come clear when we consider the future of the Indian Nations through the eyes of a child.”

“If we want to reduce poverty for children—and for all Indian families—we must create economic opportunities in our communities and give our children the skills they need to make the most of those opportunities. I have often stated that

in order to maintain and improve our economic status, we must “grow our own” and make this a part of our life, not just an inclusion here and there, but continuously promote this in education efforts.”

Just as an Indian child’s cradleboard links the past with future, our work as the National Congress of American Indians connects our heritage with a better tomorrow through the work we do today.

We seek greater economic opportunity and financial literacy, especially by treating Indian Nations with the same legal respect given to states.

We seek to better educate our young people, and to make them more aware of our culture.

We seek to turn around the lives of our young people who make poor choices early in life early on.

We’re working to make Indian Country safer.

And finally, we call on Congress to honor the longstanding federal promise of equity in Indian health care.”

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

TASK FORCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

In response to the tragic rates of violence against Native women in many Native communities, NCAI established a Task Force on Violence Against Indian Women. The Task Force brings tribal domestic violence and sexual assault activists and tribal leaders together in a nationwide network committed to finding solutions to the dire situation facing Native women. The NCAI Task Force has worked hard to educate tribal, state, and federal policy-makers about the unique nature of violence against Native women.

In 2008, the Task Force focused much of its attention on successful implementation of

the tribal provisions included in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2006 and the Adam Walsh Act. The Task Force provided guidance to the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as it implemented the Grants to Tribal Governments program. The Task Force also helped to coordinate the participation of tribal leaders in the annual consultation with the Department of Justice on violence against Native women, and spoke at a number of conferences and events around the country.

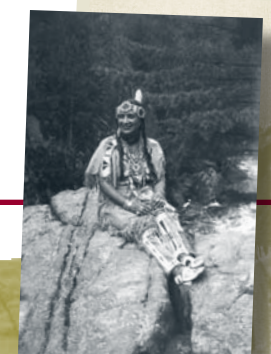
TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY

NCAI’s Working Group on Homeland Security issues has ensured a direct Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tribal funding stream and protected the sovereign use of tribal ID cards this year. Last year, NCAI helped pass legislation to create the first stream of direct funding for tribal governments from DHS. This year we helped make sure that a new stream of funding was implemented. NCAI ensured that over \$1.3 million was available directly to tribes and will advocate for increased funding for next year. NCAI also spearheaded efforts to protect the sovereignty of tribal government identification in light of the current environment. NCAI helped ensure that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) accepts all



GOVERNOR G. MENNEN WILLIAMS, MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY, SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY, FRANK GEORGE AT HYANNIS PORT, MASSACHUSETTS, 1960.

IRENE DIXON MACK, MENOMINEE, REGIONAL VICE, PRESIDENT MINNEAPOLIS AREA, 1960



CONGRESSMAN
MORRIS UDALL

tribal ID cards with a photo for all domestic flights and also lead negotiations with DHS regarding the acceptance of enhanced tribal IDs for international land border crossing (rather than U.S. Passports).

HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT

NCAI continues to work diligently on the issues of Infrastructure Housing, and Transportation. NCAI continues to advocate for the increases in tribal funding in programs that improve housing and transportation safety and planning.

Housing

In the Second Session of the 110th Congress, NCAI worked with both the Senate and House in getting H.R.2786 and S.2062 Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 2007 (NAHASDA) passed by both the House and the Senate. The bills are slightly different and are now awaiting conference in Congress. NCAI continues to monitor and work with closely with the National American Indian Housing Council on the reauthorization of NAHASDA.

Transportation

NCAI worked diligently on enactment in 2005, the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” (SAFETEA-LU) to ensure that tribal provisions were represented in the reauthorization of the TEA-21 Transportation bill. In June 2007, NCAI resumed the NCAI transportation task force to prepare for the upcoming reauthorization transportation bill in 2009.

NCAI partnered with the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) to create an NCAI-ITA Transportation Joint Task Force to develop and coordinate tribal positions for the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. Congress will take up this reauthorization next year in 2009. The Task Force has drafted a white paper titled, National Tribal Leadership Paper on Tribal Transportation Policy. This paper contains Indian Country’s main positions on major transportation issues.

In February and July 2008, NCAI sent out a two solicitation on draft copy of the white paper to all Indian tribes to obtain comments and suggestions regarding the draft white paper. The NCAI-ITA Task Force reviewed and edited the draft white paper to include the comments received from tribes and a final draft of white paper is currently being considered by the NCAI during the Annual Conference.

ENERGY

To ensure Indian Country actively participates and provides solutions to America’s energy crises, NCAI and the Council on Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) held two separate Indian Energy Summit. This Summit provided information to tribal leaders, tribal energy representatives and energy companies on emerging Indian energy issues regarding: the launching of tribal energy policies and regulations; how BIA Modernization impacts the realty and energy functions; financing tribal energy projects; and the implementation of the Tribal Energy Resources Agreements (TERA).

To prepare for the upcoming 111th Congress and Administration, NCAI has been coordinating

and working closely with CERT to develop an Indian Energy Platform that will provide key tribal issues on tribal energy to Congress and the White House.

Indian lands possess 30% of the U.S.’s natural resources. As the Administration and Congress look at other energy sources to reduce the U.S. dependency on foreign energy resources, tribes can be America’s energy partners. Indian tribes are looking to other types of alternative resources such as traditional fossil energy as well as renewable energy such as wind, biomass, geothermal and solar. As tribes are strengthening their energy capabilities, they can provide solutions to their own communities and the U.S.

AGRICULTURE

The Farm Bill of 2002 came up for reauthorization in 2007. The bill, which shapes farm policy, deals with a number of areas of great importance to tribes, including: nutrition, conservation, forestry, energy and rural development. Agriculture is a vital part of tribal economies and is the backbone for nearly 230 tribes. With a heightened awareness of natural resource management and development, agriculture policy reaches into many areas of interest to tribes.

NCAI convened a working group to establish tribal priorities for the Farm Bill reauthorization, including the need to improve food distribution programs, access to USDA loans, and USDA outreach on Indian reservations. To broaden the scope of our work, NCAI also partnered with other minority groups as a part of the ‘Food and Farm Policy Diversity Initiative’ to advocate the need for improved service to minority farmers.

NCAI worked closely with the House Agriculture Committee to ensure that the tribal provision were included in the House Farm Bill, passed in July 2007. Currently, the Senate is considering their version and NCAI is monitoring the progress of the bill and working with appropriate committee members to include tribal provisions.

FARM BILL CONFERENCE REPORT

The 2008 Farm Bill conference report was passed by the House of Representatives by a 318-106. The Senate passed the report 85-15. The President has threatened to veto the bill, but the margins in both chambers is well beyond the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. The Farm Bill conference report authorizes nearly \$300 billion worth of USDA programs over the next 5 years. 73% of the total price will be spent on nutrition programs, such as the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and the Food Stamp Program. The Farm Bill also covers crop payments, conservation, credit and loan programs, forestry, rural development, research, energy, livestock, disaster programs and other miscellaneous programs that USDA manages.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION, DENVER COLORADO, 1960



17TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, DENVER COLORADO



After nearly two years of work on the bill, it will likely become law despite an expected veto by President Bush. The President disagrees with the overall cost of the bill and the methods of crop payments, arguing that too much money is spent on farm subsidies for rich farmers. The conference negotiators lowered the income ceiling at which payments cease, but not to the \$200k level Bush wanted. Nevertheless, both chambers strongly supported the bill, and voted accordingly. A veto is expected within ten (10) days, but House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN), is hopeful that the bill will become law by the end of the month.

NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tribes have a unique relationship with the environment that, in many ways, defines our cultures. Over the course of time, our work to ensure water rights, fishing rights, and the ability to manage our resources effectively have left historic mileposts we continue to learn from today.

As the world begins looking at issues that will affect our collective futures, such as climate change, tribes have begun to look at how to situate

ourselves and how to most effectively manage our resources for the future. During the 2007 Mid-Year Convention in Anchorage, instrumental figures Billy Frank and Terry Williams addressed the need for environmental protection to ensure tribes have traditional plants and foods for the next generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE

NCAI is working with tribes and tribal organizations such as the National Tribal Environmental Council and the Native American Rights Fund to coordinate efforts and information on environmental protection and climate change. A key objective is to present to Congress how tribes are being affected by climate change and how they are also working to be sustainable.

Climate change is a real concern for tribes, and Alaska Natives are on the front lines of it. Villages along the coast are experiencing rapid,

unprecedented erosion that is forcing them to consider moving inland. Sea ice is coming in later in the year, and thinner, exposing hunters to dangerous conditions and shortening the hunting season. Also, the permafrost that villages were built on is melting and causing irreversible structural damage. Meanwhile, tribes in the southwest are continuing to cope with drought conditions that are affecting water resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In 2005, NCAI entered into a cooperative agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Information Exchange Network Program on a project designed to assist tribes in developing accurate environmental data to improve decision making. The project has the potential to help tribes share environmental, health, geographic and other types of data with other tribes or states and territories for multipurpose uses. NCAI hosted the 2nd Exchange Network Tribal User's Meeting at the Cherokee Nation in March, 2007. NCAI also helped to coordinate a tribal panel at the Exchange Network National Meeting in New Orleans, LA, in April, 2007.

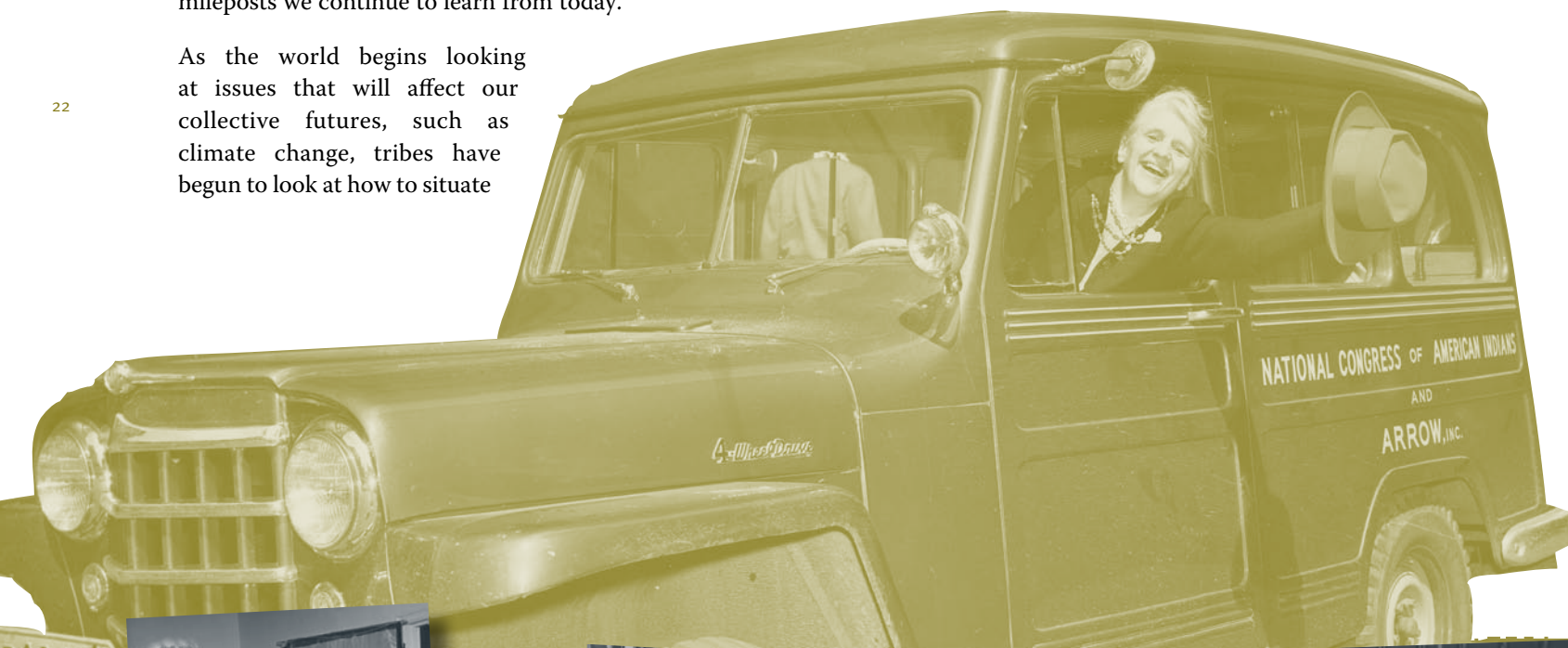
GAMING

The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) proposed a package of regulations that attempted to define how much electronic technology may aid bingo players, or Class II gaming, before crossing into the area constituting electronic facsimiles or Class III gaming. The proposals would set game, technical, and internal control standards that must be met before qualifying for play without tribal-state compacts.

NIGC commissioned an economic impact study after developing the proposed regulations that concluded the proposals would cause a total nationwide loss of approximately \$1.2 billion in gaming revenue.

The NCAI-National Indian Gaming Task Force, Congress and tribes voiced concern over the proposed regulations and their proven negative impact for gaming tribes. As a result, the proposed regulations were suspended.

NCAI will continue to monitor tribal gaming and the policies that may impact what has become for many tribes a consistent revenue stream to fund government operations.



NCAI PRESIDENT W.W. SHORT



ECONOMIC POLICY

NCAI HAS BEEN PROACTIVE in ensuring the challenges and barriers identified during the National Native American Policy Summit of 2007 move forward from recommendations to action. We have been successful in enlisting our organizational, tribal, congressional and federal partners to carry forward appropriate pieces of the ensuing National Native American Economic Policy Report.

The economic downturn has given a sense of urgency to moving many of these initiatives forward, especially those related to giving tribes equal access to government financing and access to domestic energy production incentives.

TAX & FINANCE

NCAI has been active in improving a number of Indian finance policy issues for tribes. Congress passed an Economic Stimulus package that provided economic support for individuals and businesses. NCAI sought to include tribal governments in the package while it was being considered and proposed an American Indian Stimulus Package to accompany the measure. The American Indian Stimulus Package focused on three primary considerations that would directly affect the American Indian economy:

- 1) clarification of the “essential government function” definition in order to promote tribal use of tax exempt bond financing, which is consistent with creating an economic revenue base and would create infrastructure projects and jobs on the reservation;

- 2) authorization of a long-term extension of the business tax incentives, including the use of accelerated depreciation and Indian employment tax credits in order to promote external economic partners; and,
- 3) clarification of the federal tax code so as to allow tribes to transfer energy production tax credits that would stimulate investment in tribal energy resources.

The initiatives contained in the Stimulus Package gained greater visibility when the Senate Finance Committee hosted a hearing this past July to address Indian taxation concerns. The hearing was titled, “Indian Governments and the Tax Code: Maximizing Tax Incentives for Economic Development.” The hearing was attended by key members of the Senate Finance Committee. NCAI presented testimony to raise awareness to the unfair nature of some aspects of federal taxation in Indian Country including the inability of tribes to raise funds using tax exempt bonds in a similar manner as other governments. In addition, NCAI continued to work on monitoring federal legislation that would implicate long standing state and tribal tax agreements. This year there were several tobacco regulation bills that would have resulted in negative impacts for existing tobacco taxation agreements. NCAI worked to make the necessary changes in the legislation that would preserve tribal sovereignty and taxation authority for on-reservation tobacco transactions.

PREDATORY LENDING

NCAI testified in a hearing held in June of this year by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs entitled “Predatory Lending in Indian Country.” The hearing raised awareness of factors that contributed to the rise of predatory lending facilities targeting Native populations on and near reservations.

The rise of predatory lending can be attributed to: the lack of financial institutions effectively serving the Native American market; the lack of tribal recourse in regulating off-reservation businesses; and, the lack of financial literacy available to tribal citizens. NCAI is working to address these underlying issues by bringing our partners together to develop effective strategies that provide greater access to affordable financial services. We are also working to jointly

develop tribal-state polices to effectively regulate the industry and develop culturally appropriate financial literacy programs.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

NCAI is continuing to work internally and with organizations and federal agencies to develop culturally-appropriate financial literacy programs. During the Economic Policy Summit, and through subsequent meetings, tribal leaders identified three core objectives for developing financial literacy programs.

Tribal leaders wanted a financially educated citizenship that would be better able to build assets and wealth through saving, homeownership, responsible lending and investing. Second, tribal leaders wanted to address the need for young adults to make informed decisions when managing assets distributed from successful tribal government operations. And, finally, tribal leaders wanted to develop the financial skills of future tribal leaders who will be responsible for making complex financial decisions.

In addition to developing internal and partner programs, NCAI, as a partner in the Native Financial Education Coalition (NFEC), participated in a strategic planning session centered on developing financial literacy policies for tribes. The policies were part of an NFEC congressional briefing held in Washington DC in the spring where partners of NFEC used the opportunity to educate members of Congress on tribal financial literacy needs.



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION, DENVER COLORADO, 1960



18TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AT LEWISTON, IDAHO. PETE HOMER, JOHN RAINER, JOHN PINO, BRENDA BEARCHUM (MISS INDIAN AMERICA VIII), PHILLEO NASH, JAMES OFFICER, IDA EARLY, AND NELSON JOSE. 1961.



**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING**

This past year proved to be very active for NCAI and our organization partners. We managed to build on our prior year’s success of defending the government contracting provisions developed by Congress to give tribes the ability to grow their local economies and provide jobs to citizens at home.

Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) participating in government contracting through the Small Business Administration’s 8(a) program played a significant role over the past year in influencing potential program regulations. Two consultations, organized by NCAI, were held in Alaska and Colorado by the Small Business Administration. The agency received enthusiastic comments on the importance of the program and joint administrative recommendations developed from over two years of tribal and ANC input.

Efforts continued in the House of Representatives to place limitations on the program, including an effort to force contracting officers to justify the use of negotiated sole-source contracting to tribal and ANC participants. Other minority-owned contractors would be excluded from the provisions making tribes and ANC the target of this legislation.

NCAI will continue to work with our partners to educate Congress on the benefits of the program and to ensure this valuable contracting program remains in place.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

At the top of our legislative agenda this year has been Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). With the collaborating efforts of our partners, the National Indian Health Board and the National Steering Committee for the IHCIA, we were successful in seeing the bill passed in the Senate with an overwhelming majority of 83-10! While we are excited about the progress we have made, we will continue to work to ensure that the bill is reauthorized and passed in the House.

NCAI also worked with our partners to pass an amendment to authorize an additional \$2 billion to Indian health care, public safety and water settlement agreements over a five-year period. The amendment redirected funds from the PEPFAR Global AIDS bill, which had a total \$50 billion, to several projects vital to Indian Country. The \$2 billion will be broken into subgroups with \$750 million for public safety, \$250 million for health care and \$1 billion for Indian water settlement agreements.

At the request of tribal leaders, NCAI is taking the beginning steps in forming a Youth Suicide Task Force. At our Annual Conference in October 2008, NCAI will conduct a working group to examine suicide prevention programs and their application in Indian Country. We will be speaking with experts on the ground, confronting this epidemic in our communities and focusing on next steps to be taken to address the issue and to assist in the healing.

The ongoing work of the Native Children’s Agenda and our five partner organizations—the National Indian Health Board, the National Indian Education Association, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, and the National Council of Urban Indian Health—has been advancing the Native Children’s Agenda both within and outside the American Indian and Alaska Native community. Jointly, a national survey was conducted to identify models of success of outreach activities that are effectively engaging our youth. Individually, each of the organizations is engaging in national outreach initiatives that range from media advocacy to plenary sessions at national conferences.

In addition to the outreach that is being done by each of the organizations, the 2009 NCAI Budget Request was themed on the Children’s Agenda. This year’s tribal budget priorities were developed expressly with the intent to protect our Native children and build upon the successes of self-governance and self-determination. To demonstrate this, the budget request was organized using the four themes of the Native Children’s Agenda: Healthy Lifestyles, Safe Environments, Successful Students, and Community Involvement. Copies of this document have been widely distributed to the general public and were delivered to each Congressperson and Representative.

NCAI remains committed to working with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the Annual Tribal Budget Consultations. The consultation this year consisted of break-out sessions with division leadership, cross-cutting issues important to the tribes such as suicide prevention and methamphetamine abuse and time for individual tribal testimony and roundtable

discussions with the HHS Budget Council. As in past years, we believe this session provided a great opportunity for tribal leaders to have an open discussion with HHS leadership.

NCAI continues to maintain a partnership with NIKE, Inc. and Indian Health Service to promote healthy lifestyles as a measure to prevent diabetes in Native children through the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The TRAILS program aims to reduce the onset of diabetes among Native youth by weaving together the importance of teamwork, self-esteem, and community service. The curriculum incorporates cultural traditions and history to learn about nutrition, food choices and the impact of diabetes.

A new program for NCAI and the Boys and Girls Clubs is the National Native American Mentoring Program. In partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, this new program will provide support for Native children identified as being at-risk for negative behaviors by establishing a mentoring relationship with a trained volunteer mentor. While the program now only accepts 15 clubs, we are hopeful that we will be able to expand it across Indian Country.

**NCAI’ NATIONAL INDIAN COUNTRY
METHAMPHETAMINE INITIATIVE**

NCAI Tribal Meth Task Force. NCAI created the Meth Task Force to help increase communication and coordination between tribal communities, anti-drug organizations and federal agencies on anti-meth efforts. The Task Force is made up of tribal leaders and members dedicated to the elimination and education of meth abuse. The



18TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AT LEWISTON, IDAHO. 1961.





Task Force meets three times a year at NCAI conferences and also communications via email and online group. Recently, the Task Force met at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference in Reno, Nevada to address meth treatment in Indian Country. At the upcoming NCAI Annual Conference in October 2008, the Task Force will discuss the National Media Campaign and update on meth issues in Indian Country.

National Media Campaign. NCAI is honored to work with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America (PDFA), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to produce the National Media Campaign. The poster, which focused on Native youth and the harmful effects of meth, were mailed to over 180 BIA schools with resounding success. The radio ads were also shipped to tribal radio station across the country. Calls were made to encourage radio deejays to play the announcements. With funding from ONDCP, NCAI has begun work on television anti-meth ads. The ad concept is relatively similar to those of the print and radio ads, but with more emphasis on community involvement.

Tribal Meth Toolkit. Since the NCAI leadership and the Tribal Meth Task Force instituted the

Meth Tribal Toolkit for education and distribution, it has proven to be a success. Meth Toolkit orders are placed every day. Through a partnership with the Montana State University Extension Bozeman, toolkits are shipped to tribal law enforcement, community health centers, schools, community centers and rehabilitation services quite frequently. The toolkit is easily portable and contains basic information on meth with a focus on impacts in Indian Country. It is available to order at a subsidized cost of \$135; additionally, the majority of components are available to download free of charge at www.ncai.org/meth.

Meth Grants Bill. Methamphetamine abuse is a grave problem in Indian Country and Congress recently took a great step toward addressing this crisis. In December 2007, the Congress passed the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007 which allows tribes to apply directly to the federal government for grants to fight methamphetamine. These grants will support tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, child protective services and social services. NCAI had been advocating that Congress pass this bill for more than a year. This is great news for Indian Country in the fight against meth and NCAI applauds Congress for passing this bill.

CHILD WELFARE

NCAI has been working on the issue of foster care for several years. The issue is the lack of direct access to federal funding for foster care and adoption services that state governments currently receive. The federal government currently reimburses states for eligible foster care and adoption assistance costs incurred as part of providing foster care or adoption assistance to children under their jurisdiction. However, under existing law, tribal spending on foster care and adoption may only be reimbursed through contracts with the states in which they are located.

The Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Act of 2007 amends the Social Security Act to allow tribes to receive direct reimbursement for eligible costs related to foster care services, adoption assistance services, employee training and education, administrative costs related to case planning and case management, and establishment and operation of required data collection systems.

States currently get federal support for foster care and adoption but not for guardianship. Tribes are currently not eligible for direct federal funding. However, tribes support subsidized guardianship

as an important permanency option because it allows children and youth to have a permanent, legal family when termination of parental rights is not possible or is not the right option for a particular family.

The legislation has passed the House and is being considered by the Senate. It is receiving strong bi-partisan support. NCAI believes that this year is our best chance for this issue to finally become law.

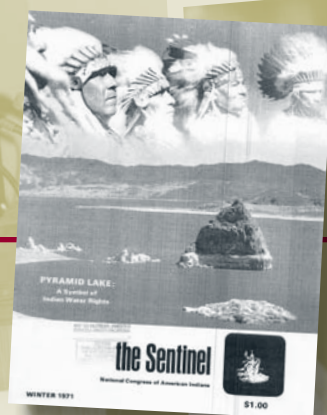
CULTURAL CONCERNS/SACRED SITES

The Native American \$1 Coin Act of 2007, H.R. 2358, will issue a coin each year with a new design honoring a different Native American individual or contribution, while keeping the image of Sacagawea, who is currently on the dollar coin, on the front of the coin. This Act will improve the circulation and marketing of the current Sacagawea dollar coin. Each coin's new image honoring a Native American individual or contribution would be chosen by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, the Congressional Native American Caucus and the NCAI. The coin design for 2009 commemorates the theme of agriculture symbolized by the Three Sisters. This coin design will

NCAI PRESIDENT, WALTER WETZEL (2ND FROM RIGHT) DISCUSSES TRIBAL PROBLEMS WITH SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD, SENATOR LEE METCALF, AND PRESIDENT KENNEDY, 1963



WINTER 1971, THE SENTINEL



ANNIE WAUNEKA



INAUGURAL PARADE, JANUARY 20, 1973



be released in January of 2009 with a ceremony in our Nation's Capitol.

For several years, NCAI has been at the forefront in the effort to preserve Native cultures and protect our sacred sites. This year saw a grassroots effort by American Indians across the country to highlight the precarious state of our traditional spiritual places, culminating in the Longest Walk 2. NCAI provided logistical and administrative support to this group. The outcome will include a House Congressional hearing.

NCAI is preparing for the incoming federal administration with concrete proposals for administrative policies and legislation that will further protect inherent tribal rights to practice spiritual ceremonies and access to traditional medicines.

VETERANS

NCAI is continuing its efforts to pass legislation to honor all Tribal Code Talkers. Previous efforts stalled in the House. This year, tribes are more unified concerning the provision of medals to tribes who had Code Talkers and the soldiers who served as Code Talkers. There is a 2/3 majority requirement for passage of all medal bills. That threshold has been surpassed in the Senate and is expected to be surpassed in the House. NCAI believes that the proposed bill will indeed make it to the President's desk this Congressional session.

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

NCAI continued its commitment on several fronts to advocating for tribal priorities and adequate funding to tribes, key to the goals of

self-determination and self-sufficiency in Indian Country. The federal budget process reflects the nation's priorities as a whole, symbolizing deeper debates on morality, values and justice. Historically, this process has failed to reflect tribes' priorities, from budget formulation and President's budget requests to the final appropriation of dollars, despite the well-established federal trust responsibility. NCAI works with Congress, tribes, and the Administration



in advocating for the honorable fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility to Indian Country through appropriations.

NCAI provides analysis of budget and appropriations relevant to tribes, educates Congress and the Administration on the needs of Indian Country, assists in tribal consultations, offers technical assistance, coordinates strategy development and messaging with tribal leaders and Indian organizations and fosters alliances with national organizations. NCAI produced a national Indian Country budget request for FY 2009 in conjunction with tribal leaders and national Indian organizations to lay out the priorities of tribes for Congress and the Administration.

The advocacy of NCAI and our member tribes has led to improved relationships with the Department of Interior, the Office of Management and Budget and Congress. The President's FY 2009 budget included more of Indian Country's priorities than in previous years. Although the FY 2009 budget process is unfinished as this report goes to print, appropriations committees in the 110th Congress have included increases above inflation for many priority Indian programs in their markups of spending bills. NCAI will work to build upon these successes as the process concludes and throughout FY 2010.

TRIBAL STATE RELATIONS

In 1999, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) created a formal partnership, the Tribal-State Relations Project (project), to improve intergovernmental cooperation between

state legislatures and tribal governments. The partnership has greatly improved the government-to-government relationship between tribes and states.

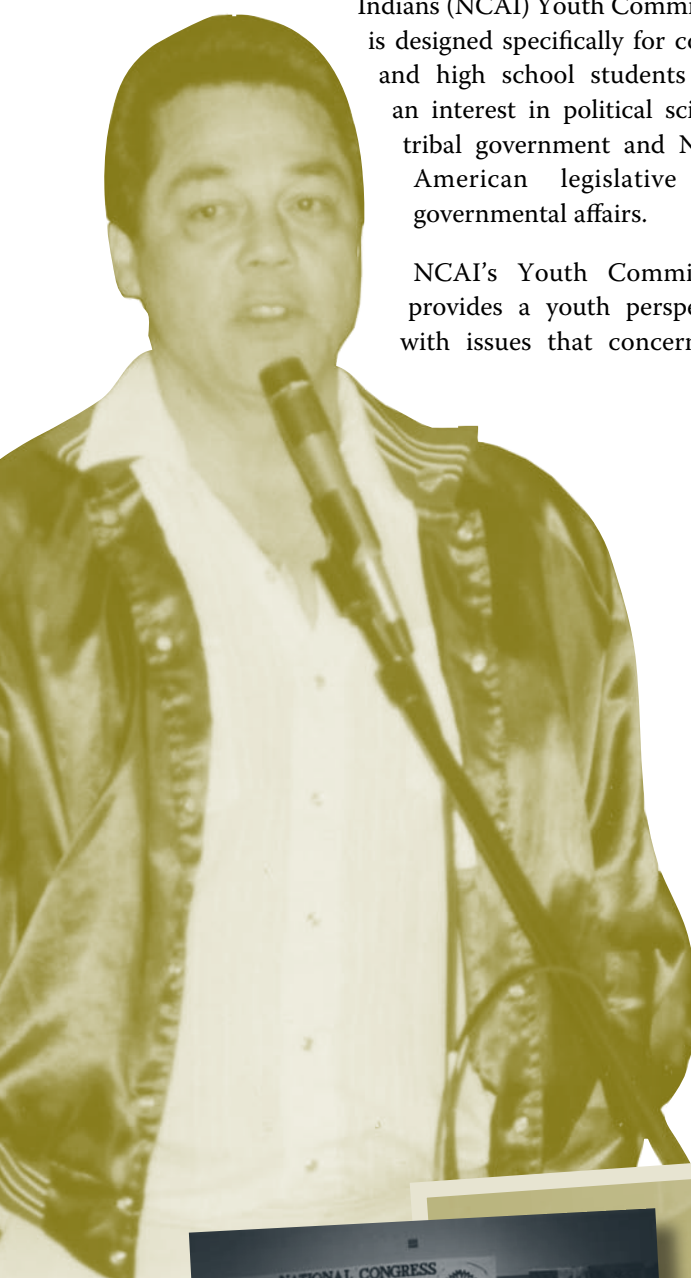
Both NCAI and NCSL have built upon the foundation the project by providing local and regional technical assistance and institutionalizing both organizations' expertise and commitment to the project. The project has held several regional Training Institutes, for both state legislative staff and tribal government staff from areas in the southwest, southeast, southern plains, and northeast. The project will convene another Tribal-State Training Institute in 2008. The training institute provides a forum for state legislative staff and tribal policy staff to have in-depth conversations to enhance collaboration on policy issues of importance to both states and tribes.

NCAI continues to provide support to the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (Native Caucus) and, in doing so, continues to host meetings in conjunction with NCAI's Mid-Year and Annual sessions. Because of these sessions, the Native Caucus voice at the NCAI meetings has continued to grow.

Over the next year, the project will convene an Advisory Board meeting which will determine the forward movement of the project work. In addition, NCAI has taken a large role in the collection of tribal-state compacts. These compacts will be made available on our website in the near future and can be used as examples for developing future tribal-state compacts. NCAI hopes to develop partnerships with other national state and local government organizations because tribes do not

31ST ANNUAL CONVENTION AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA





operate in a vacuum and would benefit from a better partnership network.

NCAI YOUTH COMMISSION

Purpose

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Youth Commission is designed specifically for college and high school students with an interest in political science, tribal government and Native American legislative and governmental affairs.

NCAI's Youth Commission provides a youth perspective with issues that concern the

youth. It is to be a resource to NCAI and tribal leaders. It is an opportunity to acquire knowledge from NCAI and Tribal Leaders about the process of NCAI and tribal politics. Also to enhance our leadership skills and utilize those we may have obtained prior. Most importantly the NCAI Youth Commission is an avenue to provide a unified voice for all Native American and Alaskan youth.

Mission

We, the National Congress of American Indian Youth unite as a commission of all backgrounds and ages to strengthen the past, present and future of our unity, knowledge and wisdom; to serve our people's concerns and interests by enhancing our spiritual, mental, physical and emotional well-being for a better Native America.

What the Youth Commission offers:

- Mentoring Program: spending time with an elder, leader or delegate.
- Volunteering: a valuable learning experience working "behind the scenes" to see NCAI in action.
- Informative Workshops: learn from professionals in their field.
- Leadership Training: hands on experience in leadership development.
- Youth Luncheon: keynotes, honoring elders, mentors and youth.
- Addressing Issues: through resolutions, lobbying and sharing as well as learning.

- A Voice Within NCAI and NCAI Youth Commission: participants will learn the process of NCAI as well as contribute to changes and is a tool for any youth.

The NCAI Youth Commission convened at both the 2007 Annual Convention and the 2007-2008 Mid-Year Sessions under the leadership of Brian Poncho (Bishop Paiute Tribe), Daryl Lynn Jay (Gila River Indian Community), Michael Lewis (Gila River Indian Community), Cynthia Biro (Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians), and Alicia Nowell (Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians). The Youth Commission leadership serves two year terms and is elected by the Youth Commission during their annual meeting every two years.

NCAI YOUTH AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM [YALP]

The NCAI Youth Ambassador Leaders Quintin Lopez, a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and Patricia Carter, a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, are the first Youth Ambassadors for NCAI. Nick Stanger of the Confederated Colville Tribes and Marris Corpuz of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska serve as the Under-Ambassadors. Both Youth Ambassadors serve two year terms which will expire in October 2008 at the 65th Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ambassadors are chosen every two years at our Annual Conventions. Anyone may apply that is eligible for NCAI membership according to the NCAI Constitution. Applicants must have support from their tribal council and be a fulltime student

at the high school, college or graduate level. Each Ambassador will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to be paid directly to their academic institution.

EDUCATION

NCAI has been working in collaboration with the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly on policy recommendations for the reauthorization of what? No Child Left Behind Act?. Among these recommendations are: (1) Improving and Expanding Title VII to Address the Unique Cultural and Educational Needs of Native Children; (2) Improving Cooperation among Tribes, States, and the Federal Government; and (3) Strengthening NCLB to Provide Support for Instruction in Native American Languages

In August 2008, the first full overhaul of the Higher Education Act was passed since 1998. NCAI worked with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to get authorization for two tribally controlled postsecondary career and vocational technical institutions: United Tribes Technical College and Navajo Technical College. Both of these institutions are critical to strengthening tribal higher education and providing the necessary resources for Indian students.

NCAI worked closely with the National Indian Head Start Directors Association on the reauthorization of the Head Start Act this year—which was signed into law in December of 2007. The final bill contained a number of positive provisions for Indian Country, including consultation requirements and the recognition of the importance of tribal language and culture in Indian Head Start programming.



ELBRIDGE COOCHISE AND JOHN ECHOHAWK

It was also recognized that Indian Head Start has been underfunded in recent years. The bill included a \$50 million per year expansion of the Indian Head Start program, with the increase to be phased in over several years. However, this increase was only to be triggered if Head Start received an overall increase in appropriations. Unfortunately, this did not happen so Indian Head Start will be receiving the equivalent funding as last year—roughly \$186 million. NCAI will be working with appropriators this year, urging them to increase the overall funding for the Head Start program so that the special funding provisions for Indian Head Start are activated.

NCAI worked as a national partner in the Office of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Education's national conference in Rapid City, SD in 2008. The conference was called for under Executive Order 13336 to provide an opportunity for Indian education partners to participate and engage in an effective dialogue on furthering the academic success of Native American students.

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS LAW AND POLICY

In addition to our work on critical domestic policy issues, NCAI represents the interests of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal nations in international policy-making bodies, including the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS). Engaging in policy-making that extends beyond the borders of the United States is an important expression of tribal sovereignty. It also has the potential to shape the development of international law in a way that will enhance the legal status of tribes domestically.

This year NCAI participated in a number of conversations and strategy sessions about the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was

adopted in September 2007. NCAI also continued to participate in a similar process at the OAS to develop a declaration on indigenous rights.

Related to our work with the UN and OAS, NCAI also works to facilitate indigenous-to-indigenous relationships and collaborations between American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and indigenous peoples from across the globe. At the 2007 NCAI Annual session, NCAI hosted a treaty-signing ceremony for the United League of Indigenous Nations. The treaty has been ratified by indigenous nations from the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand and establishes an economic and political alliance between the signatory nations.



SUPREME COURT AND JUDICIARY

NCAI PROJECT ON THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Given the unique legal relationship between Indian tribes and the federal government, federal courts are frequently tasked with making decisions that have a tremendous impact on daily life in tribal communities. Despite the fact that federal courts hear a disproportionate number of Indian law cases, most federal judges have never taken an Indian law course and Indian law is almost never included in federal courts courses. Very few federal judges have ever visited an Indian community or tribal court, and only three states currently include Indian law on the bar exam. Equally concerning, is the fact that since 1969 only 2 Native Americans have been appointed to the federal judiciary, and there are currently no active judges who are tribal members. In recognition of the importance of the federal courts to Indian country, NCAI established the NCAI Project on the Judiciary with the generous support of the Open Society Institute.

The Project shares information with tribal leaders about openings on the federal courts through the judicial vacancy tracking system launched in 2006. In addition, the Project works to bring tribal leaders and federal judges together. At the 2007 NCAI Annual Conference, several 10th Circuit Judges and their law clerks joined tribal leaders for a very interesting conversation in Denver. The judges encouraged the tribal leaders to reach-out to the other circuits for similar conversations and offered to assist in making those meetings happen.

In December 2007, Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Circuit invited the Project to bring a group of tribal leaders and tribal judges to visit with the Ninth Circuit during their annual meeting. This very successful meeting led to the inclusion of a workshop on federal Indian law on the agenda for the 9th Circuit Judicial Conference and a recent trip by several of the judges to the Salt-River Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

TRIBAL SUPREME COURT PROJECT

During its 2007-2008 term, the U.S. Supreme Court decided no cases relating to federal Indian law or tribal sovereignty. We view this as a sign of success for the Tribal Supreme Court Project, and it is the result of significant effort and coordination among tribes and their attorneys. Since its inception in 2001, one of the primary goals of the Tribal Supreme Court Project has been to reduce the number of tribal sovereignty cases that are heard by the Supreme Court by actively addressing cases at the certiorari stage and by encouraging tribes to carefully evaluate their cases.

The Tribal Supreme Court Project is part of the Tribal Sovereignty Protection Initiative and is staffed by NCAI and the Native American Rights Fund. The purpose of the Project is to promote coordination and improve strategy on litigation that may affect the rights of all Indian tribes.

This year we were particularly pleased that the Supreme Court did not review two cases that upheld the Secretary of Interior's authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes—*South Dakota v. United States* (8th Cir.) and *Utah v. Shivwitz*



Band of Paiute Indians (10th Cir.). In a related case, NCAI and the Tribal Supreme Court Project submitted amicus briefs and argued before the First Circuit in winning the decision in *Carcieri v. Kempthorne*, a similar challenge to land to trust authority. The State of Rhode Island has indicated that it plans to challenge to the Supreme Court, and the case will be a focus of our efforts in the upcoming term.

Also important for tribal sovereignty, the Supreme Court declined review of *Means v. Navajo Nation* (9th Cir.) and *Morris v. Tanner* (9th Cir.)—two cases that challenged the authority of tribal governments to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-member Indians. The Project coordinated with the Department of Justice in defending these cases as a follow up to our successful arguments in *U.S. v. Lara* in 2004. The Project will continue to monitor and support similar cases in the future.

The Project continues to work with tribes on cases in the federal appellate courts. The predominant case this year has been *San Manuel Indian Bingo v. NLRB*. In a disappointing result, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a gaming enterprise was an employer within the scope of the National Labor Relations Act and the Band must not interfere with a union's efforts to organize tribal

casino employees. In response to this decision, the Tribal Sovereignty Protection Initiative, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Gaming Association, the Council of Tribal Employment Rights and the Native American Rights Fund have formed the Tribal Labor Ordinances Workgroup as a cooperative effort among Indian tribes and tribal organizations to share information and coordinate our efforts in relation to tribal labor and employment issues.

The Project is currently working with tribal attorneys on *Texas v. Dept. of the Interior* and *Kickapoo Tribe of Texas*. In August 2007, the Fifth Circuit issued a 2-1 opinion which held that the Secretarial Procedures, which established an alternative process for Class III tribal-state gaming compacts, were invalid and an unreasonable interpretation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory

Act. The Kickapoo Tribe is preparing a petition for rehearing and NCAI is urging the Secretary of Interior's continued support.

These are just a few of the important cases that the Project addressed this year and will continue working on in the coming year. We would like to thank all of the tribes and tribal attorneys for their generous assistance and gracious cooperation. We encourage tribes to consult with the Project at any stage of litigation, and particularly at the certiorari stage in the Supreme Court. Please contact NCAI General Counsel John Dossett at jdossett@ncai.org or NARF Attorney Richard Guest at richardg@narf.org.

LAND TO TRUST AND TRUST REFORM

Sometimes success is measured by what doesn't happen. In this vein, the Tribal Land Recovery Task Force noted a significant victory this year on June 1, 2008 when the Bush Administration's deadline for proposed regulations passed. For essentially the entirety of the Bush Administration, NCAI and the Task Force have been advocating that the Department of Interior should not revise the Land to Trust Acquisition regulations found at 25 CFR 151. These regulations are vitally important to tribal land recovery, tribal economic development and natural and cultural resource protection. Opponents of tribal land acquisition have been encouraging the Administration to revise the regulations and make it much more difficult for land acquisition to occur, while NCAI has been encouraging the Department to expedite the processing of tribal applications under the current rules. Although many tribal leaders have participated, we would particularly thank Robert Chicks, President of the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe, who has co-chaired the Task Force since 1999 and

made frequent and timely trips to DC to help with the advocacy. This work will continue into the next Administration as we continue to advocate for tribal land recovery.

On trust reform the past year has been relatively quiet in Congress, as activity focused on the courts and in the Administration. The federal district court held a trial this summer to determine an appropriate remedy for the Department's failure to account for the trust funds of individual account holders. At the end of August, Judge Roberts released a disappointing opinion that rejected many of the plaintiff's arguments and estimated the scope of accounting errors at only \$449 million, declining to include interest. The plaintiffs are planning an appeal. In the meantime, the Department and the Office of Special Trustee are continuing their efforts to improve trust management within the BIA. Early in the year, NCAI helped to organize a number of meetings on "BIA Modernization" with Assistant Secretary Carl Artman and pushed for improvements in appraisals, title and probate. Although this effort faded after Mr. Artman left the Department, we expect that all of this activity and more will be picked up during the transition to the next Administration.

NATIVE VOTE

The National Congress of American Indians Native Vote campaign is an on-going non-partisan effort to increase political participation by American Indians and Alaskan Natives in the American electoral process.

During the past year, Native Vote 2008 has focused on increasing the Native Vote participation in twenty states and has also targeted key precincts within those states, in addition to identifying state

NCAI STAFF



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and tribal coordinators. With the identification of these precincts, the Native Vote campaign has been successful in building baseline data for voter registration and turnout, which can be used for targeting Native communities and strategic planning for years to come.

In addition to the Native Vote plan, the Native Vote campaign has commissioned NCAI's Policy Research Center to conduct a study on the effects of Indian voter turnout in states considering an all mail-in balloting system. NCAI's Policy Research Center will study the four election cycles prior to Oregon's switch to an all mail-in balloting system and the four election cycles since the change to track any impacts this decision has had on Native voter turnout by Indians in the State of Oregon. With this data, NCAI will be in a position to make recommendations based on how all mail in balloting systems effects American Indian and Alaska Native voters.

Native Vote 2008 has also provided get-out-the-vote training, through our partner Wellstone Action, in several states including Nevada, Oklahoma, Washington, California, Arizona, Minnesota, and Alaska. Native Vote also has offered bi-monthly and weekly trainings to Native Vote organizers, as well as other groups on a variety of topics, including voter registration strategies unique to Indian Country, registering voters at Tribal colleges, Head Start facilities, Bureau of Indian Education schools and IHS facilities, outside political groups doing work in Indian Country, and early preparations needed for getting people to the polls on Election day. The campaign also created the Native Vote Toolkit, a compilation of pre-election, election

day, and post election day resources. The Toolkit was widely distributed to tribes and organizations throughout the country working on getting-out and protecting the Native vote.

The final component of the Native Vote 2008 campaign is election protection efforts. The Native Vote campaign has partnered with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and several like organizations to complete an Election Day plan for Indian Country. This plan's purpose is to ensure Indian voters are not disenfranchised in any way. In the event that disenfranchisement takes place, the plan addresses reporting procedures locally, as well as at the state and national levels. The Native Vote campaign has identified state and tribal leads in our twenty state targeting areas to help us carry out this effort.



CLIMATE CHANGE

MANY TRIBES, PARTICULARLY NATIVE VILLAGES IN ALASKA, are at the forefront of the negative effects of global climate change. A recent GAO report estimates that over 140 villages will need to be moved within one generation at a cost of \$300 million per village, due to flooding and erosion caused by global warming. Across Indian Country, subsistence activities and tribal lifeways are being threatened by temperature increases which shift vegetation zones and animal migration patterns, altering traditional hunting and gathering areas.

Building off of efforts initiated in 2007, NCAI is progressing towards the goal of developing a national tribal climate change strategy in partnership with key intertribal organizations such as the National Tribal Environmental

Council and the Native American Rights Fund, and with tribal leaders like Mike Williams. NCAI's 2008 mid-year conference built a foundation that will be used at the 2008 Annual Conference to create and implement a working strategy. A key component is to prepare Indian Country for future developments related to climate change that are likely come from the new Administration and Congress.

W. RON ALLEN AND MICKEY IBARRA, 1999. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WINTER SESSION

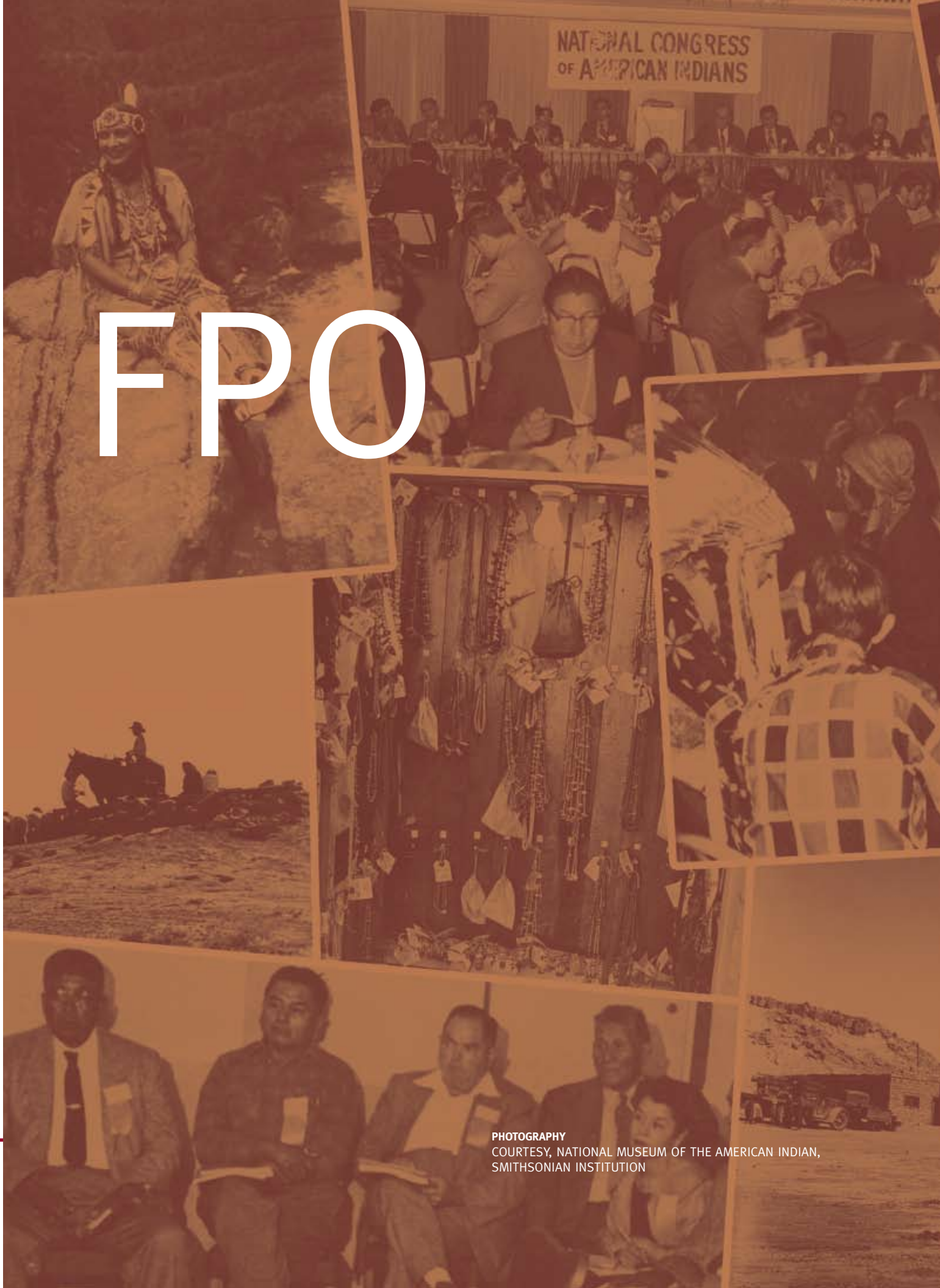


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