

# Naat'áji Nahat'á Hane'

## Legislative Branch News

### 23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

#### SUMMER COUNCIL SESSION - JULY 2017



## Council amends criminal code to combat human trafficking

By Jolene Holgate

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0117-17 on the third day of the Summer Council Session, which amends the Navajo Nation Criminal Code Title 17 to enact the 2017 Law Against Human Trafficking.

According to the bill, it states that the intent of the law is to deter human traffickers by criminalizing certain offenses, prescribing appropriate punishment,

giving priority to the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting and providing justice to victims.

The legislation defines human trafficking as "the illegal recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person, especially from another country, with the intent to hold the person captive or exploit the person for labor, services, or body parts.

Human trafficking offenses include forced prostitution, forced marriages, sweat-shop labor, slavery, and harvesting human organs from unwilling donors."

Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchibeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), who sponsored the legislation, said that in his query to find human trafficking data on the Navajo Nation, he was unable to gather the information because there has never been a human

See "TRAFFICKING", Page 2

## Council approves funding increase for Navajo Technical University and Diné College

By Jolene Holgate

On July 18 during the Summer Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council considered Legislation No. 0032-16, which seeks to amend the Diné Higher Education Grant Fund to increase the distribution funding for Navajo Technical University from \$3.5 million to approximately \$4.2 million.

In July 2004, the Navajo Nation Council established the grant fund through Resolution CJY-39-04 to distribute an annual allocation to NTU, Diné College, and the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance.

According to the legislation, the current annual

distribution states that NTU receives \$3.5 million, Diné College \$4.2 million, and ONNSFA \$3.5 million.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) said the funding increase is needed for NTU to expand its academic, vocational, and technical education programs, develop additional advanced degree programs, and to increase and improve classrooms, dormitories, and faculty housing. Delegate Hale also serves as the chair of the Council's Health, Education, and Human Services Committee.

"NTU has come a long way in terms of estab-

lishing itself as a successful college, and it's obvious that they will continue working towards being innovative and create new educational opportunities for Navajo students," said Delegate Hale. "Increasing the fund distribution allows them to stay at the top-tier of quality education."

Delegate Hale said the university is seeking national accreditation, has an award-winning culinary program, and seeks to establish the Navajo Nation's first police academy in Chinle. He added that enrollment has grown to over 2,000 students in which 98-percent are Navajo, and graduation and retention rates at NTU

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# TRAFFICKING / cont. from Page 1

trafficking law that would require the tracking of data.

"In doing some research, I found that since the time of colonization human trafficking has always been present in Indian Country. We heard of stories of the Long Walk in which women and children were forced into sexual acts and heinous crimes. We have never addressed this because we didn't create laws up until this point," said Delegate Brown.

Delegate Brown who worked with the Navajo Nation Department of Family Services found that the lack of human trafficking laws resulted in several potential trafficking instead offenses being classified as sexual abuse or prostitution.

NNDFS reported that they had cases in which girls under the age of 18 were being trafficked for prostitution and came under the services of their department. They stressed that the crime should not fall on the victim and that children cannot consent to sex while being forced to solicit, and that Navajo Nation laws need to be shaped to fit the actual crime to prosecute traffickers.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Pre-witt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) said

although there is a lack of data regarding human trafficking on the Navajo Nation, the cases that NNDFS is reporting is alarming. He said that when the federal courts fail to prosecute the perpetrators, it is the responsibility of the Navajo Nation to ensure justice is served.

"What bothers me is how the federal courts are interpreting that tribes have no legal ability to enforce trust law. There is no accountability on the federal governments' part. We know there are non-[American] Indians on Navajo land committing these crimes and the federal government has allowed these prosecutions to fall through the cracks," said Delegate Tsosie.

Delegate Tsosie recommended an amendment stating that since the federal government is failing to prosecute non-Indian traffickers, the Navajo Nation will assume jurisdiction to do so within the Navajo Nation courts.

Council members voted 14-0 to approve the amendment.

This month, Delegate Brown who serves on the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee and the Naabik'iyáti' Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee, met with representatives from the Casey

Family Programs and University of Colorado Boulder to discuss a proposed plan to evaluate sex trafficking on the Navajo Nation, and ultimately develop a plan to combat the problem.

For nearly two years, the CFP and CU Boulder have assisted the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation in developing a comprehensive strategic plan to address sex trafficking on their land, and have developed a policy paper that contributes to a comprehensive approach to sex trafficking, data management, and policy recommendations, said Delegate Brown.

"We met with CFP and CU Boulder regarding the MHA Nation's "White Paper," to develop a strategic plan. They compiled their data from their social services and researched how many kids were involved in sex crimes and prostitution. I did forward this paper to the Council and I encourage my colleagues to review it and aid in developing our own strategic plan," said Delegate Brown.

Council voted 16-0 to approve Legislation No. 0117-17 with two amendments. The President will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

## Council confirms two appointments to the Commission on Navajo Government Development

By Crystalyne Curley

During the 2017 Summer Council Session, the Council approved Legislation No. 0230-17 and Legislation No. 0237-17, confirming the appointments of JoAnn Dedman and Anslem Morgan to the Commission on Navajo Government Development.

Pursuant to Title II section 970 of the Navajo Nation Code, the commission was created by the Navajo Nation Council and given quasi-independent authority to accomplish the Council's project of instituting reforms necessary to ensure an accountable and responsible government.

Dedman will serve on the commission for four years as the Chinle Navajo Agency representative. She is currently the secretary/treasurer for the Nazlini Chapter and employed at the Nazlini Senior Center as the manager.

Morgan will serve a four-year term on the commission as the Eastern Navajo Agency representative. He is currently the president for Smith Lake Chapter and a retired Navajo Nation employee.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tse-

lani/Cottonwood), legislation sponsor of Dedman's appointment, stated that the individuals meet the qualifications to serve on the commission.

"Dedman has been nominated by the Chinle Agency Council to reappoint her to the commission. I believe she will continue to serve on the commission to express the Navajo peoples' interests regarding our tribal government structure," stated Delegate Begay.

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), legislation sponsor of Morgan's appointment, stated that the Eastern Navajo Agency Council nominated Morgan.

During the discussion of the legislations, Council members raised numerous issues and concerns over the purpose and progress of the commission and the Office of Navajo Government Development.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Pre-



**PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. presenting Legislation No. 0230-17, confirming JoAnn Dedman (left) to the Commission on Navajo Government Development, on July 18, 2017.**

witt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) said the commission and office is ineffective to address government reform.

"The office was created in 1989 with good intentions to address government reform, but the commission and office has fallen short. There are many chapter challenges and issues that need to be addressed and the commission or office has not come forward with any policy recommendations to solve the

See "GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT", Page 6

# FUNDING INCREASE / cont. from Page 1

surpasses other state colleges that serve Navajo students.

NTU was first established in 1979 as the Navajo Skills Center and became a technical institution in 1985. The college was later renamed Navajo Technical College, and is now designated as Navajo Technical University after its programs expanded in the last several years.

Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch'izhi) expressed support for the legislation, however, he said he had concerns regarding the allocation amount for Diné College, which has not changed since the inception of the grant fund distribution law in 2004.

"I notice that this would be the second increase in fund distribution to NTU, but we cannot forget that Diné College also has several successful programs and costs have increased. Investing into our educational institutions is paramount and should match the increase of costs that all colleges are currently facing," said Delegate BeGaye.

Delegate BeGaye proposed an amendment to

Council members to include an additional increase in the fund distribution to Diné College from \$4.2 million to \$4.7 million.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) raised concerns regarding the amendment and stated that a performance report needs to be submitted by the college before they receive an increase in funding.

"We need to know where the money is going and ensure we are getting the results we want to see. We are actually hurting the students when we don't ask for accountability. At the moment, we should not be increasing these amounts because we are in trying times. I say we reduce the fund distribution for Diné College and NTU until we see how successful their programs are," said Delegate Tsosie.

Delegate Tsosie suggested that if the colleges do receive the increase in funding, that a significant portion go toward scholarships for the students to increase their success at the colleges.

In support of the amendment, Council Dele-

gate Tom Chee (Shiprock) commended the colleges on the Navajo Nation and stressed the importance of the Navajo language and culture programs that both colleges developed in addition to their academic and technical curriculum.

"[The colleges] should be a citadel of culture and language learning, and students should be able to learn the philosophical thinking of the Navajo. We should not bend to the western way of thinking, but continue to promote the expansion of our colleges through traditional processes," said Delegate Chee.

Delegate Chee added that the advancement of degree programs should include doctoral studies for language and culture, as well as a law school.

Council members voted 16-4 to approve the amendment.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Navajo Nation Council voted 17-3 to approve Legislation No. 0032-16 with one amendment. The President will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

## Perry Charley confirmed by Council to serve on the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission

By Jolene Holgate

On day two of the Summer Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council considered Legislation No. 0161-17 to appoint Perry Charley to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission to represent the Northern Navajo Agency. The commission is tasked with representing and advocating on behalf of communities affected by uranium mining on the Navajo Nation.

Each commissioner would serve a five-year term, which would start when a quorum of commissioners has been established. Currently, commissioner candidates are still being vetted.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé a'naoz't'l'i) stressed the importance of appointing commissioners to begin analyzing and developing recommendations to begin remediating land areas affected by uranium mining.

"We would like to have this commission up and running. I hope this is the time we really come together and prioritize to put an end to the uranium legacy," said Delegate Crotty. "Mr. Charley has exceptional credentials and has the background to begin work towards the Nation's remediation goals."

Delegate Crotty added that there are New Mexico State University Navajo student researchers looking to clean and filter out contaminated water in a way that can make access to clean water available to affected communities. She said her hope is that the commission will begin developing relationships with academic and research institutions to aid with remedi-



**PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty presenting Legislation No. 0161-17, confirming Perry Charley to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission on July 18, 2017.**

ation efforts.

According to the legislation, Charley has nearly 40 years of direct working and research experience as a scientist pertaining to uranium contamination,

impacts, and remediation. He is currently employed as the director and senior researcher at the Diné College Diné Environmental Institute.

"I would like to incorporate knowledge of traditional and environmental ties to the land to aid in remediation. We must restore balance to the lands affected by uranium mining and do our best to get them back to pre-mining conditions," said Charley.

Charley resides in Beclabito, N.M. He is Ozéi Táchii'nii (Hopi People of the Red Running into the Water Clan) and born for Áshjjihi (Salt Clan). His maternal grandfather is Hooghan Łání (Many Hogans Clan) and his paternal grandfather is Naakai Dine'é (Mexican People Clan).

In support of the legislation, Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahat'a Dził, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) stated that it was important for the commission to also begin developing procedures to educate Navajo communities regarding the impacts of uranium and to show how they can begin remediation efforts in their areas.

"In one of my chapter areas, our water has been contaminated by uranium. I would like the commission to educate our communities and promote outreach. You developed proposals and research with

See "URANIUM REMEDIATION", Page 7

# Picture Highlights of the 2017 Summer Council Session Horse Ride



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Jonathan L. Hale and Council Delegate Steven Begay riding to Window Rock from Navajo, N.M. on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Little Colorado River Chapters Grazing Officials leading the horse ride into the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Walter Phelps and Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Sih Hasin Bike Rider's rest during their 300 mile journey to Window Rock on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez leading the "Running for a Stronger and Healthier Navajo Nation" runners into the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): "Sih Hasin Bike Riders" arriving at the Nation Navajo Council Chamber on July 17, 2017.

# Annual horse ride, run and bike ride kicks off the start of the 2017 Summer Council Session

By Jolene Holgate

The start of the 2017 Summer Council Session kicked off with the annual horse ride, which included a run and bike ride. Many participants spent several days traveling many miles by horseback, bicycle, and jogging to take part in the annual tradition to mark the start of the Summer Council Session.

Participating groups included horse riders from Cameron, AZ, Naschitti, NM, White Cone, AZ, and Navajo, NM, the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President's "Running for a Stronger and Healthier Navajo Nation," and the Tour de Sih Hasin Bike Riders.

As the groups arrived, over 250 people along with 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates, welcomed participants to the Window Rock fairgrounds where each group was provided time to speak to bring awareness to several issues including domestic violence, healthy living, youth advocates, and youth re-

connecting with the land. Vice President Nez led a group of runners and spoke about the importance of healthy living and the promotion of physical activities such as running, biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

On Monday morning, the groups made their way from the fairgrounds to the Council Chamber for the start of the Summer Council Session, in which Council members, Legislative and Executive staff, and spectators greeted them.

Council members were provided the opportunity to address the crowd. Delegate Otto Tso provided the opening prayer as the riders and runners arrived, and Delegate Steven Begay spoke on youth involvement within their communities and the promotion of the Navajo language.

"It was amazing to see the youth involved with this ride. It's so important for you all to stay connected to the land and animals—they are a part of our culture.

Affairs, Indian Health Service, Office of the Controller, Office of the Attorney General, and acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan.

Council also provided recognitions to the following individuals for their exemplary work and advocacy for issues and initiatives on the Navajo Nation:

- Jay R. Degroat: Designer of the Navajo Nation Flag
- Donald Dodge: Leadership and advocacy on behalf of Navajo Citizens
- Navajo Nation Police Department: 2017 Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Run Division Champions
- Jackson J. Thomas: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Runner
- Indian Junior Rodeo Association: Service Award for Promoting Youth Athleticism and Leadership



PHOTO (above): Youth horse riders from White Cone, Ariz. arriving at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Sih Hasin Bike Riders arriving at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds on July 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Steven Begay presenting an appreciation award to the Indian Junior Rodeo Association.

connecting with the land.

"On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I thank all of the groups for joining us for the Summer Session and we honor and recognize them for their accomplishments," stated Speaker Bates. "Each year the horse ride, bike, and running groups are growing in numbers, and this exemplifies the importance of tradition set forth by our past leaders."

Council Delegates Walter Phelps, Steven Begay, Jonathan Hale, Nelson S. BeGaye, Alton Joe Shepherd, Dwight Witherspoon, Leonard Tsosie, and Otto Tso were among the delegates who participated in the horse ride and were present to support the groups as they arrived to Window Rock.

President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez also shared their appreciation at the

Also, listen to the words when we speak to you in Navajo—put it in your heart, put it in your mind—it is your identity and who you are as Diné," said Delegate Steven Begay.

The Oljato Veterans Organization posted the colors at the start of the session, 2017-2018 Miss Teen Navajo Aysha R. Catron-Tsosie sang the National Anthem in the Navajo language, Miss Mariano Lake Community School Princess Nayeli T. Rico recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Navajo, and traditional practitioner Dr. Paulene Begay of Rock Point provided the opening prayer.

After the start of the session, Council received the State of the Navajo Nation Address from President Begaye and Vice President Nez, a report from Speaker Bates, and written reports from the Bureau of Indian



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. and Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie presenting an appreciation award to Navajo Nation Police Department for participating in the 2017 Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Run in March 2017.

# Navajo Nation Council confirms two new members to the gaming board

By Jared Touchin

During the 2017 Summer Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council approved two separate legislations that confirm the appointments of Affie Ellis and Herbert Clah, Jr. to serve as the newest members of the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise board of directors.

Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jedito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) sponsored Legislation No. 0224-17, confirming Affie Ellis to the board. Ellis, who grew up in Jackson Wyoming said her mother is originally from the small Navajo community of Crystal, N.M.

She is currently a Wyoming state senator and previously worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, National Indian Gaming Commission, University of Wyoming, and previously served as the assistant attorney general for the state of Wyoming. Ellis' educational background includes a bachelor of science from the University of Wyoming and a juris doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law.

Council members confirmed Ellis' appointment by a vote of 15-5.

Herbert Clah, Jr. was also confirmed through Legislation No. 0231-17, which was approved by the Council with a vote of 17-3. Clah's professional background includes serving as the director of human resources, human relations specialist, and the human

resources manager at the Desert Diamond Casino. His educational background includes a bachelor of arts in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona and a Masters of Management from the University of Phoenix.

Prior to confirming each of the new members, several Council members shared their concerns and expectations for the gaming board based on the enterprise's performance. Several Council members urged the new members to push for new developments that would benefit the Nation's gaming industry and revenues and economic development initiatives near gaming sites.

Other delegates asked the new members to focus more attention on issues such as gaming addiction

and revisiting smoking bans in gaming facilities.

Each of the appointments is effective upon their respective confirmations. The new members will fill positions on the board that call for a term of four-years. Council serves as the final authority on the bill.



PHOTO (above): (right) Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd presenting Legislation No. 0224, which confirmed Affie Ellis (left) to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise board of directors on third day of the 2017 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session.

## GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT/ cont. from Page 2

problems. Also, the commission refused to work on the chapter regionalization concept. That was their job and focus. I am disappointed in the commission," stated Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahi, Whiterock) requested a listing of the accomplishments and contributions of the commission in regards to addressing amendments within Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, which outlines the Local Governance Act.

"There is a lack of clarity in Title 26 and amendments are highly needed to address the misconceptions. There are too many grey areas in Title 26 and how has the commission addressed those areas? Are there any priorities that the commission or office has set to amend Title 26?" asked Delegate Perry.

According to Dedman, the commission has not taken action on policy recommendations or initiatives due to a shortage of membership, which has led to a lack of quorum. Dedman added that the commission should consist of 12 commissioners, but only have five

commissioners confirmed. Seven commissioners are required to constitute a quorum.

Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) urged the new commissioners to begin a government reform initiative.

"The commission and office needs to address government reform. For example, the current Navajo three-branch government structure was suppose to be temporary and the commission is entitled to bring forth alternative forms of governments that we can adopt permanently. I have not seen one recommendation," stated Delegate Jack.

After the discus-

sion of both legislations, the Council approved Legislation No. 0230-17 with a 17-3 vote and Legislation No. 0237-17 with a 14-4 vote. The Council serves as the final authority for both bills.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie presenting Legislation No. 0237-17, confirming Anslém Morgan (left) to the Commission on Navajo Government Development, on the July 19, 2017.

# Speaker LoRenzo Bates delivers report on the opening day of the Summer Council Session

By Jared Touchin

On the opening day of the 2017 Summer Council Session, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) provided a report, which highlighted some of the combined efforts and successes of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council in recent months.

Speaker Bates highlighted the recent successful passages of legislations that provided \$2.2 million for summer youth employment for all of the Navajo Nation's 110 chapters, reformation of the Navajo Housing Authority board and confirmed four new board members to address the Nation's housing issues, and for a legislation that approved a lease agreement with the owners of the Navajo Generating Station that secures over 800 jobs for Navajo people and a significant portion of the Nation's annual revenue through 2019.

"Over the last several months, the Navajo Nation has encountered challenges related to our Nation's current and upcoming budgets due to anticipated revenue shortfalls, federal budget cuts, and the possible closure of the Navajo Generating Station," stated Speaker Bates. "I am confident that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council will continue to make progress on our priorities and overcome adversities."

The report also touched on several ongoing challenges that the Council and its Standing Committees are working to address including the anticipated federal budget cuts that may affect critical funding for the Navajo Nation, continued support for the Bears Ears National Monument, protecting Navajo voting rights in San Juan County, Utah, and the need to make progress on the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

"Although these issues may seem daunting, I believe it also challenges us as leaders to rise to a new level of ingenuity and creates an opportunity to be innovative, and to pursue new ways of providing for and empowering our people," added Speaker Bates.

He also focused on the efforts of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, which is under the Legislative Branch, to advocate for Navajo voting rights in the ongoing legal challenges over voting redistricting in San Juan County in the state of Utah.

"The Navajo Nation prevailed in its lawsuit against San Juan County where the court determined that the county violated the voting rights of the Navajo people. The Navajo Nation and San Juan County submitted remedial plans where Navajo people can elect 2 candidates of their choice for the county commission seat and 3 candidates for the school board," stated Speaker Bates, while also noting that the legal matter continues to be an ongoing.

Additionally, Speaker Bates touched on the Council's support for the naming of a Navy tug ship to be named the "USNS Navajo."

In Nov. 2014, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee unanimously passed resolution NABIN-63-14, which urged the U.S. Navy to name a T-ATS Class Tug and Rescue-Salvage ship the "USNS Navajo."

Speaker Bates stated that the efforts of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council was vital in the ship-naming initiative, and that the current Council remains in full support for the proposed "USNS Navajo."

A large portion of the report also highlighted the progress of the Naabik'iyáti' Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee's advocacy at the federal level for



PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates welcoming the horse riders, bike riders, runners, and supporters to the 2017 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session on July 17, 2017 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.



PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates greets the public and addresses the purpose of Summer Council Session.

an increase in AMBER Alert funds and policy research to improve laws that help prevent sexual assaults on the Navajo Nation.

The Council accepted the report from Speaker Bates by a vote of 16-0. To view the full report, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org) under "Press Releases" on the homepage.

## URANIUM REMEDIATION/ cont. from Page 3

schools, so I would like to see this presented in my communities regarding the dangers and how we can remediate this problem," said Delegate Smith.

He added that schools near the Rio Puerco River are currently using a filtration system for the

contaminated water. Delegate Smith said he is eager to begin working with the commission to begin the reclamation and remediation process within his communities.

Council members voted 19-0 to approve Leg-

islation No. 0161-17 with one amendment, to appoint Charley to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission. Council serves as the final authority on the bill.

# Picture Highlights of the 2017 Summer Council Session



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. presented an appreciation plaque to the Oljato Veterans Organization for posting the colors during the opening day of the 2017 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session.



PHOTO (above): 2017-2018 Miss Teen Navajo Aysha R. Catron-Tsosie (left) sang the National Anthem and 2016-2017 Miss Mariano Lake Community School Princess Nayeli T. Rico (right) delivered the Pledge of Allegiance during the opening day of the 2017 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie presented an appreciation plaque to Jay R. DeGroat, who designed the Navajo Nation flag.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie honored former Navajo leader the late Donald Dodge.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Steven Begay recognized and honored Jackson J. Thomas, NAIA runner who has won many awards and running competitions locally and nationally.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty presented an appreciation award to Yolanda Francisco-Nez for her outstanding service in sexual assault prevention and awareness.

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces, and Commissions

## Council Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee	Health, Education, and Human Services Committee	Law and Order Committee	Resources and Development Committee
Seth Damon (Chair) Dwight Witherspoon (Vice Chair) Tom T. Chee Lee Jack, Sr. Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie	Jonathan L. Hale (Chair) Norman M. Begay (Vice Chair) Steven Begay Nathaniel Brown Nelson S. BeGaye Amber Kanazbah Crotty	Edmund Yazzie (Chair) Raymond Smith, Jr. (Vice Chair) Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Herman Daniels, Jr. Otto Tso	Alton Joe Shepherd (Chair) Benjamin L. Bennett (Vice Chair) Davis Filfred Walter Phelps Leonard H. Pete Jonathan Perry

## Subcommittees and Task Forces

Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sacred Sites Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Arizona Gaming Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Title II Reform Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Síhasin Fund Subcommittee
LoRenzo Bates Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Alton Joe Shepherd Jonathan L. Hale Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Alton Joe Shepherd Norman M. Begay Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan Perry Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso	Leonard Tsosie Steven Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Seth Damon Davis Filfred Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Otto Tso
Naabik'iyáti' Committee's State Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee		
Steven Begay Nathaniel Brown Seth Damon Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Walter Phelps	Nathaniel Brown Amber Kanazbah Crotty Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon		

## Commissions

Eastern Navajo Land Commission	Navajo-Hopi Land Commission	Utah Navajo Commission
Leonard Tsosie Norman M. Begay Seth Damon Jonathan Perry Edmund Yazzie	Walter Phelps Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Lee Jack, Sr. Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Nathaniel Brown Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred

For more information on meeting dates, times, and locations, as well as legislations and news, please visit: [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

# 2017 Summer Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0355-16

Adopting the Síhasin Fund Twin Arrows/Glittering Mountain Family Enterprise Center Economic Development Expenditure Plan pursuant to Resolution CD-68-14 and 12 N.N.C. § § 2501-2508

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Jonathan L. Hale

**ACTION: REFERRED to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee**

**YEA (15):**  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (6):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (3):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Davis Filfred

### LEGISLATION 0361-16

Amending CAP-26-16 by exempting Range Units 110, 601, 602, 603, 301, and 310 from the determination of Navajo Partitioned Lands Range Unit boundaries and grazing permits; Authorizing Kayenta Chapter and Chilchinbeto Chapter officials to discuss with land users, permittees, and residents of Range Units 110, 601, 602, 603, 301, and 310 the boundaries and grazing permits eligibility criteria for these Range Units; and, Directing the Kayenta Chapter and Chilchinbeto Chapter officials to provide a report to the Navajo Nation Council on these matters

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Herman Daniels, Jr.

**ACTION: REFERRED to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee**

**YEA (14):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (7):**  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NOT VOTING (3):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Davis Filfred

### LEGISLATION 0143-17

Amending 2 N.N.C. § 503, Meetings, by changing the meeting day for the Resources and Development Committee from Tuesday to Wednesday

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Davis Filfred

**ACTION: PASSED**  
(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (22):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (2):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Davis Filfred

### LEGISLATION 0161-17

Confirming the Appointment of Mr. Perry Charley to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (19):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (5):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Seth Damon  
Davis Filfred  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0230-17

Confirming the Appointment of JoAnn Dedman to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for a term of four years, as the Chinle Navajo Agency representative

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (17):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NAY (3):**  
Steven Begay  
Seth Damon  
Leonard Tsosie

**NOT VOTING (4):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Davis Filfred  
Edmund Yazzie

# 2017 Summer Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0231-17

Confirming The Appointment Of Herbert Clah, Jr. To The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise Board Of Directors For A Four Year Term

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Tom Chee

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (17):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NAY (3):**

Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Jonathan Perry  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (4):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Davis Filfred  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0032-16

Amending 12 N.N.C. §§2301 and 2303(C)(2), Diné Higher Education Grant Fund by Increasing the Fund Distribution to the Navajo Technical University from \$3,500,000 to \$4,200,000 and to Diné College from \$4,200,000 to \$4,700,000

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Jonathan L. Hale

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (17):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NAY (3):**

Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Leonard Tsosie

**NOT VOTING (4):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Davis Filfred  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0224-17

Confirming The Appointment Of Affie Ellis To The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise Board Of Directors For A Four Year Term

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Alton Joe Shepherd

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (15):**

Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (5):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Seth Damon  
Leonard H. Pete  
Otto Tso

**NOT VOTING (4):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Walter Phelps  
Davis Filfred

### LEGISLATION 0237-17

Confirming the Appointment of Mr. Anslem Morgan as Eastern Navajo Agency Representative to the Navajo Nation Government Development Commission

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Edmund Yazzie

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (14):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Leonard H. Pete  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (4):**

Nathaniel Brown  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Jonathan Perry

**NOT VOTING (6):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Davis Filfred  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Dwight Witherspoon

### LEGISLATION 0117-17

Amending Navajo Nation Code, Title 17 and Enacting the Law Against Human Trafficking 2017

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Nathaniel Brown

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (16):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (8):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

# 2017 Summer Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0151-17

Amending Of 12 N.N.C. § 1330 (A) And (B), Of The Bond Financing Act

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Seth Damon

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (14):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Leonard H. Pete  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso

Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (3):**

Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Jonathan Perry  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (7):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd

### LEGISLATION 0177-17

Amending Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Otto Tso

**ACTION: TABLED**

**YEA (9):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom Chee  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (8):**

Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NOT VOTING (7):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Seth Damon  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0215-17

Redistributing Monies Held In The Debt Service Permanent Fund Set Aside Account In Fiscal Year 2017 For Deposit Into The Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance Of The Navajo Nation General Fund

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Seth Damon

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (12):**

Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (6):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Steven Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (6):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0232-17

Accepting The Audit Report Of KPMG LLP On The Primary Government Financial Statement Of The Navajo Nation For Fiscal Year 2016

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Seth Damon

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (21):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (3):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Davis Filfred  
Alton Joe Shepherd

### LEGISLATION 0176-17

Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

**ACTION: REFERRED to the Resources and Development Committee**

**YEA (17):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Steven Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan L. Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (2):**

Seth Damon  
Leonard Tsosie

**NOT VOTING (5):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Davis Filfred  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Otto Tso