



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Delegate Filfred appointed as chair of the Utah Tribal Leaders

OREM, Utah – During a recent two-day Utah Tribal Leaders meeting held at Utah Valley University, Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) was nominated and appointed by the members to serve as the chair of the Utah Tribal Leaders.

The UTL is comprised of elected tribal leaders from the Skull Valley Band of Goshute, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe/White Mesa, Navajo Nation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Goshute Reservation, and the Northwestern Band of the Soshone Nation. The UTL's purpose is to push efforts and to advocate for the needs of the Native Americans residing in Utah.

Delegate Filfred has been serving and representing the Navajo Nation on the UTL for three years.

"I extend my appreciation to the fellow members of the UTL for the nomination and appointment. It is an honor to serve the UTL at this capacity. There are many Utah tribal issues and concerns that need to be addressed, however, the eight tribes on the UTL will continue to work together to accomplish our priorities," said Delegate Filfred upon his appointment.

During the meeting, Delegate Filfred also provided a report that included updates on Navajo Nation initiatives related to the seven Utah Navajo communities including Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Red Mesa, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, and Dennehotso.

His report highlighted the 150th Anniversary of the Navajo Treaty of 1868, the Bears Ears National Monument, Utah Navajo community projects, and concerns regarding the San Juan County Commission in Utah, and school board voting districts and elections.



PHOTO: Council Delegate Davis Filfred, chair of the Utah Tribal Leaders, during the UTL meeting at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah on April 12, 2018.

“In regards to the Bears Ears National Monument, the Navajo Nation [does not] support President Trump’s proclamation to reduce the national monument designation. In February, newly elected U.S. Rep. John Curtis (R-Dist. 3) visited Mexican Water Chapter to discuss H.B. 4532, which seeks to formalize Trump’s reduction of Bears Ears. We will continue to stand firm on our opposition of the reduction,” said Delegate Filfred, who also serves on the Bears Ears Commission.

He also updated the Utah Tribal Leaders on community projects including the nearly completed Utah Navajo Health System, a 638 medical facility, and Family Dollar store in Montezuma Creek and the newly constructed Mexican Water Chapter senior center, which was funded with the collaboration of the Utah Navajo Revitalization, Utah Trust Fund, Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands, and the chapter.

During the two-day Utah Tribal Leaders meeting, the tribal leaders also received reports from the National Forest Services, Utah Valley University Native American Initiative Program, Utah Division of Indian Affairs, Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, Utah Board of Juvenile Justice, Utah Department of Public Safety, Utah State Board of Education, Utah Attorney General’s Office, and others.



PHOTO: Utah Tribal Leaders with the Utah Valley University president Matthew Holland on April 12, 2018 in Orem, Utah.

The next Utah Tribal Leaders meeting is scheduled for July 7 and 8 in Cedar City, Utah, to be hosted by the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.

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