



Tribal News

Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

January/February 2018

Volume 2, Issue 1

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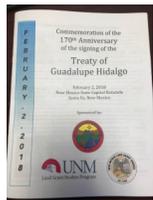
Special points of interest:

- Treaty days
- Membership and Enrollment
- Calendar of Events
- January 2018 Meeting
- Highlights
- OCRS News
- OCRS Flag Sale
- Editorial- Beware of Pseudo Organizations
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OCRS and Band Participated in Native and Treaty Days at NM State Capitol



Santa Fe, NM- The OCRS and Band participated in the 170th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.



This event took place on February 2, 2018, at the State Capitol Rotunda in Santa Fe, NM.

This year, the State combined both the Land Grant Council and the NM Indian Affairs to consolidate and hold both events on the same date. The Native Day commenced at 10:00 am. Both the Tribal Presidents of Jicarilla Apache Tribe, (Levi Pesata) and Mesquero Apache Tribe (Arthur "Butch" Blazer) were asked to speak and give a brief introductions. .

Our Band and the OCRS had a booth with our new brochures and information throughout the



entire day. Special thanks to Diana Guerra and her husband Jerry; Helen Jurado, Larry Jurado, Nancy Lopez, Carmen Martinez (wife of Pablo Martinez) and Velma Provencio for helping set up and manning the information booth throughout the day. The Treaty Days event at the state Capitol Rotunda commenced at 12:00 pm. Unfortunately, the son of Santa Fe House Member, Jim Trujillo's son James Louis Trujillo passed away on January 26, 2018 and the funeral services were held on the same day, Friday, February 2, 2018. Our prayer and condolences are with the family during this time of sorrow. The event was delayed an hour.

There was entertainment by well known NM folk artist, Dr. Cipriano Vigil and Comanche and Aztec Dance group lead by Francisco "El Comanche" Gonzales, former State Senator of Taos, NM.



The Land Grant Consejo honored lifetime achievement

awards to former NM Lt. Governor, Roberto Mondragon (1979-1983- Anton Chico Land Grant) and Ms. Shirley Romero Otero, Land Grant Activist and Jicarilla Apache descendant (Sangre de Cristo Land Grant). Ms. Romero-Otero gave a passionate speech. Also, Ms. Georgia Roybal was presented a special recognition award for her contributions and work with the NM Land Grant Consejo. OCRS Chairman, Paul "Paul" A. Martinez gave the Keynote Address.

Membership and Enrollment Report

Las Cruces, NM- The Membership Committee will be conducting an internal audit. The committee will not be accepting any applications for membership until after the Tribal Elections in June 2018. Those that have been re-

ceived and submitted prior to February 2, 2018, will be reviewed March 31, 2018. The updated information will be posted on the website for those that wish to apply for membership. The Membership Committee needs

to complete a compliance inspection and assure that all documentation on each membership file has the necessary documentation in the respective files.

(Continued Page 2)

2018 Activities and Annual Gathering

Calendar of Events:

March 31, 2018-OCRS-Tribal Meetings (Tentative)
 10:00 am –12:00 pm OCRS Meeting
 1:00 pm-3:00 pm-Tribal Meeting– location to be announced

Agenda

Discussion on Band and Tribal Operations, Membership/Enrollment applications, reports of officers and committees, proposed amendments and elections process reports.

April 2018– Visit to Manzano with Medicine men– TBA



“Save the dates.”

May 25-27, 2018– OCRS-Tribal Retreat- Cochise

Stronghold-Cochise, AZ (Leadership Training)
 12:00 pm (May 25th) thru 12:00 pm (May 27th)

June 22-24, 2018: 10th Annual Gathering- Manzano Land Grant Property– Manzano Mountain State Park, NM –12:00pm (June 22) thru 12:00 pm (June 24)

August 10-12, 2018– OCRS Retreat-Chiricahua National Monument Park, AZ (Leadership Training)
 12:00 pm (August 10) thru 12:00 pm (August 12)

“Dormant files with pending requests for information will be returned to the applicants”

January 2018 Meeting

The January meeting was held in Las Cruces, NM, on January 6, 2018, at the FIC-DAC Center. The meeting started at 10:00 am and ended at 1:30 am. Chairman Manuel P. Sanchez gave his status report and we were able to conduct a conference call with Mr. Francis LameBull, Tribal

Legal Counsel. He discussed that the Tribe does not have to dis-incorporate or relinquish the non-profit status. The Chihene Nde Nation can remain as status quo because we have held this status for several year and this was not recently formed. The application status to the BIA was dis-

cussed and the filing under the present administration was addressed with some concerns. Deadlines must be set and followed through. Some new enrollments were approved and discussed . Dormant files with pending requests for information will be returned to the applicants.

Membership Issues (continued from Page 1)

The Committee will place the proposed review date of March 31, 2018, on the website. Updated information on the process will be placed on the website on a regular basis. We will no longer hold onto files. Provisional membership will not be given and all documentation must be complete. Files for those members that did not provide the information as stipulated last year, by May 31, 2017, will be

returned to the families that submitted. Those families will be dis-enrolled and will have to resubmit with all of the documentation stipulated on the checklist. Those applicants that were provided provisional membership that do not submit the required documentation request will also be pre-



Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico Seal

returned to Tribal Council for dis-enrollment. These folks will also need to resubmit. The \$25.00 donations for ID Cards and review process is non-refundable. There is no guarantee that any applicant will be approved in lieu of the donation. Incomplete files will be returned to sender.

Tribal Highlights

New Mexico– We are trying to provide the membership improved communication and information on upcoming activities. We have created an email blast where we have added all of the available membership email list. We started this new program in December of 2017. This has been an excellent tool to maintain information and

provide everyone with save the dates and activities that one may wish to participate in. We also have upgraded our website with more memory and data. We now will be able to save all of our past newsletters and the email blasts will be available to review. We would like to thank Minerva and Gilbert Flores, new members for their

generous six (6) month sponsorship of this service. California members started a drumming group (non entertainment) for cultural preservation. Mr. Joseph Manzo will oversee this activity in California. Richard Torres will oversee central and northern part of the state. It is their discretion in the selection of participants.

OCRS NEWS

Las Cruces, NM– The OCRS met on Friday, January 5, 2018, at the home of Helen and Larry Jurado. Like the Tribal meeting, we had a tremendous turnout and participation. We have met with our spiritual advisor in Mescalero to secure our contract to have our Gaa'he (Crown) dancers at

our annual gathering that will take place on our land in Manzano. We have also created a new brochure for our Band and the Society. These brochures were very useful and disseminated at the Treaty Days event on February 2, 2018. This will be available for leadership and family representatives

to promote our Band and causes. We also submitted a grant to Continuous Pathways on January 27, 2018. We are waiting for the grant application results for 7th Generation Fund and the Chase Foundation. The PNM was awarded to another charity.

“We have also created a new brochure for our Band and the Society”

OCRS Flags for Sale

We have some flags available in stock and will re-order more for those that are interested. The cost for each flag is \$50.00, plus \$8.00 priority shipping and handling. See website for information. We are working on adding PayPal and credit card payment on website.



OCRS Flag

Beware of Pseudo Organizations Making False Claims and Misrepresentations

**By: Paul "Pablo" A. Martinez, Chairman
Ojo Caliente Restoration Society (OCRS)**

Editorial to the Membership

Both the OCRS and Tribal Organizations have made great and successful strides over the last ten years. We have experienced our growing pains like any other organizations. We have endured internal conflicts and discord. However, we overcame adversity through adhering to our respective constitutions and by-laws. We are democratic and have maintained good standing with the Secretary of State and IRS. The OCRS in particular is listed in GuideStar as a Silver level of transparency and will soon to be at the Gold level.

At the end of the day, our mission has never changed or equivocated. We are committed and dedicated to learning the language, traditions, customs and ways. This is foremost in our noble quest. Being respected and trusted by our kin and most importantly our Diyin (Medicine –Holy People) on Mescalero and White Mountain Apache Reservations is far more important to us. For they know where are heart is. We who belong to the Board of Directors of the Society and Band have no ulterior motives or personal gains. None of us inure or profit from these entities. We are all volunteers.

This now leads this discussion into the main topic. Our goals are sincere. We fundraise and write grants that fund these projects such as the cultural activities at both the gatherings and retreats. Our records are transparent and we are most interested in these types of projects that help us meet our mission, vision, goals and objectives. If any enrolled member desires to use either entity for promoting their personal agenda such as their business goals and objectives, then they unfortunately, are in the wrong organization or Band. We are all about the best interest of our community and Nde people. We do issue membership cards. These cards are primarily used for proof of membership and to be used during the elections at our annual gatherings. There are no guaranties that these cards will be accepted as another form of identification or for obtaining services through Indian Health Services, etc. This would be very misleading to the membership to even suggest so. There are so many misconceptions and misguided people that provide false information and misinform the public at powwows in Southern California and throughout the Southwest for that matter by promising that membership in their Bands or Nations (most whom are not even functioning legitimately) that one will receive the sun and the moon? We do not support or condone this type of false and misleading statements and information by others that act on their own accord. They don't represent either of our bona fides organizations.

The Tribal Organization doesn't give membership to just anyone in lieu of a large sponsorship, donation or for political purposes. Each and every one of us had to prove our lineage through the criteria set forth in our Constitution and By-laws.

The misconception by the general public is that if one receives the benefits of Indian Health Services that they have free medical coverage. This is not true! To cancel ones health insurance policies because they might get Indian Health Services is dangerous

"We are committed and dedicated to learning the language, traditions, customs and ways."



and wreck less. Most people need their health care via private group insurance, Medicaid or Medicare. Indian Health doesn't cover emergency or acute care in case of accidents or emergency medical needs. Indian Health Care has a process and those that desire this service and if they feel that they qualify should deal directly with that agency. Both the Society and Band do not owe our membership any fiduciary duty in this regard. We have never provided any false or misleading information with respect to our membership cards providing such coverage and benefits.

We have received numerous complaints from members of the Band that an individual by the name of Carlos aka, "Running Wolf" Mendoza has been representing the Band and claiming to be in charge of the California membership. Accordingly to Mr. Mendoza, he denied representing us and the information he provided me is that he was representing a Chiricahua organization in Arizona. Recently, I viewed an email he sent to a friend of one of our Band members that he is the founder of his own pseudo tribe calling it the Chiricahua Apache Membroano (sic) Nde Nation of TX?? In this email, he was charging \$100.00 for two year membership implying that this person could serve on his White Owl Council and pays no taxes?? Mr. Mendoza is not well versed with Apache cultural and should know that owls are not something we mess with. We avoid this bird for it brings and warns of death.

Mr. Mendoza is not a member of our Band and is free to do as he pleases. He does not speak for us. I wish him no ill will. I only caution our members to beware and educate yourselves as to who he is and as long as he does not claim to represent our organizations we have no dog in this fight. He does have a non-profit in bad standing in New Mexico that is called Chihene Apache Native Village Care (Business ID# 5452562). He has not maintained his corporate reports and not registered with the IRS or the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. He also has no board members from New Mexico. They are all from California that serve on his Board. I received complaints from the NM Children, Youth and Families Department about him trying to represent us. We did send him a cease and desist notice to refrain from using our seal and representing us.

The best source to verify legitimate organizations in good standing is to check with the Secretary of State Office. Some states have corporation's commissions or public regulations commissions that have oversight over corporations. Most of the Attorney General's Offices also have oversight over activities of charitable organizations and will receive complaints from the public. GuideStar is another tool to check if one is operating a legitimate non-profit organization and as to whether or not they are filing their tax returns are required by law. This GuideStar site www.guidestar.org will provide you information if an organization is tax exempt. Only a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) organization can provide a donor with a letter for tax deductions.

Unfortunately, we do have folks wanting to join our Band with perceived notion that if they can prove Native American ancestry that they can receive government benefits from scholarships, healthcare, business loans and opportunities. We make no such representation. We are not seeking members into our Band that are solely seeking membership for personal gain. This is not who we are. This is definitely not the place for a person that is only interested in membership for benefits because we offer none.

Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

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"Nde anshdi bahiklensi- Proud to be Apache"



**Chihene Nde Nation of
New Mexico**

We are on the Web

www.chihenenationofnewmexico.org

The Ojo Caliente Restoration Society (OCRS) is a New Mexico domestic non-profit and tax exempt organization pursuant to sections 501(C)(3) of the US Revenue Code. We are the fiscal agent for the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico. We are descendants of Nde (Apache) people throughout Southern and Central New Mexico. Our ancestors acquired Spanish and Mexican Land Grants known as Apache-rias or Rancherias during those occupations. The Chihene Nde Nation was acknowledged and recognized by entering into the Treaty of 1855 by and between the Chihene Nde Nation and the United States which was not ratified by the Congress of the United States. Our families either fled to northern Mexico or were compelled to assimilate into the Hispano or Mexican American communities of the southwest. Many of us possess Spanish surnames and were able blend into those communities. Our ancestors did this to avoid annihilation and forced removal from our indigenous homelands.

Our goal is to gain re-recognition as a federally recognized American Indian Tribe. We are acquiring our land base and economic development plans that will benefit the public.

Many of our families also possessed homesteads and land patents during the beginning of the 20th century. We are also requesting the US Justice Department Community Relations Services to intervene on our behalf in this quest.



Letter from the Chairmen



Dear Tribal Members:

This is our second series of our Tribal Newsletter. We are committed to improving outreach and communication to our membership,

As mentioned in previous communications, we are engaged in many activities and our membership has increased. We will engage both Board of Directors and the membership in leadership development. We hope to identify our future leaders of our Band that will maintain our traditions and culture, but at the same time represent the best interest of the Band with integrity and transparency.

The Membership Committee will be conducting an internal audit of membership files to assure that all required documentation is submitted. Last

year, we posted notice to families that have not complied or lack information. The deadline was May 31, 2017. Those files were subjected to disenrollment and the Committee will return these families their respective documentation that was submitted to us in 2014.

The Membership Committee will provide future dates as when the Committee will review enrollment applications. They need ample time to review and scrutinize each application for its veracity and credence. Please do not come to Tribal Meetings with paperwork for enrollment consideration, for they will not be accepted. Any application received after the committee review dates, will be reviewed on the next proposed review date.

We need to clear wood and

other abatement efforts on our Manzano Property . Please review the tribal website regularly for updates. www.chihenenationofnewmexico.org.

Please feel free to contact us, if you have any questions or wish to volunteer for any activities.

Best regards,

Manuel P. Sanchez

Manuel P. Sanchez, Chair
Chihene Nde Nation of NM

Paul "Pablo" A. Martinez

Paul "Pablo" A. Martinez
Chair-OCRS