



# Tribal News

Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

May/June 2017  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## The Loss of A. Paul Ortega, Past President of Mescalero Apache Tribe

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**Albuquerque, NM**– The Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico and OCRS mourns the loss of our beloved spiritual leader and cultural Advisor A. Paul Ortega.

Paul Ortega passed away in the presence of his family on late afternoon of May 17, 2017. Knifewing Segura, Executive Director of the OCRS notified the Tribal and OCRS leadership of his passing.

Paul had been suffering illness of the past year and recovering from two strokes that he suffered last two years. He did attend

our last Annual Gathering last June of 2016, at the Sapillo Camp Site.

In 2015, he held his last concert at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM. He was well known in Indian Country and was a music legend for several decades. Paul served a Vice Chairman of the Mescalero Apache Tribe under the leadership of the late Wendell Chino. He later served as President of Mescalero after the death of President Chino. Paul worked several years with Indian Health and was a visionary they has seen

many projects in Mescalero flourish.

He was the main or head medicine man (Diyiin) for the Mescalero Apache Tribe. Paul was a Chiricahua and Mescalero Apache. He served as the Chi-

hene Nde Nation of New Mexico and the Ojo Caliente Restoration Society (OCRS) Cultural and Spiritual Advisor since 2011. He was inspirational for teaching the Apache language and traditional music to several members of the Band and OCRS leaders/elders. He had a tremendous sense of humor and starred in several movies including Cowboys and Aliens and Lozen. He played the role of a medicine man.

Paul's memorial services are tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2017, at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, located at 2104 12th Street, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. He was well loved and respected that some are speculating that this venue may not be big enough. He will surely be missed by all from both Band and OCRS.



A. Paul Ortega with Eloise Mayo

## OCRS and Tribal Council Created Calendar of Events for 2017-2018

**Las Cruces, NM**– On May, 2017, the Tribal Council held their quarterly meeting at the Adobe Deli, Deming, NM. The OCRS presented proposed scheduled for tribal and OCRS activities. The Member-

ship Committee submitted three (3) new family applications for membership that were approved and ratified by the Council. The OCRS did hold it's last quarterly meeting in February at the Jurado Home.

The OCRS adopted a major change in its Constitution and By-laws affecting the composition of the Board Membership and will be more autonomous from the Tribe, since it acts as a (continue to Page 2)

# Highlights of 2017 OCRS Retreat at Cochise Stronghold-Memorial Weekend

**Wilcox, AZ**– The OCRS held it's 1st Annual Memorial Day Weekend Retreat at the Cochise Stronghold.

This was held at the Campground at the Stronghold from May 25 -29, 2017. This was a remarkable and enjoyable event. We obtained photographs and have posted on our website. We will be posting them

on this newsletter.

We would like to make this a yearly event and have begun the process of inquiring with the USDA Forest Service to determine the necessary permits and paperwork. The Camp Host and Ranger were pleased with our presence and wel-

come us next year.

We will be submitting this recommendation to our OCRS Board and Tribal Governance Council at the June Meeting at the Caballo Dam State Park, Caballo, NM.

“This was a remarkable and enjoyable event.”

## Calendar of Events (continued from Page 1)

Fiscal agent for the tribe.

The two organization executive officers meet and approved a Calendar of Events that will help provide information for the membership to save dates and plan for upcoming activities.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2017:**

**June 23-26, 2017:** OCRS-Tribal Retreat and Quarterly Meeting. Caballo Dam State Park, Caballo, NM

**August 4-6, 2017,** Quarterly Meeting and Clean-up Crew for Manzano Property. Manzano Mountains

State Park-Group site was reserved for this event.

**October 6-8, 2017:** Annual Gathering-Formerly Columbus Day Weekend (Now Designated Chiende-Native American Day-Akela Flat (Luna County) property.

## Status on BIA Process

**Las Cruces, NM**– During last couple of Governance Council meeting, including a Search Conference (Strategic Planning Session held last January 2017, the Chairman Manny Sanchez and former Vice Chairman Richard Frias provided status on the application for the BIA process. Various members were assigned projects that need completion for the application. Mr. Richard Frias recommended that the Tribe not have a non-profit

corporation status and cautioned the Boards on how we would be perceived by other tribes with existing relationships with other state or sub-state organizations. Some deadline we set and disincorporation is necessary for the Chihene Nde Nation. The OCRS will continue to act as a fiscal agent .

In October 2017, the OCRS acquired 6 acres of land in the Manzano Land Grant donated

by Daniel Antonio Herrera Brummell. In November 2017, the Warrant Deed was completed and recorded with the Torrance County Clerk and Assessor's Office.

This property was blessed by Medicine men from San Carlos and Whiteriver Apache Reservations in February 2017 to prepare for a Holy Ground Ceremony.

# Prayers for Families that have Experienced Losses this Past Year

**Grant and Dona Ana Counties, NM**– On March 2017, Maria Provencio, an Elder of our Band and mother of Velma and Carlos Provencio joined the Creator. She was 89 years old and was loved by so many.

Also, our Tribal Secretary, Judy Marquez lost her son Michael Luna in April 2017. This has been so devastating to her and Dr.

Robert O. Marquez, also a member of the Council.

At the beginning of the Year, we lost our brother, elder, and Tribal Council Member Richard Montoya to Cancer. He suffered and left behind his wife Yvonne, their children and grandchildren.

We ask that you please pray for them

and reach out and any kind gesture of help is appreciated.

## OCRS NEWS

**Luna County, NM**– The OCRS has submitted a couple of grants to PNM and 7th Generations. We will be submitting others relating to our cultural awareness and language preservation programs.

The PNM Grant is for helping us build our tribal cultural center at Akela Flats

(Luna County, NM).

We will also met with the NM Congressional Delegation to discuss earmark and available grants to help fund our proposed PTSD Treatment for War Veterans and 1st Responders.

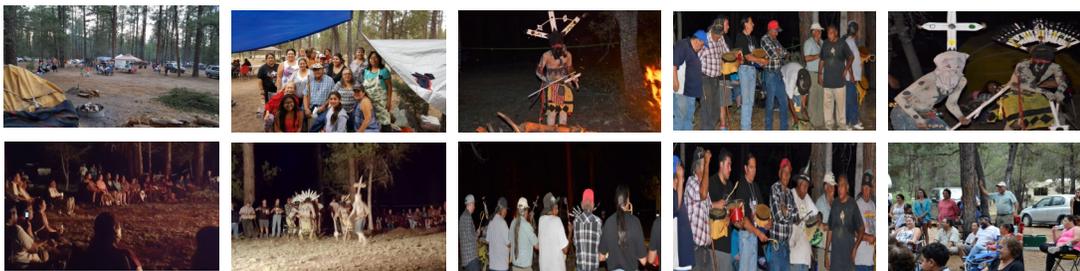
We have approved and developed a new flag. This

is the new logo in the front of this News Letter. Thanks to our Historian Juan Rojelio Sgt. Major (USMC-Retired) for creating the design.

The OCRS will be engaged in providing more of an experience at our quarterly meetings with retreats to help members with cultural awareness and outreach.

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## Photos from 2016 Gathering in Sapello Camp, NM



Camp Site above at Sapillo Creek (courtesy Eloise Mayo) and Knifewing Segura)

Gaan (Gaa'he' (Chiricahua)) Crown Dancers from White River Apache Reservation and CNNNM Drummers Chihene Women Blessing Holy Grounds

**Chihene Nde Nation of  
New Mexico**

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**Chihene Nde Nation of  
New Mexico**

**Nde Anshdi' Bai'klensi**  
**I am proud to be Apache.**

We are on the Web

[www.chihenenationofnewmexico.org](http://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-ras or Rancherías 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 to 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:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have made outstanding contributions through sweat, blood and tears to make our meetings, retreats and tribal/OCRS activities successful.

We recognize that we have challenges a head of us. Many of us hold on to full time jobs and we are all volunteers. There has been a lot of personal investments made over the last 9 years. We continue to make progress daily. We thank brother Dr. Robert for his help and guidance and serving above the call of duty on the Land Grant Consejo. We thank Richard "Rico" Frias. For all of his efforts and legal advice. We wish him well in his future endeavors and hope that he will join us on the governance council some day in

the future.

The OCRS and Tribe will continue to work together by informing our membership on upcoming activities and to encourage more membership outreach and participation. OCRS will publish quarterly newsletters that will provide information on all of our actions and activities.

We all can use the help of setting up and cleaning up after the event. I strongly encourage our two properties. We need volunteers with saws, trailers and even heavy machinery to clear debris and help prepare for our annual gatherings.

We hope to recruit new members to assist in our efforts. We need to clear wood from our Manzano Property and transport it to our Akela Flats location. Please review the tribal

website regularly for updates.  
[www.chihenenationofnewmexico.org](http://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