

EDITORIAL/NEWS

Apache Leaders gather for Apache Alliance Summit VII at Yavapai-Apache Nation

By Rez Media Group

The Yavapai-Apache Nation hosted the Apache Alliance Summit VII October 14-16 at Cliff Castle Casino Conference Center. The Apache Alliance is a chartered organization of the San Carlos Apache Tribe consisting of tribal membership including the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Oklahoma Apache Tribe and the Tonto Apache Tribe.

According to Vincent Randall, Apache Culture Director for the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the Apache Alliance was established in 1973, after he and other leaders worked on the federal recognition of the Tonto Apache Tribe. "At that time, there were a lot of issues for Apache Tribes and I was serving as Vice Chairman of the Nation. Originally, the Nation aligned themselves with Mescalero, White Mountain and San Carlos to create unity on issues that faced us as tribes. It was an established after the fight for federal recognition for the Tonto Apache. It later phased out, especially with the emergence of other organizations like the Arizona Indian Gaming Association and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. In the mid-1990's we formed the Apache Coalition and Western Apache NAGPRA Working Group, and both have been a strong voice of unity on issues and repatriation for Arizona Apache tribes," stated Randall.

In 2012, San Carlos Apache Chairman Terry Rambler revived the Apache Alliance and brought Apache leaders together in hopes of breathing new life into the organization. Since the re-

talization of the Alliance, the organization has continued hosting annual Summits and meets on a regular basis discussing current issues and focusing on setting up the organization and its charter.

This year's Apache Alliance Summit was coordinated differently from the previous six Summits. Apache Alliance Summit VII was hosted as a retreat for the Board of Directors and leaders of member tribes, to provide an opportunity for the organization to identify its vision for moving forward and emerging as an authority on issues impacting Apache Tribes. The retreat was facilitated and mediated by Dr. Pearl Yellowman, who led the group through discussion of current challenges and the vision that Tribal Leaders have for the Alliance. Thomas Beauty, Chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation said, "The Apache Alliance is a dynamic organization. The potential to be the authority as a unified voice for all Apache tribes could help shape the landscape of issues in Indian country. As the host tribe, I didn't want to host a social gathering. I wanted to host a Summit that resulted in progress. A Summit that every Tribal Leader could return to their people and justify the Alliance's purpose and prove that we are making progress and moving forward. I think that together we were able to share in prayer, thoughts, discussion and action. Since the Alliance was revitalized a few years ago, there will be some tough growing pains, but what is most important is that as leaders, we remain committed to growth."

In addition to the Summit and Retreat, the Apache Alliance held elections for its Board of Directors. Chairman Jeff Haozous of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe was elected to serve as



Members of the Apache Alliance, top photo, gather for a photograph at the conference. In photo below, Ronnie Lupe, chairman of the White Mountain Apache, was honored with a blanket by Yavapai-Apache Tribal Chairman Thomas Beauty for completing his duties as president of Apache Alliance. (Courtesy photo)

President, Councilman Pascal Enjady of the Mescalero Apache Tribe was elected to serve as Treasurer and Councilman Leon Reval of the Jicarilla Apache Nation was elected to serve as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Newly elected Alliance President Jeff Haozous stated, "I want to thank my colleagues for the vote of confidence. I know that we have tremendous work ahead of us, but I also know that this organization is comprised of some of the strongest Tribal Leaders in Indian country. We need open communication and we need to move forward together. I look forward to serving the member tribes as President of the Apache Alliance."

Concluding the annual Summit, in tradition of the Apache Alliance, the host tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, passed the symbolic



rifle to next year's Summit host, the San Carlos Apache Tribe. "There are many issues that we as tribes face. There is strength through unity and the Apache

Alliance is that organization that unites the Apache tribes and provides opportunity for us to remain united and fight the battles that continue to challenge our communi-

ties. I was honored to attend the Summit and to report to my people that we worked, made progress and will continue to make progress," said Chairman Thomas Beauty.

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Donna has given us her energy and she is a real treasure in the culture arts -and her whole family," said Monenerkit who coordinated the 2 day workshop with the Nation's culture department. "People wanted to learn from her (Nightpipe). It's an art form that is disappearing," said Monenerkit. He also said that baskets have a special place in the culture of the people as the process of making baskets "teaches patience, teaches us principles and tenacity. The arts can teach us. The designs, the dances (with baskets), the ceremonies can go away as well," added Monenerkit about the potential of losing a cultural trait.

"Donna has been working for years. For novices, this is a long road, a life journey before you get to that point of selling your baskets for thousands of dollars," Monenerkit reminded the students.

The additional benefits of keeping basket traditions going is that it also has the potential to impact economic development by increasing sales of the arts which in turns provides an income for the basket makers.

Monenerkit said that the community activities also has peripheral benefits that gives scholarships to participant—that is-literally putting money in people's pocket for participating. "We are giving back to the community, the compensation to get rooms, the lodging and some people have to take a day off to participate," said Monenerkit.

Finally, a marketing scheme that also affects the increased sales for galleries that sell basketry.

"I'm glad to be here. It's about time the Yavapai-Apache worked on basket making," said Nightpipe. "This is really a crash course," added Nightpipe as the students buckled down for 2 days of hard work re-

dering the beginnings of a flat basket.

All of the baskets are made from local traditional materials such as the willow sprigs, and the classic devil's claw that has to be manhandled by splitting the black covering which gives the black covering which gives the completed baskets their black designs.

Monenerkit said that the Yavapai-Apache site was easier to set up as it was close to Phoenix as planning for far away places such as California, is limited by distances and travel time. "It's taking the museum outside of the walls, and not putting things on pedestals," said Monenerkit as he referred to actually instilling hands-on experience with the activities addressed by the grant.

According to Monenerkit, next year's grant will emphasize clay pottery which may limit the scope of the project since this activity will require space, working areas and other logistics.

Monenerkit has over 17 years of experience in museum work and now, as the new assistant curator/registar at the Heard. He possesses an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from Wichita State University and was formally with the Smithsonian in NYC. At the Heard Museum, Monenerkit has set up an exhibits such as the 'Code Talkers', also a show entitled 'Sole Stories' about footwear of Indian people, and an exhibit highlighting the Mohawk ironworkers who play on the National Hockey League. "It's really important to do the projects I like to do," he said.

As the 2-day basket making came to a close, the participants said that the activity was very challenging and that they didn't realize how complicated basket making was.

'Thank You' from Leona Wathogoma

A special thank you to Darlene Rubio, Karla Reimer, Robin Hazelwood, Lorna Hazelwood, Annette Mendez, Angie Mahape and David Kwail for the Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Thank you so much for your encouraging words, your understanding and full support for my future endeavors at working with the youth with a totally different approach.

Thank you for the beautiful Pendleton blanket. By the way, red is my favorite color! Judy Piner -thank you for the CD that you put together-it was beautiful! When Karla called me about the dinner I was very surprised and touched. It was such a nice cozy evening with family and friends and the atmosphere of sincerity from everyone was truly appreciated.

Thanks to all the parents who allowed me for the past 17 years, to journey with their youth through middle school, high school, college, monthly meetings, annual conferences, community services, fundraising events, holiday parties, mini-winter conference, parades, grant projects and all our safe travels throughout the United States and Hawaii. All this could not have been possible with-



Members of the tribal council honor tribal employees for their contribution of valuable services to the Nation over the years. Honorees were Elizabeth Rocha (absent), Peggy White and Leona Wathogoma. (l to r) Annette Mendez, tribal council member, Angelina Smith-Mahape, council member, Peggy White (front), Robin Hazelwood (back), Darlene Rubio, Vice Chairwoman (front), Leona Wathogoma (back), and council members Lorna Hazelwood and David Kwail. (Photo by Don Decker)

out the help from my sisters, Vida and Nancy who helped at every fundraiser who guided me and mentored me.

And to my co-workers, Lisa Sandoval and Ginny Hamilton with their mental support and always encouraging me to hang in there, and parents of the youth who donated their time with making thousands of

fry bread for our travels. Thank you to all the parent chaperones and advisors who mentored, nurtured and cared for each youth. Thanks to Roberta Quail who was always ready to transport the youth to our destination. Thanks to the different Tribal Chairmen over the years who supported the Youth Council and who always had a big

heart and kind encouraging words for the youth.

Working very closely with each Youth all these years has been very rewarding, a never ending fun and surprises and at times, very little sleep! It's not over-it's a whole new beginning already in the planning.

Best of the Best to you all.

Leona Wathogoma

Employees honored for their valued service to the Nation

By Margaret Campos
YAN News

On October 6, 2015 an appreciation dinner was held for Elizabeth Rocha, Leona Wathogoma and Peggy White thanking them for many years of service to the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Vincent Randall spoke in regards to Elizabeth and all the hard work and dedica-

tion she had for the Apache Culture and how she was a great inspiration to many who saw her work for many years teaching the young to elders about their language and culture.

Nancy Guzman spoke in regards to Leona, her sister and how Leona became involved with the youth and the UNITY council. Nancy stated how Leona

has helped many youth to participate with this youth council and that they traveled to the annual conference to different states and how the youth were excited to participate and support one another.

Darlene Rubio, Vice Chairwoman and David Kwail, council member, spoke about Peggy White and how she was a great

bleasing to all those that she work with and how she always had a kind word of encouragement to all and remembered Peggy and her family as they held the Annual Brush Arbor Camp Meeting in Middle Verde.

Each honoree received a beautiful Pendleton blanket, a plaque and DVD of a video presentation made for the dinner.