

# COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS

## Constitution committee grapples with enrollment

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN news editor

The Nation's Constitution committee members have been meeting twice a month to review the Constitution and observing any possible adjustment(s) (through their surveys which has received a small response) that may be needed to reflect the current trends (policies, laws and ordinances) affecting enrolled members.

One of the items currently being reviewed is the enrollment criteria. Under the direction of Apphia Shirley, a tribal member who is employed with the Nation as a social worker has taken on the challenge of steering the committee in a direction that is investigating the possible revision of the enrollment criteria for the Nation.

In mid-March of this

*"Do we need to change our Constitution?"* -  
YAN Constitution Committee

year the Constitution committee revealed some statistics about the enrollment of Nation's members and subsequently published the results and shared them with the Nation's members (the study is included in this edition).

Their primary reason for directing their attention to enrollment is because "current membership requirements have prevented enrolling of members in the Yavapai-Apache Nation due to not meeting minimum requirements for blood quantum". This group has been keen on asking the key questions ("Do you believe our Membership requirements needs to change? Should blood quantum be required for enrollment? How long will the Yavapai-Apache Nation last? What will our destiny be? Do we

need to change the Constitution?") that has provoked some responses and created more questions than answers for the Nation's members.

The Constitution committee has dealt with some of these questions for years ever since 2004 when a survey was sent out to ascertain the possible changes in the Constitution for enrollment by the Enrollment Board at that time.

Subsequently, February of 2005, a single page notice was published in the Nation's newspaper entitled "Attention Tribal members: your input is needed". The reason for the additional time extended that year was because the previous year's survey was inconclusive due to the low number of responses to the survey.

The editor of the paper at the time stated that the members "voices needed to be heard and that the proposed changes (would) affect future generations and determine who is eligible to become a member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation". Unfortunately, nothing became of that inquiry to change the Constitution about enrollment.

And now, 11 years has passed since that newspaper ad was placed in the paper and the current Constitution committee has uncovered some startling statistics that may have con-

firmed the predictions of the Enrollment Board back in 2005 that the Yavapai-Apache blood is being diluted at a faster rate than expected.

Important Facts: The "important facts" uncovered by the current Constitution committee shows that in 1934 when the first Yavapai-Apache base roll was established due to the recognition by the Department of Interior, all members were 100% Yavapai-Apache, either full-blood Apache or Yavapai or both Yavapai-Apache. In May of 2003, some 69 years later from the first base roll, there were only 8% full Yavapai-Apache members left, and another 42% who retained only ½ blood quantum of Yavapai-Apache blood and another 29% who were considered ¼ Yavapai-Apache and finally, that last group of 21% who were less than ¼ of Yavapai-Apache blood quantum.

Further reduction of blood lines: Yavapai-Apache:

Based on the statistical studies conducted by the current Constitution committee, an April 2017 study pointed to a glaring revelation (see attached graphics) that more and more Yavapai-Apache people faced the inevitable: many of the current and upcoming yet-to-be born Yavapai-Apache could never enroll in the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the future as the current blood quantum requirement would eliminate them at the very onset

since they (would) lack the minimum ¼ blood quantum.

The current statistics show that only 3.6% of the Nation's enrolled members are Yavapai-Apache and another group with 26.8% of ½ Yavapai-Apache blood quantum, another group with 32.9% who are considered ¼ Yavapai-Apache and equally the final group of 32.8% with a blood quantum of less than ¼ Yavapai-Apache.

This analysis shows that from 1934 to 2017 in a period of 83 years, the blood quantum of Yavapai-Apache was reduced by 70% in all categories.

The most significant change from 2003 to 2017, a period of 14 years, shows that the blood quantum dropped 70% in groups who had ½ to ¼ Yavapai-Apache blood quantum.

The Future of Yavapai-Apache Nation:

If the current rate of dissolving Yavapai-Apache blood quantum continues, in another 10-15 years many children born to Yavapai-Apache Nation members will be unable to enroll in the Nation due to the current enrollment requirements. This would mean current members considered ¼ Yavapai-Apache who will have children by then who may marry non-Indians will endure the consequences. And since this category is 32.9% (Yavapai-Apache blood quantum) of the current enrollment, their off-springs would be ineligible unless they

moved to the Nation's lands and reside on the Nation's land for one year or if they became adopted. If adoption is an option, the adoptee would have to reside on the Nation's land for 1 year for adoption consideration.

With the current enrollment requirements, the overall membership will be affected and less and less people will be enrolled and eventually, the population of the Yavapai-Apache Nation will disappear.

These time frames of blood quantum reductions remain to be seen and current members are asked to respond to the concerns of the Constitution committee in hopes of mandating a new enrollment criteria that will guarantee the continued survival of the Nation.

The Constitution committee is constantly finding ways to refine questionnaires to the Nation's members in hopes of ascertaining more precise data and to see how many are in favor of changing the Constitution to establish a new enrollment criteria.

This will require a referendum through an election to be decided by the electors whether they will approve a new enrollment criteria or remain as is.

*Editor's note: The Constitution committee has their own website for your review of the Constitution.*

<http://thorpe.ou.edu/constitution/Yavapai/toc.html>

## AWARD

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The 2017 Super Hero Award was given in front of the conference attendees in recognition "For helping out whenever needed and tackling the impossible, time and time again" states his April 5 award. This plexi-glass plaque is engraved with a "Super Hero" road runner with a feather.

Mr. Chatter never suspected anything until he had the plaque in his hand that night and began to connect the dots when he remembers a certain individual named Crystal Banks-Mann who is the assessment manager for Travois came out for the annual inspection from the Travois company who did in fact nominate him. Yavapai-Apache Nation housing program is Travois's crown jewel expo for other Indian nations to see according to the Nation's housing director Sharie Bensen.

"When they inspect yearly and semi-annually they come out and see the inside and outside and how well they're maintained and make sure everything is in the guidelines...and this is what they see," said Mr. Chatter motioning to the outside.

"She (Crystal) told YAConstruction that that we had the best houses in the country," said Chatter. "I was surprised to hear that," he added.

But Mr. Chatter is too modest and he believes in crediting the rest of his team members at housing for the award he got. "I truly thank the staff for that—the finance department, housing counselors, the warehouse, the field crew and Sharie (Sharie Bensen-housing director)," said Mr. Chatter.

And he added that he "was thankful to be a part of the housing department, to have a

reputation like that—there is lots of money involved for the investors to have trust of the housing department. It's amazing and the community has to have these services".

Mr. Chatter said that the requirements for the supervisor's position involves specific knowledge of taking care of appliances, garage doors and learning the new computerized systems of heating and cooling and the "everyday challenges of helping everybody who has a home". This was a reference to private home owners on the Nation's lands who may have a specific problem with the operations of their home. "Sometimes, there's no water, no electricity so we have to assess the situation—to help everybody," said Mr. Chatter although their first priority always are the tax credit homes the Nation has. There are also weekly safety meetings and daily morning meetings to go over the day's operational plan. "Last year we didn't have one accident—that's an achievement, right?," said Mr. Chatter.

Mr. Chatter spent 17 years with a plumbing and heating company in Flagstaff before coming to the Nation. "Most of it was On-The-Job Training," he said of his tenure in Flagstaff. Now having been here since 2008 and his promotion to maintenance supervisor has propelled him to improve his performance and has attended Yavapai College to complete his Applied Science Degree in Management. And now he is working on an Associate Degree in Accounting and eventually a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Mr. Chatter graduated from American Fork High School in Utah.

## Local Verde Valley police officers acknowledged for their outstanding service

BY MARGIE CAMPOS,  
YAN News correspondent

The Yavapai-Apache Nation Police Department held their 1st Annual Appreciation dinner on March 18, 2017 at the Cliff Castle Lodge. All the officers and their family and spouses were in attendance. The ceremony started out with Chief of Police Jon Huey welcoming all the guests in attendance. Mr. Huey asked for a moment of silence for fallen Officer Huston Largo



Christina Shirley accepts an award from Jon Huey, Chief of Police for YAN

from the Navajo Nation Police Department who was recently killed in the line of Duty.

Mr. Bob Davis was requested to give the opening Blessing and for the food. Everyone enjoyed a catered meal from Plaza Bonita of Cottonwood. After dinner the Ceremony began with Award Presentation to the different local agencies who have always been supportive and helpful to

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## Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Middle Verde Public Safety Bldg  
9:00am - 11:00am

Tunlii Warehouse Bldg  
11:30am - 12:30pm

Clarkdale Community Bldg  
2:00pm - 3:00pm



- Dogs and cats must be 3 months (12 wks) old before they can be vaccinated.
- All pet owners are responsible for their pets during the rabies clinic. Cats must be placed in a pet/carrier or pillow case. **Dogs must be on a secure leash at all times.**
- **Owners must purchase a \$2.00 license fee before the rabies vaccination will be administered.**
- Many community members fail to bring their dog in for its booster shot. If your dog was vaccinated for rabies last year this new shot will be good for 3 years. Cats require a shot every year. **(Initial Shot = 1 year vaccination, following year booster shot = 3 year vaccination)**
- If you are not sure if your pet needs shots or had its booster please contact ACO Gary Przygocki at 928-649-7142.

**This will be your only opportunity to get your pet vaccinated FREE for 2017.**