

Native American Sub-Committee Meeting

Isleta Casino and Resort
The Promotions Room
November 28, 2006 9:15am – 2:45pm

Invocation: Rita Cantsee

Rodney Tahe, Indian Affairs Department: Welcome and Introductions

Legislative Training Session by Linda Siegle - The Power of Your Voice Advocacy Workshop

Projection from October there will be 600 million in recurring dollars, in addition over 900 million dollars in capital outlay and one time expenditures - from oil and gas revenues.

Never in the history of NM have we had this much money - at most 300 million 60 day legislative session means a lot of work and energy expended

POWER POINT PRESENTATION:

Political Astuteness Inventory: Start before elections; who are they; do they know your concerns?

Are you registered to vote?

Did you vote in the last election?

Who is your U.S. Senator/Congressional Representative?

Who is your State Senator and House Member?

Who is your school board member?

How to have impact without a lot of money. Typical NM house race costs \$25K – 30K. Typical NM Senate race costs \$40K. For comparison, typical school board race in L.A. costs more than \$600K.

Know any of the positions of these representatives?

Written a letter or made a phone call to a political representative?

Contributed money or time to a political campaign?

Do you think that you have any impact whatsoever on issues important to you?

How IMPORTANT is ONE VOTE?

- In 1645, ONE vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1845, ONE vote brought Texas into the union.
- In 1875, ONE vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.
- In 1919, ONE vote passed the 19th amendment – women's right to vote.
- In 1923, ONE vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- In New Mexico in 1998, a PRC candidate lost by 4 votes.
- In 2000, a member of the House in Rio Rancho won by only 3 votes.
- In 2000 in the southern part of the state, two sheriff candidates drew cards to break a voting tie.
- In 2002 in Torrance County, two candidates tied for county commissioner.

FACTOIDS about the New Mexico LEGISLATURE

- All volunteer. (Per diem around \$145/day)
- Structure based on 1912 constitution.
- Meets 30 days' even years – 60 days odd years.
- Special session may be necessary. May be called by 2/3 legislature or governor.
- House – 70 members – 2 year terms.
- Senate – 42 members – 4 year terms.
- Interim committees meet June – Dec.
- Process not easily accessible to public. Parking is an issue, although there is a shuttle.

30 day session addresses budget only* (\$4.6 billion); 60 day session addresses budget and any changes to laws. Interim committees (including legislative finance) can get on the agenda.

*Governor can put something on a “call.”

Make a Strategic Plan
Map out your strategy
What is your legislative goal?
Who will be your legislative champion?
Which committees will hear your bill?
How many votes do you have/do you need?
Should you do press conference, editorials?
Who are your allies and your opponents?
Will the governor sign your bill?

Plan long before the legislative session starts.
Bring everybody together to get agreement.
Who are your friends and allies?
What do you need to persuade?
How do you get the governor on board?
Food helps you think better!

Your legislators represent you; everyone is welcome to the session. You can send letters to the legislators' at their mailboxes in the Roundhouse.

Meeting before the Legislative Session

The NM Legislature begins the third Tuesday of January. Try to set your meeting with your legislator before the session starts.
Call your legislator to set up an appointment.
Take a couple of other constituents with you.

Most legislators are willing to meet with you.

Conducting your visit:

Show up on time and dressed appropriately.

Start on a positive note.

Make a brief presentation.

Know your agenda and stick to it.

Personalize and localize your issues.

Get the legislator to talk.

Always include your specific request.

Tell the truth.

End on a positive note.

Always follow up with a thank you.

It is important to “play the game.”

Catch legislators when you can. Have fun, too. Invite legislators to your forums, panels, breakfasts, and any other get-togethers.

Tips on Lobbying Your Legislator

Preparation

- Know the names of the legislator you want to talk to.
- Do your homework – know what you want to say.
- Personalize the issue by telling your story or someone’s you know.
- Provide the legislator with a one page fact sheet.
- Include a name and phone number in case they want more information.

Precision

- Get to the point right away.
- Stick to the point.
- Never take anything for granted.
- Ask for their support.

Professionalism

- Introduce yourself and whom you represent.
- Be assertive.
- Don’t be intimidated by them – they work for you.
- Don’t take rejection personally.

Politeness

- Be cordial – don’t preach to them.
- Know when to back off.
- Be tolerant of the legislators’ point of view.
- Never bad mouth a legislator. They could be your ally the next time.

Perseverance

- Follow up –send a thank you note.
- Provide back up material if requested.
- Cultivate the legislator's staff.
- Always thank the legislator for their time and work.

Types of Legislation

- Bill
- Used to propose and change laws.
- Memorial
- Used to express legislative desire or direction (no force of law).
- Joint Resolution
- Used to propose amendments to the state constitution.
- Does not have to be signed by governor.
- Must be voted on by the citizens.

Bill Process

- Introduction and Committee Referral
- Committee consideration and vote: do pass/ do not pass / table
- Adoption of committee report.
- 3rd reading & final vote.
- Sent to other chamber.
- Enrolling & engrossing.
- Governor's action.

The average 60 day session has more than 3,000 bills, laws, and amendments presented—that's 50 bills a day!! Constituents should email, call, and fax the legislator before the session.

The house is very organized – they can usually pass a bill and put it on the calendar in two days. Bill is assigned a number based on when it was introduced. Use phone trees, etc. to get citizens to the session. Get there early so that you can get close seats. The bill goes from the house to a committee, back to the house, and to the next committee, etc. and then on to the senate.

Then the senate assigns the bill another number and puts it on the calendar. The speaker of the house assigns committees (the fewer, the better chance the legislation has of passing). In the senate there is no order to bills being considered.

If a bill is not passed and it's sent to committee, it may never appear on the calendar. Why is a bill tabled? Because it is controversial, it has too few votes; the legislators do not like it. In the senate, there is no limit to debate. The senate may make

amendments/changes to the bill, and then send it back to the house for approval. In New Mexico something unrelated to the bill may not be added without going back to the other house for a vote. If a bill has become too different from the original, you can ask its sponsor to pull it/withdraw it at any time up until the governor signs it. However, adding amendments to a bill you don't like is one way to kill it, because that will require going through the whole process again. If a bill is approved, it then goes to the governor to sign. If the bill is not approved, then it goes back to house and senate committees for further consideration. You never want to get a bill amended after it has been passed by both houses.

In order to get on the agenda, a bill must be introduced before the middle of the senate session. The senate has a practice of including "dummy" bills to circumvent that regulation. The dummy bills are blank, and when the legislators want to have another bill introduced, they simply drop in the content. However, the title of the bill does not change. Therefore, it can be difficult to track bills as they move through committees.

The governor has three days to sign or veto a bill. If a bill is on his desk within the last 3 days of the session, the governor has 20 days to sign or veto. If the governor chooses not to sign the bill within the 20 days, that is called a "pocket" veto. The bill will be moved to the next legislative session. However, the legislature can override a veto, and it can become law even if the governor does not sign it. If the governor does not support a bill, try to get it out early so that there is time to go back and get the necessary 2/3 to pass it.

The governor can also line item veto; he does this on many bills.

Many bills get tabled in the appropriations/finance committee. Therefore, put efforts into cultivating the finance/appropriations committee and the business and industry committee. Once a bill is killed in committee, it is hard to get it passed or overturned. Legislators usually don't tell constituents that the bill is not going anywhere (i.e., it is stuck in committee). There are two bills: House Bill 2 and House Bill 2 Jr. House Bill 2 is the budget; House bill 2 Jr. is for special, discretionary, and/or one-time funding (\$45 million disbursed last year).

"Laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made." Otto von Bismarck

Testimony at Committee Hearings

Two types of testimony:

- Prepared testimony by formal witnesses.
- Comments from the audience.

Protocols before committee:

Always address the chair before speaking.

Example: "Mr./Madam Chair – My name is..."

Always go through the chair when answering questions from another senator or representative.

Example: Mr./Madam Chair – Senator/Rep Jones

A press conference is a good way to bring attention to your issue. The rotunda holds many during a Press Conference. Lobbying is about relationship building. Rallies are popular in front of the Capitol. The media loves a good rally.

Phone Protocols

Call 984-4300 for your legislators. <http://legis.state.nm.us>.

Tell the secretary your position – they will record it on a tally sheet with your name, address and phone number.

If you know the legislator personally, you may be able to schedule a meeting.

Call the governor at 476-2200.

Use the phone during the session. Legislators don't usually use email. If planning to send an email, do a test email first.

Letter Writing Protocols

- Keep your letter short – one page or less.
- One topic per letter.
- Tell them if you are a constituent.
- Identify bill number, bill's subject & sponsor.
- Indicate your support or opposition.
- Mail to: Senator or Representative "name"
- State Capitol – Santa Fe, NM 87501
- Fax letter to: Legislator "name" at 986-4610.
- Governor at 827-3026.
- E-mail: look up legislators on web page. <http://legis.state.nm.us>.
- E-mail – Governor – gov@gov.state.nm.us.

The Political Process is Slow Moving

Let people/legislators know that you won't go away, and then they will eventually pay attention. If they think you'll go away, they'll ignore you.

"Look at a stone-cutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow, it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before."

Jacob A. Riis

Afternoon Session:

Ms. Lisa Tiger, Board Member

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center located in Oakland, CA (HQ Moving to Denver and is currently looking for ED)

www.lisatiger.com

Enrolled Muskogee also Cherokee and Irish

Tested HIV positive not too long after 3 Year relationship which was monogamous. Did not think in Muskogee that she could get HIV/AIDS, thought it was gay disease – ‘gay cancer’

Found out that it is a sexually transmitted disease. Did not think she was at-risk. Started dating her boyfriend in 88 January not infected when she was tested. Asked partner about getting tested, he talked her out of it.

In 1990 22 year old brother murdered.

Always been a careful person, lost dad when she was younger when he passed. Night he passed he dropped her off at parents and he left with friends, got drunk and accidentally shot himself in the head. Missed dad, would wait for him and think cars pulling up would be him, devastated by his loss and hard to move on.

In 1992 broke up with guy after losing brother, he did not understand what she was going through. Did not see him again for a year. Moved back in with mom, worked at art gallery of father's work. Went to grief meetings with mother. Ran into ex-boyfriend and asked him if he had AIDS – because he looked weird - he was skin and bones. He was uncomfortable by her comment. Gay friend admitted to her that he had had a sexual relationship with ex-boyfriend while they were together. Decided to get tested after learning that he may have been with other men. Two weeks after test got a call from her doctor to see her. Asked mother to get test results from doctor (who was a cousin), mother informed her that she had ‘antibodies’.

The hardest part about having HIV was watching the people that she loved suffer. Chiefwoman Mankiller - Chief of Cherokee Nation at the time called her and comforted her and had her do education for Cherokee Nation.

Asked doctor about having children told her not to let disease to stop her from living her life.

In South Dakota doing her presentation and visited shelter for sexually abused children. Met children and asked about them and was told that they couldn't find anyone who would take all 4 children and they were to be separated. Asked mother if she would help her to raise the 4 children. Petitioned the tribe and was granted custody in 1996. One of daughters is currently at Job Corps recently asked her if she regretted adopting her, no I don't regret it. One of her daughters just had a baby and she didn't drink and broke that cycle. Mom didn't want kids in her home anymore so they moved into the gallery and were pretty much homeless, almost 40, had AIDS since 1999, have Parkinson's disease, 4 challenging kids. Met a man from Cochiti, starting dating him in 1993 and he wanted to be the father of her child. Found out that he drank and so she broke it off. Did not see him again for 10 years and when she saw him he had stopped drinking. They married and he told her that he wanted to have a baby girl and name her

Cricket. When her father died he said he was going to come back as a Cricket. Told she could take prescribed drugs and there would be less than a 1% chance of passing AIDS on to child. Got pregnant first time she tried, gave birth and was in hospital for 3 weeks recovering. Daughter not infected with HIV.

Gay friend tested negative, did not contract the virus sexually. Years later broke up with a boyfriend, used meth and started doing risky things sexually and was infected with a deadlier virus than hers. Is not telling his sexual partners. Found out that ex-boyfriend did the same thing to her, he knew he was infected and continued to have sex with her. Bottom line - protect self, have self esteem to protect self.

Open Discussion....

Announcements/Discussion:

- Flyer handed out - 8th Annual HIV/AIDS Wellness Conference - Circle of Harmony -- March 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2007 - For more information contact: Marie R Kirk at 505.764.0036 Ext. 116 mkirk@aaih.org

- Marked questions on last meeting minutes...table approval of minutes until next week and add approval of minutes to future agendas – Suzanne will follow-up with Tom Smith

- It is requested that Barbara Footer come to a future meeting and speak regarding 50k for IAD, how it is spent/accessed etc.

- Discussion regarding DOH Health Advisory Council - Ron gave update on next meeting and will e-mail out information about up-coming meetings. It was noted that Dr. John is representing Indian Health Services need to have Navajo represented at meeting as well.

Becky - group got together, Ken is one of the champions. Major legislation to be presented, BH bricks and mortar for 4 large facilities...2 juvenile and 2 adult. It is being drafted now.

- Wanda suggested that notices that pertain to funding sources be sent out to group for review and discussion

- In the agenda there would be roundtable updates, the information should be presented CYFD, BHSD, DOH have formal opportunities for presenting updates.

- Becky asked what the purpose of the group is. Cecilia explained that this is a branch under the BHPC - initially left off as a group and had to go through legislation to be officially recognized. Have opportunity to lobby for NA communities - such as CADAC to LADAC legislation.

Dr. Morris – This is something the Governor believed in and approved and we need to keep and be on top of. Information sharing needs to take place. Whatever is going on

out in the state we need to know about that so we can see how it has an impact, how we can change things make an impact.

- Ron - Is membership by appointment or is it open to the general public?

Cecilia- those that sit on the BHPC decide which committee to be a part of. One time it is asked who was a member of this committee and the answer was whoever came. Perhaps we should have a membership process so we know who to expect at the meetings. If people come one time what do they take back to their community. Maybe we can ask other sub-committees how they form/function, that is what we would look to IAD for.

Rita- In terms of membership, how others are selected, but the uniqueness of the NA community in NM there should be about 22 people representing each tribe. If there is a vote then maybe each tribe get a vote. Perhaps there could be a 2 day session to discuss how this meeting should run. Consistency of group needs to be there. Take a serious look at the commitment/goals/objectives.

Discussion about who should be at the table

- December 18-20 dept of BHS staff meeting with Navajo BHTC on afternoon of December 19th exhibits available. If you are interested in having a booth the person Adeline Sosi in Window Rock office 928-871-6235

- Update from Regina read by Suzanne

- * Tribal leadership support of the CADAC legislation: by letters, resolutions?

- * We need to go before the legislative Indian Affairs Committee: state or the nasc or a joint presentation????

- * Lobbying efforts to be done by ?????. NASC members, tribal leaders??? State employees cannot lobby the bill. Regina is willing to lobby the bill asap. Regina would prefer to sit down with our Indian legislators and explain all the technicalities in a simple way..... We need the same message so folks don't get confused. We need a call down list. Are there volunteers other than her? She thinks we should get a list together.

- * Workforce group was supposed to gather materials from various colleges. Did they do it? If not let her know and she'll follow up with those schools that we need to contact.

- * Family Forum Day: (Suzanne explained: December 7th at Runnels Building in Santa Fe from 9-12pm...8am free breakfast) does everyone have the correct information, date, time, mileage, etc? Is everyone ready? Regina's topic is under funded I.H.S. programs which then under funds tribal 638 BH programs.

Dr. Morris - Tribal Sovereignty, if we are going to be Medicaid provider for treatment if we become CYFD certified then we give up Tribal Sovereignty...how can tribe become a provider without giving up rights of the tribe? Needs to be a Government to Government agreement...something has to give in order for us to be a Medicaid provider.

Rodney - working on tribal consultation protocol done for 2007 to refer to in situations like this.

Ron - November 30 World Meth day - Drug Czar Herman Silva.

Rodney – Secretary Benny Shendo will be doing the IAD Leg Update at the State Capitol in Room 322 on December 1st.

Benediction – Rita Cantsee

Closure done by Rodney Tahe

Next meeting December 15th at VO Albuquerque