



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

EDWARD K. THOMAS BUILDING
9097 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801

- TRIBAL UPDATE -

March 2015

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GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

2015 Native Issues Forum Wraps Up



L-R: President Richard Peterson, Valerie Davidson, Della Chenev, and Elizabeth Medicine Crow

The 2015 Native Issues Forum series wrapped up on March 26, 2015 with guest speakers First Alaskan Institute President/CEO Elizabeth Medicine Crow and State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Valerie Davidson.

This year's Native Issues Forum series were cosponsored by Central Council and Sealaska Corporation. The forums are live webcast, open to the public and include lunch free of charge, and are a great opportunity to hear presentations on topics of interest to the Native community.

Gunalchéesh / Háw'aa to all guest speakers who participated in this year's Native Issues Forum series!

Executive Council Meeting Overview

A meeting of the Executive Council was held March 20, 2015 in Juneau, Alaska. Below is an overview of all actions taken by the Executive Council:

Proposed Amendments to Title 6 Tribal Courts:

- Adopted proposed amendments to Title 6 which establishes authority for the Judiciary Committee to fill vacancies for a tribal judge/justice, prepare and submit a budget to the Executive Council for recommended annual funding for the Tribal Judicial System, and promote best practices and familiarity with tribal law through tribal court training and consultation.

Adopted Resolutions:

- 15-10, Authorization to Submit a Six Month Renewal of the TANF Family Assistance Plan
- 15-11, Authorized Signers for Tribal Secretary
- 15-14, Support of Medicaid Expansion in Alaska
- 15-15, Authorization to Enter into a Business Lease with the Heirs of Jimmie A. George - Native Allotment AA-80630
- 15-16, Authorization of the Submission of a Fee-to-Trust Application (Block 4, Lot 6)
- 15-17, Authorization to Approve MBDA Development and Finance Agreement

Tribal Assembly Planning:

- Finalized Tribal Assembly Agenda
- Selected Tribal Host & Hostess: Herman Davis (Sitka, AK) and Shirley Kendall (Anchorage, AK)
- Rules of Election (Apportionment of Delegates):
 - Discussed the risk of the Tribe associated with unallowable expenses of Tribal Assembly and solutions for cost reductions. A near term solution would be for the Tribal Assembly to convene bi-annually instead of annually and on even numbered election years beginning in 2017 with a vote taken by delegates at the 2016 Tribal Assembly. The recommendation for long-term solutions is to consider the many measures that would reduce Tribal Assembly costs while maintaining effective representation including amendments to the constitution and rules of election to more closely conform our governance to our culture and tradition.

THRHA Board of Commissioner Selections:

- Victoria Demmert (Yakutat, Alaska) and Clinton Cook (Craig, Alaska) were selected by the Executive Council to fill THRHA board vacancies.

State of Alaska Legislative Update

Central Council's Executive Council adopted a [resolution](#) in support of Governor Bill Walker's proposal for Medicaid expansion and reform for Alaska (House Bill 148). Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half. Central Council urges all tribes to take action to support the House Bill 148 through resolution and contacting your local representatives.

The Alaska Legislature will also hear House Committee Resolution 1 (HCR1), which urges the Governor to establish clear and consistent policies across all agencies for increased collaboration and partnership with Alaska tribal governments. It calls for increased authority, responsibility, and capacity to enforce state laws and deliver justice on the local level. It also urges the Governor to direct the Office of the Attorney General to conduct a complete review of the state's litigation against Alaska tribes.

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Appointments

The Office of the Governor announced a new appointment for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) this month. The reappointment of Dan Hull to the small boat commercial representative seat was expected and very welcome. Dan has been supportive of our halibut bycatch issue and even signed an emergency petition. Andy Mezirow was appointed to the recreational fisher seat and is the owner and operator of Crackerjack Sportfishing Charters. He has served on several committees supporting the NPFMC, including the council's advisory panel.

The next NPFMC meeting will be held April 6-14, 2015 in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hilton Hotel and also live webcast via: <https://npfmc.adobeconnect.com/april2015>. To review the draft agenda, please visit www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings/.

Executive Council Members Attend NCAI Winter Session

First Vice President Will Micklin and Sixth Vice President Marvin Adams attended the National Congress of American Indians' Executive Council Winter Session in Washington D.C. last month. The NCAI Winter Session provided the opportunity for Executive Council members to meet with our Alaska Congressional delegation and key officials in the House and Senate. The Executive Council also met with:

- Members and staff of the Commerce Committee and the Subcommittee on Oceans to talk about our subsistence priorities within the Magnuson Stevens Act.
- Canadian Affairs within the United States Department of State and the White House's Council of Environmental Quality to talk about the transboundary mining issue.
- Department of Interior and Department of Justice to discuss tribal court funding in Alaska and the State's Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) enforcement.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Tribe Awarded Department of Energy Grant

Central Council is pleased to announce it has received a grant award of \$500,000 from the Department of Energy under its Tribal Energy Program in collaboration with the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. Central Council was the only tribe in Alaska to receive the funding which promotes tribal energy sufficiency and fosters economic development and employment on tribal lands.

The funding will assist Central Council in continuing to seek reductions in operating costs through energy efficiency retrofits to the Andrew Hope Building located in downtown Juneau. Energy efficiency measures to be implemented include installation of occupancy sensors, CO₂ demand ventilation control, and LED lighting. These combined energy efficiencies are projected to result in an energy reduction of approximately 29.9%, which is equivalent to a savings of \$15,399 annually.

In 2010, Central Council completed preliminary energy evaluations including replacement of the boilers and exterior doors and windows in four tribal facilities.

"Our goal is to provide immediate benefits in energy efficiencies and perpetual reduction in operating costs for the Tribe," said Property Manager Elias Duran.

PROGRAM/SERVICE NEWS

Second Chance Reentry Program Kicks Off

We are pleased to announce the Second Chance Reentry program is up and running! Under a three-year grant award from the United States Department of Justice, the program will provide individuals, while still incarcerated or released on probation, with distance training and employment assistance. The program will cover tuition, fees, and books for 75 students and will utilize existing online courses offered by Central Council's Distance Education program. The mission of the program is to reduce the number of tribal citizens returning to prison.

For more information on the program, please contact Rocky Estrada, Jr. at 907.586.7050 or restrada@cchita.org

Save the Date - 19th Annual Spring King Derby

The 19th Annual Spring King Salmon Derby is just around the corner and will be held the month of May! There were many generous sponsors and donors last year and we are once again seeking support from our community to hold this wonderful family event. You can contribute to the derby by becoming a sponsor, making a monetary donation, or donating a service/merchandise to go towards our derby prizes. If you'd like to support our derby, please contact Higher Education Coordinator Leslie Isturis at 907.463.7133 or listuris@cchita.org by **April 17, 2015**.



The annual Spring King Salmon Derby is Central Council's largest fundraiser effort. The derby supports the Alumni Scholarship Assistance program which provides annual scholarship awards to eligible enrolled Tlingit or Haida citizens who are attending college. Last year's derby raised \$26,775 in scholarships that were distributed to 51 tribal citizen students!

Derby tickets will be available for purchase for \$35 starting **April 24, 2015** at Western Auto Marine, De Hart's Auke Bay Store, and Harri Plumbing & Heating, Inc. If you want the early bird price of \$30, make sure you stop by Western Auto Marine on Friday, April 24th! Please remember, you don't need to fish in order to win – just buy a ticket and you'll be entered into our weekly drawing for a chance to win!

Tribe Holds Coordinated Community Response Training

The Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department held a "Coordinated Community Response" training February 24-26, 2015 to create an interagency, multi-disciplinary effort to change the climate of tolerance to intimate partner violence by institutionalizing practices that centralize victim safety and offender accountability. Participants in the training included Central Council programs that have direct contact with women and families, Juneau Police Department, Alaska State Troopers, the Alaska Court System, State of Alaska Office of Children's Services, Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE), and the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority. The training was facilitated by "Mending the Sacred Hoop," a Native-owned and operated non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Central Council will work with Juneau's "first responders" to enhance community response to tribal victims of domestic violence. Thank you to Sealaska, Goldbelt, and Juneau Tlingit and Haida Community Council for your encouragement and support to host this training!

Language Program Update

Central Council continues to work on language preservation and has submitted a grant proposal to the Administration for Native Americans for a Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance Grant in the amount of \$299,900. To continue to seek support for the Language program, a fundraiser lunch will be held during the upcoming Tribal Assembly. If you'd like to show your support for the program, please join us during the lunch hour on April 16, 2015 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau!

Central Council will also host a second Language Consortium meeting in April. This consortium was established to promote collaboration and improve communications with individuals and organizations working with Southeast Alaska Native languages. Eleven language organizations from Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Metlakatla participated in the first Language Consortium meeting. The agenda for the upcoming meeting will include discussion on proposed bylaws, a debriefing from immersion school working groups, organization updates, and review of the state of our languages. If you are interested in attending, please contact Susie Edwardson at sedwardson@ccthita.org or 907.463.7121.



Central Council's Language program is also hosting "Tlingit Family Time," which is a biweekly gathering for families and other community members to spend time with fluent Elders and other Tlingit language teachers and learners with the focus on revitalizing the Tlingit language. Language activities will be explored and the event is open to the public.

The Language program has also dedicated staff to help Dr. X'aagi Sháawu (Kerri Eggleston) who is documenting fluent speakers for a "Tlingit Verb Documentation" documentation project funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment of the Humanities. The project publishes several hundred sound clips recorded from Tlingit first-born speakers in the Juneau community and can be found on [Soundcloud](#) and [Facebook](#).