



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., tells UMWA members one voice can make difference to make things happen

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., delivered a message of unity and strength to more than 1,500 members of the United Mine Workers of America here Tuesday.

“Speak out with one voice,” President Shirley said. “Work together and be strong and we can make things happen.”

UMWA President Cecil Roberts said President Shirley helped the United Mine Workers of America by creating jobs and adding 515 new members to the union rolls. About 250 of these numbers were directly attributed to President Shirley, President Roberts said.

He said the union was fortunate to have an ally like President Shirley.

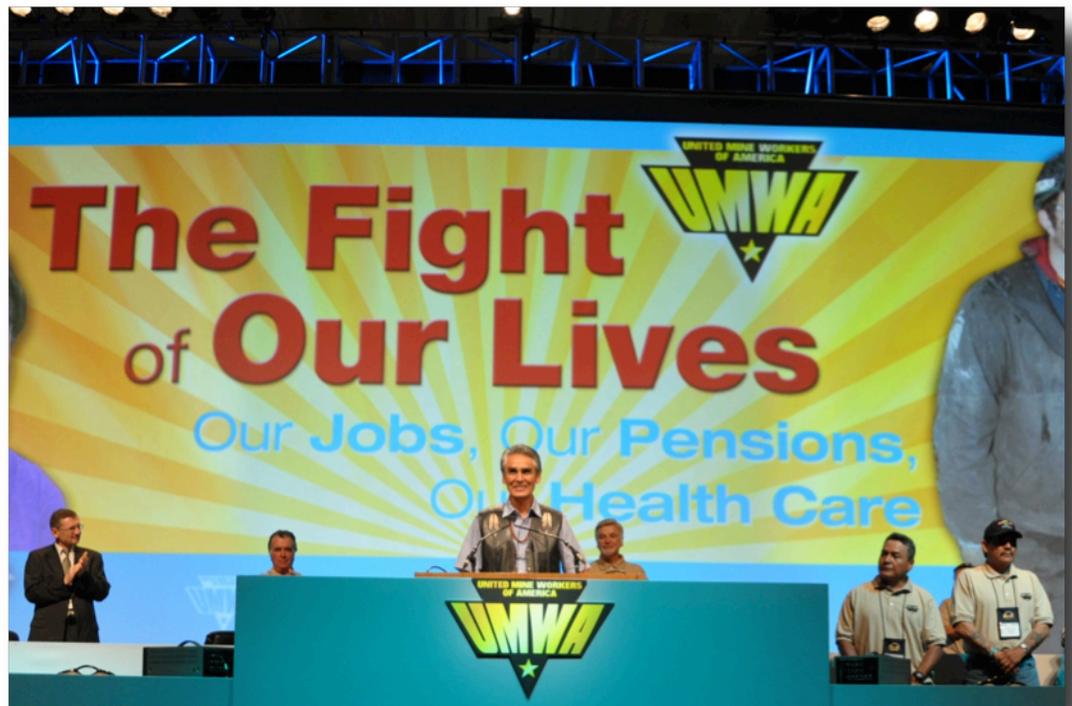
He said he appreciated the alliance between the Navajo Nation and UMWA.

He welcomed the support of the UMWA as the Nation becomes more and more independent.

The *Diné* were a “fierce and proud people,” President Shirley said.

He said no one accomplishes anything by themselves, stressing the need to work together toward a common goal especially when times are tough.

President Shirley said the need for job creation, economic opportunity, infrastructure and economic development remained critical to the Navajo Nation.



Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., giving a speech on unity and strength at the UMWA convention at the Mirage Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. Chandler Willie Photo

He encouraged the partnership of UMWA and the Navajo Nation on issues such as workers’ rights and safety at the Navajo Nation workplace.

“We have to work together and we have to be tough and resilient,” President Shirley said.

The UMWA currently represents about 4,000 Navajo workers at two mines on the Navajo Nation and in the Head Start program.

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