



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Navajo Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan attended the Eastern Navajo Agency Council meeting on Wednesday, April 2 at the Route 66 Hotel and Casino near Albuquerque, N.M. Pictured left to right is Johnny Johnson, Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., and Tommy McDonald. (Photo by Joshua Lavar Butler)

Speaker Morgan attends Díné Bíí Nátááníí Days, encourages chapter officials

"We can all make a positive difference in improving our government — thank you for your service to the Navajo Nation." — Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan

ALBUQUEQUE, N.M. — The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan attended the Eastern Navajo Agency Council meeting, titled Díné Bíí Nátááníí Days, on Wednesday, April 2 at the Route 66 Hotel and Casino.

The two-day session covered topics related to chapter management. Various employees from the Local Governance Support Center (LGSC) presented information to the meeting attendees.

Topics related to chapter management were discussed. The majority of meeting attendees were chapter officials and chapter staff from the eastern agency of the Navajo Nation.

Presentations were made to explain the purpose of chapter meeting minutes, effective resolution writing, chapter supervision, and purposes of chapter audits.

Conference attendees were also presented with information related to Indian tribal government and the Internal Revenue Service, particularly on chapter deductions, ruling, and tax forms.

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The conference facilitator was Johnny Johnson, president of the Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) and Tommy McDonald, vice president of the ENAC.

Anselm Morgan with the Local Governance Support Center delivered the welcome address and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Other honorary speakers included Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. and Arbin Mitchell, Division Director for Community Development.

Chapter finances was another module discussed at the conference. Meeting attendees heard presentations on the budgeting process, duties and responsibilities of chapter personnel, chapter fund accounting processes, chapter finance records and filing, and a question and answering session was held to re-emphasize the day's presentations.

Speaker Morgan explained that Navajo chapters across the Navajo Nation have faced many problems and said "we survived and thrived, because we took the barriers before us and turned them into opportunities and challenges. Let us use what we learn today and continue to overcome the challenges before us."

"Today, our plight continues as we face rapid changes in technology, changes in our political system, changes in a new workforce," Speaker Morgan added. "The Navajo Nation is now facing globalization and we need to be prepared for such changes."

Speaker Morgan told the meeting attendees that they all play a vital role in making our Navajo government work. "The Navajo Nation is placing more emphasis on human capital. The knowledge, training, skills, and expertise of prospective and current employees is very important — we need to continue to stress this importance by investing in trainings like this."

"Conference and meetings, such as this one, are vital in increasing the competency of our chapter employees and more importantly — the chapter officers," Speaker Morgan explained. "The knowledge you gain from this two-day session will help you become better elected officials and chapter employees."

It was also explained by Speaker Morgan that fiscal management is another vital component that chapters need to pay attention to. "The office of the Auditor General, which is under the Legislative Branch, has the responsibility of ensuring that all funds that are given to chapters are used prudently."

Speaker Morgan encouraged all meeting attendees to learn all they can from this conference and make the decision to work at improving their chapter governmental operations.

Speaker Morgan concluded his speech by saying that "we can all make a positive difference in improving our government — thank you for your service to the Navajo Nation."

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker at 928-871-6384.

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