



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MacDonald-Lone Tree elected vice president of National Order of Women Legislators

"MacDonald-Lone Tree is a good representative of our Navajo Council and I congratulate her for being elected as vice president of this national organization." — *Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker of the 21st Navajo Nation Council*

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation Council Delegate Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree was elected vice president of the National Order of Women Legislators by her colleagues during its 2008 NFWL Annual Conference held in Sarasota, Fla., recently.

MacDonald-Lone Tree (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi) will serve as the fundraising chair for events and will be responsible for approving "The Connection," a quarterly publication for the organization.

The organization, established in 1938, is considered the oldest and the largest legislative membership organization for women in the country and is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year, according to Julie Swaney, director of policy and operations for National Order of Women Legislators.

Swaney stated, "The Order works directly with the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) to provide educational resources and public policy materials to women elected officials at all levels of government from every state."

Its objectives are to promote a spirit of helpfulness among present and former state legislators, and to encourage greater participation of women in public affairs.

MacDonald-Lone Tree was honored to be elected by her peers.

"I am honored that the members of the Order and NFWL have entrusted me with the responsibility of increasing fundraising and approving our publications, and the organization has provided me with a wealth of resources and afforded me an extraordinary network of individuals who have assisted me in my efforts to elevate Navajo issues," MacDonald-Lone Tree said. "I am looking forward to continuing my work with colleagues across the nation to address vital public policy issues including the need for resources to combat substance abuse, improve schools, increase access to healthcare and help re-energize local economies through innovative community and state initiatives including investments in strengthening telecommunications and clean energy development."



Navajo Nation Council Delegate Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree, pictured second from right, was elected vice president of the National Order of Women Legislators during its 2008 NFWL Annual Conference held in Sarasota, Fla. (Courtesy photo)

Robin Read, NFWL president and CEO, said, "MacDonald-Lone Tree is an articulate and impassioned leader. In this historic election year the country has shown we are ready for women's leadership at all levels of government, be it on the presidential stage, in state houses and senates across the country or on local school boards and city councils.

"NFWL and the Order work with every level of government to ensure that women elected officials have every tool at their disposal to introduce and implement sound and effective public policy," Read added. "We are looking forward to Hope's leadership in the foundation and I am confident that she is going to contribute to making the next year one of the most exciting and productive years that NFWL has seen yet."

Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan also congratulated MacDonald-Lone Tree for her leadership on the national stage and for representing the Navajo Nation Council.

"MacDonald-Lone Tree is a good representative of our Navajo Council and I congratulate her for being elected as vice president of this national organization," Speaker Morgan said. "She has taken the initiative to advocate at the national level and this will help with our Navajo Nation advocacy. Our Council members must take all avenues to help push our concerns forward to the state and federal levels, while helping others — our voices will be stronger if we collaborate with other entities and Mrs. MacDonald-Lone Tree is accomplishing this."

According to NFWL, their mission is to provide strategic resources to women leaders for leadership development and effective governance through conferences, seminars, educational materials, developing professional and personal relationships, and networking at both the state and federal levels. The organization supports women legislators from all levels of government through annual educational and networking events. It is a non-profit and non-partisan organization, and it does not take ideological positions on public policy issues, but rather, serves as a forum for women legislators to be empowered through information and experience.

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