



Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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NEWS RELEASE:

Town hall meeting regarding To’Nanees’Dizi (Tuba City) Chapter scheduled Friday, Feb. 17

Presentation on chapter’s current affairs, finances

TUBA CITY, Ariz. — Navajo Nation Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler and Charlene Nez, Secretary-Treasurer of To’Nanees’Dizi (Tuba City) Chapter, have announced a town hall meeting scheduled for 6 pm on Friday, Feb. 17.

A presentation will be made concerning the current affairs of the chapter followed by a question and answer session.

Recently, the Local Governance Support Center closed the chapter house on Feb. 7 to ensure chapter equipment and documents were secure. The chapter reopened as of Feb. 10. Investigations and financial monitoring will continue during the leadership transition.

Four of the five-member Council of Naataanii, chapter officials of the To’Nanees’Dizi Chapter, were removed October to November 2011 by the Navajo Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) as a result of an investigation by the Navajo Ethics & Rules Office. Chapter officials were accused of illegally paying themselves bonuses totaling more than \$80,000.

Charlene Nez, the current Secretary-Treasurer, remains in her current capacity after agreeing to serve in her elected position for no more than 60-days or until the new officials are seated and sworn in.

As a result of abuse of chapter funds, all chapter bank accounts at Wells Fargo Bank in Tuba City will remain frozen until further notice. Accounts were frozen in accordance with 2 N.N.C. Title 26, the chapter’s Five Management System, and the To’Nanees’Dizi Chapter Ordinance.

“Our community members want an update on what is going on with the recent removal of chapter officials and the dismissal of staff,” Butler said. “As a result, we have found it necessary and important to host a town hall to answer any questions they may have.”

“We are working with all entities to get our chapter back on its feet,” Butler added. “It is important we ensure services are not disrupted during this interim period.”

For more information, contact the Local Governance Support Center in Tuba City at 928-283-3340.

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