



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd selected as vice chair of the Arizonans for Tribal Government Gaming**

**LEUPP, Ariz.** – The Arizona Indian Gaming Association held a tribal leaders and Arizonans for Tribal Government Gaming meeting last Friday at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, and unanimously elected Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) to serve as the vice chair of ATG2.

AIGA is comprised of 15 tribes representing urban and rural tribal communities throughout the state of Arizona. The organization was established to advocate, educate, partner and promote independence and improve the welfare of all tribes within the state of Arizona. ATG2 is a subsidiary entity of AIGA that was established as part of a comprehensive strategy to preserve existing tribal-state gaming compacts.

“I am very appreciative for the support of AIGA tribal leaders for the nomination as vice chair to ATG2 – the political arm,” stated Delegate Shepherd, who also serves as the chair of the Naabik’íyátí’ Committee’s Arizona Gaming Subcommittee.

During Friday’s meeting, ATG2 led by Arizona tribal leaders nominated a group of newly elected officers including newly elected chair of ATG2, White Mountain Apache Tribe vice chairman Kasey B. Velasquez.

As vice chair of ATG2, Delegate Shepherd will assist in leading the organization to new endeavors and continue building a foundation for Arizona tribes in regards to the gaming industry.

“We need to rebuild and be more unified to address AIGA’s priorities. I’ve asked the tribal leadership for the leadership to mend and to address the tough issues facing AIGA. Our future on Indian gaming exclusivity is paramount,” added Delegate Shepherd.



**PHOTO: Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd**

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) congratulated Delegate Shepherd on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council and thanked him for his continued service.

“On behalf of the Council, I congratulate Delegate Shepherd on his new appointment,” said Speaker Bates. “As the chair of the Naabik’íyátí’ Committee’s Arizona Gaming Subcommittee, Delegate Shepherd has exemplified tremendous leadership and I am confident that he will serve AIGA with great dedication and move the organization forward.”

Delegate Shepherd’s term as vice chair of Arizonans for Tribal Government Gaming is effective immediately.

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