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Arbin Mitchell distributes FY'07 Local Governance Trust Fund to Governance Certified Chapters



Arbin Mitchell presented an LGA Trust Fund check to San Juan Chapter President **Robert C. Begay**.

A total of \$331,834.08 was equally dispersed among the governance certified chapters

KIRTLAND, NEW MEXICO – Arbin Mitchell, Division of Community Development Division Director, attended the Council of Governance Certified Chapters meeting at the San Juan College West Campus on November 18 to discuss several new business initiatives.

As part of the goals and incentives of being a certified chapter, Mr. Mitchell distributed the FY' 2007 Local Governance Trust Fund to eight of the nine Governance-Certified Chapters within the Navajo Nation. The Eight were Shonto Governance, Nahata Dziil, Steamboat, Newcomb, To'Nanees' Dizi, San Juan, Tse Dââ K'âân and Sheepsprings Chapters. Each chapter received a check in the amount of \$41,479.26.

This is the second consecutive year DCD has provided distribution funds to the current governance-certified chapters. On September 28, 2007, the Fiscal Year 2006 allocations to the then eight certified chapters were for the fiscal years 2001 to 2006. FY'07 distributions to the now nine certified chapters were in the amount of \$331,834.08 to be equally divided among eight certified chapters. The Littlewater Chapter was not eligible to receive a LGA Trust Fund check because the chapter was certified after the fiscal year 2007. In total, DCD has dispersed a total of \$1,592,366.29 as part of the LGA Trust Fund.

“You need to be the leaders for the other 101 chapters that are not yet certified,” Arbin Mitchell, DCD Division Director.

Pursuant to the Local Governance Trust Fund §1164(A) states “Four percent of the average market value of the Fund shall be distributed annually to the governance-certified Navajo chapters based on a formula recommended by the Transportation and Community Development Committee and established by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.”

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The NINE Governance Certified Chapters of the Navajo Nation:

Shonto Chapter – Western Agency
Certified: September 22, 1999

Nahata Dziil Chapter – Fort Defiance Agency
Certified: August 16, 2002

Steamboat Chapter – Fort Defiance Agency
Certified: May 30, 2003

Newcomb Chapter – Northern Agency
Certified: June 18, 2004

To’Nanees’ Dizi Chapter – Western Agency
Certified: December 28, 2004

San Juan Chapter – Northern Agency
Certified: March 7, 2007

Tse Dââ K’âân Chapter – Northern Agency
Certified: June 21, 2007

Sheepsprings Chapter – Northern Agency
Certified: August 24, 2007

Littlewater Chapter – Eastern Agency
Certified: November 15, 2007



Arbin Mitchell shares his outlook plan for LGA Certified Chapters in regards to providing future technical assistance from his administration.

Mr. Mitchell encouraged the Council of Certified Chapters to consider financial strategies such as a long-term investment like a Certificate of Deposit (CD) that pays a higher yield than a savings account.

Another key item on the DCD agenda for the Council of Certified Chapters to consider is the FY’2009 Budget Condition of Appropriation. What this entails could have both DCD Administration and the five Local Governance Support Center agency offices, by the end of the second quarter, develop and submit to the respected oversight committees proposed amendments to the DCD Plan of Operation. The proposed amendments shall provide for the transfer of provision of technical assistance to the governance-certified chapters from the LGSC to a new governmental unit under the supervision of the Deputy Director of DCD.

E911 Rural Addressing was another key issue Mr. Mitchell shared with the Council of Certified Chapters. “I need the certified chapters to take the lead on this rural addressing,” Mitchell said. “You never know when an emergency will happen.” DCD will amend its plan of operation to include rural addressing for chapter communities to identify and name roads with approved chapter resolutions.

For Capital Outlay projects at all chapters, Mr. Mitchell informed the Council of Certified Chapters that currently DCD is revising the Capital Improvement Project Policies and Procedures to include chapters as possible shareholders.

It is the mission of DCD to continue the efforts towards making each Navajo chapter on the Navajo Nation a viable community.

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