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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

'Historic Day' for Tse' Daa K'aan Community Chapter as it achieves Navajo Nation Local Governance Certification

Tse' Daa K'aan Community Chapter is the seventh of the 110 Navajo Nation chapters to have LGA-Certification

TSE'DAA K'AAN, N.M. – Council Delegate Ervin M. Keeswood (Tse' Daa K'aan) is a giant among his fellow Tse' Daa K'aan community members, and it showed on Thursday, June 21, when his community chapter earned its Local Governance Certification during a special Transportation and Community Development Committee meeting held at the chapter.

"It's an honor to receive the LGA certification, the community has worked long and hard on this," Keeswood said. "It's a privilege and an honor."

All TCDC committee members were in attendance along with TCDC adviser, Gerri Harrison, during the special meeting that was organized to vote on the chapter's proposed five-management plan that is required for LGA-certification.

"Hopefully, from this day on, we can continue working and get a better government," said Charlie T. Jones Jr., Chapter President.

Tsé Dáa Kaan has done everything it was asked to in order to become self-governing, said Ernie Chischilly of the Auditor General's office. He reported that Acting Auditor General Elizabeth Begay recommends passage of the legislation.

By achieving its own LGA-certification, the chapter will be able to handle its own finances and interact on a government-to-government basis with the Navajo Nation's central government in Window Rock, Jones explained.

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It was standing room only for local and visiting Navajo community leaders and members who crowded into the people-filled chapter house. They listened to Anita Hayes, the chapter community services coordinator, who presented the chapter's proposed five-management plan in the Navajo language.

Leslie Dele (Tonalea) said Hayes' articulate Navajo language presentation of the chapter's proposed plan made him proud.

"This paper before me – as I look at it – it is beautiful to me," TC/DC member David Rico (Pueblo Pintado/Whitehorse Lake/Torreaon) said in the Navajo language.

Johnny Naize (Tselani/Cottonwood/Nazlini) praised "my big brother Keeswood" for his strong representation of the Tse' Daa K'aan Chapter, and said he's a true "naa'taaní."

Keeswood return the words of praises back to the local community members, and said they showed be recognized for their support in their leaders.

Dignitaries who witnessed the historic moment were Department of Community Development Director Stanley Yazzie; Philip Kinlichee, representing the Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan; Delegate David Tom (Beclabito/Gadiiachi); Steamboat Chapter President Jack Whitehorse Jr. and Steamboat Vice President Wallace Tsosie; Bess Yellowhair-Simpson, former chairwoman of the Navajo Board of Elections Supervisors; and political consultant Tio A. Tachias.

Representing the TC/DC committee were Chairman Sampson Begay (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain), Vice Chairman Naize, Dele, Begay, Jerry Bodie (Sanostee), Lorenzo Bedonie (Hardrock/Pinon) and Willie Tracey (Ganado/Kinlichee).