

2013 Annual Report

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The Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs



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INTRODUCTION

The Commission of Indian Affairs was established by the adoption of A.R.S. § 41-541 in 1953 by the 21st Legislature to consider and study conditions among the Indians residing within the State of Arizona.

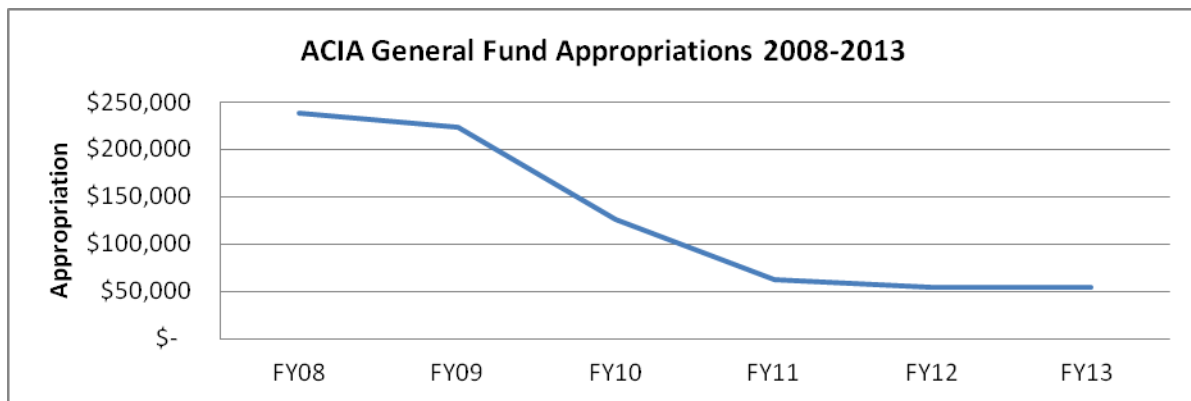
Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-542, the Commission exists to assist and support state and federal agencies in assisting Indians and tribal councils in this state to develop mutual goals, to design projects for achieving goals and to implement their plans.

The public body of the Commission consists of 20 members, including seven Indian and four at-large members appointed by the Governor, and 9 ex-officio members who serve by the virtue of their office.

The 2013 Annual Report describes the varied initiatives carried out by the Commission staff and continued its involvement with Arizona Tribal Leaders, state agencies, professionals and the tribal communities.

MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC BODY – SUMMARY

The Commission held eight meetings of the public body with no changes in membership during the year. The FY13 appropriation from the general fund \$53,700 with a statewide adjustment of \$800 for a one-time adjustment for a state employee health insurance payment holiday and employee retention payment.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In the previous year, the commission formulated a set of functional procedures to serve as guide appointed members and address unauthorized powers. In accordance with statutes, the commission elected Nathan Pryor as Chairman and Derreck Wheeler as Vice Chairman to serve a term of one year.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

To address matters that should be pursued in the upcoming fiscal year, the public body established the Planning and Prioritization Subcommittee to make recommendations on possible action items. Efforts by the public body were highly focused on methods to gauge the constituent base on areas of priority.

INDIAN EDUCATION

The Department is working on a partnership with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona to offer a summit for tribal leaders to discuss academic rigor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ As a commission invested in assisting the State of Arizona in their responsibility to tribes, it would be appropriate to conduct at least one meeting per fiscal year on tribal land.

ASSEMBLE AND MAKE FACTS AVAILABLE

Serving as an information clearinghouse, the Commission annually processes more than 500 inquiries ranging in interest from duplicating the Arizona State-Tribal relations model to requesting presentations on cultural sensitivity. The Commission consistently shares pertinent information to tribal nations and community members through the distribution of an electronic newsletter to provide assistance in identifying resources.

We enhance growth and development among low income and minority populations by partnering with community organizations and individuals to disseminate information regarding employment opportunities and vacancies on state boards and commissions. The Commission also provides information regarding state contracting opportunities, referrals to the state procurement office and ADOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

In accordance with A.R.S. § 41-844(D), the director of the state museum is required to give notice to this office upon the discovery of American Indian human remains, funerary objects, sacred ceremonial objects or objects of cultural patrimony. For FY13, 89 instances were reported.

CONFER AND COORDINATE

The Tribal Economic Development Task Force (TEDTF) was continued for an additional workshop to coordinate tribal economic development efforts statewide. On October 4th, 2012, the task force hosted a community forum to focus on public resources available through federal and state agencies. Some 26 agencies offered presentations on available technical assistance, financing and training; 72 individuals were in attendance and included representatives from the Hopi Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation, Navajo Nation and Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe.

The commission created the planning and prioritization subcommittee to establish a 2-year work plan focused on fulfilling statute and developing a strategic plan. In order to establish a baseline of activities that may be pursued by the public body, the subcommittee contacted various agencies and tribes for information to give us a better sense of service delivery and correct previous inconsistencies cited within Sunset Review Audits. By the end of the year, the subcommittee had developed a survey to use as a tool to define activities for the Commission. This process began with a matrix that outlined what areas (selected arbitrarily) the Commission would like to improve for tribal communities: education, housing, agriculture, economic development, health, infrastructure, emergency response, public safety. By considering the sub-objective of these areas, we were able to weigh the level of urgency and link this information to state agency resources.

The survey answers the following questions:

1. What does the Commission do?
2. What does the Commission want to achieve?
3. How should our activities be prioritized?
4. What are the most important achievements to commit to?

This process emphasizes achievements and allows the Commission to develop some metrics that will aid in understanding the achievement to focus on. The idea is to position the Commission where it can be deemed most effective in being a catalyst to improving the quality of life for the tribes and tribal community members.

WORK FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING

In addition to these efforts, Governor Brewer and more than 30 state agencies strive to ensure that state services and resources are accessible to all eligible state citizens residing in Arizona Tribal Communities.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2006-14 *Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes* each executive branch agency is required to assign a Tribal Liaison as a point of contact for tribal issues. The Liaison will assume responsibility for the agency's implementation of a tribal consultation policy with an annual report related to tribal activities.

This collaborative effort is facilitated by the Commission, who compiles the annual reports and distributes them to Tribal Leadership. In addition to this, regular meetings are held with designated agency Tribal Liaisons to share ideas, success stories, and brainstorm innovative strategies to serve the tribal community and their members. On request the Commission will also work with state agencies to develop a tribal outreach model or customized training for their workforce.

The Commission serves an integral role to Governor Brewer in the planning and implementation of biannual meetings with Tribal Leadership to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. Traditionally hosted by the Governor's Office, each tribe is invited to join the Governor in a private roundtable discussion to address issues impacting tribal community members.

Throughout the year the Executive Director and Commission Members host meetings and attend events in order to establish a presence and remain involved in current issues. Early in the year, the Commission hosted a meeting to discuss resources available for returning service members transitioning back into civilian life.

On January 11th, the commission traveled to the Hopi Nation to host a listening session with the Hopi Tribal Council. Members of tribal council identified five priority issues to include road conditions, veteran services, social services, education, and law enforcement. Following our meeting:

1. The AZ Dept of Economic Security followed up with the tribe to recruit Hopi families for the placement of Hopi children in foster care.
2. The AZ Dept of Public Safety met with Chairman Shingoitewa on entering a mutual aid agreement and filling existing vacancies.

18th ANNUAL INDIAN NATIONS AND TRIBES LEGISLATIVE DAY

In cooperation with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, the annual tribal legislative day occurred on Tuesday, February 5th, 2013. The date was changed to accommodate a flux in attendance by tribal leadership and state legislators traveling to Washington D.C. for the Presidential Inauguration. The primary objective is to discuss issues of mutual interest; and pay tribute to American Indian people and their contributions to the history, prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States.

Beginning with a joint protocol session held in the Senate, we were honored to have a posting of the colors by the Yavapai Apache Nation Color Guard. This year's featured speakers included Chairman Terry Rambler of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Vice-Chairman Tim Hinton of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Chairman Le Roy Shingoitewa of the Hopi Tribe. In attendance were over 421 tribal leaders, 24 state legislators, and other interested constituents. Some 30 organizations participated in a day long exhibit fair. The day concluded with a Solar and Renewable Energy workshop in the Capitol Museum Old Senate room that was attended by 90 attendees including state legislators.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

During the 51st Legislature, 1st Special Session, one bill of tribal interest passed.

HB2009 amended the State of Arizona's Transaction Privilege Tax Code thereby allowing for an additional distribution of Transaction Privilege Tax revenues collected on the Navajo Nation to Navajo Technical University and is transmitted to the Navajo Nation on a monthly basis.

As a state agency, the Commission of Indian Affairs respects the sovereign status of each of the 22 Indian nations and tribes. To advance government-to-government relationships with the Legislature, we host an Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day and connect Tribal Leaders with their elected State Representative(s).

COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF

Appointed Membership:

Ms. Lucinda Hughes Juan of the Tohono O'odham Nation
Mr. Cedric Kuwaninvaya of the Hopi Tribe
Mr. Derreck Wheeler of the White Mountain Apache Tribe
Mr. Nathan Pryor of the Navajo Nation
Mr. Buddy Rocha, Jr., of the Yavapai-Apache Nation
Mr. Dan Brooks – Member at Large
Ms. Leah Hubbard – Member at Large
Mr. Billie Spurlin – Member at Large
Mr. Dave Castillo – Member at Large (non-profit)

Ex-Officio Membership:

Ms. Debora Norris on behalf of The Hon. John Huppenthal, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mr. Michael Allison on behalf of Director William Humble, AZ Department of Health Services
Mr. Keith Watkins on behalf of Director Sandra Watkins, AZ Commerce Authority
Ms. Dawn Melvin on behalf of Director Sherry Henry, AZ Office of Tourism
Ms. Misty Klann on behalf of Director John Halikowski, AZ Department of Transportation
Ms. Maria Morlacci on behalf of The Hon. Tom Horne, AZ Attorney General
Mr. Shaun Rieve on behalf of Mr. Mark Brnovich, Director of the Department of Gaming
Ms. Melanie Starns on behalf of Director Clarence Carter, AZ Dept of Economic Security
Ms. Courtney Coolidge on behalf of Mr. Mark Brnovich, Director of the Department of Gaming
Ms. Dawn Williams on behalf of The Hon. Tom Horne, AZ Attorney General
Ms. Mary Huyser on behalf of Director Clarence Carter, AZ Dept of Economic Security

Staff:

Ms. Kristine Fire Thunder, Executive Director
Ms. Genevieve Medas, Administrative Assistant