



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2019

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Spring Session Begins, Council Honors Contributions of Educators, Elders and Youth

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Council Spring Session begins today at 10:00 am at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

“I want to welcome my colleagues, visiting dignitaries, and most importantly, our Navajo people to the the Council Chamber this week,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh).

By statute, the Navajo Nation Council meets four times per year in *regular session*. The Spring Session occurs on the third Monday of April.

To start the session, the following groups will perform the opening activities of the session.

- The Chinle High School JROTC, from Chinle, Ariz., will post the colors.
- Penelope Joe will sing the national anthem. She is Ms. Ganado 2018-19.
- Rose M. Smith will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, representing the Navajo Foster Grandparents Program.
- Milt Shirleson, from Western Indian Ministries, will provide the invocation.

Additionally, the council will recognize several individuals and programs for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Navajo people.

Wilhemina Yazzie, who was a lead plaintiff in the groundbreaking Yazzie/Martinez vs. State of New Mexico case, will be honored for her leadership in ensuring that all New Mexico students have access to a free education the prepares them for careers and further education. Her son, Xavier Nez, who was also plaintiff, will be honored as well. Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé alnáož't'í) will lead the recognition.

Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School, which celebrates 50 years of operations this year, will be recognized for their contributions to the education of Navajo children. Council

Delegate Mark Freeland (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahí, Whiterock) will lead their recognition.

The Navajo Nation Foster Grandparents Program, a program to enable elderly persons to remain physically and mentally active by participation in needed community services for special and exceptional needs children, will be recognized by Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta).

Lastly, Hanson King and Kellen Yellowhair will be honored for their rodeo achievements. Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye will lead their recognitions.

The Office of the Speaker reminds all those attending the council session to avoid parking in assigned parking spaces or fire or emergency lanes.

A copy of the draft agenda for the session is attached to this release.

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**PROPOSED AGENDA OF THE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**SPRING SESSION
April 15 – 19, 2019
10:00 AM**

**Navajo Nation Council Chambers
Window Rock, Navajo Nation (AZ)**

PRESIDING: Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker, Navajo Nation Council

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; INVOCATION
2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS
3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA
(m) (s) (v)
4. RECEIVE THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAJO NATION
(m) (s) (v)
5. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION
(m) (s) (v)
6. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
(m) (s) (v)
7. RECEIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE CONTROLLER
(m) (s) (v)

8. ORAL REPORTS:

- A. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) (m) (s) (v)
- B. Indian Health Services (IHS) (m) (s) (v)
- C. Attorney General (m) (s) (v)
- D. Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (m) (s) (v)

9. WRITTEN REPORTS

- A. Standing Committees (m) (s) (v)
- B. Boards and Commissions (m) (s) (v)
- C. Bureau of Indian Affairs (m) (s) (v)
- D. Indian Health Services Area Director (m) (s) (v)
- E. Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (m) (s) (v)

10. OLD BUSINESS

- (A) **LEGISLATION 0003-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CO-60-17 **SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty**

(m) (s) (v)

01/29/2019

Motion to Table Legislation 0003-19 and refer back to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee until a Naabik'iyáti' Committee work session is held for further discussion within the next 30 days; (M) Honorable Otto Tso, (S) Honorable Daniel Tso, (V) 12 in Favor, 11 Opposed (Speaker Damon Not Voting).

02/26/2019

Naabik'iyáti' Committee work session held to discuss Legislation 0003-19.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **LEGISLATION 0009-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Rudy Shebala as Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director **SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels**
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Otto Tso

(m) (s) (v)

- (B) **LEGISLATION 0011-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Garret Silversmith as Division Director for the Navajo Division of Transportation **SPONSOR: Honorable Mark Freeland**

(m) (s) (v)

- (C) **LEGISLATION 0012-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Dr. Pearl Yellowman as the Division of Community Development Director for the Navajo Nation **SPONSOR: Honorable Mark Freeland**

(m) (s) (v)

- (D) **LEGISLATION 0013-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Consenting to Jesse Delmar as Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director **SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels**

CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Otto Tso
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Edmund Yazzie

(m) (s) (v)

- (E) **LEGISLATION 0017-19:** An Action Relating to Law and Order: Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Doreen N. McPaul as the Navajo Nation Attorney General
SPONSOR: Honorable Edmund Yazzie
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Herman M. Daniels
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Mark Freeland

(m) (s) (v)

- (F) **LEGISLATION 0018-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Lomardo Aseret as Executive Director of the Division of General Services.
SPONSOR: Honorable Edmund Yazzie
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Daniel Tso

(m) (s) (v)

- (G) **LEGISLATION 0022-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of JT J. Willie as Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Executive Director
SPONSOR: Honorable Edmund Yazzie

(m) (s) (v)

- (H) **LEGISLATION 0025-19:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Dr. Jill Jim as the Health Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health
SPONSOR: Honorable Charlene Tso
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Pernell Halona

(m) (s) (v)

- (I) **LEGISLATION 0026-19:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Dr. Perphelia Fowler as the Executive Director of the Division of Human Resources
SPONSOR: Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye

(m) (s) (v)

- (J) **LEGISLATION 0027-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Christopher Becenti as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
SPONSOR: Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

(m) (s) (v)

(K) **LEGISLATION 0040-19:** An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Appointment of Santee Lewis as the Navajo Nation Washington Office Director
SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

(m) (s) (v)

(L) **LEGISLATION 0074-19:** An Act Relating to Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission
SPONSOR: Honorable Seth Damon
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Rickie Nez

(m) (s) (v)

(M) **LEGISLATION 0082-19:** An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, Naabik'iyáti Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the appointment of Oliver B. Whaley as the Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency
SPONSOR: Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr.
CO-SPONSOR: Honorable Mark Freeland

(m) (s) (v)

12. CLOSE OF SESSION; ANNOUNCEMENTS; ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE: The public is advised that the Navajo Nation Council Agenda and the Agendas of the Standing Committees are not final until adopted by a majority vote of the Navajo Nation Council or the Standing Committee at a Navajo Nation Council or a Standing Committee meeting pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§163 and 183, Navajo Nation Council Rule of Order No. 7, and Standing Committee Rule of Order No. 8.