



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

August 19, 2021

Dear NCAI Membership and Partners:

I am writing to update you on the status of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) upcoming 78th Annual Convention & Marketplace, scheduled to be held October 11-14, 2021 in Sacramento, California. After much consideration by NCAI's Administrative Board and Executive Committee, we have decided the most prudent path forward is to conduct this conference in a fully virtual environment. While we are disappointed that we are unable to visit with our relatives in California during this time, our priority is the health and wellness of Indian Country.

In order to hold the Annual Convention and elections safely and in accordance with the NCAI Constitution, on Friday, August 13, 2021, the Executive Committee exercised its authority pursuant to Article IV, Section B of the NCAI Constitution and voted to amend the By-Laws to allow for safe meetings to occur virtually when necessary and to continue our long-standing practice of voting for new leadership every two years. The text of the amendment passed by the Executive Committee is enclosed with this letter and the electronic version of NCAI's By-Laws have been updated on our website.

The 2021 Annual Convention will consist of a robust agenda, allowing for plenty of time for tribal leaders to discuss and identify important policy priorities to be advanced. Additionally, steps are being taken to ensure elections can take place safely and securely. More information about the secure voting process will be provided to membership in the forthcoming weeks.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you for your support and understanding of this decision. Please reach out to our Events team at events@ncai.org for any questions about this announcement and we are happy to assist.

During these continually challenging times, I pray your families and communities are safe and healthy.

Siokwil,

Fawn Sharp
President
National Congress of American Indians

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Quinalt Indian Nation

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Robert Tippeconnie
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SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

WESTERN
Amber Torres
Walker River Paiute Tribe

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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Addendum – By-Law Amendment
Approved by Executive Committee on August 13, 2021

The amendment to the By-Laws modified Article V, Section F to include the new language appearing italicized in red:

SECTION F

Teleconference Meeting/Voting by Mail or Electronic Delivery

Regular or Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be held by teleconference provided all members (or an official representative of his/her tribe or tribal organization) have been duly notified of such meeting at least 48 hours before such meeting.

Members may be asked from time to time to vote on key issues without a meeting. Such voting is allowed provided all members are served with the same ballot and information about the subject voted upon either by mail or electronic deliver. Elections may not be conducted by mail or electronic delivery *unless a virtual meeting is called pursuant to Article V, Section A, Subsection 3 of the NCAI By-Laws.*

The amendment also added new language at the end of Article V, Section A, which appears italicized in red:

SECTION A

Official Meetings

The official meetings of NCAI shall be the Annual Convention, the Mid-Year Conference, and the winter session of the Executive Council and the duly called meetings of the Executive Committee. The Mid-Year Conference shall be at the option of the Executive Committee.

1. The Executive Council shall hold an Annual Convention meeting within the first quarter of each year in Washington, D.C. It shall also meet on such other occasions as shall be determined necessary by majority vote of the Executive Council, or, in case of emergency, at the call of the President or a majority of the Executive Board.
2. Executive Committee meetings shall be at the “call of the Chair.”
3. *Virtual Meetings.*

***Determination of need for Virtual Meeting.** If a 2/3 majority of the NCAI Executive Committee determines that circumstances prevent the ability of the Annual Convention, Mid-Year Conference, or Executive Council Winter Session to safely take place in person, then a virtual meeting may be utilized to carry out NCAI business otherwise conducted at an in-person meeting.*

***Notice of Virtual Meeting Determination.** Notice of the need for a virtual meeting shall be provided to Members and posted on the NCAI website, or made public via a similar public notification system, at least 30 days prior to the*

meeting, or in the event the decision is made less than 30 days, as soon as practicable after the decision to hold a virtual meeting is made.

Modifications for Virtual Meeting. *When a virtual meeting is utilized, reasonable modifications may be enacted to carry out NCAI business, including modifications to the credentialing requirements, quorum requirements, voting requirements, voting procedures, and elections. Modifications must be approved by the Administrative Board prior to taking effect.*

Notice of Modification. *Notice of any modifications made pursuant to this paragraph must be provided to Members as soon as practicable after the decision to make modifications to normal practices is made.*