



LeChee Chapter Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 9, 2024
1:00 pm Page/Pacific Time Zone

1. **Meeting called to order** by Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche at 1:38pm
2. **Invocation** given by Renee Tsosie
3. **Appoint a pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer by Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche:** Two pro-temp candidates; Christina Gamble and Patricia Benally which requires a motion and vote
Motion: Irene Whitekiller for Christina Gamble
Motion: Laura Blackhors-Christie for Patricia Benally
Vote: Christina Gamble- Favor: 4 Patricia Benally- Favor: 3
Total Vote to approve Christina Gamble to be pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer at this chapter meeting.
Motion: Irene Whitekiller Second: Geraldine Madrigal
Favor: 14 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 5
4. **Roll Call:** LeChee Chapter Leadership present by Christina Gamble
Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche ✓ Yvonne Bigman ✓ Tyler Manson
Renee Tsosie ✓ Helena Nez Begay Tom Franklin Jr.
5. **Add Review and Adoption of the June 9, 2024 Chapter (correction made by Renee Tsosie from Planning to Chapter meeting) Meeting Agenda with revisions announced at the chapter meeting and posted outside**
Sponsored by pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer
Motion: Renee Tsosie Second: Laura Blackhorse-Christie
Favor: 16 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 4
6. **Review and Adoption of the May 19, 2024 Chapter Meeting minutes**
Sponsored by pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer
Motion: Yvonne Bigman Second: Christina Gamble
Favor: 15 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 3
7. **Financial Report: Month of April & May 2024**
Sponsored by pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer
Motion to accept the financial report posted in the back of the agenda and on the white board in the main meeting room.
Motion: Orlinda Tsosie Second: Laura Blackhorse-Christie
Favor: 15 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 2
8. **Reports and Presentations: (5 minutes time limit per subject):**
 - A. Navajo Nation Honorable Council Delegate, Helena Nez Begay: not present
 - B. LDA for Council Delegate Helena Nez Begay, Tom Franklin Jr.: not present



- C. Tuba City Regional Health Care Center Board of Directors, Lyonel Tso presented the June 2024 report: Echo Cliffs Health Care Center is on track and progress going well, continued bi-weekly meetings on the project; good turnout for the job fair in Bodaway/Gap; the domestic violence shelter in Tuba City is on hold, still looking for land; TCRHHC is still looking to recruit and retain nurses with competitive pay and sign-on bonuses; syphilis cases are on the rise on the Navajo Nation, the Public Health Clinic, formerly Vaccine Clinic, at TCRHCC main campus has expanded to STI testing/treatment; recruitment efforts for physicians and other providers still a priority; continued efforts to replace Dr. Nelson at LeChee Health Center; Mobile medical unit will be in LeChee on June 7th, 10th, and 26th from 8:45 to 3pm DST for sports physicals, vaccines, child exams and more; The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) created the Downwinders program or Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP) in the 1990's and is set to expire June 10, 2024. It was up in 2022, but two more years were added, and there is legislation to extend it longer. It was stressed to call (928)283-1802 for further questions; "Just Move It" will be in Flagstaff on June 11th, great turnout for the LeChee JMI on new course, STI and HIV conference at Moenkopi Legacy Inn on June 10th to learn about syphilis reduction plan; June is National Cancer Survivor month; There are full board members of ten including President Franklin Fowler, Vice-President Dolly Lane, and Secretary Carmelita Homer, It's been hard to meet full attendance of the quarterly updates from Chapter officials, making a decision to possibly move to bi-annual updates, LeChee Chapter officials have been present to every update; last Lyonel attended and gave a report/update at the Western Navajo Nation Agency meeting on June 8th in Kaibeto.
- D. LeChee Veteran Committee presented by Lyonel Tso. ARPA money for veteran housing, repairs and maintenance. He said about \$50 million in ARPA is designated for Veteran housing, repairs and maintenance. This money has to be allocated by the end of the year or we lose it. There are more veterans than the money can afford to cover for homes for all of them. Orlynda Tsosie asked questions specifically on surviving Veteran spouses in respect to non-Navajo Veteran with Navajo spouses, can they still qualify for housing? Lyonel stated there will be someone coming out from VA Benefits and Claims to LeChee Chapter on June 17th with more information and to answer questions. Correction made by Renee Tsosie for name spelling: Iva Chee, and Michelle Alex



- E. Coconino County Supervisor, Lena Fowler presented on voting history for Arizona and Native American voting rights; 15 counties in Arizona work with 22 tribes voting; Primary election changed from August 6th to July 30th; It is important to teach our kids about voting; Lena Fowler is re-running for Coconino County Supervisor; She talked about the shooting incident in Cameron and how to respond to emergency situations, such as the importance of an MOU between multi-jurisdictional agencies to work together efficiently, effectively, and timely to handle emergency situations like this: Forming a Native American Advisory Committee in the court systems to listen to communities has helped improve situations; A lot of people had their taxes done by Lena and her tax team, they are now doing taxes year round; A rise in scams (texting), the county is working with attorneys to combat this, one way is through radio announcements on KAFF and KUYI; Targeting women who run their own business; Having a strong support system from being scammed is important; Delayed birth certificate is still being done at their office, discovering more people can't get a retirement check because they do not have a birth certificate; interesting fact, more Navajo children do not have a CIB.
- F. Candidate for Coconino County Attorney, Ammon Barker. He is not present, but Lena Fowler presented on his behalf stating he cares about our communities and to vote for him. He has 14 years experience working as a prosecutor, and helped establish the drug court in Page.
- G. Candidate for Coconino County Sheriff, Bret Axlund. He is not present, but presented by B. McCluskey. He stated his office is constantly working on an MOU to work with the Navajo Nation to work across borders. He stressed the importance of the two agencies, the NN and Coconino County Sheriff Department (CCSD) to work fluidly together. He used the example of the Cameron incident, noting the rapid response from CCSD; He spoke on the success of the traffic trap light on N20 which was a loan from Flagstaff, hoping to get two or three permanent lighted traffic signs placed on N20 in LeChee; He hopes to give a 30 minute free class Chapter House to educate the public on scams. Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche translates in Navajo. Orlynda Tsosie asked if the Sheriff's Office takes reports on scams, B. McCluskey replied, "they should be." He also added any agency can take a report since it's an online scam, they take the report and send it to where it has to go. Orlynda Tsosie suggested creating a call line to report scams or other offenses to avoid being transferred everywhere to make a report, B. McCluskey agreed that's a great



idea; B. McCluskey stated they cannot pursue Navajo suspects on tribal land due to sovereignty issues, but they want to serve in a great capacity and will bring to Ammon Barker's attention. Last, Orlynda Tsosie stated the chapter is working on creating an Emergency Response Team and if they put one together, would he be interested to be on the team? His response is "yes."

- H. Candidate for Coconino County Supervisor for District 5, Angie Williams. Angie Williams spoke of her credentials for this position; 12 years Tuba City chapter official, 8 years Grey Hills High School board member, 25 years in the health field with the Navajo Nation. Please vote for her on July 30th, she is second on the ballot.
- I. Add Planning & Zoning Committee for reports for next meeting
- J. Add Candidate for Mayor of Page, Brian Carey
- K. Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche added Rye Development and how they were given permission to survey the former NGS site for a possible 396-Megawatt hydroelectric power pumped storage facility. The Community Benefit Plan for LeChee requires volunteers to serve on a four month planning committee to identify priority projects, \$20,000,000.00 for projects. Anyone interested, contact Chapter Manager, Renee Tsosie by email at rtsosie@nnchapters.org by Friday, June 28th by 4pm MDT.

9. **Old Business:**

- A. **Resolution LC05192024F changed to Resolution LC05192024E:
Resolution of LeChee Chapter accepts and approves the Navajo Nation Sales Tax Budget in the amount of \$50,676.00.**

Sponsored by Renee Tsosie

Motion: Orlynda Tsosie Second: Roberta Lyons

Favor: 16 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 1

Renee Tsosie stated the money hasn't hit the bank yet to pass any resolutions. They budget money for repair and maintenance of the chapter house building and air conditioning, pesticide maintenance for rodent issues, flashing light signs at mutton curve, and past old landfill. They met with Henry Begay from the BIA to make this happen; A vehicle for chapter officials is necessary for travel to avoid paying mileage through the ARPA funds. They took three bids from Terrell Chevrolet, Page Ford and Winslow Ford. They are looking for a new vehicle under \$40,000 with a warranty.

- B. **Resolution LC05192024F: The LeChee Chapter of the Navajo Nation amending, approving and adopting Fiscal Year 2024 Navajo Nation**



Healthy Dine' Act Revenue Funding in the amount of \$29,247.00.

Sponsored by Renee Tsosie

Motion: Roberta Lyons Second: Laura Blackhorse

Favor: 17 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 1

Renee Tsosie stated this funding is approved through ASC to help improve communities. The chapter only uses this now and then due to lots of restrictions, only emergency situations, "healthy food."

10. **New Business: Action Items and Resolutions**

- A. **Resolution LC06092024A: LeChee Chapter approving and accepting the donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Stephen and Polly Chu. The donation has been budgeted for student financial assistance.**

Sponsored by Renee Tsosie

Motion: Roberta Lyons Second: Geraldine Madrigal

Favor: 17 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 1

Renee Tsosie received a donation from a visitor from New Jersey visiting the canyon, saw youth and was inspired to donate to the local funding for youth students. This will be added to the Chapter Activities General Fund for students.

11. **LeChee Chapter staff and officials Report: (4 minute allotment time per report)**

- A. President, Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche- She spoke of the energy conference she attended in Albuquerque; solar and hydro electricity. She mentioned the closure of NGS, when it was shut down, NGS wouldn't fix the problems. All these energy companies want to come here and build, we need to create energy policies more in our favor. President Nyugren was told the current energy policies need to be updated, they are so outdated. She added former NGS employees should help to create energy negotiations; She mentioned the Western Agency meeting was held in Kaibeto at the Patterson family's gym in the back of the store. They were unable to use the boarding school because the Navajo Nation wouldn't insure the building usage. There are 18 chapters that attend, therefore LeChee couldn't host due to size. She said there was a lot of information received and it was a good meeting; Water rights was another topic. Four out of seven Governors approved the water rights. Now to introduce the legislation to Congress. Jason John, head of Water Resource, spoke about water allocation between the lower and upper basin Colorado River. The upper Basin is from Lees Ferry to Wyoming; a 50,000 acre feed. She mentioned it seems unfair NAPI will take a big portion of the water.



- B. Vice-President, Yvonne Bigman- She spoke about the Western Navajo Conference she attended in Kaibeto. She spoke about the natural resources we have on the Navajo, such as helium; we should utilize it, produce it, and receive revenue from it. She spoke about the coal powered plant in Page, when it was producing, it helped the community and the Senior Center. High grade coal is currently sitting there, dig it up and sell it; Population is going down on the Navajo Nation, young educated adults are leaving and finding better jobs off the reservation; She also mentioned lawyers who spoke at the conference on the abundance of natural resources on the NN; President Nyugren talked about what's going on around the NN. She mentioned we should be grateful that in LeChee, we have resources, such as the senior center, clinic and chapter house. A Lot of other reservation towns lack these resources.
- C. Secretary/Treasurer, vacant
- D. Grazing Official, Tyler Manson- not present
- E. Chapter Manager, Renee Tsosie- She spoke on the ARPA projects for modular homes are almost there. The ARPA money makes the budget look big, but it will be zeroed out by next month. On May 22,2024, LeChee Chapter wanted to contract with a mobile home contractor for 21 homes. On May 17, 2024 a bid opened and a mobile home manufacturer was selected out of Kanab. They have 24 years experience selling homes on the NN. They provided a cost breakdown on each home. On Tuesday, the money will be checked out of the account and paid for the homes. 21 people were selected to get homes. They have to have the concrete slab, water, and electricity hooked up, if not, Light Up Navajo will help. NTUA said they are willing to work with individuals as long as they have a homesite lease already in place. The warehouse the chapter wants to build, the bid closes for the material vendor by Wednesday at 4pm. It will be at the old park service building because it's already functional; LeChee Chapter is still working with Page on the water and sewer lines, 164 process; another project in the works is the multi-purpose building by Windcrest Rd.; She mentioned the chapter has a small budget of \$19,380.00 to work with for the summer youth program. This allowed them to only hire four students for the first session and four students for the second session, hired at \$13.00 an hour. 18 students applied, and 10 students were turned away due to low funds. President Nyugren was made aware that we need more funding for the summer youth program; Soon they will be looking for poll officials, a chief poll judge and three poll officials for voting day. In July, we will have a resolution for



these positions. Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche added the poll officials will need to read and write in English, and speak Navajo fluently. There are also other qualifications such as not supporting a certain candidate or no relation; Renee Tsosie also mentioned Tina Tsinigine, NN District Judge, is offering her services to the public with probate proceedings. She's willing to help fill out the legal paperwork for free; The chapter wants the planning and zoning committee to meet with Goldtooth Precision Solutions for mapping of homesite leases in community, rural and community homesite leases; Last, our laws are holding us back from growing. Pierre Thomas, Energy Attorney from Moapa talked to the audience about fair practices laws being outdated. They need to update them to work in our favor.

F. Planning and Zoning Committee: no official report given

12. Announcements: (Subject to change)

- A. District Grazing Meeting, LeChee Chapter June 6, 2024 9 am MST
- B. LeChee Chapter June Meeting June 9, 2024 1pm Page Time
- C. Planning & Zoning Meeting June 13, 2024 5pm Page Time
- D. Flag Day June 14, 2024
- E. Father's Day June 16, 2024
- F. **Add** VA Benefits & Claims June 17, 2024 10am-4pm DST
- G. **Add** Navajo Voters Coalition Conference June 18, 2024 8am-4pm AZ time
- H. Juneteenth, the chapter is closed June 19, 2024
- I. **Add** Family Fun Day- Louise Yellowman Park June 19, 2024 10am DST
- J. Summer Solstice, 1st day of Summer June 20, 2024
- K. **Add** NN voter Registration Closes June 21, 2024
- L. **Add** Listening Circle- Moenkopi Legacy Inn June 27, 2024 5:30-7pm AZ time
- M. July Planning Meeting July 1, 2024 5pm Page time
- N. July 4th Observation- chapter closed July 4, 2024

13. Adjournment at 3:56 pm

Sponsor: Jo Ann Yazzie Pioche

Motion: Orlynda Tsosie Second: Renee Tsosie

Favor: 13 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 1

Completed by Christina Gamble, pro-temp Secretary/Treasurer on June 11, 2024
