



NACNA President's Update

June-July 2026

Good day, relatives, officers, delegates, elders, veterans, youth, and friends.

As we conclude our June and July activities, I would like to begin by extending my sincere appreciation to the Half Moon Fireplace of Oneida and the Oneida host chapter for an outstanding job hosting the 77th Annual Native American Church of North America Convention.

Hosting a national convention requires months of planning, preparation, coordination, and sacrifice. From the business sessions to the prayer site, the food, hospitality, and welcoming atmosphere reflected the dedication and generosity of the host chapter. Thank you to everyone who donated, cooked, cleaned, volunteered, and supported the convention. Creator knows your efforts, and they are sincerely appreciated.

I also thank everyone who participated on this year's convention agenda. This was the first time NACNA hosted a legal panel featuring Greg Smith (Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker LLP), Jerry Patchen, Lenny Fineday (NCAI Legal Advisor), and Linda Benally (Former NACNA Attorney). Their knowledge was invaluable to our delegates.

We extend our appreciation to Chairman Kennan Groesbeck of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and Councilman Jameson Wilson of the Oneida Nation Tribal Council for addressing the convention.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Omaha Tribe for their continued support of the Native American Church of North America. During the convention, the Omaha Tribe's report and message of support were formally presented by Council Representative and NAC Roadman Milton Miller Sr. We sincerely thank the Omaha Tribe for standing with NACNA and strengthening the bonds of friendship, unity, and cooperation between our nations.

Thank you to NACNA Legislative Chair Ryan Wilson for representing NACNA at the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference and helping amend the support resolution concerning peyote and mescaline. We also thank the Oneida Tribal Council for reading the amended resolution.

Another special thank you goes to Ismail Lourido Ali, Executive Director of MAPS, for attending at the invitation of our Legislative Chair to better understand NACNA as the long-established Native American Church organization.

This year NACNA did not have legal representation throughout the convention because of prior obligations. NACNA has also received a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Office of the Texas Chapter that is currently under legal review and may be presented at a future quarterly NACNA meeting.

Overall, this report reflects the collaborative work accomplished during June and July. Our organization continues to move forward through prayer, unity, and dedication.

In closing, thank you to everyone who continues to stand with the Native American Church of North America. May we continue protecting our ceremonies, sovereignty, and way of life for the next seven generations.

I wish each of you and your families a safe and blessed summer. May the Creator watch over your travels, churches, and communities.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 78th Annual Native American Church of North America Convention in Arizona. Until then, may the Creator continue to bless each of you, your families, and your churches. Travel safely, and may God bless you all.

Respectfully,



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