

Executive Director's Report for the Period

September 13, 2014 – January 15, 2015

Submitted by Sherry L. Rupert to Nevada Indian Commission Board

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Administrative

- All vacancies of the Commission have been filled. Our newest member is Mr. John Hansen. Mr. Hansen is filling one of the American Indian seats. Welcome Commissioner Hansen.
- Attended Governor's Cabinet meeting on October 22, 2014. The Cabinet Team meetings for the remainder of the calendar year were cancelled.
- Budget
 - The Commission's BDR 18-289 is now SB 63; creating the Nevada Indian Commission's Gift Fund; designating the Commission as the coordinating agency for certain discussions regarding activities at and uses of the buildings and grounds of the former Stewart Indian School; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
 - The Commission was contacted by the Legislative Council Bureau in regard to BDR 18-289 Indian Commission Coordinating Agency for Stewart Indian School. They were requesting clarification on intent of the language: First, that, in fact, the intent is just for the Commission to be the "coordinating agency." i.e., the intent is NOT to give the Commission authority to make unilateral decisions regarding the School, but instead to coordinate whatever discussions there are about the School among the Commission, whichever other state agencies might have some interest, the local government, etc. We affirmed that this was correct. Second, they wanted confirmation that the Gift Fund is supposed to be for ALL gifts given to the Commission, and not just gifts related to the Stewart Indian School. We affirmed that yes, this is for all gifts to the Commission.
 - The name for the Major Budget Initiative (MBI) has been revised from the Stewart Historic District to the *Stewart Indian School Living Legacy*. The MBI is still in the Governor's Budget, so this is good news.
 - The \$3 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) request for the construction on Buildings 1 and 2 at the Stewart Facility did not make it onto the list of projects that the State Public Works Board recommended the Governor include in his budget. This doesn't mean that it will not be included in the Governor's request; it's not over until it's over!
 - Our pre-session budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at the Legislative Building.

Projects

- A full report on Stewart-related items including the Honoring Reception for the Centennial Indian Princess Contestants, the Nevada Day Parade entry and the 2014 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction will be given under Agenda Item XIII.
- The NIC's Tribal Legislative Forum is to take place today, January 15, 2015 here at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City. We are very excited to have former legislators participate and share their expertise, experience and provide tips to make this a more effective session for tribal governments.

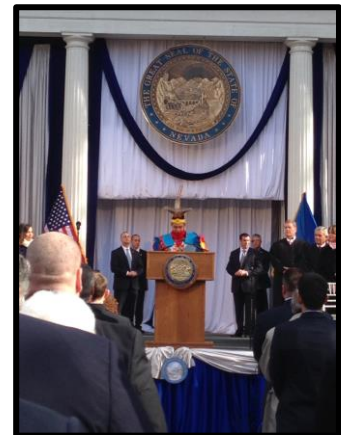
We have confirmed John Ocegüera, former Speaker of the Assembly and Senior Vice President, Nevada Operations, Strategies 360; Ernie Adler, former State Senator, attorney and lobbyist; and former State Assemblywoman, attorney and candidate for Lt. Governor, Lucy Flores. Our speakers will provide information on the Nevada State Legislature, the legislative process, committee structure, how to be an effective advocate and to find out what legislation is being considered and how it may affect their communities.

Presentations/Meetings/Miscellaneous

- The American Indian Tourism Conference was held in Marksville, LA, September 14-18, 2014. I am the President of the Board of Directors and the Co-chair of the national conference planning committee. While at the conference I provided a briefing on the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitors Experience (NATIVE) Act (see attached) and a workshop on State-Tribal Coordination as it pertains to tourism.
- I was invited by Leslie Wheelock, Director, Office of Tribal Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in a panel at the MADE IN NATIVE AMERICA, Export and Trade Seminar, October 26, 2014, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention in Atlanta, GA, October 26-October 31, 2014. I was part of a 3-person panel to discuss Native Tourism as an export. I also chaired the Economic Development, Finance and Employment Subcommittee.
- I was a member of a panel discussion on cultural heritage tourism at this year's Governor's Conference on Tourism, Reno, NV, October 27-29, 2014. The presentation was moderated by Claudia Vecchio, Director, Tourism and Cultural Affairs and was very well attended.
- The last meeting of the Sesquicentennial Commission convened on Monday, December 15th following the filling of the NV 150 time capsule. We were able to have included: a Nevada's Indian Territory brochure, a listing of Nevada's tribal leaders, a copy of the Indian Princess Reception program and a copy of the Stewart Indian School marketing video. A flash drive with all of the listed documents was also included.
- I attended the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Board Meeting on December 8, 2014 to give an update on Commission activities and to request a resolution in support of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitors Experience (NATIVE) Act. All were supportive of the resolution and it passed unanimously (see attachment).



- The Executive Director is a member of the exploratory committee that is looking at the feasibility of instituting a Tribal College in Nevada. The group has discussed the need for a feasibility study that would include a survey of American Indian Alaska Native college-going students asking them where they plan to attend college and if they are going to attend colleges out of state, why? The group is also interested in the Stewart Indian School as a potential location for the Tribal College. This discussion is all very preliminary and I will need some input from the Governor's office moving forward.
- The Northern Nevada Transitional Housing Facility Groundbreaking took place on Wednesday, December 16, 2014 in Reno, NV. I was asked by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) to be the emcee of the event to celebrate a significant milestone of a collaboration initially undertaken in 2003. The future Northern Nevada Transitional Housing Facility, which will be operated by the Nevada department of Corrections, is one of the last stages of an ongoing real-estate and business, formalized in 2005 by the Nevada state Legislature with Assembly Bill 299, by the RSIC, the Nevada State Public Works Division, Washoe County School District, and the Nevada Department of Corrections. Though complex in scope and lengthy in process, this project demonstrates true teamwork.
- The Governor's Inauguration took place on Monday, January 5, 2015. The Governor's Office invited Mr. John Rupert to provide the invocation for the day. The Governor included youth throughout his inaugural ceremony.
- The Department of Military was requested by the Governor to include veterans in his state of the state and we were subsequently asked to provide the name of a native veteran that could be invited to attend the State of the State. We were able to provide the name of Mr. Erwin McQueen, an Ely Shoshone tribal member and recipient of the Silver Star.
- The Commission is coordinating the *Nevada Tribes Legislative Day*, February 10, 2015 at the Legislature. The day is meant to recognize and pay tribute to the history and culture of American Indians and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of Nevada and the United States. It is also an opportunity to share information on important issues that affect the tribal communities and about the Tribes in general and how we, meaning the State and the Tribal nations, can work more closely and meaningfully.



Upcoming Events

- RES 2015, Las Vegas, NV – March 9-12, 2015
- Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit, Reno, NV – March 15-17, 2015
- Rural Roundup, Minden, NV – April 15-17, 2015
- Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, Las Vegas, NV – April 28-30, 2015