

Mohegan Sun
Connecticut

NAPS
66th National
Convention

Daily Newsletter

Aug. 4-5, 2018 • Number 1

Welcome to the Mohegan Sun

Lisa Douglas, Hartford, CT, Branch 5 president, and her fellow Host Branch Convention Committee members extend a warm welcome to NAPS members attending the 66th National Convention. They have worked hard to ensure your stay this week at the Mohegan Sun will be enjoyable. Get ready for a busy week of networking, socializing and taking care of NAPS business.

Sunday Highlights

Sunday's activities include the Non-Denominational Worship Service from noon to 1 p.m. in Abenaki Room 2. The NAPS and Auxiliary Delegates' Orientation is from 1:15 to 3 p.m. in the Earth Ballroom, Earth Tower. *All registered delegates*, including the Auxiliary, are encouraged to attend. Delegates will hear from the resident officers and National Auxiliary president. Also, NAPS Parliamentarian Dr. Bruce Bishop will provide an overview of "Robert's Rules of Order" and how NAPS conducts its convention business.

The convention committees meet on Sunday. Refer to page 6 of the *One Book* for times and meetings rooms.

The Host Branch Committee is hosting a welcome reception Sunday evening at 8 p.m. in the Earth Ballroom, Earth Tower.

New Mobile App Available

Want to stay up to date on the convention agenda? There's an app for that! Go to your app store or Google Play and search for "NAPS Conventions." After you download the app, open and press the "Download" button for the event. Once

you see the event, "NAPS 2018 National Convention," you can log in to access all the features.

If you have any questions regarding the new mobile app, a mobile application representative from ConferenceDirect will be on site Monday in the Uncas Pre-Function area to help.

Reminders from Sheri Davies

If you haven't planned any activities for your free convention day on Wednesday, DATCO will have a table set up Sunday and Monday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., where you can sign up for fun activities.

Be sure to wake up in time Monday morning for the complimentary breakfast buffet, 7 to 8:30 a.m., in the Uncas Pre-Function Area. The buffet also will be available Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Monday evening, 6 to 9 p.m., be sure to attend the NAPS Welcome Reception/Dinner on the Mohegan Sun Roof Top. Enjoy a great band, amazing food and fun games.

Support SPAC!

In 1978, the NAPS Executive Board established the Supervisors' Political Action Committee (SPAC) as the organization's legislative fundraising arm. Since then, SPAC has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to aid our congressional postal champions and supporters. Only NAPS regular, associate or Auxiliary members are eligible to contribute.

Throughout this week's national convention, you'll have opportunities to contribute to SPAC. The NAPS Executive Board will sponsor gift cards; branches will sponsor gifts to be raffled. You also can sign up for the SPAC "Drive 4 Five

campaign," which allows NAPS members to give through payroll or OPM annuity deductions.

SPAC Manager Katie Maddocks will be available if you have questions about SPAC. Find out which lawmakers receive contributions or how much you have given throughout the year. This year's mid-term elections in November are expected to be contentious; your contributions to SPAC ensure NAPS' voice remains strong on Capitol Hill.

2022 Convention Cities

Denver and New Orleans are bidding to host the 2022 National Convention. Presentations for the cities and the convention hotels—the Sheraton Denver Downtown and Hyatt Regency New Orleans—will be made during Thursday's business session. NAPS delegates will vote Friday. A comparison of the two properties is on pages 18 and 19 of the *One Book*.

Mohegan Sun Amenities

Guests at the Mohegan Sun can enjoy 47 dining options and 36 shops. There are two pools—one in both Earth and Sky towers. The Sun Terrace Pool in the Sky Tower features a 10,000-square-foot solarium and an indoor/outdoor pool and whirlpool. Each tower also has a fitness center. The Mandara Spa is located in each tower, providing myriad spa services. NAPS delegates will be hard-pressed not to enjoy their stay at the Mohegan Sun.

In Memoriam

Following is a list of NAPS members who have died since the 2016 National Convention as reported to NAPS Headquarters:

Olden Abron, 555
 Jacinto Acebal, 146
 Andrew Adams, 100
 Ginger Ballard, 33
 William Barker, 105
 Dianne Bercy, 73
 Brenda Blyther, 43
 Curtis Bruns, 255
 Marty Bunch, 353
 Michael Buzzeo, 47
 Ronald Cervantes, 159
 John Clemons, 127
 Thomas Coyne, 255
 Michael Cuccia, 105
 Richard Decker, 110
 David Dupart, 127
 Frank Farrow, 321
 Robert Fleming, 567
 Dina Flotte, 127
 Ruth Flowers
 Patsy Ford, 127
 Robert Franklin, 80
 Charles Gaskill, 33
 Craig Getty, 463
 Ida Gilmore, 26
 Jesse Gilmore, 26
 Beatrice Grimsley, 127
 Susan Guevara, 463
 Gwendolyn Hall-Pendleton, 26
 James Harrington, 105
 John Harris, 127
 Charlotte Herndon, 526
 Dennis Hinds, 255
 Paul Hooftallen, 27
 Yvonne Hoyer, 336
 Gregory Isom, 493
 Joseph Kalesnik, 102
 Ann Konish, 11
 Anthony LaGreca, 330
 Michael Laswell, 255
 John Legardy, 39
 Paul Lennon, 43
 Sharon Lowery, 154
 Leslie Lyman, 159
 Tiborcio Maltezo, 110
 Terence McNiven, 435
 Anton Miskulin, 202
 Carolyn Moore, 559
 Margarito Najera, 139
 Alfonso Navarro, 373
 Timothy O'Connell, 498
 Arthur Olevsky, 74
 Richard Pereira, 237
 Obie Phillips, 159
 Chasity Pointer, 270
 Lillian Powell, 239

Paul Randazzo, 100
 Harrison Rankin, 322
 Tammie Reyes, 23
 Kenneth Richardson, 498
 Aldolph Ruiz, 65
 Kenneth Sage, 31
 Charles Sheppard, 159
 Harold Sims, 559
 Christopher Sjorup, 526
 Gary Smith, 45
 Julia Snell, 80
 Frank Spatarella, 100
 Daniel Trezza, 100
 Vincent Varia, 373
 Richard Washington, 355
 Elizabeth Whiteford, 77
 Lavada Williams-Gutierrez, 127
 Shirley Williford, 41
 Earnest Wolff, 124
 Dorothy Womack, 127

History of the Mohegan Tribe

The earliest clans of the Delaware Tribe included the Wolf clan, or Mohegans, who settled in upstate New York. After migrating to Connecticut, the group became today's Mohegan Tribe.

The early 1600s was a critical time of change for Connecticut tribes. The pressure from rapidly expanding European settlements created competition for land and resources, while disease was decimating Indian populations.

Within the Pequot Tribe at that time, a dispute erupted between the Pequot Sachem (head chief) Sassacus and Uncas. Uncas left with his followers, calling themselves Mohegan, or Wolf People, like their ancestors. Uncas (1598-1683) became Sachem of the Mohegan Tribe.

The Mohegan Tribe gained federal recognition as a sovereign nation on March 7, 1994. As a sovereign nation, the Tribe independently determines its own fate and governs its own people and affairs. The Tribe also the responsibility to provide for its people and to work within its own governmental, legal and cultural systems to preserve its independence. About 2,000 individuals are enrolled in the Mohegan Tribe; most live in Connecticut near ancestral Tribal lands.

Fidelia Fielding, the last fluent speaker of the Mohegan language, died in 1908. At that time, many Mohegans had

stopped teaching the language to their children for fear of retribution by teachers in local schools. An extensive project has long been underway to restore the Mohegan language and teach it to Tribal members, especially the young generation, so they may carry it forward.

The Mohegan Language Project pieces together fragments found in written documents owned by various Tribal members, including Fidelia Fielding (who left four diaries) and anthropologist Frank Speck, from over a century ago. In addition, the Mohegan Tribe works with neighboring tribes who have similar dialects.

The Tribe has four ceremonial leaders:

The **Chief** is a lifetime position. This person is a Tribal member who—as a result of outstanding character, diplomacy and leadership—has earned great veneration in the Tribe. Named in 2010, Chief Many Hearts, Dr. Lynn Malerba, is the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history.

The formal title of **Medicine Woman** was restored by the first modern Mohegan Elders Council in 1991. This individual must be trained and well-versed in Tribal customs. They must possess a combination of exceptional powers and abilities to be truly “good medicine” for the people.

For centuries, Mohegan healing and medicine traditions were passed down through a determined line of women who kept those beliefs alive by learning from one another—generation to generation—a tradition that has continued to present day Medicine Woman Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel.

The title of **Pipe Carrier** is a long-honored Mohegan tradition. The Pipe Carrier is a Tribal member willing and able to carry and honor the pipe and conduct pipe ceremonies in accordance with traditions established by previous Mohegan Pipe Carriers. Such ceremonies and milestone events include weddings, funerals and Tribal blessings.

The **Firekeeper** is responsible for initiating and maintaining the two types of sacred fires used by the Mohegan Tribe—the funeral fire and the ceremonial fire.

Source: Mohegan Tribe; www.mohegan.nsn.us.