

## **NADCNM Business Meeting Notes**

Native American Democratic Caucus of New Mexico

Date: August 10, 2025

Location: 4013 Silver Ave SE, Albuquerque, NM

- **Attendees (Total: 21 = 17 Members, 3 Allies, 1 Guest)**
- **In-Person (10):** Laurie Weahkee, Isaac Casados, Ashley Sarracino, Dillon Shije, M. Pauline Abeyta, Aleta Paisano-Suazo, Jana Pfeiffer (Chair), Laurie Weahkee (Vice Chair), Karilyn Haozous (Secretary), Tammie Touchine (Treasurer)
- **Zoom (11):** Duane Duffy, Bech Touchin, Ann Barudin, Brenda Hoskie, Darla Whitney-Wells, Brent Deltsoi, Charlotte Little, Joseph Little, Julie Rochman, Marion Goodluck, Kyle Tapaha
- **NADCNM Officers (4): Meeting Summary**

### **1. Call to Order**

- Chair Jana Pfeiffer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:54 AM.

### **2. Opening Prayer**

- Offered by guest Chad Pfeiffer.

### **3. Roll Call**

- Attendees identified themselves as Members, Allies, or Guests via sign-in sheet or Zoom login.
- Membership confirmed for Isaac Casados, Duane Duffy, and Dillon Shije (paid on August 10, 2025).

### **4. Approval of Agenda**

- Motion to approve by Laurie Weahkee | Seconded by Ashley Sarracino
- Motion passed unanimously

### **5. New Business**

#### **A. Financial Documentation & Reporting**

- **Chair Pfeiffer** addressed the need for an amended financial filing by September 2025 due to discrepancies between NADCNM's bank account and the campaign finance report submitted to the State of New Mexico.
- **Requested by Ann Barudin**, the item pertains to unresolved financial documentation from approximately 2020–2022.
- **Isaac Casados**, former NADCNM Chair, former DPNM Secretary, 2025 NA SCC member, explained:
  - Receipts from that period were submitted during a successful DPNM audit.

- Treasurer Lyle Lomayma, who resigned during that time, may not have filed the receipts.
  - Songtree Pioche also underwent a similar audit.
- **Chair Pfeiffer** reported:
    - Mr. Anastacio Trujillo (Secretary of State – Campaign Finance Office) advised that an itemized Excel spreadsheet of contributions and expenses must be submitted as an amendment.
    - The original submission lacked this breakdown.
    - Upon former Treasurer Lomayma’s resignation, financial reporting responsibility fell to then-Chair Isaac Casados.
    - As former Treasurer (2023–2025), Chair Pfeiffer emphasized the need for external accounting support.
    - Treasurer Touchine has business experience, but a forensic review may be necessary.
    - Estimated discrepancy: \$2,500–\$3,600
  - **Vice Chair Laurie Weahkee** noted the meeting was already near meeting closure, therefore proposed the following action steps:
    - Jana Pfeiffer, Tammie Touchine, and Isaac Casados to contact Rayellen (former DPNM Treasurer) to clarify what receipts/reports were submitted for 2020–2022.
    - Tammie Touchine to request a formal receipt report from DPNM.
    - If receipts are incomplete, Tammie Touchine to seek guidance from DPNM by September 12, 2025.

Unanimously approved the above action steps to move forward with the agenda.

## **B. SCC Native American Members – Discussion, Related Matters, and Vote**

- **Chair Pfeiffer** explained:
  - SCC members serve as the governing body of DPNM.
  - Concerns were raised about the selection process for NA SCC members.
  - On April 8, 2025, the NADCNM NA SCC Selection Committee voted to appoint 14 members.
  - The process did not align with NADCNM Bylaws or DPNM Rules and violated principles of transparency, accountability, and member engagement.
  - NADCNM officers recommended redoing the selection process.

- **Ashley Sarracino**, former 2023 NA SCC member and former DPNM Chair of Cibola County, presented the letter dated August 1, 2025 \*\*, outlining concerns:
  - DPNM rules link SCC membership to NADCNM membership requirements.
  - No formal “call for nominations” was issued, preventing self-nomination.
  - Inaccuracies in congressional district representation.
  - Five selection committee members voted for themselves.
  - Requested documentation verifying tribal governor consultation.
  - Nominee vetting was unclear (membership, residency, registration).
  - General membership was not informed of the process.
  - Stated she would have declined her previous NA SCC member nomination had she known these details.
  - August 1, 2025 letter co-signed by Aleta Suazo and Beck Touchin.
  - Attachments included:
    - DPNM Rules – 2025 NA SCC Members \*\*
    - Sequence of Events – NA SCC Nomination Process \*\*

### **Additional Input and Reactions**

- **Vice Chair Laurie Weahkee** noted that
  - New letters had been received from Isaac Casados, Duane Duffy, and Michele Montoya, Navajo Nation Vice President \*\*
  - Leadership agreed for these individuals to present their perspectives.
- **Isaac Casados**, former NADCNM Chair and current Chair of the DPNM Rules Committee:
  - Emphasized his role in developing the NA SCC proposal began in 2019.
  - Stated the intent was to engage tribal leadership and honor sovereignty
  - Cited DPNM Rule 1.2.8: NADCNM does not have authority to remove NA SCC members.
  - Warned that doing so could harm relationships with tribal nations.
  - Recruitment began in November 2024 with consultation from tribal leaders.
  - Nominations received from Pueblos, Mescalero Apache Tribe, and Navajo Nation (excluding Ft. Sill Apache).

- Announced intent to recommend removing NA SCC selection from NADCNM's purview.
  - Clarified that NA SCC members are not required to be dues-paying caucus members.
  - Noted proposal was drafted before redistricting and gender balance was achieved.
  - See attached letter dated \*\*
- **Duane Duffy**, Vice President of Mescalero Apache Tribe and 2025 NA SCC Member:
    - Expressed disappointment that the process was being questioned.
    - Stated he was fully consulted and believes NADCNM lacks authority to dismiss tribal representatives.
    - Emphasized that Mescalero Apache Tribe followed the process and made a nomination.
    - Urged that concerns be addressed for future appointments, not retroactively.
    - See attached letter dated \*
  - **Dillon Shije**, former NADCNM Chair and current Pueblo of Zia Councilman and 2025 NA SCC Member:
    - Supported Isaac's account and emphasized tribal sovereignty.
    - Confirmed nominations were solicited from tribal leaders and he was nominated by his governor.
    - Indicated a letter would be forthcoming from the Zia Pueblo Governor.
    - Named selection committee members and confirmed motion to approve nominees was passed.
    - Shared document titled "Minutes for the NADCNM Selection Committee to Approve the 14 Native SCC Members for 2025–2027." \*\*
  - **Michele Pauline Abeyta**, State Representative and 2025 NA SCC Member:
    - Highlighted the importance of representing satellite communities like the Navajo community in Alamo, NM.
    - Acknowledged the process may be imperfect and offered to help refine rules.
    - Expressed interest in youth recruitment but voiced concern due to current turmoil.
    - Stated there was no "behind-the-scenes" involvement in her selection and accepted the role to serve the community.
  - **Brenda Hoskie**, Secretary of DPNM and Chair of the DPNM Rules Committee:

- Noted that other caucuses face challenges and are expected to resolve issues internally before escalating to the Judicial Council.
- Recommended that Isaac Casados recuse himself due to potential conflict of interest.
- Requested clarification on whether SCC members must be paid caucus members.
- Mentioned that prominent Democratic leaders had recommended individuals who were not selected.
- Noted that the Navajo Nation President's office reported no record of being contacted for nominations.
- **Laurie Weahkee:**
  - Expressed appreciation for current NA SCC members and their willingness to serve.
  - Proposed tabling the vote to allow NADCNM leadership to consult with DPNM and clarify the SCC process.
- **Brent Deltsoi:**
  - Objected to tabling the vote.
  - Suggested that dissatisfaction with selected members was driving objections.
  - Argued that the process should not be invalidated.
- **Jana Pfeiffer:**
  - Reiterated that the issue centers on procedural integrity and alignment between NADCNM Bylaws and DPNM Rules.
  - Emphasized NADCNM's commitment to transparency, accountability, and its broader mission: voter rights and registration, advocacy issues and statewide membership growth.
- **Meeting Notification & Document Access** (though raised earlier, included here for clarity):
  - Some members noted receiving meeting details and documents late on August 9. Chair Pfeiffer confirmed initial notice was sent August 1 with a document link, and a reminder on August 9 added location info. Tech issues prevented Zoom document sharing. Chair Pfeiffer had offered to assist with printed copies.

## **Motion and Vote**

Laurie Weahkee amended her motion to table the vote, allowing NADCNM leadership time to consult with DPNM and review all points raised. The amendment proposed rescheduling the vote to a Business Meeting on Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM. The amendment was accepted as friendly.

- Motion: Laurie Weahkee | Second: Ashley Sarracino

## **Votes:**

- “No” votes: Brent Deltsoi, Isaac Casados, Duane Duffy, Dillon Shije
- “Yes” votes (Zoom): Brenda Hoskie, Kyle Tapaha, Marion Goodluck
- “Yes” votes (In-Person): Laurie Weahkee, Ashley Sarracino, Aleta Suazo, Pauline Abeyta, Karilyn Haozous, Tammie Touchine
- Motion passed by majority of remaining member attendees.

### Remaining Agenda Items (5C–F)

Due to time constraints, **Isaac Casados motioned** to table items 5C–F (C. Outreach and Engagement Calendar, D. Parade Participation, E. Outreach Promotional Materials, F. Golf Tournament Funds) to the next Business Meeting. | Second: Aleta Suazo

- Motion approved by majority.

### Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Laurie Weahkee | Second: Aleta Suazo
- Motion approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.

“\*\*” - denotes attachments

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### Attachments list:

- [Ashley Sarracino 8 /1/25 letter](#)
  - [DPNM Rules – 2025 NA SCC Members](#)
  - [Sequence of Events – NA SCC Nomination Process](#)
- [Michele Montoya, Navajo Nation](#) - Vice President letter dated
- [Isaac Casados letter dated](#)
- [Duane Duffy, Mescalero Apache Tribe](#) - Vice President
- Dillon Shije, [14 SCC Native Members - April 8th Selection Committee Minutes](#)
- [Isaac Casados Expense Audit](#) 11.12.2023
- Former NADCNM Treasurer, [Jana Pfeiffer's Letter to Isaac and Dillon](#) - Dated April 24, 2025

