

NIGA Mid-Year Meeting
Training Schedule
Subject to change

Wednesday, Oct 1 9:00 – 11:30 AM

History of Native Voting Rights

Martin W. Aguilar, Native American Election Information Coordinator, NM Secretary of State's Office

Thomas E. Atcity, former President of the Navajo Nation, former New Mexico State Legislator and former President of Navajo Community College

Steven Gunn, Associate Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis

Susan Olson, Professor of Political Science, University of Utah

This distinguished panel of experts will examine the history of the fight for native voting rights, including first hand accounts and a review of nationwide abuses of natives' civil rights both historical and in the not-so-distant past. We will also examine current efforts to Get Out the Native Vote in 2008.

Tribal Leaders Media Training: How to Win with Reporters

Nancy Mathis, First Take Communications

This session will give you the unvarnished truth about how reporters think, how newsrooms work, and how you can shape stories about your Tribe or gaming operation. For anyone who has been hesitant to talk to the media, this "hands on" session will give you the tools and the confidence to respond to reporters' calls and even become pro-active in working with them to cover your news. Nancy Mathis, an Emmy-award winning television journalist who has done extensive work in Indian Country tailors this session to the needs and issues affecting tribal members.

Class II Policy Updates Panel

Moderator: Mark Van Norman, Executive Director, NIGA

Panelists:

Elizabeth Homer, Homer Law

Joe Valandra, VAdvisors (invited)

Joe Webster, Hobbs Straus Dean Walker

Tribal Labor Law: How to Handle Union Organizing Efforts

Phil Martin, Labor Relations Institute

Representative from Saginaw Chippewa

Wednesday, Oct 1 2:00 – 5:00

Success Stories: Expanding Your Facility

Rodney Ferguson, General Manager, Isleta Casino and Resort

Jason Spain, Director of Hotel Operations, Isleta Casino Resort

Matthew Robinson, KlasRobinson, QED

George McWatters, Downstream Casino, Quapaw Tribe (invited)

Considering an expansion or in the middle of one? Join a discussion led by top level executives from Isleta Casino and Resort and Downstream Casino who will relate their experiences with their successful building and expansions, including troubleshooting tips. Property tours of Isleta will be available.

Navigating Your Tribal Enterprise and Facilities through Complex and Challenging Energy Economies

Roger Fragua, President of Cota Holdings

Jon Benson, Sales Manager for TAS

Eric Davis, Market Development Manager for TAS

This important session will introduce Tribal leadership and managers to various techniques and technologies that are sure to deliver sound strategies for insulating Tribal enterprises and facilities from the dynamic price volatility that has captured our energy economies.

Tribal sovereignty can be leveraged to level energy market and price through the creation of Tribal self-generation and other strategies that can render sound management. The presenters' core competencies are Tribal energy resources, management and implementation. Participants are sure to have an opportunity that could produce efficiencies and conservation of valuable and finite financial resources. Tribal success stories and a case study will be defined and presented to demonstrate the Indian energy "movement".

Giving the Speech of Your Life

Nancy Mathis, First Take Communications

Learn the tools you need to make the perfect speech to any audience. Whether you're an old pro or just starting out in your public speaking career, this session will outline what it takes to really connect with an audience, get your point across, and leave a positive impression.

Thursday, Oct 2 9:00 AM – Noon

Political Update: Trends in the 2008 Election

Holly Cook Macarro, Ietan Consulting

David Devendorf, Holland and Knight

President Ivan Makil, Generation Seven Strategic Partners

Tom Rodgers, Carlyle Consulting

Class II Technological Standards and MICS

Moderator: J R Mathews, Vice Chairman, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma; Treasurer, NIGA

Panelists:

Ron Harris, Rocket Gaming

Knute Knudson, IGT

Matthew Morgan, Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma

Joe Valandra, VAdvisors (invited)

Tribal Labor Law: Employee-Union Relations Under Tribal Law

Phil Martin, Labor Relations Institute

Representative from Saginaw Chippewa

Protect Your Tribe's Wealth: How to Develop Financial Literacy and Investor Education Programs for Your Community

Vickie Oldman, First Nations Oweesta Corporation

Shawn Spruce, First Nations Development Institute

As tribal gaming operations and other enterprises continue to prosper, tribal members and tribal leaders are looking for opportunities to increase personal financial management skills so that they can protect and grow their personal and tribal assets. Learn about two national programs that offer instructor training and course materials to help develop Native-focused financial literacy and investor education programs. Hear about how one tribe has integrated these programs into a reservation-wide strategy to help tribal members — especially youth — learn the skills necessary to manage their income and assets.

Keeping Your Data Your Data: Using Audits to Keep Your Data Safe

Joe Oprosko, Jefferson Wells

Additional presenters TBA

This session will discuss and provide background and information on two very important and high profile topics in the industry today, IT auditing and data security. How safe is your computer system from both internal and external threats? This session will help you to find out the answer to that question. We will discuss the basics of an IT audit, along with the fundamentals of developing or strengthening a strong data security program. We will also discuss some tools and techniques that are out in the industry to automate and make the process more efficient. We will go from the planning and risk assessment phases of these topics right through to some recommendations on what to do to mitigate and correct some possible concerns and weaknesses that may be identified. If you have a computer system, then both of these topics should be of a concern to you and we can help you to address those concerns in this session.