

**SEIU LOCAL 521**  
**NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN CAUCUS (NAIC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Alex Betancourt.  
Those in attendance: Jennifer Jensen, Bella Barela, Solomon Barela (guest), Joy Hall-Villareal, Alex Betancourt, Sergio Garcia, Raquel Garcia (guest), Maria Luisa Gutierrez (guest), Olga Garcia, Lalo Acevedo (guest-AVIA), Frank Gonzalez (guest-AVIA), Cecilia Tatum, Juan Aguilar (guest-AVIA), Gary Tremble (guest-AVIA), 2 other guests from AVIA, Mariam Alvarez (staff), Mai Thao (staff), Roseann Dominguez.
- II. PRESENTATION --- AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION (AVIA): several member of the AVIA gave a presentation on the Association. They explained the several aspects of their association: including informing Native American and non-Native American Veterans of the benefits available to them; help transitioning service members that are returning home, participating in community events and Pow Wows, participating in events as color guard/flag guards; presenting \$1,000 scholarships; provide assistance to the homeless and those suffering mental health and substance abuse. They also were requesting a donation of any time for a tee-pee. They stated that the tee-pee helps break the ice and also bridge the gap as well as start a conversation about the person's needs. Stated that a tee-pee can cost approximately \$800- \$1,500. The AVIA presented the NAIC a Certificate of Appreciation.
- III. DONATION REQUET(S):  
Jennifer Jensen made a motion to donate \$300 to the American Indian Veterans Association (AVIA) to be used for their tee-pee with the funding to come from the Budget Line Item CSUF American Indian Pow Wow. Seconded by Bella Barela. No discussion. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented. The  
Jennifer Jensen made a motion to donate \$200 to the CSUF – American Indian Pow Wow. Seconded by Cecilia Tatum. The discussion was to move the \$100 that was not used for the Martin Luther King observance event to the donation line to be used for this Pow Wow. Vote taken. Motion passed as presented.
- IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: Secretary Roseann Dominguez reported that the NAIC started the year with a budget of \$3,000. Expenses paid/pending for 2016 are \$130 and \$230. Leaving a balance of \$2,640.
- V. SECRETARY'S REPORT: no report as there was no meeting held in January, 2016.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Native American History Month: Jennifer Jensen shared that it is never too early to start planning. Jennifer Jensen stated she would find out what weekends are available in November and report to the next meeting. Roseann Dominguez suggested the caucus start looking into drummers, dancers and discussing with the AVIA about being part of the ceremony.
  - B. MICHICA New Year Celebration March 12, 2016 and March 13, 2016 in San Jose. Chair Alex Betancourt reported that he and his wife are planning on attending. He asked if anyone else would like to attend. Joy Hall-Villareal indicated she would like to attend.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. By-Laws: the consensus was that as there are no by-laws specifically for the NAIC the by-laws of the SEIU Local 521 will be followed.

- B. Community Events Upcoming:
  - A. Kids Day – March 8, 2016
  - B. the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fresno State First Nations Powwow Saturday April 9, 2016
  - C. NAMI Walk: May 21, 2016
- VIII. OPEN FORUM: Mai Thao, Community Political Organizer, brought the NAIC up to date on the following issues:
  - Town Hall on February 23, 2016 for the 21 Congressional Districts. The candidates participating In the Town Hall are Daniel J. Parra and Emilio Huerta. David Valadeo, the incumbent didn't accept the invitation nor return the questionnaire or sign the pledge. Local 1000, LOCAL 2015, and Bakersfield office will also participate.
  - COPE will be holding its next meeting for officers. The person wishing to run must be COPE Member and must be present at the meeting.
  - CHILDREN OVER POLITICS is the first and only group, out of Los Angeles, who exist as CHILDREN OVER POLITICS in this area. One of the members from the local CHILDREN OVER POLITICS will be testifying as will be answering questions at a press conference in regards to AB123.
  - Decision of Fredrich's: Mai explained how the death of Anton Scalia will delay the decision on this Supreme Court Case as well as approximately 8 other cases. The president will have to appoint another justice, get the new justice sworn in and then the Supreme Court will make the decision as to whether re-hear the cases or send them back to the lower court decision.
  - AG Forum will be held March 12, 2016 at the West Fresno Regional Library. Volunteers are needed.
  - Petition For Raising The Minimum Wage To \$15 per hour by 2020 for employers with over 25 or More people. Petitions are available. Deadline to turn in the petitions is March 30, 2016.
  - Mai Thao stated that there will be several more Town Halls and Meet and Greets as the political season progresses.
- IX. Adjournment: Jennifer Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53P.M. Seconded by Sergio Garcia.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Jensen

