

Din4 Language Association
January 30, 2004 Meeting
Chinle, AZ Thunderbird Lodge
6PM to 8:10 PM

Members in attendance:	Benjamin Barney	Rose Hulligan
	Afton Sells	Roy Howard
	Joey Sells	Rose Fasthorse Nofchissey
	Lydia Fasthorse Begay	Rosemary Dennison
	Kathleen Stemmeler	Joan Tsosie
	Johnson Dennison	

AGENDA: There were a few items on the Agenda and it was added to by questions and discussions.

INTRODUCTION: Each person introduced him/herself.

MINUTES: December 10, 2003 Minutes were reviewed and accepted by consensus.

DISCUSSION:

Is everyone at this meeting going to have voting powers or not? What does the By Laws of the Association say? Since the Association did not have meetings for some years; the meetings will be open to everyone who attends. People can vote on issues and can have a voice. After a number of meetings a clear set of members who have voting rights will appear. For the time being, everyone attending the meetings will have voting rights and can participate.

Should the Association conduct all its meetings in Navajo or not? Should everything be written in Navajo or not? We really should try to do everything in Navajo. The English language has such a strong push into our language world. We should try to conduct our meetings as much as possible in the Navajo language. This could exclude the people who are supportive and who do not speak or understand Navajo. We did write our meeting Minutes in Navajo before and few people read them. People who do not understand Navajo could be provided with a written English language translation during the meetings. English speakers could freely participate in the meetings but they should not "force" the Navajo language into the background. We know many Navajos think that the English language is better. Many Navajos use more English than Navajo. The Mission of the Association is to instill use of the Navajo language in as many places as possible. The Navajo Times and the Navajo Nation government are "forced" to use English more and more. Navajo Times does not even have a Navajo font. In the future, many Navajo cultural lessons, stories, and critiques have to be written down. Every Navajo probably will have to learn to read and write in Navajo. It will take time and patience to conduct meetings in Navajo.

The Membership fee is \$20 for one year. Anyone can pay the Treasurer the fee and get a receipt. The receipt will determine the beginning and ending of the membership. The people who have paid the membership fee before the Association became inactive will have their membership till December 10, 2004. The Secretary of

the Association has the list of names of the paid membership. From this date on membership fee and list will be kept by the Association Treasurer.

The NAU Distant Learning Program is starting its 3rd cycle of teacher education students. Their site locations are Kayenta, Tuba City, Chinle, Ganado, Keams Canyon, Page, White River, Holbrook, and Payson. The Program is administered by the College of Education. College of Education is planning a meeting February 20th Friday 1 PM to 3:30 PM at NAU Blome Building and in Patta Room to discuss a cultural sensitive teacher education curriculum. Dr. Sherry Markel will chair this meeting. The Hopi and Apache representatives will be at the meeting. Rose Hulligan volunteered to attend this meeting. Benjamin Barney might attend as well.

A recent notice was sent out by the Arizona Department of Education which states; "elementary teachers teaching in a K-6 self-contained classrooms who hold a Master's degree in multi-cultural and bi-lingual education are not eligible to mark "hold a master's degree" on the AZ highly qualified teachers form. As defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, an advance degree for teachers in an elementary school must be in elementary education or curriculum and instruction." This notice created some concern among Navajo teachers. NAU, DLA, and DC/DTEP will check into this notice. The NM Association for Bilingual Education had a recent meeting in Santa, NM on similar concerns.

The Association will sponsor a Spring Conference March 19, 2004 for Navajo teachers. This conference will be similar to the conferences held for Navajo teachers in the past. For any presenters or presentations, get in touch with Lydia Fasthorse Begay, the conference coordinator. Someone need to develop a certificate that will be given to all the people who attend the conference. A recommendation was made earlier that the conference be held in Farmington, NM. Other recommendations were made; 1. Flagstaff, 2) Window Rock, and 3) Tsaille Dine College campus. Suggested speakers; Lawrence Morgan, Leonard Chee, Johnson Dennison, Daniel Martin, Peggy Scott, Lula Stago, Marjorie Thomas, Dolly Yazzie, and Linda Dick Teller.

The Association wanted to be incorporated and get a 501 C 3 exempted status. The Indigenous Advocacy Incorporated can assist the Association in this work through the help of Rose Hulligan.

A copy of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education Newsletter was handed out. A package from the NAU Distance Learning program was given out as well.

The next Meeting will be of the people who are planning the Spring Conference. This meeting will be held in Fort Defiance; at the Window Rock High School campus, 10 AM to 12noon, Friday, February 13, 2004.