



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCTHITA Holds 76th Annual Tribal Assembly

The Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) held its 76th Annual Tribal Assembly April 13-16, 2011 at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall in Juneau, Alaska. Over 120 delegates from Southeast Alaska, Anchorage, San Francisco, and Seattle joined President Edward K. Thomas, Tribal Host Nelson Frank of Hydaburg, and Tribal Hostess Martha Johnson of Ketchikan, to conduct the Tribe's business.

CCTHITA is the governing body for over 27,000 tribal citizens, most of whom live in Southeast, Alaska. The Council, which has a government-to-government relationship with the United States, manages programs in employment and training, children and family services, Native lands and resources, roads and transportation, economic development, and many other tribal services.

The Assembly opened with the posting of the colors and a performance by the *Yees Ku Oo* dance group. Long-time parliamentarian and Seattle delegate David Leask was recognized for his many years of service as parliamentarian, providing direction and keeping order during Assemblies. Tribal Host Nelson Frank and Tribal Hostess Martha Johnson were introduced and each provided acceptance statements. The host and hostess were selected because of their many years of contributions and dedicated service to their individual communities and to CCTHITA.

During the Assembly, ANB Grand President Richard Jackson and Juneau delegate Brad Fluetsch were seated as co-parliamentarians. The delegation elected Seattle delegate Aurora Lehr to a two-year term as Tribal Judge, Craig delegate Charlene Wolfe to a one-year term as Tribal Judge, and 1st Vice President and San Francisco delegate Will Micklin as Delegate/Citizen of the Year. This year's large and small community councils of the year went to: Ketchikan for Large Community Council of the Year, Seattle for Large Community Council of the Year 1st Runner-Up, Klawock for Small Community Council of the Year, and San Francisco for Small Community Council of the Year 1st Runner-Up.

There were 55 resolutions submitted addressing issues relating to subsistence, health care, foster care, enrollment, transportation, the legal protection of Northwest Coast Native art, expansion of Alaska Legislature, and the redistricting of Southeast, and other important matters.

Some of the Assembly's highlights included: A report from Alaska Native Brotherhood/Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANB/ANS) Grand Camp Presidents Richard and Janice Jackson who shared their ANB/ANS activities; President Edward K. Thomas honoring Dr. Rosita Worl with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her for her lifelong dedication and service to the Tlingit and Haida people and designating April 14, 2011 as Rosita Worl Day; the Keynote Address by Dr. Walter Soboleff, age 102, who spoke on how Alaska Natives transitioned from a trade economy to a cash economy and the importance of people having values—not just traditional values, but values that guide us every day to make sure we do what is right; a report from outgoing Youth Representative Megan Gregory who emphasized how serious the issue of suicide is among our youth and how important it is to promote positive social interactions and healthy activities for them; a well-received dance performance by the Harborview Elementary School's Tlingit Culture Language & Literacy students; a report from incoming 2011 Youth Representative Shawn Eby who spoke about the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) and how important it is in building confidence in Native students; and a repatriation ceremony where President Thomas transferred the *Tlax'aneis Noow Shakee.át* (Kingfisher Fort Headdress) to the *Lúkaax.ádi* clan of Haines, Alaska; *Lúkaax.ádi* clan leader Raymond Dennis Jr. accepted the headdress.

"It's always good to see old friends and meet new ones at these assemblies, but it's important for us to focus on business," said President Edward K. Thomas. "This year we streamlined our agenda to pay more attention to critical issues facing our people. I thank my staff for preparing all the Assembly material and activities and for following up on Tribal Assembly actions."

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