

## Keetoowah Cherokee Assistant Chief Locust Named to NCAI Board

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma's Assistant Chief Charles Locust will be involved in issues concerning Indian Country on a national level in the next two years, as he was recently elected to serve as the National Congress of American Indians Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate.

The National Congress for the American Indian is the largest organization of American Indian tribes, representing 250 member tribes. The organization monitors and lobbies for legislation affecting Indian tribes across the nation. Since 1944, the National Congress of American Indians has been working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As NCAI Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate, Locust will attend all meetings of the NCAI Board of Directors, as well as working on assigned committees, projects and issues. Locust will also work in conjunction with the Eastern Oklahoma vice president Joe Grayson at the Eastern Oklahoma Caucuses and initiatives.

Locust has a broad range of experiences and qualifications that he brings with him to perform the duties of a NCAI board member. In addition to serving as Assistant Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Locust has also

served in other tribal positions for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. In those instances, he served as Executive Director for Tribal Operations, Executive Director for Housing Authority, Director of Gaming, Program Accountant, Gaming Commission Chairman and in the private sector as President of the Gaming Division for Rocket Gaming. He has a Bachelors degree in Social Science, with an emphasis in Business Administration and has (12) hours toward a Masters in Business Administration.

Locust is very active in Keetoowah Cherokee traditional ceremonies and has learned from the elders, so this will be a driving force in his decision making process. "When we consider the budget cutbacks for Native American programs, I will represent the grass roots people and their needs. These basic needs center around education, health care and jobs. These are the same needs for the small tribes as well as the large tribes," said Locust.

"I am aware of the need for resources to continue the development of the Native American Embassy in Washington D.C. and I feel this can be accomplished with everyone working as a team. I am very enthused and excited about serving as Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate," Locust said.

## San Juan Pueblo Governor Joe Garcia Elected NCAI President

Tulsa, Okla.—November 3, 2005—Joe Garcia, Governor of Ohkay Owingeh, (Pueblo of San Juan, New Mexico), was elected President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at the organization's 62nd Annual Convention held in Tulsa, OK for the first time in 17 years.

Garcia has served as NCAI first Vice-President since 2003, two terms as San Juan Lt. Governor and two terms as San Juan Governor. A community advocate, Garcia serves as a school board chairman and President of TSAY, a tribally owned business.

"We must protect our culture, our people and our language," said Garcia. "One person, one tribe cannot do it as it takes a multitude of power, of organizations, a multitude of spirit and the Indian mind to get us to the next level. We cannot turn over decisions to Congress, the President or state legislatures. We have to do it ourselves, we have to do our part as one nation—the Indian nation. I am committed to lead in this great effort," he said.

"President-elect Garcia will be a great leader for NCAI," said outgoing NCAI President Tex G. Hall. "He has proven to be a successful Governor for the San Juan Pueblo and I know that will translate into effective, progressive leadership on the national stage that will benefit Indian people for generations. On behalf of NCAI Executive Board and staff, I offer sincere congratulations to Joe Garcia and wish him the best in his new role as leader of this great organization."

Garcia was nominated by Larry Blythe, Vice Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Other NCAI election results: Jefferson Keel, Lt. Governor of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, was elected First Vice-President; Juana Majel-Dixon, the Pauma Band of Mission Indians of California was re-elected as Recording Secretary; and W. Ron Allen, Chairman of the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe of Washington was re-elected Treasurer.

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians ([www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)) is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. The organization monitors and lobbies for legislation affecting Indian tribes across the nation. NCAI advocates on behalf of more than 250 tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

Representative No. 1 met with a California tribe to discuss Representative No. 1's agreement to assist in passing legislation regarding taxation of certain payments received by members of the California tribe.

Mr. Scanlon could face up to five years in prison.

The statement of facts Mr. Scanlon signed said he had a fee-splitting arrangement with Mr. Abramoff that was kept secret from the tribes because disclosure probably would have jeopardized the arrangement.

Lobbyist A, the court papers said, recommended that the tribes hire Mr. Scanlon's firm, while promoting himself to his Indian tribe clients as having knowledge that was superior to theirs regarding lobbying and grass-roots activities.



Joe Garcia taking oath of office as President of the National Congress of American Indians held this year in Tulsa, OK..

Cherokee Deputy Chief Joe Grayson was elected vice president of the Eastern Oklahoma Region and Assistant Chief Charles Locust of the United Keetoowah Band was elected alternant vice president of that same area.

Joe Grayson was a journeyman plumber before being elected Deputy Chief where he now serves as presiding officer over Regular Council meetings to break a tie vote on some of the most critical issues decided by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, (CNO) Council.

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Locust is very active in Keetoowah Cherokee traditional ceremonies and has learned from the elders, whose wisdom will always underlie his decisions.

Locust stated, "When we consider the budget cutbacks for Native American programs, I will represent the grass roots people and their needs. These basic needs center around education, health care and jobs. These are the same needs for the small as well as the large tribes."

He added, "I am aware of the need for resources to continue the development of the Native American Embassy in



New 2005 Officers of the National Congress of American Indians

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The CNO administration delivered a \$75,000 check for new voting memberships just prior to the conference. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Osage Nation were the host tribes and main financial sponsors for the event. Cherokee Chief Chad Smith threw his support for President toward Osage Chief Jim Gray former owner and publisher of the Oklahoma Indian Times/The Native American Times. However sources say that much of the Cherokee voter actually supported Garcia. Current CNO leaders had failed to maintain any interest or an NCAI membership for several previous elections.

Convention organizers said over 5,000 Indian delegates and officials attended the annual conference. Speakers for the event included both tribal and national leaders.

Among them were Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education; Alfonso Jackson, U.S. Secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.; U.S. Rep. Dan Boren, D-Okla.; U.S. Sen. Same Brownback, R-Kan.; Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer; Tulsa Mayor Bill LaFortune; Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby; Kevin Gover, Arizona State University law professor and former BIA Director and Billy Mills, former Olympic gold medalist.

Workshops and sessions included gaming issues, sovereignty preservation, methamphetamine in Indian country, environmental issues, domestic violence and other topics.



NCAI President Joe Garcia speaks to New Mexico Cherokees about the National issues effecting Indian Country.

Mr. DeLay is among those facing scrutiny for his associations with Mr. Abramoff, including a trip to Scotland and use of Mr. Abramoff's skybox at a Washington sports arena.

Mr. DeLay has previously denied wrongdoing.

Mr. Abramoff's lobbying network stretched far into the halls of Congress. Documents obtained by The Associated Press show nearly three dozen lawmakers helping to block an American Indian casino in Louisiana while collecting large donations from the lobbyist and his tribal clients.

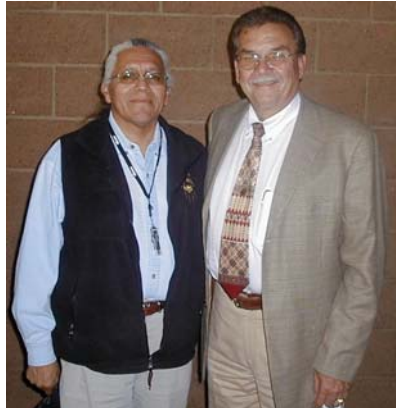
Mr. DeLay, who relinquished his post as House majority leader after a separate indictment in Texas, is due in court Tuesday in Austin for a hearing seeking dismissal of conspiracy and money laundering charges.



Cherokee councilor Melvina Shotpouch meets with Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills an honored guest as this years NCAI Conference



Cherokee councilor Linda O'Leary thanks departing NCAI President Tex Hall for his two terms of service to over 250 tribes of Native americans across the land.



NCAI President Joe Garcia and Cherokee Councilor Joe Crittenden



Cherokee Councilors present New Mexico Cherokee Chief Bobby Leech a friendship blanket in appreciate for his family's grace and hospitality

## Mr. Scanlon entered the plea Guilty

November 22, 2005

Michael Scanlon, a former partner of lobbyist Jack Abramoff, pleaded guilty Monday to conspiring to bribe public officials, a charge growing out of the government investigation of attempts to defraud American Indian tribes and corrupt a member of Congress.

At the same time, it was disclosed that Mr. Scanlon, a former aide to Rep. Tom DeLay, has been cooperating in a widening criminal investigation of members of Congress since June.

Mr. Scanlon entered the plea before U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle and was ordered to pay restitution totaling more than \$19 million to American Indian tribes that he admitted had been defrauded.

Mr. Abramoff and Mr. Scanlon were paid more than \$80 million from 2001 to 2004 by six American Indian tribes with casinos, including the Tiguas outside El Paso and the Alabama Coushatta in East Texas.

One of Mr. Scanlon's attorneys, Plato Cacheris, disclosed outside the courthouse after the plea that his client has cooperated with prosecutors for the last five months.

"There have been a lot of conversations" between Mr. Scanlon and the Justice Department starting in June, Mr. Cacheris said in a brief interview Monday night.

In an eight-page statement of facts, Mr. Scanlon agreed that he and an unidentified person referred to as Lobbyist A "provided a stream of things of value to public officials in exchange for a series of official acts."

The items to one unidentified congressman or his staff included all-expense-paid trips to the Northern Marianas Islands in 2000, a trip to the Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla., in 2001 and a golf trip to Scotland in 2002.

Based on information already placed on the public record by the Senate

Indian Affairs Committee, Lobbyist A is Mr. Abramoff, and the congressman is Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio.

Mark Tuohy, a Washington attorney for Mr. Ney, has said the congressman was misled by other people and was a victim in the circumstances involving Mr. Scanlon.

Mr. Ney's office performed certain acts, and "there was certain other wining and dining situations like other people do," Mr. Tuohy said.

On Friday, Mr. Scanlon was charged with conspiracy. On Monday, the Justice Department's statement of facts that Mr. Scanlon signed went considerably beyond the earlier charging document, revealing that trips, tickets to sporting events and campaign contributions went to other public officials besides Mr. Ney in exchange for official acts.

The statement of facts said Mr. Scanlon and Lobbyist A provided items of value to public officials in exchange for "agreements to support and pass legislation, agreements to place statements in the Congressional Record, agreements to contact personnel in the United States Executive Branch agencies and offices to influence decisions of those agencies and offices."

A representative of the inspector general's office in the Interior Department was seated at the prosecutors' table in the courtroom.

The court documents said a senior staffer for "Representative No. 1" and others traveled to the Northern Marianas Islands in January 2000 to assist Mr. Abramoff and his firm in maintaining lobbying clients; as the co-chairman of a conference committee of House and Senate members, Representative No. 1 agreed to introduce legislation that would lift existing federal bans against commercial gaming for two American Indian tribes in Texas that were Abramoff clients; and that

**A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins. Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety. It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority. Make yourselves sheep and the wolves will eat you. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) US Founding Father**