

AIRRO

American Indian Rights and Resources Organization

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AIRRO
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Temecula, CA 92592
www.airro.org

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AIRRO

A California non-profit dedicated to human and civil rights in Indian Country

Membership in the American Indian Rights and Resources Organization is open to all individuals and groups that support the belief that basic human rights and civil liberties should be afforded to all people.

AIRRO members enjoy all the rights and privileges as provided in the AIRRO Constitution and Bylaws, as well as a quarterly newsletter; a discount on all AIRRO merchandise and publications; and the knowledge that you and many like you are working to ensure rights for all people.

Rights Rally at the California State Capitol

AIRRO hosted a Rights Rally at the California State Capitol Building in Sacramento, California.

The Rights Rally was one of a series of events attended by AIRRO members during the week of the National Congress of the American Indians Convention the week of October 1st through October 6th.

AIRRO made several requests to speak to the NCAI general membership about the rash of human and civil rights violations that is spreading throughout Indian Country. However, AIRRO's request was never acknowledged nor approved.



AIRRO Rally at NCAI in Sacramento October 6, 2006

Nevertheless, AIRRO, its members and many supporters took advantage of the largest gathering of Indian leaders by distributing over 600 flyers and packets decrying the gross violations of human and civil rights individual Indians are being subject to by tribal officials.



AIRRO Rally at Capitol October 6, 2006

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The presence of AIRRO members and the information contained in the flyers and packets were warmly received. Many tribal leaders and Indians from throughout Indian Country took the time to talk with AIRRO members and others about the issues.



AIRRO is working to follow-up on the NCAI Convention and the Rights Rally by starting a letter writing campaign to Tribal Leaders and elected officials to "call them" on their remarks to help stop these injustices.

AIRRO members and supporters also took part in a demonstration sponsored by TribalCorruption.com just prior to the Rights Rally.

Meet the AIRRO Board

The AIRRO membership elected its first Board of Directors at the 1st Annual AIRRO Membership Meeting.

The AIRRO Board Members were selected from among the AIRRO members present at the meeting and include AIRRO members representing various regions of California and the United States.

The members of the First AIRRO Board of Directors are:

Carla Foreman Maslin, Chair
John Gomez, Sr., Vice Chair
Link Shadley, Leonard Heflin, Eric Enriquez,
Stephanie Rodriguez, Gene Sloan, Steven Razo
Lois Edwards, Mark Lucero & Helga Walston

In addition to the Board Members listed above, 3 additional Board members were seated at the October 7, 2006 meeting in Sacramento, California.

The new Board Members are:

Vicky Schenandoah of the Oneida Nation of New York
Matt Jones of the Oneida Nation of New York
John Bill of the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe of Washington State

All 3 of the new AIRRO Board Members will fill at-large positions.

A Call for Artwork

AIRRO needs a logo, and it is looking to the AIRRO membership for help.

The AIRRO Board of Directors is requesting that AIRRO members submit artwork to AIRRO so that the AIRRO membership may vote on the selection of an official logo.

The AIRRO logo will be used on marketing and fundraising materials, as well as appear on all AIRRO letterhead, business cards, and other official AIRRO documents.

All artwork should be submitted on or before December 31, 2006. Please mail submissions to:

AIRRO
41801 Corte Valentine
Temecula, CA 92592

All submissions will be viewed and one will be chosen by the AIRRO membership at the first AIRRO meeting of 2007.

For further information, please contact John Gomez, Jr. at Pechanga@msn.com or visit www.airro.org.

First AIRRO Membership Meeting

The American Indian Rights and Resources Organization's 1st Annual Membership Meeting was a great success.

Nearly 100 members of AIRRO attended the meeting throughout the day. AIRRO members in attendance included representatives from throughout Indian Country, with several traveling from out of state.

The membership approved the AIRRO Bylaws and also elected the first AIRRO Board of Directors.

The highlight of the 1st Annual AIRRO Membership Meeting was the key note presentation given by Oglala Lakota (Sioux) and Olympic Champion Billy Mills.

Billy Mills travels throughout the country speaking to American Indian people, spreading his message of inspiration and opportunity based on dignity, character and pride. It was truly an honor to have him attend and speak to the AIRRO Membership. Mr. Mills' presen-

tation was indeed one of inspiration and hope.

The 1st Annual AIRRO Membership Meeting was truly a once in a life-time event. Thank you to all those who attended and helped make this event a success.

A special thanks to Candi Edwards and the host committee for all the preparation and work they put in to make sure everyone was fed and everything ran smoothly.



Billy Mills at the first AIRRO Board meeting.

AIRRO Members: (From John Gomez, Interim President)

Here is the final outline of the presentation given by AIRRO Chairperson **Carla Foreman Maslin** at the California Indian Conference. The 2 hour session included a video presentation and a "Q and A" session. Thanks to Chairperson Maslin, Board Member Gene Sloan, and the other AIRRO members who helped with the presentation.

The presentation opened many eyes to the atrocities that are taking place in California Indian Country.

As a result of the presentation, AIRRO has been asked to present at next year's California Indian Conference. Additionally, the events at NCAI and the California Indian Conference have educated a new audience of Indian and non-Indian people to the gross injustices of disenrollment, banishment, moratoriums, and civil rights violations.

Please stay tuned for the AIRRO Newsletter and the going live of www.AIRRO.org.

Feel free to print the electronic version of this outline and provide copies to any and all. If you would like electronic versions of the documents/flyers handed out during NCAI or at the Rights Rally in Sacramento, please email me at pechangajg@msn.com.

(Excerpts)

I. GREETING & THANKS

Good afternoon and thank you for attending this presentation. My name is Carla Foreman-Maslin, I am a

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California Pit River Indian. I am also Chairman of the Board of Directors for the American Indian Rights and Resources Organization

AIRRO is an organization which was established and is dedicated protecting, preserving and enforcing the human and civil rights of Indian individuals throughout Indian Country.

On behalf of AIRRO and its membership, we appreciate this opportunity to present here at the 21st California Indian Conference.

II. OPENING

I would like to start this presentation by reading a quote by William B. Allen, who served on the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Mr. Allen stated:

“The Government of the United States has failed to provide for (individual) Indians ... guarantees of those fundamental rights it is obliged to secure for all U.S. citizens living on territory controlled by the United States and under the laws of the United States.”

This quote clearly summarizes the problem many individual Indians face when trying to assert or preserve their basic human and civil rights against violations or infringements by tribal governments or officials.

Indian People have entered a new period of their tumultuous history—one marked not so much by oppression or exploitation by outsiders, as by the spectre of greed and internal corruption.

The lawlessness that has infected Indian Country has created an ever-growing population of individual Indians who have been subjected to and tormented by the unjust actions of tribal governments and/or tribal officials.

...IV. INABILITY TO ENFORCE THE ICRA

Unfortunately, the intent of Congress in enacting the Indian Civil Rights Act has failed to be met, and the very circumstances which necessitated its introduction and enactment have once again taken root in Indian Country.

For example, save for a writ of habeas corpus, the ICRA failed to include an effective enforcement mechanism whereby the aggrieved individual(s) could hold the offending tribal government or official(s) accountable for violations of tribal and/or federal law.

The ICRA was further neutered by the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Martinez v. Santa Clara Pueblo* which held that the ICRA, although a federal statute, was not enforceable in federal court.

...VI. CLOSING

Until such time as the basic rights of the individual Indian are recognized and upheld on par with those of other United States citizens, a growing number of individual Indians will be subjected to the same types of arbitrary and unjust acts Congress intended to outlaw decades ago.

At this point, I would like to introduce the members of our panel who will tell the story of how their rights have been violated by their tribe or tribal officials and how the Indian Civil Rights Act has failed to protect them from such acts or provide them with a means to assert or preserve their rights as Indian people.

AIRRO Committees

The AIRRO Board of Directors created several committees at their October 7, 2006 meeting to help AIRRO meet the needs of its membership and the goals of its mission statement.

The Committees formed included the following: Bylaws, Elections, Membership, Communication, and Finance.

Sitting on an AIRRO Committee is one way all members can get involved with the running of AIRRO. If you would like to volunteer to sit on a Committee, please contact John Gomez, Jr. at

Pechangajg@msn.com

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