



## IAQ : Indigenous Affairs Quarterly

An Update from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting IA Committee

Summer, 2025

If you are receiving this edition as contact for your meeting or committee, please share it. You may forward it to your listserv, cut and paste, or print copies to share. It will also be posted on the Indigenous Affairs Committee's website along with previous editions. The new site for the committee is [here](#).

### In the News

The fight to protect Apache religious freedom and the sacred land of Chi'chil Bildagoteel (Oak Flat) is not over. In late May, the Supreme Court [decided not](#) to hear Apache Stronghold's petition to save the site from destruction by a mining company, Resolution Copper. The site has long been a site of prayer, ceremony, and cultural identity for the Western Apache. It is listed on



Photo from [KJZZ](#)

the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a Traditional Cultural Property. Religious ceremonies held there cannot be relocated elsewhere. If allowed to proceed, the company plans to create a crater nearly two miles wide and over 1,000 feet deep, destroying the sacred landscape. However, Apache Stronghold, a coalition of Native and non-native allies, is petitioning the court to reconsider its decision.

Six states - Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming - have eliminated the longstanding "four walls" restriction that previously confined Medicaid clinic services to physical clinic location. The much-needed change will make it possible to deliver health care to natives in rural and hard-to-reach areas. (Native News Online, June 16).

### What We're Learning

The epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women continues in part due to a "patchwork of laws" that prevent Tribes from prosecuting non-Native offenders. Communication sharing between Native police and the F.B.I. is often poor, and reliable data are lacking. As a result, many cases fall through the cracks.

But there is actually some *good* news! Within the Navajo Nation, a collaborative project is funding development of a Missing and Murdered Dine Relatives database. The database will allow for real-time information to be available to state and federal agencies, families, and advocacy groups to share accurate and up-to-date information on missing relatives. The database may be used by other Tribes or indigenous communities, which may also benefit from viewing the framework as a model for addressing their own needs (*KOAT Action News*, 6/25).

Learn more by attending a workshop offered by Rachel Overstreet, a Choctaw Indian who is the Friends Committee on National Legislation's legislative advocate for Native Americans. She will be at Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Annual Session this summer on Thursday and Friday. Her workshop is Friday afternoon at 2pm, and Friends are invited to share dinner with her afterwards. Rachel will speak not only about legislative strategies to address the missing and murdered indigenous women, but also about the impacts of the current administration's policies on Indian country.

## **Resources**

Have you wondered what Native American Tribes once lived where you live now? This map shows us the traditional lands of native Tribes:

[Native-Land.ca | Our home on native land](#)

We can honor them by demonstrating our gratitude for the care they took of the land in our stewardship of precious resources.

The Association on Indian Affairs offers a wide array of publicly accessible media on policies, programs, and people active in preserving native culture. Browse their resources on YouTube and consider subscribing to "Red Hoop Talk," a series of fascinating interviews:



*Publicity Photo courtesy of  
Howard County Pow-Wow*

[Association on American Indian Affairs - YouTube](#)

## **Special Events**

This year's Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall, July 1-7, includes many events featuring native culture. Check out the schedule here:

<https://festival.si.edu/schedule>

Do you have a local powwow? You can find out at [PowWows.com](#). Sponsoring a powwow or attending one as a family or members of a meeting is a great way to begin building relationships with Tribes and indigenous people in your area.

Here is a sample:

- July 12, 10AM – 2 PM: Tradition Bearers of Pocomoke Indian Nation will be on hand to present and demonstrate cultural lifeways at Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing, 3461 Worcester Hwy, Snow Hill, MD 21863
- July 19-20 – Howard County Fairgrounds, Maryland, 10AM to 6PM daily. Flute playing, “make it and take it” crafts, dancing, contests.
- July 18 – 20: Marvin “Joe” Curry Pow Wow, Seneca Allegany Resort and Casino, 777 Seneca Allegany Blvd, Salamanca, NY. See: <https://www.facebook.com/mjcpowwow>
- Aug 16 – 17: 37th Annual Nansemond Indian Powwow, 1001 Pembroke Lane, Suffolk, VA
- Sept 6-7: 47th Annual Nanticoke Indian Pow Wow, Hudson Fields, 30045 Eaglecrest Rd. Milton, De: <https://www.nanticokeindians.org/event/47th-annual-nanticoke-indian-powwow/>

### **Opportunities to Partner**

Consider subscribing to FCNL’s Native American Legislative Update (NALU), a monthly newsletter on the most important developments on Capitol Hill related to Indian Country:

[Native Americans | Friends Committee On National Legislation](#)

Connection and understanding begin when Native Americans are visible to us. One Indian, asked how non-Indians could be good partners, said he wanted them to be aware that Indians still exist. They are here, living in Tribal areas and in our cities. And the government’s actions *today* affect their lives, their sovereignty, and their ability to preserve their cultural heritage.

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