

BUILDING STRONG SOVEREIGN NATIONS

Conference Agenda

I. Historical Overview- Jo Anne Cook; Judge GTB, Frank Ettawageshik

Comment: **Domestic & Foreign Policy – International Tribes**

US Constitution: Article IV Section 1 Treaty Rights between Sovereigns

1. “All governments are constantly negotiating sovereign rights.”
Each sovereign is attempting to get a better deal.
2. “The International Law”
It took 30 years to produce this universal agreement between nations.
3. Tribal Courts need to stand alone.
Tribal Councils need to support Courts.

II. Leadership Ethics- Jamie Stuck; Potawatomi Chair, Emily Proctor

Comment: **Communities look to Tribal Council for leadership.**

Historically the Citizens could bring forth an issue. This goes before:

1. a, The Grandmothers, b, The Clans, c, The Tribal Council, and d, The Judicial.
“The issue may be discussed until it is resolved or up four days.
Then it is tabled for a later time.”
2. Tribes should have strong cultural and traditional values.
Municipalities could hamper these values.
Beware and alert not to be dragged into a dispute.

Comment: **Tribes are not a municipality**

1. Many tribes cross deputize police. This greatly improved relationships between the tribe and local municipalities.
2. It is up to each tribe to determine what their relationship will be with the local municipality.
3. Local municipalities must comply with state laws. Sovereigns like tribes must comply and negotiate with Federal government.

III. Fiscal Management in Indian Country- John Amrhein; Educator MSU

*Comment: **It is important to be transparent.***

1. There should be an organizational chart. It is important to keep the Tribal Council involved or up to date on all negotiations.
2. Tribal Council should learn how the financial aspect of their government works.
3. Tribal Councilors are not supervisors of the staff. There are separate entities within the government that are autonomous; Gaming, NRD, Elders, etc.
4. A clear understanding of self-governance should be a major concern.
5. There is a difference between tribal government and business. There is more flexibility in business.

IV. Conducting Effective Meetings- Brad Neumann, Government Educator MSU

*Comment: **When relating to citizens outside of the local area***

1. We may use telephone surveys, questionnaires, and workshops.
2. Tribal Council should be sure the community is involved.
3. Tribal Council should have a vision and be a voice for the tribe.

*Comment: **We've become a policy driven organization.***

1. This keeps most of the problems to a minimum. The policies should to be updated.
2. Tribal Council should be bench marking and monitoring developments. Sometimes monitors just want to give themselves some activity.
3. Beware of Trends. If they're not in alignment with your goals they may take you off course.
4. Some tribes are kept out of the conversation concerning money that is rightfully theirs.

*Comment: **New Councilors should get training.***

1. The Tribe should know their financial sources. The 80/20 split is generally held for specific items.
2. Most organizations dismiss a disaster recovery plan.
3. Many tribes depend on Grants, but you should develop other revenue sources. Sometimes Grant funders determine how and where the funds are to be spent.
4. Councilors should understand General Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP). The Profit and Loss Statement is just a snapshot of business.