



Tribal Organizing 101

Monday, August 19th
1 – 2:45 pm CDT



Andrew “Dru” Alejandre was elected Chairman of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians in September 2016. Prior to being elected Chairman, he served as Tribal Secretary starting in April 2014. Alejandre grew up in Williams, California, and moved to Corning, California, when the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indian Tribe opened Rolling Hills Casino in 2001. He graduated from Corning Union High School and earned a degree in graphic design from the Art Institute in Sacramento.

Alejandre also serves as the Vice chairman and Co-Founder Chairman of the Tribal Leadership Council and the Chairman of the Tewa Companies Board of Directors. Tewa is the 8(a)-business arm of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. He also oversees the Paskenta Nomlaki Foundation, the tribe's 501c3 that continues to support the local and surrounding communities.

Andrew “Dru” Alejandre

Chairman, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians



OJ is the Executive Director of the Coalition of Large Tribes which consist of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Crow Tribe of Montana, the Navajo Nation, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the Spokane Tribe of Washington.

OJ and his wife, Barb, helped form Four Directions, Inc., after leading the historic Native vote project in South Dakota’s 2002 U.S. Senate race. For that effort, the 21st Century Democrats awarded Barb and OJ the 2003 Paul Wellstone Grassroots Award. Since then, Barb and OJ have continued to lead nonpartisan Native voter engagement, empowerment, protection and voting rights work across the country.

In 2005, OJ Semans testified before the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act before the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2006, and in 2014 he testified again before the National Commission on



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the Voting Rights Act. OJ filed a friend-of-the-court brief in *Shelby County (Ala.) v. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder*. Barb and OJ have also been involved in Voting Rights Act litigation in South Dakota and Montana. Working with Minnesota Tribes in 2014, they established satellite voting offices on the three largest Indian reservations without litigation. OJ's opinion editorials have been featured in Indian Country Today Media Network, and he's been an invited speaker at several voting rights conferences. Barb and OJ have seven grown children. They live in South Antelope on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

OJ Semans

Executive Director of the Coalition of Large Tribes



Judith is a citizen of the Caddo Nation. She has been the Executive Director of Native Organizers Alliance (NOA) for eight years. She leads a national Native training and organizing network which supports Tribes, traditional societies, and community groups – urban and reservation – in organizing grassroots political power to achieve Native sovereignty and racial equity for all.

Judith is a board member of Movement Strategy Center and chair of the board of the NDN Collective. She currently serves on the Environmental Justice Working Group convened by US Representatives Raul Grijalva and Barbara Lee. Judith was a 2019 Roddenberry Fellow. In 2022, she was a Resident Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Harvard University.

Judith LeBlanc

Executive Director, Native Organizers Alliance



Janeen Comenote is Quinault and Oglala on her father's side and Hesquiaht and Kwakiutl First Nations on her mother's side. Comenote is the founding Executive Director of the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC). The NUIFC is a national coalition representing 38 urban Indian centers in 26 cities and more than two million Native Americans living away from their traditional land base. The NUIFC remains one of only a few national organizations dedicated to "Making the Invisible Visible" and providing a platform and voice for this underrepresented population in America.

Janeen is a graduate of Leadership Tomorrow, a regional leadership program, is a 1999 alumni of the prestigious American's for Indian



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Opportunity Ambassador program and was chosen and highlighted in O (Oprah) magazine for her participation in Women Rule; 80 Women Who Could Change America. She is a recipient of the Potlatch Fund Fran James Cultural Preservation award and the prestigious Eco Trust Indigenous Leadership award for her work with urban Indians. She has presented urban Indian issues at the White House, United Nations and as a keynote speaker at numerous conferences.

Janeen Comenote

Executive Director, National Urban Indian Family Coalition Action Fund



Jordan James Harvill (Cherokee, Choctaw) is the National Program Director for Advance Native Political Leadership. He supports the development and execution of Advance's leadership programs as well as coordinating our state and national power building networks. Jordan has nearly a decade of experience in political strategy, voter mobilization, and campaign management spanning national organizations and candidate campaigns at every level of government.

Prior to joining the Advance team, Jordan was the founding Chief of Staff at VoteAmerica, one of the nation's largest voter turnout organizations mobilizing over 25 million voters in the New American Majority during the 2020 election.

Jordan James Harvill

National Program Director
Advance Native Political Leadership