

## Advocacy Committee Report Oct 2022 – Oct 2023

Most of the advocacy done in the past year was forwarding articles of interest concerning Native issues via email. Below are examples:

- ✓ 11/20/22 – **New York Bans Native Mascots** – New York schools ordered to change Native American team names, mascots or risk losing funding
- ✓ 11/29/22 – **Native Map of Minnesota** - This week they're unveiling a map that features more than 100 Ojibwe place names from across the Band's territory, including names uncovered in diaries stored in the Smithsonian dating back to the 1800s.
- ✓ 12/6/22 – **Quincy Mass. Pledges to the Neponset Nation** - Encouraging news about a mayor taking real steps to honor and provide for a local tribe. Also pledging to, "work to incorporate the tribe's history and legacy into the curriculum of Quincy Public Schools."
- ✓ 12/14/22 – **Return of the Buffalo** - Lucille Contreras set out to reconnect her Lipan Apache community with its heritage. She brought buffalo back to Texas Native American land.
- ✓ 12/27/22 – **We're Still Here** – Being a Native park ranger in national parks, which are all on Native land
- ✓ 1/20/23 – **Road to Healing Tour in Arizona** – part of DOI boarding school initiative
- ✓ 2/6/23 – **3 Minute Explanation of Brakeen v. Haaland** – the case that threatened the Indian Child Welfare Act
- ✓ 3/20/23 – **SCOTUS Hears Arguments in Navajo Nation Water Rights Case** – Unfortunately the Supreme Court ruled against the Navajo Nation, a devastating decision for them and a violation of treaties.
- ✓ 4/20/23 **Jim Thorpe Sports Days**
- ✓ 4/27/23 – **NCAI Supreme Court Project** – The National Congress of American Indians had created Tribal Sovereignty Protection Initiative (TSPI) in September, 2001. One component of that is the NCAI Supreme Court Project, a collaboration between NCAI and the Native American Rights Fund— monitors litigation in which Native people have a significant stake and coordinates strategy among a network of over 250 tribal leaders, attorneys, and law professors.
- ✓ 5/1/23 – **MMIWR** –Our NEJNAMC Advocacy Co-Chair Ragghi Rain has asked that the attached flyer be sent out to encourage all NEJ CoNAMs to observe Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Awareness in some way this week.
- ✓ 7/8/23 – **Onondaga Land Rights** – Landmark Ruling by OAS: Agency Rejects American Argument That the Land Claims Are Too Old and Fixing Them Would Be Too Disruptive to Non-Indigenous Settlers Living Within the Treaty Footprint.
- ✓ 7/25/23 – **NC Land Acknowledgement** – I sent a photo of the wonderful land acknowledgement that I saw on the door of the North Carolina Museum of Art; it's a great example to emulate.
- ✓ 7/26/23 – **Introducing Kevin Witt of Susquehanna Conference** - At the NEJ Executive Committee meeting last night we heard from Kevin Witt who is the Director of Beloved Community for the Susquehanna Conference. Among his other assignments he has been charged with the task of revitalizing their CONAM. We agreed to support him as long as he is authentic and listens to the voices of the indigenous people. The first thing we told him that he needs to do is find out what happened to their funds.
- ✓ 8/31/23 – **Map of 523 Indian Boarding Schools** – National Native American Boarding School Coalition launches interactive map of 523 American Indian boarding Schools.

- ✓ 9/13/23 – Advocacy Committee Co-chair Job Description – Since I (Sherry Wack) find it necessary to step down from this position I created a job description so that members can know what is involved and pray about whether they want to serve in this capacity.

January 28, 2023 – PoA meeting - Rev. Neal Christie provided an informative presentation on Legislative Action, Advocacy and Witness. **JOIN THE ACTION ALERT ministry at [bwcaction.org](http://bwcaction.org) where you can sign onto national petitions and find more helpful information about living into legislative action.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Wack  
Advocacy Committee Co-chair