

GNJ Report 2021-2022

Membership of our CoNAM needed to be evaluated. Covid had caused the numbers to dwindle so we made every effort to bring the membership to 8 which is required by the Conference. Currently all seats are filled and there are six Native Americans currently seated and there is a newly elected Chair, Gail Gould, Gail is the wife of the Lenape Tribal Chair. She serves on many committees, including the New Jersey Commission on Indian Affairs, the Lenni Lenape Cultural Retention Committee, and the Pow Wow Committee. She is a member of St. John UMC, the church of the Lenape, and she assists in the management of the Food Giveaway.

The work of the Committee consisted of planning the NEJCoNAM meeting only to have the meeting cancelled due to hesitant participation related to the pandemic. The meeting was eventually held electronically on October 7th with the same presenters Pete Hill and Ryan Pierce. Our major topic was the effect of forced Boarding School attendance and the generational trauma which followed.

The Committee is active in returning the 5th Sunday Native American services at St. John UMC following a two-year battle with Covid. The Committee has also filled several speaking engagements and assisted with two museum exhibits in Camden and Medford.

Finally the Committee holds a seat on the Board of Stewards which will be overseeing the transfer of lands back to Tribal citizens as churches close their doors in the southernmost part of the State as per the Journey of Hope.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Mosley. Past Chair