Minutes of Meeting
91st Annual Tribal Assembly
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
Juneau, Alaska

Theme: “Unbreakable Unity, Ancestral Strength”

Lingit: tlél aadé kaxduwawáal’i yé yá ch’a tléix’ tí; Haa Léelk’u Hás latseení
Xaad Kil: Kunhlgijuwáay tláats’gaa jahlíis, Kuníisiisd Dagwiigáay

Day 1: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

The Tlingit Gospel Singers provided Special Music.

The colors were posted by the Southeast Alaska Native Veterans.

The Grand Entrance of the Delegates was led by the Yaaw Tei Yi Dance Group.

CALL TO ORDER
President Richard J. Peterson called the 91st Annual Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to order at 8:30 a.m.

INVOCATION
Pastor Jerry Bennett provided the invocation.

WORD OF THE DAY
Jacqueline Pata, Juneau Delegate, with support from Michelle Martin, Juneau Delegate, provided the Lingít Word of the Day.

Eric Hamar, Kasaan Delegate, provided the Xaad Kíl Word of the Day.

INTRODUCTION OF TRIBAL HOST
Emerging Leader Jasmine Knudson introduced Tribal Host, Mike Jackson, (*Ka.oosh*).

INTRODUCTION OF TRIBAL HOSTESS
Emerging Leader Jasmine Knudson introduced Tribal Hostess, Janet Peele, *(Dadexoaagh)*. Janet addressed the Delegates and offered words of appreciation.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN
Gerry Hope, Self-Governance & Tribal Transportation Director, was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the annual Tribal Assembly.

APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Jason Wilson, Sean Ahshapanek, and Zachary West of Public Safety, were appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. Jason reviewed the rules of conduct and safety for Delegates to observe during the meeting.

APPOINT SESSION CHAIR
1st Vice President Jacqueline Pata was appointed and assumed the session Chair without objection, so ordered.

WELCOME ADDRESSES
The following officials welcomed the Delegates to Juneau:

- Beth Weldon, Mayor, City & Borough of Juneau
- Jodie Gatti, President, Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council
- Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator
- Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator
- Nick Begich, U.S. Representative
- Woodrow Watson, President, ANB Grand President
- Sandra Churchill, President, ANS Grand President

CREDENTIALS REPORT
Louise Kadinger, Credentials Committee Chair, provided the Credentials Report.

Number of Credentialed Delegates Authorized: 76
Number of On-Site Attending Delegates: 68
Number of Virtual Attending Delegates: 0
Number of Delegates Replaced: 0
Number for Quorum: 35

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
President Peterson declared a quorum present.

ADOPT STANDING RULES OF ORDER
M/S Louise Kadinger, Juneau Delegate, moved to adopt the Standing Rules of Order. No objection, so ordered.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
M/S 6th Vice President Paulette Moreno moved to adopt the agenda as a guide. No objection, so ordered.

ADOPT MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2025
M/S Vice President Moreno moved to adopt the minutes of April 18, 2025. No objection, so ordered.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES
President Peterson declared the appointment of committees had been established with lists provided to the Delegates.

CONSENT CALENDAR
M/S Vice President Moreno moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. No objection, so ordered.

SUSPENSION OF RULES
M/S Elizah Dominy, Seattle Delegate, moved and asked for suspension of the rules to allow Natalie Anderson, Youth Ambassador and Jasmine Knudson, Emerging Leader, to be seated with the Seattle delegation. No objection, so ordered.

M/S 3rd Vice President Rob Sanderson, Jr. moved and asked for suspension of the rules to allow Shania Murphy, Youth Representative to be seated with the Ketchikan delegation. No objection, so ordered.

President Peterson announced the meeting would stand at ease at 9:55 a.m.

Vice President Pata resumed the Chair and called the meeting back to order at 10:08 a.m.

Gerry Hope addressed the Delegates in recognition of his role as Parliamentarian for this year's Tribal assembly.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
David Bean, Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, provided the Keynote Address.

The Chair declared a 10-minute recess at 10:39 a.m. with the meeting reconvening at 10:51 a.m.

STATE OF THE TRIBE ADDRESS
President Peterson provided the State of the Tribe address.

Following the State of the Tribe address, the Chair called Juneau Delegate Kathryn Lawrence forward to offer a prayer.

RECESS
The Chair declared a lunch recess from 11:49 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No objection, so ordered

CALL TO ORDER
Vice President Moreno assumed the session Chair and called the meeting back to order at 1:02 p.m. No objection, so ordered.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT
Roald Helgesen, Chief Operating Officer, provided a report.

TLINGIT HAIDA TRIBAL BUSINESS CORPORATION REPORT
Richard Rinehart, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation, provided a report.

RECESS
The Chair recessed the meeting, declared a break from 2:37 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 2:50 p.m.

DECLARATION OF NOMINATIONS
Selena Beierly, Elections Committee Chair, assumed the Chair to preside over the election proceedings. No objection, so ordered.

CANDIDATE SPEECHES
Candidates for the respective offices and positions provided candidate speeches. Candidates seeking election to more than one office were provided one opportunity to address the Tribal Assembly, allowing each candidate to present their remarks only once.

President
- Alicia “Lisa” Gassman
- Tasha Hotch
- Melissa M. Kookesh
- Jacqueline L. Pata
- Richard J. Peterson

1st Vice President
- Clinton E. Cook
- Alicia “Lisa” Gassman
- Tasha Hotch
- Melissa M. Kookesh
- Jacqueline L. Pata

Vice President
- Clinton E. Cook
- Alicia “Lisa” Gassman
- Tasha Hotch
- Albert H. Howard
- Delbert Kadake
- Melissa M. Kookesh
- Michelle D. Martin
- Will Micklin

- Frances Mills
- Paulette M. Moreno
- Clarence E. Peele
- Rob Sanderson, Jr.
- X'unei Lance Twitchell
- William A. Ware

Associate Justice
- Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks
- Mary Ferguson

Emerging Leader
- Vanessa K. Auth
- Isabella M. Jackson
- Shania R. Murphy

Delegate/Citizen of the Year
- Jennifer Cordova-James

Elias Chase, Portland Delegate, delivered remarks on behalf of the Delegate/Citizen of the Year candidate.

M/S Frances Mills, Anchorage Delegate, moved and asked for unanimous consent to seat Jennifer Cordova-James, the only candidate running for Delegate/Citizen of the Year. No objection, motion carried.

RECESS
Vice President Moreno resumed the session Chair and announced the Delegates would convene for the day with committee meetings following the recess.

The Chair recessed the meeting for the day at 4:43 p.m.