

McKinley's Jackson is vice chair

The Northwest New Mexico Council of Government has selected new members to its board of directors, officials said.

GloJean Todacheene was elected chairwoman of the COG board of directors. Todacheene is a former member of the San Juan Board of Commissioners, as well as a retired educator. The Shiprock Democrat is running for a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives against incumbent Sharon Clahchischilliage, R-Kirtland.

McKinley County Commissioner Genevieve Jackson was elected as COG's vice chairwoman.

Jeff Kiely, executive director at COG, said the organization met Aug. 3 at the Center For Energy Education at San Juan College in Farmington. At the meeting, Kiely said various awards were presented to those in attendance, including regional champion awards to former New Mexico Speaker of the House W. Ken Martinez, San Juan County Chief Executive Officer Kim Carpenter, and Navajo community leader Richard Bowman.

Board terms are volunteer and last for two years.

Todacheene new COG chair

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The COG assists with regional planning and development initiatives in northwest New Mexico. The organization, based on Aztec Avenue in Gallup, works on behalf of its member governments and their customized annual work plans to uplift the region through coordination.

"The [COG] has a dedicated staff that adds value to the work of all local governments," Todacheene said.

Julie Quintana of Cibola County was chosen as second vice chairwoman, and Gallup businessman and former Gallup City Councilman Louis Bonaguidi was elected treasurer.

By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent