

# North Dakota Chaplains Association Retreat & Meeting

Education: July 25, 2024 Meeting: July 26, 2024

## Education and Annual Meeting

We will learn and build skills in working with Native American patients/residents:

- Creation & Trauma – Introductions and Impact Stories
- Collision – Mainstream Society and Tribal Society
- Counting Coup – Christian Religion and Tribal Spirituality
- Conquest & Triumph – Success Stories and Group Activities



Ron's two favorite quotes:

“Inside of me there are two dogs. One is mean and evil, and the other is good, and they fight each other all the time. When asked which one wins, I answer, the one I feed the most.”

Sitting Bull / Tatanka Iyotake

“Let us put our minds together and see what life we will make for our children.” Sitting Bull / Tatanka Iyotake

This year's presenter is  
**Ronald G Walters, Jr**  
Of the Hunkpapa-Lakota people  
**“Trauma to Triumph “**

He is known as Ronald G Walters, Jr in the Christian world, and Gray Spotted Horse (sunkawakhan hintho sungleska hota) among his family on the Standing Rock Reservation, located south of Bismarck-Mandan, ND. Ron is a current resident of Mandan, ND, but calls the Standing Rock Reservation home. Ron was born in Lubbock, TX (1964). He grew up in all the states between Texas and North Dakota, eventually graduating high school (1982) in Neligh, Nebraska, and moving to North Dakota in 2005. Ron has one adult son, Tyler, living in Sioux City, Iowa, along with two of Ron's grandchildren (Bentley & Charlotte). Ron completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in American Indian Studies in 2005, with an emphasis on journalism at the University of South Dakota (USD). Before his university studies in his early 30's, Ron successfully held various jobs in restaurant management, retail businesses, IT technical support, computer consultant, and Fed-Ex driver. During and after his university studies, Ron focused his journalism career in the radio and newspaper industry which lead to an executive director position for a national non-profit organization that recruited, trained, and advanced the careers of hundreds of Native Americans pursuing a career as a journalist. After mentoring Native American journalists, Ron relocated to the Standing Rock Reservation in 2005 to take care of his elderly parents, as they began enjoying the final years of their 57 year marriage. During this time, Ron also successfully held the position of Director of Resource Development at Sitting Bull College (Ft. Yates, ND) for eight years before moving into his position of Major Gifts Officer (2013-to present) at the Great Plains Food Bank.

### **Presentation Abstract and Discussion Topics**

In our diverse world of race, ideology, language, and spirituality today, these pillars of life play important roles for millions of Native Americans who express a powerful desire to have complete sovereignty in all aspects of their daily lives, in particular, spirituality. The desire for spiritual connection is deeply ingrained in the DNA of Indigenous people, and it influences modern-day tribal norms, including work, community, and family life. As people who are deeply connected to the land and the natural environment, as well as to other living beings, particularly in the United States, Indigenous people interpret the value of material things, the use of time, and life events differently from mainstream society. The differences in interpretation continue to create generational trauma for millions of Native Americans in the United States but have also led to triumph in the face of adversity.

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Please submit the following information along with conference registration fee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration to:**

*Ron Hildahl*

*Anne Carlsen Center*

2200 20th St. SW

Jamestown, ND 58401

**Registration deadline is July 7th.**

- Registration fee covers facility rental, speaker fees and applicable meals/accommodations.
- Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift.
- Cancellation policy: Requests for full refund fee must be made via mail, email or phone and must be done by 7/19/24. Any cancellations after 7/19/24 will forfeit the cost of meals.
- Thurs education only: 9:00 am- 4:00 pm. Entire event Thurs. 9:00 am- Fri. 11:00 am

**Retreat Cost:**

\_\_\_\_ Thursday/Friday member (\$115)

\_\_\_\_ Thursday/Friday non-member (\$120)

\_\_\_\_ Thursday only (member \$60 and non-member \$65)

\_\_\_\_ Wednesday night housing (\$70 includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.  
\$50 without meals)

Please make checks payable to "North Dakota Chaplains Association"

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The retreat will be held at Maryvale Retreat Center. Maryvale is located north of Valley City, North Dakota in the beautiful Sheyenne River Valley.

**Please use these directions as your GPS may not be reliable.**

Take exit 161 off I-94, follow 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE out of town and under the train trestle, turn left onto River Road, turn left at sign for Maryvale and Fish Hatchery. There are shrines, prayer walks, and places of reflection. The landscape is a mixture of lawns, rolling hills, and woods.