



Gah-Yah-Tont

(It Is Written)

March, 2008



As this year's election draws near, so does my service to you as Chief. Some of you are aware that I have some health issues that have become a little worrisome. Not surprising, since corndogs have been my favorite vegetable for too many years and I paid too little attention to my health during the years that I should have. No regrets, but I do have to slow it down now. I intend to retire from tribal politics this year and will resign as soon as this year's election is settled and I swear in my successor.

I have asked Janice Quick to run for election for the last year of my term. Janice will make an absolutely superb Chief for us. Janice believes in the same goals we have been fighting for the last three years and will continue to include ALL tribal members in the running of our tribe. We have an all-

star ticket lined up for the offices that are up for election and you can rest assured if that ticket is elected, things will continue going in the right direction.

In other political news, the Tribal Court Judge ruled that the recall election to remove the Second Chief, Katie Birdsong and Secretary-Treasurer, Kay Ellison was valid and they were removed. It is unfortunate that the tribe had to spend so much money on legal fees because of a few tribal members who put their interests ahead of the tribe's best interests. The old "Claims Committee" removal is still tied up in court, but hopefully, they too will be removed soon.

The remaining five Business Committee members voted in the 10 March 2008 Business Committee meeting, to pass the "Greater Access to Participation in Tribal Business Act". This resolution assures that ALL tribal members qualified to vote will be allowed to vote on any issue brought up on the General Council floor that gets 2/5 or 40% of the vote of those present to go on a ballot to all tribal members 18 or older who have not had their voting rights taken away. This ballot with General Council questions will be mailed to you automatically for your vote. This brings to a halt the practice of a few people being able to round up enough floor votes to make drastic changes that affect the whole tribe. This effectively ends the ability of a couple of hundred people in attendance at General Council to pass resolutions that affect all 4400 of us. This is something we need to fight to keep in the coming years so that a small minority can never again dictate to the whole tribe.

I am sure that some of the dissidents that have fought to keep the control of the tribe in the hands of a few locals will attempt to make a major issue of the money we spent in the fraud and forensic investigation we initiated early in my term that exposed the things they had been doing, and I am sure they will criticize the dollars we spent fighting the lawsuits THEY filed against US. I assure you the dollars we spent on both those counts, even though they were considerable, was money well spent protecting the tribe from those who would take everything for themselves.

I hope to get one more news letter out before I leave office. If I do not get another news letter after this one out, I want you to know what an honor it has been to serve you and you will be in my thoughts and prayers the rest of my life. I love you all.

Paul Spicer, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

**Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
Annual Election & General Council Meeting Notice
June 7, 2008**

The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma Annual Election and General Council Meeting will be held **Saturday, June 7, 2008.**

The General Council Meeting will take place **at the Ottawa/Peoria Cultural Center** located just north of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Headquarters Building at 114 S. Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, Oklahoma, at 10:00 A.M. Verification of tribal membership is required to enter the General Council Meeting. A tribal member is required to show picture identification and sign in thereby verifying tribal membership. The sign in period will begin at 8:30 A.M. and close at the earlier of 11:30 A.M. or adjournment of the meeting. All tribal members who have met the membership requirements specified by the Tribal Constitution, are enrolled members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, and are eighteen years of age or older on or before June 7, 2008 are eligible to attend the meeting.

The annual election will take place by mail in ballots. All tribal members who have met the membership requirements specified by the Tribal Constitution, are enrolled members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, are eighteen years of age or older on or before June 7, 2008, and who have not had their voting rights suspended by the Tribe, are eligible to vote by mail in the election. The ballots will be counted on **Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the Tribal Headquarters Building** beginning at 8:00 A.M..

Following is general information with regard to the election.

1. Positions to be Filled:

(Filing Fee \$50)

- Chief (one year term)
- 2nd Chief (two year term)
- Secretary/Treasurer (two year term)
- 2nd Councilperson (two year term)
- 4th Councilperson (two year term)
- 2nd Grievance Committee Member (two year term)
- 4th Grievance Committee Member (two year term)

2. Questions, Issues, or Other Business Submitted to General Council Vote:

None

3. Declaration of Candidacy:

In order to file for the elected positions open, a candidate for a position must file in person and in writing a statement containing the following, in printed or typed format, to the Independent Contractor conducting the election or the Tribal Enrollment Officer.

Candidate's name as it will appear on the ballot, Candidate's mailing address and physical address if different than the mailing address (street, box, city, state, and zip code), telephone number, elected office declaration filed for, copy of valid driver license, copy of tribal membership card, and a signed statement of qualification as follows.

I, the undersigned, do hereby solemnly swear and affirm that all facts contained on this, Declaration of Candidacy, are true and correct, and

I am fully qualified, as provided within, Article II, of the, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma By-Laws to the Constitution, as follows:

- (a) I am not less than 25 years of age,
- (b) I am a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, and
- (c) I reside within a radius of 150 miles in any direction from the Basset Grove Stomp Grounds.

The foregoing written Declaration of Candidacy must be properly notarized with notary seal affixed, notary signature, notary date and notary commission number (if applicable), submitted by the candidate in person at either the Tribal Headquarters Building in Miami, Oklahoma or the Independent Contractors office in Vinita, Oklahoma, to be signed and dated by the Independent Contractor or Tribal Enrollment Officer on the following dates and times: between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Thursday April 10, 2008 and Friday, April 11, 2008; or from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 12, 2008. The Declaration of Candidacy for all positions **must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 filing fee paid in cash, certified check, or money order made payable to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any time.**

The Tribal Enrollment Officer is, April Henderson, whose office is located at the Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Headquarters Building; R2301 E. Steve Owens Blvd.; Miami, OK. The Independent Contractor is, Chris H. Conine, P.C., Certified Public Accountant; 119 S. Wilson St.; Vinita, OK.

A pre printed form in the above described format is available upon request at the Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Headquarters Building; R2301 E. Steve Owens Blvd.; P.O. Box 1283; Miami, OK 74355; toll free telephone number 1-888-313-6609.

4. Testing of Qualifications of Candidates:

By no later than Wednesday April 16, 2008, the Independent Contractor shall review all filings for the elected offices to determine that the prospective candidates meet the qualifications set forth in the current Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma Election and Voting Ordinance. If the Independent Contractor determines a person is not eligible to be a candidate, the Independent Contractor shall so notify that person in writing of their decision and the prospective candidate shall be given until Friday April 18, 2008 to provide any additional documentary evidence required to establish their eligibility. Failure of the prospective candidate to provide said requested documentation by said deadline shall result in the person's name not being included on the ballots. The Independent Contractor shall make final determinations regarding qualifications of candidates no later than Saturday April 19, 2008.

5. Challenge of Candidates:

Filing Challenge Any qualified voter may challenge the eligibility of any person to be a candidate by filing with the Independent Contractor a written statement setting forth the evidence supporting the challenge, along with a One Hundred Dollar (\$100) non-refundable fee. Any such challenge shall be filed no later than Tuesday April 15, 2008. Each petition must state the reason(s) the candidate is not eligible to file for office. The same shall be considered when the Testing of Qualifications of Candidates is addressed by the Independent Contractor. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the Challenge is submitted and said filing fee shall be turned over to the Election Committee Chairperson of the Tribe for deposit into the Tribe's General Operations Account to defray the expenses incurred during the election.

Procedure for Response Upon receiving a petition challenging a candidate, or determining a challenge exists, the Independent Contractor shall deliver to the challenged candidate a summary of the issues or the petition, and a written response may be filed with the Independent Contractor by the challenged person no later than Friday April 18, 2008.

6. Voting Procedures:

On or about April 25, 2008 a ballot packet will be mailed to each tribal member meeting the membership requirements specified by the Tribal Constitution, is an enrolled member of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, is eighteen years of age or older on or before June 7, 2008 and who has not had their voting rights suspended by the tribe. The ballot packet will be mailed to the tribal member's address on file with the Tribal Enrollment Officer, April Henderson. Tribal members are encouraged to contact Ms. Henderson to ensure their address of record is accurate. Ms. Henderson can be contacted at 1-888-313-6609 or by mail at Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Headquarters Building; R2301 E. Steve Owens Blvd.; P.O. Box 1283; Miami, OK 74355. The ballot packet will contain a ballot, instructions for voting, an inner envelope with 'Official Ballot' printed on the face, and a stamped pre-addressed return envelope. Upon receipt of the ballot packet, the ballot must be completed and returned by mail, in the official pre-numbered envelope supplied by the Independent Contractor to, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe Election; P.O. Box 1208; Miami, OK 74355 no later than 11:00 A.M. CDT; Saturday, June 7, 2008. Ballots not returned in the official pre-numbered envelope assigned to the tribal member by the Independent Contractor will not be counted. No exceptions will be made. It is recommended mail services requiring signature for delivery not be used as the Postmaster may return these as undeliverable.

7. Counting of Votes:

The counting of votes will be conducted by the Independent Contractor on June 7, 2008 at the Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Headquarters Building; R2301 E. Steve Owens Blvd.; Miami, OK. Neither a candidate or incumbent for an elected position can be present during the counting of votes. If a candidate or incumbent desires to have a representative observe the counting of votes, the candidate or incumbent must present, to the Independent Contractor, in writing, by 1:00 P.M. CDT on Friday, June 6, 2008, their name and the name of the individual appointed to observe the vote counting.

The Independent Contractor is, Chris H. Conine, P.C., Certified Public Accountant; 119 S. Wilson; Vinita, OK.

TO: SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBAL MEMBERS

Due to extremely low funds from our casino distribution, the Seneca-Cayuga Business Committee approved a resolution to modify payments to tribal members from Claims/Welfare. As of March 4, 2008, we will no longer pay Emergency Services. This resolution **does not** include Elders.

We will pay Social Services; optical, dental, hearing and burial.

If you have any questions regarding Federal Programs that you may qualify for, you should contact Sherry Spicer, Shanny Housman or Nita Kay Fisher at (918) 787-5452. Amanda Arnold is the contact for help with utilities at (918) 542-6609. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Thank you,

Interim Administrative Committee