

July, 2010

# GAH-YAH-TONT

*It is Written*

Newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

## June 2010 General Council held in New Community Building

General Council 2010 was called to order in our new Community Building on June 5, 2010 at a little after 10:00 a.m. There were 276 eligible voters at the Community Building and ironically, 276 eligible voters filed absentee ballots. The Election of Tribal Officers resulted in the election of Charles Diebold as Second Chief and John R. Birkes as Secretary-Treasurer. Re-elected to their Council positions were Councilperson Geneva Records-Fletcher and Jim Spicer. Sherrie Johnson was elected to the Grievance Committee and Sandra Kingston retained her position on the Grievance Committee.



The following table shows the election results:

<b>Second Chief</b>	Community Center	Absentee	Abs.Hand Tally	Totals	%
Katie Birdsong	80	111	15	206	35.76%
Charles Diebold	187	152	9	348	60.42%
Dennis L. Wadsworth, Sr.	9	13	0	22	3.82%
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>					
John R. Birkes	129	77	4	210	36.71%
Lori M. Cochrane	23	18	1	42	7.34%
Carrie N. Mott	51	73	5	129	22.55%
Terry L. Whitetree	71	107	13	191	33.39%
<b>Business Committee Position #2</b>					
Hoyit Bacon	134	103	7	244	42.81%
Jim Spicer	139	170	17	326	57.19%
<b>Business Committee Position #4</b>					
Diana Baker	153	92	7	252	44.21%
Geneva Records-Fletcher	122	180	16	318	55.79%
<b>Grievance Committee Position #4</b>					
Sherrie D. Johnson	152	140	12	304	53.62%
Seneca Price	118	133	12	263	46.38%
<b>Grievance Committee Position #4</b>					
Lester Jerry Crow	64	93	4	161	28.25%
Sandra L. Kingston	125	130	17	272	47.72%
Rick Snell	86	48	3	137	24.04%

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There were five General Council Resolutions addressed at the meeting and they are paraphrased as follows:

**General Council Resolution 310-060510**, resolving to support the recommendation of the Enrollment Committee in the disenrollment of Frankie Rae Kyler due to her not meeting the enrollment criteria when she was enrolled in the Tribe. This resolution passed by a vote of 114 for, 74 against, and 1 abstaining.

**General Council Resolution 311-060510**, resolving that the Chief and/or the Secretary-Treasurer of the tribe are hereby directed to withdraw \$500,000 from the General Council General Welfare Fund and deposit these funds into the Claims Education Fund, to be used for authorized education needs only. This resolution passed by a vote of ALL for, 0 against and 0 abstain.

**General Council Resolution 312-060510**, resolving that the Chief and/or Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribe is hereby directed to set aside \$500,000 from the General Council General Welfare Fund to establish and deposit these funds into a "Land Acquisition Fund" and follow established policies and procedures to purchase property according to the Tribe's priority list in the adopted and in effect Land Consolidation Plan. This resolution passed by a vote of ALL for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**General Council Resolution 313-060510**, resolving that the General Council does direct that no Tribal member may hold a job with a Seneca-Cayuga Tribal enterprise and serve on a Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Committee (this shall include, but not limited to, all Tribal committees namely Claims, Grievance, Election, Enrollment, Housing, Tax Commission, etc.) and this resolution shall take effect this 5th day of June, 2010. This resolution was passed with a vote of 85 for, 66 against, and 2 abstaining.

**General Council Resolution 314-060510**, resolving that the General Council has directed that no Tribal member may hold a job with a Seneca-Cayuga Tribal enterprise and serve on a Seneca-Cayuga Tribal committee (this shall include, but not limited to, all Tribal committees namely Claims, Grievance, Election, Enrollment, Housing, Tax Commission, etc.) and only those currently sworn in and serving on a Tribal Committee, as of this 5th day of June, 2010, may serve out their term of office. If after the term they are currently serving expires and they so chose to run for re-election, seeking reappointment, etc., they must choose between holding a job with the Tribe and serving on a Tribal Committee. This resolution was passed with a vote of 74 for, 42 against, and 0 abstaining.

All Tribal programs had booths or tables set up to inform the attendees of the General Council of services provided by the tribal programs. Each program had handouts and token items for members of the tribe. Program personnel were on hand from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. to explain and inform tribal members of the benefits of each program and how to apply for benefits or services. When the General Council meeting was called to order, program personnel exited the building so the Tribe could take care of General Council business.







After the morning session, a catered lunch was served to all attendees prior to the afternoon meeting.

There are many positive comments on the new building, especially the sound system. Several of the elders of the tribe stated this was the first General Council in a long time that they heard everything that was going on. The new building is a wonderful addition to our Tribal Assets.

## **SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEW OFFICERS HELD JUNE 8, 2010 AT NEW TRIBAL CAREER RESOURCE CENTER**

The Oath of Office for newly elected tribal officers was administered by Chief LeRoy Howard at a swearing in ceremony held on June 8, 2010 in the new Tribal Career Resource Building. Those sworn in were (from left to right) Grievance Committee person Sherry Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer John R. Birkes, Second Chief Charles Diebold, Councilperson Jim Spicer, Councilperson Geneva Records-Fletcher, and Grievance Committee person Sandra Kingston.

After the swearing in ceremony, Indian Tacos were served to approximately 50 tribal members and guests attending the ceremony.



## **Camp Day for Green Corn is August 1, 2010**

Camp Day for Green Corn will be August 1, 2010 with main day Ceremonies on Monday, August 2, 2010. As in years past, the Tobacco Company will host a lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers at noon on Sunday. All campers are invited to come and eat with them and soda and water will be provided. In conjunction with the lunch, Smoke Shop manager Stoney Sisco reports he and his staff will sponsor fun things to do for the kids to include a 20 foot waterslide, a dunk tank and a three in one jumper. Kids will be able to enjoy these activities from approximately Noon until 8:00 p.m. Smoke shop staff will be chaperoning these activities.



## FIRST PEOPLES FUND ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS CEREMONY IN THE TWIN CITIES

On September 10, 2010, the First Peoples Fund, a national organization dedicated to supporting Native American artists, will honor Community Spirit Award recipients with a ceremony and reception at SteppingStone Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota. Each year First Peoples Fund recognizes outstanding artists for their unselfish work to bring spirit back to their communities through their artistic expression, commitment to sustaining cultural values and, ultimately, service to their people. The honorees include:

**Alfred “Bud” Lane III** – (Siletz)

Basket maker  
Siletz, Oregon

**Wade Fernandez** – (Menominee)

Performing artist, Musician, Songwriter  
Keshena, Wisconsin

**Richard Zane Smith** – (Wyandot)

Clay, Storytelling, Wyandot Songs for Children  
Wyandotte, Oklahoma

**Ramona Peters** – (Mashpee)

Ceramics  
Mashpee, Massachusetts

**Trudie Lamb Richmond** – (Schaghticote)

Traditional Storytelling  
Ledyard, Connecticut

**Therese St. Cyr** – (Oglala Lakota)

Beading, Regalia, Dancing  
Winnebago, Nebraska

The ceremony will also recognize **Elouise Cobell** (Blackfeet) for her long-time community work in the areas of social justice, treaty rights, and cultural sustainability. This marks the first time the Community Spirit Awards have been held in the Twin Cities. The 2010 ceremony, based on the theme of celebrating and honoring the Native people of Minnesota. It will feature local American Indian performers.

Lori Pourier (Oglala Lakota), President of First Peoples Fund, states, “We at First Peoples Fund are truly moved by these individuals whose spirit and love for life causes us to pause for a moment and simply reflect on the greater society, the beauty of the human spirit, and our own generosity towards others”. She added, “Our Community Spirit Award recipients represent the heart of our work here at First Peoples Fund.” Gaby Strong (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota), First Peoples Fund Board Member, said of the Community Spirit Awards: “The Community Spirit Award honors those tribal artists who are recognized as keepers of traditional wisdom and culture, who share their knowledge and artistic skills with others, and mentor those who are coming behind them. It is an honor for those of us in Minnesota to host the next awards ceremony, and to welcome the presence of the First People’s Fund to our homelands”. Other board members who reside in the Twin Cities area include Jennifer Easton, First Peoples Fund Founder, Carole Howe, and David Cournoyer (Sicangu Lakota).

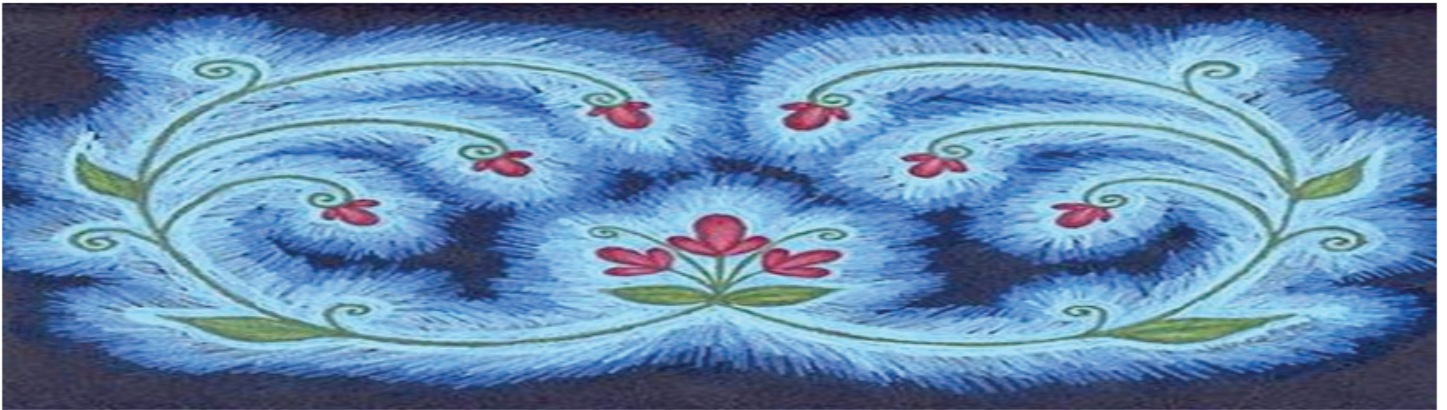
The prestigious annual fellowship award, established in 1999, recognizes exceptional American Indian artists. Recognized as culture bearers within their communities, artists are nominated by members of their communities and those that exemplify the idea of community spirit are selected by an independent panel of American Indian reviewers. The honoring ceremony and reception held on September 10th at the Stepping Stone Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota.

(Editors Note: Richard Zane Smith has been a great friend to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe and regularly attends our ceremonies. We commend him on receiving this award.)



## **From our Domestic Violence Program**

The Domestic Violence Program offers free counseling, financial assistance, and referral services for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Please call the Domestic Violence Office at 918-787-5452 or 866-787-5452 for assistance.



### **Blackberry Dance held July 26, 2010**

The annual Blackberry Dance was held July 26, 2010 at the Ceremonial Grounds. The night dance for women started around 10:00 and lasted until daylight. The Ceremonial dances were danced at the beginning, and then social dancing occurred until before dawn when the Ceremonial dances were danced again. There was a great turnout for this dance and everyone enjoyed the dancing and camaraderie.

### **Go to the CREEK!**

Seneca-Cayuga CCDF Program will be sponsoring a Creek Bag giveaway Sunday August 1, 2010 at the Seneca-Cayuga Ceremonial Grounds. Recipients must be between the ages of 5-12 years old and be enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe.

### **New Website with Information on the New Healthcare Regulations**

For information and answers on the new healthcare reform and regulations you may go the website of [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) and review information. Most frequently asked questions may be answered by browsing this website. As information becomes available, the newsletter will give more information on the changes to healthcare and how they affect Native Americans.





# Footprints in the Milky Way

*Esther Johnson Kullman*

*10/9/1929 - 5/27/2010*

*Helen Irene Wikel*

*8/15/1932 - 6/10/2010*

*Dossie Mae Milleson*

*7/12/1933 - 6/13/2010*

*Peggy Sue Todd*

*6/18/1958 - 6/26/2010*

*Zachary Quinton Carl McCrum*

*4/8/2010 - 6/28/2010*

*Tamera Jeannette Moore*

*11/30/1967 - 7/10/2010*

Do You Wish You Could SAVE On Your Energy Bills?

Do You Have 15 Minutes?

If You Answered Yes To Either of These Questions

Join Us At Greencorn 2010!

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe REACH Program will be hosting 2 training seminars to share information on how to cut your utility bills and save money.

Sunday August 1, 2010

11:00am & 1:00pm

Participants Will Be Eligible For Door Prize Drawings!

Beat the Heat



Logo of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma



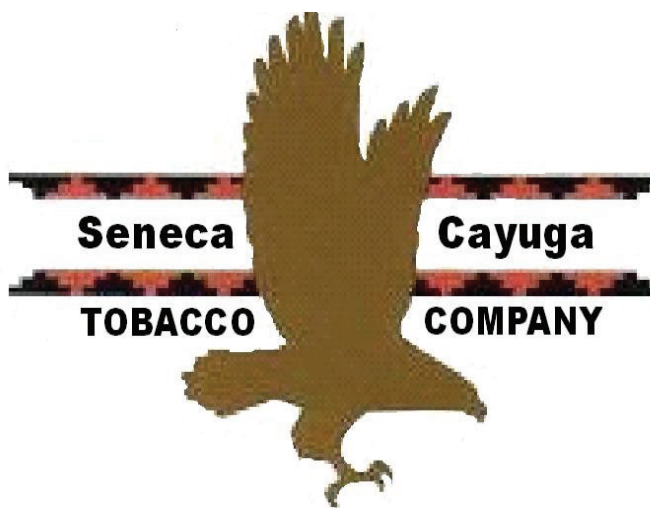
## Miami Tribe dedicates new AOA and Wellness Center

The Miami Tribe dedicated a new AOA congregate meal site and a wellness center on July 7, 2010. Chief LeRoy Howard, Secretary-Treasurer John R. Birkes and Public Relations Officer Logan Line represented the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe at the dedication ceremony. The new center offers seating for 70+ at mealtimes and an aquatic therapy center where trained therapists work with clients needing water therapy. The center is open to all Tribes in the area for assistance. Appointments are recommended. Trained counselors and therapists are on duty during business hours.



Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1283  
Miami, OK 74355

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