

July, 2011

GAH-YAH-TONT

It is Written

Newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

General Council held June 4, 2011

The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe held their annual General Council Meeting June 4, 2011 at the new Tribal Community Building. Elections were held with 265 members attending the meeting. A total of 580 votes were cast in the election process with 315 of them being absentee ballots. The recap of the election results in table format showing how members voted and the percentage of votes for candidates is located later in this newsletter.



Other business conducted at the meeting consisted of approval of 129 new enrollees. Also the General Council voted on acceptance of one (1) enrollee under special circumstances. This places the total enrollment of the tribe at 5185 members.

Chief's Report to the General Council

A report was presented by Chief Howard on agreements with several of the states where there had been controversy over the Master Settlement Agreement and tobacco escrow funds. He also mentioned that tribal program reports were on the tables in the back and could be picked up by attending members.

The Tribe filed a lawsuit styled "Seneca-Cayuga Tribe vs. Tim Grogan and Strategic Growth Inc. that includes Grogan and his associates. The investigation is being done by Kim Kelly and Associates, most of whom are former Federal Bureau of Investigation officers.

The Chief reported on all the new buildings giving credit to Roberta Haralson spearheading the development and funding for those buildings. The Career Resource Center, Substance Abuse Program Center and the new Wellness Center were mentioned. Also, we have received approval to construct a new Administration on Aging Center and it should be completed within the next year.

The Chief discussed the old Clinic building and possibilities for its use. Under consideration is a renovation and use as a Telemedicine Center. Also part of the space could be used as a Record Storage facility.

The Convenience Store/Smoke Shop in New York is open and doing well.

The Chief reported that under the land acquisition plan, the Tribe had purchased the Dunn property consisting of approximately 65 acres just east of the Ceremonial Grounds. Also, 17 acres as purchased next to tribal property that is currently leased to Jeff Nuckolls for agricultural purposes. The Chief gave updates on the "land into trust" issues with the lands held in New York. Also, he reported that three parcels located north of the Ceremonial Grounds have been placed into Trust Status in the last few weeks. The 30 acres in Grove are being handled differently and probably will take some time as the application for trust status was not filed correctly.

The Chief reported that we have several generations of young people who have not had the opportunity to procure good housing. Our people are in need of more housing and we will be looking into establishing a Housing

Authority to meet those needs. Investigation will be made into Tax Credits and other avenues of funding to fund housing development.

An update on equipment and future plans to improve Tribal Lands was presented. Also information was provided on the Bison Project and how it is growing.

Chief Howard commented on the work being done by Second Chief Charles Diebold to improve the Ceremonial Grounds. Charley commented on the new Tribal Website and online store with the ability to pay online with PayPal.

Also, 24 new campsites are being developed for the Ceremonial Grounds and improvements have been made to the Bathroom floors to allow better drainage. Also, some new fixtures have been installed.

Trees will be planted around the new campsites in the future and repairs will be completed to vandalized camps starting in July.

The Chief reported on the status of Claims and how the problems being encountered could be fixed. Comments were heard from Linda Turner Smith and Earlyne Gentry about claims and this discussion led into the business portion of the meeting.

After discussion, Linda Turner Smith made a motion by resolution to place the Claims Education funds under the administration of the Tribal Higher Education office. The motion was seconded by Diana Baker. The Vote was all for. The motion passes.

Earlyne Gentry made a motion that a detailed report be provided and distributed on a monthly basis on how the claims funds are being spent. Discussion was held about having the rules and regulations posted. Earlyne amended her motion to entail assigning numbers to the claims clients for the report instead of using their names. The second was amended to this change. A request was made for a vote by machine. The vote was 90 for, 51 against. The motion passes.

A motion by resolution was made by Pam McGee for the Tribe to pay burial expenses for living tribal member's spouses as the financial burden for tribal spouses burial rests on and creates a hardship for the Tribal member. This could be funded by a 5% set aside from the Tribal General Council Welfare Fund. The motion was seconded by Gina Murdock. The vote was 31 for, 56 against, with 1 abstention. Motion failed.

Pam McGee made a motion by resolution to place \$100,000 in the burial account and fund the burial account with 5% per year from the General Council Welfare Fund. Ray Rodgers seconded the motion. Vote was by show of hands. Motion passed.

Gina Murdock made a motion by resolution to move \$500,000 from the General Council Welfare Fund into the Education fund to complete funding for students for the past school year (back through the Spring Semester). Pam McGee seconded the motion. Vote was by show of hands. Motion passed.

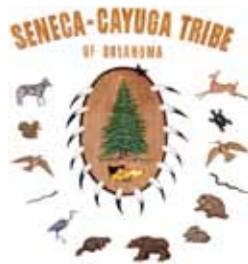
Pam McGee made a motion by resolution to rescind Resolution 010628 sanctioning tribal members for egregious acts. Katie Birdsong seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion and second were amended to include only Tribal members. Discussion was made by Sharon Winnie-Vann. An electronic vote was requested. The vote was 46 for, 81 against, with 3 abstentions. The motion failed.

Jeannie Vines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Willie Miller. The meeting adjourned.



2011 Election Results

	Community Center	Absentee	Absentee Hand Tally	Totals	%
<u>Chief</u>					
Katie Birdsong	94	123	12	229	37.24
Calvin Cassady	29	80	12	121	19.67
LeRoy Howard	142	112	11	265	43.09
<u>BC Member Position 1</u>					
Geneva K. Records-Fletcher	87	114	13	214	35.37
John Leroy Wabaunsee	107	82	9	198	32.73
Terry L. Whitetree	70	110	13	193	31.9
<u>BC Member Position 3</u>					
Richard D. Enyart	139	99	9	247	40.69
Charles Wayne Jones	14	24	2	40	6.59
Michael W. Jones	17	75	12	104	17.13
Leonard M. Smith	94	110	12	216	35.58
<u>Grievance Committee Position 3</u>					
Carrie N. Mott	68	165	21	254	42.12
Raymond L. Rodgers	86	65	5	156	25.87
Linda Enyart Warren	109	75	9	193	32.01
<u>Grievance Committee Position 5</u>					
Diana K. Baker	130	77	10	217	35.69
Jerry Crow	49	123	14	186	30.59
Seneca Price	84	110	11	205	33.72
<u>Claims Committee Position 1</u>					
Brenda Enyart Chancellor	75	38	3	116	19.17
Elmer Enyart, Sr.	90	76	13	179	29.59
William L. Fisher	97	194	19	310	51.24
<u>Claims Committee Position 2</u>					
Cynthia D. Donahue	173	177	22	372	62.84
Lisa Spano	88	119	13	220	37.16



Logo of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma



From the Chief

Dear Tribal Citizens:

I want to sincerely Thank You for your support in my re-election and I want to congratulate the other successful candidates, Richard and Geneva. I will do my very best to serve honorably and effectively. I will outline some of the progress we've made in the preceding year and describe some plans for the future.

We are still making progress on the expansion of our Ceremonial Grounds, thanks to Charlie Diebold. We have also recently completed the construction of the Wellness Center, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center and have been approved for a new Center for the Elders. We would like to extend our appreciation to Roberta Haralson for her efforts in these projects.

Some of us are exploring the possibility of establishing a program or service for our Veterans. We would appreciate the names and addresses of our Tribal Veterans as well as our Active Duty folks.



Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition and actions the past year include 1) placement of 120 acres of land into trust where our new Community Building is built and where the Buffalo are pastured, 2) purchased 17 acres of property that borders tribal property on two sides in the Sycamore Creek area and applied for trust status, 3) bought the former "Cowskin Prairie Motel and Restaurant" that had been closed and completely renovated the motel and re-opened it on July 1, 2011; the Restaurant will be renovated in the near future, 4) purchased about 68 acres of land, some of which is in trust and applied for trust status for that portion that is not in trust, 5) acquired a Convenience Store within the historic Cayuga reservation in New York and will soon have the paperwork completed to have this property place into trust status, 6) We also have 229 acres on the New York reservation that was denied trust status earlier. We have completed an "on reservation" request to have it placed into trust, 7) we have approximately 30 acres in Grove, Oklahoma on which a request for trust status for gaming purposes was submitted with no results so far, 8) at the 2010 Annual meeting the General Council voted to fund land purchases up to \$500,000 annually and we will continue to search for property that best enhances our tribal land holdings.

Claims

The Claims department came about in 1984 after our Tribe's land claims settlement. A plan had to be developed by the Tribe and approved by Congress. The plan developed by the Tribe called for part of the money to be used for the purchase of land. A parcel was procured and we now have some housing, our casino, fire station, public works headquarters, our sewer treatment plant, our water treatment facility located on this parcel. We also have agricultural endeavors such as hay baling on the remainder of the 120 acres purchased. Interest from the claims settlement money was to be used for social services and education. Assistance to our Tribal members was really limited to say the least. However, it was something that we never had by any measure. This continued until the early 2,000's. Then we established the casino and the profits were used to fund those tribal services.

The types of services and the amounts have been varied these past few years with some people taking advantage of some of the vague rules. The operating policies and procedures have been adjusted in the past and will continue to be adjusted in the future as need dictates. An example is the General Council mandate that the Education Department of the Tribe now administer the Claims Education funds.

New policies and procedures will be developed in the very near future to include eligibility, amounts, applications, and funded services.

Recently the Business Committee has taken steps to establish a mechanism or an Authority that will allow for the establishment of businesses under the Tribe. Four separate businesses were authorized for startup, 1) Environmental Services, 2) Electrical Services, 3) Energy Services, and 4) Gas and Oil Well services. This is in the very early stages of development and hopefully we will be successful in this venture.

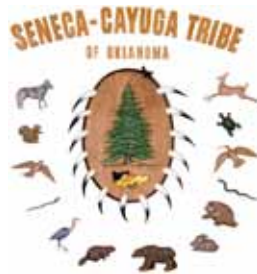
We continue to work with an organization that works with housing possibilities and with potential business partners that establish business on tribal land and create new jobs.

We are progressing. It is an honor to serve as Chief of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe.

Respectfully,



LeRoy Howard



Swearing In Ceremony for new Officers held June 7, 2011



A swearing in ceremony was held June 7, 2011 for new officers to take their oaths of office and to welcome them to their new positions. Second Chief Charles Diebold officiated in swearing in (from left to right) Carrie Mott, Grievance Committee; Geneva Records Fletcher, Councilperson; LeRoy Howard, Chief; Diana Baker, Grievance Committee; Thomas Weidman, Grievance Committee; William Fisher, Claims Committee; and Richard Enyart, Councilperson. Not pictured is Cynthia Donohue, Claims Committee.



From the Ceremonial Chief

Greetings to all tribal members,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and looking forward to a great summer. Our tribal ceremonies have been going well. The Spring Sundance had a lot of young boys and men participating. The wild strawberries were picked and the dance was held May 29th with everyone enjoying the day as we came together to give thanks for the first fruit of the season. The Blackberry dance for 2011 will be held July 15th this year and camp day for Green Corn is August 7th with the main day being August 8th.

The time is flying by and Green Corn will be here before we know it. I wanted to talk about a couple of things in this newsletter about native customs or maybe just good manners. I say native customs because these customs or teachings, if you will, are not limited to just our tribe. I would like to encourage the parents to teach and pass these along to your kids. I have heard this spoken many times by my elders and have seen it many times with other tribes, at least where traditional beliefs are followed. The first is when someone asks you to help out, we were always taught to pitch in and do the best we could. You weren't supposed to turn that person down if it was within your ability. We ran into this during the Sundance where we found it difficult to find any of the young boys who would be the hooper for the dance. So parents we need your help the boys should be taught it should be a privilege to not only dance but an honor to be asked to represent our people carrying the Sun or being the hooper.

This Green Corn I would also like to ask that we make sure our visitors have a place to eat or get something to drink while they are there. When you see someone or are not sure ask and invite them to your camp. Take a moment to get to know them for we have tribal visitors from Canada, New York and various other ceremonial grounds. Growing up we were always taught that when someone comes to visit in your home you always made sure they ate or had something to drink. And our grounds are our home.

We are continually working to improve our ceremonial grounds. We have had an issue with thieves this year who have stolen copper wire from some of the camp sites. I have located several and will make arrangements to get those repaired. That being the case we will be locking up the grounds except for the workers and during the ceremonies. Should you need access contact the tribal office or feel free to contact me and we will have the gates open.

Regarding campsites if you had electrical problems last year get a hold of me and we will see about getting those corrected if we can. Also those with campsites need to make sure the structures are kept up, if not they will be taken down. Also remember it is your responsibility to haul off your trash, old appliances and furniture.

Nya Weh

Toot no son dee

Ceremonial Chief

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma



From our Domestic Violence Program

Sexual violence occurs whenever a person is forced, coerced, and/or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity, including when s/he is unable to consent due to age, illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Sexual violence includes rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, nonstranger rape, statutory rape, marital or partner rape, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism. It is a crime not typically motivated by sexual desire but by the desire to control, humiliate, and/or harm. Sexual violence can violate a person's trust and feeling of safety. It can, and does, happen to people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, religions, professions, incomes, and ethnicities. Sexual violence affects all of us: survivors, significant others, communities, and society.

Impact on the survivor

Each survivor reacts to sexual violence in her/his own unique way. Personal style, culture, and context of the survivor's life may affect these reactions. Some express their emotions while others prefer to keep their feelings inside. Some may tell others right away what happened, others will wait weeks, months, or even years before discussing the assault, if they ever choose to do so. It is important to respect each person's choices and style of coping with this traumatic event. Whether an assault was completed or attempted, and regardless of whether it happened recently or many years ago, it may impact daily functioning. A wide range of reactions can impact victims. Some common emotional, psychological and physical reactions follow.

Emotional reactions

- Guilt, shame, self blame
- Embarrassment
- Fear, distrust
- Sadness
- Vulnerability
- Isolation
- Lack of control
- Anger
- Numbness
- Confusion
- Shock, disbelief
- Denial

Psychological reactions

- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Depression
- Difficulty concentrating
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Anxiety
- Eating disorders
- Substance use or abuse
- Phobias
- Low self esteem

Physical reactions

- Changes in eating or sleeping patterns
- Increased startle response
- Concerns about physical safety
- Physical injury
- Concerns about pregnancy or contracting an STI or HIV

Some health outcomes can be fatal such as suicide, homicide, maternal mortality and AIDS related deaths.

You can help

The healing process after sexual violence is often difficult and may take a long time, but with support, healing can occur. We gather friends like we gather firewood. To protect against the cold. Support a victim. Acknowledge their strength within themselves so they can move from victim to survivor. Rape occurs one in every five hours. It is the least reported violent crime called the 'unspoken crime.' Visit <http://www.nsvrc.org> to find out more about how you can help support survivors, or to learn more about preventing sexual violence in your community. The NSVRC website also provides a listing of sexual assault programs and other resources. In an immediate crisis, callers can connect to the closest participating center by dialing RAINN's national routing number: 1-800-656-4673 or call 918-787-5452 ext. 36.

Substance Abuse Program Starts New Service

Josie Jones, Substance Abuse Program Administrator states that the Tribal Substance Abuse program has started a Women's Narcotics Anonymous (NA) group on Mondays @ 5:00 p.m. and also sponsors AA meetings on Mondays starting at 7:00 p.m. The AA meetings are Open AA meetings meaning open to any recovering alcoholic.

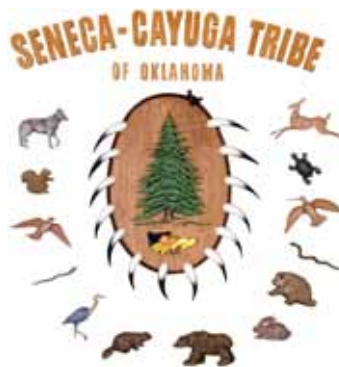


Seneca-Cayuga Tribe donates Bison to United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee



The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe recently donated a buffalo to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee as a token of celebration for the UKB's getting a parcel of land into Trust status. The UKB has been working to place land into trust for years and recently, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs approved the application for trust status.

The UKB plan to have a celebratory gathering in September and intend to utilize the donated buffalo to feed their people. United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Principal Chief George Wickliffe traveled to the Seneca-Cayuga tribal offices outside of Grove to personally thank Chief LeRoy Howard and the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe for the donation.



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Footprints in the Milky Way

*"Aunt" Josephine Cata
2/9/1913 - 1/21/2011*

*Clara Lynn Wallace
12/7/1945 - 6/1/2011*

*Nakota Charea Whitetree
5/1/2011 - 6/3/2011*

*Mason Aaron James Dixon
3/27/1993 - 6/21/2011*

Intertribal Buffalo Council tentatively awards Seneca-Cayuga Tribe Grant

The Intertribal Buffalo Council has tentatively awarded the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe a FY 2011 Herd Development Grant in the amount of \$58,000. This grant entails an 11% reduction mandated by the Federal Government for this fiscal year.

The Intertribal Buffalo Council is hopeful that the funding level will be restored for FY 2012 and has asked the Tribe for any assistance we can offer to help in this restoration of funding.



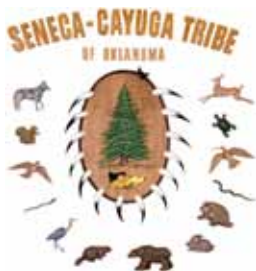
Education News Release

Hello Tribal Education Students:

As directed by the Annual June 04, 2011 General Council Meeting, the Tribal Claims Education funds to attend colleges/universities/ technical vocational training will be administered through the Human Resource and Education Office. This is a request for you to submit your paperwork to this office. You may have already submitted your paperwork to the Claims Office for Summer 2011 and/or Fall 2011 funding requests; however your paperwork may not readily transition to this office, so please resend copies. You may mail your requests to 23701 South 655 Road, Grove, Oklahoma 74344. You may fax your requests to 918-787-5521, or you may email your requests to cbrown@sctribe.com. You may call me at 918-787-5452, extension 20 if you should have any questions. A priority system was established for funding and is as follows: 1. Summer School Students were funded first to prevent the Students from being dropped from their Summer Session. 2. Spring 2011 underfunded Students are currently still being processed as well as Summer School Students still providing information for funding. Students not receiving the \$1000 dollar computer/supply will be taken care of as funding becomes available. General Council directed this several years ago, however has never authorized additional funding for this line item and the excess funding at the time of the directive has been depleted. Also, as directed by the Annual General Council Meeting which was held on June 04, 2011, 500 thousand dollars were moved from the Tribal General Welfare Account to complete the funding process for those students who were under funded for Spring 2011 and to fund for Summer School 2011. You should submit your Spring 2011 grades and your address to the above office by August 1, 2011 so that your funding process can be completed. The Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Education Grant Program must receive an official transcript before the Fall Semester begins on an annual basis. We have approximately 300 students and the costs to fund all these students for Fall, Spring, and Summer Semesters would be \$1,875,000.00 dollars or nearly 2 million dollars. With the number of students going to school and the funding availability, grant awards will more than likely be reduced.

As of June 17, 2011 there was \$5,867.05 in the Education Account, General Council moved \$500,000.00 from the Tribal General Welfare Account leaving a balance of \$505,867.05. On June 17, 2011, \$54,893.10 was transferred into the Education Account as 15% of the May 11, 2011 percentage distribution of tribal revenue leaving a balance of \$560,760.15. The funding process is being completed for those 200 plus students submitting their Spring 2011 grades and Summer School students leaving a balance as of June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$396,910.01. Currently, one hundred and twelve students have not submitted their Spring 2011 grades to receive the balance of their grant award for Spring 2011 Semester. Policies for funding will be written to assist in guiding the students through successful completion of their educational endeavors and to properly administer the Tribal Education funds. If you should have any questions, please contact the Human Resource and Education Office at 918-787-5452 Extension 20. Thank You.

Carol J. Brown,



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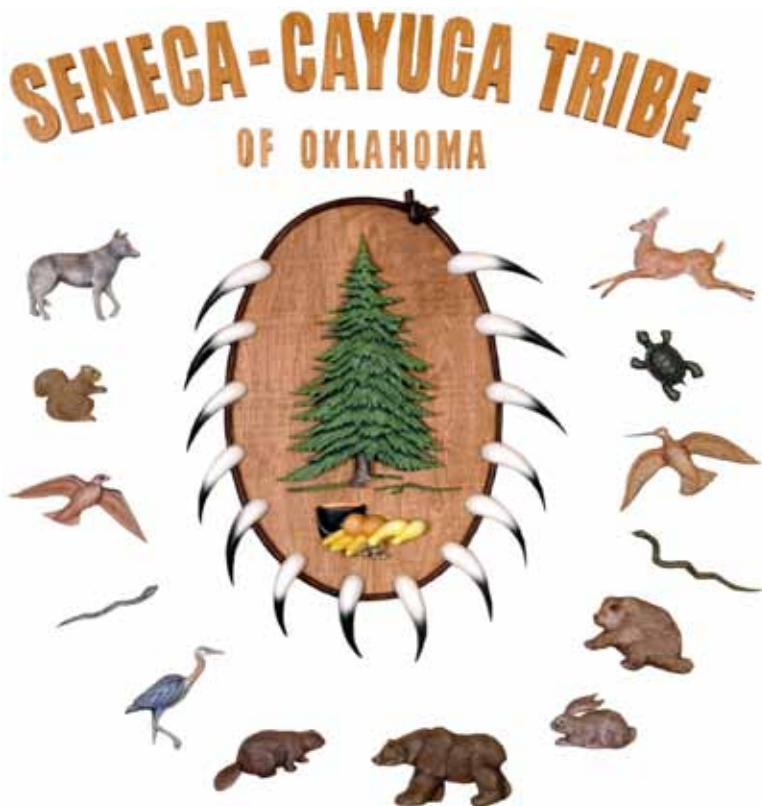
Grand Lake Casino Lodge Opens

The Grand Lake Casino Lodge (formerly Cowskin Prairie Motel) reopened July 1, 2011. The motel has been completely renovated and has all new furnishings. Fees per night are \$69.99 with a \$10 surcharge for the extra adult. Be sure to check with the motel for lodging when you are on the north end of the lake.

Camp Day for Green Corn

Camp day for Green Corn 2011 is Sunday, August 7, with main day ceremonies on Monday, August 8. Again this year, the Tobacco Company will be hosting a "burger burn" on Camp Day.

Also, the Seneca-Cayuga Smoke Shops are again sponsoring activities for the kiddies as they did last year. This year, the Smoke Shops will also be providing sno-cones and popcorn for the kiddies.



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TRIBAL OFFICERS

LeRoy Howard, Chief
Charles Diebold, 2nd Chief
John Birkes, Secretary/Treasurer
Geneva Records-Fletcher, 1st Councilperson
Jim Spicer, 2nd Councilperson
Richard Enyart, 3rd Councilperson
Katie Birdsong, 4th Councilperson

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July, 2011

The Seneca-Cayuga Newsletter is a newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, located at the addresses listed above.

The Seneca-Cayuga Newsletter is the official publication of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe with a goal of meeting Seneca-Cayuga tribal citizens informational needs.

The Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Newsletter is mailed free, one per household, to enrolled members of the Seneca-Cayuga General Council.

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