

October, 2010

GAH-YAH-TONT

It is Written

Newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

Grievance Committee Calls General Council

The Grievance Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe called a Special General Council Meeting for August 21, 2010 to consider a grievance filed against two elected Business Committee members.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. at the new Community Building with more than 120 members of the General Council present.

Raymond Rodgers moved to adjourn the meeting for 30 days for the conclusion of the election portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded and the vote was 40 yes; 67 no. The motion failed.



Barbara Gonzales made the motion that non-tribal people not be allowed in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Shine Carson. The vote was 90 yes; 39 no. All non-tribal people were asked to exit the building.

Grievance Committee member Thomas Weidman read article VII of the Grievance Ordinance aloud. After reading the article, Jerry Crow made a motion to adjourn the meeting because the tribe was in violation of the Grievance Ordinance by not allowing the aggrieved Business Committee members legal representation. The motion was seconded by William Fisher. During discussion it was pointed out that the aggrieved person could have legal representation during their interviews with the Grievance Committee, but neither aggrieved person opted to do this. After the Grievance Committee has determined it should go to General Council, the General Council has the duty and responsibility to hear the aggrieved person and determine if they should retain their office or be removed. After this discussion, the vote was held. The vote was 32 yes; 93 no. The motion to adjourn the meeting failed.

General Council discussed the grievance and the two aggrieved Business Committee members were allowed to speak to the General Council. Information was supplied by Gaming Commissioner Richard Wood about the duties of his office.

Thomas Weidman read a letter submitted by a Casino employee concerning personal information requested on members of the Claims Committee.

At this point, tribal member Jeannie Vines moved to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Katie Birdsong. The vote was 137 for; 0 against. The motion passed.

Jeannie Vines then made a motion to take it to a vote to retain or remove the aggrieved Business Committee members separately and to vote by secret ballot. The motion was seconded by Katie Birdsong. The vote was 146 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions.

The fourth councilperson was removed from office by a vote of 107 for; 60 against. The first councilperson was removed from office by a vote of 93 for; 73 against.

Nominations were taken from the floor to elect successors to complete the terms of office. Katie Birdsong was elected to the fourth councilperson position and Terry Whitetree was elected to the first councilperson position.

Chief LeRoy Howard made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded from the floor. Motion passes and the meeting adjourned.

From Chief LeRoy Howard

Greetings Fellow Tribal Members:

The leaves are beginning to turn and fall is upon us. We had a hot summer with temperatures bordering on 100 degrees during Green corn. Green corn was attended by over 800 campers. It was a good year.

I will share information on current events and write a more detailed letter for the next newsletter.

We welcome two new business committee members elected at the Special Grievance Committee General Council held on August 21, 2010. Katie Birdsong was elected to the fourth Councilperson position and Terry Whitetree was elected to the first Councilperson position. These two new members have been working with the Business Committee to work towards progress in economic development both in New York and here within the traditional reservation.

The convenience store is being readied for opening in New York. A slight remodel and renovation had to be completed prior to opening and we are looking to be in business around the first of November. As for here, we are working on the purchase of a defunct motel/restaurant complex located within the reservation boundaries. This deal should be consummated within the next few days. Both of business should be good ventures for the Tribe.

The new Community Building has been used several times and is being completed at this time with the kitchen being put in order and an outdoor fire pit for outside cooking. Several tribal members have placed deposits for use of the building and the general consensus is that it works well for their gatherings.

We have completed the budget meetings and are going into the new budget year. Thanks to all employees and committees for their work in submission of budgets for review by the Business Committee.

Anyone wishing information about any program or committee, do not hesitate to contact our Tribal Offices. Information is available elsewhere in this newsletter and on the website at www.scribe.com to aid in contacting the tribe.

Until next time, I hope everyone stays safe and happy.



LeRoy Howard, Chief



From our Ceremonial Chief

Greetings to all Tribal Members,

Well another summer is coming to a close and the kids are heading back to school. Soon the activities of the summer will be memories. I hope those that wanted to, got a chance to come and be part of the ceremonies.

As Green Corn ended and everyone began to break camp I took a minute to reflect on the past week. From camp day when the camp grounds and shelters were empty, slowly changing to the sounds of laughter with friends and family getting to see each other, some for the first time since last year. Then, to all of us trying to get used to the heat, especially since it hovered around a brisk 100 degrees each day. It is a time when we all come back and reconnect with mother earth, to dance in the long house where our ancestors have danced before us. To let the ceremonial grounds fill you with peace and to give thanks for what our creator has given us, to be a proud and happy people. It is always good medicine for your spirit if you give it a chance.



Main Day (Monday) saw everyone pitching together to cut meat, gathering sumac (which is always a sight to see the pickup load of boys headed to fend off ticks and chiggers while gathering) and prepare for the start of Thanksgiving. To all the men learning the prayers, the singers and the pot hangers a “Nya Weh” for all your hard work and effort. Monday night saw friends from brother tribes come and stomp dance with us till early morning.

As for the seed game the “North Side” won again this year. The south side is going to have to get to sewing again to prepare for next year. The football games were also a fun time for kids and adults alike. I do know this that the younger boys are going to have to step it up a notch next year because the girls dominated in their games. Good job ladies. To all the fun times stomp dancing till our legs hurt. Creating all the good memories and strengthening bonds with families and friends.

I hope everyone had a fun and safe time. We also had new additions this year such as the inflatable activities for the kids on camp day which were provided by the tobacco shops and an ambulance on site in the event it was needed. There were over 830 campers this year which was terrific.

To prepare for Green Corn takes a lot of help from all areas of the tribe. From the different programs which helped with the camp bags to the ordering of the beef and bread. There are so many people to thank for a job well done “Nya Weh”. We also hope to continually improve the grounds and hopefully expand the camping areas in the upcoming year.

So I want to wish everyone good health and stay safe.

Seneca-Cayuga words for this month:

You : ees	You are first : ees-han-doh
No: tant	Make: sas-scroni
Man: hon-qwa	Woman: ah-kon-qwa

Nya Weh,
Toot no son dee
Ceremonial Chief



Jerri McClelland Receives the Dr. Ralph Dru Career and Professional award.



Her name is GaNohKwa (quah nah qua), Jerri McClelland. She is a proud deer clan full blood Native American from the Seneca, Creek and Sac & Fox tribes of Oklahoma. The late Clarabell (Seneca/Creek) and John J McClelland (Creek/Sac&Fox) were her parents. Jerri has been taught, participates and honors her traditional ceremonial ways to this day. Jerri can walk in both cultures, Indian and non Indian. Humble and simple.

Jerri was educated at the University of Oklahoma, receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Accounting, Minor in Finance. She has been in the accounting field for 30+ years. Her career began with Indian Health Service in the accounting department. The past 13 years she has been in Tulsa, employed by a health facility as an accountant.

With her cultural knowledge and utilizing her education, Jerri currently is an advisory committee member with American Indian Resource Center for the Tulsa City County Libraries. She is also a founding member of TICAR, Tulsa Indian Coalition against Racism. In addition she serves as a board director for the Greater Tulsa Area Chapter of Better Investing which is a nonprofit investment organization. Throughout her life she has also served on numerous other boards and advisory committees and national Indian conferences, as well as fundraising for nonprofit organizations and Indian clubs.



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Newsletter of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

TRIBAL OFFICERS

LeRoy Howard, Chief
Katie Birdsong, 2nd Chief
Raymond Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer
Terry Whitetree, 1st Councilperson
Jim Spicer, 2nd Councilperson
Leonard Smith, 3rd Councilperson
Katie Birdsong, 4th Councilperson

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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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Raymond L. Rodgers, II appointed to the Oklahoma Indian Education Advisory Council

Raymond L. Rodgers, II was recently appointed to the Oklahoma Indian Education Advisory Council by Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry. Mr. Rodgers has been very involved in Native American Education programs since graduating from Northeastern State University in 2003. Mr. Rodgers currently is Director of Indian Education in the Sapulpa, Oklahoma Public School District. His duties on the Advisory Council will be to represent small tribal education programs and to present issues to the Advisory Council regarding those programs.

Mr. Rodgers is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rodgers of rural Grove, Oklahoma and his father is a former Secretary-Treasurer of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe.

We congratulate Mr. Rodgers on his appointment and look forward to working with him on education program issues.



Onondaga Language Class visits for Green Corn

Onondaga Language Class visits for Green Corn

Members of the Onondaga Language Class were guests of the Tribe during Green corn . Those members visiting are from front left (white gustowa') Landon Henry, Rayuna Henhawk, Tiauna Henhawk, Lacy John. Second row left to right, Gloria Williams, Nora Carrier, Betty Henry, Darlene Isaacs, Darla Henry and Darren John. Last row from left to right Bill Williams, Ron Henry, Sean Thompson and Deb Henry.

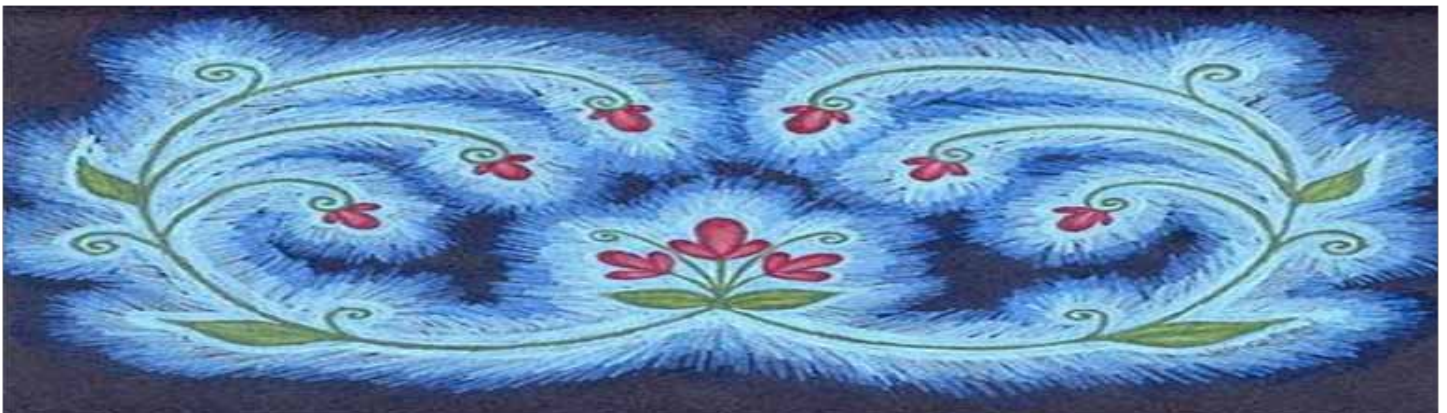
We are extremely happy these folks were able to join us and we welcome them back anytime.



Domestic Violence Program

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma joins survivors, and communities around the country to observe October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a moment to elevate the conversation so the majority of Americans will understand that violence against women and girls is unacceptable. Look for meetings held during the month of October. The meetings will be held at the new Resource Building in Grove. The meetings will be posted at the Miami and Grove offices.

Violence against women is the seed to so many other forms of violence. This shift in our conversation must happen because violence against women continues to have devastating effects on entire communities. When children witness violence in the home, those children are impacted by what they have seen and often experienced themselves. If we want to tackle violence in our country, in our communities, then we must address the violence that occurs in so many homes. And all members of the community must be engaged to end the violence.



Join us in pledging to raise awareness about this tragic crime, hold offenders accountable, and provide survivors with the services and tools to begin their journey of rebuilding and healing. Join us in pledging to end violence in our homes and our communities.

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Physical Abuse: Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair-pulling, biting, etc. Physical abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use.

Sexual Abuse: Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes, but is certainly not limited to marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.

Emotional Abuse: Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem. This may include, but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.

Economic Abuse: Making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one's access to money, or forbidding one's attendance at school or employment.

Psychological Abuse: Causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers.

For assistance, call the Grove Office, 918-787-5452.



Footprints in the Milky Way

Rodney Dean Hunnewell
9/13/1925 - 8/8/2010

Edna (Cotton) Briggs
7/16/1952 - 8/20/2010

Tyler LeRoy Vaughan
1/12/1992 - 8/29/2010

Billy Allen Perry
1/9/1951 - 9/12/2010

Harold D. Smith
1/23/1929 - 9/15/2010

Jason Michael Birdsong
10/10/1983 - 10/3/2010



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