

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SENECA-CAYUGA NATION
Approved April 26, 1937

PREAMBLE

We, the Seneca-Cayuga Indians of Oklahoma, sometimes designated as the Seneca Tribe, in order to take the advantage of the opportunities of economic independence and social advancement offered by the Thomas Rogers Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936, do hereby amend our present Constitution and Bylaws and do adopt the following Constitution and Bylaws pursuant to that Act.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

And any place within the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation that refers to “The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma” or “Seneca-Cayuga Tribe” or “Seneca-Cayuga” shall be replaced with “Seneca-Cayuga Nation” or any place the word “Tribe” is referenced, it shall be changed to “Nation”. 4g/

ARTICLE II – OBJECT

The object shall be to promote the general welfare of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP OF NATION

The membership of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall consist of the following persons:

1. All persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll of the Nation as of January 1, 1937
2. All children born since the date of said roll, both of whose parents are members of the Nation.
3. Any child born of a marriage between a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and a member of any other Indian tribe who chooses to affiliate with the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.
4. Any child born of a marriage between a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and any other person, if such child is admitted to membership by the Council of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The supreme governing body of the Nation shall be the Seneca-Cayuga General Council. The membership of the General Council shall be all members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation eighteen (18) years of age and older. 1a/3d/

1a/ Amended January 28, 1973 - - First of three amendments

3d/ Amended October 15, 1990 - - Second of four amendments

4g/ Amended May 15, 2014 - - Fourth of four amendments

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

The Officers of the Nation shall be the Chief, Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, and four (4) Councilmen who shall be elected by secret ballot.3e/

ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS COMMITTEES

There shall be a Business Committee which shall consist of the officers and councilmen as provided in Article V.

The Business Committee shall have power to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in all matters on which the Nation is empowered to act.3c/

ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Grievance Committee – This Committee shall be elected by the Council and shall not include any members of the Business Committee.

Section 2. Credit Committee – The Credit Committee shall be chosen by the Business Committee and shall act under the supervision of the Business Committee.

Section 3. Welfare Committee – This committee shall be chosen in the same manner as the Credit Committee.

Section 4. Education Committee – This Committee likewise shall be chosen in the same manner as the Credit Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year for the purpose of receiving reports and any other business which may come before the Council. Election of officers will also be held at such annual meetings, provided that such election is appropriate under this Amendment. In order to provide for staggered terms of office, in the first annual meeting after the adoption of this Amendment, the Second-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Councilperson and Fourth Councilperson shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office. In the third annual meeting after the adoption of this Amendment, the Chief, First Councilperson and Third Councilperson shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office, and shall serve until his/her successor shall be duly elected and installed in office. Any member of the Business Committee in office on the date of adoption of this Amendment shall remain in office until his/her successor is duly elected and installed in office under this Amendment, regardless of the resulting length of the term for such member. Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held pursuant to a Nation election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee. 2a/3f/3g/

3e/ Amended October 15, 1990 -- Third of Four amendments

3c/ Amended October 15, 1990 -- First of four amendments

2a/ Amended February 11, 1985 -- First of two amendments

3f/ Amended October 15, 1990 -- Fourth of four amendments

3g/ Amended May 15, 2014 -- Third of four amendments

ARTICLE IX – VACANCIES

Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council.

ARTICLE X – REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

The Grievance Committee shall investigate complaints of misconduct or other acts of the members of the Business Committee and upon a proper showing shall call a special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council to act upon such complaints. Such council shall have power, by majority vote, after giving the accused a hearing, to remove him from office and proceed to elect a successor.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution and the attached Bylaws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Business Committee or by a petition signed by 30 percent of the adult members of the Nation, and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the members of the Nation, and shall be effective if approved by a majority vote.

ARTICLE XII – BILL OF RIGHTS

All members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall be accorded equal protection of the law under this constitution. No member shall be denied any of the rights or guarantees enjoyed by citizens under the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of speech, the right to orderly association or assembly, the right to petition for action or the redress of grievances, and due process of law. The protection guaranteed to persons by Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 77), against actions of an Indian entity in the exercise of its powers of self-government shall apply to the members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. 1c/

BY – LAWS

ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Chief – It shall be the duty of the chief to preside at all meetings and perform all duties appertaining to the office, also to act as chairman of the Business Committee.

Section 2. Second Chief – In the absence of the chief, the second chief shall perform the duties of that officer. In case of vacancy, the second chief shall succeed at once to the office of the chief until the next special or regular election for the office of chief.

1c/ Amended January 28, 1973 - - Third of three amendments

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer -- The Secretary-Treasurer shall correctly record the proceedings of all meetings. He shall make out the order of the business for the chief, shall notify all committees of their appointments, shall have custody of the records and all papers of the Council, which records and papers shall be open to inspection at any time, in his presence, by any members of the Council desiring to read them. He shall keep a correct list of all members of the Council, shall authenticate all accounts or orders of the council and, in the absence of the chief and second chief, shall call the meeting to order until a chairman pro tem is selected. He shall render a written report at the annual meeting and at the expiration of his term of office the records and all papers in his possession shall be turned over to his successor. He shall issue notices of all meetings and conduct all general correspondence, as directed by the council or the Business Committee. He shall receive all moneys of the council and keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep all Nation moneys entrusted to his care in a special account and all disbursements therefrom should be made by check. At any time that such account shall amount to more than \$50.00, he shall file a bond satisfactory to the Business Committee and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The cost of such bond shall be paid out of Nation moneys.

ARTICLE II – QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

Any person elected to membership in the business council shall be not less than 25 years of age, a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and reside within a radius of 150 miles in any direction from Bassett Grove Stomp Grounds. 1b/

ARTICLE III – REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year at the Bassett Grove Ceremonial Grounds, unless some other point under the Seneca-Cayuga Nation jurisdiction is specifically designated in the call. 2b/

Section 2. Special meetings of the council may be called by the Chief, and shall be called by him upon the written request of the majority of the Business Committee or the written request of One-hundred Seventy-Five (175) members of the Nation. 2g/

Section 3. The principal object of the special meeting must be stated in the call for same and may include the words “and for the transaction of other business that may be presented.” Unless these words are added, no other business can be transacted except for the object stated in the call.

1b/ Amended January 28, 1973 -- Second of three amendments
2b/ Amended February 11, 1985 -- Second of two amendments
2g/ Amended May 15, 2014 -- Second of four amendments

Section 4. The regular meetings of the Business Committee shall be held the first Tuesday in each month unless otherwise provided by resolution.

Section 5. Special meetings of the Business Committee may be called by the chief at his discretion, and shall be called by him upon the written request of three members of the Business Committee.

ARTICLE IV – QUORUM

Section 1. Four members of the Business Committee constitutes a quorum at any meeting.

Section 2. Two-hundred Twenty-five (225) members of the Seneca-Cayuga Council shall constitute a quorum to transact regular business. 1g/

ARTICLE V – ADOPTION

This Constitution and By-laws shall be effective when approved by the Secretary of the Interior and ratified by a majority vote of the Indians of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation voting at an election called by the Secretary of the Interior under regulations which he may prescribe pursuant to Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936.

1g/ Amended May 15, 2014 - - First of four amendments

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved April 26, 1937, by the Secretary of the Interior, the attached Constitution and By-laws was submitted for ratification to the members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe and was on May 15, 1937, duly ratified by a vote of 186 for, and none against, in an election in which over 20 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, pursuant to Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (Pub., No. 816, 74th Cong.)

Thomas Armstrong, Chief, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe

Grover C. Splitlog, Secretary-Treasurer,
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe

H. A. Andrews, Superintendent

I, Harold L. Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the Act of June 26, 1936 (Pub., No. 816, 74th Cong.), do hereby approve the attached Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma.

All rules and regulations heretofore promulgated by the Interior Department or by the Office of Indian Affairs, so far as they may be incompatible with any of the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws are hereby declared inapplicable to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma.

All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws.

Approval recommended April 20, 1937.

John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Harold L. Ickes, Secretary
of the Interior
(Seal)

Washington, D.C., April 26, 1937.

CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an order approved November 20th, 1972, by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the attached Amendment I to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma was submitted for ratification to the adult members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, and was on 28th January, 1973, duly ratified by a vote of 22 for, and 9 against, in an election in which 32 cast their ballots in accordance with Article XI of the constitution and Section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967).

One (1) ballot was left blank.

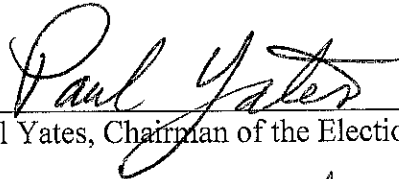
/s/ T.J. Perry
Chairman, Election Board

/s/ Amelia Perry
Election Board Member

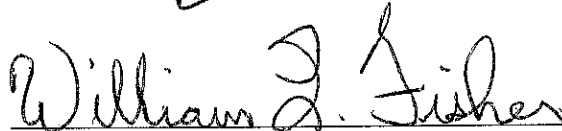
/s/ Sue Beth Sherry
Election Board Member

CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

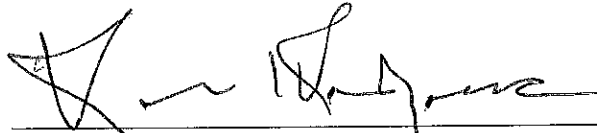
Pursuant to a Secretarial Election authorized by the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Director on March 12, 2014, delegated to the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, by the Act of June 26, 1936 (49) Stat. 1967, re-delegated to the Regional Director by 130 D.M. and Bureau of Indian Affairs Policy Memorandum dated October 11, 2006, the attached Constitution Amendments of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma was submitted to the qualified voters of the Tribe on May 15, 2014. Proposed Amendment (A) was duly ratified by a vote of 360 for and 242 against, and 0 cast ballots found soiled or mutilated. Proposed Amendment (B) was duly ratified by a vote of 364 for and 234 against, and 0 cast ballots found soiled or mutilated. Proposed Amendment (C) was duly ratified by a vote of 334 for and 279 against, and 2 cast ballots found soiled or mutilated. Proposed Amendment (D) was duly ratified by a vote of 373 for and 232 against, and 1 cast ballots found soiled or mutilated. At least thirty (30) percent of the 885 members entitled to vote, cast their ballot in accordance with the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1937, and Article XI of the Tribe's Constitution.



Paul Yates, Chairman of the Election Board



William Fisher, Election Board Member



Raymond Rodgers, Election Board Member

Date of Election
May 15, 2014