



The Shawnee Journal

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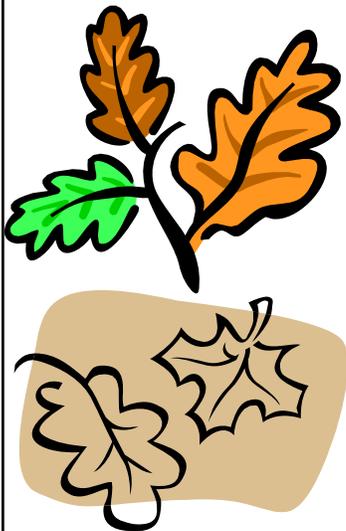
FALL 2014

Points of Interest:

- ▶ Annual Meeting
- ▶ Veteran's Highlight
- ▶ Chief's Update
- ▶ Important Dates

Inside this issue:

Candidates for Business Committee Seat	2
Veteran Spotlight	3
Children's & Family Services Department	4
Health Insurance Market Place	5
Environmental Program Update	6
Update from the Chief	7



Annual Meeting

As prescribed by Article IX of the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe, the annual meeting is held the 3rd Saturday in September. This year's annual meeting will be held Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the tribal community building (1/4 mile North of Will Rogers Turnpike entrance) in Miami, Oklahoma.

Chris Floyd, Chairman of the Election Committee announces that an election will be held for a vacant Business Committee Seat. Voting will be from 8:00 am to 11:00 a.m. Two candidates have filed for the open seat. On page 2 of this newsletter you can find out a

little more about each candidate.

Each tribal member will receive an Annual Report providing financial and program status updates.

Any tribal business may be transacted at the meeting; it is not necessary to place items on the agenda in advance. Eligible voters are tribal members who are 18 or older on the date of the annual meeting and whose names appear on the membership roll as of September 2014. An election committee appointed by the Business Committee verifies voter eligibility.

We encourage all members to attend, vote, and voice your opinion. This is your chance to be

involved with your Tribe's future direction.

We will have various forms available for Tribal members to be able to request a new membership card if you have lost your card, have had an address change or name change. Staff and Business Council members will be available to talk with before and after the meeting.

Light refreshments will be served starting at 9:30 am. The Tribe's Gift Shop will also be open after the Annual Meeting if anyone would like to purchase logo items featuring the Tribal seal and flag.

Candidates for Business Council Seat

Hello! My name is Eric Allen Wensman! I am of member of the Shawnee Tribe from its Bird Creek community and Red Lake Ojibwe. My mother is Norma Sue Quinton and the late Bob Quinton of Sperry, OK, and the late Al Wensman of Red Lake, MN. My maternal grandparents were Cordelia Tyner, a Bird Creek Shawnee and Lewis Washington, a Whiteoak Shawnee.

I have been married for 16 years to Terri Wensman and have three daughters, Sumer, Hanna and Aubree. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma, as well as an Associate's Degree from Northeastern Oklahoma A & M. I have been employed with Oklahoma Natural Gas for

the last 24 years. I have spent the last three decades compiling and documenting the Shawnee language and I am dedicated to the preservation of the language. My family and I travel frequently attending powwows and cultural events such as stomp dances, ceremonial dances and Native American Church meetings.

I hope the Shawnee tribal members will seriously consider me when it comes time to vote for council seat. I want to be able to contribute ideas and the hard work necessary to educate young people in the Shawnee language so that they too can speak our language. Because of all the unique and wonderful opportunities I have enjoyed by being a part of the



Shawnee community, I hope to be able to give back to my fellow tribal members. I would be proud to represent the Shawnee tribe in an official capacity and do my best to support the tribe in all its future endeavors.

Niyaawe,

Eric A. Wensman

My name is Diana (Crum) McLean from Nowata, Oklahoma. My parents are Charles and Colleen (Billups) Crum. Both were raised in the Nowata county area going back to my Great Great Grandmother Martha (Long) Shufeldt-Storey who had her allotment near Lenapah.

I am retired from At&T and was married for 28 years until my husband Bill passed away in 2009. My family was involved in the effort to regain our separate recognition. I have been very proud to be a tribal member and of the progress we have made since December 28 of 2000.

When it was decided to try and elect a Shawnee to the Cherokee Tribal Council to advocate for the Shawnee people, my family and I went door to door to place signs and connect with tribal members. We held community meetings to help a Shawnee be elected. As a result of these efforts, we were able to carry Nowata County and elect a Shawnee.

After Congress passed the Shawnee Restoration Act of 2000, we couldn't wait to become a part of the base roll of the Shawnee Tribe.

I would like to ask for your vote for a seat on the Business Council so I can carry

on my family tradition and help our Tribe complete the journey to full independence and self sufficiency for the Shawnee people.

Thank you,

Diana McLean



Shawnee Veteran in the Spotlight

We would like to highlight Specialist 4th Class E-4 Bulah Andra Shelton. Bulah was in Company A 121st Signal Battalion Home of the Big Red One (1st Infantry Division) FORSCOM from 1974–1976 in Fort Riley, Kansas.

Bulah took her basic training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. When she joined the Army in 1974, the U.S. military was undergoing a radical change. First, it was the era of the “All Volunteer” Force. The draft was no more and the Vietnam War had finally ended. The Army was desperately trying to fill a manpower shortage, and it wasn’t getting enough male recruit enlistees. Military service was still an unpopular career choice at that time, and so suddenly there was a big push to disband the Women’s Army Corps and to integrate it into the new, all volunteer force. Bulah was among the first women who were the last of the WAC’s before the organization was absorbed by the regular Army.

Her advanced individual training (AIT) was served at Fort Gordon in Georgia,

Signal Center of Excellence, Home of the Signal Corps near Augusta. It is the largest communications-electronics facility in the free world. The training program is worldwide and each year Fort Gordon trains more than 200 students from approximately 70 different countries.

Bulah’s permanent party station was at Fort Riley, Kansas during which time she deployed for RE-FORGER training in Germany. She was discharged with an honorable discharge in 1976 and immediately followed her husband with their family to Frankfurt, Germany for the next three years before returning to the United States and settling in Vinita, Oklahoma.

Upon her return, she worked for a short stint for Craig General Hospital as a receptionist. She then worked for five years for NECO now known as Grand Gateway as a typist and general office worker. Later she worked sixteen years for the Department of Mental Health in individual accounts. Following a lay off from the Department of Mental Health she went to work for the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

Specialist 4th Class E-4 Bulah Andra Shelton
Company A 121st Signal Battalion
Home of the Big Red One (1st Infantry Division) FORSCOM
Service dates 1974-1976
Fort Riley, Kansas



at the main line told until retirement with twenty two years of service which included her military service. Presently, Bulah is working part time as an assistant librarian for the Vinita Public Library.

We value the skills and contributions of our tribal members who have served in the military. Bulah is a very active member of the Tribe and so when you see her around make sure and thank her for her service. We will continue to highlight a tribal member each newsletter so if you or a family member have served please send in an article about your service and a picture to be highlighted in a future newsletter. Please send your information by email to shawneetribe@shawneetribe.com

Children and Family Services Program Update

This year's Inter-Tribal Powwow and Turtle Run Fun Run/Walk was held on June 14th at the Ottawa Tribe's powwow grounds in Miami, Ok. We were fortunate to have cooler weather than in past years in which over 1,000 children and adults came out to enjoy a free day of fun, fellowship and cultural events.

We kicked off the morning with the one mile Turtle Fun Run/Walk



and we were pleasantly surprised at the number of adults that participated with their children and expressed interest and support in assisting our local youth to become more physically active. More than 50 tribal programs and community vendors help provide free goodie bags, resource and referral information, cultural exhibitions, arts and craft activities and health and safety information. Participants also got to enjoy our well known Potato Dance, a Watermelon raffle walk, a Father's Day project table, free mobile photo booth station, balloon artist, face painting, water activities, and our newly added bubble-ology

station where kids and adults got the chance to and learn about different geometric bubble shapes and the scientific art of bubble making.



A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers, staff, and Tribal sponsors for continued support, hard work and dedication in making this event, the best it's ever been. We would like to invite you and your family and your friends to come out and enjoy next year's Children's Powwow and Turtle Fun Run/Walk scheduled for Saturday June 13, 2015. Look for upcoming activities and events at www.shawnee-tribe.com and follow on Facebook at [Inter-Tribal Children's Powwow/Miami, OK](#).



During the week of July 14th through 18th the CCDF program participated in the Just For Kids Event (JFK). This year over 130 children

from various tribes ages 6-12 enjoyed a week long Day Camp. It is sponsored by the North-eastern Tribal Health System and The North-eastern Tribal

CCDF ICW and Family Services Programs. Kids got to learn about health awareness, medication safety, meth and suicide prevention, first aid, recycling, bowling, powwow dancing, cultural dancing, Native storytelling, cultural games, zip line adventure, swimming, and a picnic in the park.

Another event hosted by the CCDF program was our annual school supply handout. It was a huge success. We handed out over 170 LL Bean backpacks to our Shawnee Tribal children grades Pre- Kindergarten thru 8th grade, filled with essential supplies need for the new school year.



Health Insurance Market Place

What It Means for American Indians and Alaskan Natives

Q: I'm an American Indian / Alaskan Native. What do I need to know about the Health Insurance Marketplace?

A: The Health Insurance Marketplace will benefit American Indians and Alaskan natives (AI/ANs) by providing opportunities for enrolling in affordable health coverage. You might be eligible to enroll in a private health plan in the new Health Insurance Marketplace (Marketplace). Or you might be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Q: Why do I need health insurance coverage if I receive services from the Indian Health Service, a tribal program, or an urban Indian health program?

A: The Affordable Care Act does not change your eligibility to get health care through the Indian Health Service, or tribal or urban Indian health programs (I/T/Us). AI/ANs who enroll in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid or CHIP can continue to receive services from their I/T/U the same way they do now. But by enrolling in a Marketplace health plan, Medicaid or CHIP, AI/ANs benefit by having greater access to services that may not be provided by Their local I/T/U, and their tribal communities benefit through increased resources to their I/T/U programs.

Q: What if I already have insurance through my job or am already on Medicaid?

A: If you have health insurance through your employer or have health care through a government sponsored program such as Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Veterans Affairs or TRICARE, there is nothing you need to do - you are covered!

Q: As an AI/AN, am I required to have health care insurance?

A: No, members of federally recognized tribes, other AI/ANs, and other people(like the spouse or child of an eligible Indian) who are eligible for or get services through an I/T/U will be exempt from (you do not have to pay) the shared responsibility payment. So, you do not have to apply for health insurance, but you must apply for this exemption.

Q: What are the special protections for AI/ANs who enroll in the Marketplace?

A: Members of federally recognized tribes with a household income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level (roughly \$70,650 for a family of 4 in 2013) who are also eligible for the tax credit won't have any out of pocket costs like copays, coinsurance, or deductibles for services covered by their Marketplace health plan. Members of federally recognized tribes are eligible for monthly special enrollment periods. Regardless of income, tribal members who enroll in a Marketplace health plan will not have any out-of-pocket costs such as copays, coinsurance, or deductibles for items or services furnished directly by an I/T/U or through a referral under Purchased and Referred Care program.

For more information on the Marketplace, Medicaid or Medicare please contact Cheryl Nixon, Patient Benefits Coordinator at 918- 332-4345 or Jennifer Wofford, Patient Services Supervisor at 918-332-4360 with the Northeastern Tribal Health System or Seanna Evans, Patient Benefits Coordinator at 918-342-6507 at the Claremore Indian Hospital.

Environmental Program Update

In July the Environmental Department hosted a two day Project WILD & Project Learning Tree trainings in the Tribal Community Building. The classes were free to registrants and were well attended by fellow environmental professionals from other local tribes as well as child educators. Not only do these classes provide professional development credits for continuing education but curriculum books and material as well.



Project WILD and Project Learning Tree, while different programs are both service learning environmental education based programs designed for teachers as well as other educators, environmental professionals, parents and community leaders working with youth from preschool age through grade 12. We will again in the future be hosting more workshops that incorporate an Early Childhood for Project Learning Tree and a sister program called Project WET whose focus is on ensuring every child under-

stands the value of water and ensuring a sustainable future. Watch future newsletters and the tribal web page at

www.shawnee-tribe.com for future training announcements.

The Tribal Environmental Department has many goals set aside for this new upcoming fiscal year of funding. This year has two main objectives; environmental outreach/education and a more technical program based side. Some of the activities we have included this year to meet our outreach goals include putting on Project WET and a Project WILD/growing up WILD workshops. Project WET focuses on water resources utilizing action-oriented education to enable every child to understand and value water, ensuring a sustainable future. Project Growing Up WILD is similar to Project WILD but focuses on a head start/preschool early childhood curriculum. These workshops are always a lot of fun hands on learning. We will be devel-



oping educational materials such as Radon Awareness and the creation of a 2016 Environmental Calendar to encourage tribal members to take active steps as individuals to reduce their own impact on the environment. We will also be involved with community activities that include co-hosting the 17th Annual National Environmental Conference on Tar Creek, two days of a variety of environmental topics and updates that effect our community, as well as participation in the Annual Intertribal Children's Powwow with a booth of hands on environmental activities. The technical program based portion will include the development of an Indoor Air Quality Program with an initial focus on the dangers of radon levels in tribal member's homes and the continued development of our departments GIS/GPS program.

Update from the Chief

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and ready for fall. In June we held our Annual Children's Pow Wow. It was a great success and our largest attended event to date. We want to thank the other 8 Tribes that assisted us with this successful event. Your Business Committee recently implemented a new program to help our younger Tribal members with school supplies. We had a great response to this new program. We should be proud in investing in our young people as they are the future.

We have recently lost two great members of the Shawnee Tribe. Business Council member Tommie Buchfink passed away. Tommie had served on our Business Council off and on since our recognition in 2000. Tommie was very involved with helping preserve our language and had served on that committee for many years. She was very proud of her heritage and she will be greatly missed. Another loss to the Tribe in August was tribal member Bertha Cameron. Bertha was a valuable presence for the Tribe in Kansas. She helped me with many project in our former homeland. She worked tirelessly with various committees in Kansas to promote our Shawnee heritage. Not only were Tommie and Bertha personal friends to Dede and I, but they leave a void that will be difficult to fill. Dede and I send our condolences to the families.

We have two fine candidates running for the open Business Council seat. Frankly, I wish we had two vacancies. Your Business Council will work with your selection. Both of them are very good people. Be sure to come out and vote !

See you at the Annual Meeting.

Ron

Addresses Needed

In order to notify members about tribal events and programs from which they may be eligible to receive assistance, we need to be kept up-to-date with current addresses and phone numbers. We have a large number of bad addresses currently on the roll. If you have family members that have recently moved, encourage them to contact the Tribe to update their address. If you need to change your address or request a replacement tribal card, you can call visit the Tribal website at www.shawnee-tribe.com and locate these forms under the Government Tab and then select forms. You can also still call the Tribal office and ask for Agnes Sappington. She can assist you by sending you the necessary forms that must be completed and returned to the tribal office.



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**THE TRIBAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED THE
FOLLOWING DAYS:**

NATIONAL AMERICAN

INIDAN DAY

09/26/2014

COLUMBUS DAY

10/13/2014

**Annual
Meeting**
September 20th
10:00 am
Polls open at
8:00 am till
11:00 am

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF
DAY CARE
ASSISTANCE**

**FALL 2014
EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE**

**NAHASDA
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE**