



The Shawnee Journal

29 South Highway 69A Miami, Oklahoma 74354 918-542-2441

Volume 12, issue I

WINTER 2016

Points of Interest:

- Annual Meeting Update
- Chief's Update
- Important Dates

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Annual Meeting Held

The Tribe's Annual Meeting, also called the general council meeting, was held on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Tribe's Community Services building in Miami, Oklahoma. Nearly 100 people attended.

Members received an Annual Report containing minutes of the 2014 meeting, a financial summary, the report from the Chief, an update on tribal programs and projects, and a Business Council and Staff roster. If you did not attend the meeting but would like a copy of the 2015 Annual Report, please call the Tribal office and let our receptionist Agnes Sap-

ington know you would like one.

The 2015 Annual Meeting agenda included administration reports on programs, a report from Economic Development Director, Greg Pitcher, a report from Second Chief Ben Barnes on the Language Program and a report from Chief Ron Sparkman.

Resolution 2015-09-01 was passed accepting membership into the Tribe. The Chief's position as well as the First and Second seats on the Business Council were open for election. Chief Ron Sparkman ran unopposed as well as current Business Council members Carolyn Smith and Carolyn Foster. Candidates filed



their intents to stand for election 90 prior to the Annual Meeting, as required by the Tribe's Constitution.

A new addition to this year's Annual Meeting was Welcome Night on Friday September 18th. The Tribe hosted a meal, materials on our language program, program highlights followed by a social dance. The Tribe plans to host another Welcome Night during 2016 and hopes for the event to grow with each additional year. Refreshments after the meeting allowed for members to visit with each other, tribal officials, and tribal staff.



More Kids In The Woods In 2016

The Shawnee National Forest received a multi-year grant that allowed junior high and high school students to travel to southern Illinois for cultural immersion, service learning and career training opportunities. Those included outdoor recreation, heritage, natural resources, geographic information systems and law enforcement. This grant allowed for students from Cherokee Nation, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe,

the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and our Tribe. Each Tribe was able to have 10-12 students represent their Tribe.

In May of 2015, our Tribe sent four students along with five Eastern Shawnee students and four chaperones for the week long camp. This new program is an expansion of the Shawnee National Forest's Master Trail Steward program and the Shawnee Volunteer Corps. Staff have began preparation for the camp for Sum-

mer 2016. Please keep an eye out for an opportunity to enroll in this camp during the Spring of 2016. We are also looking for adults who would be willing to be chaperones during the camp. If you are interested in donating your time for this week long camp please contact Jodi Hayes at the Tribal office at 918-542-2441 or at her email at shawneetribe@shawnee-tribe.com.

Information and Assistance

Announcements

If you would like to announce births, marriages, graduations, military service, deaths, or family reunions, please let the tribal office staff know so that we can include the information in the next newsletter (send announcements to the tribal office in Miami by email to shawneetribe@shawnee-tribe.com).

Addresses Needed

Please be sure to update your mailing address if you have moved. We have numerous bad addresses on file. In order to notify members about tribal

events and about programs from which they may be eligible to receive assistance; we need to be kept up-to-date with current addresses and phone numbers.

Tribal Roll

As of the November 2015 Business Council meeting, 2,637 people are enrolled with the Shawnee Tribe. We process enrollment applications at the monthly BC meetings which are held the first Monday of every month. Applications must be in the tribal office by the preceding Friday to be considered for enrollment. If you know of someone who would like to have

an enrollment application, please call the tribal office at 918-542-2441.

Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for new article ideas, so if you would like to share any, email us at: www.shawneetribe@shawnee-tribe.com this is your newsletter and we value your inquiries and remarks. The staff would also like to remind tribal members of the Tribe's website address at www.shawnee-tribe.com. The web site provides information for Tribal members, event dates, and announcements.

Children and Family Services Program Update

2015 was a great year and we are looking forward to what is in store for 2016. One of our highlights was the Annual Shawnee Tribe's Children's Christmas party.

This is the one event that we look forward to each and every year and truly enjoy getting the opportunity to meet and visit with tribal members and their families. Festivities included a traditional meal, children received a gift from Santa and his Elves and each tribal household attending received a holiday bag full of goodies.

The CCDF Program completed and submitted required year end reporting. Child Care services were provided to 198 children and 117 families during this time. In August, the Shawnee Tribe CCDF program co-sponsored a Sexual Abuse Prevention Training to contracted day care providers and various local agencies. This training was



designed to equip program owners and employees to recognize abuser characteristics and grooming behaviors by utilizing a 5-part safety system for child serving organizations.

Caregivers gained "eyes to see" and "ears to hear" information necessary to protect children from sexual abuse.

The Shawnee Tribe CCDF Program continues to offer monthly American Red Cross CPR/AED / First-Aid classes at the Shawnee Community Building. In September the Shawnee Tribe's CCDF program relocated into new office space at the North - end addition of the Inter-Tribal Council Building in Miami, OK. Thanks to a well organized and planned move, program services had minimal interruptions.



Spring is a very busy time for the CCDF program. Upcoming

events and trainings include a mini conference for providers, a providers appreciation banquet where providers are recognized for their hard work and a Tier 1 training opportunity regarding legal matters that day cares can face. During this training providers will be educated on legal matters, forms and policies and procedures needed for facilities.

Please mark down the Annual Children's Pow Wow will be held June 11, 2106.



If you or anyone you know have any questions regarding tribal child care services within 100 miles from the Shawnee Tribal complex in Miami, OK please call the Shawnee Tribe Child Care Administration office (918) 542-7232. We will be glad to answer any questions you might have. Applications and information may obtain on Shawnee Tribe's web-site @

www.shawnee-tribe.com

Environmental Program Update



Tribe signs a Tribal Environmental Plan with EPA

On September 29, 2015, Chief Ron Sparkman and Arturo Blanco, Director of the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region 6, along with Tribal Administrator Jodi Hayes, Environmental Director Rosanna Sheppard, EPA Region 6 Tribal Project Officers, Ira Hight and Mark Allen, gathered at the Shawnee Tribal office to officially sign the final joint planning agreement also known as the EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP).

This document is an Agreement for the environmental protection of Shawnee Tribal Members. While EPA recognizes the Shawnee Tribe as the primary environmental manager for its tribal members, the Agency retains certain responsibilities for implementing federal environment authorities. This document will identify the following for the next two years: Shawnee Tribe environmental program priorities, specific activities related to implementing federal environmental requirements within the service boundary, roles and responsibilities of each party, and Agency support for tribal program development and implementation activities. This Agreement can be used by each party to forecast workloads for each year, identify resource needs, and identify opportunities for partnerships with other federal agencies. EPA and the Tribe will not only review and revise this Agreement every two years but because it is a living document we will be able to modify as appropriate by mutual agreement of each party to always meet the needs of the Tribe. The Shawnee Tribe and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe were the first two Tribes in Oklahoma to sign the ETEP with Region 6 EPA. We are proud of this accomplishment and future funding opportunities it may present.



Update from the Chief

First and foremost, Dede and I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. Let's continue our progress throughout the year.

Let's hope that we can start construction on our Guy-mon project, but let there be no doubt we have a long way to go before it becomes a reality. Let's not get our hopes too high. Our attorneys are telling us we should have a land approval by April. The wheels turn slowly, but let's keep them turning.

We have started the paper process on our heritage center to be constructed next to the turnpike. I can't say enough about the enthusiasm of Second Chief Ben Barnes and Business Councilman Eric Wensman for this project. I also want to recognize Business Councilman Roy Baldrige for the effort he has put forth to establish a great relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Forest Service. These agencies want our input as they manage lands that were our former home. Let's not forget Tribal Secretary Shirley Staubus for keeping such good records for our Tribe. Your officers along with Greg Pitcher continue to search for good business opportunities. Let's hope we can find some this year.

I can't say enough about our dedicated staff and their efforts to keep this tribe operating with honesty, dignity and respect.

To each of you your thoughts and ideas are solicited and appreciated. Let me know what is on your mind. I realize I have not covered everything, but we will continue to manage our monies and programs in a very efficient manner. Let's keep dignity and respect a major goal for our activities.

Finally, as I write this report to you, I can't help but think about our ancestors. I trust they are very proud of how we are preserving the Shawnee name. Let's keep them in our thoughts anytime we need to make a decision.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ron

Education Assistance Available

Any tribal member attending an accredited post-secondary school in the United States on a full or half-time basis with a GPA of at least 2.5 is eligible for our Education Assistance Program. If you are a recent high school graduate, we will accept an official copy of your high school transcripts or your GED score. Assistance is also available to tribal members attending vocational or certificate programs. You can find the application for Spring 2016 assistance on our website at www.shawnee-tribe.com under the "government" drop down menu and then under the forms link. The deadline for assistance was December 31st but we have extended the date to January 31st. Assistance available includes \$1,000 per semester for full time students. Full time status is 12 credit hours or more. Part time assistance, in the amount of \$500, is available as well. Part time status is anything less than 12 credit hours. Vocational and certificate programs are eligible for \$500 one time a calendar year. We also have our ongoing Education Achievement Award program that is available year round. It was created to provide educational assistance to tribal members completing their degrees and to encourage them to continue with their education goals.



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THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

**PUBLICATION
OF THE
SHAWNEE TRIBE**

VOLUME 12, ISSUE I

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

PRESIDENT'S DAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2016

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 25, 2016

The Oklahoma Dental Association, in partnership with the Oklahoma Dental Foundation and the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation, is planning the 7th annual Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM), a two-day event scheduled for February 5-6, 2016, at the Cox Convention Center, downtown OKC. This free, two-day dental clinic is open to the public as a fully-functional dental facility with 130 chairs and approximately 2,000 volunteers, including dental professionals who will provide their services at absolutely no charge. A variety of services will be offered at the event including: cleanings, fillings, extractions and anterior root canals. There will be no eligibility or income requirements to be treated. For more information or to register please visit www.okmom.org.

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF
DAY CARE
ASSISTANCE**

**SPRING 2016
EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE**

**NAHASDA
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE**