



The Shawnee Journal

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

WINTER 2016

Points of Interest:

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

Inside this issue:

Shawnee Language	2
Shawnee Language Continued	3
Environmental Program Update	4
AARP Indian Elders Honors	4
Children and Family Services Update	5
Annual Children's Christmas Party	5
Veteran's Day Celebration	6
Chief's Update	7
Education Assistance	7



Annual Meeting Held

The Tribe's Annual Meeting, also called the general council meeting, was held on Saturday, September 17, at the Tribe's Community Services building in Miami, Oklahoma. Nearly 100 people attended.

Members received an Annual Report containing minutes of the 2016 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 2016 Annual Report, please call the Tribal office and let our receptionist Agnes Sappington know you would like one.

The 2017 Annual Meeting agenda in-

cluded administration reports on programs, a report from Economic Development Director, Greg Pitcher, a report from Second Chief Ben Barnes on the Heritage Center and Cultural Programs, Treasurer Roy Baldrige gave an update on NAGRPA and US Forest Service Programs, as well as a report from Chief Ron Sparkman.

Resolution 2015-09-01 was passed accepting membership into the Tribe. The Second Chief's position, the Secretaries position as well as the Third seat on the

Business Council were open for election. Second Chief Ben Barnes and Secretary Shirley

Staubus ran unopposed. Two candidates filed for the Third Business Council Seat, incumbent Scott Secondine won.



A continued addition to this year's Annual Meeting was Welcome Night on Friday September 16th. The Tribe hosted a meal, materials on our language program, program highlights followed by a social dance. The Tribe continues plans to host Welcome Night during 2017 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.



Shawnee Language

Did you know:

By Eric A Wensman, Research Manager

Having a baby is a precious and exciting, as well as, anxious time. There is lots of planning and anticipation, along with nervousness about the baby's health and delivery.

Did you know that Shawnees have a specific set of rules for that period in one's life? Shawnee rules, (Sawano kay'chi-ta'weleta) beliefs or customs apply to all those involved in the coming of the baby. The new parents, along with grandparents and other family members, all play a role in helping with these beliefs.

I grew up in a huge family that consisted of grandmother, mother and several aunts who also were considered my mothers. I guess you might say it was a matriarchal family and when they spoke you listened. My grandmother was very strict and strong in her beliefs and lived by Shawnee values. She expected all of us to do the same, and there was a constant reminder that we are Shawnees and this is how we live and believe.

Bringing new life into the world was no exception, and in fact, things were even stricter and we were expected to live and follow steadfast to these rules during this time. There was always a constant reminder that becoming new parents, or parents again, brought huge responsibilities.

First and foremost, as a man, you were instructed on how to treat your wife/companion. Do not bring harm to her in anyway and help her when she needs it. You are not allowed to participate in ceremonies, not allowed to dance. This goes for women too. Alt-

hough being picked as a dancer to represent your family or clan is a great honor, you must set this time out and just watch. The tribe completely understands. They say when an expected father dances he makes everyone tired and brings the excitement level of the dance down. My sister says this is a special time for the man and woman expecting and that you honor this time and be respectful of what is taking place. It is not shameful to set out and just watch, but enjoy.

Have you ever heard the saying "It takes a village...?" Well, it takes a tribe because you cannot go hunting when you are expecting a baby. Killing of an animal could cause an imperfection in the baby when it is born. Not going fishing was another hard fast rule: a fish has several bones in the body and you would not want your child born with several bones. This is where the family or tribal members step in to help you provide and prepare for the coming of the baby.

I once heard my older brother talk about how you are supposed to put wood in a fire. You put wood in the fire by which way the tree grows, the top of the tree first. His explanation was if you put it in backwards then that is how your baby will be born - backwards. He was my oldest aunt's oldest son. He was almost 30 years older than me so when he did say something I would try to listen. He said this while sitting in the Native American Church and he was instructing one of the boys on how to build fire inside a teepee. When it comes to taking care of the Grandpa Fire there was a certain way to stack the wood, cut the wood, and certain kind of tree for different seasons. Out of all the places I have visited in my life, Shawnees are the only ones that I heard express a belief about taking care of a fire in this manner.

You are to never make fun of anyone that had a deformity or make fun of

an animal by the way they looked. Your baby could have these same deformities or look like that particular animal.

I guess one of the biggest no's was that you were never to go to a funeral or be around death. Death itself brings a whole new set of instructions, with or without having a child or newborn. You were never asked to participate in a funeral or the mention of asking someone who was going to have a newborn or had small babies was always answered with a stern "NO!" and followed with the tongue lashing of "you know better than that!" Just another constant reminder of who we are as a people.

When the arrival of baby is near, you want to plan to give it a Shawnee name. You might ask a grandparent or a close family friend to give this honor. You want to give them plenty of time to look for a name and a clan. It also allows them the time to pray about this name and clan so that it will fit the child. The name is to carry the child through its life and provide it with good health and protection for as long as it lives.

Girls are to be named in nine days and boys in ten days of their birth; early in the morning before the sun comes up along with a breakfast for all to enjoy. When it comes time for that person to present this child with a name, he or she will talk to the baby as if it is an adult. Old Shawnees say the newborn infant knows more than we do because he/she just came from God. The presenter of the name will talk to the child about all the stages of its life through infancy all the way to being a chi'kwethiitha (old woman) or chitootha (old man). At the be-

Shawnee Language Continued

ginning of this talk, the presenter will tell the child his name and clan and will say it four times for all to hear and for the baby not to forget it. When they come to the final part of this talk, they will tell them how they will use nekoti hapathowee (one crutch) then pretty soon you will use niswi hapathowee (two crutches), at this point everything is up to God and he will decide the rest of their life.

I was always told one of the most important things to do when asking someone to do something like this is for you to present this person with La'thema (tobacco) as well as maybe cloth or handkerchiefs, something they can use.

There are so many more things that Shawnees say when caring for a child, but I guess the last thing I want to leave you with is that my grandmother and mothers always put ashes (not hot) on the babies forehead before they went out into the dark. This is so the baby will have light and not be afraid in the dark.

I want to also note: Family members were always quick to give you examples of people who did not follow these beliefs - so this made you even more cautious on how you conducted yourself.

So while you are doing modern preparations such as ultrasounds, Lamaze classes and decorating the nursery – remember you are Shawnee and so is your baby and practice our ways! These beliefs and values have sustained us since the beginning of time. These beliefs belong to no single clan or division; they are what old traditional Shawnees believed. These beliefs are still very much valued and practiced today.

Neyahway!

Did You Know?

As winter makes its debut, the shift in seasons mark a time of year when people begin to hunker down and prepare for the year ahead. This seasonal change also marked a time for Shawnees to move inside, gather around Grandfather fire, (Me'som tha na Skote) and to enjoy the company of their family and friends.

When thinking of winter, often the first thing that comes to mind is freshly fallen snow. This symbol of winter also holds significance for the Shawnees. When the first snow falls that you can make tracks in, Shawnees will go outside and bathe in the snow. This action brings good health (Pi yea ta Ho'wisi lasa ma mo) in the year to come, strengthens the spirit and the bones, and purifies the mind.

While winter (Pe'po ni) officially begins on the winter equinox, Grandfather (Me'som than a) from the north (Pepoki'ye ki) may make his appearance well before that. During this time, there are many things that we as Shawnees can do to honor this time of year and to pay homage to the ancestors who came before us. First and foremost is to keep in mind the health of our elders. Winter can be harsh and taxing on all of us, but especially so for elders. Winter is the perfect time to pray for their good health throughout the season and in the year to come.

One way to pray for the elders is to gather around Grandfather fire (Lay la pak

chi mo ta...the interpreter, the one who carries the message) and let him carry your messages up to the Creator. However, when building this fire there are a few things to keep in mind. First, only certain woods can be used for burning. Specifically, nothing that bears fruit and no female trees can be used. One particularly good wood to use is red elm as it burns hot and is easy to split and gather. Second, because Shawnees do not dance or hold ceremonies in the winter, Grandfather fire (Me'som tha na Skote) is a place to continue to gather and have fellowship. In particular, around Grandfather fire (Me'som tha na Skote) is the perfect place for parents and grandparents to tell stories to children of tradition and culture. (Chaki Yesi lawi ya quay... Traditions, all the things we do.)

So, this winter as you begin to think about what 2017 may hold, take some time to incorporate some of these traditions into your family. Go outside and bathe in the snow, sit around the fire and tell stories of your past to your grandchildren (Nosi tay tha ki) , or make preparations for the year ahead. However you choose to spend this winter, remember that every season is significant for the Shawnee, and holds specific importance and traditions for our ancestors that can be continued for generations to come.

Environmental Program Update

The Importance of Pollinators ~ Imagine living in a world without flowers or fruit or even coffee or chocolate for that matter. Thanks to the wonderful work of pollinators like bees, much of the food we eat and flowers and plants we enjoy are possible.



And it's not just bees that are doing all the work. Butterflies, birds, beetles, bats, wasps and even flies are important in the pollination process. But despite the importance of pollinators, they are taken for granted all too often. Worldwide, there is an alarming decline in pollinator populations. Excessive use of pesticides and an ever expanding conversion of landscapes to human use are the biggest culprits.

It is estimated that more than 1,300 types of plants are grown around the world for food, beverages, medicines, condiments, spices and even fabric. Of these, about 75% are pollinated by animals. More than one of every three bites of food we eat or beverages we drink are directly because of pollinators. Indirectly, pollinators ultimately play a role in the majority of what we eat and consume.

Pollinators are vital to creating and maintaining the habits and ecosystems that many animals rely on for food and shelter. Worldwide, over half the diet of fats and oils comes from crops pollinated by animals. They facilitate the reproduction in 90% of the world's flowering plants.

You can make a positive difference in your home environment. Provide a diverse assortment of flowering plants and encourage native species in your landscape. Use pesticides only when necessary and then only late in the day or evening. Look for alternative ways to deal with pest and disease issues before reaching for a quick fix. These often come at a price. Learn about and practice IPM (Integrated Pest Management). The actions you take in and around your garden can either help reduce or promote the population of pollinators in your landscape. Hopefully it is the latter.

AARP OK Indian Elder Honors

One by one, the names and accomplishments of 50 Indian Elders were shared with an audience of more than 700 at AARP Oklahoma's 8th Annual Indian Elder Honors celebration at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, October 10, 2016. As the distinguished honorees were announced, they stood to applause and a medallion was presented. AARP State Director Sean Voskuhl said, "This event celebrates a lifetime of service from these distinguished elders who have positively impacted their community, family, tribe and nation. Tonight, we honored teachers, veterans, nurses, artists, tribal leaders, language and culture preservationists and even a Pulitzer prize-winning author. One common thread between the honorees, regardless of the contributions, is the commitment to community and service."

Ruthe Blalock Jones was the honoree for the Shawnee Tribe. A descendant of Chief Blackhoof, Chulundit is the tribal name of Ms. Blalock Jones. She is a lifelong learner and lover of the arts. She works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen, ink and pencil and is an award winning artist. At the age of 13 she placed in her first art show at the Philbrook Museum. Many awards and honors would follow, such as the Governor's Art Award (1993), induction into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame (1995), Red Earth Festival's Honored One (2011) and the American Indian Circle of Honor Award (2014). She earned an Associate's degree from Bacone College, a Bachelor's degree of fine arts from The University of Tulsa and Master's degree from Northeastern State University. She is a retired Associate Professor from Bacone College and has coauthored a non-fiction book, Woody Crumbo.



Children and Family Services Program Update

Our child care program is currently serving 116 families and 196 children. The average number of children served per month is 117.7. The average monthly amount paid for child care services per child is \$301.33 and the average monthly parent copayment is \$18.14.

Monthly CPR/AED/First-Aid classes are held at our Shawnee Community Building for child care providers and their staff. Due to State budget cuts CCDF staff met with Oklahoma Resource and Referral to assist in providing child care trainings that would ensure our providers are meeting State regulations and providing quality care child.

In October, CCDF staff provided two trainings to area child care providers and early childhood educa-

tors. The Missouri Southern State University's annual Early Childhood Conference provided education and curriculum to over 150 local child care providers and educators. Topics included nutrition's impact on childhood learning and development, sensory processing needs in daycare and preschool settings, positive discipline and child interactions, the importance of early speech/hearing screens, managing problem behaviors in your classroom. Other topics included improving teacher/child interactions, creating a quality child care environment, guiding vision development for efficient learning and preparing children for kindergarten.

Staff also hosted a training on "Infection Prevention and Control" that provided required training to area state licensed child care providers.

These State requirements are designed to protect the health and safety of children that are applicable to child care providers that provide services for which assistance is made available. In November we will be hosting an Infant & Toddler training for state licensed child care providers in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area.

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. Our staff 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](http://www.shawnee-tribe.com)

Annual Children's Christmas Party

The Shawnee Tribes annual Christmas party is scheduled for December 3rd. Tribal families are invited to join us for lunch from 11am-2 pm at the Shawnee Community Building 108 S. Eight Tribes Trail in Miami, OK. Tribally enrolled children age birth to 12 yrs will receive a free gift from Santa. Please be sure to bring your camera so that you will be able to take pictures of family members with Santa and his elves. We will also have chocolates, fruit and goody bags for every family in attendance. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the party. Please call the Tribal office at 918-542-7232 or 918-542-2441 with any questions.



Veteran's Day Celebration

The Shawnee Tribe
Would like to cordially invite all American Veterans
Please join us in celebrating
"HONORING OUR HOMETOWN Heroes"



Veterans come join us for a FREE Lunch, Giveaways, Raffles & Fellowship

VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCH

Date: Thursday, November 10th 2016

Time: 11am – 2 pm

Location: Shawnee Tribes Community Building

108 S. Eight Tribe's Trail

Miami, Ok 74354

Contact: Tena Booth (918) 542-7232 shawneechild@shawnee-tribe.com

Peyton Westmoreland (918) 542-1873 pwestmoreland@cableone.net

We salute our Veterans and extend our gratitude for their service. They are our relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers. These individuals committed to a greater cause larger than their own and accepted the challenge to defend our nation.

Update from the Chief

As 2016 is coming to a close it is good time to reflect on the past 12 months. It has been a good year for our Tribe. Naturally, we would have liked for things to be better but under the economic circumstances of the country we are in good shape. Your Business Council and staff have done a great job keeping programs and services on track.

Our business venture application (casino) in Texas County, OK (near Guymon) is making progress. I recently returned from the Bureau of Indian Affairs head office in Washington, D.C. Each question asked of

us received a positive answer. Make no mistake, at this time this is not an approved project, but it is certainly appears promising.

Our partners, Global Gaming, a subsidiary of the Chickasaw Nation, are also optimistic. We are starting to discuss the design phase of the casino. This venture will be very profitable for our Tribe. But first and foremost we will have a massive debt to pay for the construction (estimated to be between \$24 to \$26 million).

But in a few years, this venture should provide adequate income for our Tribe for years to come. For years we have stated

we want to educate our children and help our elders. This will help us achieve that goal. But let me say once again, we are awaiting final approval.

As I write this, I can't help but think of my parents and grandparents and what the Shawnee Tribe meant to them. I only wish they were here today to enjoy the success and good feelings within our Tribe. I know the Business Council and a lot of our Tribal members feel the same way.

Dede and I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and 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 2017 assistance on our website at www.shawnee-tribe.com under the "government" drop down menu and then under the forms link. The deadline for the spring 2017 semester assistance is December 31, 2016. 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.



SHAWNEE TRIBE
P.O. BOX 189
MIAMI, OK 74355

Phone: 918-542-2441
Fax: 918-542-2922
E-mail: shawneetribel@shawnee-tribe.com

MAIL TO:

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

**PUBLICATION
OF THE
SHAWNEE TRIBE**

THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

WINTER 2016

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

VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2016

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

NOVEMBER 24 –25, 2016

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 26, 2016

NEW YEAR'S DAY

JANUARY 2, 2017

**Annual
Children's
Christmas
Party
December 3rd
11 am—2 pm
Shawnee
Community**

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF
DAY CARE
ASSISTANCE**

**SPRING 2016
EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE**

**NAHASDA
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE**