Winnebago Indian News

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Bago Bits…

Winnebago basketball living Legend David Wingett, Jr get his first two points as a Memphis Tiger on a steal and break away dunk. Go Big Blue!

Nebraska Democratic Co-Chair, Frank LaMere and HCI Operations Officer, Anne O'Gorman-Downes participate in Winnebago's Voter Drive hosted by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

HCI hosts a visit from the Mississippi Choctaw Nation Tribal Leadership last week.

Jr. Miss Nebraska Winnebago, Paris LaPointe, was home last weekend to celebrate Winnebago Veteran's on their Day.

Yeah I was just being nosie too. The WVFD held a controlled burn of a local family out building.

Congrats Ho-Chunk Nation member, Sharice Davis, first Native Woman Member of the U.S. Congress.

Ariayna Yellowbank has been named the 2018 Watonga Kiwanis Sophomore of The Year. Ariayna, an enrolled Winnebago tribal member, is the daughter of Regina Youngbear of Watonga, Oklahoma and Anthony Yellowbank of Black River Falls, Wisconsin

Ho-Chunk Farms driving Tribal land revenue
Record $1.78 million lease approved

Gazing across a recently harvested field stretching into the horizon, Aaron LaPointe thinks about the future. These 1,200 acres of Tribal land will be cultivated by the company he supervises come spring. It's by far the Winnebago Tribe's largest parcel – Big River Bottom ground by Big Bear Hollow along the Missouri River. On Nov. 13, the Tribal Council approved Ho-Chunk Farms bid of $357,000 per year for a 5-year lease totaling $1.78 million. The contract expands Ho-Chunk Farms land base by 40 percent. LaPointe and his coworkers are still determining what to plant next year. One thing is clear: Ho-Chunk Farms is changing the business and environmental dynamics of farming on the reservation. The approach started seven years ago to increase Tribal land revenue. It's done that, and more. "This has increased Tribal land revenue significantly," LaPointe said. "There was no competition before." The Tribe's land is managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For decades, non-native farmers have bid far less than market value to lease parcels. Tribal policy allows Ho-Chunk Farms to match any bid for contracts with payments going to the Tribe. In the past 5 years, the Tribe has earned over $1 million from increased land values. During its Nov. 13 meeting, the Winnebago Tribal Council considered a farmer's bid on the Big River Bottom land and approved Ho-Chunk Farms matching offer. The Tribe earns an additional 20 percent of farming profits from dividend payments made by Ho-Chunk Farms' parent company, Ho-Chunk, Inc. The future LaPointe thinks about includes increased Tribal employment, transitioning more conventional farmland to higher-value organic, and exploring other markets like livestock and poultry. Conventional farming of corn, soybeans and alfalfa makes up 80 percent of Ho-Chunk Farms harvest and revenue. Acres farmed increased from 2,400 to 3,500 from 2017 to 2018. Planting in 2019 will cover 4,515 acres. For perspective, LaPointe says a big farm is about 1,500 acres. Ho-Chunk Farms also manages 101 acres of high-value USDA Certified Organic farmland and has another 458 acres transitioning to organic. Ho-Chunk Farms operations are growing with the land base. It now runs its own trucking and purchased a disc plow and planter. The eventual goal is to be self-sufficient with a machinery line and not outsourcing any work. The benefit of Tribal land management includes an ethical and moral commitment in addition to increased revenue. "As a landowner, you want to know the productivity of the soil," LaPointe said. "Farming practices on cash-leased land is about short-term profit. There isn't an incentive to make long-term investments in the soil quality." Ho-Chunk Farms invests in soil sampling and tests nutrient levels. Land is managed with a soil quality plan and that data is shared with the Tribe to track soil health. "We are ensuring the long-term care and stewardship of the land for generations to come," LaPointe said.

Neola Walker Building Will be Remodeled

A local service building that has served the Winnebago People for over 40 years has once again been gutted to serve yet another purpose for the community. Originally built as a classroom for carpentry & construction students, the IAT Building would soon see remodeling to serve as the Reservations very first Tribal Grocery Store, The Heritage. For many years the Heritage sold groceries that residents otherwise would have to travel 20 miles north to purchase at local city grocery chain stores. The building would have to wait until the early 90's when a new Tribal Grocery store was built to serve another purpose. Most recently the Neola Walker Building served as a Tribal Office housing tribal service program offices. When this latest remodel is complete the building will house the Tribal Human Service Department, perfect fit for the buildings name. A long story short Neola "Old Lady" Walker was a prominent Winnebago Tribal Council member who spent her life in service to the Winnebago People. We will continue to post updated pictures of this historic, small piece of Winnebago Contemporary History.

Indianz.com…

Omaha Tribe defends decision to remove dually-enrolled citizens from rolls

The administrative building of the Omaha Tribe in Macy, Nebraska. Photo: Ali Eminov

'I was born an Omaha and I'm going to die an Omaha'

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Director of tribe's corporation among those disenrolled
By Kevin Abourezk

Taylor Keen has worked to revitalize the traditional corn of his people, hosted a war dance that hadn't been held by the Omaha Nation for decades and led the tribe's economic development efforts for several years.

The 50-year-old Omaha man attended Dartmouth College and Harvard University before returning to Nebraska to teach at Creighton University.

Since returning, he's become one of the most recognizable Natives in his home state, where he serves on the boards of several humanities organizations and played the role of Ponca Chief Standing Bear for events like the state's annual summer Chautauqua.

But recently, the Omaha Tribe disenrolled the university instructor, ostensibly as part of an effort to remove tribal citizens who are also enrolled in other tribes. Keen is enrolled in the Cherokee Nation as well.

He says he fears Omaha tribal leaders may have ulterior motives for their decision to remove him from the tribe's rolls.

"I take my tribal citizenship very seriously," he said. "I have to be one of the most proud Cherokee citizens and Omaha citizens."Taylor Keen stands at the grave marker of Chief Big Elk, who led the Omaha people in the 1800s, in Bellevue, Nebraska. Keen, who was recently disenrolled from the Omaha Tribe, is a descendant of Big Elk. Courtesy photo

Omaha Tribe Chairman Michael Wolfe said the tribal council didn't target Keen in its decision to rescind the citizenship of dually enrolled citizens. He said the council simply decided to enforce the tribe's constitution, which requires that tribal citizens who enroll in other tribes automatically lose their Omaha citizenship.

"It's in our constitution," he said. "It isn't anything with the council. We're just following what the people wanted."

The Omaha Tribe's decision remove Keen and other dually enrolled citizens makes it the 80th tribe to do so, according to Gabe Galanda, an attorney and citizen of the Round Valley Indian Tribes who has written extensively about tribal disenrollment and has represented victims of disenrollment.

He said tribes conducted numerous mass disenrollments prior to spring 2016. However, tribes have mostly halted the practice since then, at least until the Omaha Tribe's decision in March to remove 17 dually enrolled citizens from its rolls, Galanda said.

Keen said he didn't learn until September the tribe had decided to disenroll him.

"My Omaha grandmother enrolled us Omaha and my late father enrolled us Cherokee when I was a teen," he wrote

...Con't. on page 7

Bago News

DIABETES Awareness Month

education.prevention.management

Health Fair

Whirling Thunder Wellness Center

November 28th

10am - 2pm

Door Prizes

Every Hour

Lunch Served

For more info contact WTWC at 402-878-3148

WHIRLING THUNDER WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Booths

- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Diabetes Footcare
- Pharmacy
- PHN
- Podiatry
- Fitness
- Diabetes Program

LITTLE PRIEST TRIBAL COLLEGE

POWWOW

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17TH, 2018

GRAND ENTRY 1PM

COMMUNITY FEED 12pm!
COLOR GUARD: Winnebago Veteran's Association
M.C: Chris Grezlik
HOST DRUM: HAYLUSHKA
Arena Director: Gentry St.Cyr
Head Man Dancer: John Snowball
Head Woman Dancer: Agnes Warner
Contact: Cassie Kitcheyan 402-878-4312
ckitcheyan@littlepriest.edu

DANCE CONTESTS:
Men 18+ Women 18+
Teen boys (13-17) Teen girls (13-17)
Jr boys (6-12) Jr girls (6-12)
Tiny Tots (0-5) Day Pay

WHIRLING THUNDER GYMNASIUM

DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT!

Thank you to our sponsors!

WinnaVegas Casino Resort — Ho-Chunk

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- Care Coordinator
- Health Promotions Educator/Coordinator
- Fitness Specialist
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- Maintenance Worker
- Laborer
- Housekeeper *(all shifts)*

"apply today at: winnebagotribe.com. Click the employment tab then click Winnebago Comprehensive Health System.

We look forward to receiving your application"

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Food Distribution — USDA

WINNEBAGO

1 TURKEY PER HOUSEHOLD

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

(REGULAR HOURS AND DAYS FOR COMMODITIES (MON-FRI 9AM- 230PM)

TURKEY DISTRIBUTION DATES

WHEN: NOVEMBER 14TH – 21ST (NOV 14TH &15TH UNTIL 6PM)

WHERE: WINNEBAGO FOOD DISTRIBUTION

TIMES: 9 AM – 3 PM, SAT NOV 17 8AM – 1PM

TURKEY DISTRIBUTION ONLY

$6 Pizzas

Wednesdays and Sundays

Game Time = Pizza Time

Sundays 1-topping pizzas from noon-5pm!

Wednesday Night = Pizza Night

1-topping pizzas from 5-7pm! No limit!

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ponyexpressstores.com

PONY EXPRESS MARKET

WINTER GATHERING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

9:00AM-4:00PM

(SET UP TIME 8:00 - 9:00AM)

Whirling Thunder Wellness Gym

Bingo Food Crafts Door Prizes! ...And More!

Last 2 Bingo Game Proceeds donated to EDUCARE

VENDOR FEE

- $25/per table plus 1 door prize
- Additional $10 per extra table/per vendor

PAYMENT RESERVES A TABLE!

Pay Registration with Money Orders ONLY!

Cash or Personal Checks NOT ACCEPTED

For more info contact:
HCCDC 878-2192
WHDC 878-2241

Tables are available as FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Winnebago Housing & Development Commission
P.O. Box 671, Winnebago, NE 68071
(402) 878-2241

Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation

Next WIN News Deadline:
November 26th

Winnebago News

Thoughts on a Tough Budget…

By Lance Morgan

Some tribal employees have not gotten a wage increase for years. That is terrible. It is human nature to want progress and to think the future will be better. I had read and heard a few comments about promising raises right before the election, which is common enough I suppose. However, I was sitting in the tribal council budget meeting which dealt with the pay for the tribal employees and after some discussion regarding funding problems, the tribal council just approved last year's budget so there will once again be no raises.

Not much at all was said in the meeting. The primary discussion was that we didn't have enough money to fund everything. One tribal council member noted that our budget had evolved to be too expensive partially since grant funds had run out and we had just moved people onto the tribal payroll. This got me thinking about the tribal budget more than I usually do and so I thought I would share my thoughts.

The tribal appropriations budget is very similar to the amount before the Hard Rock Casino opened and took a chunk of business from Winna Vegas, which is the largest contributor to tribal appropriations. Typically, an entity that brings in less money will have to cut back, but the tribe has gotten several windfalls the last 4 years. We got two large settlement payments and a nice payout on the existing pipeline lease the tribe negotiated. The tribe also got the benefit of the tribal matching policy for farm land which created additional income of about $1 million per year. These things helped keep the tribe from having to make some tough financial decisions.

Unfortunately, there was no windfall this last year and none on the horizon for next year that I know of personally. With the casino in a tough competitive battle and Ho-Chunk, Inc. being hurt by our legal battle with the ATF, it makes it even tougher and helps explain why the tribe had to keep the same budget.

One of the reasons given for trying to disband the land company was the tribe needed the money in the land acquisition fund to fund current operating costs. I suppose I understand that but it sure would be nice to start buying back the entire reservation. Another suggestion was to take more money from Ho-Chunk, Inc. through our dividend, which is currently 20 percent of Net Income. We intend to raise it to 25 percent over the next few years, which will help but that alone won't be the answer.

If you look a little deeper, there are some opportunities we are missing. We are run by a political body and you don't get reelected being mean to your voters and one of the largest voting blocks in town is the tribal employees. I think we should have started a few years ago making some hard choices about what programs to fund and which ones we can't afford anymore. If we made some calculated choices about which programs are most important and productive, then we likely will have enough resources to give out modest raises. However, if we refuse to make tough choices then we get stuck with wage freezes and across the board cuts. I think it is time to get purposeful and strategic in how we spend our tribal money.

I know no one, especially our leadership, wants to cut a tribal members job, but there are open jobs all over the reservation and the Sioux city area that could be filled by our tribal members with just a little bit of coordination. The tribe is meeting with several of the large entities in town in a few weeks and I think this could be the first opportunity to figure out how we can start making some smart yet tough choices about what to fund, while finding new job opportunities for our tribal members, and hopefully giving some much-deserved raises to tribal employees.

Contact me at hochunk@aol.com

JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH

Pastor Ricky Jacob

"The Unholy Trinity - Part 3"

I am continuing my series of articles based on a book by Michael Lockwood. You will recall that the Unholy Trinity is 'Me, Myself, and I.' This time we focus on this quote of Lockwood: 'What a burden to be bound by my own self-love!'

"What's in it for me?" Today we reflect at the idolatry of loving ourselves more than our Creator, as we strive to get the universe to revolve around us and our desires. As self-interested people, we are tempted to use God primarily as a means for obtaining blessings for ourselves. We sometimes think that God should revolve around us and our desires is to turn ourselves into idols, by loving ourselves more than him. It is also to turn him into an idol, by treating him merely as someone who serves our needs. We can become much like demanding little children who throw a fit if we don't get what WE WANT!@#

'Dr. Martin Luther of the 16th century recognized that pure love for God means loving him for his own sake, without thought of ourselves. Luther connects his discovery of the Gospel to a transformation in his understanding of love. God's Sacred Word led him to see that God's love for us is primary, not our love for him. In others words, the source of love is God and flows from Him to His greatest creations - male and female.

Yet his love for us produces love in us for both him and our neighbor.' Or as the apostle John wrote: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." [1st John 4:7] The love of God should never end with you or with me. God's love is to overflow to others and blessings us with confidence and contentment, hope, peace and joy!

'The nature of sinful human beings is to love themselves more than God and all things, and to use all things including God as a means to serve their own desires. This ultimately leads to frustration, when God and his world do not conform with our sinful desires, and we discover our inability to furnish ourselves with joy. God on the other hand calls us to love him and his will without thought of ourselves.

Back to the quote of Lockwood as well as his Gospel quote: 'What a burden to be bound by my own self-love! How liberating to be caught up in love for the Lord instead.'

I close with these words from the fourth chapter of 1st John: "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" [1st John 4:9-18 NIV].

The Winnebago Health Department will be set-up at the Diabetes Awareness Health Fair on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 10am – 2pm in the Ho-Chunk Hope Classroom conducting a Community Health Survey via Survey Monkey. We will have 3 laptops available for community members to access the internet and complete this survey online. The survey is part of the overall Community Health Assessment that the health department is currently conducting. The first 250 participants will receive a $10 Walmart Gift Card. The survey is short and shouldn't take much time to complete. Please come to the Health Fair and participate in the survey.

In Loving Memory…

Werdna Irene Cleveland Foster, 79, born on March 15, 1940 in Winnebago, Nebraska passed away October 27, 2018 at her residence in Fort Wayne, Indiana due to complications of a stroke.

She was the daughter of Moses and Letha Lydia (Hittle) Cleveland. She was preceded in death by her parents, 7 sisters and 3 brothers, 1 nephew and 1 niece.

Surviving sisters Beverly (*Gordon) Thunder, Kay Cleveland Fierro, Linda Cleveland Hays, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Winnebago Wake and Burial Program with wake services until the time of funeral services on November 1, 2018 at 2:00 pm.

Council Speaks…

"GO-FOR-IT or FOREGO-IT"

I will be coming to the end of my term on the tribal council this next October, but I won't be coming to the end of my wishing for a new alcohol and counseling center (long overdue), and a new halfway house to support total recovery.

Back in the middle 80s and early 90s I was the director of the alcohol program and had a staff of three certified alcohol counselors (Native Americans, Winnebago) and three non- Indians, also state certified. Also a staff of three to manage the halfway house. I would like to think that the AIHRC was one of better programs in the Great Plaines Area at that time. We operated out of an old Assembly of God and Episcopal Church We had a Babes program in the school system and a youth center in what is now the Boys and Girls Club plus two lighted basketball courts. One might say those were the good old days, but I don't think there's such a thing as good old days. Each day should be gooder than yesterday.

I share a short story about the first two years I was the director of the alcohol program. Into my second year with the program the one and only liquor store in town burned to the ground, people suspected I had something to do with it. Comments like " boy, Kenny is really taking his job seriously, he doesn't have to go that far" Today, thirty some years later I want to tell the public, I had nothing to do with that fire. Before I get to boastful about the past alcohol program's success, I need to humble myself by letting you know that I was also fired from that same program. Not for porn on my computer, not for embezzlement of program funds, not even for unethical behavior, would you believe insubordination? That being said I would like to get to the real contents of my article.

Just recently the tribe received notice from the Planning dept. that we (tribe) were awarded a grant in the amount of 1 million dollars from the DOJ for the purpose of a new Alcohol counseling center. Thank you Planning dept. Keep up the good work. In order for the 1million to become available for the new center and half-way house the tribe has to come up with matching funds in the amount of $800 K to proceed with the project. Now the ball is in the tribal council's court, are we going to GO- FOR- IT or are we going to FOREGO- IT.

The good thing about the $800 thousand is that we as a tribe don't have to go to Shokapee or the Bank to borrow the money. We have plenty of resources in our investment portfolio that is only getting bigger with the booming economy. We would have no interests to worry about. Why seem pitiful when you don't have to? If we can just be good stewards, put the people first. I get tired of hearing "for my people, for my people, for my people' then proceed with our own agenda. We need to make educated decisions not just "shoot from the hips". Most of all, we all have to be transparent in our role as council members After all the people pay our salary, they have a right to know.

Submitted by Kenny Mallory

Footnote: My next articles will be; Why no action on the three year old hold on the Enrollment Moratorium?

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on December 1, 2018. DEADLINE for this issue will be November 26, 2018.

Winnebago Indian News

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LETTER POLICY: Signed editorials, letters and articles appearing in the WIN are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the Winnebago Indian News or the Winnebage Tribal Council.
The WIN encourages the submission of Letters to the Editor; however, letters must be signed and addressed. Letters may be edited for language and length.

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Roland Warner ..... Treasurer
Tori Kitcheyan ..... Member
Melton Frenchman ..... Member
Kenny Mallory ..... Member
Louie LaRose ..... Member
Jim Snow ..... Member

Tribal Council Minutes

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
REGULAR TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
October 1, 2018

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:
Frank White
Curtis St. Cyr
Coly Brown
Roland Warner
James Snow
Victoria Kitcheyan
Kenneth Mallory
Isaac Smith
OTHERS PRESENT:
Gloria Eagle
Barb McCauley
Donna Blain
Benny Eagle
Randy Teboe
Bill DeCora
Dulcie Greene
Tonia Keller
Shelly Bear
Josh Chamberlain
Marvin Horn
Cassie Kitcheyan
Valarie Mallory
Kathy St. Cyr
Gwen St. Cyr
Reva DeCora
Cece Earth
Wally Earth
Thelma Whitewater
Roger Whitebeaver
Luther Whitewater
Tiffani Warner
Jason Lawrence
Esther Mercer
Garan Coons
Lilly Snow
Lance Morgan
LaDonna Holstien
Matt May
Harold Cleveland
Taryn Thomas
Chiara Cournoyer
Grace Earth
Misty Jefferson
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Vincent Bass (leave)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman White called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Curtis St. Cyr offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the agenda with the addition to Victoria Kitcheyan NIHB update, and Log Cabin Issue/update. James Snow seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018-MONTHLY LAND MEETING

James Snow motioned to approve the September 14, 2018 Land Meeting minutes. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes (0) no (2) abstain, VK, IS Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 –MID-MONTHLY MEETING

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the September 17, 2018 Mid-Monthly Meeting minutes. James Snow seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2018-GENERAL COUNSEL

James Snow motioned to approve the September 19, 2018 General Counsel meeting minutes. Isaac Smith seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes(0) no (1) abstain, VK Motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2018 – CEO REPORT

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve the September 19 & 20, 2018 CEO Report with corrections. Isaac Smith seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes(0) no (1) abstain, VK Motion carried.

RATIFY FIVE SIGNATURES:

ADOPT RESOLUTION

Kenneth Mallory motioned to ratify the five signature adopting resolution #18-140: Disaster Recovery Grant. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

[Curtis out]

NEW BUSINESS:

ESTHER MERCER-AMEND RESOLUTION #18-86

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to refer to Land Management. Kenneth Mallory seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

HUMAN SERVICES- REQUEST

Isaac Smith motioned to table the Human Services request due to no show. Coly Brown seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

WALLACE EARTH – EMPLOYMENT WITH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

James Snow motioned to refer the request from Wallace Earth to the CEO. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (6) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

BARBARA MC CAULEY – COMPLAINT

Received hand written letter from Barbara McCauley on October 1, 2018 at 2:05 pm regarding Ethical Complaint.

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to accept the report of Ethical Complaint. Kenneth Mallory seconded. Kenneth Mallory withdrew his seconded. Chairman called three times for a seconded to the motion. No seconded received. Motion failed.

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

JEANIE EAGLE – COMPLAINT (ETHIC) RE: RW

Received complaint at 2:31 p.m. on October 1, 2018. Written response to WIN.

CLAUDINE COHEN – COMPLAINT (ETHIC) RE: TK:

Complainant called and cancelled.

[Isaac out]

VK- NIHB REPORT:

Kenneth Mallory motioned to table the NIHB Report. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

[Isaac in, Curtis in]

LOG CABIN ISSUE/UPDATE:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to refer the Log Cabin Issue to Physical Resources. Kenneth Mallory seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adjourn at 3:20 p.m. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes(1) no, IS (1) abstain, KM Motion carried.

Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Coly Brown, Secretary
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
TREASURER'S REPORT MEETING
October 1, 2018

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:
Frank White
Curtis St. Cyr
Coly Brown
Roland Warner
James Snow
Vincent Bass (9:25 am)
Victoria Kitcheyan (9:20 am)
Kenneth Mallory (9:14 am)
Isaac Smith
OTHERS PRESENT:
Damon Payer
Mayan Beltran
Felicia Torres
Mike Means
Alan Post
Daphne Evans
Esther Mercer
Darren Snake
Monica Smith
Shelly Bear
Dulcie Greene
Bill DeCora
Gloria Eagle
Ann Bledsoe-Downes
Wally Earth
LaTesha Bass
Josh Chamberlain
Marvin Horn
Kelly Snow
Desire Kitcheyan
Barb McCauley
Donna Blain
Thelma Whitewater
Lance Morgan
Sarah Snake
Keith Chamberlain
Jean Redhorn
Reva DeCora
Ruby Bellanger
Aric Armell
Tiffani Warner
Tonia Keller
Garan Coons
Rita Redhorn
Willy Bass
Lilly Snow
Trevor Wilke
Jason Hulit, Jr.
Kobe Smith
Christen Roberts
Luther Whitewater
Ramona Baker
Greg Bass, Sr.
Michelle Free
Cece Earth
Qui Qui St. Cyr
Doreen Meira
Tiana Bass
Avis Rice
Aaron LaPointe
Janet Bass
Jamie Saul
Mike Blackfish
Joi Long
Karla LaPointe
Eric Littlegeorge
Angel DeRochie
Maunka Morgan
Darlyn St. Cyr
Melanie Parker

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman White called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: James Snow offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

James Snow motioned to approve the agenda. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (5) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

[Kenneth in at 9:14 a.m., Victoria in at 9:20 a.m.]

WINNAVEGAS REPORT:

Roland Warner motioned to accept the August 2018 WinnaVegas Financial Report.

James Snow seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

James Snow motioned to approve the request to replace the Office AC Units through C.W. Suter for $26,190.00. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

[Vincent in at 9:25 a.m.]

GAMING COMMISSION REPORT:

Roland Warner motioned to accept the August 2018 Gaming Commission Report. James Snow seconded.

VOTE: (8) yes(0) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

TRIBAL CFO REPORT:

Alan Post presented the August

...Con't. on page 7

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News Around Winnebago

TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

By Vince Bass

Back in the days, our ancestors put food on our tables by hunting, trapping, gardening, gathering fruits, nuts, berries, mushrooms, various edible plants and even raising some livestock. There were no stores to purchase food and other goods, so our People had to live off the land to survive. Today, we can jump in our car and run to the nearest grocery store to buy food. As we know this processed food contains a lot of chemicals, preservatives and additives to enhance flavors and colors, give them a longer shelf life, make them larger and a whole slew of other so-called advantages. After years of consumption of these fruits and vegetables, consumers experience many types of diseases and ailments that are directly related to the chemicals in the foods that we eat. The only way to ensure that we are eating fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables is to grow them ourselves without any chemicals. Think about the health issues that affect us, such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, cancer and other diseases. Many of those ailments are a result of not eating healthy. Did you know that the average grocery store only has a 3 day supply of food on hand? Suppose we experienced an event that prevented food from getting to the stores. Many types of events, disasters or catastrophes could occur which could result in that happening. What would we do? How would we feed our children?

Although we live in the "bread basket" of America, we are considered a "food desert" because we do not have readily accessible fresh food sources. In Nebraska, residents spend nearly $5 billion annually on food. Approximately 90% of that money leaves the state because we do not grow our own food. This state grows mainly crops that produce seeds for livestock food and planting seed. In Winnebago, we have to go "north" to get fresh fruits and vegetables. Do we really know where the food came from, how old it is, what types of chemicals are in them, are they genetically modified? Many questions come to mind. I have heard numerous times that a government is not truly sovereign until they can feed themselves. Will we always depend on others to feed us?

My name is Vince Bass, a former Tribal Council member for 13.5 years. During the last two years of my TC service, I have been coordinating with numerous individuals and entities regarding Food Sovereignty for our Tribe. I have also grown, harvested, processed, dried and stored Indian corn in some capacity for the past 20 years. The past two years, a handful of volunteers have labored intensely to dry Indian corn to donate to funerals. I say thank you to them wholeheartedly and also to HoChunk Farms for fertilizing, plowing and planting for nearly all groups that planted. Thanks to their efforts, 4 quarts of corn were donated to each funeral until the corn ran out after 6 months. This year we had enough corn but not enough volunteers. We still dried enough corn to last 6 months again. We need more people to volunteer next year. Some church groups, Winnebago public school, LPTC and a few families on our Rez have also processed and dried corn. The bottom line is that we must start our own gardens to ensure the good health for our families. Eventually, we want to have "community gardens", cornfields, fruit orchards, a chicken farm and other livestock. HCI is building a nice new Farmers Market building which should be completed by Aug. 1, of next year. Growers, food vendors, artisans and crafters can bring their produce and creations there to trade, barter and sell. That is how we will begin to access fresh produce for our People.

On Oct. 11, I was selected to be the Farmers Market Coordinator as a contractor under a USDA grant to HCCDC to work with our community to achieve Food Sovereignty for our Tribe and our community. We will have many partners in this community and elsewhere to help achieve this, such as our Health Dept., LPTC, HoChunk Farms, HCI, our Tribal Council, Wildlife & Parks, Winnebago Public School and others. We have made numerous relationships with similar entities outside of our community that have and will continue to assist us on our path to Food Sovereignty. Our grants have allowed us to donate 120 raised garden beds last spring and we will donate another 60 garden beds this spring. More information will be distributed soon regarding our plans. We are just beginning this endeavor to bring healthy food choices to this community. Please participate and experience the joys of gardening and get our children involved. The sky is the limit regarding all the different activities we can do to get better at what we are doing. You can contact Vince Bass at 402-878-2192 or vbass@hccdc.org.

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Council Speaks…

"Greetings Relatives and Friends"

I wanted to express my appreciation for those that supported me in my placing my name on the Ballot for Tribal Council Election and electing me to serve on the Tribal Council. Every year we go through this process and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mel Frenchman and Louie LaRose for being chosen to represent the Winnebago Tribe. I would also like to thank all of the Candidates for stepping up and putting their names on the Ballot. All the way back to the Primary Election in September. It is very admirable to step up and voluntarily apply for some of the Committees and Boards we have in our Community. To get involved in the process. Whether it be Head Start Parent Committee, the Johnson O'Malley Board, the Winnebago School Board or whatever you may have signed up for. Some have even applied for the Village Board and even the County Board positions. Now that we have the election of Officers and have begun the process of what will be our Priorities for the upcoming year. I would like to see us move forward on the return of our Land (1200 Acres) in Iowa from the Corps of Engineers. We were so close to having legislation introduced last year, but a few questions arose about our plans on what would be done with those that had obtained hunting licenses from the State of Iowa. The Winnebago Tribe set up a Website for those that wanted to obtain Hunting Licenses could do so, On- Line. We will contact our Lobbyist and inquire when would be a good time to visit our Congressional Delegation. With the National Elections coming up, we will wait until those are decided and go from there.

The next Priority would be for the 12 Clans Unity Hospital to move forward with getting the CMS Survey and passing it. The Indian Health Service managed the Winnebago Hospital and lost certification in 2015. The loss of CMS Certification means the Hospital could not bill for Third Party Reimbursement. Which severely affected the services we could provide for those that used the Winnebago Hospital. Because of the failure of I.H.S. to consider this a priority, they consistently failed to give the attention required to regain CMS Certification. It was then decided to Compact the Winnebago Hospital. It has been a long process and the scheduled date for opening was July 1, 2018. Since the Winnebago Tribe has successfully completed this endeavor, it is the first Indian Health Service Hospital to be handed over to a Tribe.

The Boys and Girls Club was discussed and it has been mentioned of seeking a new Facility for our youth. When the Boys and Girls was first established, the Winnebago Tribe would provide financial assistance for the Program for one year. The Winnebago Tribe is still providing financially for the Youth who utilize the Boys and Girls Club. I think it is time to set a priority for the Board to seek necessary funding to get a building built. A gentleman, who sits as a Regional Board member for the National Boys and Girls Club would be willing to visit Winnebago and meet with the Board and Staff to evaluate and provide necessary insight to our achieving this goal. I have met with our local Veterans and contacted the Head of the Director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Nebraska and he related that since his appointment, one of his goals was to have the Tribes of Nebraska have their own Veterans Service Office. Our Local Veterans Chapter will be contacting Mr. Hilgert to set a meeting to get this process started. Health and Human Services has secured funding for the renovation of the Neola Walker Building to be utilize for their Program upon completion. The Alcohol Program has received funding to renovate the Halfway House. This has been a long awaited project and thanks to those Program Directors for getting the funding.

With the Upcoming National Elections coming up, I hope all have registered to vote. We need to be at the Polls to let our voice be heard. The Winnebago Tribe has long been viewed as a leader in Indian Country. Everyone said you can't fight the Corps of Engineers, the Winnebago Tribe sued the Corp of Engineers and Won. They said you can't beat the Power Companies. The Winnebago Tribe sued NPPD for placing Power Lines through Tribal Lands and Won. When the subject of Religious Freedom, it was Tribal Leaders (among them Winnebago Tribal Leaders) who went to Washington DC to testify. That Legislation was passed for the benefit of future Generations. We can do many things if we work together for a common goal.

We will continue to provide opportunities for our Tribal members, be it through Education, preserving the Language and Culture and job employment.

The WinnaVegas Casino is the subject of much discussion lately. Although there has been a slight decrease in projections, we still thankful for all that they provide to the Winnebago Tribe. It has been THIRTY YEARS since the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was first passed. It is one of the few Acts of Congress that has benefited the Tribes in a positive manner. I remember, when the Casino first opened, the Winnebago Tribe's Unemployment Rate was Eighty-five Percent. Here we are thirty years later and our Unemployment Rate is about Fifty Percent. The WinnaVegas Casino provides over 400 hundred jobs. The Winnebago Tribe employed about 385, prior to moving the Health Department being placed under the 12 Clans Unity Hospital.

Just wanted to get a letter out to express my gratitude for being elected to serve on the Tribal Council. What I have learned is that we can accomplish a lot if we work together. And I must add we are going on the Prayers of our Ancestors, the prayers of our Mother's and Father's. The Prayers we say for our Families, our Tribe, our relatives and friends in the Four Directions. And the prayers our Children will say. God Bless and God Bless the Children.

Respectfully, Jim Snow

Student Snack Packs

To Whom It May Concern:

The Education/Higher Education Department is contacting you on behalf of our (18) enrolled Winnebago Tribal member college students living on campus and or in dormitories off reservation.

The previous year the Education Department gathered donations from parents and interested individuals who graciously supplied our students with a "care package" containing snacks food items, granola bars Cheez-its, seeds, trail mix, micro wave popcorn, body wash, shampoo/conditioner, lotion, laundry soap, toothbrush & toothpaste, flavor packs for water, school supplies etc. Anything that our college students would need in the dorms for living during away from home.

We are looking for contributors to this year's "care package" campaign to once again supply our students with small comforts from home as they continue to strive in their education.

Any items you would be willing to donate would be greatly appreciated. Please have them to the Higher Education office by close of business on November 30th, 2018.

We would like to thank you in advance for considering this opportunity to partner with our Education Department in helping our students and their families. Our students were very appreciative of the care package, and Thanked all the kind gestures. It was great!

Please feel free to contact Rana at the Higher Education office 402.878.2631 rana.merrick@winnebagotribe.com Natalie at the Education Dept., with any questions. 402-878-4370 or email: natalie.earth@winnebagotribe.com.

Mission statement: The Tribal Education Department is dedicated to supporting educational goals by providing services to develop continuous lifelong learning; while enhancing knowledge in the Ho-Chunk culture and language

Winnebago News

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution
Open House Meeting - *Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*

Location: Little Priest Tribal College
Elk Clan Auditorium
601 East College Drive
Winnebago, NE
Date: Tuesday November 27, 2018
Time: 4:00-6:00 PM

Come for a discussion concerning Nonpoint Source Water Pollution on the Reservation. Representatives from Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality will be in attendance.

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Employment Opportunities

Extension Educator — Tribal Education and Engagement
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Nebraska Extension is looking for an Extension Educator who would provide regional expertise in northeast Nebraska by leading efforts to engage tribal youth and adults in innovative educational experiences. The primary focus is to develop comprehensive, visionary, contemporary, and educational programming that is based on tribal needs as identified by Tribes and Tribal Colleges, by enhancing partnerships, strengthening the volunteer base, increasing funding, and growing programming enrollment. For a detailed position description and application instructions, go to http://employment.unl.edu, requisition F_180189. Review of applications will be 12/3/2018. As an EO/AA employer, qualified applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation. See http://www.unl.edu/equity/notice-nondiscrimination.

Extension Educator – Tribal Education and Engagement
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Do you have the drive to help others create healthier lifestyles for a higher quality of life? Can you be a strong regional expert and develop focused, comprehensive learning programs with and for Native American Tribal people? The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension is an organization that values individuals who excel, adapt easily, exhibit passion for helping others, and are excellent communicators. As a member of the UNL Extension team you will collaborate with research and extension faculty who are leaders in their field. You will work with high performing teams to create and deliver world class, innovative learning experiences that empower Native American Tribal People to improve their lives around critical issues.

Would you like to make a positive difference in young people's lives? Do you have the drive to help us create engaging learning opportunities for tribal youth and adults? We have an excellent opportunity for a full-time faculty position located in Macy, Nebraska and serving the tribal communities in northeast Nebraska. The focus of this position is positive youth development and includes teaching and coordinating educational programs within the Northeast region and statewide.

The Tribal Education and Engagement Educator, in partnership with Tribal Representatives and Nebraska Extension, will 1) identify a framework around education and engagement that can be used to guide Nebraska Extension programming; 2) develop, deliver, and evaluate educational programming/content to engage tribal youth and adults; and 3) lead events, activities, lessons, and resources that allow tribal youth and adults to purposefully explore career options and higher education opportunities.

Required Qualifications:

Master's degree required; one degree in Education, Youth Development, Leadership Development, Entrepreneurship, Science Literacy or closely related fields. Master's degree must be completed by start date.

Successful experience teaching in a formal or informal setting.

Demonstrated ability to communicate (i.e. publications, presentations, web, and social media).

Experience in working with individuals, coworkers, and teams to accomplish individual and/or group goals, as evidenced by college, career, and/or community activities.

Experience working with and a knowledge of Native American Tribal cultures.

Preferred Qualifications:

Outstanding leadership skills as demonstrated by roles in college, career, and/or community activities.

Understanding of different ethnic and socioeconomic audiences and a commitment to developing and delivering both inclusive and targeted programming.

Successful experience in developing financial support for educational programs including grant writing, fund generation, contracting and/or cost recovery efforts.

Demonstrated ability to effectively manage multiple priorities and programs.

Experience in the development and implementation of social media policies and procedures.

Experience teaching Native American Tribal people in a formal or informal setting.

Experience teaching youth and adults.

Demonstrated ability to network with private and public agencies and/or organizations.

Review of applications will begin on December 3, 2018. Position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found or search is closed. Candidates must apply online at http://employment.unl.edu, requisition F_180189. You will be required to attach the following documents:

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- List of three professional references
- Transcripts (official or unofficial) or grade report listing courses taken, the institution where they were taken and final grade. Transcripts must be attached to the online application, attached to an email and sent to jmackin1@unl.edu, or faxed to 402-624-8010. Please make sure to black out your social security number before you send or upload your transcripts/grade report.

As an EO/AA employer, qualified applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation. See http://www.unl.edu/equity/notice-nondiscrimination.

Masthead Scene

Not seen since the early 70's the steel framework of the Indian Action Team building that started its service to the Winnebago People as a classroom. The IAT program taught young Winnebago Men the carpentry and construction arts. Head teacher Max Monkey (I don't know about the correct spelling) spent a good many years schooling The Free boys, the Bass Boys, Hayna Ga, Hayna Painter, Mick Mack, Mike Thomas and a good number of the young Winnebago boys of the time a trade they've carried throughout their life times.

Next

WIN News

Deadline:

November 26th

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV16-125

In the Matter of the Custody Petition of:
SHONNA ALDRICH
vs.
ANTHONY MENDOZA

To: ANTHONY MENDOZA,

You are hereby notified that a Custody petition has been filed and a hearing concerning the above referred Individual(s) in case no. CV16-125 has been scheduled will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 17TH day of DECEMBER, 2018 at the hour of 10:00 A.M.

Tribal News

2018 Tribal CFO Report.

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the ATLAS 2017 Budget Modification of $973.25.

James Snow seconded.

VOTE: (8) yes(0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Kenneth Mallory motioned to approve closing three (3) accounts; EduCare account #20013096, Unrestricted account #161037, and IHS Hospital Assumption account #20025403 at Liberty National Bank. Isaac Smith seconded.

VOTE: (8) yes(0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

[Isaac out]

James Snow motioned to approve the Tribal 2019 Budget with 2019 IDC and insurance adjustment Proposal. Roland Warner seconded.

VOTE: (7) yes(0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

[Isaac in]

HCI NET PROFIT OF 20%: Discussion to change rate to 25% from 20% of HCI net profit.

ADJOURN:
Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Vincent Bass seconded.
VOTE: (8) yes (0) no (0) abstain
Motion carried.

Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Coly Brown, Secretary
Winnebago Tribal Council

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA SWEARING IN CEREMONY AND TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION OF OFFICERS
October 3, 2018

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:
Frank White
Curtis St. Cyr
Roland Warner
Coly Brown
Victoria Kitcheyan
Melton Frenchman
Louis LaRose
James Snow
Kenneth Mallory

OTHERS PRESENT:
Kris Marruffo
Jack LaMere
Silas Cleveland
Jerome LaPointe
Gordon Rave
Randy DeCora
Seneca Bigfire
Craig Cleveland, Jr.
Rohahes Aldrich
Brandon Stout
Les Painter
Lewis St. Cyr
Garan Coons
Kathy LaRose
Anita LaRose
Victor Smith
Aaron LaPointe
Cindy West
Mayan Beltran
Patrick Runge
William Mallory
Sunshine Bear
Christina Parker
Thomas Snow
Dawn Snake
Julie Bassette
Lloyd Hamilton
Esther Mercer
Peggy LaRose
Phyllis Ware
Tonia Keller
Theresa St. Cyr
Lou Mae Hunter
Bill DeCora
Lowell Ten Clay
Tiffani Warner
Ann Bledsoe-Downes
Loralie DeCora
Marilyn Grant
Tania Roberts
Alan Post
Elizabeth Bayer
Monica Flores
Alonzo Frenchman
Wambli Dolezal
Gabriella Perales
Sarah Snake
Lianne Remen
Jessica Wilkerson
Donna Blaine
Kellie Snow
Crystal Ross
Carman Snow
Tara Lewis
Tina Lewis
Ofelia Hernandez
Tina Tassler
Chiara Cournoyer
Tara Hernandez
Maggie Miller
Reva DeCora
O.C. Earth
Jason Ghostdog
Jessica Wilkerson
Marian Holstein
Marian Thomas
Elizabeth White
Lilly Snow
Teresa Littlegeorge
Lance Morgan
Gwen St. Cyr
Pam Mahkak
V.J. Wolfleader
April Walker
Lucille Bigfire-Rave
Maunka Morgan
Aaron Castillo
Jaralyn Bear
Randy Teboe
Ireta Blackbird
Eugene Gilpin
Kellen Kelsey
Zachary Hansen
Richard Walker
Kim Scott
Maxine Rice
Deidre Redhorn
Kathy Frenchman
Denise Milford
Rella Walker
Joi Long
Daphane Evans
John Buschel
Kelton Chilson
Cece Earth
Sandy "Macky" Scott
Frank Smith
LaDonna Holstein
Wayne Baker
Rose Springer
Lena Snake
Elijah Snake
James Price
Levi Blackhawk
Darren Snake
King Earth
Yvette Warner
Loni Whitlok
Ben Crawford
Chris Agee

Garan Coons starts the ceremony giving recognition to the Drum Group and Veterans.

FLAG SONG: Winnebago Veterans carry in flags.

CALL TO ORDER: Ceremony and Swearing in starts at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Victor Smith offered the opening prayer.

Garan Coons introduces Judge Patrick Runge who will give the oath to the newly elected members: Melton Frenchman, James Snow, and Louis LaRose.

HONOR SONG: Winnebago Singers.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:
Patrick Runge calls for nominations for Chairman.
Roland Warner nominates Frank White.
Victoria Kitcheyan nominates Kenneth Mallory.
Nominations cease.
VOTE: Kenneth Mallory – 3 votes
Frank White – 6 votes
Frank White elected Chairman of the Tribal Council.
Frank White assume the Chair of the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Chairman White calls for nominations for Vice-Chairman.
James Snow nominates Curtis St. Cyr.
Victoria Kitcheyan nominates Kenneth Mallory.
Kenneth Mallory respectfully declines nomination.
Curtis St. Cyr elected Vice-Chairman of Tribal Council by acclimation.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY:
Chairman White calls for nominations for Secretary.
Louis LaRose nominates Kenneth Mallory.
Roland Warner nominates Coly Brown.
Nominations cease.

VOTE: Kenneth Mallory – 4 votes Coly Brown – 5 votes

Coly Brown elected Secretary of the Tribal Council.

ELECTION OF TREASURER:
Curtis St. Cyr nominates Roland Warner
Kenneth Mallory nominates Victoria Kitcheyan
Nominations cease.

VOTE: Roland Warner – 5 votes Victoria Kitcheyan – 4 votes

Roland Warner elected Treasurer of the Tribal Council.

All Tribal Council extend thanks and gratitude to the Tribal Membership.

Chairman White gives closing remarks.

Winnebago Veterans retire the flags.

Meeting adjourns at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Executive Assistant
Winnebago Tribal Chairman's Office

CONCUR:
Coly Brown, Secretary
Winnebago Tribal Council

Indianz.com…

on his Facebook page on September 14. "Now I too am a victim of disenrollment. I will fight it and we will win. Time for a new constitution for the Omaha and to rid ourselves of less than leaders on our so-called tribal council. Shame on them."

The Omaha Tribe held its 214th annual Umonhon Hedewachi Powwow in Macy, Nebraska, this past August. Shown here are dancers and spectators at the 2016 event.

According to the September 10 letter to Keen from the Omaha Tribal Council, the council made its decision to disenroll Keen after learning he had been enrolled in the Cherokee Nation in 1992, 10 years after becoming an Omaha tribal member.

On September 21, Omaha Vice-Chairman Orville Cayou sent a follow-up letter to the tribe's citizens explaining the council's decision to reassert the tribe's constitutional provisions.

"We would like to stress to our membership that there is no mass disenrollment occurring," he wrote. "We understand our membership may have concerns and we will be available to answer any and all questions."

Despite the tribe's provision calling for automatic disenrollment of citizens who become enrolled in other tribes, Galanda said he believes the tribe had a responsibility to give Keen and the other dually enrolled citizens a chance to respond to the decision.

"The word 'automatic' does not mean you don't get due process," he said.

While the Omaha Tribe's decision to rescind the citizenship of dually enrolled members concerns him, Galanda said he's even more concerned about the council's September 10 decision to change the way the tribe decides who can be citizens. According to a resolution passed by the council, the tribe has reverted to basing citizenship decisions on its 1964 citizenship roll, which is essentially a list of citizens at that time.

Prior to the decision, the Omaha Tribe had based its citizenship on its 1989 base roll. By reverting to an earlier base roll, the tribal council effectively reduced the number of people who could then fulfill the tribe's requirement that citizens have at least one-quarter Omaha blood quantum, Galanda said.

"Hundreds of Omaha Indians just had their blood quantum adjusted downward by honoring only the 1964 base rolls, and that portends disaster for Omaha, meaning mass exodus and mass disenrollment," Galanda said.

Gabe Galanda, an attorney and citizen of the Round Valley Indian Tribes, says the Omaha Tribe failed to provide due process to those removed from its rolls. Courtesy photo

Wolfe, however, argued the council's decision to base its citizenship requirements on the 1964 base roll was based on a desire to correct past mistakes of tribal leaders.

"Previous enrollment directors have done things incorrectly," he said. "We're not going to be part of wrongdoing. We're going to be part of correction."

Galanda said the use of blood quantum to decide tribal citizenship is contrary to traditional Native practices. Using blood quantum to determine tribal citizenship became prevalent after the passage of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, which provided tribes a means to preserve their lands by placing them in federal trust and established a way for tribes to create governments, he said.

Galanda said those tribes that established governments under the Indian Reorganization Act have often been the ones that have suffered the most from government corruption and dysfunction. Those tribes have lost connection to their traditional forms of leadership, which provided ways for preventing any one person from becoming too powerful, he said.

"The politician sees that void in spiritual or religious or cultural leadership or peacemaking and they go even harder towards whatever they're after – getting rid of people, absconding with more money, staying in power," Galanda said.

He said the Omaha Tribe certainly has experienced tribal corruption, having seen many of its leaders prosecuted following a 2012 scandal involving a $389,000 payment to several council members and tribal members. The payment was meant to be an incentive for those who helped prepare documents for a contract support costs case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But the tribe hadn't actually received any money from the case at that point, and nine tribal leaders were later indicted for misusing federal funds.

Taylor Keen is seen her performing as Chief Standing Bear, the Ponca leader who brought his people back to Nebraska in the late 1800s. Photo: Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs

More recently, the tribe came under fire for failing to properly spend Federal Emergency Management Agency funds following disastrous flooding along the Missouri River in 2011 that destroyed 11 tribal-owned homes and damaged the tribe's casino and irrigations systems.

According to a 2017 report by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, the OIG could only verify $3 million of the $16.9 million awarded to the tribe for flood recovery.

"This appears to be a tribe, from what I've read in the headlines, that's lost its way," Galanda said.

He said tribes that conduct mass disenrollments often do so in order to increase the amount of financial support the tribe can provide to individual members, whether it be through per capita payments or through social or health care programs.

Efforts to educate tribes about the negative impacts of disenrollment have reduced the number of mass disenrollments in recent years, Galanda said. Public disclosure of mass disenrollments also has helped to shame tribal leaders from removing citizens from their tribal rolls, he said.

But much work remains, he said.

National Native organizations like the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Gaming Association need to start talking about disenrollment in order to make it clear that it is not an acceptable practice in Indian Country, Galanda said.

"They have contributed to the epidemic that is disenrollment by their silence," he said. "They've enabled the next group of tribal politicians like the Omaha leadership to do what they're doing to their own relatives because they're not placing blame or shame where it belongs, which is on the people that would do this to their own people."

Beyond public shame, however, tribal citizens have little recourse for fighting disenrollment because tribes are granted almost unfettered jurisdiction in deciding citizenship, Galanda said. The only hope most dis-enrollees have of regaining tribal citizenship is through political action and removal of tribal leaders who conduct mass disenrollments, he said.

Among the Omaha people, Keen and the other 16 dually enrolled citizens who recently lost their tribal citizenship aren't the first to be removed the tribe's membership.

Rick Grant, 43, was notified in March that the tribal council had removed him as a citizen because of his concurrent enrollment in the Santee Sioux Tribe.

Grant, who had served as an information technology manager for the tribe's health clinic, said he believes the decision to remove him as a citizen was politically motivated. He said he had become critical of tribal leadership in the months prior to being disenrolled.

He has since moved to North Dakota but says he is hopeful the decision to remove him as an Omaha tribal citizen can still be reversed through political action.

"I was born an Omaha and I'm going to die an Omaha," he said. "They tried to take all of that away from me. They tried to take away the place I call home."

Promient Native voices, including actor Irene Bedard, have taken part in the "Stop Disenrollment" campaign aimed at documenting mass disenrollments in Indian Country.

Like Grant, Keen believes the decision to rescind his tribal citizenship was politically motivated.

Following recent tribal government scandals, corrupt tribal leaders within the tribe have fewer ways of enriching themselves financially, he said. Disenrollment allows them to increase the amount of financial support for each tribal member, he said.

And disenrolling Keen, in particular, allowed the tribe to remove him as chairman of the Blackbird Bend Corporation, the Omaha Tribe's economic development arm. He said he worries tribal leaders will take advantage of the leadership vacuum they've created in that organization, which Keen served for eight years.

"I don't know how much that has to do with this," he said. "I guess they think they can get away with it."

Wolfe said the council's decision to disenroll dually enrolled citizens had nothing to do with Keen's role in the tribal corporation. As for the council's decision to remove him as chairman of the corporation, Wolfe said the council decided it was time for a change within the organization.

"For him to attack us in this way, this is being disrespectful," he said. "This has nothing to do with the Blackbird Bend Corporation."

Keen said he has begun a political movement to change the tribe's constitution in order to allow Omaha tribal citizens to be enrolled in other tribes as well.

"No piece of paper or resolution from a broken form of government is going to take away my identity," he said. "If their intention was to hurt me, well, they've made a martyr out of me."

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