



An HoChunk Actress, Lillian St.Cyr Story

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STORYTELLERS: Part 3

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Volume 55, Number 2

Hūc wiconī na
First Bear Moon

Saturday, January 31, 2026



Chief Little Priest / Huk-xunu-ga (1829-1866) is our featured masthead for this second issue of the 2026 Winnebago Indian News. Chief Little Priest is the last great war chief of our Hocak people. Many stories have been written about his life, and his legacy lives on to this day. Our tribal college also bears his name in honor of his dying statement, "Be strong and educate my children." Our annual Homecoming Celebration honors the return of Chief Little Priest and the Fort Omaha Company "A" Scouts. In 2026, the Winnebago people will mark 50 years since the construction of the current site for our powwow celebration – Veteran's Memorial Park. In 1976, the people built that celebration grounds area into what we see in large part today. Our people celebrate our heritage with the best powwow grounds anywhere for over half a century now. The Winnebago tribe will host the 160th Annual Homecoming Celebration during the traditional last full weekend in July, which is July 23rd – 26th, 2026.

A Community Discussion On Membership



By Bethani Redhorn
Photography from WIN Archive

[Winnebago, NE] On Thursday, January 15, 2026, the Winnebago Tribal Enrollment Committee hosted a hybrid-styled community forum at the Whirling Thunder Wellness Center in the evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Tribal members were able to attend in-person or virtually using the Zoom link. The purpose of the event was to discuss the current enrollment criteria for the Winnebago Tribe and to give tribal members an opportunity to provide feedback on whether the current enrollment criteria should remain the same or if updates should be made.

The agenda for the enrollment forum began with welcoming remarks and a prayer by Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's Tribal Councilmember Eugene DeCora,

followed by the meal and presentation that was presented by Danelle Smith, WTN Legal Counsel from Big Fire Law & Policy Group LLP.

It was explained that the legal foundation for Winnebago's enrollment starts with the Tribal Constitution, this defines enrollment criteria and delegates certain authority to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council exercises powers by adopting Tribal codes, resolutions, and motions. The Tribal Enrollment Code is the law of the tribe, it establishes authority of the Enrollment Committee, department, and processes. The Enrollment Committee is appointed by Tribal Council, establishing policies and procedures, reviewing enrollment applications, and making recommendations to the Tribal Council. Carrying out the day-to-day operations in compliance with the Constitution, Tribal code, and

policies and procedures is the Winnebago Enrollment department.

During the presentation, Danelle outlined the current standing for tribal membership, the above-mentioned legal foundation, the history of blood quantum, the Indian Reorganization Act, current criteria for tribal enrollment, an enrollment timeline, considerations towards enrollment, and explained the process for Secretarial Election.

Following the presentation, there was a concluding portion for questions and comments. Various tribal members provided feedback, which included both questions and comments about the current criteria for enrollment, inquiring about different enrollment scenarios. One of the questions

Con't. on page 2...

Making Dreams into Reality: Sweet Thangs Diner



By Bethani Redhorn
Photography by Tyler Snake

[Winnebago, NE] Making their dreams into reality, Winnebago Tribal Members Keri LaPointe and Greg Walker turned three lemons into a food truck which has now evolved into a diner that is located inside of Ho-Chunk Village in Winnebago, NE. It has been two months since the grand opening of Sweet Thangs Diner on November 20, 2025, and business has been up and running.

The Winnebago Indian News recently sat down for an interview at the new diner to hear about the Sweet Thangs story and learn more about their business. LaPointe shared that the story began in their garage with only

three lemons, which was followed by their signature rolled ice cream and then the food truck. The couple set up the food truck in the front yard of their home and began taking orders, while also developing the area to offer a dine in option and be more welcoming for customers. LaPointe stated that many of Sweet Thangs loyal customers included the local youth, who would stop over to the food truck after practice or a game.

In January 2025, planning for Sweet Thangs Diner began with a full renovation of the space, designed by Keri and Greg themselves, where they were able to personalize and create a diner vibe. Inside the diner, you will find a dedicated display for "Flame Keepers," which Keri describes as

the important individuals who helped Sweet Thangs Diner come to fruition. The Flame Keepers include Aaron and Jade LaPointe, Pearl LaPointe, Jack and Emma LaMere, Kenneth and Brenda Vampola, Carlos and Veronica Meraz, and Lance Morgan.

The diner, located at 201 Ho-Chunk Plaza, currently features a lot of home-cooked foods, including all-day breakfast, appetizers, entrees, a kid's menu, rolled ice cream flavors, a variety of drinks, and baked goods such as pies and cookies. They are open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with options for dining in, carryout, or delivery, and offers catering services. To stay in the know, you can follow Sweet Thangs on Facebook: @sweet.thangs.baby

Nī šoc Nīgešana

By: Tyler Snake



On January 22nd, Ho-Chunk, Inc. hosted a fan appreciation night at the Winnebago Indians vs. The Ponca Indians game. The first 450 fans received hotdogs and a half-time shot for a pop fundraiser. Proceeds went towards the Winnebago Veterans Association. The Ponca Varsity girls won 33-62. The Winnebago Varsity boys won 76-54.



The WPS Indians competed at the Oakland-Craig Invitational. Girls' results: Zowie Wilkie and Ziniyah Redhorn took 3rd, Lula Decora and Ricarda Littlewalker took 2nd, and Javianna Chavez and Eva Nieman placed 5th. Boys' results: Jared Doxey took 1st, Jacob Lincoln 2nd, Ho-Hump Snake 3rd, EJ Latray 4th, and Drake Griffin and Patrick finished 5th.



On January 12th, Ho-Chunk Renaissance started their Princess Etiquette Program. Over the course of 4 weeks, 10 young ladies in grades 4th-8th will be able to learn various cultural things like the language, self-introductions, teachings passed down through generations and more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...Cont. from front page: WINNEBAGO TRIBAL ENROLLMENT FORUM...

that were posed was, why now? Winnebago Tribal Councilmember Victoria Kitcheyan spoke on the ongoing discussion revolving around enrollment, mentioning the continued efforts that have been made over the years by the Winnebago Tribal Council and the Enrollment Committee, including a resolution for a Secretarial Election and multiple survey initiatives.

The recent Winnebago Enrollment Survey had a deadline of December 5, 2025, and was extended to January 31, 2026. The goal was to obtain at least 40% of surveys completed by enrolled members which was estimated at 1,796. As of Friday, January 23, 2026, there have been 958 surveys submitted. The forum was recorded by the Winnebago Tribe's Communications department and is available for viewing by any Winnebago Tribal Members. To view the recording, email the WTN Webmaster Christina Parker: christina.parker@winnebagotribe.com.



FREE TRIBAL I.D.s FOR ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

AVAILABLE FOR 60 DAYS ONLY

The Winnebago Tribal Council has authorized the Enrollment Department to issue Tribal I.D. cards for all enrolled tribal members at NO COST for a limited time.

This action was approved to support and protect Tribal members during current federal enforcement activities.

WHY GET A TRIBAL I.D.?

- Confirms your Tribal Citizenship.
- Helpful when presented with a State I.D. or Passport.
- Provides peace of mind for you and your family.

QUESTIONS?

Phone: (402) 878-2028
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Email: enrollment@winnebagotribe.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Under the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, all Native people born within the territorial limits of the United States are recognized as U.S. citizens by birthright. As Tribal citizens of a sovereign nation, Tribal I.D.s help affirm that status.

Authorized by Winnebago Tribal Council - January 14, 2026

NEW FACES IN WTN PLACES!

Welcome to our newest
Winnebago Tribal Employees!



Glenda Bruggeman
Tribal Enrollment
Enrollment Clerk

Brandy Baker
WTN Social Services
Caseworker 1



Derrick Littlebear
Tribal Facilities
Custodian



David Wingett
Wildlife & Parks
Conservation Officer



Jacie Walker
Ho-Chunk Renaissance
Language Apprentice

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTS:

Women's
Talking
Circle

A Weekly Event
Where Everyone
Has a Voice.

Every Last Thursday
-We will go to
Souix City to
Celebrate Recovery.

Need a Ride? Call
(402)-922-0055



Where:

104 East Waddell St
Winnebago, NE
BLUE TRAILER



When:

Every
Thursday @
5:15PM-7 pm

MEETINGS TO FOLLOW EVERY THURSDAY AT THE SAME TIME & PLACE WEEKLY.
QUESTIONS? Call: 402-257-5586

DURING LAST BEAR MOON POWWOW WEEKEND....

GOLE SIMULATOR TOURNAMENT

Winnevegas Casino Resort **WGA SPONSORED EVENT**



50% of the proceeds
will go towards WGA
Fundraising Efforts!
50% Towards Flight
Winners!!

PAYMENT DUE
WEDNESDAY FEB. 19TH **CASH OR CHECK ONLY!**

27-28TH FEB 2026 | \$120 PER TEAM

20 TEAM LIMIT, 2-MAN SCRAMBLE, 18 HOLES, 2 FLIGHTS, DRINK TICKETS, SHIRTS, & CHAMPION HATS!

Please contact Anthony Earth @712-253-1059 or Aaron LaPointe @402-922-3721 for Entry, Payment, and to Reserve a Tee Time!

**NEXT W.I.N. DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Wāgax hūk ra wāgax hokik'una

Letter to the Editor

ATTENTION WTN GARBAGE CUSTOMERS:

All garbage collection patrons of the Winnebago Tribe will have their service provider reassigned from Gill Hauling (WMS) to Kings Disposal Co. beginning **March 1st, 2026**.

Kings Disposal will be delivering replacement dumpsters to your residence prior to their collection start date. Gill will be collecting their dumpsters on or before **February 28th, 2026**.

All billing and payment information remains unchanged. Collection days will also be communicated once the new disposal route is completed by Kings Disposal. Also, recycling options may be available following the onset of services with Kings Disposal. Details for additional service options, including fees, will be provided at a later date.

Please contact Kristin Neff with any questions at (402) 878-2203 ext. 2105, or by email at: kristin.neff@winnebagotribe.com



LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. CV26-021

In the Matter of the
Name Change Petition of:
LATRICIA LUCERO to LATRICIA
BLACKHAWK

To: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

You are hereby notified that a petition for Name Change has been filed and a hearing concerning the above-referred Individual in case no. CV26-021 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska, on the 19th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, at the hour of 11:30 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Case No. JFJ26-012
The People of the Winnebago Tribe
In the Interest of:
E.E.S. (Born 09/2012)

To: DELRAE MEDICINE HORSE,
Mother
GEORGE ELKSHOULDER, FATHER

You are hereby notified that a hearing for an Initial Appearance concerning the above referred minor individual(s) in case no. JFJ26-012 has been scheduled and will be heard in the Winnebago Tribal Court of Winnebago, Nebraska on the 25th day of FEBRUARY, 2026 at the hour of 11:30 A.M.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COURT

IN RE ESTATE OF)	CASE NO. CV25-016
MARY ANN HULIT,)	
Deceased Person,)	NOTICE TO CREDITORS
)	
PATRICK E. HULIT, Jr,)	
Personal Representative.)	

TO: All creditors of DECEDENT.

You are hereby notified that PR has been appointed as Personal Representative for the Estate of Mary Ann Hulit, who died on February 3, 2023. Pursuant to Winnebago Tribal Code §14-115, you have ninety days from the date of this Notice to file a claim against the Estate of Decedent with the Winnebago Tribal Court, or be forever barred from exercising that claim.

Dated this 30th day of October, 2025.

Personal Representative

JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN OUTREACH



by: Pastor Ricky Jacob

'Good. Better. Best.'

I know that many of my family members and friends are Chicago Bears fans. Their coach Ben Johnson drills into them: Good. Better. Best. Never Let it Rest. Till Your Good Gets Better and Your Better Gets Best!

The Chicago Bears were in the NFL playoffs for the first time in many years. They somehow won their first playoff game against the Green Bay Packers coming from behind. They almost won their second playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams losing in overtime. Their Best was not good enough.

When it comes right down to it - no one is good enough when it comes to one's relationship with one's Creator. Even our best is not good enough. Unfortunately, many are living their lives in opposition to Creator God. They are Bad. Worse. Worst. That is how the tribe of Israel was living in the day of Amos in around 750 BC.

Amos was sent by Creator God to condemn those who were the worst of the worst. They were trampling on the poorest of the poor [Amos 2:7a]; each man and his father would go in to the young woman, so that they were defiling Creator God's holy name [Amos 2:7b]. They drank wine obtained

through fines in the temple of their false gods [Amos 2:8b].

And yet, Creator God through the prophet Amos offers hope to those who did not deserve mercy. In the final verses of Amos' letter he offers hope. Yes, Creator God through the prophet Amos offered hope to a hopeless people. He offers this same hope to you.

Jesus offers you his best - and that is good enough. Jesus, due to his sinless sacrifice, offers you rest - the rest of having your burden of sin offloaded that Amos spoke about. Creator God sent His Son, the Messiah, God's anointed One to bear the burden of the sin of the tribe of Israel. And not only to those tribal members, but to people of each and every tribe, language and nation.

I close with the admonition that the life of a Christian, the life of one led by God's Spirit placing his/her faith in Jesus will follow the Bear's coaching words. Through faith in Jesus - Creator God is well pleased with you. Therefore you, the believer in Jesus, are good in God's eyes. Then your good will get better and better, and you will never let it rest till your good gets better and your better gets best! All of this is the blessed work of God's Spirit - in and through you.

Hōcāk Wōšgā

HoChunk Values

Rō hašjn̄ ŋa hirakikara wiāje.
Take care of your health.

HoChunk Renaissance
The Official Language Program of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

HO-CHUNK Way

2026 Application Now Open!

Now accepting applications from Winnebago community organizations

DEADLINE: February 13, 2026

Ho-Chunk, Inc.'s Employee Donation Program

SCAN TO APPLY

hochunkinc.com/hcw2026

LEGACY LEARNING PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS OPEN JAN. 19!

This cohort focuses on renovating homes with our community. Participants gain hands-on, real-world experience in carpentry and maintenance through a training program lasting up to five months.

APPLY ONLINE BY:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Completed in partnership with the Winnebago Housing and Development Commission

SCAN ME!

hochunkinc.com/careers

The next issue of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS will be published on February 14, 2026. DEADLINE for this issue will be February 10, 2026.



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The Winnebago Indian News (WIN), founded in January 1972, is published bi-weekly for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

The Mission of the WIN is to inform and to educate the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska of issues that affect them, and to be a vehicle in which stresses positive and beneficial concerns and points of view. 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 Winnebago 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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Isaac Smith.....Vice Chairman
Teresa Littlegeorge.....Secretary
Rona Stealer.....Treasurer
Victoria Kitcheyan.....Member
Ireta Frazier.....Member
Trey Blackhawk.....Member
Lorelei DeCora.....Member
Eugene DeCora.....Member



TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA REGULAR TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING January 5, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown
Isaac Smith
Teresa Littlegeorge
Eugene DeCora
Trey Blackhawk
Victoria Kitcheyan
Ireta Frazier
Lorelei DeCora
Rona Stealer (in at 9:07 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chad Smith
Darla LaPointe
Tiffany Buchanan
Anna Bess Preston
Jae Payer
Barbara Pretends Eagle
Char Richardson
Charli O Earth

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:05 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Councilwoman Kitcheyan offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Chairman Brown gives notice that he wants to work pay increases for non-officer Tribal Council members and possibly all council members to at least match our DHD.

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the amended agenda. Ireta Frazier seconded.

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

December 15, 2025 – Mid-Monthly Tribal Council meeting minutes.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the December 15, 2025, Mid-Monthly Tribal Council meeting minutes. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

December 17, 2025 – General Counsel meeting minutes

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the December 17, 2025, General Counsel meeting minutes.

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

RATIFY FIVE SIGNATURES:

Approval of Resolution #26-60: Young Natural Resources Professionals Cohort FY 25

Rona Stealer motioned to ratify the five-signature approval of Resolution #26-60: Young Natural Resources Professionals Cohort FY 25. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

Approval for the Tribal Council to cover the cost of 2025 All Natos Championship Hoodies for the football team.

Eugene DeCora motioned to ratify the five-signature approval for the Tribal Council to cover the cost of 2025 All Natos Championship Hoodies for the football team. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Approval of Resolution #26-61: Amendments to Winnebago Tribal Code, Title 3, Article 7 Protection of Schools and Restricted or Sensitive Areas from Dangerous Weapons.

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to ratify the five-signature approval of Resolution #26-61: Amendments to Winnebago Tribal Code, Title 3, Article 7 Protection of Schools and Restricted or Sensitive Areas from Dangerous Weapons. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter of Support for Flandreau Indian Boarding School

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve to send the letter to Bureau of Indian Education in Support of Flandreau Indian Boarding School funding and to use some of the content for testimony that the Tribe will provide in the future. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

State Chess Champion

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve to purchase a jacket for the 2025 WPS Chess Champion funding to come from Tribal Council donations. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

Tribal Council salary increases

Discussion regarding the job descriptions from 1994, and the amounts are the

same. Will research further and place on an upcoming agenda.

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

Executive Session

Eugene DeCora motioned to enter executive session at 9:31 a.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to exit executive session at 10:53 a.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to appoint Lisa (Livingston) Walker to the Winnebago Gaming Commission for a 3-year term, at a \$55,000 salary. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Lorelei DeCora

VOTE: (6) yes (2) no, IS, LD (0) abstain Motion carried.

Isaac Smith motioned to schedule a meeting with Winnebago Gaming Development Corporation Board for an update on current situation. Lorelei DeCora seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN:

Eugene DeCora motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribal Council*

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA TREASURER'S REPORT MEETING January 6, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown
Teresa Littlegeorge
Rona Stealer
Ireta Frazier
Lorelei DeCora
Victoria Kitcheyan
Trey Blackhawk (in at 9:28 a.m.)
Eugene DeCora (in at 9:21 a.m.)
Isaac Smith (in at 11:04 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Grant
Ray Thomas
Tom Teesdale
Angel Derochie
David Edwards
Beth Wewel
Brittany Thomas
Kellen Kelsey
Simon Wood
Blake Harkness
Darell Hill
Monica Flores
Petra Nielsen
Cecelia Earth
Anna Bess Preston
Kellie Snow
Nakia Mallory
Cheryl Painter
Kiana Lewis
Lynelle Blackhawk
Darla LaPointe
Tanya Baker
Alfred Lopez
Terri Lee Medina
Charli Earth
Ron Nohr
Aaron LaPointe
Christina Parker
Karl Baker
Willy Bass
Thomas Snow
Tyresha Romero
Ricky Suarez
Joi Long
Billie Kitcheyan
Tiffany Buchanan

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:07 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Brittany Thomas, Planning Director, offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to approve the amended agenda. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Presentation from Tribal Energy Alternatives presented by Simon Wood, Blake Harkness, and Darell Hill.

[Eugene in at 9:21 a.m.]

[Trey in at 9:28 a.m.]

[Rona out at 9:47 a.m., in at 9:50 a.m.]

Break: Technical difficulties 10:10 am, reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

[Teresa in at 10:20 a.m.]

Lorelei DeCora motioned to adopt Resolution #26-62: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska – Tribal Energy Alternative (Tea) – Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (Grant).

Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Victoria, Rona

Discussion

Teresa Littlegeorge withdrew the second, until review of the Agreement that is being offered.

Lorelei DeCora withdrew her motion.

Eugene Motioned to table the resolution until the PRD Report on Monday and to have Planning Department circulate the agreement for review. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

[Victoria out at 10:55 a.m.]

WTN FINANCIALS: Presented by Cheryl Painter, Interim CFO

[Victoria in at 11:02 a.m.]

[Isaac in at 11:04 a.m.]

[Isaac out at 11:11 a.m., in at 11:17 a.m.]

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Winnebago Tribal October and November 2025 Financial Report as presented. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

Discussion: Statement from Liberty, and an update on the BIA ARPA funds.

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

WCHS/12 CLANS FINANCIAL

REPORT: Presented by Beth Wewel and David Edwards.

Tribal Council has September and October reports, the November report was not received for the Tribal Council to review.

[Eugene out at 11:24 a.m., in at 11:27 a.m.]

The November Report will be presented at the next Treasurer's Report.

October Financials and Revenue Cycle Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the October Financials and Revenue Cycle reports. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

WINNEBAGO GAMING COMMISSION REPORT: Presented by Nakia Mallory

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the October and November 2025 Winnebago Gaming Commission Reports. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

[Isaac out during the vote]

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

BREAK: 11:51 a.m., reconvene at 12:09 p.m.

WARHORSE FINANCIAL REPORT: Presented by Angel Derochie and Lance Morgan.

[Isaac in at 12:19 p.m.]

Teresa Littlegeorge October and November 2025 Financial Reports.

Eugene DeCora seconded the motion

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

Presentation of the Warhorse revenue check to the Tribal Council.

RECESS: 12:56 p.m., reconvened at 1:53 p.m.

WINNAVEGAS FINANCIAL REPORT:

[Eugene in at 1:55 p.m.]

[Isaac out in at 1:55 p.m.]

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORTS: Presented by Mark Grant

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the WinnaVegas October and November 2025 Financial Reports. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

MARKETING PRESENTATION: Presented by Petra Nielsen

WINNAVEGAS APPROVALS: Presented by Petra Nielsen and Tom Teesdale

The Marketing Department is requesting approval of the January and February 2026 "\$200,000.00 Cash Plus" promotional drawings.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve the Marketing Department request of the January and February 2026 "\$200,000.00 Cash Plus" promotional drawings. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

The Marketing Department is requesting approval of the March 2026 "On the House" promotional drawings.

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the Marketing Department request for the March 2026 "On the House" promotional drawings. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

The Marketing Department is requesting approval of the April 2026 Continuity Program entitled "Delta Matte & Matte Rose Appliances".

The Marketing Department is requesting approval of the May 2026 Continuity Program entitled "It's a Banger!".

The Marketing Department is requesting approval of the June 2026 Continuity Program entitled "American Patriotism!"

Rona Stealer motioned to approve the Marketing Department requests for the April, May, and June 2026 Continuity Programs. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

NCAI Resolution and Dues

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to adopt resolution #26-62: National Congress of American Indians Membership, appointing Rona Stealer as the Delegate and Eugene DeCora as the Alternate also approving the payment of NACI dues of membership. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Executive Session

Eugene DeCora motioned to go into Executive Session at 2:53 p.m. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

[Rona out at 3:03 p.m., in at 3:06 p.m.]

Eugene DeCora motioned to exit Executive Session at 3:24 p.m. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN:

Eugene DeCora motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribal Council*

WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL PHYSICAL RESOURCES REPORT January 12, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown
Teresa Littlegeorge
Ireta Frazier
Trey Blackhawk
Eugene DeCora
Lorelei DeCora
Victoria Kitcheyan (in at 9:10 a.m.)
Isaac Smith (in at 9:53 a.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christina Parker
Brian Chamberlain
Darla LaPointe
Autumn Nieman
Kellie Snow
Danelle Smith
Tom Teesdale
Fannie LaTray
Annabess Preston
Harvey Freemont
Ron Nohr
Barbara Pretends Eagle
Cecelia Earth
Brittany Thomas
Trisha Rivers
Tiffany Buchanan
Natalie Davis
Tyresha Romero
James Price, Sr.
Willy Bass
Lynelle Blackhawk
TRIBAL COUNCIL ABSENT:
Rona Stealer (PTO)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:07 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Brian Chamberlain, Physical Resources Director, offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the amended agenda. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Tribal Energy Alternatives – Ron Nohr presented overview.

[Victoria in at 9:10 a.m.]

Lorelei DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-63: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska - Tribal Energy Alternatives (TEA) – Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

LAST BEAR MOON POW-WOW COMMITTEE:

Request to allow Food Trucks at the LBM Pow-wow.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve to allow the Food Trucks to participate as vendors at the Last Bear Moon Pow-wow. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

ABSTAIN: Ireta Frazier

VOTE: (4) yes (1) no, LD (1) abstain Motion carried.

LAND MANAGEMENT:

Homesite Cancellation – JP

Ireta Frazier motioned to adopt resolution #26-64: REF: Cancellation of Home Site Lease, Julie Paulsen. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Homesite Cancellation – KC

Eugene DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-65: REF: Cancellation of Home Site Lease, Kelton Chilson. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Amend Resolution 26-37

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adopt resolution #26-37A: Amending REF: Agricultural Lease Bid – Allotment 233L David Shallon, 357 Jacob Horn. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Amend Resolution 26-40

Ireta Frazier motioned to adopt resolution #26-40A: Amending REF: Authorizing Request for and Approving Withdrawal Tribal Appropriated Funds and Approving Land Purchase from Cynthia Earth. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Amend Resolution 26-42

Eugene DeCora motioned to adopt resolution #26-42A: RE: Authorizing Request for and Approving Withdrawal Trial Appropriated Funds and Approving Land Purchase from Jade Harden. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

PHYSICAL RESOURCES REPORT:

Monthly Report – Presented by Autumn Nieman, and Brian Chamberlain

[Eugene out at 9:33 a.m., in at 9:36 a.m.]

[Isaac in at 9:53 a.m.]

Discussions: Wildlife and Parks Conservation Officers and Security moving to the Winnebago Police Department.

BIA- PD Lease Payments – Informational

Pow-wow Grounds 50-year anniversary – Informational.

Fire/EMS Lease – Informational.

[Teresa out at 10:22 a.m., 10:25 a.m.]

EPD/Facilities Garbage Proposal – Presented by Sasha Rivers.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to authorize the Winnebago Tribe's Facilities Department solid waste service provider from Gill Hauling to King's Disposal. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

WLP Information

Legal Funding for JD Modifications Reimbursement for transport costs associated with PD on call.

Job Description modifications

There is a working plan for SLEC.

CONSTRUCTION TAX – PRD ASSISTANCE:

[Rona in at 10:44 a.m.]

Lorelei DeCora motioned to authorize the Physical Resources Department to collect Construction Tax Information to assist. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

Museum Building Repair – Update from Ron Nohr.

Sewer Line by Store – Update from Ron Nohr.

[Isaac out at 10:57 a.m., in at 10:59 a.m.]

RTCAC Indigenous Food and Agricultural Travel – TBH

Isaac Smith motioned to approve travel for Trey Blackhawk to attend Regional Tribal Advisory Council at the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in Miami, FL. On January 19-23, 2026.

Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

ABSTAIN: Trey Blackhawk

VOTE: (7) yes (0) no (1) abstain Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Eugene DeCora motioned to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Littlegeorge, Secretary
Winnebago Tribal Council*

WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA CEO REPORT MEETING January 14, 2026

TRIBAL COUNCIL PRESENT:

Coly Brown
Rona Stealer
Teresa Littlegeorge
Ireta Frazier
Trey Blackhawk
Eugene DeCora
Lorelei DeCora
Isaac Smith
OTHERS PRESENT:
Gordon Rave
Bruce Kennedy
Caroline Fiscus
Velma Alaniz
Aric Armell
Anthony Snake
Darla LaPointe
Christina Parker
Chad Smith
Tiffany Buchanan
Larry Payer
Anthony Bassette, Jr.
Alfred Lopez
Kevin Ebert
Kellie Snow
Kiana Lewis
Victoria Kitcheyan
Danelle Smith
Taylor Bass
Tyresha Romero
Crystal White

OTHERS PRESENT (CONTINUED):

Cecelia Earth
Anna Bess Preston
Terri Lee Medina
Bethani Redhorn
Lynelle Blackhawk
Maggie Miller
Jennifer Berridge
Brian Chamberlain
Janelle DeCora
Billie Kitcheyan
Ramona Sheridan
Willy Bass
Amy LaPointe
James Price, Sr.
Peggy LaRose
Rebecca DeCora
Natalie Earth
Karl Baker
Brittany Thomas
Tatanka Petite
Carmelita LaTrey
Audreanna Levering
Lisa DeCora
Randy DeCora
Oyate Means
Jonna Price
Dulcie Paiva
Joi Long
Adrianna Alcaraz
Marshall Bass
Sarah Snake

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Brown called to order at 9:02 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Larry Payer offered the opening prayer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Isaac Smith motioned to approve the agenda. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Veterans

Discussion
Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to enter Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to exit Executive Session at 10:10 a.m. Isaac Smith seconded the motion.

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

BREAK: 10:10 A.M., reconvene at 10:25 a.m.

Isaac Smith motioned to adopt resolution #26-66: Tribal Enrollment Applicant – Emergency Enrollment [A4841] per request from the Combat Veterans. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Lorelei DeCora

VOTE: (7) yes (1) no (0) abstain Motion carried.

[Eugene out at 10:28 a.m.]

ADMINISTRATION:

CEO DECEMBER REPORT: Presented by Darla LaPointe.

[Teresa and Isaac out at 10:31 a.m., in at 10:37 a.m.]

[Rona out at 11:30 a.m.]

[Eugene in at 11:31 a.m.]

[Rona in at 11:38 a.m.]

[Trey out at 11:38 a.m.]

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve the CEO December Report. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

[Coly out at 11:44 a.m., Isaac assumes the chair]

[Rona out at 11:47 a.m.]

CAO DECEMBER REPORT: Presented by Tiffany Buchanan.

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the CAO December Report. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

IN-HOUSE LEGAL DECEMBER ACTION ITEMS REPORT

Amend Resolution #26-50; Approving Amended Tribal Agricultural Land Leases Policy and Procedures

[Rona in at 11:53 a.m.]

[Coly in at 11:53 a.m., reassumes the chair.]

Trey Blackhawk motioned to adopt resolution #26-50A: Approving amended Tribal Agricultural Land Lease Policy and Procedures. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Isaac Smith

VOTE: (7) yes (1) no, IS (0) abstain Motion carried.

BREAK: 12:19 a.m., reconvene at 12:45 p.m.

[Eugene, Isaac out]

Continued with In-house legal report.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

WCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ireta Frazier motioned to nominate Angel Barclay. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to enter Executive Session at 12:51 a.m. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to exit Executive Session at 1:18 p.m. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to nominate Dash Thunder. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to cease nominations.

Lorelei DeCora motioned to re-advertise. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Eugene DeCora

VOTE: (4) yes, LD, VK, TBH, RS

(4) no, TL, IF, ED, IS Tie vote

Chairman voted no to break the tie.

Final Vote: (4) yes (5) no (0) abstain Motion failed.

Raise of hand voting:

Angel (2) votes

Dash (4) yes

Rona Stealer abstains from the raise of hand vote because she feels we need another medical doctor on the WCHS Board.

Eugene DeCora motioned to appoint Dash Thunder to the WCHS Board. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

OBJECT: Lorelei DeCora

VOTE: (7) yes (1) no, LD (0) abstain Motion carried.

[Isaac out at 1:28 p.m.]

TRIBAL HOUSING

Eugene DeCora motioned to appoint Natalie Earth and James Sun III to the Tribal Housing Committee. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

ENROLLMENT:

Tribal Enrollment Applicants

[Isaac in at 1:32 p.m.]

Teresa Littlegeorge motioned to adopt resolution #26-67: Tribal Enrollment Applicants [A4439, A4445, A4446, A4567, A4612, A4780, A4781, A4782, A4804, A4805, A4806, A4812, A4814, A4818, A4819, A4831]. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

Tribal I.D. Discussion

Isaac Smith motioned to authorize Enrollment Department to do 60 days of Free Tribal I.D.s for all Tribal Members due to

the activities of ICE. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

Eugene DeCora motioned to request Big Fire Law to give us guidance if ICE comes to the reservation, and to support the chairman to put out a statement to people. Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

[Ireta out at 1:49 p.m.]

[Eugene out at 1:49 p.m.]

[Rona out at 1:49 p.m.]

TRIBAL COURT: Department Spotlight, presented by Jennifer Berridge.

[Ireta, and Eugene in at 1:51 p.m.]

[Teresa out at 1:54 p.m.]

[Teresa and Rona in at 2:11 p.m.]

[Isaac out at 2:31 p.m.]

EDUCARE:

[Isaac in at 2:49 p.m.]

Victoria Kitcheyan motioned to approve the 5% COLA for Educare being retroactive to October 1, 2025. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT: Presented by Brittany Thomas.

FY2025-2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund, Data Assessment

Rona Stealer motioned to adopt resolution #26-68: FY2025-2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund, Data Assessment. Eugene DeCora seconded the motion.

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

FY2025-2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund: Safety Plans

Isaac Smith motioned to adopt resolution #26-69: FY2025-2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund: Safety Plans. Ireta Frazier seconded the motion.

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

BREAK: 2:59 pm., reconvene at 3:09 p.m.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Presented by Tatanka Petite

Eugene DeCora to approve PT Issuance Clerk Job Description and Food Distribution Org Chart.

Trey Blackhawk seconded the motion.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Presented by Darla LaPointe

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve Radio Broadcast Manager Job Description and Communications Org Chart. Teresa Littlegeorge seconded the motion.

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

HUMAN SERVICES:

Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the Tribal Assistance Position and (3) three Senior Pilot positions and the Human Services Org Chart. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

HUMAN SERVICES:

Ireta Frazier motioned to approve the Tribal Assistance Position and (3) three Senior Pilot positions and the Human Services Org Chart. Rona Stealer seconded the motion.

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

FACILITIES:

Lorelei DeCora motioned to approve the (7) seven facilities positions; Assistant Facilities Manager, Grounds Keeper (2), Tribal Maintenance Specialist, Assistant Carpenter, Custodian I, and Org Chart. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

TRIBAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

APPROVE FY26 WTN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Eugene DeCora motioned to approve the FY 2026 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Organizational Chart. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

STAC NOMINATION

Lorelei DeCora nominated Victoria Kitcheyan to represent the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska as the STAC Nominee.

Eugene DeCora nominated Ireta Frazier to represent the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska as the STAC Nominee.

Raise of hand votes: Victoria 7

Chairman Brown appointed Victoria Kitcheyan by acclamation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Eugene DeCora motioned to enter Executive Session at 3:50 p.m. Victoria Kitcheyan seconded the motion.

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

[Eugene and Trey out at 4:50 p.m.]

HAKWE

Question of the Issue:

Winter Sports, Super Bowl, and Playoff Games are in full force this time of year. What is one of your favorite sport memories?

GARAN: The Big Voice Radio was asked to cover Santee vs Mullen game in middle Nebraska. To be honest I don't remember what town the game was in. Anyways, Santee needed to win this game to head to state. Santee had never been to the state tourney in basketball. So, it was pretty cool to be invited to cover as a Native radio station. I served as the play-by-play commentator, Bethani was director, Bill DeCora and my brother Gentry were camera operators. We got sponsorship from the Santee booster club and NICC. It was a battle of a game! Santee ended up winning and the Big Voice radio was there to cover! It was an amazing game and to know that we covered history in the making was a sight to see!

BRIAN: Winter sports includes high school basketball. I'll take us back to 1990 when the Lady Indians played rival Walthill. Always a battle back then, and this time was one of those famous barn burners. End of the game, Bago looking to score to take the lead and win. Everyone was expecting one of the high scoring upperclassmen to get the ball and win the game. But little did the Bluejays know, young player, Annette Bass, would end up getting the ball right under the basket. She nailed it! Lady Indians with the win!! Loved it. #GBB

KEVIN: Winnebago's playoff game against Ansley was one of the craziest nights I'll ever remember — our first playoff game in about 25 years, and the whole town showed out. Every time we scored, the crowd got so loud it was hard to even get back to the sidelines. What made it even better was seeing two charter buses in the parking lot — Native people from surrounding towns came to support and watch history. Going into the 4th quarter we were down 30-18, and it looked like we might run out of time... but Bago wasn't done. We came storming back and put up 20 points in the 4th quarter to take the lead. Then with seconds left, Ansley scored and pushed it to the edge again. On the final play, they tried to get into the endzone — and Troy Smith made the game-winning tackle, keeping them out and sealing the win. Final score: Winnebago 38 – Ansley 36. That wasn't just a game... that was a whole memory and what made it that much better was the fireworks that followed behind every score. I will always be a Proud Indian!

TYLER: I was almost going to say i don't have a cool sports memory. But I remember in 2017 the Bago boys were playing for 3rd place at state, the gym was packed, and they hit a buzzer beater. I still have the video and it's cool seeing everyone all hype. Good memories!

BETHANI: The big 3 era for the San Antonio Spurs when Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, and Tim Duncan ran the court! In 2014, the Spurs won the championship game against the Miami Heat, and I had money on the line as I placed 3 bets that the Spurs would win! They had lost the previous year in 2013 against the same team and my brother-in-law was a big Miami Heat fan, at that time. Ending the game at 104-87, it was safe to say that I went to bed smiling ear to ear that night and was richer by \$150.00. Shout-out to Chris aka Sid & Tav aka Hiddy!!!

CHRISTINA: My favorite memories are from when I went to support the Winnebago Indians at State. Those games are the most exciting!

GAYLA: I'm not much of a sports person. Maybe when the Bago boys went to state back in 2015. I think that was the most united I ever saw our tribe, ha ha.

AYDEN: I don't watch team sports that often, so for sports I would have to go with ufc 300 when max Holloway knocked out justin gaethje it was just such a hype moment, you had to be there.



STORYTELLERS: THE FINALE

Winnebago Volunteer Fire Department

Continuing forward with our Storyteller's series featuring the Winnebago Volunteer Fire Department, we covered parts one and two in past editions of the WIN published in 2025, where earlier days with the WVFD were shared. The Winnebago Indian News is grateful to continue sharing our Storyteller's column and will maintain elements originally introduced by BKC.

Our hope is to share and highlight the history of the WVFD while sharing insights into the realities of firefighting and the significant impact that the department has towards community safety. The WIN interviewed three Winnebago tribal members who are currently involved in the department or have been involved in the past, including current Fire Chief Isaac Smith, Assistant Fire Chief Clint Free, and retired Volunteer Firefighter Josh Chamberlain. Each of these gentlemen provided a different perspective into their firefighting experiences but shared the same mission; to serve, to protect, and to make a difference in the safety of the Winnebago community.

As previously included, the WIN will employ a standard verbatim dialogue throughout the printed interview to preserve the original intent and context from each discussion as much as possible. However, there will be editing included for clarity and as it was requested, there will be a summarized narration in the concluding portion. The original transcripts will remain in possession of the WIN.

We greatly appreciate Isaac, Clint, and Josh for their time and for sharing their experiences serving in the WVFD. Please allow us to continue into the finale for this series of Storyteller's in the WIN (W): Winnebago Volunteer Fire Department with Clint Free (C), Josh Chamberlain (J), and Isaac Smith (I).

Winnebago Indian News (W): (CONTINUED FROM PART TWO: Reflecting on earlier days in the WVFD as a Volunteer Firefighter)

Clint Free (C): While I first came on, my dad was the Fire Chief. I was on with my brother, my sister Michelle, my sister Francine, my cousin Carl, his wife Robin, and my uncle Norman. So, all eight of us were on there at one time.

(W): Is there an age restriction to being a Volunteer Firefighter?

(C): Age restriction, I believe you have to be 19 to join the department but no age restrictions after that. I'm probably the second oldest on the department now. I think the oldest member is 66 or 67, somewhere in there.

(W): How does the process go for someone that maybe wanted to join the WVFD?

(C): That process goes as they show up to a department monthly meeting which is handled on the second Monday of every month. At the initial meeting, they will be given a packet of information, paperwork to fill out, and they will let us know why they want to join. Then, they come back to the next meeting a month later and they will be voted on as a member after that. Basically, all our training from them on is in-house and includes how to run the pumps, how to get water out of a truck if we need, and where the equipment's located...that kind of thing. If you wanna move on to Firefighter I class, you can get certified in that and how to handle hazard materials; it is available as a free class, and they can get a driving class.

(W): Besides fires in the area, what are some other emergencies that are dispatched?

(C): We've been dispatched to house fires, other types of fires, vehicle accidents, train derailments – we've had a couple here in town, train accidents (train versus car), hazardous materials if we have

a tank or truck leaking, maybe due to an accident. We've also been dispatched for, like, a search and rescue type of thing. We've assisted Macy in searching for and locating people that have been lost, maybe down by the river. We try our best to help law enforcement search for people here. Maybe a child wandered off, we can help look for them.

(W): (Discussing the reality of a firefighter, tell us about it)

Isaac Smith (I): Joining the volunteer fire department may look glamorous on the outside, but when you face your first call and see somebody in a crisis, that first call you usually always remember, especially if it's life-threatening for a human. We don't promote those types of situations, but we do have to warn new volunteers about the risks that come with joining the fire department and be mindful of how they cope with things in life, encouraging them to take care of their mental health. It's not meant for everybody; some try it out and then find out that it's not for them. The main reason that we do what we do is because we want to continue to care for the community and help one another.

In the emergency world, we don't see color. We just see an emergency or incident taking place and no matter where you're from or who you are, we'll respond and do our very best to try to provide the services that each one of us wish our families would come by when we're in those needs, in that time. It is sometimes a thankless job; I've heard it expressed in meetings where some of the firefighters will feel unappreciated. There is a common misconception about the WVFD being a paid position and that is not true. We don't receive any form of compensation when it comes to volunteering as a firefighter. The money that does come into the department is greatly appreciated by each member because then we can upgrade our outdated equipment and we can update our safety equipment to make our jobs a little bit easier in case of an incident taking place.

(W): That's a good point. It's not a paid gig and is completely voluntary but extremely crucial to community safety. It's important to highlight how the funding that is received is beneficial to the whole department as it helps with updates, upgrades, and training.

(I): One other thing about being a volunteer is a lot of the time, we'll be sitting at home, watching TV or eating dinner with our families, or we'll be at a birthday dinner or some kind of event and that call comes in, so we have to leave that event. We can be at a child's birthday dinner or maybe just sitting down at the dinner table, and then you go on a call and see somebody fighting for their life. You return home and it can be a hard thing to do, sometimes these people don't make it through and they lose their life. Then, we will return home to the same birthday atmosphere or that event, and we try not to carry all that weight from what you see on those calls. Majority of the firefighters, because they're volunteers, don't take as good care of themselves as they should. You need to take care of your mind, body, and spirit; you can overwork yourself, boosting your adrenaline which will only increase your blood sugar and make it go up. You'll see those that put in twenty years of fire service, but they'll face that one call that they just know – I can't do this anymore, I'm done.

There's a bunch of statistics out there, but in Winnebago, certain things aren't talked about or shared as much. In the first responder world itself a long time

Con't. on next pg...

Hahere jāsge ranā?

(hah-hey-ray-jah-sgay-rah-nah)

How did you sleep?

Ke pī hanā ni na

(kay-pee-hah-nah-knee-nah)

I didn't sleep well.

Pī hanā no!

(pee-hah-nah-no)

I slept good!

HoChunk Renaissance
Language Preservation Program



...Con't. from pg. 6...

ago, it was frowned upon if you needed some form of therapy, counseling, or treatment, or if you needed medication, you were viewed as weak. And today, they started doing studies due to such a high volume of veterans and first responders that commit suicide or experience mental health disorders like PTSD, depression, or a form of anxiety. Being in the emergency services first responder world, you are trained to react fast, assess the situation, and then get the person to the hospital. Sometimes, you never hear and you'll be wondering, did they make it? Those things apply to the dispatchers as well. They hear the radio traffic and then that's it, so the mental health aspect of it all applies to the dispatchers, too.

A lot of people in Winnebago aren't familiar with what exactly PTSD is and some of our own frown upon this, saying that it is just used as an excuse. That's one of the reasons why you don't see a lot of people that can cope with cutting somebody out of a car or putting up a body bag and carrying them to the ambulance or the hearse. Not everybody is signing up, there's not a line to the door to do the work that the first responders do. There needs to be a way to bring more awareness to these topics, but I would encourage those out there that may have a first responder in their family to check on them. Take time out of your life and check in with them, tell them that you care, you know, and you just want to make sure they're okay mentally.

During those traumatic incidents when our little village experiences hardships, it is one of the hardest things to see a family go through. As traumatic as it sounds, the smell of burnt blood and burnt skin will never leave somebody's mind, how the body doesn't naturally twist or bend that way. It will never leave your mind, so it's important to find ways to cope with that, to realize, and know that that's a part of the duties that we do when we are called upon and then to do it all without being paid a dime. The question that's usually asked is why do we do it? Why do we put ourselves through that stuff? You're volunteering to help, you can do good and you can give back to the community, but they don't talk about the aftereffects of seeing so many different events that are tragic in our community.

We need to create those safe spaces; create safe people where they're not going to weaponize what you share with them and use what troubles your mind against you. Those are some of the things that exist today; on the outside looking in, functional depression will appear as if everything is okay and you'll get up, take care of your day-to-day stuff. At the same time, at the end of the day during your quiet time, you'll have to replace some of these things you've seen. You might wake up in the middle of the night with a bad dream or a flashback of the actual incident. Sometimes, the first responders will beat themselves up mentally, saying I could've, should've, would've did better on the call if this or that. That's why proper training is important, the after-action review of these incidents, briefing and debriefing these incidents are so vital.

These are the things to think about when joining first responder services, you need to be aware of what you're signing up for. The keyword for the fire department in Winnebago is Volunteer; where doctors, nurses, emergency medical services, and law enforcement are all paid for their services, the fire department is not. Each serves an equal purpose towards community safety and a goal for the WVFD is to secure the funding to be able to have a paid fire department to better support each of the firefighters.

(W): I agree on the importance of having a safe space to decompress, first responders are at the frontlines of the most traumatic situations. It's important that they practice what works for them, you know, their coping skills and how they deal with this line of work. Thank you for the raw perspective into the reality of firefighting. The WIN appreciates your insight. It was our hope to shed light on those realities of what it's like to serve as a volunteer, sharing about those earlier days, and what is in the future for the department. There is the new centralized emergency services hub – what are your thoughts on the new facility?

(C): With the new facility, obviously,

we're going to have more room for our vehicles and hopefully a bigger space for training – especially with the winter months coming up. Now there is a chance to look at additional equipment because our community is expanding so rapidly, the additional equipment would be maybe grass-rigs and pumper trucks.

These will help us respond quicker, with more units available to fight house fires when they occur, you know? We're lucky we haven't had any in the wild, but that's what I'm excited about and hopefully help increase interest in people wanting to join the department.

(J): I think that the new building looks really good from the outside. I like that we can see the hockak numbers and the building has a hockak name. I really like the concept of having all the first responders being co-located together to be able to work together in their training needs and make the programs more connected. This building appears to enhance what each of the services has and allows for expansion and growth into the future.

(I): With the new building, we're grateful to the Winnebago Tribe and all the tribal council members that have been a part of the process. We want to continue to ask for support for safety in the future for our children, our elders, and everybody in between. We want to be able to do a good job and have the best equipment for our people. If there was a way to help motivate commitment and drive from our volunteers, we'd be able to restore that sense of pride of what it is to be a volunteer firefighter serving in the WVFD. We always wanted to start a cadet program for our youth, but right now there is lack of administrative staff. Hopefully, there will be more opportunities like a cadet program in the future. We're in the process of trying to get into a 501(c)(3) status which is a non-profit status. Once that is in place, we will be able to look into grants and more opportunities to get new trucks and equipment for the department. Each truck has a lifetime expectancy of twenty years and after that, insurance companies want new trucks and new equipment on the frontlines. We are reaching that mark now and need to look at getting new equipment.

(W): It's important that we remember how we got to be where we are today. There are a lot of people in the community who have stepped up to protect and serve, and we are deeply grateful to each one of you. Do you have any concluding thoughts you'd like to share?

(I): With All the past people that have ever joined the volunteer fire department, we want to say thank you to them because they didn't have the equipment, tools, and safety equipment that we have today. We're grateful for those that cleared the path for us to be able to be fortunate to have good equipment to use. Thank you to all the departments and entities that always ask us or include us in things taking place in the community. Thank you for always being supportive of our volunteer efforts that we try to make.

THE WINNEBAGO INDIAN NEWS WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO CLINT FREE, JOSH CHAMBERLAIN, AND ISAAC SMITH FOR THEIR TIME AND FOR PROVIDING PERSONAL INSIGHT INTO YOUR FIREFIGHTING EXPERIENCES. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO READ THIS STORYTELLER'S COLUMN FEATURING THE WVFD! Find parts one and two in WIN Volume #54, numbers 23 and 24.



Standing Opposite: Seeing Ourselves in the Gallery - January 17, 2026

By Gayla Whitewater, Communications Office Manager

Walking into the Des Moines Art Center to experience Henry Payer's exhibition, Aagakinąk Hacıwi: We Live Opposite Each Other, felt like more than visiting a museum. It felt like stepping into a space where my own history, our history as Ho-Chunk people, was finally being spoken out loud, on the walls, in a place where it is so often overlooked.

As a Ho-Chunk person, being in Iowa adds another layer of meaning. This land is part of our traditional territory. Our presence here didn't begin with borders or state lines, yet much of that history is buried, softened, or erased in public memory. To see a Ho-Chunk artist's work centered in a major Iowa museum felt powerful, like a quiet but firm reminder that we have always been here, and we are still here.

Henry's exhibition lives in that space between past and present. The title, Aagakinąk Hacıwi, meaning "We Live Opposite Each Other," feels like an invitation to sit with tension, between memory and modern life, displacement and belonging, visibility and erasure. His layered collages pull from history, pop culture, and personal experience, creating a visual language that feels both intimate and collective at the same time. Standing in front of his work, I didn't feel like a distant viewer. I felt like part of the story.

What made this experience especially emotional for me was thinking back to where my connection to Henry's art began. I remember seeing his work displayed in the

Winnebago Public School art room when I was younger. Back then, it sparked something in me, pride, curiosity, and the idea that someone from our own community could create something that mattered beyond our walls. To stand years later in a museum gallery, seeing his name and his work featured with such intention, felt like watching a full circle moment unfold in front of me.

Representation in spaces like this isn't just about visibility. It's about voice. Henry's work doesn't just "include" Ho-Chunk history. It centers it. His art speaks about relocation, resilience, and identity in ways that feel honest and layered, not simplified or romanticized. It allows our stories to be told by one of our own, with care, complexity, and feeling.

As I moved through the gallery, I kept thinking about Ho-Chunk youth, and what it means for them to see someone who shares their roots in a space like this. It sends a quiet but powerful message. Our stories belong here. Our voices belong here. Our creativity belongs here.

If you are a Winnebago tribal member, I truly encourage you to visit this exhibition. Being in this space, on our traditional land, surrounded by work that reflects who we are and where we come from, is grounding in a way I didn't expect. Aagakinąk Hacıwi isn't just an art show. It's a reminder of presence, persistence, and the power of telling our own stories, wherever we stand.

Aagakinąk Hacıwi: We Live Opposite Each Other by Henry Payer is on view at the Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa from January 17 - June 17, 2026. Admission is free and open to the public!



LILLIAN ST. CYR STORY

The following feature was originally printed within Indian Country Today (ICT) – a renowned publication famous throughout our indigenous communities. The feature is reprinted here with kind permission from ICT. This story showcases the life and presence of one of our own Hochunk hinuks – Lillian Saint Cyr.

100 Years Ago: Lillian St. Cyr, First Native Star in Hollywood Feature

*By Angela Aleiss
February 24, 2014 (original print date) - Part One of Three*

One hundred years ago, Winnebago actress Lillian St. Cyr became the first Native woman to star in a feature film. Cecil B. DeMille's *The Squaw Man* was released to American audiences on February 23, 1914, and marked the first time a feature Western was made in what is now Hollywood. Lillian St. Cyr, known by her stage name "Princess Red Wing," played a leading role as a Ute woman caught in an ill-fated marriage with an Englishman.

"She talked about DeMille a lot," says Louis Mofsie (Winnebago) by phone from his New Jersey home. Mofsie, 77, was born in Brooklyn and lived near Lillian when she later settled in New York City. His grandmother Minnie was Lillian's sister. "I think [Lillian] was very proud of her work there. She had a good time. I think she really enjoyed what she was doing," he adds.

Lillian's Hollywood career spanned approximately 15 years, but she worked hard to promote Native culture throughout most of her 90-year life. Relatives recall Lillian as short and stout with dark brown-black hair and a real warmth about her.

Lillian was born on February 13, 1884, on Nebraska's Winnebago reservation. Back then, tribes had lost much of their land to white settlers, and government agents forcibly removed Native children from their homes to boarding schools. Lillian's parents were Julia De Cora (ca. 1846-1885), a Winnebago, and Mitchell St. Cyr (ca. 1834-1888), a farmer whose father was reportedly French Canadian and mother a Sauk. "Mitchell's mother remarried Mitchell St. Cyr, Sr. (Winnebago), who adopted her son and renamed him Mitchell St. Cyr, Jr.," says Winnebago tribal historian David Lee Smith.

According to the 1887 tribal census, Lillian had five siblings: David, Julia, Annie, Minnie, and Louis. Smith says that another sister, Pauline, died at a young age. Lillian's two half-brothers, Levi and Abner, were from Mitchell's marriage to another woman.

Three of Lillian's siblings had attended the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. She entered Carlisle in 1894 and graduated in 1902. Mofsie recalls that while Lillian didn't like being confined to a boarding school, she understood the benefits of an education. "But Carlisle was very strict. That she didn't like," he explains. "I always remember her as a very feisty woman. She wanted to be her own person."

Both the DeCoras and the descendants of Mitchell St. Cyr left a legacy of talent. Older sister Julia (ca. 1857-1947) was a champion of Indian rights and had graduated from Virginia's Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University). Lillian's mother was a cousin to the renowned artist, teacher, and author Angel De Cora (1871-1919). One of Lillian's relatives, Vincent or "Vince" St. Cyr (1930-1997), acted in Hollywood movies and television for nearly 20 years.

Mofsie recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers, a New York-based dance troupe he helped found. Lillian would also leave her own legacy. For a while, she lived in Washington, D.C. with Kansas Sen. Chester I. Long and his family. Her life changed in 1906 when she married James Young Johnson (Nanticoke), who grew up in Washington, D.C. and had completed a three-year tour with the Navy in the Spanish-American War. James Young Johnson eventually became James Young Deer and would make a name for himself and his wife in the budding

movie industry.

Part Two to follow: Lillian's Hollywood Years

The Lillian St. Cyr Story, Part 2: 'Squaw Man' and the Hollywood Years
By Angela Aleiss

February 28, 2014 (original print date)

The *Squaw Man* opened a century ago -- February 23, 1914, to be exact -- and became a financial success. For Lillian St. Cyr, her role in the 90-minute film would make Hollywood history. The *Squaw Man* was co-directed by Cecil B. DeMille and Oscar C. Apfel and based upon the successful stage play by Edwin Milton Royle. The movie's story of an Indian woman who married a white man and tragically killed herself exposed the problem of social prejudice surrounding Indian/white unions.

"And I was hired mainly because I was a real Indian rather than an actor," Lillian told the *New York World-Telegram* in 1935. (It should be noted that Lillian St. Cyr is not related to the burlesque star Lily St. Cyr.)

But her performance stunned veteran actor Dustin Farnum when she so convincingly broke into hysterics for a scene. "In all my years on the stage I never saw anything like it," he told *The Moving Picture World* in 1914. "It was absolutely the reverse of everything we have been taught about Indians."

Lillian's acting career began years earlier. In 1906, she married the business-savvy James Young Deer (Nanticoke) who discovered that during an era of dime novels and Wild West Shows, he and Lillian could entertain audiences and "pass" for Plains Indians.

So, the couple joined 100 or so (Lakota) Sioux Indians at New York City's enormous Hippodrome Theatre as part of the "Pioneer Days: A Spectacle Drama of Western Life."

Together they reenacted stagecoach battles and performed the Ghost Dance against a breathtaking orange moon.

When the pair teamed up with Chief [Sherman] Charging Hawk, they posed as "authentic" Sioux Indians from the Pine Ridge Agency and regularly entertained at Manhattan's social clubs. Lillian, now "Princess Red Wing," became Charging Hawk's 16-year-old niece and serenaded audiences with "My Navajo" and "Arrowana."

Back then, these performances were one way for Native people to assert their own cultural identity. Both Young Deer and Lillian knew white America's expectations and adapted as a means of survival.

The couple soon captured the attention of early filmmakers who capitalized on the Western formula and churned out one- and two-reel "shorts" every week. Kalem's *The White Squaw* (1908) was possibly Lillian's first short film. A year later, D.W. Griffith hired the pair as actors and technical advisors for two of his Indian tales.

In November 1909, Young Deer and Lillian were among the small company of Bison's stock players that headed to sunny Los Angeles. (The couple now identified themselves as Winnebago.) Lillian rose to prominence as she and her husband starred in many Bison movies actually named after their characters, Young Deer and Red Wing.

But Young Deer got his big break in 1910 when became head of production for Pathé Frères, a French-based company that opened a studio near Los Angeles. As director and scenario writer for nearly 150 Western shorts, Young Deer delivered quirky stories with thrilling stunts and often cast his wife as the female Indian lead.

The *Squaw Man* was the highlight of Lillian's career and her first feature film. She also had a small role in *Fighting Bob* (1915) and played an Indian woman who fell in love with cowboy star Tom Mix for *In the Days of the Thundering Herd* (1914). The 1916 version of *Ramona*, based upon the Helen Hunt Jackson novel, featured Lillian as Ramona's mother.

In 1921, she had an uncredited role in *White Oak* starring silent Western hero William S. Hart. Her last feature was a Richard Barthelmess film, *Soul Fire* (1925), in which she reportedly played a minor role as a South Sea maiden.

Young Deer and Lillian eventually

separated, and tribal records show that by 1920 she was single and living with her brother Louis in Omaha. But movie offers dwindled, and Lillian retired from acting. Meanwhile, her sister Julia and her niece had made a home in New York City with its thriving urban Indian community. By the mid-1920s, Lillian made up her mind to join them.

Part Three to follow: Lillian after Hollywood

The Lillian St. Cyr Story, Part 3: New York City

By Angela Aleiss

March 6, 2014 (original publication date) Nearly ten years after *The Squaw Man*, Native actress Lillian St. Cyr left Hollywood and headed toward New York City. "We all knew each other," says Lillian's great nephew Louis Mofsie of the city's then-growing Indian population.

Mofsie's older sister Josephine was a close friend to Muriel Miguel of the Spiderwoman Theater, a group of three urban Native women who continue to perform using storytelling mixed with humor and personal experience.

But except for a sizable Caughnawaga Mohawk population of steelworkers who had settled in Brooklyn, the city's Indian people lacked a unified presence. Initially, only two groups in the city, the Indian League of the Americas and the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers, offered Natives a community.

Years later, the American Indian Community House would emerge as the leading urban Native resource in the New York City tri-state area. Mofsie was one of its founders. "Lillian was actively involved in helping us start it," he explains.

Lillian eventually settled in Manhattan's Upper West Side, and Mofsie's family lived nearby. He recalls that she remained active and "would keep herself quite busy" making Indian outfits and entertaining children. For a while,

she worked on Indian costumes for FAO Schwarz and Eaves Costume Company.

"My impression of my aunt is she would take on things. She wasn't held back by herself. She wasn't shy or anything," Mofsie says.

A 1931 *Universal Newspaper Newsreel* shows Lillian performing a short skit in which she sits inside her tipi high atop a New York City skyscraper. She later dons an elaborate Plains war bonnet and waves graciously to the construction men. "Far out," says tribal historian David Lee Smith of the video. "Our women didn't wear feathers in their hair, and they didn't live in tipis."

But Linda M. Waggoner, a scholar of ethnic studies, says that beneath the showmanship and costumes there's still a resistance. "She really tries to educate people wherever she goes about Native culture," explains Waggoner, who is currently working on a biography of Lillian St. Cyr. "She knows how to play the game but makes damn sure they learn something about Native culture."

Lillian continued to lecture and perform in New York City until her death on March 13, 1974. She was buried in St. Augustine Cemetery in Nebraska.

"There's not a lot of Indian women who were movie stars. [Lillian] was a kind of pioneer the way she kept adapting herself to the situation," Waggoner adds. "I feel she was never a victim." For Mofsie of the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers, Lillian's legacy was personal. "She had a great influence on me," he says. "She gave me inspiration beyond a performer."

Editor's Note: Indian Country Today is an independent, non-profit multimedia news organization covering Indigenous issues and communities. We are supported by foundations, donor contributions, and corporate sponsorships. Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and Bluesky.



Above: Photo Courtesy Marc Wanamaker/Bison Archives. Lillian St. Cyr as Nat-U-Ritch in the 1914 silent film 'The Squaw Man.'



Lillian's older sister Julia St. Cyr (sitting, right) with two Winnebago friends, 1898. Photo Courtesy David Lee Smith.

TRIBAL AWARENESS

January 22, 2026
Statement from the Winnebago Tribal Council to Tribal Citizens


The Winnebago Tribal Council is aware of recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions occurring across the country, including in Minnesota, where many of our Tribal citizens live and work. We recognize that reports of these actions—including instances where Native people have been stopped or taken into custody—have caused fear, anxiety, and uncertainty within our communities.

We want to be clear and unequivocal: all Native Americans born within the United States are United States citizens under the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Enrolled Tribal citizens should not be subjected to immigration enforcement, detention, questioning, or profiling based on race, appearance, or mistaken assumptions about citizenship status.

The Winnebago Tribe asserts its inherent sovereignty and reminds the federal government of its treaty obligations, trust responsibilities, and legal duty to engage in meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations. Immigration-related enforcement actions against enrolled Tribal citizens are unacceptable and must cease.


To our Tribal members: you are not alone. Your Tribal government is closely monitoring these developments and is committed to advocating for the safety, rights, and dignity of our citizens. We encourage Tribal members to carry valid state or Tribal identification and to familiarize themselves with their constitutional rights. If you or a family member experience questioning or detention that you believe is improper, please seek legal assistance as soon as possible.

The Winnebago Tribal Council stands with our people. We will continue to defend our citizens, uphold our sovereignty, and work to ensure that our communities remain safe, respected, and free from fear.




ICE ENCOUNTERS AT A TRIBAL WORKPLACE:

- IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT ICE ENTERS A WINNEBAGO TRIBAL WORKPLACE:
- ICE CAN ENTER A PUBLIC SPACE WITHOUT A WARRANT.
- ICE CANNOT ENTER THE NON-PUBLIC SPACES OF A WORKPLACE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER OR WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE.
- IF ICE ENTERS A WORKPLACE, STAFF MAY ASK TO SEE A WARRANT. ENSURE THE WARRANT IS SIGNED BY A JUDGE AND NOT AN ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANTED SIGN BY AN ICE OR DHS OFFICIAL.
- STAFF ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ANSWER IF ASKED ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON'S IDENTIFICATION OF WHEREABOUTS.
- IMMEDIATELY CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR AND THE TRIBAL CEO FOR FURTHER DIRECTION.



IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY ICE:

- ASK: "AM I FREE TO LEAVE?"
- IF YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE, YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE AREA CALMLY AND PEACEFULLY
- IF YOU ARE NOT FREE TO LEAVE, YOU ARE DETAINED
- IF DETAINED, YOU MUST SHOW SOME FORM OF ID, EITHER AN UNEXPIRED STATE OR TRIBAL ID
- TRIBAL IDS ARE LEGALS FORMS OF ID AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION. IF NOT ACCEPTED ASK TO SPEAK TO SUPERVISOR.
- IF TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, STATE CLEARLY AND VERBALLY "I AM EXERCISING MY RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. I WANT TO SPEAK TO A LAWYER".



IF YOU ARE DETAINED BY ICE:

- IMMEDIATELY CALL THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT DISPATCH AT: (402) 878-2245
- DISPATCH WILL FORWARD TO RELEVANT TRIBAL OFFICIALS.
- IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A WINNEBAGO TRIBAL ID, COMPLETE AN APPLICATION AT: WWW.WINNEBAGOTRIBE.COM/TRIBAL-ENROLLMENT
- OR CONTACT THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT WITH ANY QUESTIONS: (402)878-2028
- THE WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL HAS AUTHORIZED THE ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE TRIBAL IDS FREE OF COST UNTIL MARCH 14, 2026.



IF ICE KNOCKS ON YOUR DOOR:

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR. ICE CANNOT ENTER A HOME WITHOUT A WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE.
- ASK ICE TO SHOW YOU A WARRANT. DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR TO RETRIEVE THE WARRANT. ASK FOR THE WARRANT TO BE SLID UNDER DOOR OR HELD UP TO A WINDOW.
- IF ICE ENTERS THE HOME WITHOUT A WARRANT OR CONSENT:
- STATE CLEARLY AND VERBALLY, "I DO NOT CONSENT TO ANY SEARCH".
- STATE CLEARLY AND VERBALLY, "I AM EXERCISING MY RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT".



OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES:




PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.NARF.ORG/ICE-RESOURCES-2026

WPS SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Meeting of the Board of Winnebago Public Schools was convened in open and public session on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 4:47p.m. in the board room at the Winnebago Public Schools, Highways 77 & 75, Winnebago, Nebraska. The roll was called and the following Board members were present or absent:

Present: Teresa Littlegeorge, Nilah Solomon, Crystal Ross, Greg Bass III, Kiana Lewis, Kristine Earth
 Others Present: Jessica LaTray, Tressa Smith, Francine Smith, Officer Starr, Lea Cleveland,
 Chief Lonewolf, Marge Gilpin, Laurice Gilpin, Zariyah Whitewater, Thelma Whitewater, Isaac Smith,
 Tina Lewis

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Receiving of Delegations:

2. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:47p.m. by President Teresa Littlegeorge, also President Littlegeorge states, "MEMBERS OF THE BOARD RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE MEETING SHOWING THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING INCLUDING THE AGENDA TO BE CONSIDERED. NOTICE OF THE MEETING WAS PUBLISHED BY POSTING ON THE OFFICE DOOR AND THREE OTHER PLACES." A COMPLETE COPY OF THE OPEN MEETING ACT IS POSTED ON THE SOUTH WALL.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Ross
 Second: Solomon
 Discussion: None
 Voting for: Lewis, Ross, Solomon, Littlegeorge
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Bass III, Earth
 Motion Carried: (4-0-0-2)

4. Business Affairs

4-1. Approve minutes of November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion: Solomon
 Second: Lewis
 Discussion: None
 Voting for: Ross, Solomon, Littlegeorge, Lewis
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Bass III, Earth
 Motion Carried: (4-0-0-2)

1. December 15, 2025 School Board Meeting

4-2. Approve accounts payable in the amount of \$541,545.04, petty cash account/ treasurer's report.

Motion: Lewis
 Second: Solomon
 Discussion: accounts payable
 Voting For: Solomon, Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Bass III, Earth
 Motion Carried: (4-0-0-2)

4-3. Approve Facilities WEFLC: \$22,503.75

Motion: Ross
 Second: Solomon
 Discussion: report of progress
 Voting For: Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross, Solomon
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Bass III, Earth
 Motion Carried: (4-0-0-2)

Greg Bass III in at 4:52
 Kristine Earth in at 4:56

4-4. WPS Final Audit Report for 2024-2025 (Digital Attachments)

4.5 Policy Updates for January 2026 (Information Only-digital)

5. New Business

5-1. Discussion/Approval Academy Trip and Handbook
 Table the Handbook until the January meeting

Motion: Ross
 Second: Bass III
 Discussion: update on fundraising/student contribution
 Voting For: Lewis, Earth, Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegeorge
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried: (6-0-0-0)

5-2. Discussion/Approval J.A.G. Program for 2026-2027
 Table until the January meeting, need to review the MOU

Motion:
 Second:
 Discussion: Jobs for Americas Graduates
 Voting For: Earth, Ross, Solomon, Bass III, Littlegoerge, Lewis

Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried: (0-0-0-0)

2. December 15, 2025 School Board Meeting

5-3. Discussion-Law Enforcement/CPS policy on questioning/removing students at school

5-4. Update from October 2024 Data Incident

5-5. Update/Discussion from Firearm on Campus Incident 12/10/25

5-6. Update/Discussion on Power Outage Incident 12/11/25

5-7. Discussion-Bullying

5-8. Discussion-Due Process for WPS Employees

5-9. Discussion-With communications employee on publishing information

5-10. Discussion-Athletic uniform rotation and donations.

6. Reports

- 1. Superintendent:
 - a. SERC Building Update
 - b. Christmas Celebration December 19, 2025
- 2. Administration Reports
 - a. Dean of Students
 - b. Athletic Director
 - c. Elementary
 - d. High School
 - e. Special Education
 - f. School Staff Slideshow

7. Public Comment (No board discussion)

8. Closed Session 84-1410 Enter Motion 8:15 p.m. Exit Session at 10:50 p.m.

To discuss: 1. Employee Policy Concern 2. Coaching Positions 3. Superintendent Evaluation

Motion: Ross
 Second: Earth
 Voting For: Ross, Solomon
 Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis, Earth

Motion: Solomon
 Second: Bass III
 Voting For: Solomon, Bass III,
 Littlegeorge, Lewis,

Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried: (6-0-0-0)

Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried (5-0-0-1)

Kristine Earth out at 9:41 p.m.
9. Superintendent Contract Action
 9-1. Approve Superintendent Contract

Motion: Bass III
 Second: Ross
 Discussion: None
 Voting for: Bass III, Littlegeorge, Lewis, Ross, Solomon
 Voting Against: None
 Not Voting: None
 Absent: Earth
 Motion Carried: (5-0-0-1)

3. December 15, 2025 Board Meeting

10. Adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
 Crystal Ross, Secretary
 Winnebago Board of Education

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 17 WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA

The regular meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") of Thurston County School District 0017 (Winnebago Public Schools) in the State of Nebraska (the "District") will be held at 4:45 PM, on Monday, February 9th, 2026 in the regular meeting place of the Board, the School Conference Room on Highway 77 & 75 in the Village of Winnebago, Nebraska. An agenda, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection in the offices of the District Superintendent, located at Highway 77 & 75, 878-2224. The meeting will be open to the attendance of the public. If the meeting needs to be rescheduled, the 1st rescheduled date and time is Thursday, February 12th, 2026 at 4:45p.m. and the 2nd rescheduled date and time will be Monday, February 16th, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP



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March 6, 2026





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Saturdays In
January & February! *Drawings*

**WINN Your Share of over \$200,000
in CASH and Prizes!**

6pm to 11pm | Drawings every 15 minutes

Earn entries now through February 28, 2026
Every 10 points earned equals 1 drawing entry

Weather disclaimer: For guest and associate safety, if the drawing date is impacted by poor weather, the drawings will be moved to the next drawing date and follow the same drawing schedule. Should this occur, an announcement will be posted on Facebook.

BILLY DEAN

WinnaVegas Event Center
Saturday, **March 14**
SHOW STARTS 8PM

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW
**STARTING
AT \$20**



For more information: visit WinnaVegas.com or call us at 800-468-9466