

Prairie Band of Potawatomi News



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A Report to the People of the
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indian Tribe

Volume 1, Issue 1

16277 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509

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Published Quarterly

Message From the Tribal Council

Tribal Members,

It has been our pleasure to serve the people for the past few years. With the coming of the Casino, we have made great strides toward building our infrastructure. Previously the past administration were short of funds which made it difficult to get much accomplished. But, with the revenues coming in, we have the ability to build.

We now have Law Enforcement and an EPA Program. The Police station is being built to house the Law Enforcement program. A new radio tower will be erected when the building is complete. Several new programs are being planned such as a Tribal Filling Station and expanding youth program.

Our land base has grown 23% to 35%, these new land acquisitions will be used for pasture, hay ground and cropland. We are looking to purchase more land for the land base which is required by the Constitution. In the future, some of the land will be used for housing needs. The Road and Bridge department has made new machinery acquisitions which will enable the R&B Department to be more efficient.

The administration has supplemented all 22 of our programs. With the supplements the programs become more effective. We hope to reach a majority of our people. The tribal programs will give a report at the General Council meeting. The severe cuts in the federal budget have affected IHS and supplements for tribal programs. Good or bad the casino revenues are helping the program supplements.

The Tribe has made progress to furthering its economic development. With progress comes growing pains and change. Change is a long and slow process and we must realize this in order to go forward.

The vision of this administration is to see this nation realize its full potential. Also to make strides to reach them, not only the short term but also the long term goal.

See you at the General Council

Tribal Council

Notice

Tribal Election

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Candidates

Chairperson:

Mamie Rupnicki
Ralph Tecumseh
Juanita Jessepe
Laura Abeyta
Joe Hale
Betty Rice
Roy Ogden

Secretary:

Lisa Wamego Otero
Laverne Hale
Steve Ortiz

Member:

Benny Potts
Mando Evans
Rey Kitchkumme
Joe Jessepe
Charlie Seymour
Ron Wahweotten, Sr.
Theresa Wabnum Asselin
Roland Matchie

Note: See candidate profiles inside this special election newsletter. Thanks to the candidates for submitting this helpful information for the voters.

Election Board

Don't forget to mail in your ballot for the 1998 Prairie Band Tribal Council Election. On the ballot this year are the Chairperson, Secretary and one Council Member position. Ballots were sent out June 2nd to registered voters. For future elections you may register to vote during business hours - 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Election Board Office now located at the O Ketch Show Now Center, or you may call (785) 966-2182 and we will mail you a ballot. Once you are registered with the Election Board you do not have to re-register. Please notify the Election Board of address/name changes or if there is a death in the family. Thank you to all who have been helpful and kind in doing this.

As of May 1, 1998 we have approximately 1,700 tribal members that are *not* registered, and 594 do not have current addresses. We have 1,660 tribal members who *are* registered voters with 97 having no current addresses. Keep in mind that being enrolled in the Tribe is not enough to vote - you must register. In the February Tribal Election for the Gaming Commission position, 614 tribal members voted. Laveda Wahweotten is the newly-elected Gaming Commissioner and will serve a four year term. Current Election Board Members are Rosemary Wahweotten, Chairperson and Julia Barber and Voncile Mitchell, clerks. Since we now have a Tribal newsletter, it is your responsibility to keep your address/name current, if you want to be informed of the current happenings within the Tribe.

A Tribal Member's Comment on Elections

The following profiles on the candidates for Tribal office came about because of a letter from a concerned Tribal member. An excerpt from that letter went as follows:

Hello,

I managed to fill out the enclosed form for the upcoming Tribal Election, BUT I am at a loss as to who to VOTE for.

I wish for the Nation to follow up this letter with some information concerning the PERSONS whom will run for the mentioned offices:

- Tribal Gaming Commission position.
- Tribal Council, Chairperson, Secretary and Tribal Council member.

For instance, I know not what these positions represent nor do I realize ANY of the issues AT HAND.

Please send the information I request. Thank you very much.

Tribal Candidates Political Platforms

Tribal Chairperson Candidates:

Mamie Rupnicki

I want to see the reservation brought back with economic development opportunities for tribal members. This will only be realized through ownership of business. I will work to provide entrepreneurial and economic advantages for members at every opportune time, and will utilize skills of law, legislative processes, and tribal governance expertise and knowledge to realize this goal for the betterment of Prairie Band of Potawatomi People. I will work towards getting full jurisdiction of our reservation.

I was nominated to Gaming Commissioner 1993 to 1994. I was then elected to Tribal Chairperson in July of 1994. I also helped getting our Gaming Ordinances in place and helped in getting the Gaming Compact approved. Under this administration we have made great strides in implementing law enforcement, zoning ordinances, traffic ordinances. We have expanded our land base. We are looking towards more economic development. It has been an eye opening experience and a pleasure to serve our people as the Chairperson.

Tribal Heritage: Full blood (4/4 degree) Prairie Band of Potawatomi. Father: John Paul Wahwassuck Mother: Josette Nohgonbe Wahwassuck.

Academic Preparation: Presently working on: JD Law 1992-present, Washburn University of Topeka, KS; BA Political Science, Washburn University; AA Liberal Arts/Pre-Law Studies, Haskell Indian Nations University; BA Pre-Law/Business Administration, Gila Pueblo, Globe, AZ; GED, Arizona, June, 1986.

Roy Odgen

I am Roy Odgen and I'm running for Tribal Chairman. I was born on the Reservation and lived here all my life. I married Shirley Marshall in 1963. We have 6 children and I was in the Army for 2 years and served in Germany. I worked for Dupont for 25 years before early retirement. I drove a school bus for Dist. 337 two years; worked as a Road Maintenance 9 years before being elected County Commissioner for the 3rd District.

I was on the School Board for 5 years and am familiar with budgets. My concern is how the Tribal money is distributed. I feel the budget should be set up and followed, making the Council accountable for expending. I would like to have programs set up particularly for our young and elderly members and be held accountable for carrying them out. I believe the entire Tribe - on and off the reservation - should have input into how the money is spent. I would sincerely appreciate your vote.

Ralph Tecumseh

I'm running for the position of the Tribal Chair. I'm currently employed at the Prairie Band Casino, as a slot technician. I have had the experience of an elected official serving ten years on the tribal council. I'm actively involved in the reservation community. I am one of the founders of the our American Legion - We ta se.

Some of my objectives are more housing for tribal members, educating our youth of tomorrow, developing more economic opportunities on the reservation, and providing better care for our senior citizens.

I would appreciate your vote to help achieve these goals.

Laura A. (Harrison) Abeyta

Respect, Honor, Integrity, Dignity, and the Sovereign Rights of the People are the goals that I would strive for. If elected we will build a solid foundation, beginning with our laws, to build a future for our coming generations. Separation of business from government, with the current and future administrations, being required to adhere to the same regulations as the rest of the people would be another goal.

We are in need of strong leadership with common sense, and the ability to recognize how one decision affects another, and a team to see that the many responsibilities of good government are met in a timely fashion. *I have a passionate and deep desire to improve the fate of our people and would like to be part of making our dreams come true.* **Please vote wisely.** Thank you

Juanita Jessepe

Our long journey has brought us up to the threshold of the year 2000! *Now more than ever*, we need STRONG LEADERSHIP with a focus on ACTION.

During my (4) year term as the Tribal Secretary, I researched, developed, and wrote the Tribal Council Policies & Procedures and the Drug-Free Workplace Policies and Procedures. I served a three year appointment on the United States Civil Rights Commission, and stand strong for due process and civil rights for our Indian people. I continue to work closely with tribal and state courts as a Special Advocate for Indian Children and their families.

If elected, I will continue to uphold the Tribal Constitution as the working foundation of our tribal laws and policies. Equal opportunities for ALL tribal members requires working closely with other council members in already identified areas of activity: Creation of more jobs; additional youth & elderly services, and; equitable distribution of supplemental gaming funds. Thank you.

Tribal Chairperson Candidates:

Joe Hale

I am running for the office of Chair. I served on the Tribal Council from 1990-94, knowing how the Council deals with issues. With the opening of the Casino, and job opportunities for tribal members, I want to take claim and be involved with the progress of our Nation.

I am a veteran and was wounded while serving our Country in Viet Nam.

The present Tribal Council has their good days whereas they also had bad days with the tabling of issues concerning our Tribe. The Prairie Band Potawatomi located in Wisconsin asked for help, but never heard a word from the Tribal Council and we should support their need anyway possible. Any issue that comes to the Council should be dealt with. This includes nepotism with the hiring of Tribal members.

Finally, the times have changed our way of life and we must seek new leadership to benefit all Tribal members. I know I can handle the position of Tribal Chairperson. Thank you.

Tribal Secretary Candidates:

Steve Ortiz

Integrity - Openness - Unity, "I want to make a difference with your help and support by keeping you informed of Tribal Government issues." My vocabulary as an elected official will consist of "We, Us, and Ourselves" no one person makes a tribal entity - together we are a nation. Current issues I support are payments from casino revenues to tribal members, expanded services and financial support for existing tribal programs of childcare, housing, public safety, eldercare in home support services, visitations to off reservation tribal member locations and support of information centers at key locations.

Background: United States Marine Corps Veteran, Bachelor of Business Administration with minor in Management, 18 years of consecutive service to General Council, 22 yr. of corporate financial training and 10 years of volunteer community service in Douglas County United Way agencies for more information write: 1839 Almira Ave., Lawrence, Kansas 66044-4359 or call 785-843-0093.

Betty Rice

My name is Betty J. Mahkuk Rice also known by "Tou-Ze Quah." I was born on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. My biological parents are Lucille Mahkuk Delgadello and Pete Matchie. I was raised by my maternal grandparent's, Anna Ashkum Mahkuk and George Mahkuk, until their deaths in the early 1950s. Mary Simon Mahkuk and George Mahkuk began the arduous task of supervising my journey into adulthood.

After raising five children, I returned to school at age 40. I passed my GED, graduated from KAVTS and practiced as Licensed Practical Nurse to pay for my college hours at Washburn University. In May 1986, I received my BA with a major in Social Work and an AA in Mental Health.

These are important issues for me: Establish a group for troubled youth, with an emphasis on teaching traditional family values and education in substance abuse; establish a care home for the elders that are no longer able to function on their own and establish health insurance for all tribal members; recreation programs for youths and senior citizens; scholarship rewards for high school graduates to encourage completion of high school; educational tutoring to enable admittance for college; schedule times for 1:1 meetings to hear the concerns of the people; economic resource development; establish a regular newsletter and repay my Higher Power for all the gifts I have received in life. Thank you for your vote.

Lisa Wamego Otero

Lisa Wamego Otero (Ship Shee kwe), a lifetime resident of the Potawatomi Reservation, and daughter of Alberta Nagmo Wamego and Algernon (Bozo) Wamego, is the mother of three sons, Tug mas, 16, Eric, 8, and Derek, 7.

Lisa strongly believes that our tribal government needs to be responsive to our total tribal population, including on and off reservation tribal members. She also feels the long range plans need to reflect the needs of all tribal members.

Lisa priorities include: Language and Culture appreciation; land acquisition; programs to benefit our reservation including homes for tribal members and upkeep of our tribal buildings and properties; continued support for roads and infrastructure; economic development to add revenues to tribal assets, and; individual payments to insure that all tribal members benefit from revenues generated at our casino.

Lisa Wamego Otero feels that wise decisions by tribal council will ensure that the future generations of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi people will continue to grow and enjoy a good life. I appreciate your vote in this election. Thank you.

LaVerne Hale

My name is LaVerne Kitchkommie Hale. I am a candidate for the office of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Secretary. I would appreciate your vote. I am 41 years old, a single parent and the proud mother of 5 sons and one beautiful granddaughter. My experience that gives me the ability to serve on the Tribal Council comes from working with my people over many years. I have been employed as the Tribal Secretary's Assistant since August of 1997. Before that, I was the Secretary/Receptionist at the Administrative Office.

I keep active within our community by participating with young and elder activities. My primary reason for this participation is to help my sons understand the importance of a community working together to get things done and enjoy our life.

I have attended college at Washburn University and Haskell Indian Nations University. Due to family constraints, I felt unable to finish. I have taken classes such as Indian Law, Business Law, Communications, and some Government classes. I feel strong in my ability to serve you by being on our Tribal Council. One of many things I hope to be a part of is to have a Council that will work together as *one* for all of us. We have so much opportunity available and I am confident in my ability and desire to work hard and help us reach these goals.

Tribal Candidates Political Platforms

Tribal Member Candidates:

Theresa M. Assselin

My name is Theresa M. Assselin. I am 4/4 Prairie Band Potawatomi. I was born August 28, 1937 on the Reservation, where I grew up. I attended Jackson County Public Schools. I attended Haskell Institute and graduated in 1955. I also attended and graduated from Clarks School of Business in Topeka. I am a veteran of the United States Womans Army Corp. from 1955-59.

I was employed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Topeka and later transferred to Denver. As a mother of four and a grandmother of seven, I want to leave a legacy of our traditional ways. My Indian political beliefs were indoctrinated into me as a child and all my life by many of our elders - many who have passed on.

I believe in bringing the Tribal Council to the people and keeping the people informed and decision making by the people.

Benny Potts

My name is Benny Potts. I am the son of the late Garnett Potts and Gladys Cadue. My grandparents are the late Joe Bill and Rosanne Potts and the late Ben and Irene Cadue. For most of my life I was raised on this reservation.

For the past four years, I have served on the Tribal Council. When I was put into office, I was put in charge of the land. The first year was a learning year for me. My first duty was to pull all current leases on Tribal tracts. We did that so we could be sure that the people were to take care of our land like they would their own. Once we got all the tracts back in good condition the rent had then gone up on almost all of them. Throughout the past four years the Tribe has purchased over two thousand acres of land. Our land base is now about 35% of the current reservation in comparison to the 23% before this council was in office.

I also take part in the Native Americans Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which helps Tribes to recover articles that are in Non-Tribal museums. We have now recovered many articles and have sent to the Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation for safe-keeping. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to have our own museum.

Charles Seymour

I am the son of Ernest (Butch) Seymour and Angeline Whitefish. I returned to the Reservation in the Spring of 1988. I worked as a laborer on various bridges being built on the Reservation then went to work at our bingo hall. Our Tribe helped me with schooling and I graduated with honors in Civil Technology. I went to work for the Kansas Department of Transportation for a couple of years then went to work for our Senior Citizen Program. Later, I worked for our EPA Department doing environmental Research, worked for our Roads Department at the same time as an Office Assistant and Survey Tech. I served on our Natural Resource Committee, and as advisor for our Tribal Planning Commission. I have successfully written and negotiated contracts with subcontractors and the BIA for our Roads Department. I have mutual concerns with Tribal members about our future. To make a difference, I need *your vote!*

Rey Kitchkumme

Bo-Sho! Currently as Sales & Promotions Manager at our casino, I have been honored to be part of the team that's contributed to its success. It has been a lot of work and exciting but something has been missing.

I have always wanted to work directly with our people - to be of service, a role model and to help lead us into a prosperous, community-oriented society. We as a people, a community, a sovereign nation have the potential to do great deeds. If we think "big picture" and consider the Seven Generations theory our elders taught us, we will be successful individually and as a nation. Defining common goals and finding common ground will enable us to achieve great things. Good things have always been intended for us.

We can not sit back and wait for action. Vote and make the difference. E-gi-yen.

Roland Matchie

I would like to put my family tradition and job experience to work for you as individuals and for us as a Tribe. We need to keep what we have (traditions) and expand with the future. Thank you.

Family History: Son of Pete Matchie. Grandson of John and Hattie (Lasley) Matchie. Son of Blanch (Masquat) Matchie. Grandson of Frank and Susie (Puckee) Masquat.

Experience: Ordained minister; Tribal Council; Small engine mechanic and instructor; Auto mechanic operator and instructor; Heavy equipment operator and instructor; Housing inspector for HUD; Community Development Coordinator; Roads and Bridge Supervisor; Licensed plumber; Certified in Auto, household, and commercial refrigeration and air conditioning; Certified water supply systems operator; Certified wastewater treatment facility operator; Published author; Worked with budgets; Deputy Sheriff - ten years; Worked with Congressman, Senators, City Councilmen, County Commissioners, etc; Currently working as Facilities Supervisor at Prairie Band Casino.

Ron Wahweotten

My father was Ray Wahweotten and my mother was Elsie Wahwasuck Wahweotten. I attended the Mayetta Public Schools, Sunny Brook, Pawnee OK, and Haskell Junior College. I served in the United States Marine Corp for 4 years. My wife, Laveda, and I raised 4 sons and a daughter. We have a family owned business - First Nation Painting Inc. A couple of our projects can be seen at our casino, the administrative area and the colorful graphics in the bingo hall. My concerns are the same as yours. I advocate for the following:

- More education for the next generation.
- Early retirement for the Seniors.
- Special assistance for the ill.
- Economic development.

The new casino is a great opportunity for prosperity and a higher standard of living should come to all. We need to be certain in our decision making. Today will keep us in balance for tomorrow and years to come. Thank you for your vote.

Tribal Member Candidates:

Lyman "Mando" Evans

After graduating from High School, I started my first job with Welliever Construction and worked there for three years. From there, I worked at Topeka Capital Journal for the next 14 years as journeyman pressman. During that time, I married Anita Pahmahmie and we had two sons, William, 9 years old, and Evan who is 7 years old. We have lived on the Potawatomi Reservation all our lives. Anita teaches in the Royal Valley School System. Currently, I work for the Casino as a Slot Technician.

My parents were the late Lefty and Jeannie Evans. My grandparents were Bill and Minnie Evans. I have had the great experience of being around Minnie Evans during her political career and have followed local tribal politics all my life.

Although I lack a higher education, I am a person with good common sense and will make decisions based on facts not on emotions. I have a firm conviction that the Council needs to work together for the benefit of the Tribe. I will listen to your views and concerns and bring those issues to the table for consideration. We have to work together for the future. I support expanded services to our Tribal members both young and old, as well as the development of a long-range economic development plan to help our people after gaming ends. I appreciate your vote in this election.

Tribal Council News

The Tribal Council has pulled together this short summary of activities and events which have transpired since the signing of the Tribal/State Gaming Compact in 1995, using the compact as the benchmark of economic development for the Tribe. Obviously, the 1994 administration is a much better financial position (than past councils) to plan for the sudden growth of expansion activities resounding throughout the Tribe. Soon after the opening of the Tribe's first casino in the Fall of 1996, the Tribe's renovation loan to convert the 'old bingo hall' into a temporary gaming facility was paid off in a very short time. Profits exceeded expectations enabling for the much needed expansion of tribal operating budgets and development of new programs and projects. Listed, are but a few of the upcoming projects that are either in the planning stages, or already have been completed.

At the direction of the General Council in 1997, the Tribal Council has adopted Traffic/Criminal Codes into our Tribal Law and Order Codes, and also hired a police chief and two officers to patrol the reservation. We have applied for federal funds for an additional nine officers. Additionally, the first stages of groundwork has already begun for construction of a new Tribal Police Station, located just north of the 'old bingo hall.' The opening is scheduled for sometime in late summer or early fall. And, anticipating the increased workload of traffic offenses, the Tribal Council is in the process of interviewing tribal courtroom attorneys and one or more judges for our tribal court system. Relative to our self-governance process, the Tribal Council is in the final stages of communicating with the State of Kansas, of our inherent rights to set-up and implement our own tribal tag office. A recent court case heard in Kansas Court of Appeals No. 77,330 *State of Kansas v. Proscilla Wakole* (opinion filed May 29, 1998) could go either way for the tribe. Our tribal attorney is drafting a full legal analysis for council's review to determine the Tribe's next move.

Extreme lack of space for tribal administration has been a problem since the Tribe's first growing pains were felt by the ripple effect of the gaming enterprise. We are pleased to announce approval of plans for a new Tribal Government Center, which will offer much needed space for the Tribal Council Gaming Commissioners and the Human Resource Department. This building will be used proudly future generations of council members and gaming commissioners and administrative staff.

Another directive from the General Council Meeting in 1997 has brought to the council table a well presented comprehensive Burial Insurance Plan, which enables every eligible tribal member to receive more money than the current \$1,200 per member. A full Burial Plan will be presented to the membership at the General Council Meeting in

July, 1998 and will be included in the mail-out.

Enterprise funds has provided more job opportunities in every layer of tribal operations - from the casino - to newly created tribal positions. Subsequently one of those new program positions is the tribal Human Resources Department and a staff of three positions, the director, director's assistant and secretary/clerk. This much needed program relieves the Personnel Officer/Council Member of the ever-growing workload of the employee workforce, and will be instrumental in implementing the Drug-Free Workplace Policy & Procedures and the Drug Testing Procedures for tribal employees. We are proud to have this department on board. We have 134 tribal employees at the present time. The Tribal Council made it possible to obtain health insurance for all tribal employees, and life insurance is available if the employee desires to enroll in the life insurance program.

January 1997 saw the culmination of the management agreement between Harrah's and the Potawatomi Tribe, with the Grand Opening of Harrah's Prairie Band Casino located on tribal land just off 150 Road and Hwy 75. Although the 'new' casino is hailed as a success, the Tribal Council is well aware that is not the final answer to all problems affecting the Tribe, but will be used as a doorway, opening a field of opportunities for tribal members. The Tribal Council realizes the importance for continued economic development. Among the many ideas and proposal brought to the council table, a Gas Station & Deli is on the drawing board for further development. The station will be located near the casino enterprise location.

Highlights of the year was the ability to implement a satellite clinic on the reservation for those patients who need follow-up and able to obtain it close to home. Health fairs are being held for both children and adults. The Community Health Representatives work closely with all groups involved that are in need of medical and dental care.

Other recently completed and proposed projects include:

- ♦ Road Improvement Project
- ♦ We Te Se Multi-Purpose Building
- ♦ Early Childhood Center
- ♦ Prairie Peoples Park Pow-Wow Grounds
- ♦ Tribal Outdoor Recreation Complex
- ♦ Ball-field renovation
- ♦ Stabilization of Tribal Programs
- ♦ Repurchasing Reservation Lands
- ♦ Implementation of Tribal Newsletter

We are pleased to compile this newsletter for our Tribal members. This will be a quarterly publication. Please send your news and accomplishments to the Tribal Office.

Prairie Band Gaming Commission Report

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Gaming Commission, initiated in 1994, is recognized as a political subdivision of the Tribe, receiving funding from the casino's gross operating revenues.

The Commission along with a compliance department, eleven inspectors, a finance officer and a secretary, regulate all gaming activities under Title 12 of the Potawatomi Law and Order Code, such as:

- conducting background investigations on gaming vendors and employees;
- issuing gaming licenses;
- imposing sanctions and fines;
- ensuring an annual audit is conducted by an outside firm;
- testing slot machines to ensure integrity; and
- ensuring inspectors are on the premises 24 hours a day to monitor compliance of all operating procedures.

A portion of operation profits are sent to the National Indian Gaming Commission to cover the cost of regulatory enforcement. The Tribal-State Compact mandates an annual fee be submitted to the Kansas State Gaming Agency; which is entirely supported by the Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Iowa and Sac & Fox tribal funds.

After operating in the temporary casino for a year, the new Casino opened on January 12, 1998. The \$37 million casino entertainment complex encompasses approximately 63,000 square feet, and features 500 slot machines, 40 table games (blackjack, poker, roulette, and craps), a 420-seat bingo hall, Fresh Market Square Buffet, Tribal-run gift shop, and an entertainment lounge. Adjoining the facility is a 100-room hotel.

Harrah's Prairie Band Casino is located in the southeastern quadrant of the reservation at the junction of Highway 75 and Road 150. The casino is approximately 15 miles north of Topeka, Kansas.

The Casino employs approximately 750 and operates 24 hours a day. The casino created 1,550 jobs (925 direct jobs, 625 indirect jobs) plus 235 construction jobs during the casino and hotel development phase. \$35 million in annual wages will be paid (\$23 million in direct wages, \$12 million in indirect wages). Increased economic activity will create \$6 million in annual governmental revenue (\$3.5 million annually to the state of Kansas, \$2.8 million annually to local governments).

The Gaming Commission has the responsibility of backgrounding each individual employee and has licensed well over 1,000 employees in the last few months. Each vendor has to be backgrounded. Some of the background work is done in-house, while the KBI or State Gaming Agency does the more detailed background work. The licensing process is an on-going project due to the turnover rate.

Negotiations with the State Gaming Agency produced a fast-track licensing process that produced faster results. Now, a potential hire is licensed within ten working days for Category III workers (kitchen help, janitors, hotel help) on up to 35 days for Category I's (Surveillance, financial personnel, etc.). For instance, 223 individuals were licensed through this system in the month of January, when the casino opened.

A company called Clarence Kelly and Associates, a private investigation agency in Kansas City has the primary duty to conduct background checks on Class III-Cat. 1, and Class II - Series B & C gaming applications. In the future, all vendors will also go through this process. The turn-around is expedited now. In July of 1998, the State Gaming Agency will conduct background checks on Class I applicants, a process formerly done by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and, this too, will speed up the process.

"Fast Tracking" has provided the casino with 919 licensed employees. This enable the casino to begin operating 24 hours a day on April 2, 1998. The initial financial reports, from the first

few days of operating with extended hours, stated an average increase in revenue, of \$10,000 a night from slot machines, and \$5,000 from table games.

The Commission wrote and developed Hearing Procedures that will address grievances from applicants turned down for a license. This happens when an applicant fails to reveal pertinent information in the disclosure form. The disclosure form is a requirement of the Tribal-State Compact and the background investigation will catch any non-disclosures, which is grounds for denial. A hearing of this type gives the applicant due process, but the decision is final.

In March, the Commission executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kickapoo, Iowa and Sac & Fox Tribes. This allows a sharing of information between the Commissions and Surveillance departments about potential cheats and scams prevalent in the casino industry. This is essential, because a team of such people can hit all four casinos in a short amount of time. The MOU can potentially avert a financial disaster.

The Commission, in conjunction with the Tribal Council, developed an informational brochure entitled *The Prairie Band Potawatomi - Chapters in Time* which outlines Indian Gaming classifications, the regulatory structure and myths & facts about Indian gaming. This is designed to inform Tribal members and non-members alike, on how the Indian gaming industry works. The brochure also presents information on the history and programs of the Tribe. Copies are available for each tribal member at the Tribal Office. Please contact Vestina Nonken, Tribal Vice-Chairperson, for more information.

We are also in the process of setting up a web-site on gaming issues and other information contained in the brochure. It will be a good source of information for Tribal members who live off in distant states. Communication has always been a problem; we hope to address this with the brochure, web-site, and this newsletter.

The Gaming Commission consist of the following officers: Gary E. Mitchell, Chairman; Milton LaClair, Vice-Chairman; Shawanna Wabaunsee, Treasurer; Laveda Wahweotten, Secretary and Calvin Evans, member.

The Compliance staff includes: Mary Wahlmeier, Pat Chapman, Wileta Hughes, and Donna Jimboy. The Inspectors are: Eleanor Batt, Aaron Boltz, Barbara Catron, Tina Catron, Robert Engler, Lea Jim, William Jim, Tracy Rodewald, Tammy Varela, Chuck Wahweotten, Bruce McKinney, and Elwin Welbourne. Lily Hall is the Finance Officer and Royetta Rupnicki is the Commission Secretary.

Funding for the Commission is derived from the Management Contract with Harrah's in Section 4.6.7: The operations of the Tribal Gaming Commission shall, after the Commencement Date, be funded from the Operating Budget and Annual Plan as an Operating Expense of the Business in an amount which reflects the reasonable cost of the Tribal Gaming Commission of regulating the Business, up to a maximum of two-thirds of one percent (0.67%) of Gross Gaming Revenues, but in no event less than \$300,000.00 per year.

The Commission will eventually assess fees to vendors for doing business with the Casino (Section 8.2) which is also outlined in the Management Agreement with Harrah's. This will make the Commission a self-sufficient entity of the Tribe.

Thank you for reading this article.

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Program News

Volume 1, Issue 1, Summer 1998

Senior Citizen Program

Submitted by Wymona Wahweotten

The Senior Citizen Program provides a variety of services to the elderly on the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Reservation. The program currently delivers 12 meals to home-bound seniors around the reservation and serve 60-70 meals at the meal site Monday through Friday.

One day a month is set aside for a birthday meal for all seniors during that month. For example, 12 birthdays were celebrated during the month of May. The program requests birthdays for anyone over 50 so they can be added to the calendar.

Grocery day is every Wednesday and seniors are transported to Holton for necessary food items. Once a month a trip into Topeka is planned for shopping and departure is 1:00 pm.

Winter was rough on some of the seniors with several falls and illness but they are recovering and looking forward to returning to the friendly confines of the Senior Citizen site. The program asks that non-seniors honor the four new handicap parking signs and leave that parking for the elders.

For more information call (785) 966-2771 and talk to Wynona Wahweotten, Senior Site Director.

Road and Bridge Program

Submitted by Tim Ramirez

In the past year, the Road and Bridge Program has completed many successful projects including the Child Care foundation and various bridge repairs. Work is underway on the 158 Road project. Road 158 or the main road of the reservation has historically suffered from substandard intersections, inadequate drainage and surface gravel, resulting in driving limitations during inclement weather.

Jackson County, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing and Urban Development grants and the Tribe have entered into agreements to complete the project late in 1998. Amino Brothers of Kansas City received the bid to complete the project.

The \$3.69 million road improvement project includes grading and surfacing of nine miles of roadway in multiple phases. Phase one involves the engineering and acquisition of project right-of-way. Phase Two involves the laying of rock base with a chip and seal coating, providing a firm foundation. Phase Three involves the overlay of a 4" bituminous hot-mix asphalt covering. The project addresses a long-overlooked tribal infrastructure problem, ensuring safe reservation roads.

The Road and Bridge project employs twenty-two Tribal members. Five drivers have their Commercial Driver License (CDL) A, which includes Tractor trailer and combination vehicles. Five other employees have the CDL B license which is driving straight 10 wheel trucks with a gross weight of less than 27,000 pounds.

Adult Education Programs

Submitted by Sharon McClane

Sharon McClane is the Education Administrator for the Higher Education/Scholarship, Adult Vocational Training, Adult Education and the Tribal Education and Training Assistance Programs. She is assisted by an Education Committee. Members of this committee are: Arlene Wahwassuck, Gary Mitchell, Venida Chenault and Mary Wabnum-Mitchell. Some program features are:

- Higher Education/Scholarships: The supplemental financial aid offered by this program helps eligible Tribal members work towards and obtain bachelor degrees. Financial aid is determined by the university's financial aid office and is used to determine eligibility for assistance. Students awarded grants maintain eligibility by earning no less than a C average, carrying at least 12 hours per semester and remaining in a financial need status. Maximum award amounts are: Freshman - \$1,200 per semester on up to Seniors who are allowed \$1,500 per semester. Deadline dates are July 1st for Fall semester and November 1st for Spring semester.
- Adult Education: This program provides grants for G.E. D. preparation and G.E.D. exam fees, registration fees for education workshops and/or conferences, tuition for 3-hour college courses and employment enrichment courses. G.E.D. classes are offered each semester on the Reservation.
- Tribal Education and Training Assistance Program: An amount of \$156,759.23 from the program portion of the Tribe's share of judgement funds awarded in Docket 15B was authorized for use in a Tribal Education Loan Program in December of 1980. In July of 1993, the General Council voted to change this to a scholarship program. In 1996, the General Council voted to increase the principle amount to \$650,000.00. Only the interest earnings on the invested principle may be used for annual education program requirements. This scholarship program has a limit of \$750.00 per semester for undergraduate students and \$1,000.00 per semester for vocational technical students.

For additional information regarding these education programs, contact Sharon McClane at 15434 K Road, Mayetta, KS 66509 or call at (785) 966-2960.

Substance Abuse Program

Submitted by Lester Sumner

The Prairie Band Alcohol and Drug Program provides individual counseling, outreach programs, referrals, assessments and post-treatment guidance. Proactive policy development and treatment modalities are important program facets.

Program interaction with various agencies, tribal departments, and treatment facilities, both in-state and out, help maximize its effectiveness. Lester Sumner, department coordinator since 1989, believes early substance abuse education and timely interventions help curb the onslaught of chemical abuse and dependency.

Since the program's inception in 1987, an open Alcoholics Anonymous meeting has been held every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. Weekly Al-Anon meetings are planned for Monday nights assisting those whose loved ones suffer from substance abuse.

The Alcohol and Drug Program hopes to assist the client in leading a healthy and productive life through counseling, instilling hope, improving mental health and providing positive modeling. Treatment is handled with dignity and confidentiality, and has proven an invaluable community resource.

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Program News

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Land and Repatriation Program Submitted by Benny Potts

The Land Department is the newest program of the Tribe. The goal of the program is to improve the quality of present tribal tracts. This is an on-going process.

Previously the tribe had five tribal tracts (238.4 acres) in a cost share program called the Conservation Reserve Program. The Tribe only had three months to complete the necessary requirements to get into the program. With rented equipment, the crew burned the fields, fixed ditches, removed brush or tree limbs from the land. Then a seed mix of native grasses was applied to the tracts. The Tribe gets reimbursed for half the seed cost, half of the seeder/planter rental and for labor and tractor time. This land is required to sit idle for the next ten years and this particular program will reduce erosion on highly erodible land and to enhance the quality of the land.

The Land Department has also been caring for an orchard located on K Road between 158th and 150th Road. The orchard had Dwarf trees, Cherry trees, grapes, Blackberry trees and Cedar trees are used for wind block. Maintenance is necessary on an on-going basis with the trees being watered every other day depending on the weather. The rows between the trees are constantly being weeded and a good quality grass will eventually be planted. The trees will produce in 2 to 5 years depending on the tree type and quality care.

At the beginning of May, the program started to clean up graves located across the reservation especially before Memorial Day. This will be an on-going process.

The employees for this program are: John Rupnicki, Supervisor; Sam Potts, laborer; Wilson Noriega, laborer; Willie Potts, laborer; and Sogi LeClere, secretary.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Attorney's Office

Submitted by David Prager

This office was established in September of 1997. The purpose of the Tribal Attorney's Office is to provide general legal services to assist and advise Tribal Government. This includes providing a variety of legal services for the Tribal Council and Tribal Government, the review of contracts with the Tribe, and drafting of proposed resolutions, legislative materials and other documents when requested to do so by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Attorney also provides legal services for the Tribe in connection with its relationship with the State of Kansas, the United States Government and the Indian gaming business.

The Tribal Attorney's Office is prohibited from taking sides in political disputes within Tribal Government and is prohibited from providing legal services to individual members of the Tribe in personal matters. David Prager, III, is the Tribal Attorney and Paula Hopkins is his Office Assistant. FMI: (785) 966-3040. Fax: (785) 966-3039

Planning Department

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Planning Department has a completed staff: Roy Spoonhunter, Greg Wold and Latane Donelin. You might wonder why our office is sometimes referred to as the EPA office? It could be because the grants for establishing an Environmental Protection Office for the Reservation are funded primarily from the United States EPA Region VII Office. As this office establishes the Tribal Program, it represents the Tribe not only in administering the permits related to the Land Use and Zoning on the Reservation, but also the implementation of grants. Latane Donelin, Director of the Environmental Office team, travels from Manhattan to administer both the grant and permit programs for the Reservation.

Roy Spoonhunter is the Environmental Program Coordinator for grants dealing with Indoor Health and the Environment, Lead Paint and Radon, as well as coordinating the Solid Waste and Recycling programs for the Tribe. He has been attending Lead Inspector training in Lawrence, KS and will attend a conference for lead grantees in June in Arizona. You may be hearing from him soon as he schedules the lead inspections in homes and structures on the Reservation during May and June. He is at home with Osh and little son, Cedric.

Greg Wold is the Environmental Planner/Biologist for the team. His training includes a week-long wetlands delineation class by EPA and another week of GIS training at Haskell by USGS. We are pleased he will join other staff and tribal council members attending a timber symposium in June in Arizona. Both Greg and Latane were involved with the Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance last year and continue that association as representative from the Tribal Planning Office. After coming from South Dakota and living in this area for many years, Greg is pleased to be working with the Tribe. Greg is involved with the Natural Resources Subcommittee and is called on frequently for his environmental education expertise.

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Enrollment

Submitted by Grace Wahwassuck

At the present time there are 4,274 enrolled Prairie Band of Potawatomi members. The process is slow for new applicants since we do considerable amount of research on the blood quantum of new applicants. For example, it is necessary to do an extensive background check to see if the applicant is enrolled in another Tribe. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide this verification.

After all the preliminary work is done, an Enrollment Committee reviews the application for eligibility. The Enrollment Committee is comprised of three Tribal elders: Orlando Green, Cecelia Jackson and Alberta Wamego.

Once this process is complete, successful applicants are assigned enrollment numbers and encoded into the computer. The CDIB cards are mailed as soon as possible. CDIB cards are used for Indian Health Service verification purposes and other services that require proof of Indian descent.

If there are any questions for the Enrollment Office, please call (785) 966-2962 or Fax: (785) 966-2986. Grace Wahwassuck is the Enrollment Officer and is assisted by Enrollment Clerk, Theresa J. Kitchkommie.

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Prairie Band Gift Shop

The Prairie Band Gift Shop, a tribal enterprise, is located in the Harrah's Prairie Band Casino. The shop offers for sale a wide variety of Native American gift items such as: moccasins, beadwork and jewelry. Artwork, handcrafted woodcarvings and beadwork by tribal members are a specialty of the Prairie Band Gift Shop. Also available for sale are: craft supplies, Pendleton products, T-shirts, caps, jackets, mugs, glassware and key-chains with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal logo and Harrah's Prairie Band logo.

Presently, the gift shop employs eight people. All tribal members and/or members of the reservation community. The Prairie Band Gift Shop enterprise falls under the umbrella of the Tribe and adheres to the personnel manual and procedures of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe. Quarterly reports are submitted to the Tribal Council with an Annual Report to the General Council.

All tribal members are encouraged to stop by the gift shop any time. The hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday - 10:00 am until 12:00 am. Friday and Saturday - 10:00 am until 2:00 am.

Law Enforcement Program

The police department is responsible for the enforcement of tribal codes, ordinances and regulations, and protecting the peace, health, safety and property of reservation residents.

Personnel patrol the reservation, resolving conflicts relating to persons or property, and maintaining 24-hour peace and civil authority. The new Tribal Police Department building will be located near the old Community Building.

Language Preservation Grant

In 1997, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi received a \$75,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans to revive the use of the Potawatomi language. Presently, only an estimated 21 of 4,274 tribal members speak fluent Potawatomi. Decreased language use is attributed to boarding school curriculum, conversion to Judeo-Christian beliefs, and the myth the English language was necessary for success in present society.

The tribe plans to incorporate the knowledge of tribal members, the community, schools, and computer tutorials. A comprehensive language curriculum will be developed, including text-based language courses, videos, audio cassette recordings of tribal elders, animated coloring and activity books featuring traditional Indian stories, flash cards, overhead transparencies and a storybook. Visualization is an important element in the Potawatomi teaching strategy. Language visualization and application will also be achieved through artwork, tribal legends, oratory and personal narratives. A dictionary will be developed with English word meanings, and traditional Potawatomi and phonetic spellings.

Potawatomi Tribal Court

The Potawatomi Tribal Code established a trial-level district court and an appeals court. The Tribal District Court judge conducts trials, hearings, and all initial matters filed in the tribal court system. The Tribal Court of Appeals has three judges jointly hearing appeals from trial court decisions. All current judges of both the District and Appeals Court are licensed attorneys, and members of the Potawatomi and other tribes. All are familiar with Potawatomi history and traditions and well-versed in federal and state legal procedure and common law. Court personnel consist of a court administrator, court clerk, tribal prosecutor and a bailiff.

Prairie Band jurisdiction generally extends to people and activities within the Prairie Band's "Indian Country," including reservation land, tribal and individual trust lands and dependent Indian communities. In civil matters involving a reservation tribal member, the Tribal Court's jurisdiction is often exclusive. The Tribal Court must initially hear the case, and its authority usually supercedes state authority. Even when non-Indians are involved, the Tribal Court usually possess primary jurisdiction, when cases arise on trust land within reservation boundaries. The Tribal Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all cases involving Potawatomi reservation children. The Federal Indian Child Welfare Act also allows the Tribal Court to assume juvenile jurisdiction over other Potawatomi cases arising in courts outside reservation land when cases are transferred to the Tribal Court pursuant to the Act.

FMI: 785-966-2244 Fax: 785-966-2662 Email: pbppotct@flinthills.com

Human Resource Department

Submitted by Dale Delg

The Human Resource Department for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indians is a newly formed department for our tribal employees. Dale Delg has been appointed as Director in November of 1997, and Rubina Eteeyan is the successful candidate for Administrative Assistant.

The responsibilities of the Human Resources office will include administration of Personnel Policies, Health Insurance plan, and tracking employees hours of work, as well as all leave time. Will work closely with other program supervisors and directors to plan and implement an effective personnel staffing plan. The H.R. department has and is continually implementing new wage and salary scale for all employees, so lifestyles on our reservation can be more financially improved than in the past.

Training for all employees will be the main goal of the Human Resource Department, without good instructions and plans, we as a Tribal employer will fall short of an effective employment system. Quarterly training sessions have been planned, and the topics will not only increase awareness in the work place but also increase productivity.

Please feel free to stop in the office or call Dale and Rubina with any questions about job opportunities at: 785-966-3060.

Change of Address Form

This is my current mailing address:

Name: _____
Please Print (first) (middle) (maiden) (last)
Address: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Birthdate: _____ Soc. Sec.No. (optional) _____
Roll No: _____
Mail to:

Election Board
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians
P.O. Box 128
Mayetta, KS 66509-0128

Calender of Events

June 20, 27. July 18, 25. August 8, 15, Family Fitness Fun from 9:00 am to 10:15 am at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Gym.

July 4 Celebration. This year's annual PBP Community celebration has plans for many activities during the day such as: youth softball games, volleyball games, bingo, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, evening entertainment, a feast and watermelon feed for everyone. There is always a great turn out from the local community for this annual event.

July 6, Johnson O'Malley Parent Committe Annual Election at 6:30 pm at the Potawatomi Housing Building. Six positions up for election.

July 10-12, Potawatomi softball teams go to Oklahoma City Tournament

July 15, Ballot-counting for this years election starting at 10:00 am.

July 18, Annual General Council Meeting. Starts at 9:00 am.

August 27-30, 6th Annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nation. Hosted by the Huron Potawatomi, Inc. of Fulton, MI. FMI: Call Shirley English, Tribal Chairperson at 616-729-5151 or Fax: 616-729-5920.

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Tribe has chartered two buses to travel to the 6th Annual Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations held in Fulton, Michigan, August 27-30, 1998. The buses were chartered so that our Tribal Elders and Senior Citizens can attend this special event. They will be given first priority in receiving a seat for the trip to Fulton. All interested people should call the Tribal Office at 785-966-2255 or call Dale at 785-966-3060. Call in advance to reserve your seat.

Post 410 Meetings, First Monday every month at Multi-Purpose Bldg.

ALA Teen & AA Meetings, every Wednesday at 7:00 pm at MP Bldg.

Birthday Dinner at Senior Citizen Site every 1st Thursday of the month

Individual Tribal Members Profiles

- Susie Wilbur, daughter of William and Verna Wilbur, has received a President's Outstanding Minority scholarship at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities for Fall, 1998. In awarding these highly competitive scholarships, the University honors incoming students who have demonstrated academic performance and leadership. The university presents these awards in recognition of the achievements and potential of the most promising incoming freshman - students who will continue to distinguish themselves as campus leaders and as outstanding university scholars. Wilbur, who graduated from Royal Valley this May, will attend the university this fall to study business administration and marketing.
- Zach Pahmahmie, son of Richard Pahmahmie and Cheryl Simon, will attend the University of Kansas Law School in the fall of 1998.
- Terri Kern, daughter of Jim and Tutti Kern will also attend the University of Kansas Law School in Lawrence for the Fall Semester, 1998.
- Jessica Childers, daughter of Ione Delge, and Jennifer Delge, daughter of Renee Delge, both graduated from Perry High School in May of 1998. Jessica will attend Haskell in the Fall. Jennifer, who has a 4.0 G.P.A., will attend UCLA in the Fall on a dance scholarship.

Note: The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Tribal Council Offices have moved to the old bingo hall at 16283 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas. 66509-9114
Phone: 785-966-2255 Fax: 785-966-2144.

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