Delaware Indian News

The Official Publication of the Delaware Tribe of Indians

Lënapeí Pampil **October 2026 ▪ Volume 49, Issue No. IV**

From the Desk of Chief Brad KillsCrow

Brad KillsCrow, Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians

Hè, kulamalsi hàch,

We are finally getting some relief from the hot summer days and as we prepare for the winter months ahead, we have continued to keep pushing on progress here at the Delaware Tribe! The construction of the new Cultural Center and Gymnasium has been continuing all summer, and we are excited to have these new assets here at the Tribe for all our tribal members to enjoy. We have actively been pursuing our sacred items from museums and institutions that are currently housing those items. We have had a lot of positive conversations with those museums and institutions regarding repatriation of our items. I want to acknowledge and thank our Cultural Education Director, Jeremy Johnson, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Martina Thomas, and Council Member Rusty Creed Brown on their work in bringing these items back to our people.

Our General Council meeting and this year's election will be held on the 7th of November. This year's election will be a historic one, as the people will decide and vote for the Assistant Chief position. I hope by combining both elections and general council that many people will turn out and we get to see a lot of familiar and new faces.

Also, I am deeply saddened by the Trust Board leadership's inability to reach out to the Tribal Council to have a discussion to resolve any issues, instead they have chosen to sue the Tribal Council for reasons unbeknownst to us. On this ballot is the question to dissolve the Trust Board. The Tribal Council did not initiate this question it came from a group of citizens in the tribe, and the Council have been actively preparing for services to continue without interruption should this question pass.

The Fall-Leaf Family Memorial Campgrounds will see a new total rewiring of the electrical infrastructure. The current electrical wiring is unsafe and overdue. The work will begin after Delaware Days, and we will advise and remind our members to stay out of the area during this time.

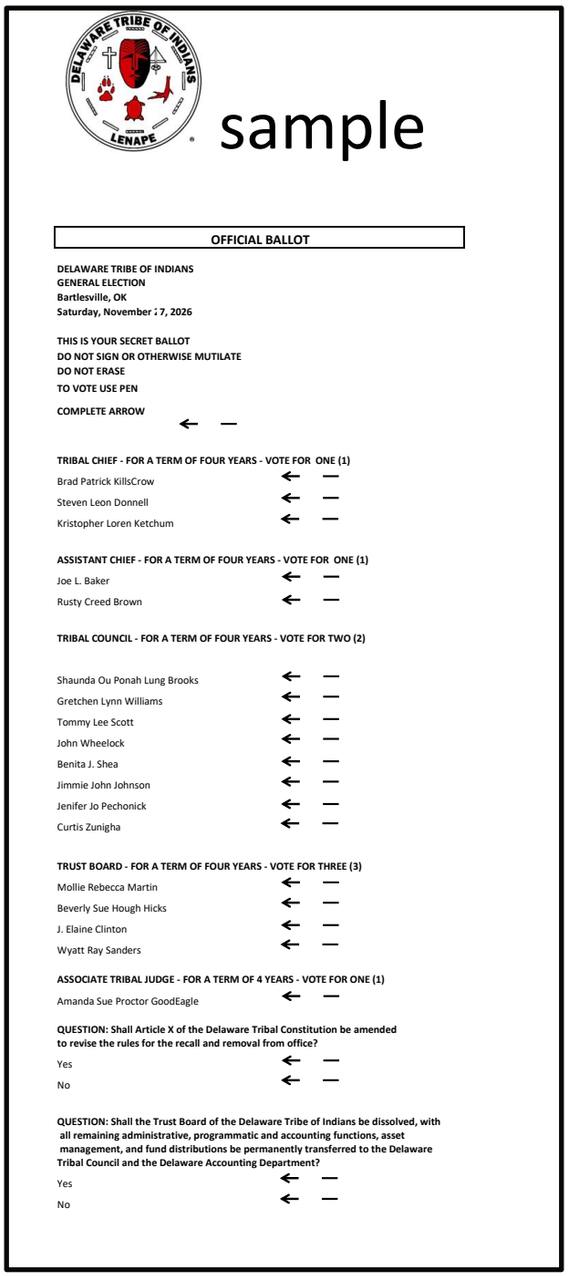
The Lenape Early Learning Center is expanding their services to the Chelsea area. We understand the importance of quality childcare for underserviced areas in which our members reside. We have been renovating the current facility in Chelsea, and they are in the final stages of the remodel and are looking to open childcare services for the first of this year.

In closing, we are all of one people, the Lenape people. We must always strive for excellence and be committed to doing what is right. The way we talk to each other, even if we disagree, we should still have the common respect as Lenape to communicate in a way that is positive. The more we strive to uplift each other and be there for each other the less divided we will be.

Wanishi

Brad KillsCrow
Chief ■





sample

OFFICIAL BALLOT

DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS
GENERAL ELECTION
Bartlesville, OK
Saturday, November 7, 2026

THIS IS YOUR SECRET BALLOT
DO NOT SIGN OR OTHERWISE MUTILATE
DO NOT ERASE
TO VOTE USE PEN
COMPLETE ARROW ← —

TRIBAL CHIEF - FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE (1)
Brad Patrick KillsCrow ← —
Steven Leon Donnell ← —
Kristopher Loren Ketchum ← —

ASSISTANT CHIEF - FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE (1)
Joe L. Baker ← —
Rusty Creed Brown ← —

TRIBAL COUNCIL - FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS - VOTE FOR TWO (2)
Shaunda Ou Ponah Lung Brooks ← —
Gretchen Lynn Williams ← —
Tommy Lee Scott ← —
John Wheelock ← —
Benita J. Shea ← —
Jimmie John Johnson ← —
Jenifer Jo Pechonick ← —
Curtis Zunigha ← —

TRUST BOARD - FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS - VOTE FOR THREE (3)
Mollie Rebecca Martin ← —
Beverly Sue Hough Hicks ← —
J. Elaine Clinton ← —
Wyatt Ray Sanders ← —

ASSOCIATE TRIBAL JUDGE - FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS - VOTE FOR ONE (1)
Amanda Sue Proctor GoodEagle ← —

QUESTION: Shall Article X of the Delaware Tribal Constitution be amended to revise the rules for the recall and removal from office?
Yes ← —
No ← —

QUESTION: Shall the Trust Board of the Delaware Tribe of Indians be dissolved, with all remaining administrative, programmatic and accounting functions, asset management, and fund distributions be permanently transferred to the Delaware Tribal Council and the Delaware Accounting Department?
Yes ← —
No ← —

From The Desk of Assistant Chief Tonya Anna

Tonya Anna, Assistant Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians

As my term in office comes to a close, serving as your Assistant Chief has been the privilege of a lifetime. My first year on Tribal Council was to fill a seat after the passing of Chief Chet Brooks. A short eight months later the position of Assistant Chief was presented to me when the previous AC resigned his position. That first year flew by trying to get up to speed, so when elections rolled around, I felt the need to run. If you have never been in tribal politics let me tell you, there is a lot to learn, especially if this is your first time! As with any new position there are things that you don't understand but learn along the way. I want to take time to thank those who truly helped me. To Dana Murrell, Executive Assistant to the Chief and Tribal Council, as Dorothy told the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz, "I think I'll miss you most of all." You taught me so much about tribal government and how it works. Your brain is so full of information that I often think of you as a walking tribal encyclopedia! To Lenape Early Learning Center and Housing, to be invited and attend training with you gave me firsthand insight on how your department works. I hope this next administration takes the time to learn and listen to all employees face to face and not just by a report every month. I feel it's vital for each Tribal Council member to understand the daily functions of the Tribe so they can seek new opportunities for the members. I understand some council members have full-time jobs and cannot dedicate a lot of time, but when you decide to run for a position then it's your obligation to serve the members more than once a month. I would like to thank the Enrollment, Family & Children Services and Wellness departments. To watch you guys do outreach within our community is awesome and your events seem to grow with each passing year. Keep up the great work! Title VI, thank you for letting me call BINGO from time to time. Any time spent with the Elders is a good day!

Although it was not my intent to be AC, I merely wanted to be on tribal council to make a difference so all members, near and far, could be involved and benefit from our services, not just a select few. Being in this position exposed me to opportunities that I may otherwise not have been able to accomplish. One of my most memorable was going to Peabody Museum and seeing the Lenape archives that they had in their possession. Being involved with IPD Philly on Indigenous People's Day has been an experience that I will cherish. Not only did I get to talk about our Tribe but got to meet a lot of interesting people from all around the world. If you ever have a chance to visit an event like IPD Philly, I suggest you find a way to attend. You would be very pleased with what you will learn about other indigenous people. In fact, this would be a great day for the Tribe to have its own event to inform our local community about who we are, as a lot of community members don't even know we exist and we are in their backyard.

Things are always changing, sometimes for the good and not so good. When I moved here in 2005 it seemed like there were activities going on at least once a week in Forsythe Hall. They included Lenapeowsi, language, drumming, and potluck dinners where people would gather to work on projects or just to visit. It would be nice to open the doors for tribal fellowship every week instead of once a month. I look back at the elders who used to attend these events, and many have passed on. If we don't get back to fellowship and caring about each other then I hate to see the future of our tribe.

Now with elections upon us I hope whoever wins takes their position seriously and will be engaged. Currently, offices that were put into place for TC members to utilize so they could do their job have become storage areas. It would be nice to see tribal council members on campus so they could be available to talk to tribal members and employees.

In closing, I would like to thank Tribal Council for being supportive of me to help take care of my mother. There was a time that I thought I would have to resign to care for her. This last year has probably been the most difficult year in my term. So, if you are taking care of an Elder or your job is in the health field, I applaud you for your work. An Elder had told me maybe I need to walk away now considering my obligations at home and come back later. I took that to heart and have elected to do so. I will miss the conversations and friendships I made along the way and thank you to everyone who supported me. Prayers to the new administration and hope you can keep the tribe moving forward in a good way. Like a previous employer had once told me, "If you are not taking care of our people directly then help someone who is." Our members make up this Tribe and during my term I heard a lot of complaints but the ones complaining aren't doing anything to assist. I also heard people say "I can do this or that" yet there is no action. Don't just be the voice, be the change. This is your Tribe and it can only be as successful as the members are strong!

Wanishi,
Tonya Anna ■

Proposed Constitutional Change For 2026 Ballot

Strike all of Article X—Recall/Removal from Office which currently reads:

ARTICLE X —Recall / Removal from Office

Section 1. If any elected member of the Delaware Tribal government is convicted of a felony or crime which involves dishonesty, his office shall be considered forfeited upon 2/3 vote of the Tribal Council by resolution, or by 2/3 of votes cast by eligible voting membership.

Section 2. Any member of the Delaware Tribal Council not in attendance of two consecutive, unexcused absences, at the regularly scheduled Council meetings, shall forfeit his office.

Replace Article X with:

ARTICLE X—Recall and Removal

The Tribal Council or members of the Delaware Tribe shall have the right to recall and remove any elected Tribal official if the elected official is convicted of a felony or any crime which involves dishonesty, malfeasance or misconduct, or if the Tribal official commits an act or fails to act which results in a violation of the oath of office. The right of recall shall be exercised subject to the following procedures:

A. Section 1. A recall shall be initiated by a member of the Delaware Tribe submitting a petition to the Council Secretary pursuant to Article III - Initiative Process of the Bylaws of the bylaws, or by a 2/3 vote of a resolution of the Tribal Council; provided, however, the timeframe for any special election for recall shall be conducted in accordance with this Article;

Section 2. Upon receipt of the petition and the Council Secretary's written verification or upon receipt of such resolution of the Tribal Council, it shall be the duty of the Chief to call for a recall election to be held within sixty (60) days. The elected official shall be put on administrative leave, all duties shall be suspended, and any pay or stipends suspended, pending the result of the recall election;

Section 3. Upon being compelled to call and set a special election for recall, the Election Committee shall conduct said recall election following procedures set forth in the Election Ordinance regarding regular elections in all manners so as not to deny the right of all eligible voters of the Delaware Tribe the right to vote;

Section 4. Recall from office shall require a majority of votes cast. Upon certification of the votes, a recalled elected official's office shall be deemed vacant and shall be filled according to Article VII - Vacancy;

B. Any member of the Delaware Tribal Council not in attendance of two consecutive, unexcused absences, at the regularly scheduled Council meetings, shall forfeit his or her office ■

Trust Board Community Services and Education Committees

Community Services Programs

If you have questions, please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 337-6510.

Community Service Applications for the following programs are being accepted, while funding is available. Applicants must be an enrolled tribal member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. As of FY2024, Only one (1) Community Service Application is allowed per tribal member, per calendar year, with the exception of Elder Prescription, which can be applied for monthly, and Burial Assistance.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
All Community Services Programs with the exception of the Burial Program are currently closed for the year. The Burial Program will continue until funds are expended, and all other programs will begin accepting applications again in January 2027.

Burial Program: Assistance up to $750.00 for the burial assistance for Delaware Tribal members. The family may apply for the funds to be used for expenses that are most beneficial to the family (i.e., funeral services, family meals, wake, grave markers, etc.) Payment will be made as designated by the immediate family.

Emergency Assistance: Emergency assistance to Delaware tribal members. Funds are to be used for emergency situations. Funds are allocated up to $400 and will be disbursed as determined by the Community Service Committee on a case-by-case basis. This includes medical and emergency travel.

Elders Program, Prescription Medication Assistance: Prescription medication assistance to Delaware elders age 55 and over for pharmacy and related cost. Funds may be disbursed to vendors or to Elders on a monthly basis not to exceed $75 per month.

Rental or Mortgage Assistance: Provides emergency rental/mortgage assistance to Delaware Tribal Members on a one time basis per year. The amount of assistance that can be approved is limited to $400. Approval of application must be obtained prior to service payment. Payments are made to the vendor or provider of services. Eviction notice, lease agreement or mortgage statement must be submitted with the application. The Tribal Member's name must be on the rental/lease contract or mortgage statement.

Dental Assistance: Provides assistance for dental services up to $300. Services may include tooth repair, dental fillings, dentures. Routine dental exams and cleaning are not covered. Payment will be made to the vendor and not the tribal member, unless for reimbursement.

Optical Assistance: Provides assistance for optical services to Delaware Tribal Members. Funds may be used for services, including glasses, physician's visit or related costs. Funds are allocated up to $200 and will be disbursed as determined by the Community Service Committee on a case-by-case basis. ■

Education Committee Assistance/Programs

Take advantage of these programs; they are here for you! If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 337-6510.

Trust Fund Higher Education School Scholarship: Delaware Tribal Members are eligible for up to $3,200.00 in scholarship funding. Full-time students may apply for $400 per semester for up to eight semesters. Semesters do not have to be consecutive. Part-time students will receive $200 per semester up to 16 semesters.

Fall scholarship applications will be accepted from **July 15 through October 15**, and **Spring** scholarship applications from **December 15 through February 15**.

Driver's Education: This assistance may be used to help defray the cost of attending Driver's Education classes through an accredited training facility for up to $200.

Extra-Curricular Activity: This assistance is for students involved in school sponsored extra-curricular programs (for items required but not provided by the school). Students may be reimbursed up to $100.

You can download the applications directly from our web site **www.delaware-tribe.org.** Just go the Services/Programs tab, and then scroll down to Educational Assistance. ■

Donations for Education Scholarships and to the Tribe Gratefully Accepted

We invite tribal members and others to contribute to a special fund for educational scholarships as well as donations to the Tribe's various programs.

For Educational or scholarship donations make your check payable to the Delaware Tribe Trust Board on the memo line write education assistance or scholarship fund

For general donations, other than education, please make your check payable to the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Examples for the memo line could be Food Pantry; Lenape Early Learning Center; Title VI or just specify it as a general donation.

Donors are recognized at five levels:

Brass Level	up to $100
Silver Level	$100-500
Gold Level	$500-1,000
Wampum Level	$1,000-5,000
Wampum Belt Level	above $5,000

Send donations to

Delaware Tribe of Indians
ATTN: Trust Board Education Committee (For education donations)

OR

ATTN: Donations (For all other donations)
5100 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006-2746 ■

Stories Of Our Past—The Remarkable History Of The Delaware Tribe Of Indians

Anita Mathis, Librarian & Archives Manager

STORIES OF OUR PAST—THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS.

Here in the Archives, we have many wonderful pictures, documents, and objects/artifacts of our Ancestors---- from the past to the present.

DELAWARE—HONORING THE PAST AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Indiana's Prophetstown Lives Once More!

96 Christian Moravian Indians Massacred

By Mary Bilderback Abel

THIN RAIN fell from leaden skies. Joseph Schebosh, a Moravian Indian, stood on the banks of the Tuscarawas River. The mild temperatures of the late winter of 1782 had melted the river ice, and pieces of it floated by.

A rifle cracked. Schebosh grabbed his arm in pain as the two American militiamen who had shadowed him moved from heavy woods. As the young Indian pleaded for his life, another bullet struck him. His executioner, Capt. Charles Bilderback, 38, dealt a massive tomahawk blow to the Indian's head, then scalped him. Thus it began - the most unspeakable crime in Ohio's history, the massacre of 96 Christian Moravian Indians. It happened March 7 and 8, 1782, at Gnadenhutten, a small town just northeast of Coshocton.

Friday and Saturday marked the 198th anniversary of this chilling story. Many Ohioans are unaware of it. And only recently, while doing a genealogical study, did I discover that Captain Bilderback was my ancestor. I had known nothing of his role in the murders. Further research uncovered more dramatic events and a plot of vengeance engineered by backwoods militiamen from Pennsylvania.

The Indians were converted by Moravians, members of a Protestant sect from an area that is now part of Czechoslovakia. The Moravians were persecuted in their homeland and fled to America in 1735. In 1740, they settled in Pennsylvania, attracting converts from the Delaware and Mohican Indians. The Moravians later moved to Ohio's Tuscarawas River Valley and founded Gnadenhutten and Schoenbrunn.

Missionary David Zeisberger and the Delaware Indian converts were at Schoenbrunn, while the Indian elder called Joshua, and his Mohican followers, lived at Gnadenhutten, nine miles south. In 1780, Salem, another Moravian community, was founded near New Philadelphia.

The residents of Gnadenhutten (German for Tents of Grace) had a high standard of living. Many of their 60 cabins had glass windows. They ate with pewter utensils, used alarm clocks and enjoyed items like coffee and chocolate brought from Bethlehem, Pa. They farmed and raised cattle, hogs and horses, and they excelled in crafts and music. Their ornate church in the center of the town contained a spinet.

The Moravians in Ohio treaded political water during the Revolutionary War. The British wished to make allies of these people, but the Moravians had no desire to take sides in the conflict. As pacifists, their policy was to offer hospitality to all - Indian, English or American. This aroused suspicion on all sides.

In September 1781, the British and a group of Wyandot Indians forced the Moravians from their towns in the Tuscarawas Valley. They left behind their substantial harvests and livestock when they were taken to Captive's Town", southeast of Upper Sandusky.

The winter was severe. The Moravians had inadequate food, shelter and clothing, and many became ill or died. Finally the British let them return to their villages in the Tuscarawas Valley to gather food and supplies. Prior to this time, the British also, decided to try the while missionaries as spies in Detroit. Although the whites were acquitted, they were forced to remain as prisoners in Captive's Town ,

The 150 Moravian Indians reached their beloved Tuscarawas Valley in mid-February. After salvaging what they could of their crops, they prepared for their return to Captive's Town. On March 7, 1782, 24 hours before they were scheduled to leave Gnadenhutten, the Pennsylvania militiamen, commanded by Col. David Williamson, surrounded the Indians and took them prisoner.

Not knowing that six of their comrades, like Schebosh, already lay dead, the Indians willingly surrendered their weapons, believing the Americans to be friends.

But to these white men the Indians were enemies. After a mock trial, four-fifths of the militiamen voted the death sentence. The excuses: The Moravian Indians helped warriors who terrorized Americans. The Moravians also were accused of raiding Pennsylvania border settlements.

The Indians, some speaking perfect English, said they were innocent but no attempt to resist. They spent the praying and singing, staking their faith. What happened on the cold.1 morning that followed is best described inhuman.

Using a heavy wooden cooper's mat tomahawks and knives, the America methodically went down the line of Indians. Heavy blows smashed skulls and tore through flesh. All were scalped, even infants. Bodies were everwhere. Pools of blood on the cabin floors dripped through the planks to the cellars below. Finally the corpses were thrown into the mission and the cooper's house, and the town was set afire. Two 14-year-old boys survived. Al-though one had been scalped, they escaped back to the Upper Sandusky area and spread the word of the massacre.

The militiamen gathered what booty they could and returned to Pennsylvania. The Moravian scalps were displayed at Fort Pitt, but the militiamen connected with the massacre quickly disbanded, fearing they might be asked to account for their deeds. The men returned to their homes and families, knowing that the less attention focused on them, the better. Even today, only about 30 persons have been identified as possible participants in the raid …

More from this book and many, many other stories may be found at the Tribal Archives on the Bartlesville campus. Stop in a take a look! ■

Prevention Services Expands Weekly Programming to Support Community Wellness

The Delaware Tribe of Indians Prevention Services program continues to offer culturally grounded opportunities for connection, healing, and personal growth through its weekly programming. These gatherings are designed to support individuals and families on their wellness journeys while strengthening community ties.

Each Tuesday evening, Prevention Services hosts the Medicine Wheel 12-Step Course, a 15-week program held from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Rooted in traditional teachings, this course blends the principles of the 12-step model with the holistic perspective of the medicine wheel. Dinner is provided, creating a welcoming space for participants to come together, share a meal, and engage in meaningful learning and reflection.

On Wednesdays, community members are invited to participate in a Talking Circle from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. This space offers an opportunity for open dialogue, support, and shared experience in a respectful and culturally centered environment. Plans are underway to expand access by offering both in-person gatherings and a Zoom option, ensuring that more individuals can stay connected regardless of location.

Through these consistent weekly offerings, Prevention Services remains committed to promoting healing, resilience, and community well-being across the Delaware Tribe and all of Indian country. ■

The Bartlesville Indian Women's Club invites all area Native American women to join us for an evening of learning our culture, foods, tribal rites, continued growth, and awareness of Indians. All our money making projects go to our college scholarships. We have Indian Taco dinners and Style Shows to help raise these funds!! Meeting other Indian women is fun and a sense of sisterhood is developed!

Our meetings are 6 P.M. the second Thursday of each month at 601 S. Shawnee, Bartlesville, OK, at the Neighborhood Connection Building. Meetings will begin again in October following a break from June-September. ■

CARDINAL
BUILDING SOLUTIONS
MATT LITTLETON -Owner/Operator
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Owner's Representative
Construction Managment
matt@cardinalbuildingsolutions.com
cardinalbuildingsolutions.com
405.762.2844

Tribal Owned Businesses

Sheshey Ceramics
Red Door Studio
3606 Kristin Ln
Duncan OK 73533

Billie Jean Sheshey
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bjsheshey@gmail.com
(936) 648-3777
Facebook - Sheshey Cermaics

Use this QR code to visit the Tribe's new Facebook page, facebook.com/dtilenape for news and updates about what's happening with your Tribe!



Delaware Indian News Media Kit

Full Page----------11.5 x 11.5 = $300
Half page----------11.5 x 5.75 = $150
Quarterpage--------5.75 x 5.75 = $75
Eighthpage---------5.75 x 2.875 = $40
Business card----------2.0 x 3.5 = $35

Ads can be vertical or horizontal Color add $15

To order, please contact
The administrative assistant to Chief KillsCrow at
din@delawaretribe.org or at 918-337-6590.

Delaware Indian News

The *Delaware Indian News* is the official publication of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. It is published quarterly by the Delaware Tribe of Indians and is mailed free to members. Subscriptions to non-tribal members are available at $20 per year. To order a subscription, contact (918) 337-6590 or **din@delawaretribe.org**.

We invite contributions, but reserve the right to limit printing based upon available space. The deadline for articles, letters, ads and calendar of events is December 15, 2026 for the January 2027 issue. Submissions may be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the tribal office or emailed to **din@delawaretribe.org**. Paid advertisements are available; for rates, please contact the editor.

Editorials, guest columns, and reader's letters reflect the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *DIN*, its staff, or the tribal government. Editorials that are intended to be published in the *DIN* must concern tribal issues and should not be statements of general political beliefs. They must be signed by the author and include the author's address. The *DIN* does not guarantee publication upon submission of comments.

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The mission of the *DIN* is to serve, empower and inform the Lenape people, while adhering to the policy of unbiased reporting in an ethical and professional manner.

Editorial Board:

Dana Murrell, Tonya Anna, Hannah Wassenberg, Celeste Amadon, Stephanie Rainwater, Lori Hasselman

Technical Editor: Joe Brown

(**din@delawaretribe.org**) ■

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Caney, KS 67333
(620) 879-2189

Tribal Website:
www.delawaretribe.org

General Email:
tribe@delawaretribe.org

Upcoming Events

Tribal Council Meeting Schedule

Fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. Meetings at Tribal Complex at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd in Forsythe Hall.

October 28
November 14
December 16

Committee Meeting Schedule

Elders Committee

Third Monday of each month. Meetings held at 5:30 P.M. at Delaware Tribal Complex at 5100 Tuxedo

October 19
No Meeting in November
December 17

Cultural Preservation

First Tuesday of each month. Meetings held at 6:00 P.M. at 5110 Tuxedo Blvd. in the FCS conference room.

October 6
November 3
December 1
January 5

Veterans Committee

Fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M.
October 27
No Meeting in November or December

Tribal Court Docket Dates

Except for April, they are all set for the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 A.M., and are subject to change due to conflicting schedules or weather.

October 20
November 17
December 16
January 19

2026 Tribal Election Candidate Forum

October 17, 2026

Others

War Mothers

Fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in FCS Conference Room.

October 27
No Meeting in November or December

Veterans Day Lunch & Program
November 11

Veterans and War Mothers Gourd Dance
November 21 at the Copan Student Center 2-8 P.M.

Prevention Support Services

Wellbriety Prevention Wheel
Tuesdays - 12 Step Course
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Dinner Served

Wednesdays - Talking Circle
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Snacks Served

Title VI Program Events

September 24 Elder Picnic in the Park trip
October 2 Elder Health Fair trip
October 15 Delaware Tribe Title VI Health Fair at Dewey Fairgrounds
October 30 Elder Halloween Party
November 3 Elder Trip to Branson Missouri
November 13 Elder Thanksgiving Lunch

Elders Events

October 13, 14, 15 Elder Trip to Kansas
October 26 Elder Committee Meeting
November 6 Community Gathering & Potluck
November 7 Tribal Election Day AND General Council Meeting
December (TBD) Elder Trip to Sharp's Indian Store
December 17 Elder Committee Meeting
■

Local Resources You Should Know About

Free Ancestral Seeds

It is time to get your gardens ready, and one seed company offers free seeds to individuals of Lenape descent. Truelove Seeds is a farm-based seed company offering culturally important and open pollinated vegetable, herb, and flower seeds. Their website is **trueloveseeds.com**.

From their website:

At Truelove Seeds, honoring the origins of a cultivated seed variety, especially one that was stolen or has become inaccessible to its original community, is important to us. We aim to do our part in rematriating Indigenous seed varieties that have come into our care by returning them to their original tribal communities, farmers, growers, and individuals, free of charge.

Truelove Seeds farms on land in Lenapehoking, the traditional territories of the Lenni-Lenape peoples, near present day Philadelphia. We send many Lenape seed varieties to Lenape groups and individuals each year. We grow and save these varieties at our farm to sustain their livelihood, bolster genetically diverse populations, and breathe life into heirlooms that have become threatened under colonialism. The seeds are making their way home, and it is our duty to usher them there.

If you are Lenape, please reach out so we can rematriate these seeds to you free of charge: **info@trueloveseeds.com**.

TrueLove Seeds offers three types of beans, two types of corn, and tobacco which is reserved for Lenape people and not advertised publicly.

Tulsa Area Resources

Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness is a 100% Native women-led and community-driven nonprofit dedicated to restoring wellness through Indigenous ways of knowing. They address the root causes of health inequities and cultural loss by reconnecting indigenous people with the ancestral knowledge, values, and practices that have always sustained them. They are located at 1162 E 49th St, Tulsa Oklahoma 74105 and have a variety of events throughout the year so if you are in the Tulsa area and looking for resources and fellowship, follow them on Facebook and look at their calendar of events. Some events are re-occurring. For example, the first Saturday of every month is Brunch & Bead, and there is a "Market Medicine" monthly cooking workshop every 3rd Sunday from 3–5 P.M. ■

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Chief

Steven Donnell (Kakuwaise-Raincrow)



BACKGROUND—Business Experience

Graduated Copan High 1973, U S Navy Vietnam Era 74-81, Asst Manager Kirby Trucking 92-97, Manager Equipment Wholesale Delivery Dept 97-99. Owner Donnell's Shooting Supply 29 Palms, CA2004-14 & Kerrville TX.2014-15 Retired 2016

Schooling- Small Business-Business Management for tribal entrepreneurs, NRA Training councilor, State of Calif Security Guard Firearms Instructor, Red Cross CPR First Aid instructor, Wilderness First Aid Instructor, Ham radio General operator for CERT (community emergency response team).

Traditional Teachings- I am a Traditionalist. I started my path down the Red Road with Cousin Leonard Thompson Ceremonial Chief of the Delaware Tribe, I mentored under these spiritual leaders, Jay Johnson & Bill Tucker Miwok Tribe Yosemite National Park, Dave Johnson Potawatomi, BLM squaw leap, CA. Bill Benagus Digenio elder. Received blessing for Sweat Leader in1995. Chairman of Indian parent teachers' association for 10 yrs, served as representative to Intertribal Council of Calif.1996

In my life experiences I have learned to respect all living things and that we are all connected. In the business world I have run my own Firearms store and range, . I have taught Native American Youth and adults how to respect all life and how to live off the land by foraging for food, medicines and indoctrinated them into the ways of the sweat lodge. Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America and served as chapter President 2 terms, Presently Vice Commander and Veteran Service Officer for the American Legion in Salina, OK carrying for my brother and sister Veterans and outreaching to our community helping those in need, served on the Delaware Elders Committee working to care for our elders and our youth in keeping with our traditions and customs.

GOALS- As your Chief, my goal will be to bring honesty, transparency, and hold all officers in strictest accountability. If the trust board is still in operation to terminate it, next to reduce wages of the council to something more sustainable to our tribal income, also to base it on full or part-time council work. Also to alleviate the $3,000 per council member's free donation fund & to trim the waste from our budget. To bring the ranch board into correct guidelines by removing the nontribal members and electing tribal members and increasing the board to the correct number of 5. finding a way to open a veteran service office to better serve our veteran's and their families. Making the tribe more visible and accessible to members at large by opening district offices and having representatives for at large members. Addressing the idea of moving the headquarters to Caney KS to remove us from Cherokee jurisdiction, where more programs would be available to us. To brainstorm with the membership to bring new ideas of economic development for this is OUR TRIBE everyone needs to be vested into it. To bring the customs and traditions of our people back to life. In Closing IF I GIVE MY WORD I will do my best to keep that word. I took the Warriors Code and I follow it to the best of my ability.

I am asking for your consideration and vote for chief.

May the Creator watch over us all and bless us in our daily lives. Ahho!

Wanishi Steven L. Donnell ■

Kristopher Ketchum



Let me tell you a story. A coyote once sat along the banks of a creek and on the other side he could see a mulberry tree. He thought to himself how good it would be to have some of them but he couldn't swim and the water was too deep to walk across. As he sat there thinking a beaver came by and asked what he was doing. Coyote said he was trying to figure out a way to get to the mulberry tree. Beaver noticed the tree and offered to help by building a bridge, but coyote refused. Instead he began trying to roll rocks into the stream to make a path for him to walk on, when turtle came by and asked what he was doing. Coyote said he was building a path to the mulberry tree. Turtle noticed it and offered to help by swimming the rest of the way, but coyote refused. Soon coyote ran out of rocks halfway across the water and he looked up and saw beaver and turtle eating the berries. He asked them how they made it. They said they worked together. Hello. My name is Kristopher Ketchum. Many people are familiar with my family name but only some are familiar with me. I am the son of Benny and Wanda Ketchum. For the most part I have steered clear of tribal politics pursuing a career first in pharmacy. After the passing of my father, I learned the trade of retail, ultimately opening a fabric and crafting store with my wife. Following our closure, I began work for a media outlet hosting a weekend trade program, anchoring breaking news and weather, even delivering their daily paper for several years. I have been a tax preparer, a computer technician, a manager, even a night-time delivery technician for a funeral home. My experience is broad. But with that I feel comes the wisdom to know I could not have done everything I have without the help of others. There are times when we must stand on our own, but as Coyote learned, there are also times when working together gets us farther. Through a lifetime in country and western music, my father earned the trust of performers who valued his judgment and his willingness to recognize potential in others; later, as a career counselor, he used that same instinct to encourage businesses to open their doors to people they might not otherwise consider. With the support and perspective of my wife, I have learned to focus that bridge-building instinct into a strong desire to help others, especially those who least expect it. And so I present myself as candidate for Chief of the Delaware Tribe. I hope to pursue opportunities to showcase not only our Tribe's extraordinary artists and culture, but also the abilities of our medical professionals, computer technicians, mechanics, lawyers, teachers, entrepreneurs, craftspeople, and every Delaware mind working to make our world better. I seek to reach out to our neighbors and communities to find solutions to problems affecting tribal members and non-members alike. Whether we are considering education for our children, nutrition for our elders, healthcare, educational expenses, entrepreneurship, or the preservation and flourishing of our culture, there is always something we can learn from others—even when the lesson is what does not work. I want to see us grow and prosper as a Tribe while giving back to each of the communities our citizens call home. We can remain proudly and distinctly Delaware while building relationships that make all of us stronger. And I know that, if we work together like Turtle and Beaver, we can. This is me. I am Kristopher Ketchum, and now I am running for Chief of the Delaware Tribe. ■

Brad KillsCrow



Hè, kulamalsi hàch

I am asking for your support in the November 7th, 2026, election for Chief of the Delaware

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Chief (continued)

Tribe of Indians. This election is essential to keep the momentum and progress moving forward, as we make a way for our future generations of Lenape. It has been an honor and privilege serving as your Chief the past 5 years.

I believe the role of Chief for the Delaware Tribe is to provide leadership while maintaining our tribal culture and values, providing services to tribal members, and ensuring a viable future through economic development. I've kept in conjunction with the Tribal Council while listening with an open mind, allowing transparent and informed decisions I believe are best for the Tribe and tribal members near and far.

After a great deal of thought and prayer, I have decided that with your support, I would like to be your Chief for another four years. While we have made tremendous strides during this current administration, there are still several tasks and projects that I would like to see through to completion. During the past five years, I have learned an immeasurable amount about Lenape culture and history, our rights as a sovereign nation, how to operate successful tribal business' and what good tribal government should look like. With your support, I want to continue the momentum, while taking that knowledge and putting it to use for the betterment of our Tribe.

I am a member of the Lenape and Lakota Tribes and my parents are Anthony and Linda Weaver Kills Crow. On my Lenape side I am a descendant of Mary Elizabeth Randall Journeycake Weaver. My great-grandparents were Basil Weaver and Jessie Thomas. On my Lakota side I am a descendent of Chief Kills Crow Indian and Big Belly.

I was raised in Pawhuska, Oklahoma and attended Bacone College before I joined the US Navy in 1996 and served in the Persian Gulf on the aircraft carrier USS Independence CV-62. Later, graduating from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center—BIA Police Academy, I then worked in law enforcement from 2002 until 2011 which included the Kaw Tribal Police and the Ponca City Police Departments.

For those Delawares living outside of northeastern Oklahoma, I want to explore ways we can better serve you. For example, looking at ways we can provide assistance in connecting tribal members with federal, state and tribal services that are available to all Native Americans.

I am asking for your support and pledge to do my best to be a fair, independent and honest leader for our people.

Wanishi, Brad KillsCrow ■

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Assistant Chief

Joe Baker



The Moment We Are In
For the past several years, this Tribe — like tribal nations across the country — has been sustained by an unprecedented infusion of federal recovery funding. The American Rescue Plan delivered the largest single infusion of federal funding into Indian Country in history, a $20 billion commitment that Tribal governments used to plan or begin more than 3,000 projects and services. Those dollars built capacity, expanded services, and helped us imagine a larger future. That era is ending. The recovery funds are drawing down, and the environment beyond them is hardening. Federal contracting—a vital revenue source for tribal enterprises—has fallen sharply, with obligations to tribal businesses declining roughly 40% over the past year. Across Indian Country, more than $2 billion in direct funding has been terminated or curtailed as tax credits sunset and agencies retreat from earlier commitments.The message from Washington is becoming plain: the days of easy federal money are over. And we must be honest enough with ourselves to say plainly what that means for the Delaware Tribe.
The Challenge Before Us
We have built, and we are building. Our Bartlesville campus is home to the Delaware History Museum, the Delaware Library and Archives, the Lenape Early Learning Center, the Lenape Fitness Center, the Elder Nutrition Program, the Food Pantry (Tèxtakà), Tribal housing and the offices that house our tribal government and services. Major capital projects are in construction. These are achievements our ancestors would have given anything to see—a permanent Lenape homeland on our own terms.

But a building is not just a ribbon and a name. Every facility we open carries a permanent operating cost: the staff who run it, the utilities that light and heat it, the maintenance that keeps it standing, the programs that fill it with purpose. Capital funding builds a structure; it does not sustain it. Recovery dollars were never designed, and were never sufficient, to carry these costs forever. So the question before this Tribe is not whether our facilities are worth building. They are. The question is whether we have built the revenue engine to keep them alive after the grants run out. Today, we must face that question directly. If elected as your Assistant Chief, I will call for the immediate formation of an Economic Development Task Force—a working body of business minds charged with one mandate: identify and advance revenue streams that will sustain the Delaware Tribe for generations, independent of grant cycles and federal appropriations. The end of ARPA funding is not a crisis that has come upon us unawares. It is a transition we have seen coming, and it is a transition we must meet with planning, with enterprise and with resolve, I will ask the Council to authorize the formation of the Economic Development Task Force without delay, and I will call on every citizen with the skills, the experience, or the willingness to serve to step forward. The future of the Delaware Tribe will be built by Delaware hands, funded by Delaware enterprises, sustained by Delaware resolve.

Wanìshi. We have much to be grateful for, and much work ahead. ■

Rusty Creed Brown

Hello relatives, my name is Rusty Creed Brown, and I'm running for Assistant Chief. I've served on our Tribal Council, as the Treasurer, since 2020 – where I've been entrusted with the stewardship of our Tribal resources.

My parents are Kenny and Vicky Brown and my grandmother was Dorothy Jackson (née Wilson). My family's roots, in the Delaware Tribe and community, have shaped my commitment to building a stronger future for those who come after us. Professionally, I have spent my entire career working with and for tribal governments and Native organizations.

I've overseen $20 million in CARES Act funding. During the pandemic, I worked to deliver financial assistance to tribal members and together the Council distributed $18.6 million in member assistance payments, including direct payments, elder support, home repair assistance, mental health counseling, childcare payments, and others.

When I first ran, I felt it was important to assist our community to feed their families. My commitment to food security led to the creation of a $1.1 million food pantry. Today our food pantry serves more than 300 Delaware families and over 1,000 individuals.

I helped oversee $56 million in ARPA funding and strategic investments designed to sustain our Tribe. That includes more than $28 million in economic development, including the $5.7 million Lenape Museum, to bring our cultural items home, and have implemented an Enhanced Tribal ID; compliant with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

For several years, my dad and other veterans had been working to establish a Veterans Memorial Wall at our Tribal Headquarters. It was an honor for me to work with them and our Domicile to provide the final funding they needed to build the memorial, honoring all Lenape veterans.

With my discretionary funds I have supported Journey Home, lo-

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Assistant Chief (continued)

cal schools, Family & Children Services pet housing, and other community events. Most recently, I have donated my discretionary funds to start traditional Delaware pottery making classes, which I am excited to learn.

I support writing a new constitution not just a rewrite of our current constitution. I believe this effort should be community driven. I'm committed to expanding our language revitalization efforts and have supported our ANA language grant submission.

If elected Assistant Chief, my priorities include strengthening food security; expanding our land base in Kansas; growing our economic enterprises; and relocating our Tribe's offices and headquarters to Caney, Kansas, so we are no longer in Cherokee jurisdiction.

Through this work, I hope I've shown our tribal members I'm the right choice for Assistant Chief, and I will continue to serve the needs of our Tribe and our people. ■

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Tribal Council

Shaunda Brooks



I am Shaunda Brooks, proud Lenape woman and current Tribal council member for the Delaware Tribe of Indians. I live in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. My connection to the Delaware Tribe is deeply rooted in my family. I am the daughter of former Delaware Tribal Councilman Joe Brooks, granddaughter of the late Helen Brooks, proud Lenape woman and the niece of the late Chief Chet Brooks, and a descendant of Chief John Sarcoxie, who played an important role in our Tribe's history.

For the past two years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve our Lenape people. I have learned a great deal, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together. There is still important work ahead, and I want to continue building on that progress by focusing on what matters most to our citizens. I will continue to listen and represent all Lenape people in a good way.

Economic Development: We must pursue responsible opportunities that strengthen our Tribe financially, create opportunities for our citizens, and build a stronger foundation for future generations. I have been a part of some of our success over the last two years. I want to see this success continue.

Cultural Preservation: Our language, traditions, stories, ceremonies, and history must be actively preserved and passed down. Our children deserve to know who they are and where they come from.

Communication and Transparency: Tribal Council must remain connected to the people it serves. I believe in listening, communicating openly, being transparent, and creating opportunities for our citizens to have a voice in our Tribe's future. This includes local and at large tribal members.

Community and Family: We are more than a government—we are relatives. I will continue supporting efforts that strengthen our families, elders, youth, and communities.

I believe we can honor tradition while pursuing progress. We can protect our culture while developing our economy, honor our elders while investing in our youth, and respect our history while preparing for the future. Even when we disagree, we must remember that we are relatives who share a common hope for the success of the Lenape people.

I am not asking for your vote simply because of my family's history. That history is a responsibility, not an entitlement. I am asking because I have had the privilege of serving, I understand the responsibility that comes with it, and I am willing to continue doing the work.

I will continue to show up, listen, advocate for our citizens, and work toward economic development, cultural preservation, stronger communication, and greater opportunities for our people.

Most importantly, I will remember who I am serving: our elders who carried our stories, our families who want a stronger Tribe, and our youth who deserve every opportunity to be proud of who they are. Let us continue moving forward.

Wanishi,
Shaunda Brooks- Candidate for Delaware Tribal Council / Email: **sbrooks@delawaretribe.org** ■

Jimmie John Johnson

Jennifer Jo Pechonick

Tommy Lee Scott

Benita Shea



Growing Together. Honoring our Culture. Building our Future.

Hello! I am humbly requesting your vote for Tribal Council this November.

I am a descendant of the Falleaf family and a proud member of the Turtle Clan. My grandmother was Myrtle Falleaf Black, and my mother was Verna Sue Artherton. I am blessed with two daughters, Leslie and Jessica (Shea), two wonderful sons-in-law, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter who inspire me every day.

After recently retiring as a Project Manager for a global human-resource company, I now have the time and dedication needed to fully serve our tribe. My career required managing complex projects, reporting to clients and leadership, coordinating timelines and resources, and ensuring financial accountability, skills that directly support effective tribal governance.

I have previously served our people as Treasurer on the Tribal Council from 2014–2018 under the Chet Brooks administration, and later as Treasurer on the Trust Board from 2020–2024. These roles strengthened my understanding of our tribal operations, financial responsibilities, and long-term planning.

I was born in Bartlesville and graduated from College High. After moving away in 1987, I returned home in 2014. As an at-large member, I personally experienced the disconnect many of our citizens feel when living outside the community. That experience motivated me to get involved, reconnect, and to understand the importance of communication with all our members, near and far.

I have been an active participant on the Culture Preservation Committee, because without our culture and our language, we cease to exist. I continue learning our ways and encourage others to walk that path with pride.

I believe in listening to all sides, leading with integrity, and making decisions that honor both tradition and future growth. I want to see our tribe thrive in the business world, strengthen communication with our members, and build a community where our people feel supported, connected, and proud, a place where future generations can flourish.

I would be honored to serve as your next council member. ■

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Tribal Council (continued)

John Wheelock



Wanishi, My Name is Apumske Oxe. My English name is John Wheelock. I am running for a seat on the Delaware Tribe Tribal Council, I am a 7/16 Delaware, a member of the Turtle Clan. I am relatively new to Tribal politics, which I consider my strength. I bring fresh ideas and am not tied to problems of the past. I have served on the Election Committee, Cultural Preservation Committee, and currently serve on the Elder Committee. My best skill is I am not the man who waits around for somebody to do something about something. Yes, I am also the guy who sued the Chairman of the Trust Board over his reimbursement of legal fees. I have no animosity towards our chairman, never met him except for when I served him. The Trust Board Chairman sued our Tribe challenging the petition to dissolve the Trust Board, which is his right. He should have asked for reimbursement in his court filing, however, he publicly stated at the July 2026 Trust Board meeting he would call for a vote for the Trust Board to pay him for his legal fees. However, believe I am supported by our Constitution and Trust Board Document he may not use his committee to vote to use our funds for his personal benefit. I will not request reimbursement for my court case. The outcome of this case is pending. We also need to update our Tribal Constitution and Trust Board Document. All the candidates have mentioned this in their resumes. My question to those who are running again, why wasn't this done before? I have written rough drafts of our Constitution and the Trust Board Document. I know these drafts will not be the final product, but they must be started. I am not waiting for the election to begin my work. I will release the drafts after the election whether I am voted in or not. I also created the Facebook page, "At Large Members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians" and many of you have followed. After the election, I will move this page from public to private and send invites only to At Large Members to keep you informed of what I am doing for the Council and other pertinent information for our Tribe. I want to make our Tribe a priority for our At Large Members who live outside of NE Oklahoma and often are ignored. It is time we secure true Tribal Sovereignty. We must have it. We have lost Federal Recognition twice due to being within the Cherokee Nation. Although this is new to me, I have been reading BIA regulations and will have a rough draft of these documents soon, hopefully prior to the election. What holds us together is our Culture. I participate in as many Cultural activities as possible. We have a fantastic Cultural Committee and Cultural Education Department. I will expand this to all Tribal members through every resource available. My background is I have a BS Animal Science, Cow-calf Management and Business Minor from Oklahoma State University. Although the Oilfield drew me away from my major upon graduation, I still have knowledge to advise and help manage the Delawares 4,200 cattle ranch. My career was in sales. My first job I grew my territory from $1.5 Million to $7.7 Million; second job grew sales from $4.5 Million to $25.7 Million. I know how to grow revenue. Ten years ago, I retired, got bored, returned to school for my Diesel Mechanic Certificate, beat out 1,800 other students for a full ride scholarship, won Student of the Year, and am now employed by a great company restoring school buses. I ask for your vote in November. Remember, is I am not the man who waits around for somebody to do something about something. ■

Gretchen Lynn Williams

Curtis Zunigha



I am a tribal elder and U.S. Air Force veteran

Our Tribe needs help! I want to bring my experience!

Experience

-Elected Chief 1994-1998-elected to Tribal Council in 1984 & 2004

-Tribal Manager 1990 & 2012

-Cultural Center Director 2017-2022

-Family & child services director 2015

-Housing Director 2000

Issues

-Improve land management of tribal property in oklahoma and kansas

-Potential government restructuring of tribal council & trust board

-Grow our businesses: domicile, ranch, teton, tahkox e2, lenape reserve

-Improve services and communication with membership

-Greater outreach of culture & language to all tribal members

-Move from food insecurity to food sovereignty

-Greater presence in our original homeland (PA, NJ, NY)

I'm asking for your vote on November 7 - wanishi! ■

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Associate Tribal Judge

Amanda Sue Proctor GoodEagle

Candidate Statements—Candidates for Trust Board

Joan Elaine Fall-Leaf Clinton

My name is Joan Elaine Fall-Leaf Clinton. I am 61 years of age, and I have been married to my husband, Jack Clinton, for 34 years. We reside southeast of Bartlesville in the Hogshooter area. I grew up in Southeast Kansas and Northeast Oklahoma as the daughter of Fred & Joan Fall-Leaf. I graduated from Copan High School in 1983 and continued my education at Coffeyville Community College and the University of Kansas, graduating in 1988.

I am honored to currently serve as a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians Trust Board; a position I have held since being appointed in December 2024. During my time on the Trust Board, I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve our Delaware people, and work for ways to help all Tribal members.

My professional career has given me more than 36 years of experience with Phillips Petroleum, where I began working in 1990 after returning to Copan. Throughout my career, I have worked in several areas, including Phillips Automated Litigation Support, Chemical, Corporate Planning, and Upstream Financial Services. My experience in Upstream Financial Services includes Production Accounting and Regulatory Reporting for New Mexico and North Dakota. Prior to returning to the area, I also worked for the University of Kansas in the School of Education.

In addition to my professional career, I have remained committed to serving my community. I am currently the Chairman of the Delaware Pow Wow Committee and a board member of the Delaware Tribe Holding Company.

On November 7th, 2026, I would be honored to earn your vote and the opportunity to continue to serve on the Trust Board.

Wanishi! ■

Beverly Hough-Hicks



Hè, kulamalsi hàch?

My name is Beverly Hough-Hicks, and I am declaring my candidacy for Trust Board. I am the daughter of the late W.J. Hough, granddaughter of the late Flora Randall Hough, and great-granddaughter of the late James T. Randall, Sr.

I am running for a Trust Board position because I want to serve our community. I moved to Washington County, Oklahoma in 2023 because I wanted to connect with my fellow Lenape people. I made the difficult decision to move away from my children, grandchildren, and longheld friendships to be here in Oklahoma, to become part of my Delaware Tribe community and connect with my Lenape relatives.

It was my lifelong desire to be more closely connected to my Lenape community, and everything I've done since coming to live here has been with that in mind. Since moving to Elder Housing at Tribal Headquarters in Bartlesville, I've made so many close friendships and developed relationships that I can't imagine my life without. I serve as a volunteer in my community and will continue to do so for the betterment of my Lenape people and fellow members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians.

Recently, I've worked on putting an issue on the ballot because I believe the choice in everything our tribe does should be in the hands of our tribal citizens. I do not subscribe to the idea that we should blindly let those elected to office do just whatever they think is best; our people should decide how we want our tribal government to run. I have a voice, and I'm willing to use it. With that thought in mind, I've decided to run for a seat on the Trust Board. This may seem contradictory, but it is not. If the people decide to move forward with the Trust Board, changes must be made to Trust Document so it can better serve our people.

No matter what happens at the upcoming election, I plan to continue working for our community to help ensure our tribe's future in every way I can. I sincerely wish the best to all our people and to every candidate running for office. I hope that each candidate plans to act as a leader, motivated to serve our people, both local and at-large.

I currently serve as the Chair of the Delaware Tribe Elder Committee, a position I have had the honor of holding since October of 2023. Furthermore, I serve as the current President of the Bartlesville Indian Women's Club. I have tried to represent my tribal community to the best of my abilities and if elected, will continue to do so, always with the future of the Delaware Tribe, and our people's best interests in mind. I respectfully ask for your vote to allow me to serve as your representative to the Trust Board.

Wanishi.

Beverly Hough-Hicks ■

Mollie Barnes Martin



Hè,

My name is Mollie Barnes Martin, and I am running for the Trust Board. My Delaware name, the name given to me by Leonard Thompson (Nora Dean's brother), is Elaaexkwe. My great-grandparents were Delaware Tribal leader John R. (McCullough) Willey, his wife Rosanna Newcomb Willey. Their daughter, my grandmother, was Viola Willey Barnes. My parents were Eddie J. Barnes and Virgia Leona Benefield Barnes.

I've lived in Bartlesville most of my life. I've served the community by volunteering in the "Pack the Backpacks" program, which provides school supplies to children in need. I also volunteer at Bartlesville and Dewey schools, helping children with reading, and at the HOPE clinic, a program for individuals who do not have health or dental insurance.

I am an active member of the Delaware Tribal community and serve as Treasurer on the Delaware Tribe's Elder Committee. I've been attending Trust Board meetings, and I see a great need for leaders who want to help our Delaware people. If elected, I will work to build a sense of trust and will always treat our tribal members with respect and compassion. I've been called "fair to a fault" but I believe that everyone should be treated fairly and given respect.

If I am elected, I promise to be honest, transparent, respectful, and fair. I believe the Trust Board must work together for the betterment of our Delaware people. I humbly ask for your vote for Trust Board.

Wanishi,
Mollie Barnes Martin ■

Wyatt Ray Sanders

The Elders Circle

Jana Roth

Elder Trip to Kansas

In October, the Elders are taking a trip to explore our historical ties to Kansas, including visits to the Wyandotte County Historical Society, Shawnee Mission School, Fort Scott, and the Kansas State Museum in

For more information contact: **elders@delawaretribe.org**



Community Gathering & Potluck

We welcome everyone, young, old, tribal members, or non-tribal members, to join us as we celebrate our Lenape culture with games, fellowship, food, and fun! We meet in Building #5110 at Tribal Headquarters in Bartlesville. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share for the potluck. Our Community Gathering and Potluck is free, and everyone is welcome so bring your family and friends on Friday, November 6th at 6:00 PM. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.



Tribal Elections

In this election cycle, tribal members are electing the Chief of the Delaware Tribe, an Assistant Chief, two Tribal Council members, three Trust Board members, one Associate Judge, and one Appellate Tribal Judge.

For our tribe to grow and be successful, we must give serious consideration to each candidate. Tribal elections shouldn't just be popularity contests. Think about what qualities and values are important in our tribal leadership and VOTE accordingly on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

Ballot Question: "Shall the Trust Board of the Delaware Tribe of Indians be dissolved, with all remaining administration, programmatic and accounting functions, asset management, and fund distributions be permanently transferred to the Delaware Tribal Council and the Delaware Accounting Department?"

General Council Meeting

WHEN? Saturday, November 7, 2026

WHERE? Tribal Headquarters, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd. Bartlesville, OK 74006

WHY should all eligible voting members attend the General Council Meeting this year?

As stated in the Constitution of Delaware Tribe of Indians:

"**ARTICLE XI - Annual Membership Meeting**

Section 1. A General Council meeting of the adult membership shall be held on a Saturday, during the month of November, at which time the Chief or his designated spokesman shall make a "State of the Tribe" address… . Resolutions or motions that rescind or effect previously adopted resolutions or ordinances passed by the Tribal Council must be approved by 2/3 of votes cast by eligible voting membership. Resolutions passed at the annual General Council meeting must be approved by 2/3 of votes cast by eligible voting membership. Resolutions or motions presented at the General Council meeting must be approved by 2/3 vote of the Tribal Council or 2/3 of votes cast by eligible voting membership in an election.

Section 2. Committee Reports and other reports regarding the operation of Delaware Tribe programs and projects shall be presented as well as other business properly brought before the membership.

Section 3. A quorum of not less than 100 eligible voting members must be present to conduct and/or vote on any

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

The Elder Committee will be holding a raffle and auctioning a basket filled with cool stuff! So please, make a plan to attend the General Council Meeting on Saturday, November 7.

Elder Trip to Sharp's Indian Store

Delaware Elders are planning a trip to Ponca City to shop Sharp's December Sale. Please watch for flyers around campus regarding this fun upcoming day trip!

Lenape Pottery

Building Lenape Pots,
Building Lenape Community!

Would you like to learn how to make a traditional Lenape pot? This spring, the Delaware Tribe will offer pottery classes for Delaware Tribal members. Watch for flyers around campus for sign-up details!

Events

October 13, 14, 15 Elder Trip to Kansas
October 26 Elder Committee Meeting
November 6 Community Gathering & Potluck
November 7 Tribal Election Day AND General Council Meeting
December (TBD) Elder Trip to Sharp's Indian Store
December 17 Elder Committee Meeting

Contact Us

Senior (55+) Delaware tribal members can contact the Elder Committee by email at **elders@delawaretribe.org**

Follow us on Facebook at **dtieldercommittee**.

Elder Council Officers:

Chair—Beverly Hicks
Vice Chair—Jana Roth
Secretary—Angelia Franke
Treasurer—Mollie Martin
Sergeant-at-Arms—John Wheelock
Tribal Liaison—Annette Ketchum
Elder-at-Large—Billie Jean Sheshey ■

Elder Committee Meetings

If you are a senior citizen (55+) and a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, we invite you to join our monthly meetings at Tribal Headquarters or virtually.

The Elder Committee meets monthly at 6:00 PM, the Monday before the Tribal Council meeting in Building #5110 (the former Family & Children's Services), located at Tribal Headquarters, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd, Bartlesville, OK.

If you can't make it in person, please join us virtually! To attend the meeting virtually, email your request to Beverly Hicks at **elders@delawaretribe.org** and you will receive instructions on how to connect ■

The Elder Committee encourages every eligible voter to make their voices heard and VOTE on November 7!

Do you have a motion or motions you want to present at the General Council meeting?

If so, have the written motion or motions ready; however, a quorum of 100 eligible voting members must be present to conduct and/or vote on any business, so please plan to attend on Saturday, November 7, 2026!



Congratulations to Graduate Michael Wirt!



Michael Joseph Wirt, a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Athens Drive Magnet High School in Raleigh, NC. Michael is very excited to attend the University of Notre Dame double majoring in Philosophy and Theology while discerning in the Congregation of Holy Cross' Undergraduate Seminary.

Michael is the great great grandson of the late Bertha Burnice Barker Herndon. ■

Delaware Tribe Hosts Hot Rods & Heels Car Show

The Delaware Tribe of Indians hosted its Hot Rods & Heels Car Show on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at the Delaware Tribal Complex. The event brought together Tribal members, employees, families, car enthusiasts, vendors, and members of the surrounding community for a day filled with vehicles, food, activities, and fellowship.

This year's show had a great turnout, with a total of 32 cars, trucks, and motorcycles registered for the event. The wide variety of vehicles gave spectators plenty to enjoy and provided an opportunity for owners to showcase the hard work, creativity, and pride they have put into their rides.

Throughout the day, guests were able to enjoy more than just the car show. Vendors, food trucks, Indian tacos, baked goods, funnel cakes, raffles, and family-friendly activities helped create a fun atmosphere for attendees of all ages.

Awards were presented to several outstanding vehicles, bringing a little friendly competition to the event while recognizing the craftsmanship, character, and dedication represented throughout the show.

One of the greatest successes of Hot Rods & Heels was the community support surrounding the event. From the participants who brought out their vehicles to the volunteers, vendors, staff members, and spectators who helped fill the Tribal Complex, everyone played a part in making the day memorable.

Hot Rods & Heels was more than a car show—it was a day of community, fellowship, and fun. The Delaware Tribe of Indians would like to thank everyone who registered a vehicle, attended the event, volunteered, donated, participated as a vendor, or helped behind the scenes.

With 32 registered vehicles and strong community participation, the 2026 Hot Rods & Heels Car Show was a wonderful success, and we look forward to seeing the event continue to grow in the years to come. ■







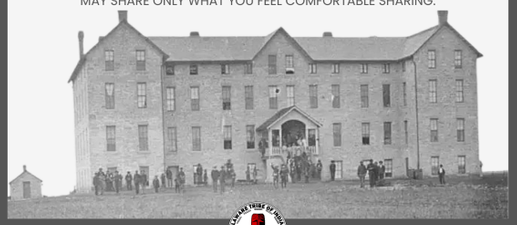


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TALKING CIRCLE 7:00–8:00 PM

→ WEDNESDAY NIGHT ←
SNACKS ONLY
TALKING CIRCLE 7:00–8:00 PM

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT TALKING CIRCLE ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY
TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING: 6:00 PM

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Lenape Language Report

Jim Rementer, Director, Lenape Language Project

News about Language: In addition to adding more words to the Lenape Talking Dictionary I have been restoring some of the language things to the tribal website that were lost when the website was updated.

Lenape Stories: There are two kinds of stories used by the Lenape. The general name for a story which can be told at any time and place is Achimkewakan. The story, found below, about a man and his dog is an example of this kind of story.

There is another kind of story that is only told during the wintertime, and these stories are called Athiluhakan and they were mainly told by gifted storytellers. The restriction that goes with them is that if they are told at other times of the year like when it's warm it will cause all kinds of bugs and other things to attack the teller.

One storyteller in recent years had been told if you had to tell a wintertime story when it's warm weather to prevent the bugs and things you should say before you tell the story, "Tèlën òk nisha shkakwxèsa ntapapi" and that means "I am seated on twelve skunk skins."

Lenape Story: The Man and His Dog

A long time ago there was a man who lived in a big forest. The man was a widower and lived alone, except for his dog. On many evenings they would talk together this man and his dog. Then one day the dog said, "All right my friend, let's go find something to eat! It seems there should



be many things ready to eat." So they left to go hunting for something.

While they were walking along a little path the dog suddenly heard something making a rattling noise by the path. The dog said, "Nahkihëla! Nahkihëla! Stop! Stop! I hear something! It might be a rattlesnake rattling!" Then the dog saw the snake and grabbed him, and began to shake him until he had killed the snake. The man told his dog, "Wanishi, nchu!" (Thank you, my friend!)

When they had finished hunting they went home. The man began to prepare the food and to cook it. When it was ready he got two bowls one for himself and one for the dog, and he put the dog's bowl on the ground. Soon the man noticed that the dog wouldn't eat; the dog just had a scowl on his face. The man told the dog, "You must not be hungry."

The dog answered, "Oh yes, I am hungry, but I want to know what the reason is that you feed me on the ground! Why can I not eat at the table also?" The man said, "Oh well, you can eat with me." The man got something for the dog to sit on. "You can come and sit right here!" The dog began to eat and he smiled because he was eating with his friend.

Lenape Version: **https://www.talk-lenape.org/stories?id=6**, Nora Thompson Dean 1967 ■

Some words you might find useful:

ahowtu	it is too expensive
apuwawtu	it is inexpensive
Kèku hàch ktite?	What do you think?
mahchikwi	it is no good
mitsi	eat
mitsikw	you people eat
mitsitàm	let's eat
nuchkwe	it is useless
kèpe hàch?	you too?
òk nèpe	me too
punitu	leave it alone
puniw	leave him/her alone
wanìshi	thank you
wëntaxa	come here

A Message From Tribal Operations Manager Allan Barnes

Allan Barnes, Tribal Operations Manager

Hello Tribal family and friends, I am Allan Barnes, the Tribal Operations Manager (TOM) and if you will notice this heading, then you can tell I'm called quite a few different names. LOL! There is really a lot to report, on what is going on here which includes the Bartlesville campus, our Pow Wow grounds, the Caney KS Administration offices that houses our Family and Children services, Tribal Court, the Tribal Domicile and our 8a small business company Tahkox e2 (Turtle). Our Tribe's reach does not stop there. The Delaware Tribe Ranch in Sedan KS is an impressive working ranch which is managed by the Ranch Board in conjunction with our Tribal Council. We, our Tribe also has land in Peru, KS and Lawrence, KS that presents their own unique opportunities.

Why am I mentioning all of these locations? Simply, there is so much more than meets the eye for our Chief, Assistant Chief and Tribal Council to manage. Not only is construction underway for our new Recreation/Wellness center and our Cultural center but our programs and services, just to name a few, include Title VI elder nutrition, the food pantry and our Housing Dept. with over 100 homes. We've seen tremendous growth in our daily lunch program under the direction of Trudy Kerby and Archie Elvington. This program provides our elders the opportunity to not only receive a nutritious meal but enjoy being able to congregate and socialize with others.

Our most recent mission has been the opening and growth of our food pantry which serves several hundred Delaware families. Our oldest and sometimes overlooked operation is Housing which requires continuous management located here in Bartlesville, Claremore, Vinita and with the majority primarily in Chelsea.

Our Chief and Tribal Council work to serve our people and provide support to our many departments. Some that I haven't even mentioned in this article are Historical Preservation, Cultural Education, Language, Archives and Library. So, to all of our 15,000 + tribal members be proud. Come visit! ■

Interviews with Delaware Tribal Members, Part 1

Elder Committee member Billie Jean Sheshey interviewed several Delaware elders and youths after the Delaware Pow Wow in May 2026. The following is part one of this two-part series.

Elder Interview with Carol Hough Craig, age 76

Billie Jean Sheshey: "Who was your base roll member?"

Carol Hough Craig: "My grandmother Flora Randall, married name Hough. She is on the Dawes roll; she was born in 1894."

Sheshey: "Where were you born and raised?"

Craig: "I was born in Juneau, Alaska territory, but here's where it gets complicated. I was born in Alaska, but lived in New Mexico where my next younger sister Bobbie was born in Albuquerque then in California, Nevada, Illinois and Missouri. I started school in Missouri then moved to Illinois until the 4th grade then my parents bought a farm and we moved back and forth between Missouri and Nevada pretty much every year until I graduated high school at 16 in Nevada. My parents would go to Missouri to get the farm going for a few months and then usually in the winter, move back to Nevada to make money to pay on the farm. Farming didn't pay much in rural Missouri and my parents were trying to support a family and pay for the farm so that we could eventually live there permanently. My younger siblings Beverly and Curtis were born in Missouri but we would move back to Reno for my parents to work and earn money. So it was a very nomadic life."

Sheshey: "If you could address our tribal council, what would you like to tell them about the difficulties the at-large tribe members struggle with?"

Craig: "It's my belief that the Tribal Council doesn't really give a rats behind about the at-large members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. I feel this way because anything I've ever gotten or heard about has been because my sister, who lives in Bartlesville now, tells me it's going to happen so that I can be aware. Most of the information isn't available in the Delaware Indian News and it is often difficult to find out information unless you know just who to ask for and then you don't always get current or correct information. I was lucky enough to get to meet Lindsey (Harris) when she was in my town for a meeting along with Chief KillsCrow and I suggested that we have a regional representative to different areas of the country, maybe split the country up into 6 regions with each council member to be responsible for their region where they could meet with the tribal members in their area and get to know them, and that is the person you would seek out when as tribal member you have an issue and that council member would be better able to know you and be known by you. The council members could help answer questions about General Council, Pow Wow and any other issues, in turn that would help tribe members feel more connected to [Delaware] community."

Sheshey: "Carol I'm glad you mentioned that because when Chief Killscrow was first running for office I made a similar suggestion, to divide us up in order to better represent us."

Craig: "I believe we'd feel more like a group if we did that and less like lost sheep. As I said, I mentioned it to Lindsey and Chief KillsCrow." And the "Chief said It wouldn't work because people would still just call me."

Sheshey: "What did it mean to you to meet the Chief in person? And what would it mean to you to meet the rest of the council?"

Craig: "I first meet the Chief in 2024 I was overjoyed at the prospect of getting to meet him and after our first meeting I made it very plain to him that I'd love to meet any time [with] Chief or any other tribal council member visiting my city, I know that several times a year our council members and employees travel to my city for meetings, and I met with Chief KillsCrow and council member Lindsay Harris in 2025 it was a very enjoyable meeting and I really felt that Lindsay especially heard me and I was so happy to meet with Chief again. I also saw Chief at Pow Wow so in 2026 I emailed him about the yearly visit to my city and even though I sent him three emails and also copied Chief's assistant in the emails, I still haven't heard from him although the trip happened as it normally does in March. My husband said it was probably because I always needle them with a list of questions."

Sheshey: "What was your first Pow Wow experience like and did you get to connect with tribe members outside your immediate family?"

Craig: "My first Delaware Pow Wow was in 2024, and no I really didn't connect with anyone other than the people my sister introduced me to, no one made any effort to welcome me or greet me other than the people my sister introduced me to personally, which was a bit disappointing, when I came back in 2025 again the only people who really talked to me outside of my immediate family were people my sister went out of her way to call over and introduce me to it was the same in 2026, so I was thinking about that and I wish that the tribe had an area where all the Tribal Council, Trust Board and Committees that represent us would be available to meet tribal members and let us be met, maybe by one Council person, one Trust Board person and one member of each committee. They could take turns to meet and greet people. After all, they ask us to vote for them and they are supposed to represent us. I'd like to make it clear that although I didn't grow up or live in Oklahoma because of financial reasons for my parents and later myself that doesn't mean that I don't care about our tribal community or that I shouldn't have any involvement or that the community shouldn't care about me as a tribal member. After all, where would our community be if we all just walked away from our community? There are over 10,000 tribal members and less than 700 of us vote or interact with the tribe. It's a shame really that when one tries to connect they are often rebuffed."

Respectfully transcribed by Elder Chair Beverly Hicks. ■

A Message From the Trust Board Chairman to the Delaware People: Defend Our Trust Board

Farrell Burks, Trust Board Chair

Dear Fellow Delaware Tribal Citizens,

I am reaching out to you today not just as the Chair of your Trust Board, but as a proud, lifelong member of our tribe. Our ancestors fought hard to establish our Trust Document and protect our Judgment Trust Funds. Today, those protections are under direct threat, and I need your help at the polls.

A quiet effort is underway to take control of our Trust Board operations and dismantle the independence of our trust funds. While the individual who was running the trust board dissolution petition has since resigned from the Election Board, the "Transition Committee" they created still exists. This committee was appointed by the Tribal Council and is built out of our own Trust Board committee members.

Let be completely clear: this Tribal Council motion was illegal. It was introduced by a Council member who voted on his own motion and appointed himself chair of that very committee. I personally challenged this motion at the following month's Tribal Council meeting and called a point of order on the approval of the minutes, but to no avail. The Tribal Council flatly refused to rescind it.

Faced with this roadblock, I had to take this matter to the courts as a personal insult to my rights as a voting tribal member. If our trust system is dismantled, the secure funding that protects our Veterans, Education Scholarships, Cultural Programs, Elders, and Community Services is in jeopardy. I hired a private lawyer with my own personal money because I refuse to let public trust funds be used for a legal battle.

I cannot protect our Trust Document alone. I need the voice of the Delaware people.

Please make it your absolute priority to go to the polls, vote to defend the independence of your Trust Board, and reject any measures that strip power away from our people. Talk to your family, your elders, and your neighbors. We have persevered through intimidation and chaos before, and we will do it again by standing united at the ballot box.

Wanishi,

Farrell Burks

Proud Delaware Citizen & Trust Board Chair ■

Obituaries

Carl Wayne Infield



August 11, 1947 -
June 20, 2026

Carl Wayne Infield, 78 of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, entered into Eternal Peace on June 20, 2026, after bravely battling medical issues for the past several months.

Carl received his schooling in Bartlesville and was a proud graduate of College High School (Col-Hi), Class of 1965. After high school, he joined the Army Reserves and proudly served his country. He dedicated more than 30 years of service to TRW/Reda Pump/Schlumberger before retiring in 2002.

Carl enjoyed a life filled with family, friends, and his many loved dogs. In his prime, his favorite hobbies included hunting, fishing, bowling, and golf. Later in life, he liked to frequent the casino or sit at home watching old movies, petting his fur babies, which he loved dearly. He was a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, longtime member of Sunset Country Club and a devoted member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #610 for close to 50 years. Throughout the years, he actively participated in numerous golf and bowling leagues and tournaments, forming many lasting friendships along the way.

Carl's greatest joy was his family. He was a wonderful and always present father and grandfather. He made sure that he left lasting memories for his family to remember him by.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Traci Templeton and Amy Van Atta and husband Jason; grandchildren Kyra Almendarez and Josie, Josh Van Atta and Katrina, Kaci Templeton, Jake Van Atta, Kanin Templeton, Kaden Templeton, and Summer Ornelas Garcia; and great-grandchildren Gabe Almendarez, Atlas Templeton, and Jensen Van Atta. He is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, Gail and Ida Sarcoxie Infield; his brothers Gail "Sonny" Infield and Kenneth "Kenny" Infield; and his sisters Frances "Frankie" Ramsey, Virginia Johnson, and Wilma "Billie" Miller.

Carl will be remembered for his love of family, his great sense of humor, his loyalty to friends and family, and the many memories he created. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. ■

If one of your relatives or close friends has passed, please send us an obituary. We will run it in the next *Delaware Indian News*. Obituaries can be sent to **din@delawaretribe.org** or to the Tribal Offices.

Please also pass along any birth or death announcements to the Enrollment Office at **enrollment@delawaretribe.org**. The Community Services Committee has a burial assistance program if you need help. ■

Interviews with Delaware Tribal Members, Part 1 (continued)

Youth Interview with O'kihi KillsCrow, Age 18

O'kihi KillsCrow served as the 2025 Delaware Pow Wow Princess.

Billie Jean Sheshey: "As our Pow Wow Princess, what challenges did you face as an at-large tribal member?"

KillsCrow: "Living in Kansas made it harder for me to fulfill my obligations as the Pow Wow Princess. I knew it would be harder but I think I did a great job, I knew it would be harder because it's a minimum of an hour and a half to two hours drive to Oklahoma when many other princess only live 20 or 30 minutes away but I was prepared for that and I knew it would be [my] responsibility…to attend…and represent our tribe at the Pow Wows but it was draining…with so much travel, but it was worth the effort to be able to represent my family and my tribe."

Sheshey: "Who is the person who inspires you most to follow your Lenape culture?"

KillsCrow: "My grandmother Linda KillsCrow, she has always been a huge part of my life.

When I became Pow Wow Princess she was always the one there advising me on what to do and where I needed to be. My grandmother is a very knowledgeable person and I definitely look up to her a lot. She's helpful to me, always guiding me and supporting me and it was great to have her backing me through Pow Wow Princess events. At the time it was a little frustrating always being told where and what, but now I appreciate all that she did to guide me and help me through the whole thing. It was great having her back me. And I know she was just doing what was best for me."

Sheshey: "Would you ever consider following in your Grandmother Linda's or uncle Brad's footsteps, serving the tribe in an official capacity?"

KillsCrow: "I was just discussing this topic with my mom, I'm thinking about college and I'm unsure about what I want to do. I have ideas, one is veterinarian medicine or political science.

I think it's amazing all the wonderful things my Grandmother Linda has done for our tribe with the headstart program and the great things my uncle Brad has done as chief. I've definitely thought about following in their footsteps."

Sheshey: "Maybe you could be a judge like your grandmother?"

Sheshey: "What advice do you have for native youth to connect to their communities and culture?

KillsCrow: "I'm lucky to have my dad, my grandparents and my mom to help me stay connected to the tribe and my culture, even though I live in Kansas, which is a long way away from Bartlesville, Oklahoma. [Like] any other area in the country with a large native youth population, I struggle to feel connected to my tribe and culture, there aren't many people my age and native in my area that I can discuss culture with but other native kids my age do sometimes feel the disconnect too so I have joined a few Facebook groups for natives to try to feel connected. Kids feel disconnected from the community because maybe their parents don't feel connected either or may not know much about their culture to teach them."

Sheshey: "You know the tribe has a Facebook page, do you think it would benefit the youth to have a social media group that was centered on the youth exclusively?"

KillsCrow: "I think it would be helpful for sure I follow our tribe's Facebook page and I've also joined some local Facebook groups for the native community but I've noticed that they mostly focus on Elders which is terrific but I wish there were more things available for the youth to be a part of."

Wanishi to all who were kind enough to be interviewed. Watch for the second part of this series when we interview Darla Hitchcock and River Bread.

Respectfully transcribed by Elder Chair Beverly Hicks. ■

2026 Delaware Election Bulletin

- Election Day is the first Saturday of November
- (1) Chief, (1) Assistant Chief, (2) Tribal Council seats, (3) Trust Board seats, (1) Associate Judge, and (1) Appellate Tribal Judge seat are up for election.
- All registered voters can choose either to vote in person or by a Absentee Ballot via the U.S. Mail
- All tribal members that voted in the last three consecutive elections will automatically receive an absentee ballot
- Tribal members not voting in the last three elections wanting to vote by Absentee Ballot will need to ensure their request for an Absentee Ballot is received by October 14, 2026
- There will be (1) polling location for those members wanting to cast your vote in person:

Location to be determined within 30 days but not more than 45 days prior to the election date

- Filing window for candidates to declare for a specific office is August 1 thru September 1, 2026. All candidate declaration forms must be submitted by U.S. Mail **ONLY** to Delaware Tribe Election Board, P.O. Box 1198 Bartlesville, OK 74005 and postmarked by September 1.
- All requests for Absentee Ballots must be received by October 14, 2026 to receive a ballot via US Mail. Request forms must be submitted by U.S. Mail **ONLY** to Delaware Tribe Election Board, P.O. Box 1198 Bartlesville, OK 74005
- Your tribal registration number appears with your name on the mailing label of this and all election correspondence**.**

Please take time to vote. Make your voice count! Encourage your friends, family and Delaware neighbors near and far to vote as well.

Wanishi,
Delaware 2026 Election Board ■

2026 Delaware Tribe of Indians Election Board

Crystal Dombrovski—Chair
Sandy Tompkins—Member
Beverly Chafin—Member
Annette Ketchum—Member
Avis Ballard—Member

election@delawaretribe.org

Absentee Ballot Request
Delaware Tribe of Indians
2026 Election

I hereby request an absentee ballot for the 2026 Delaware Tribal Council, Trust Board, and Judicial Elections

I understand it is my responsibility to update my address with the Enrollment Department to ensure my ballot will be delivered to the correct address.

Date: _____ Delaware Registration #: _____

Full Name: _____
First Middle Last Maiden
(& previously married name(s) if any)

Address: _____

_____
City State Zip

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

Birth Date: _____

This form must be received at the Delaware Election Board Post Office Box by close of business on **October 14,** 2026 to receive an Absentee Ballot. Only (1) ballot per request form. All request forms must be mailed to:

Delaware Tribe Election Board
P.O. Box 1198
Bartlesville, OK 74005

Elders Committee Greeting Card Form

Please send greetings cards to:

Delaware Tribal Member's Name: _____

Delaware Tribe Enrollment Number: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: _____

I would like to receive emails and texts with news and information from the Elder Committee and Delaware Tribe.

Yes___ No___

Cell: _____

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Return to:
Beverly Hicks
C/O Delaware Tribe of Indians
5100 Tuxedo Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Opinion: A Message from Tribal Member Heather Beasley

Heather Beasley

I am writing this in the hope that neither my family nor I will face backlash for speaking honestly. I pray that this letter will be published in the DIN so that it may reach our brothers and sisters near and far. I have held my tongue for far too long, but I can no longer remain silent. Perhaps these words will encourage people to reflect and consider where we are headed as a tribe.

I am a Delaware tribal member who once lived far away. I am not full-blooded Native, but I have always been proud of my heritage. Growing up, I looked up to many members of our tribe. I respected them deeply and even aspired to be like them. However, as I grew older and became more involved with the tribe, I began to see a side of our community that broke my heart.

I have personally experienced bias and prejudice, and I have witnessed it directed toward others as well. I have been mocked, teased, talked down to, and treated as though I was somehow less worthy because I do not fit a certain image of what a tribal member is supposed to look like. I have heard stories from many others who have experienced similar treatment simply because they do not "look Native enough."

What is even more painful is that some of this behavior comes from individuals who are highly respected within our tribe, including elders and those in leadership positions. Throughout my life, I have often felt like an outsider because I am not full-blooded. I have also witnessed situations where people were viewed unfavorably for employment opportunities or treated differently because they were considered "too white."

If we are judging one another based on blood quantum, skin color, appearance, or where we live, then we must ask ourselves difficult questions about who we are becoming. Many of those who face judgment are descendants of our people and carry our heritage proudly. Some have dedicated themselves to preserving our traditions, culture, and teachings. Some know more of our history and customs than those who question their identity.

Why are we judging our own people? Why are we treating one another unfairly? What message are we sending to our children and grandchildren?

We are teaching younger generations that it is acceptable to judge others based on appearance. We are teaching them that exclusion is acceptable. We are teaching them division instead of unity. These are not the values our ancestors fought to preserve.

Another concern that weighs heavily on my heart is the growing lack of trust within our tribe. Too many members feel unheard, overlooked, or disconnected from tribal leadership. Many believe that positions of authority are sometimes used for personal gain rather than service to the people. Whether these perceptions are accurate or not, the fact that so many people feel this way should concern all of us.

Leadership should be about responsibility, accountability, and service. It should not be about titles, power, influence, or personal benefit. Those entrusted with leadership positions should be examples of honesty, humility, and integrity.

Rather than constantly searching for new ways to spend money, perhaps we should focus more on investing directly in our people and their futures.

Imagine what could be accomplished if we expanded support services for tribal members in need. We could create transitional housing programs for women and children escaping dangerous situations. We could establish clothing and shoe closets for families facing hardship. We could offer more career training, life skills programs, and educational opportunities. We could create safe spaces and activity centers for our youth. We could expand services that help our elders maintain dignity and independence.

While the tribe does offer certain programs and classes, participation is often limited because trust has been damaged. Some members feel unwelcome, judged, or excluded. Whether those perceptions are justified or not, they are real experiences for many people.

A tribe cannot be strong when its people do not trust one another.

We often say that we are one tribe, one nation, united. But are we truly living those words?

Too often, we see division, favoritism, gossip, selfishness, and conflict. We see people tearing each other down instead of building each other up. We see individuals trying to protect themselves rather than doing what is right for the community as a whole.

These behaviors weaken us. They weaken our foundation. They make people feel unwelcome. They discourage members from becoming involved. They cause some to question whether returning home is even worth it.

Home should feel like home.

If we truly want a stronger and healthier tribe, then change must begin with each of us. We must stop tearing one another down. We must stop judging one another based on appearance, blood quantum, residence, family connections, or personal differences. We must hold ourselves and our leaders accountable. We must choose integrity over self-interest and unity over division.

Most importantly, we must think carefully about the people we place in positions of leadership. We should support individuals who demonstrate honesty, humility, transparency, and a genuine commitment to serving the people rather than themselves.

Our children are watching us. They are learning from us. The examples we set today will shape the future of our tribe tomorrow.

I believe there are many good people within this tribe. I believe there are leaders, elders, workers, teachers, and community members who genuinely care about our future. This letter is not directed at those individuals. It is directed at the attitudes and behaviors that continue to divide us and prevent us from becoming the strong nation we could be.

Our ancestors endured hardships beyond what most of us can imagine. They sacrificed so that we could continue as a people. We owe it to them—and to future generations—to do better.

So I ask you:

Where do you want our tribe to be in the future?

What kind of community do you want our children to inherit?

What values do you want our leaders to represent?

Change begins with us.

Where is the true Delaware Tribe?

Where are the true Lenape people? ■

Osage Nation Harvest Land

Annette Ketchum

On a warm morning in July we took a short trip to Pawhuska to visit the Harvest Land Food Sovereignty Program with interest in how that program might be continued should it shut down as was voiced in the press. Osage Nation Chief announced it would be terminated on December 31, 2026.

We were greeted by Harvest Land Director Dawn Wormington will graciously conduct a tour by appointment. She is an expert farmer and teacher with many years of experience in her field. Her years of experience and dedication to farming was evident from hello.

This grant-supported program was begun about six years ago and is the most prominent tribal food sovereignty operations in the state. It has a 40,000 square foot greenhouse and a 44,000 square foot programs building. There are outside gardens and solar powered electricity for the cooling and fans in the greenhouse where soil and hydro are both used for certain plants.

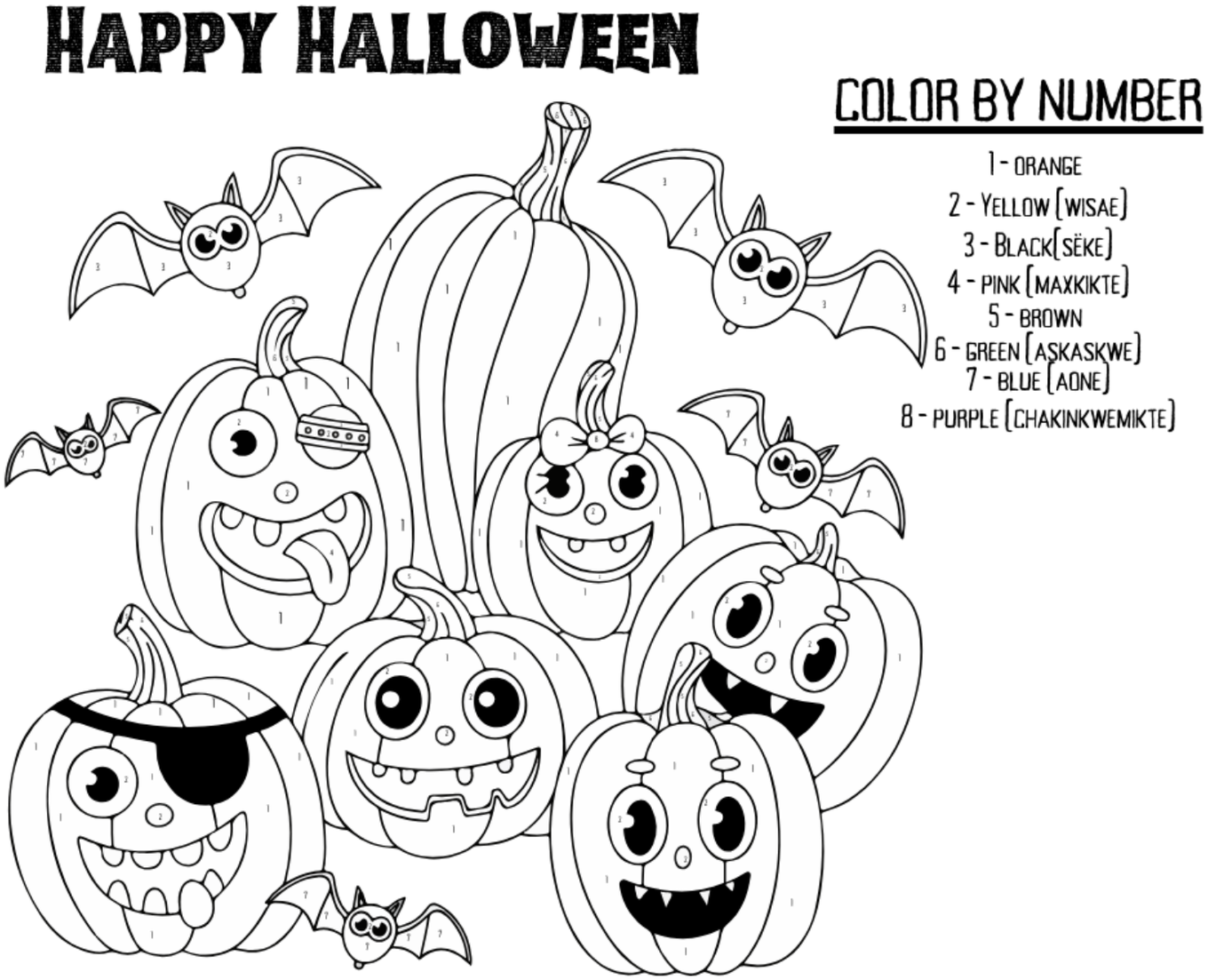
The program is visited by school children from all over the state, as well as universities, colleges, and other organizations from at least a five state area. All are interested in a variety of information and first hand observation of such an amazing undertaking. Other tribes who maintain smaller installations are provided with clippings of various plants and vegetables for food and medicinal uses. The Harvest Land employees are recent college graduates who are citizens of Osage Nation and other tribes. They continue to learn the hands-on methods of horticulture from the seed to the table.

The Osage kitchen where chefs come to prepare cultural meals using the tribally grown foods for Osage tribal events is state of the art. Food preparation is also taught and many Osage come to volunteer for the activities that involve Osage culture and food. The fresh vegetables are for sale in the retail area. Those funds go back into the program. A person must see this working foods program to believe its size and interacting parts of the growing process and see the large amounts of food that is grown. It is truly amazing.

The Osage Nation also operates Butcher House Meats in Hominy, OK, with beef and Bison which are also sold by the Nation at Harvest Land. Other products are fish, distilled medicinal tincture, homemade or produced products, etc. All are grown by Osage.

Certainly, I would recommend an excursion to Harvest Land by the Delaware Tribe garden and food departments to get a vision of what might be done at some level by the Tribe. ■

Lenape Youth Fun Pages



We Want To Hear From You!

If you'd like to be featured on the Delaware Tribe of Indians' Facebook page, cut out this page, fill in your answers, and send it to:

Delaware Tribe of Indians
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.
Bartlesville OK 74006

OR

Scan your answers and send an email to **DIN@delawaretribe.org**

■

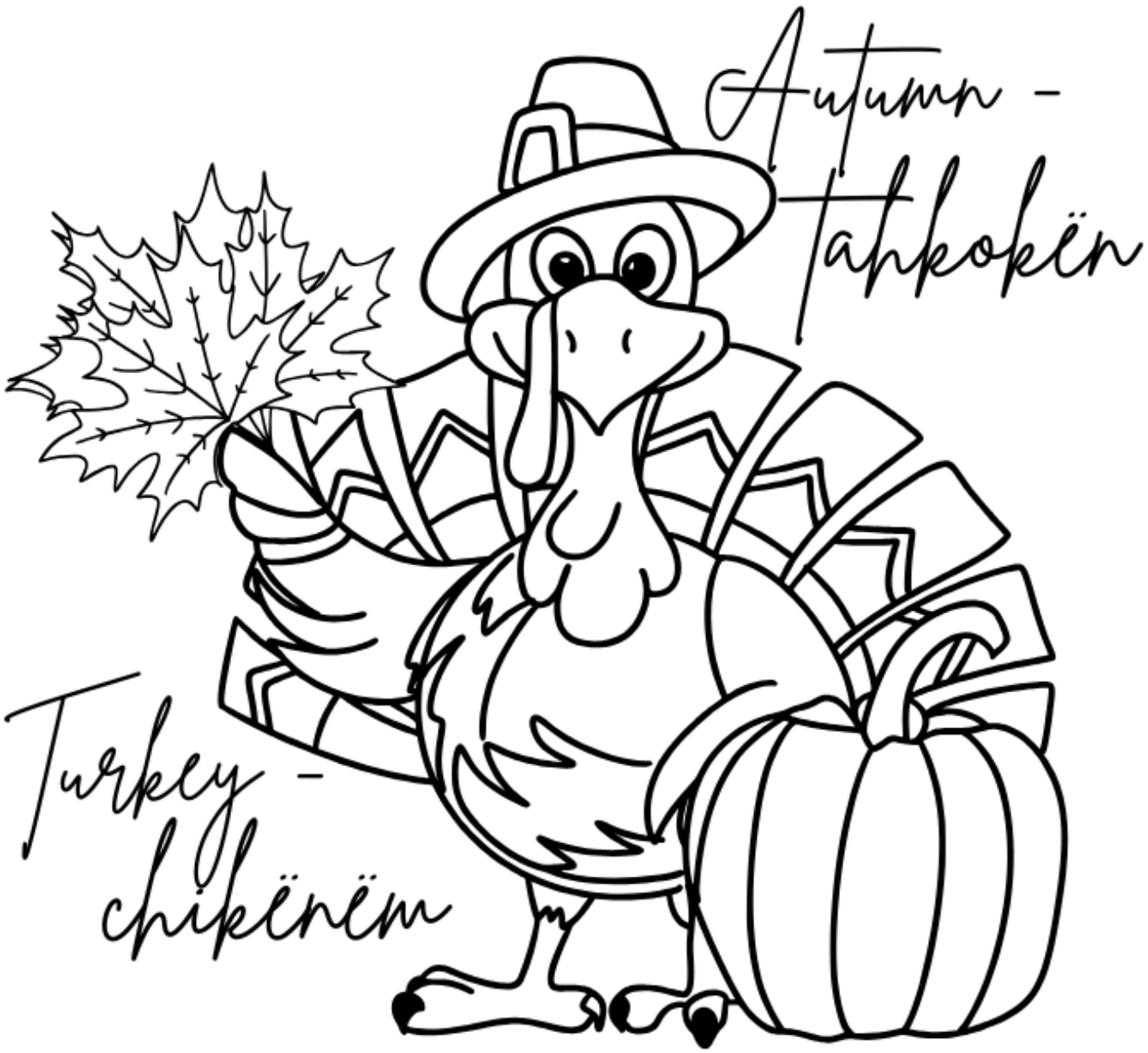
Have Suggestions for the Lenape Youth Fun Pages? Let Us Know!

Do you want to share ideas for the Lenape Youth Pages?

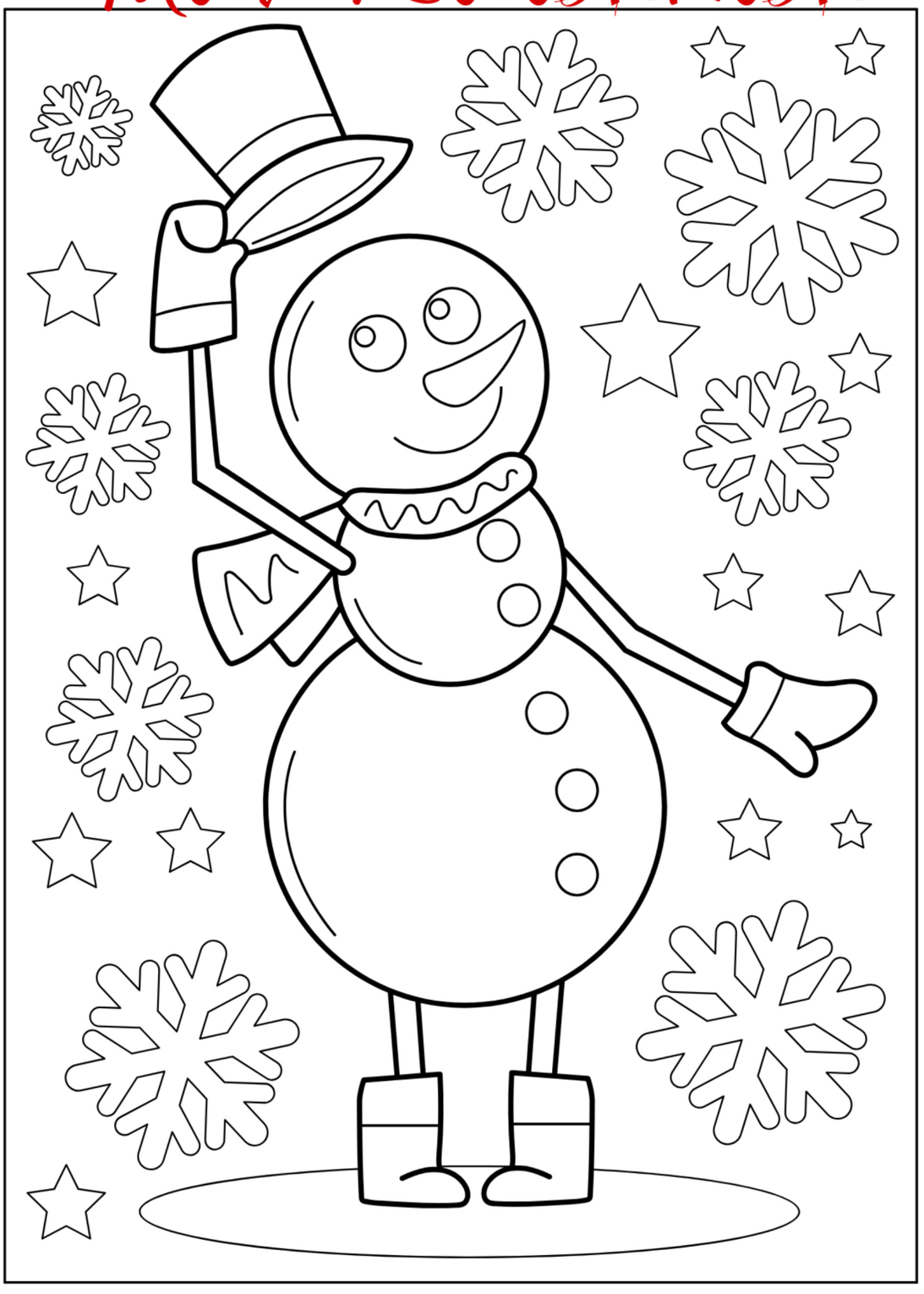
Submit your ideas to **din@delawaretribe.org** for consideration.

Thank you for helping to improve something for our children!

■


Autumn -
tahkokën
Turkey -
chikënëm

Mèli Këlëshmësh



Delaware Tribe of Indians Election Regulations

Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to conduct any called Delaware Tribe of Indians election pursuant to and in accordance with the Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution.

Authority

The Delaware Tribal Council has the power to establish rules to regulate its own proceedings, to appoint subordinate committees, commissions, and boards in accordance with the Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution[1].

Election Date

Elections shall be held every second year on the first Saturday of November pursuant to the Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution.[2]

Eligibility

Voter Eligibility

The right to vote is limited to persons who are:

Delaware Tribe members, eighteen (18) years or older, who are registered to vote, can vote in all elections[3]

Tribal Members voting shall be considered to be absentee voters, if they have requested an absentee ballot in the last 3 elections, they will continue to receive an absentee ballot.

All eligible voters that did not vote in person or by absentee ballot in the last election must vote in person or request an absentee ballot.

Candidate Eligibility

The right to be a candidate is limited to persons who are:

A member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians who has reached their eighteenth birthday[4] on or before the date of filing; and is an eligible voter.

If an otherwise eligible candidate has been removed from office for cause while serving in an elected position, he/she is ineligible to run for office for a period of five years from time of removal.

Candidate Filing Requirements

Each candidate shall file a Declaration of Candidacy. The Declaration of Candidacy shall include: Candidate's Full Name, Address, Phone Number, and e-mail address and Delaware registration number for enrollment verification.

The filing period shall be August 1st thru September 1st for regular elections. For special elections, the deadline shall be determined by either the Tribal Council, Trust Board or Court based on the circumstances.

Notice of Election

Public notice shall be given at least thirty (30) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of election to designate the polling place(s) and times in accordance with the Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution and the Delaware Trust Document[5][6].

Notice shall be given through the United States Postal Service to all members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians eligible to vote and public notice posted.

Election Board

The Chairperson of the Election Board shall be selected and approved by the Tribal Council and Trust Board.

The Election Board Chairperson shall select (4) election board members and present the name(s) to the Tribal Council and Trust Board for approval. They shall serve 1 term, or until successors are chosen

The Election Board shall elect from its membership by majority vote, a vice-chair, and a secretary.

If any Election Board member, for any reason, cannot perform their duties for the Election, the Election Board Chairperson may replace the member.

The Election Board shall perform the following certifications:

The Election Board Committee members shall arrive at the polling places at a time designated by the Election Board Chairperson on Election Day. They shall remain on the premises of the polling place until all ballots are counted, and the election results have been certified.

Determine that each person offering to vote is on the official voting list. The Enrollment Department will provide to the Election Committee a binder with a list of eligible tribal members of legal age registered voters.

To ensure that only one ballot is cast by each qualified voter and the qualified voter signs his/her name and current address on the official voting list.

The Election Board Committee will certify that all ballots received are signed and dated by the registered voters. Voters should provide full name including maiden name and any previous names that may have been used by the voter on the tribal registration list, date of birth and Delaware registration number. This information must be consistent with the Delaware Tribal Registration record.

To certify that all self-certification statements are signed by the registered voter.

To certify that no write-in candidates are allowed on the ballots.

The Election Board Committee will ensure that all ballots will be secured and locked up properly, including the absentee ballots collected from the post office, until the time they are being processed and counted.

The Election Board Committee shall count the ballots, or with approval of the majority of the Election Board Committee, agree to have an unbiased organization or electric counting organization, count the ballots.

The Election Board Committee shall make a certified election return and send it to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Miami Area Office and post a copy for the certified election return at the Delaware Tribal Center(s).

To preserve spoiled and/or mutilated ballots.

To secure all ballots and related material and to label it with the name of voting place and the date of the election for a period of not less than two (2) years immediately following the election.

No member of the Election Board shall leave the polling place during the voting hours and/or counting hours without the permission of the Election Board Chairperson.

Candidate Rights

Each candidate may name one person to act as a watcher at the voting place and counting place. The watcher is to be commissioned in writing by the candidate prior to the election date. The same watcher shall be allowed to watch the calling and recording of the result of the vote. The watcher shall receive no compensation for their services and shall have no further authority than to note or record any objections to the voting and counting procedures.

The watcher must register with the Election Board upon arrival at the voting place. The watcher must register with Election Board prior to the closing of the polls.

The watcher must remain on the premises of the voting place and counting place until the count is completed. The area where the counting takes place shall be locked before the count begins and no Election Board member or watcher shall leave or enter the premises until the count is complete.

Voting Place(s)

Voting place(s) shall be provided by public notice for tribal members choosing to vote in person or for those who opt to bring their ballots in rather than mail them.

Prior to the election, tribal voters are responsible to ensure the Delaware Tribe of Indians Enrollment Department has their current address.

Ballots

The Election Board shall issue the official ballots. A record shall be maintained of all ballots issued, including the name and address of the voter and date the ballot was issued.

Manner of Voting

Voting shall be by secret ballot. All member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians registered to vote may choose to vote in person at a designated polling place or by absentee ballot via the U.S. Mail.

In Person Voting

Any registered voter opting to vote in person, must appear at a prescribed voting place, announce to the Election Board his/her name and current address, provide a photo I.D. as proof of identification, sign the voter registration list, and place their marked ballot in the ballot box. Any person offering to vote who cannot read or write or who is physically impaired may be assisted, upon request, by a family member and two (2) members of the Election Board.

[1] Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution (2022) Article V. Section M
[2] Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution (2022) Article VI. Section 1
[3] Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution (2022) Article VI. Section 6
[4] Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution (2022) Article II
[5] Delaware Tribe of Indians Constitution (2022) Article VI, Section 7
[6] Trust Document of the Delaware Tribe of Indians (2013) Article IV, Section A.6

Absentee Voting

Absentee ballots must be returned though the U.S. Postal Service to the Delaware Election Board's P.O. Box no later than the close of business the day before the election.

Ballots must be marked and sealed in the inner envelope provided marked "ballot." The "ballot" envelope must be placed in the self-addressed envelope provided with the self-certification information on the back.

All required information on the back of the self-addressed, self-certification envelope must be completed and accurate or the envelope will not be opened or counted.

Ballots containing votes for more candidates than there are seat vacancies, or illegible or mutilated shall be void and not counted.

Election Day

Election Board members shall arrive at the voting place at time designated by the Election Board Chairperson. They shall remain on duty throughout the day until all votes have been counted and certified.

Candidate watchers, once registered with the Election Board, will remain on duty throughout the day until all votes have been counted and certified.

Election Board members, candidate(s) watchers and security guard, if one is hired, or approved counters from the Election Board, will be locked in the counting room, or building once the count has begun. No other person shall be allowed in the counting room or building during the count.

All ballots from remote polling place(s) and/or U.S. Post Office shall be transported by the Election Board Chairperson, an Election Board member, and the security guard (if one is hired) or by the Chairperson's designee(s).

All ballots cast shall be counted by either electronic tabulation, tallied by the Election Board or it's designee. A certified return prepared by the Election Board and signed by the Election Board Chairperson, Election Board members and witnesses, (watchers, security guard) if any present. The tally shall be posted after the tally is complete at the Delaware Tribal Center, 5100 Tuxedo Blvd, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Counting Ballots

Unless electronically tabulated, mailed ballots will be opened, certified and counted first. The name of the voter on the self-certification envelope will be checked against the list of ballots mailed and ballots received. Ballot envelopes will be separated from the self-certification envelopes. Ballots will then be separated from the envelopes in preparation for counting. The self-certification envelopes shall be saved as a permanent record.

The Election Board Chairperson or designee shall call out the votes marked on each ballot, the other Election Board members or designee shall tally the votes separately and count must balance. After the mail-in votes have been counted, the walk-in votes shall be counted using the same procedure.

Campaigning

No person shall campaign within one hundred (100) feet of any voting place.

Winner — Chief

The candidate for chief receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted within forty-five (45) days, between the two chief candidates receiving the most votes in the primary election. The winner of the run-off election shall be declared the Chief of the Delaware Tribe of Indians.

Winner — Assistant Chief

The candidate for assistant chief receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted within forty-five (45) days, between the two assistant chief candidates receiving the most votes in the primary election. The winner of the run-off election shall be declared the Assistant Chief of the Delaware Tribe of Indians.

Winner — Tribal Council Members

Candidates for the Tribal Council receiving the highest number of votes shall be selected to serve on the Tribal Council. In the event of a tie vote, the candidates who tied will have a run-off election which shall be conducted within forty-five (45) days, between the two council candidates. The winner of the run-off election shall be declared a Tribal Council member.

Winner — Trust Board Chair

The candidate for Trust Board chair receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted within forty-five (45) days, between the two Trust Board chair candidates receiving the most votes in the primary election. The winner of the run-off election shall be declared the Chairman of the Delaware Trust Board.

Winner — Trust Board Members

Candidates for the Trust Board receiving the highest number of votes shall be selected to serve on the Trust Board. In the event of a tie vote, the candidates who tied or their designee shall draw lots for the position within seventy-two (72) hours of the posting of the election results.

Winner — Chief Justice/Associate Tribal Judges

Chief Justice/Associate Judge candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be selected to serve on the Tribal Court. In the event of a tie vote, the candidates who tied or their designee shall draw lots for the position within seventy-two (72) hours of the posting of the election results.

Run-off Election

In case of a tie for Chief, Assistant Chief, Tribal Council Member or Chairman of the Trust Board, a run-off election shall be held within forty-five (45) days of the primary election between the two candidates that received the most votes. Election procedures shall be the same, except only those persons who voted by mail in the primary election shall be allowed to vote by mail in the run-off election. In the event of a run-off election, those persons who voted in the primary election shall automatically receive a ballot by mail for the run-off election.

Recount

Any candidate for any office may ask for a recount. A fee of $400.00 shall be charged to the candidate requesting the recount. The time limit for requesting a recount shall be within seventy-two (72) hours of the closing of the polls. If more than one candidate for an office requests a recount, then they shall have the option to split the cost of the recount evenly or to pay $400.00 for separate recounts.

Complaint Procedure

Right to a Hearing

A complainant shall be entitled to a hearing before the Delaware Tribal Court, if written request is filed within seventy-two (72) hours of the closing of the polls with the Delaware Election Board Chairperson.

Definitions

Complainant is defined as any enrolled member and registered voter in the Delaware Tribe of Indians whose rights may have been adversely affected by procedures used during any Delaware Tribe of Indians called election.

A complaint is defined as any dispute with the conduct and procedures of any Delaware Tribe of Indians called election or failure to act in accordance with the requirements of the Delaware Tribal Constitution, the Trust Document of the Delaware Tribe of Indians or Tribal Election Regulations.

Procedure Prior to the Hearing

The complaint must be presented in writing to the:

Delaware Election Board Chairperson
P.O. Box 1198
Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 74005

During normal working hours within seventy-two (72) hours of the close of the polls. The complaint must include specific reasons for the complaint and the action or relief sought and must include a certified check made out to the Delaware Tribe of Indians Court Clerk in the amount of $25.00 for filing fee.

Within three (3) working days, the Election Board shall forward the complaint, along with the check, to the Delaware Tribal Court.

The Hearing

The hearing shall be held before the Delaware Tribal Court within twenty (20) days of the filing of the complaint.

The complaint shall be afforded a fair hearing providing the basic safeguards of due process, which shall include:

The opportunity to examine, before the hearing, all documents, records and regulations of the Election Board, which are relevant to the hearing. The complainant shall bear all costs of the copying of these documents. Any documents not made available upon the complainant's request shall not be used by the Election Board to support their actions.

The Delaware Tribal Court may render a decision without proceeding with the hearing if the judges determine that the issue has been previously decided in an earlier proceeding.

If the complainant or the Election Board representative fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Delaware Tribal Court may make the determination to post-pone the hearing for a period not to exceed five (5) business days or the Court may make the determination that the party has waived his/her right to a hearing. Both the complainant and the Election Board shall be notified of such determination within ten (10) business days of the Court's decisions.

At the hearing, the complainant must make a showing of entitlement to the relief sought. Once the complainant meets his/her

burden by clear and convincing evidence, the Election Board bears the burden of justifying its actions or its failure to act against which the complaint is directed.

The hearing shall be conducted as directed by the Delaware Tribal Court. The Court may receive oral or documentary evidence pertinent to the facts and issues raised by the complainant.

Decision of the Delaware Tribal Court

The decision of the Delaware Tribal Court shall be based solely and exclusively on the facts presented at the hearing.

The Delaware Tribal Court shall prepare a full written decision within ten (10) business days after the hearing. A copy of the decision shall be sent to the complainant, the Election Board and the Tribal Council. Copies shall be maintained in the Election Board files.■



Instructions For Voting in 2026 Tribal Elections

On the first Saturday in November 2026 there will be an election for Chief, Assistant Chief, two (2) Tribal Council seats, three (3) Trust Board seats, one (1) Associate Judge seat, and one (1) Appellate Tribal Judge seat. You may vote in person at the official polling site or obtain an absentee ballot.

If you cannot vote in person, be sure to apply to get an absentee ballot for tribal elections. It's easy to do so, just fill out the form on page 19 and mail it in.

Tribal Members voting shall be considered to be absentee voters, if they have requested an absentee ballot in the last 3 elections, they will continue to receive an absentee ballot.

It is your responsibility to ensure the Enrollment Department has your correct mailing address. Contact them now at **enrollment@delawaretribe.org**

PLEASE NOTE: We need one form per voter. You may copy this form if you need multiple copies. ■

An Update From the Delaware Tribe Food Pantry

Important Registration Reminder

If you would like to shop at the Delaware Tribe Food Pantry, you must register by November 1, 2026. After November 1, 2026, individuals who have not completed registration will not be able to shop at the food pantry.

Please make sure you get registered before the deadline so you can continue receiving food pantry services.

Food Pantry Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 3:00 PM–6:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Interested in Volunteering?

We would love to have you volunteer at the food pantry! If you are interested in helping, please reach out by email at **stapp@delawaretribe.org**, or stop by the pantry and fill out a volunteer form.

Thank you for helping us keep the Delaware Tribe Food Pantry organized and available to those in our community who need it. ■

Enhanced Tribal Cards: What Delaware Tribal Members Need to Know

The Delaware Tribe of Indians is pleased to offer Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs) to eligible Delaware Tribal members. The Enhanced Tribal Card provides members with a secure form of Tribal identification while also meeting federal requirements for certain border crossings under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). On February 6, 2026, the Delaware Tribe of Indians entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection regarding the acceptance of the Delaware Tribe of Indians Enhanced Tribal Card for border-crossing purposes. This agreement allows the Tribe's ETC to meet the federal requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, commonly known as WHTI. The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is a federal requirement that establishes the documents U.S. citizens must present when entering the United States from certain destinations in the Western Hemisphere. The Delaware Tribe of Indians Enhanced Tribal Card is a WHTI-compliant document and may be used for certain land and sea border crossings. This includes travel between the United States and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea, including travel by ferry. The ETC may also be used as identification for domestic air travel within the United States. It is important to understand that an Enhanced Tribal Card does not replace a passport book for international air travel. If you are traveling internationally by air or returning to the United States by air from a foreign destination, you will need a valid passport book. Your Delaware Tribe of Indians Enhanced Tribal Card will not be accepted in place of a passport for international air travel. The cost for an initial Delaware Tribe of Indians Enhanced Tribal Card is $20. If the card is lost, stolen, damaged, or otherwise needs to be replaced, the replacement cost is $30. Once an applicant has completed the required process and is approved for an Enhanced Tribal Card, the card is valid for eight years. Members who are dually enrolled with another federally recognized Tribe may still be eligible to apply for a Delaware Tribe of Indians Enhanced Tribal Card. However, an individual cannot participate in two Enhanced Tribal Card programs at the same time. If you are already enrolled in another Tribe's ETC program, you cannot also be enrolled in the Delaware Tribe of Indians ETC program. Members should keep this requirement in mind when deciding through which Tribe they wish to obtain an Enhanced Tribal Card. All Enhanced Tribal Card applications must be completed in person. There is no mail-in or online application option for ETC. The in-person application process is required so Enrollment staff can conduct the required interview, verify the applicant's identity and the authenticity of the documents presented, and obtain the applicant's photograph and signature. Appointments are required.



To schedule an Enhanced Tribal Card appointment, contact the Delaware Tribe of Indians Enrollment Department at (918) 335-6590. Members should review the required documentation before their appointment and make sure all identification documents they plan to present are current and unexpired.

The Enhanced Tribal Card is an important step forward for the Delaware Tribe of Indians and provides our members with another secure form of Tribal identification that can also be used for qualifying travel under WHTI. ■



ELECT

CURTIS ZUNIGHA

TO TRIBAL COUNCIL



ELECTION: NOVEMBER 7 REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT BY: OCTOBER 14

I AM A TRIBAL ELDER AND U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN

OUR TRIBE NEEDS HELP! I WANT TO BRING MY EXPERIENCE!

EXPERIENCE

-ELECTED CHIEF 1994-1998
-ELECTED TO TRIBAL COUNCIL IN 1984 & 2004
-TRIBAL MANAGER 1990 & 2012
-CULTURAL CENTER DIRECTOR 2017-2022
-FAMILY & CHILD SERVICES DIRECTOR 2015
-HOUSING DIRECTOR 2000

ISSUES

-IMPROVE LAND MANAGEMENT OF TRIBAL PROPERTY IN OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS
-POTENTIAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING OF TRIBAL COUNCIL & TRUST BOARD
-GROW OUR BUSINESSES: DOMICILE, RANCH, TETON, TAHKOX e2, LENAPE RESERVE
-IMPROVE SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERSHIP
-GREATER OUTREACH OF CULTURE & LANGUAGE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS
-MOVE FROM FOOD INSECURITY TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
-GREATER PRESENCE IN OUR ORIGINAL HOMELAND (PA, NJ, NY)

I'M ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7 - WANISHI!

2026 Delaware Tribe Election

CANDIDATE FORUM

Xu maehëlan

- Saturday, October 17, 2026
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m
- Delaware Tribal Complex, Forsythe Hall

❖ Come hear directly from the candidates for Tribal Council, Trust Board, and the Judicial Branch as they share their views, priorities and plans.

❖ Please send your questions for the candidates to election@delawaretribe.org Questions must be received by October 14, 2026.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Rhonda Crawford —Certified Lenape Artist

Rhonda Crawford is a Certified Lenape Artist whose love of beadwork began with her Aunt Bess. Bess has been an incredible influence in Rhonda's life, teaching her not only the art of beading, but also about their heritage, traditions, and the importance of keeping those connections alive.



For Rhonda, beading is therapeutic. She loves choosing colors, experimenting with new combinations, and continually learning new patterns and techniques. She especially enjoys creating the large, bold "Auntie earrings" that make a statement, but she also loves creating smaller, more delicate pieces. Each new project is another opportunity to learn, create, and express herself through her beadwork.

Becoming a Certified Lenape Artist has been one of the greatest honors of Rhonda's life. One experience in particular is something she will never forget. While leaving the tribal office one day, she said hello to a woman walking inside. As they passed, Rhonda suddenly realized the woman was wearing a pair of earrings she had made. They didn't know one another, which made the moment even more meaningful. Seeing someone she had never met wearing something she created with her own hands was incredibly special. It was a reminder that her beadwork had traveled beyond her own hands and become part of someone else's life.



A RESOLUTION OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS TO CERTIFY RHONDA MARIE CRAWFORD AS A DELAWARE ARTIST

RESOLUTION 2026-50

Sponsored by Treasurer Randy Coval Brown

WHEREAS, the Delaware Tribal Council is authorized by Article V of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Delaware Tribe of Indians to represent and act in all matters that concern the general welfare of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is empowered in Article V, Part E of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Delaware Tribe of Indians to cultivate, promote and encourage the culture and crafts of the LENAPE; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-644) as amended states that it is illegal to offer, display for sale, or sell any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Tribal Citizen, Rhonda Marie Crawford, requests formal acknowledgement as a Delaware Indian artist and is eligible to be granted such acknowledgement under the aforementioned act; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Tribal Citizen, Rhonda Marie Crawford, has submitted a statement about and portfolio of her original artwork for review and approval.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians hereby approves the certification of Rhonda Marie Crawford as a Delaware Indian artist and authorizes the issuance of a letter of certification.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing was considered by the Delaware Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and adopted this 26 day of August 2026 with a vote of 4 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstaining.

Brad KahCrow, Chief — Attested by: Lindsey Harris, Secretary

Rhonda is proud to continue learning, creating, and sharing her beadwork while carrying forward the lessons and influence of her Aunt Bess. She hopes each piece reflects her creativity, her love for her Lenape heritage, and the joy she finds in keeping these traditions alive. Rhonda creates her work through MeMaws Creations. Her beadwork and other creations can be found on Facebook and Instagram under MeMaws Creations. ■



The Cultural Education Department is excited to feature a Certified Lënape Artists segment! Did you know you can become a certified artist of the Delaware Tribe of Indians through our Tribal Council? This opportunity is open to all artists and forms of artistry, such as beadwork, painting, digital art and more! Let's support and celebrate our talented Lënape artists! Apply today: **http://tinyurl.com/3jzthuje**