# Candidates for Trust Board



## Larry (Joe) Brooks

I, Joe Brooks, ask for your vote for the office of Trust Board Member. I am the son of the late Helen Brooks and grandson to the late Mary Sarcoxie. I am a high school graduate and hold an Associate Degree in Architectural Drafting. I served in the U.S. Army 1966-68 and am a disabled Viet Nam Combat Veteran. I have owned or operated seven Native American tobacco stores for thirty years and happily retired in 2008. I have served the Delaware Tribe in several capacities including Tribal Council, Trust Board and Chief over the past thirty-one years. I currently serve on the Delaware Trust Board and have worked on Education, Community Services, Cultural Preservation, Economic Development and Land Management Committees.

As regards to the politics of this Trust Board Election: The truth is that five out of seven of our current Tribal Council members have tried to terminate the functions of the Delaware Trust Board over the past two years. I fully agree that our Constitution has been the governing document of our Tribe since it was written in 1982. I further agree that our Tribal Council is the Governing Body, while the Delaware Trust Board serves the limited function of safeguarding and overseeing the expenditure of our "Trust Funds." However the 'Supreme Authority" in our Tribe is the "Adult Voting Membership." The "Adult Voting Membership" is who voted 1900+ to about 200 in 1991 to form the Trust Board because that was the only way the Federal Government would release our \$3,800,000.00 to us for our much-needed use. My basic philosophy is that something done by a referendum vote of the "Adult Voting Membership" can only be undone by referendum vote of the "Adult Voting Membership."

The Trust Board has served our people well since 1991 through six Chief's Administrations, two losses of Federal Recognition, and there used to be a spirit of cooperation between the Trust Board and Council. Two years ago five of our seven Council Members attempted to take over the Trust Board's function. The Council was going to eliminate Trust Elections and appoint Trust Board Committee Members. Two town-hall meetings were held and it became clear that our people in no way wished the Trust Board be appointed. It also became clear that The Trust Document and Master Plan needed some revisions. Since that time the Trust Board has worked hard to prepare a new Trust Document and Master Plan and three more town meetings have been held for member suggestions. The new document and incorporated plan will also be voted on in this election. I ask all adult members to vote yes on the document and incorporated plan as it will provide 5% Trust Budget to Elders, 5% to Veterans and will increase Cultural Preservation, Education, Community Services and Tribal Operations (money expended by Council) 5% each. All increases are a good thing for our

For all of the reasons above stated, I respectfully ask for your votes for "the new Trust Document and Plan," and your votes for incumbent Trust Board Members Bonnie Jo Griffith, Homer Scott and myself, Larry (Joe) Brooks.

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#### **Janifer Brown**

Tello fellow Delawares. I, Janifer Brown, would like a position on the Trust Board. Being on the Tribal Council has allowed me to see the need for improvements in the way the Trust Board functions. In 2010 after I was elected to the Tribal Council I found many of the programs offered by the Trust Board being underutilized. Chief Pechonick and I set about making sure all tribal members knew what was available and how to get it. The process has run more smoothly since. The tribe already supplied the accounting and check writing for the trust board but the other functions of the Trust programs were neglected.

When I was Chief Justice for the tribe in 1995, the Trust Board wasn't meeting as they should and their function was almost defunct. We can't have this inactivity repeated. During the last year, funds have been spent without the programs having a say and the program committees are supposed to distribute/use the money for their programs, not the Board. The Trust Board programs appear to rely on the whimsy of the Trust Board only.

Now don't misunderstand me, I don't want our Trust money to be turned over to the tribe. I want a system that keeps our programs working no matter what and I still want the checks and balances of an elected Trust Board. I want my grandchildren to have programs available through our trust

just like anyone else. I'm for reforming the Trust Document and Distribution Plan, and possibly adding it to our Constitution. The changes they are asking for at this election are needed, but they are not enough.

I am the daughter of James W (Judge) Allen. I'm available to talk at 918-214-5376, and I'm at the Center everyday at lunch. See you there! I ask for your vote.■



# Patricia Kay Ketchum Donnell

Ilive in the rural area of Copan, Ok. with my husband Walter L. Donnell. We have been married for 59 yrs. We have 3 wonderful children: Steven Donnell of Ingram, TX, Sandra Tompkins also of Copan, OK, and Douglas Donnell of Bartlesville, OK. We have 9 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

My parents are L.A. Ketchum of Bartlesville, OK and the late Lillian (Berry) Ketchum Hatfield. I have two brothers, Dee Ketchum and the late Lewis B Ketchum.

As a member of the Delaware tribe, I feel like I could do my part by running for the Trust Board. By listening to the tribal members, I could be their voice in making the right decisions for our tribe.

I would appreciate your vote.■



#### **Bonnie Jo Griffith**

My name is Bonnie Jo Griffith and I am a proud member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Currently I serve on the Trust Board of the Delaware Tribe of Indians as the Treasurer. I was elected to the Trust Board by the sitting members of that board in April of this year due to a resignation of one of the members. At this time I would like to ask for your support for reelection by the voting members of our tribe.

My family is the Sarcoxie Family and we are of the Turtle Clan. I am the proud mother of two children: Lisa Griffith (a first grade teacher at Dewey Elementary School) and SFC Charles A Griffith (U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, TX). Lisa has been with the Dewey Schools for 12 years and Charles has had three tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. I am extremely proud of my children as they both provide service for the betterment of our nation. Additionally, I am a 65-year-old retiree and worked for about 29 years in corporate America. My major in college was math with business and English minors. The years I spent in the corporate work environment were working in accounting as well as in marketing. During my tenure of employment I was responsible for a budget of approximately one million dollars. I have previously served on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters, chaired the local American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, chaired the Art Market for

Oklahoma Indian Summer, then who safeguards your trust funds, chaired the Powwow for Oklahoma Indian Summer. I presently serve as a member on both the Community Service Committee in our tribe's board as I feel that of the Delaware Tribe and the Education Committee. As well, I am the Vice Chair of the Delaware Tribe of Indians Elder Committee and Chairman of the Executive Board of Oklahoma Indian Sum-

I have a strong desire to assist in growing the Delaware Tribe of Indians. By running for a seat on the Trust Board I hope to keep our trust funds safe and to also fund concerning our funds. programs benefitting all members of our tribe. Those of us sitting presently on the Trust Board have worked extremely hard to present a new Trust Document to our people to also ensure our monies and provide additional services to our membership. All of us on the Trust Board are proud of the document and have worked to keep our tribal members informed of what we have worked on, taken input from members, and made changes to the working document as we have considered suggestions. This Trust Board Document is a document FOR the people of this tribe. The money in trust belongs to the people of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, not to the Trust Board, not to the Tribal Council.

The Trust Board of the Delaware Tribe of Indians is not the governing body of this tribe nor should it be. The running of this tribe is performed by the Delaware Tribal Council and I believe that is the way it should stay. It is my opinion that it is in the best interest of the people of the Delaware Tribe to have the Tribal Council and the Trust Board as two separate and elected boards. 2, 2013 for Trust Board member. To me the trust monies should be kept separate from the Tribal Council and the governing of the tribe should be separate from the Trust Board. Also, I feel that the Trust Board needs to be kept an elected board and not an appointed board. You, the people of the Delaware Tribe, need to choose a child. He has been involved in

not the Tribal Council.

As a member of the Trust Board I will work to ensure transparency this has been an issue in the past. My opinion is that tribal members should always be informed of what any governing body of the tribe is planning. No decisions should be made at "workshops," no votes taken in these and that poll votes should absolutely ONLY be used in a case where it is an emergency for one of our tribal members or an emergency

I am asking for your support. Please remember that my interests are for what is best for "We the People."

Wanishi∎

#### **Shelli Harris**

No statement submitted.



### Homer Scott Jr.

Tomer Scott, Jr., son of Ev-Telyn Mae Jackson Scott, asks for your vote on November

The Jackson family moved to Oklahoma when the Delaware Tribe was relocated from Kansas. Homer was raised north of Copan near the state line. His grandfather, James Jackson, who participated in stomp and gourd dances, introduced him to tribal culture as traditional ceremonies and customs since childhood. Homer has assisted the Fall-Leaf and Sumpter families with many traditional burials.

Scott served in the U.S. Navy from 1971 to 1974. He simultaneously managed three ranches from 1998 to 2009 and currently works for a stockyards company working cattle.

The Jackson family has participated on committees and held tribal offices, including governmental, traditional and cultural, over the years.

Homer Scott has followed that example. He was a Delaware Tribal Judge for four years in the mid 1980s. He has served on the Delaware Trust Board for the past year and a half, filling the vacancy left by the resignation of a Board member. He also serves on the Trust Board Education and Community Services Committees.

He supports the election of Trust Board members Joe Brooks and Bonnie Jo Griffith, both are serving out terms of vacated seats on the Board. "I support Joe's belief to protect the Trust money for future generations" stated Homer. "Bonnie Jo is politically active in both the tribe and the community. Both are dedicated to the Delaware people."

"The Delaware Tribe has a bright future mentally, spiritually and economically," he said, "as long as the elected leaders and tribal members work together. I would like to see a revival of tribal traditions and culture. This can be achieved if tribal members become more active and work with elected officials."

"I ask tribal members to vote yes on the proposed Trust Document. The proposed document combines the current Trust Document and the Master Plan. A large change is in the allocation of funds. The Economic Development and Land Management Committees are being replaced by new Elder and Veterans Committees, each will receive 5% of the allocation, Community Services,

Education, Cultural Preservation and Tribal Operations Committees will be increased by 5%. This will put more money into services for individuals and our cultural endeavors," expounded Scott.

"The tribe is growing in population and in tribal members participation. As a Trust Board member for the past year and a half, I have seen the growing interest of the people," Homer explained. "The new document focuses on the duties and responsibilities of the Trust Board. It does not duplicate or interfere with the duties and responsibilities of the Tribal Council or constitution."

"I ask for your support and vote on November 2, 2013. I want to be a part of the growth of the Delaware Tribe. Wanishi."

## Karla Michelle Vernon

No statement submitted.■



# Mary Louise (Skye) Watters

Tello, my name is Mary Lou-Laise (Skye) Watters. I am declaring my candidacy for the Trust Board Member Election.

Education and care of our Elders are my main reasons for seeking this position on the Trust Board. When my Mother and I attended the General Council meeting held to determine how funds

from Dockets 72 and 298 were to be distributed, the tribe voted that 10% of the Judgment Funds were to be put in trust to perpetuate our tribe through education of our youth and care of our elders. I would like to work toward making this a reality.

I am the daughter of the late Elizabeth Longbone Skye West and Lester Skye and the granddaughter of Willie and Anna (Wilson) Longbone, prominent earlyday Lenape Indian settlers in the Dewey area and William Skye who served as Chief of the Peoria Tribe in 1908. I attended Dewey Public Schools and was employed by Phillips Petroleum Company as secretary for approximately 30 years, retiring in 1986. My husband Gilbert R. Watters and I have been married 61 years. We have two children, Jim "Bo" Watters and Laura Elizabeth (Watters) Maynor, five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

I am a member of New Hope Indian United Methodist Church in Dewey, and have served as Lay Leader and Lay Speaker. I have been twice president of the Bartlesville Indian Women's Club, Vice-president of the First District of GFWC and GFWC-Oklahoma Drama & Literature Chairman, member of the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women, serving on the constitution committee, secretary of the Delaware War Mothers club, member of the Delaware Tribal Culture Preservation Committee, served as Head Lady Dancer for the 1993 Chris Wilson Memorial Dance in Dewey and Head Lady Dancer for the 1994 Delaware Pow Wow in Copan. I was named to the 2011 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors Program. I am currently president of the Delaware Elders Group and active with the Delaware War Mothers.

I am proud to be a Delaware and would appreciate the opportunity to represent you as a Trust Board Member. Voting is a privilege. Please remember to vote in this election.