**District 8 - Dave Carney**

I am writing this column prior to flying to Alaska for a CPN area gathering and preparations are in full swing. Some of the challenges of setting up an event in Alaska while being located in Washington are renting vehicles you won’t see, caterers who won’t call you back and technical challenges with audio/visual equipment and simply getting everything there.

However, when the meeting happens, it will be fun and filled with good people - and mostly fully fun. There will be much to write about in next month’s edition, including a presentation which is being coordinated by Carry and Tina Parker Shortell. They have been mentoring a local drum group made up of Indians that have moved to Alaska from all over the United States.

As you know, Alaska is far from Oklahoma both geographically and culturally. Bringing Potawatomi culture has been something that not only I have been working on, but also other members like Rozann Kimp-ton of Wasilla, Alaska. Rozann hosted the last area gathering about three years ago which was a barbecue and a Naming Ceremony on her fabulous property with a creek running through it. In fact, she is so connected to her land that her Indian name is Zhebwe (creek).

Rozann has a smaller version of the bronze statue of “Courage to Lead” by Denny Hasken that is being installed on her land.

A friend from Palmer, Alaska bought this piece from Sorrel Sky Gallery in Durango, Colorado and was having dinner with mutual friends when her name came up and the fact that she is a proud Potawatomi. She was contacted by the owner and after a visit, decided to have it delivered to Rozann’s piece of paradise. Rozann will be invit- ing interested members to come see the artwork the day after our gathering. If you are traveling through Alaska at a future date and would like to see Rozann’s “pack” as she calls it, and the Potawatomi statue “Courage to Lead” feel free to contact me and I will coordinate with her.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer.

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**District 11 - Lisa Kraft**

The 2015 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations will have come and gone by the time this paper is printed. What will remain from this unique commu- nity event is the exuberance of Potawatomi people - the desire to build family ties across Potawatomi nations and bands, to learn customs and stories, to learn our Potawatomi language, to support tribal decisions that contribute to nation-building, and to put all of these Potawatomi cultural practices into motion.

I am honored to be selected by the editor of The Chronicles of Oklahoma, a peer-reviewed quarterly publication of the Oklahoma Historical Society, to write the book review of Gathering the Potawatomi Nation: Revitalization and Identity by Christopher Wetzel.

Mr. Wetzel spent the last 15 years speaking with Potawatomi elders and "national cultural brokers" at various tribal venues and the Gatherings and documenting his ideas on the resur- gence of Potawatomi people reclaim-ing a larger Potawatomi nation. He has valuable insight as both an observer and participant in Potawatomi culture; partici-pant in the sense that he listens to stories, conducts interviews, documents our culture and practices and experiences the education and examples of our ways. Moreover, while his conclusions for revitalization differ, in some regards, from mine, he writes a very descriptive argu- ment for the modern and unique American Indian movement bringing Potawatomi members, from nine different tribal govern- ments, together to reanimate the larger Potawatomi Nation prior to a time of treaties, land loss and federal removals.

Copies of the Gathering the Potawatomi Nation (2015) can be purchased at bookstores and online retailers, like Amazon. If you are a subscriber to The Chronicles of Oklahoma, please be on the lookout for my book review.

I formed my concept of Potawatomi nation building in 1997 after working with Rhonda Butcher and Chairman Barrett to research and negotiate our Nation into Self-Gov- ernance. Nationhood was a subject of my master’s thesis from the Univer-sity of Central Oklahoma in “If You Build It, They Will Come: Using Museum Design and Exhibiton to Promote American Indian Nationalism.”

I defended it in May of 2004. My research was made possible by a Tribal-wide survey I helped create with Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps at a pivotal time in our tribal history - the groundwork leading to our Constitutional change in redisci-tricting and outting the Secretary of the Interior from our legisla-tive decision-making.

From my love of Potawatomi politics and history, I also researched and wrote an in-depth chronology of Citizen Potawatomi allotments and citi-zenship - from Kansas to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) from the 1860s through the 1890s as a master’s project in 2003-2004.


I whole-heartedly believe that our Tribe learns and grows from the instruction of elders, storytellers, language exchangers, Tribal leaders, parents, youth and children. Our time is fleeting, the experiences we have puttered across multiple gener- ations, male and female, alike, young and old.

“Education,” the desire to learn, apply and teach, and “example,” the willingness to share cultural information and a person’s acceptance of what they are being taught and eventually practice, are both critical to the success of our unique Cit- izen Potawatomi Nation and, ultimately, our place within the greater Potawatomi Nation.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft (Zibikwe)
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**District 13 - Bobbi Bowden**

I am German and have been a District 13 Legisla-tor for another term. I would also like to thank my opponent Sam Navarre for a very clean campaign. Speaking as a Tribal member I would like to express my gratitude for a few of the benefits offered by the Tribe to our members. My son has gone through some extensive dental care and I cannot thank the doc-tors and the staff enough for the excellent care they have given him! I know that I am doing their best to get our mem- bers in to see a dentist as soon as possible. If you have any concerns about the level of care you will be given I can prom- ise you it is top notch! You can reach the CPN Dental Clinic at 405-273-6373.

I am also very appreciative of the prescription program and the care given to my dad, a Tribal elder. The prescriptions that the Tribe provides saves him well over $200 per month. These services are also offered by mail order for those who and are not live in the area. The mail or- der pharmacy can be reached at 866-900-5236.

It is also time for those of you who are attending college or any type of vocational school to apply for scholarships. This is another life changing program offered by our Tribe. Keep in mind you do have to apply each semester. Scholarships are han-dled through our Tribal Rolls Office and the information and applications can be found at http://hvnurl.com/CPRNReD.

I bring up these few benefits as reminders that as our popula-tion grows it becomes harder to finance these programs. Some-times the administration and leadership of the Tribe has to make the difficult decisions to make changes and cuts to some benefits, such as the changes in the eye glasses and contact lens- es through our Health Aid Program. These decisions are not easy and are not taken lightly, but I believe the clinic adminis-tration and the leaders of the Tribe have the best interest of our members at heart. We want to do all we can to continue to provide this incredible benefit to us and future generations.

Thank you for the honor of being one of the members of our great Nation.

Bobbi Bowden/Peshknokwe BBowden@potawatomi.org

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**Bozho, Nikanek**

You may have noticed the Hownikan arriving in your mailbox electronically from me if I have your email, on a much more regular and timely basis. I received my August copy of the first week of August – I would venture to say that has never happened before in the history of this publication! The upside is a more connected and educat-ed membership. The downside is deadlines! The Chronicles of Oklahoma: 2008. “Thrice Purchased: Acquisition and Allotment of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.”

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