During the October General Council meeting which we were pleased to attend, discussion among individual Executive Committee members and tribal members brought to our attention the need to provide some detail regarding our firm – Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP ("Hobbs Straus") – which currently serves at your Attorney General, along with a brief summary of some of the important work we have been engaged in on your behalf.

Background

Hobbs Straus is one of the oldest law firms in the United States solely dedicated to representing tribes and tribal interests. We are a national firm with offices located in Washington, DC, Oregon, California, and New Mexico, in addition to our Oklahoma City office. Hobbs Straus attorneys have a history of prestige in Indian law, from successful land and trust claims, including the first Supreme Court case authorizing money damages for the United States' breach of its trust responsibility, to drafting, lobbying for, and assisting with tribal implementation of many important laws including the Indian Self- Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act and many others. Our tribal clients reach from Florida to Alaska and the scope of our work for them is equally broad, from Indian Child Welfare matters to multi-million dollar hotel/casino financing and development projects. To learn more about us, visit our website at www.hsdwlaw.com.

We have had the good fortune previously to engage in very important work with the Tribe. Some may recall a little over a decade ago when, following a series risky moves on the gaming front, the Tribe faced federal closure of Thunderbird and fines approaching $10 million. Tribal officials reached out for our assistance and after a long, hard battle on several fronts, we were able to keep the Casino operating, reduce the fine by $7.5 million, and obtain the first class III gaming compact in Oklahoma for electronic gaming machines without limiting the Tribe's right to engage fully in class II gaming, while prohibiting the State from expanding non-Indian gaming. This was a tremendous victory for all Oklahoma Tribes, but the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, in particular, which led the fight and we were delighted to assist you.

Current Challenges

When invited last year to renew our relationship, which we were glad to do, we unfortunately found significant neglect on a number of legal fronts. Most concerning were three key areas: (1) adherence to the Tribe's Constitutional framework for Executive Committee decision-making; (2) proper role of Executive Committee members; and (3) gaming operations. Regarding the former, an unconstitutional pattern had developed among Executive Committee members over time of attempting to take governmental action informally through the mere signature of three individual committee members. Apparently, the logic was that the constitutional requirements for meeting and conducting business need not be followed if three individual committee persons agree – in other words, no set agenda, no notice, no convening of a quorum for transacting business, and no formal vote. While it may be proper on occasion to send information via letter, for instance to notify someone of action taken, the letter does not eliminate the need for the formal action to take place. A prime example of this occurred this summer when the former Comptroller, Belinda Collins, proposed to refinance the Little Axe clinic. On the basis of three Executive Committee signatures, without any presentation to or official action from the Executive Committee, Collins directed the Bank to proceed with the multi-million dollar refinancing. Despite multiple requests for information, the Attorney General and Executive Committee members were refused information concerning the refinancing, until the last minute when Executive Committee action was required. Upon review of the details, the financial benefit to the Tribe was questionable, compared with what we had been led to believe, and there were structural problems with the transaction that caused the transaction not to close. The underlying practice of three person signatures remains a point of concern.

continued on page 11
Hello my Absentee Shawnee people!

In September I thought the cooler weather had arrived. As usual Oklahoma weather is proving to be as difficult as our elected body – hard to determine what will come next. I hope you are all prepared for the upcoming cold weather as it appears to be well on its way. This month I am going to speak to you about our budgets, the business of the Tribe and our elected body.

**BUSINESS OF THE TRIBE**

There continues to be confusion by our elected body on what role they are constitutionally enabled to do. I am no longer just concerned but mortified by the actions of three of our elected body. These three individuals are not acting in the best interest of our tribe – it appears they are deliberately misinterpreting the law, the constitution, and the Administrative Systems Manual policies of our tribe for their own personal gain and benefit. At the last Regular Executive Committee Meeting (which you may view on the AST tribal member’s only website area now) these three individuals openly admitted to having their own legal counsel and to having unconstitutional meetings with neither I nor the Representative being invited.

**FINANCE**

It is my understanding the Treasurer works for the Tribe and is to give guidance to Finance staff to ensure that all actions are in accordance with National Accounting Association practices and standards as is cited in our constitution. Yet our Treasurer is refusing to put into place the Salary Ordinance, pay certain bills, and is hindering financial transactions by appearing to be creating a hostile work environment for employees by continuing to endorse the former Controller whose actions are under FBI investigation, by advising employees that ‘if the Controller goes then you go’. She also refuses to get bonded by a Bona Fide bond as is cited in our constitution. The Tribe’s current bond covers all employees for certain actions but does not meet the specific needs for those of the Treasurer in her elected role. This is why specific language is incorporated into surety bonds. Not all bonds offer the same coverage just like not all insurance policies cover the same things. Let me be clear: The current policy held by her elected role. This is why specific language is incorporated into surety bonds. Not all bonds offer the same coverage just like not all insurance policies cover the same things. Let me be clear: The current policy held by the Tribe does cover the Treasurer, as an employee, but not in her capacity as Treasurer and does NOT meet the constitutional requirements of her position. So the real question is “Can She Be Bonded”? We are aware that she had a bankruptcy in 2012 so can she meet constitutionally defined requirements of being bonded by a Bona Fide bond?

**MAINTENANCE**

When I think of the Maintenance department an image comes to mind that is a popular game among youth: “Where’s Waldo” this popular game is one where you try to find a particular character in a vast array of scenes and characters. That is what it seems like for those of us here on the campus when we try to get repairs on campus buildings and landscaping done. That should not be the case. In review of our 2013 indirect cost (IDC) proposal it indicates 28 maintenance staff and 5 Security. In the 2014 IDC proposal there is 37 maintenance staff. When I looked at the 2014 General Council handbook it showed that there are 14 maintenance staff in Shawnee and 12 at the Little Axe clinic. And it remains unclear how many are at the Little Axe Resource Center. The Lt. Governor shared with me that he has maintenance staff under contract and one of those is his own brother.

How is it that a department this size can’t get our Shawnee tribal complex buildings and landscaping needs taken care of? In a meeting I recently attended down at the Shawnee City Hall a presentation was given by their Parks department. They advised they had 10 staff. When asked what all they did this is what I was given: Playground inspection and repairs – monthly; mosquito control; maintenance and repairs of 7 city buildings; mowing, weed eating, trimming of downtown area, parks and lake areas and trash clean-up. This is for ALL of Shawnee. How is it that we have a campus of less than 5 acres and we can’t get this done? Is it because of the ‘special work’ he is doing on certain property owner’s homes? These types of actions place the Tribe in a position of liability. The Lt. Governor is the individual who has oversight of maintenance and I would think that he would want the area he is responsible for to be well maintained and for repairs to occur in a timely manner.

Our buildings and grounds in Shawnee need our maintenance staff’s full attention. If we are going to state in our indirect cost proposal that staff work here in Shawnee then they need to be allowed to do that. If you have visited our campus lately you would be saddened by the neglect and deterioration of our buildings and landscape. The winter season is now upon us yet our buildings and grounds aren’t ready for it. We have trees and bushes that have not been pruned, our ‘S’ in the middle of our campus has gone weeks on end without being trimmed and our grass needs aerated and fertilized and could have benefited greatly this summer from a sprinkler system. We have no rose bushes, annual or perennial plants on the campus as that would take landscaping effort. If our campus was maintained well, our campus could become a tourist attraction built on its historic buildings and could draw people to our casino and gift shop. Yet instead our buildings are aging due to neglect and disrepair. We need new roofs on our buildings; work done on our plumbing, central heat and air upgraded. We need...
Department initiated EAN’s on September 29, 2014 based on their review. As-to-date the adopted salary scale has not been put into place by membership voted affirmatively to enact the Executive Committee Salary Scale pursuant to the Tribal referendum where Tribal August 20, 2014. This action recognized and enacted the Executive Committee member salaries will need to be adjusted and payback made to the Tribe. As you have seen by the email guidance given by the former HR Director, the Executive Committee have been given ample time for implementation. These salaries were arguably in effect upon certification of the referendum election. Reluctance or failure of Executive Committee members to implement the law, which they were advised is in effect, is a failure of their duties of office, and even more problematic than that is they seek to avoid implementation of this law simply because it would negatively impact them personally.

**Program Budgets**

The budget process should be based on program review and preliminary budget needs and revenue estimates.

As I write this my Office still has yet to hear or receive any communication on holding budget meetings. Last week my Office received year to date expenditures but no guidance from Finance on what the new fringe benefit rates are to be; nor have we received any assistance from the Treasurer or Finance on next steps. I will not place budgets on the agenda until we, as the EC, have held meetings with programs, included Finance in those discussions and the elected body has all set down and reviewed our budgets prior to the Executive Committee passing them under resolution. We need a chance to review and understand how the Tribe’s funding is being used. We need to discuss what new and innovative programming our department heads are considering in 2015 and we do not need to blindly put budgets into place as we did last year based on the advisement of Belinda Collins, Controller.

Here is what I am trying to do and hope we can adopt a similar approach through Finance:

For our children? I would like to have the Maintenance Director provide a monthly list to the Executive Committee on what services is being done both in the Shawnee and Little Axe areas.

**Salary Scale**

Salary Scale – When an action by the Executive Committee is put into place it has been enacted. Sometimes it may cite “Effective Immediately”, “Declared an Emergency”, or be based on the language of the action. It is unclear to me how a referendum vote and then ‘adopting’ the salary scale through resolution calls for more guidance.

The following dated emails were sent out by the former HR Director to the Executive Committee:

**August 22** - “…Please provide my department any all documents you wish to be used for review and evaluation no later than Monday, September 8, 2014. Starting Monday, September 8, 2014, Human Resources will start the process of reviewing and confirming the submitted information ending on Monday, September 22, 2014.

**August 22** - “…The process of reviewing and confirming submitted information will consist of, but not be limited to, verification of resume information pertaining to previous employment experience, diplomas, business experience, years of college, official transcripts, etc. The requirements and definitions for each Tier for each elected EC member was attached to the passed Resolution. Please notice that the only “official” required document is an official transcript from a college or university. You can obtain official transcripts from any college or university attended – usually at no or very limited cost. Copies of additional information should be sufficient…”

**September 4** - “…This is just a reminder that any information you want to be considered for the Salary Scale Resolution, please get it to HR by this Monday. Starting Monday, HR will be reviewing the provided information and information in the file to help determine the salary scale…”

**October 6** – “Governor: As you are aware, Resolution #E-AS-2014-39, which resulted from referendum vote in June, was passed and signed into effect by the EC on August 20, 2014. The resolution stated that HR would be responsible for all salary determinations for all EC members. Based upon information within your personnel file and submitted documentation, it has been determined that you are within the Tier 4 pay scale. Subsequently, an EAN has been issued and forwarded to Finance…”

The Human Resource department did their job and gave timely notice to us as elected officials and to Finance to put the Tiered salaries into place. On November 6, 2014, I sent the following memo to all Executive Committee members and Finance:

“The Executive Committee passed Resolution E-AS-2014-39 on August 20, 2014. This action recognized and enacted the Executive Committee Salary Scale pursuant to the Tribal referendum where Tribal membership voted affirmatively to enact the Executive Committee Salary Scale. As-to-date the adopted salary scale has not been put into place by the Finance Department. Each Executive Committee member has been communicated with by HR and given adequate time for their professional work experience and education to be verified. The Human Resource (HR) Department initiated EAN’s on September 29, 2014 based on their review and as-to-date this still has not been put into place…”

At the October General Council meeting you asked that the elected leaders pay levels be made available to you. Once the salary changes occur mine will be at Tier 4 as I believe the Representative’s may be. The Treasurer, Lt. Governor, and Secretary could possibly all be at Tier 1 which means these Executive Committee member salaries will need to be adjusted and payback made to the Tribe. As you have seen by the email guidance given by the former HR Director, the Executive Committee have been given ample time for implementation. These salaries were arguably in effect upon certification of the referendum election. Reluctance or failure of Executive Committee members to implement the law, which they were advised is in effect, is a failure of their duties of office, and even more problematic than that is they seek to avoid implementation of this law simply because it would negatively impact them personally.

Based on our 2013 audit, the 2013 indirect cost pool and direct cost base we have a variety of funding streams such as the Department of Interior: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) contract pursuant to the Indian Self Determination Education & Assistance Act (ISDEAA) – P.L.93-638, as amended – with funds for Education, Police, ICW, Roads, OEH/OEP, Enrollment, Realty, Probate; EPA, GAP Brownfield Response; Department of Justice; Department of Energy; Institute of Museum and
The items discussed by the Region VI officials were:

- Need for Tribal consultation regarding disaster declarations.
- Emphasis by Region officials of program opportunities for tribes: mitigation, recovery, preparedness, grants, and training.

I was given a tour of the Emergency Operations Center and briefed on how they operate. This was a good meeting and from it I believe both Linda Day, AST Emergency Management Manager, and I came away more aware of our needs and more knowledgeable of FEMA.

**Conclusion**

I have 6 months to go. My door is always open (unless I am in a meeting or at a meeting) and I welcome your visits. We have much to do to get our Tribe back on track and I want to do the best I can for all of our tribal members.

**Help me to make a difference – stand beside me and Let's Build for the Future (BFF) - united and together!**

Thank you for your support.

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**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer’s office currently has oversight of the following departments: Finance, Procurement, MIS, and Human Resources per the approved organizational chart. It is no surprise that with each administration change, the newly elected Treasurer encounters dilemmas within the Finance department. Since taking office, I and numerous Finance staff have been addressing various issues which some, unfortunately, have needed my immediate attention.

To date, the following is a list of issues I have immediately addressed to ensure departments function accordingly and successfully regardless of the political issues.

- **Salary Scale**: The Executive Committee (EC) Salary Scale was presented to the General Council in April and was placed on ballot, June 21, 2014. This was passed by majority vote and on August 20, 2014, the EC passed the Salary Scale by a resolution written by our Attorney General Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP. However, the resolution did not include an effective date for implementation.

- **The Human Resource (HR) department was placed in a position to determine what EC member qualifies for what salary tier and, in fact, submitted documentation reflecting an effective date as September 29, 2014, without any guidance.**

  On October 17, 2014, at approximately 4:48pm, the HR Director, at the time, resigned, exactly 12 minutes before he permanently left the Tribal complex, he changed the Lieutenant Governor’s, Secretary’s, and Treasurer’s salary to Tier One due to lack of requested documentation that was requested after consulting with the AG office. The HR Director told the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, and Treasurer they did not need to submit a high school diploma, resume, or official college transcript since HR already had the majority of their documents. This is not a huge issue for the Treasurer’s office since the Salary Scale had no official date of implementation; therefore, the action was not valid.

- **Furthermore, two major factors have hindered the implementation of this salary scale outside of no approved implementation date. The FIRST factor addresses the actual date that will be used to implement the new salaries, and will there be retro pay given once the implementation date has been established. When this question was presented to the current individual “in-charge” of the HR department, this individual decided to change the preexisting date (submitted by previous HR Director) to August 20, 2014, without any official documentation indicating when the new Salary Scale is to be implemented. The SECOND factor addresses each EC member approved 2014 General Fund (GF) budget, and whether there is enough money in their approved 2014 GF budget to even cover this new salary scale. In other words, what if the EC member’s 2014 GF budget is already in the negative … how will that EC member be able to increase their salary if there is no money?**

  Thus, four (4) different ‘implementation’ dates have been provided regarding the new Salary Scale; however, had the tribe’s Attorney General (AG) included an implementation date on the passed resolution, this would not be an issue.

- **Budgets**: In the October 2014 newsletter, the Governor stated: “In the years prior to the former Governor’s administration it was expected that all funds regardless of their source (grant, BIA, IHS, etc.) would be executed through resolution by the Executive Committee.”

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**MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**White House Listening Session at OKLAHOMA City Public School Administration - November 18, 2014**

Governor Butler-Wolfe gave a Tribal Leader Testimony of Indian Education in Public Schools in Oklahoma

I was invited to speak during FEMA’s Native American Heritage Month. I presented on:

- Tribal History
- Background: family, education, personal aspirations; political focus: Education and Politics, and positions held.
- Goals - Tribal youth mentoring/education, improve tribe’s preparedness for disasters/EM support.

I met with the FEMA Region VI Director, Tony Robinson, and other Region VI officials. This was arranged by Norma Reyes, Tribal Liaison.
In the above-mentioned quote, the Governor implies that we, the Tribe, receive funding from numerous sources. In reality, the Tribe’s funding sources come from these federal grants – IHS, BIA, smaller grants, and the Indirect Costs associated with these grants – and the General Fund. ALL federal money is ear-marked for those specific programs and can only be spent by those specific programs.

The Governor further stated:

“… over the past 5 years this process changed and our Finance department only request the IHS, Bia, Indirect Cost and General Fund budgets to be approved. This is not an acceptable practice and one that must look at changing to retain stability in our budgets.”

The Tribe receives no other sources of funding other than the bolded items in the above-mentioned paragraph. Furthermore, the Executive Committee reviews and discusses the next year’s proposed budgets (IHS, BIA, smaller grants, Indirect Costs, and General Fund) during a scheduled executive committee meeting and then approves said budgets through a resolution. What is not elaborated on is that each of these budgets umbrella over a breakdown of individual departmental budgets that is associated with those particular funds, and the EC reviews each departmental budgets before the resolution is passed. The current 2014 budgets were approved by resolution on December 30, 2013.

The Treasurer’s office is currently researching: (1) the ramifications associated to an Executive Committee member exceeding their approved budget (having a negative balance) per IRS rules, federal grant related guidelines, tribal rules and regulations, and governmental accounting standards, as well as how this type of budget monitoring can affect the Tribe, as a whole, in relation to continued funding; (2) how effective the budget medication process is in relation to each Executive Committee member understanding their approved budget through a resolution; and (3) the analysis process on how an Executive Committee member receives additional money from the General Fund in order to eliminate a negative budget balance so the Tribe will not encounter any future unnecessary audits or FBI investigations.

**Attorney:** An on-going concern with the current AGs contract addresses to whom the AG is to report to. Currently, the AG reports only to the Governor on all matters believing the Governor will forward pertinent information to the remaining Executive Committee members in a timely manner. However, this process is not being adhered to so a letter, with four EC members signature, was sent to the AGs, in February 2014, requesting the current Memorandum of Agreement be changed from:

“It is our understanding that, in the performance of duties required of us under this Agreement, the Attorneys will receive legal assignments from and report to Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe” TO “receive legal assignments from and report to the Executive Committee”.

This changed did not ever occur. Thus, the AG continues to answer solely to the Governor and not the entire Executive Committee as their contract stipulates. This became evident as the AG’s office filed a petition on three of the EC members which according the resolution E-AS-10-29, “the AG’s office must utilize the services of a Special Prosecutor for the purpose of handling the conflicts as to the civil or criminal prosecution of EC members” further clarifying “the AG’s office represents the EC and prosecution either in a civil case or criminal case against an EC member would be a conflict of interest”.

The tribe is paying for quality as once stated and this quality creates a huge bill monthly for the tribe.

The AGs billing charges to the Tribe continue to grow and are currently estimated $63,000 over the 2014 approved budgeted amount for IDC and General fund budget only. In fact, since 2013, the Tribe has paid over $741,000 total to the AGs, and that dollar amount could easily reach one million dollars ($1,000,000) since the AG’s billing process has been continually 3 months behind. The Finance department, through detailed analysis of submitted invoices, has discovered several duplicate billings for the same item, as well as multiple individuals working on the same issue but being paid at a different hourly rate, thus, encumbering more of the Tribe’s money. Not to mention some questionable charges that the Tribe should not have been billed for. These invoices and budget have been presented verbally to the EC since July of 2014 and continued with monthly updates. The Treasurer has continuously advised the EC to only use Hobbs, Strauss, Dean, & Walker with larger cases and it would be feasible to hire and in-house attorney to handle everyday issues. These reports went unheard and a resolution to rescind or renegotiate the contract was ignored when presented to be placed on the EC meeting agenda in September.

On Monday, October 13, 2014, I issued the first letter to the AGs citing delayed billing of three (3) months, over spending of the approved budget, a much needed reevaluation of the Tribe’s finances before any further accrued charges could be authorized, and to cease working on tribal issues until the Executive Committee could meet and evaluate this ongoing debt. However, the AGs did not adhere to the request and continued to work for the Governor especially after the petition was filed, as well as seeking work from other Tribal departments who were not aware of the current situation with the AGs. On Thursday, October 16th, 2014, the Treasurer’s office sent another letter to the AGs stating that their contract was terminated with three (3) Executive Committee member signatures. This letter, too, was ignored, and the AGs continued to perform work for the Governor to this day.

According to the Governor’s November 2014 newsletter article, she states:

“… Treasurer attempted to … cancel the Attorney General contract through a memorandum signed by three Executive Committee members instead of obtaining the required 5 signatures or through an approved Executive Committee resolution.”

What is not mentioned in her article is that she, the Governor, and two other EC members mailed a termination letter to the Tribe’s then AGs Legal Advocates which they received on August 31, 2013, and no resolution to bind that letter. Therefore, by the Governor’s own admission, the Tribe now has two (2) – yes, TWO – law firms working as the Tribe’s Attorney General because she did not adhere to her own words as stated in the November 2014 newsletter.

Through diligent current research from 2014 up until 1993, only two (2) law firms contracts have been rescinded by resolution, so in reality, the Tribe has an estimated 40 law firms working as the Tribe’s AGs since their contracts did not follow what the Governor stated in her November 2014 article. Not to mention that any previous decision (1) made by three (3) EC members must now be considered invalid which could possibly open numerous issues the Tribe, especially the Finance department, will have address. Continuous research and questionable actions are prohibiting this tribe to function as a reputable leading native nation.

**Atoka Water Line:** On March 17, 1961, the City of Oklahoma City signed a 50-year right-of-way lease pertaining to nineteen (19) tracts on land under the jurisdiction of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe in order to construct the 100-mile Atoka pipeline.

In January 2011, the City of Oklahoma City sent a letter to the Realty Director to begin the renewal process for easements on the nineteen (19) tracts that would expire on March 16, 2011. Since then the Realty Director has been in contact with the affected landowners, Mr. Donnie Smith, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Mr. Lloyd Chism, Southern Plains Regional Office, Mr. Robert Hatfield, Regional Chief Appraiser, Ms. Marsha Slaughter, Utilities Director for the City of Oklahoma City, Ms. Patricia Mann, Assistant Municipal Counselor to the City of Oklahoma City, and Mr. Lloyd Chism, Southern Plains Regional Office, to arrive at a new lease that benefits the land owners, as well as the City of Oklahoma City.

However, on June 5, 2014, the Realty Director received a letter from Ms. Marsha Slaughter stating that “the City of Oklahoma City would be filing condemnation proceedings to acquire the necessary temporary and permanent easements for the pipeline and all pump and surge stations.” The Realty Department has not received notice on the court hearing and continually remains in contact with the BIA for further action. The Representative’s office was tasked with the leadership of the Atoka Waterline, but declined those assigned task when action of three EC members sent a letter stating his office would take charge.

**Administrative Manual:** Due to numerous conflicting parts/sections, nonconformity, ambiguity, and outdated information, the Administrative Manual is in the process of being revised and updated. Furthermore, per the recommendation of an outside audit firm, the Administrative Manual will have differentiated sections pertaining to employees and Executive Members to alleviate any further FBI investigations.

**Media:** There have been articles and emails pertaining to the statement of payment to the Editorial Board. Finance department can back the statement of the Editorial Board that they do not receive payment for volunteer services. What is not mentioned or rebutted is that these volunteer services, including emails and meetings, are happening on company time. This can be viewed as violating company time with services outside the scope of job duties unless documentation can be presented through the payroll system indicating time taken off to perform these volunteer services.
Greetings Tribal Members,

I have good news to report to you concerning proposed revenue streams for the Tribe that I keep talking about. We will be leasing vacant buildings the Tribe owns to an outside entity. The lease is for a three-year time frame and will generate revenue to the Tribe during this time.

This is the first time since I assumed my office that the full Executive Committee met and agreed to a positive decision which wholly benefits the Tribe.

Now, if we can parlay that one instance into positive actions by the full Executive Committee on a daily basis, we should start to make headway on some of the most important issues facing the Tribe.

Let me know what concerns you.

To contact me at the Tribal Complex, please write to Representative Ken Blanchard, 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801, or by phone at (405) 275-4030 ext. 202.

Respectfully,
Ken Blanchard

RESOLUTIONS THROUGH NOVEMBER 19, 2014

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS:

E-AS-14-50 11/19/14
That the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma amends the Building Blocks Parent Handbook and Supplemental Personnel Policy Manual, as provided for in the attachment Exhibit A, effective immediately.

E-AS-14-51 11/19/14
Authorizes and approves the Employee Benefit Group Health and Welfare Program for 2015 and further authorizes Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe to sign any and all documents necessary to execute and deliver the Employee Benefit Group Health and Welfare Program.

E-AS-14-52 11/19/14
Enters into a Lease Agreement with Hall, Nalley, & Holloway PLLC, as attached, and authorizes Governor Butler-Wolfe to sign and execute said Lease Agreement on behalf of the Tribe. (North Kickapoo Street property)

E-AS-14-53 11/19/14
Approves and accepts Corbin Ash Bryant, Isis Aponi Bryant, Jonah Azariah Thorpe, Drayton Scott Hill, Blake Garrett Keith, Suzina Marie Blanchard, Addison Marie Kelly, Ryan Michael Kelly, Skyler Madison Robison, Zachary Reid Alford, Brittani Maelynne Holt-Belvin, Timothy Dale Jones, III, Matthew James Holderness, Jordan Dekota Holderness, Summer Lynn Clark, Autumn Marie Clark, Emiley Ann Clark, Nathan Allen Clark, Alexi Pearl Adams, Louis-Renee Sarah Miller, Talia Jade Barbosa, Alex J. Burns, Sheelby Ahkeynay Jamese Thorpe, Alfred Ralph Garbarini Jr., Mary June Jim, Isaac Dean Gibson, and Brayden Louis Sampson, as enrolled members of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma as of the date of this resolution.

E-AS-14-54 11/19/14
Acknowledges and authorizes the corrected blood degree change for Nicole Lynn Conley, and hereby makes it known that this individual is an enrolled Tribal Member and is now and forever 1/8 degree of Absentee Shawnee Indian blood as corrected and shown above.

E-AS-14-55 11/19/14
Removes any and all previously recognized signatories and/or previously authorized and now former Executive Committee members as signatories to all bank accounts, all investment accounts including, but not limited to, LPL Financial (Linsco Private Ledger) and Merrill Lynch, and all Bureau of Indian Affairs accounts for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and hereby authorizes solely the following sitting Executive Committee members as signatories to said accounts to include: Lieutenant Governor Isaac Gibson Jr., Secretary Vera M. Dawsey, Treasurer Leah Bates and Representative Kenneth Blanchard, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Disclaimer:
The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by this author does not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Tribe-at-large, the Administrative Systems Manual, the Executive Committee or the AST Editorial Advisory Board.
From the Media Department

Ho! Hi Gi Ke Ya Fi Hon wa se li si mi mo?
Hello, Is every one doing well?

There are a few concerns about our Media department that have been expressed that I would like to clarify on. Why it is that we in Media have to hear through a secondary source is unclear. It is also unclear why these EC members won’t contact me directly. Let me start with the comment made by Secretary Dawsey on why it is that we do not print the newsletter in-house? This is a good question and one that I have shared with tribal members many times over the years. If I had been directly asked by Ms. Dawsey then I could have told her simply there would be added cost to do so. Here are a few reasons that occur:

1) Cost - to print the newsletter in-house would require us (Media ) to use a more expensive paper.
   a. Using an 80# high gloss paper would also increase the cost of mailing the newsletter out by approximately $250-350
   b. An added cost to the rate of $585 for mailing
   c. Added employee cost, based on paying overtime to get this done in a timely manner as it has been stated by Treasurer Bates the Tribe needs to cut back on spending.

2) Using the copiers, on hand, would increase the printing price by an added $.55 per page x 36 pages, front and back, x 1800 copies this is a total of 64,988 printed pages. The cost of printing in-house, mind you, for just the cost of printing is $3250

3) Is this in the best interest of the Tribe? Is this what Secretary Dawsey wants???

Now let me address Treasurer Bates comments about Media and our AST Editorial Advisory Board in using the tribes email system. As I’ve said in the past we want to produce a quality newsletter and the email system helps us in doing just that, why it is that Ms. Bates has a problem with that I do not know. In recent emails Andy Warrior, Project Coordinator for the Lt. Governor, used the email system during working hours to host an AFTER hours, non-sanctioned, non-work related party in which ALCOHOL was present; Another instance of inappropriate email use is Julianne Wilson conducting GAMES during working hours on the same email system. Where is Ms. Bates comments to those individuals? My question is ‘WHY’ has she not directly contacted me to address these questions and/or problems that she believes are there.
Derek, Media Assistant, graduated from Shawnee High School and has an Associate degree. His prior work experience has been with the Shawnee News Star Newspaper. Derek is pursuing his education in the field of printing. He began as a WIA employee and was hired on full-time January 2014 in the Media department. Derek is an enrolled Absentee Shawnee Tribal member.

Derek has shown dedication and a strong commitment to the Tribe, as when asked to attend various functions on weekends and past 5 pm on weekdays, he has done so. We are pleased to have a young man with his skill set and dedication. Thank you, Derek.

Let’s Build For the Future (BFF)!

GOVERNORS SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE
Governor Edwina Butler-Wolfe will be working with the six program department that she has oversight over and will monthly select an employee that is deemed to have contributed to their program and to the Absentee Shawnee tribe. The attributes to be considered are: Contributions to the community and the Tribe leadership; performance and work ethic; teamwork. It is the intent of the Governor to recognize tribal employees who do a remarkable job and might not otherwise get recognized for their contributions. This special employee recognition program will be highlighted under my Office as the SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH program.
CONGRATULATIONS SHARON ROLETTE OSTER

Sharon Rolette Oster is an enrolled member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe also Kiowa, Cheyenne, Arapaho. Daughter of Antone & Lorene Rolette of Wheatland, OK. Sharon was promoted on November 5 to Captain of the OKC Police Department. A graduate of Yukon High School and Oklahoma City University, she has been in the OKC police force for 23 years. Sharon said very few Native American Indians are in the OKC police force and she would like to see more Indians in the Police Department.

CONGRATULATIONS!

SAMUEL BYERS

For making the DEAN'S HONOR ROLL at Haskell.
We are so very proud of you, & keep up the hard work.
We love you!
Auntie Sherry, Uncle Shawn and family.
The new Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) would like to announce the start of a specialized financial institution that focuses on providing services to the Native American community that will offer fair lending and financial education. Heather Napier, CDFI Executive Director has started the initial steps in getting the office open to the public and has started the process of implementation. Heather Napier has a Bachelor's Degree in Management, Associates Degree in Business, 8 years of working in the non-profit sector, and 12 years of grant management/compliance. The new Executive Director has served on numerous Boards and has worked in the Tribal Government for 7 years. Heather Napier is a Seminole Nation Tribal Member who has been privileged to work with Native communities and is looking forward to working with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma community.

The newly emerging Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) is a nonprofit 501©3 entity. The CDFI is sponsored by the Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma. Currently the Community Development Financial Institution is working towards providing small consumer loans initially to Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma employees that will offer much lower interest rates and allow for Absentee Shawnee employees to have access to affordable financial lending. The goal of the small loan lending is to alleviate the burden of being in debt to predatory lenders. The term predatory lending is any unfair credit practice that harms the borrower and eventually will affect the credit or ownership interest of the borrower. Unfortunately many communities rely on the image of convenience of payday loans and other loan companies that impose an average interest rate of 200% to the borrower. According to the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finance the Center for American Progress reported that “a number of 38% of families who had borrowed a payday loan in the last year were non-white while only 22% percent of families that did not take out such loans were non-white.” This is why the first initial step to the Community Development Financial Institute is to provide small consumer loans. Loans will be paid back in installments that are affordable and that do not have predatory interest rates. Offering borrowers better financial options along with financial education. The anticipated date of acceptance of small loan applications is December 20, 2014.

The CDFI will be working towards future goals of the organization providing more access to credit, capital, and financial services. Please contact the CDFI Office for any questions or information. We welcome all ideas/suggestions so that the CDIF can take those to the Board of Directors and come up with market needs that will help our Native American community reach their own personal or business goals. The CDIF Office can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 158. The Community Development Financial Institution works under the direction of the CDFI Board of Directors. Twila Parker serves as the Chairperson and can be reached at (405) 229-8052. At the present time the CDFI office is located on the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Complex in Shawnee, OK. in building #1 room 114. Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The Executive Director can be reached at (405) 275-4030 ext. 158.

(L to R): Twila Parker and Heather Napier
Regarding the proper role of Executive Committee members, again, a pattern of misunderstanding has developed regarding the proper responsibilities of specific Executive Committee roles. For example, regular instances have been reported wherein individual Executive Committee members responsible for general oversight of corporate matters via the Tribe's organizational chart, have construed the general oversight as having the authority to dictate and govern the day to day operations of the federal and/or tribal corporations – rather than the board members of the corporations, themselves. This poses a host of legal problems and risks for the Tribe. We have recommended and offered to provide much needed training in this area. A second example of the misunderstanding of roles would be that of the position of Treasurer. It would appear that over time the position of Comptroller became the primary source of power and authority within the tribal government due largely to the Constitutional responsibilities of the Treasurer which oversees fines and accounting for investments. Accordingly, the current Treasurer takes the position, apparently under the advice of former Attorney General Alyssa Campbell, that she possesses the sole authority to permit or refuse the payment of payroll or vendor invoices, or to permit or refuse the sharing of financial information from the Finance Department with other members of the Executive Committee or even law enforcement. A simple examination of the Constitutional duties of the position of Treasurer, however, make clear that the Treasurer's obligation is to the rest of the Executive Committee and the Tribe, not to that individual office solely. The Treasurer is the "custodian" – not the owner – and is responsible to report to, account to, obtain approval from, and be bonded in accordance with the requirements of, the Executive Committee. The responsibilities are indeed significant, but the responsibilities are owed to the Executive Committee and the Tribe. Accordingly, where concerns have arisen regarding past practices and policies and procedures, we have encouraged the use of outside accounting firms to identify and correct the problems.

The third area of primary concern involved gaming operations where there had been a recent history of prior attorney general decision-making participation on the gaming board (as on the health boards), followed by key vendor and management personnel participation on the board, a series of by-law revisions and financial transactions. Recent audits showed significant need for change and, fortunately, with the assistance of all of the stakeholders (though with some initial resistance), some major changes have been accomplished which should greatly benefit the Tribe. For example, in one instance, we were able to unwind the Casino from a questionable trust on behalf of the Tribe; several former Executive Committee members were submitted several months ago to the Executive Committee members with oversight over those particular areas. Unfortunately, many of the Tribe's issues remain unresolved due to political contention within tribal leadership.

Another issue involves the Executive Committee salary, which was approved by tribal referendum in June. We advised the Executive Committee that if the salary law were passed, it would be effective upon certification of the election results. However, after the law passed, there was no action to implement the law. The Human Resources Department drafted an implementation policy that was approved by Executive Committee resolution in August. However, the Finance Department has reportedly been advised by the Treasurer not to follow the law and process the salary changes. Unlike other Indian law practitioners with which you may be familiar, we do not represent non-Indians against tribal interests, or serve on the tribes's behalf on tribal boards. For example, revisions to the Juvenile Code and Grant Agreement for tribal members; Developing MOU with the Housing Authority for police services; Regularly advise tribal departments on a wide range of issues; and Represent Tribe in Indian Child Welfare matters, including Baby Girl T case.

There are still many issues we have worked toward addressing, which have yet to be resolved. For example, revisions to the Juvenile Code and requests for information to prepare applications for federal or state government to take land into trust on behalf of the Tribe were submitted to the Executive Committee members with oversight over those particular areas. Unfortunately, many of the Tribe's issues remain unresolved due to political contention within tribal leadership. Another issue involves the Executive Committee salary, which was approved by tribal referendum in June. We advised the Executive Committee that if the salary law were passed, it would be effective upon certification of the election results. However, after the law passed, there was no action to implement the law. The Human Resources Department drafted an implementation policy that was approved by Executive Committee resolution in August. However, the Finance Department has reportedly been advised by the Treasurer not to follow the law and process the salary changes. Unlike other Indian law practitioners with which you may be familiar, we do not represent non-Indians against tribal interests, or serve on the boards on which our firm is employed to advise. As Attorney General, our role is to advise on the law and defend the Tribe. In that regard, we have an obligation to advise tribal officials what they need to hear from us as their advisors, rather than what they may want to hear from us. We look forward to continuing to serve the Tribe, to the benefit of its members.

Financial Investigation

As you may know, a financial audit was recently conducted on the Tribe, which has led to a criminal investigation by the AST Police Department and the FBI. Based on questions and misperception throughout the Tribe about the circumstances surrounding the Tribe's recent financial audit, related court action and criminal investigation, we provide a summary of the events leading up to this point.

In September of this year, documentation was provided to our office, showing irregular financial transactions involving tribal employee sick and annual leave payments. During September, the regular scheduled Executive Committee meeting, the information was provided to the Executive Committee members in attendance. During this meeting, the Executive Committee made several motions to address the situation, including the initiation of a financial audit and the placement of the Tribe's Controller, Belinda Collins, on administrative leave.

The auditing company of Finley and Cook began conducting an audit of the Tribe's financial records regarding sick and annual leave payments. While the audit was ongoing, Finley and Cook produced a preliminary audit report, which revealed a significant misappropriation of tribal funds. The misappropriation mostly benefited several former Executive Committee members and one current Executive Committee member.

Shortly after the publication of this preliminary report, three current members of the Executive Committee (Lieutenant Governor Gibson, Secretary Dawsey, and Treasurer Bates), being advised by former Attorney General's Office attorneys, took steps to try to obstruct the completion of the audit. (Reports indicate that Alyssa Campbell had recently advised the Treasurer on a related matter to require a subpoena before sharing further financial information.) The auditors were refused any further access to the Tribe's financial files, and letters were presented by the three Executive Committee members purporting to terminate the Finley and Cook audit contract and terminate the Attorney General's Office contract. The Attorney General's Office contract was approved by an Executive Committee resolution in 2013.

In order to prevent further obstruction and potential destruction of evidence, the AST Police Department executed a search warrant at the Finance Department to obtain the financial records necessary to complete audit and to investigate the suspected theft of tribal funds. Additionally, a civil case was filed against the three Executive Committee members and a Temporary Restraining Order was granted by the tribal court to prevent further obstructive actions. This is an unfortunate situation that has required the Attorney General's Office to take steps necessary to protect the interests of the Tribe. At this point, the matter is under active investigation by the AST Police Department and the FBI. When additional information becomes available, the tribal membership will be informed.

Front page: Attorney General Office Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker, LLP...
The Finance department continues our efforts in keeping the day to day activities flowing effectively and efficiently through communication between the Finance department and all other Tribal Programs. In working together, we have found the most time effective and cost effective processes for transacting business.

The Tribe’s 2010 through 2012, and 2013 Audits are “unmodified” opinion. The 2013 Audit had no findings and the Tribe was congratulated by the BIA, Office of Self Governance, and US Department of Housing and Urban Development on a job well done. The 2015 Indirect Cost Proposal was submitted to the Interior Business Center on September 30, 2014. The 2015 Provisional rate is 31.19 percent. The Tribe’s Approved Indirect Cost rates are: 17.74% for 2010, 21.98% for 2011, 22.35% for 2012, 27.39% for 2013; and 32.05% for 2014.

The Tribe’s Audit consists of the Tribe’s entities: Casinos; Store; Restaurant; Smoke Shop; ASEDÁ, Inc.; ASEDÁ Enterprises; ASTHA & LSWN (which make up Absentee Health Systems); and the Tribal Government. All of the Tribe’s entities must be audited first and then they are combined with the Tribe’s Governmental Audit.

The Finance department is completing accounting by the 10th day of the month. Financial reporting for the Tribe, Health Authority and Li Si Wi Nwi, Health Inc. boards and the Executive Committee for Absentee Health Systems, Shawnee and Little Axe (LSWN) continues monthly. The Finance staff has completed the October reconciliations and financials. The new clinic building payments are current and have not been late and projections are that they will continue to be current going forward.

The Tribe’s accounting processes must be in compliance with GAAP ( Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) and these rules are updated annually. It is crucial the Finance staff continues to stay ahead of all of the accounting standards. It is necessary to promote high quality financial reporting. The fundamental role of the Finance Department is to communicate financial and economic information of the Tribe’s businesses and operations to the Executive Committee and Tribal Members. The financial information is used to make decisions, assess the stewardship of assets, and to manage the Tribe effectively. If this information is not of a high quality standard, then the Executive Committee, Management and Tribal Members would be unable to make effective decisions that will benefit the Tribe. Accounting standards promote the integrity of the accounting, thus ensuring uniformity in reporting transactions and also in preparation of the financial statements. The Tribe’s Finance Department follows accounting standards to promote the understandability, comparability, relevance and reliability of financial reports.

The Tribe currently has compact funds from the BIA, IHS, and approximately 51 Grants. In addition, the Tribe operates a General Fund and an Indirect Cost Fund.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Finance Department has a very hard working group of people and it is an honor to work with them and the Treasurer’s office at the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The Finance Department consists of 14 employees: with 6 (43%) being AST Tribal members, 2 (14%) non-AST Tribal members, 6 (43%) being non-natives. The Finance staff is intelligent and professional, 7 staff members have a Bachelor’s Degree, 2 staff members have an Associate’s Degree, and years of experience. The Finance staff members are loyal to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and do their best to support the goals and objectives of the Tribe to provide the best possible services to its people. The Finance department employs staff that has worked here for years, 3 Finance staff members have worked with the Tribe for 10 years or more and 5 staff members have worked with the Tribe for 5 years or more. One of the most critical components of success for Indian Tribes is the ability to keep the cost of doing business at a minimum; and high employee turnover can represent one of those very substantial costs.

The Finance department appreciates all of your support, cooperation, and patience.

If you have any questions or needs, please call 405-275-4030 ext. 161, and I will be glad to assist you.

Thank you,
Genevieve Foster, Assistant Controller.
UPDATE ON ATOKA RIGHT-OF-WAY

The 100 mile Atoka pipeline was constructed and maintained by the City of Oklahoma City to transport water from Atoka Lake in Atoka County, Oklahoma to Lake Stanley Draper Reservoir. There are nineteen tracts of land, under the jurisdiction of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, involved. The City of Oklahoma City tried to renew the right-of-way easements on nineteen (19) Absentee Shawnee allotments but wanted to change the term from 50 years to perpetual and include two additional lines. The original term began on March 17, 1961 and ended on March 16, 2011.

After many landowners (eleven out of nineteen tracts) signed consent forms in order for the City of Oklahoma City to renew their water line right-of-way, the City of Oklahoma City submitted their casework to the AST Realty office. This office then submitted the casework for review and/or approval to the Southern Plains Regional Office (SPRO) within the Bureau of Indian Affairs. SPRO has made several recommendations to the City of Oklahoma City on the steps needed to obtain approval from them. We notified the City of Oklahoma City of these steps. The City of Oklahoma City chose not to follow these recommendations but to utilize condemnation. Condemnation is the judicial process by which property of a private owner is taken for public use, without his consent, but upon the award and payment of just compensation. Government entities exercise this right through the power of eminent domain.

There are two reasons why the City of Oklahoma City is taking the landowners through the condemnation process. One reason is because some of the landowners could not agree on a price with the City of Oklahoma City and second reason being the City did not wish to follow recommendations set out by the SPRO. It is very vital to the renewal process to get everyone to agree otherwise, the only option left is to take the issue to court.

This office has asked the City of Oklahoma City what their intent was to renew the water lines currently in the ground. On June 5, 2014, the City of Oklahoma City responded by stating their intent was to go through the federal court process of condemnation through eminent domain. Therefore, the AST Realty office prepared and submitted nineteen (19) condemnation packets to the SPRO in preparation of federal condemnation by the City of Oklahoma City. These packets contain information such as: an appraisal determining the fair market value for each tract; if the land is currently leased and to whom; names and addresses and percents of interest of Indian landowners; identifying those who reside on the property; and those whose whereabouts are unknown; names and addresses of tenants, if any; tribal interest; property access; agricultural lease; mutual help homes; cemeteries; religious sites; tribal memorials; etc. The AST Realty office is comprised of two staff members and preparing these packets was time consuming and required 100% effort by this office. We have completed our part of the process and now we are waiting on the Tulsa Field Solicitor to review one sample packet to determine if anything else is required or needed.

One of the questions to be answered by the Tulsa Field Solicitor is whether or not the City of Oklahoma City can condemn the tracts owned by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The City of Oklahoma City should negotiate with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and the majority of the landowners on a price for these five tracts of land listed above. It is recommended the Tribe form a negotiation team to represent their undivided interests.

To date, we are waiting on the Tulsa Solicitor’s office to review one sample condemnation packet and for the City of Oklahoma City to advise us on a court date. A hearing notice (court date) will be sent to all landowners from the Western District Court. The Tulsa Field Solicitor will be representing the landowners in this case. The federal law judge assigned to the case will decide how the landowners will be compensated. Condemnation proceedings involving restricted and Indian trust property must be brought into a federal court. See Town of Okemah, Okl. v. United States, et al., 140 F 2d 963, 966 (10th Cir. 1944).

We will keep landowners advised if any new information develops in the Absentee Shawnee tribal newsletter and tribal webpage. The information will be kept brief and to the point.

AST STORM SHELTER PROJECT

The Red Cross providing the tribe with funding for 92 storm shelters and as of November 21, we have received 70 applications. We have extended time submit applications since there are 22 shelters left to apply for. If you live in Pottawatomie, Cleveland, or Oklahoma County, you are eligible for a storm shelter.

The applications are on the tribal website, in last month’s tribal newspaper, or if you would like an application mailed to you, contact Arlene Herrera at (405) 275-4030 ext. 112.
Thank you.
The Grants people failed to state on the survey who to submit the survey to. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

in early 2015.

Diane Ponkilla, Police Specialist to allow the tribal members to have input into a possible Language Grant Application that will be coming out

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Native Language Surveys were placed on the “Hand-out” table at the October 18, 2014 General Council and

UnfortUnately, we can only accept one picture per birthday person, so please choose wisely.

If you’d like to submit an ad or article:

stiger@astribe.com
or send us an e-mail to
(405) 481-0558
(405) 598-1279 or
Give us a call at

This survey is being conducted by The Absentee Shawnee Tribe to assess the current status of and interest in the Shawnee Language Revitalization. This survey is ANONYMOUS. You may choose to write down your name. Please feel free to ask for help if any of the questions are unclear.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe Native Language Survey

14

1. Which age range do you reside in?
   □ Under 18
   □ 18-29
   □ 30-39
   □ 40-49
   □ 50-59
   □ 60-69
   □ 70+

2. Do you own a computer? □ Yes □ No
   If Yes:
   □ PC
   □ Mac

3. Do you have easy access to a computer? □ Yes □ No
   If Yes: Where? __________________

4. Do you have Internet access? □ Yes □ No
   If Yes:
   □ Fast
   □ Medium
   □ Slow

5. Do you have an iPod or MP3 player? □ Yes □ No

6. Do you have an iPad? □ Yes □ No

7. Do you have an iPod or MP3 player? □ Yes □ No

8. Do you have an iPod or MP3 player? □ Yes □ No

9. Do you have an iPod or MP3 player? □ Yes □ No

10. Do you own a computer? □ Yes □ No

11. When you were a child, did anyone in your family speak Shawnee Language? (check all that apply)
   □ Grandmother
   □ Grandfather
   □ Mother
   □ Father
   □ Aunt/Uncle
   □ Siblings
   □ You

12. Who currently speaks Shawnee Language in your home now? (check all that apply)
   □ Grandmother
   □ Grandfather
   □ Mother
   □ Father
   □ Aunt/Uncle
   □ Siblings
   □ You

13. Rank your ability on Shawnee Language:
   □ No ability
   □ Understanding when someone else speaks
   □ Ability to understand prayers or songs
   □ Ability to make songs; prayers; speeches
   □ Ability to converse with others
   □ Understanding when someone else speaks
   □ Ability to recite vocabulary and phrases

14. Are you interested in taking a class to learn Shawnee? □ Yes □ No

15. Can you attend Language classes? □ Daytime □ Evening □ Weekend □ Not At All
FROM THE ELECTION COMMISSION:

The filing period for Elective Offices in 2015.
A tribal member may file for office, January 1 to January 10 (excluding weekends and holidays.) Hours to file are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Potential candidates please consult the Election Ordinance for the procedures and qualifications when running for elective office.

The following positions will be open for the Elections to be held in 2015.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Filing Fees</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Two (2) Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Secretary</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Two (2) Years</td>
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ELECTION COMMISSION

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Commissioner</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>Three (3) Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Member #2</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>Three (3) Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The AST Tribal Health System maintains a constant focus upon patient improvements in access and quality of care in all of our service areas. We are excited with our improving access to care and services. While we still are not where we want to be, patient access to care and patient satisfaction has substantially improved and continues to do so thanks to our great staff of providers, professional support staff, and our health system’s employees. It is imperative you get your flu shot if you have not done so already this year. The flu has hit Oklahoma with several cases being reported in the OKC Metro area. We are now providing the flu shot at both of our clinics with nurse visits. The health system encourages everyone in the community to stay healthy this year by utilizing good personal hygiene, especially with hand sanitation procedures. The employee of the month for November was Mrs. Kasey Dean, Behavioral Health. The team of the month award was the Zombie 5K Volunteer Team. Our Special Leadership Recognition Award went to Ms. Autumn Pate, Executive Assistant. We are very proud of our outstanding star performers and thank them all for their contributions to our patients, their fellow employees, and the Tribe!

A few other key bits of information for this month:
- Ebola Public Health Messages and Updates: You can access this up to date information today on the AST Health System webpage: http://www.asthealth.org. Breaking news and information from the CDC and OSDH are located on our webpage along with other pertinent information for you to protect yourself and your loved ones.
- AST/Serviced Health System Native American Veterans: If you are currently receiving services with the area VA Medical Center, please contact us today to set up an appointment for getting your services here with the AST Health System. We have been approved to begin our program within the health system to bill the VA now for services you previously received, or currently receive, with the VA. Please contact a Patient Benefit Advisor (PBA) today to discuss at (405) 447-0300.
- If you need CPR training, please contact the AST Health System’s Public Health Office at (405) 447-0300 for scheduling and training opportunities.
- The interactive phone menu for the Contract Health Services (CHS) helps patients access the most appropriate service provider by calling (405) 701-7951. This feature will speed up access to the patients seeking services and follow-up to their care.
- The AST Health System continues to improve its customer service. The Customer Service Line is (405) 701-7623. Please direct all complaints or compliments to this line for appropriate attention and/or response. Please be assured this is the best way to have each situation addressed, with consistent updates from our health staff. After the investigations of all issues are complete, our Health Director or a Clinic Administrator will personally contact you with updates, decisions, or questions pertaining to your case.
- The AST Anti-Bullying Prevention “HOTLINE” is (405) 701-7987 during work hours 8-5, M-F, and for added confidentiality or after hours you may contact Mrs. Dara Thorpe at either (405) 701-7992 or via cell (405) 481-0815 to start intervention assistance for tribal youth. If it is an emergency or someone is at risk of harming themselves or others contact 911.
- The Affordable Care Act Decision Tool continues to be a valuable tool with helping you decide what you need to do for compliance with the act. Please see the ACA tab at the ASTHA Health Program’s Website: http://www.asthealth.org/aca (Please visit our site today to find out what you need to do to protect yourself and your family!)
- Pharmacy After Hours Process: After hours and weekends/holidays, did you know you can go to Walgreens in either Shawnee or Norman, and have a five-day limited fill on prescriptions? All you have to do is submit your prescription, identify yourself with your AST CDIB Card and other appropriate ID, and then they will fill your prescription! Upon the first workday, you can have the remaining balance of your prescriptions transferred to your pharmacy in either Shawnee or LittleAxe, and they will fill your remaining balance. This is an emergency convenience for your benefit and to save the contract health dollars as well, so please be aware of this and other benefits your tribe provides you.
On November 8th, the Absentee Shawnee Diabetes and Wellness Program hosted a martial arts camp for the tribal youth at the AST Health Facility in Little Axe. The kids participated in learning about the discipline of Taekwondo, a Korean martial art. Children and parents participated in learning the basic self-defense methods of taekwondo. Other camp activities included instructions on how to perform a proper warm-up, how to pull away from strangers, and breaking boards. The Absentee Shawnee Diabetes and Wellness Program would like to thank all of the parents and children that participated in this fun and active event.
JAMES AIYDEN!

This first year has been a joy, don’t grow up too fast! Mommy and Dada love you beyond the moon and stars! Kisses and hugs to our baby boy!

Love Mommy and Dada

ALICIA ENGLER
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SISTER
Hope you have a blessed day. Love, Trina and Kevin

HAPPY 10th Birthday Jiliyan!!!
Lil Sister, I’m glad you’re my sister! Happy 10th Birthday to you. I love you! Love Justin
Jiliyan, You’re a very sweet young lady!!
Happy 10th Birthday! Love, Aunt BJ

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY!!!
TO MY NEPHEW AIYDEN!!
LOVE, UNCLE JAY

Happy 1st Birthday Aiyden!!
Love Always, Pops and Neme

To our beautiful niece
J-Lynn Haymond!
Happy Sweet 16!!
We love you!
Aunt Beverly and Uncle Stacey

TO OUR GRANDSON
HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY!!!
WE LOVE YOU TO THE MOON & BACK
Love Always, Pops and Neme

To our Grandson
Happy 1st Birthday!!
James Aiyden!

To the perfect Mom and Mema anyone could ask for Happy Birthday Beverly!
We love you!
From Emily, Jake, Shy, Dade, and your grandbabies

To our Granddaughter
Happy Birthday!!
JAMIE BIERD, ZELDA FOREMAN, HOLLY DAVIS, AND (JELLY BEAN) JULIUS DAVIS
LOVE, THE BASEGAS

To our proud Mom
Happy birthday Bev!!!
We love you!!!!!
From all your grandkids and great-grandkids!

Beverly Cooper!
I love you!

Ben
Love you, Mom

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
JAMIE BIERD, ZELDA FOREMAN, HOLLY DAVIS, AND (JELLY BEAN) JULIUS DAVIS
LOVE, THE BASEGAS

Grandma Zelda
We love you!!!!!!
From all your grandkids and great-grandkids!

Holly
If you smile we might take you to Cattleman’s for a steak dinner!!
Love, Mom and Greg
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SIS!
November 20, 2014

A cultural demonstration at South Rock Creek School in Shawnee. Departments represented were Cultural Preservation, Education, and BIA Self-Governance

Dancers:
Leon Bell, Scott Miller, Cecil Wilson, Joseph Blanchard, Kyerra Blanchard, and Tresha Spoon
The AST Diabetes and Wellness Fitness Center provides state of the art fitness equipment, including: treadmills, elliptical cross-trainers, recumbent bikes, free-weights, kettlebells, and isolation strength machines. The AST Fitness Center is available to all Native Americans and their household family members. AST employees are also eligible for membership. The AST Diabetes and Wellness Fitness Center strives to deliver a well-trained staff that seeks to help clients reach their personal fitness and health goals. Our staff takes pride in providing appropriate and educational fitness training to all clients, providing guidance in developing a successful plan to help prevent or manage diabetes and/or other health conditions, and providing clients with a fun and positive experience working with our staff. Please take some time to come by and visit the AST Diabetes and Wellness Fitness Center today!
Recycling Containers Now Available

OEH now has recycling containers set up for public use. These recycle containers, which are cardboard only containers, are located on the south side of the Title VI building at the main complex and the other container is located at the northeast corner of the Little Axe Clinic.

We also have our mobile recycle container available behind the clinic here at the main complex. We are currently only accepting cardboard in this container as well.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Recycling Program

"To Establish a recycling program for municipal waste planning, reduction, and Recycling"

The Office of Environmental Health and Environmental Program is proud to announce the start of a new recycling program for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. The recycling center is located in the yellow metal building adjacent to the OEH Department. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe (AST) Recycling Program declares that waste reduction and recycling are the preferable to the processing of municipal waste, and that removing certain materials from the municipal waste stream will decrease the flow of solid waste to municipal landfills. AST Recycling Program used the knowledge and information about recycling markets and market demand as well as information obtained from various publications and the internet to comprise an analysis of material the recycling program will address at the start of the program. AST Recycling Program Plan establishes a goal that, by year’s end 2013, at least 25% of the recyclable material produced by the Tribe will be recycled.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

The AST recycling Program will initially focus on the following waste stream material; High-Grade shredded paper, Assorted office paper, Phone books, Magazines, Cardboard, Newspaper, and Aluminum cans. As the program and market develops, other recyclables will be sought.

There is a cost associated with recycling. However, economic, social, and environmental benefits exceed these cost.
Follow My Health
Universal Health Record

- Improved access to your health information
- Communicate directly with your clinic
- Request an appointment
...and more!

For more information on how you can register for the new AST “Follow My Health” Patient Portal, contact Patient Registration at Little Axe Health Center - 405.447.0300 or Shawnee Clinic - 405.878.4702
**Contract Health Services News**

**Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health**

*The AST Contract Health Services Team are here to assist you... follow the CHS Guidelines!*

*Get a copy of the CHS Guidelines and update your information*

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**Contract Health Services for AST members with Insurance**

CHS for a currently enrolled AST member who resides in the defined catchment area who has insurance such as Medicare or Private Insurance:

1. Complete CHS Patient Update form and update all information every 6 months.
2. Notify CHS at least 48 hours prior to appointment date for a (COB) Coordination of Benefits to be sent to provider.
3. Inform Provider/HealthFacility that AST CHS is secondary payer/payer of last resort.
4. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to CHS. **You may leave bills with Rhonda Kaseca at the Shawnee Clinic and Glendine Blanchard at the Little Axe Health Center.**

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**Contract Health Services for AST members without Insurance**

CHS for a currently enrolled AST member who resides in the defined catchment area who does not have insurance:

1. You must apply for any alternate resources for which you may be eligible - Medicare, Medicaid, SoonerCare, insurance, etc.
2. Complete CHS Patient Update form and update all information every 6 months.
3. You must utilize the services provided within the AST health clinics prior to being referred out.
4. Referrals for outside services must be sent to CHS. Services must be medically approved by an AST Health provider.
5. An appointment will be scheduled and a COB will be sent to the outside provider.
6. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to CHS. **You may leave bills with Rhonda Kaseca at the Shawnee Clinic and Glendine Blanchard at the Little Axe Health Center.**

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**Emergency and Urgent Care Services**

CHS for a currently enrolled AST member who resides in the defined catchment area who needs emergent or urgent care:

1. Call the On-Call nurse at (405) 447-0300 option 9 for “triage”.
2. Notify CHS on the next business day or within 72 hours after the ER visit. Notification does not assure authorization of payment. However if you do not notify CHS within 72 hours, your bills will not be paid.
3. For AST members with no insurance evidence must exist that the visit was medically necessary. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.
4. For AST members with insurance, evidence must exist that a third party resource has made determination such services were “emergency care” or “urgent care” (such evidence may include payment from private insurance).
5. In the event that you receive a bill from a provider, please provide a copy to CHS. **You may leave bills with Rhonda Kaseca at the Shawnee Clinic and Glendine Blanchard at the Little Axe Health Center.**

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**Contract Health**

**Direct Phone Line**

**405.701.7951**

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[Images of Debi Sloat, Glendine Blanchard, Flo Mann, Sharon Ponkilla, Darla Gatzman, Jayne Werst]
AllNations Offers Free ATM/Debit Card with each personal account that can be used at our Shawnee OK 
our AllNations Bank Free Checking Account; Savings Account; Certificate of Deposit Accounts; Individual 
2023 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

In addition to our Commercial Checking account, AllNations Bank offers a wide range of products and 
services to meet today’s business needs including all types of Commercial and Small Business Loans; 
Merchant Services; Night Depository Drop & More.

Banking Hours: 
2023 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Hours of Operation:
Little Axe: 8am-5pm (& 7:30a-5:30p Drive-Thru) Monday - Friday
- Phone - (405) 292-9530
Shawnee: 7am-5pm Monday-Friday
- Phone - (405) 878-5859

**BOTH PHARMACY DEPARTMENTS ARE CLOSED WITH THE CLINICS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON OF EVERY MONTH TO COMPLETE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES**

-Thank you, Pharmacy Staff

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**Stop Diabetes**

Are you at risk for diabetes, have diabetes or know someone who does? Type 2 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and affects millions of Native Americans. Many people are unaware that they have diabetes or pre-diabetes. Native Americans are twice as likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than others. Some common signs and symptoms include:

- Frequent infections
- Blurred vision
- Tingling/numbness in the hands/feet
- Recurring skin, gum, or bladder infections

Often people with type 2 diabetes have no symptoms.

Some ways to prevent and manage diabetes is through healthy lifestyle behaviors. One question that many people with diabetes or pre-diabetes often ask is “What can I eat?” The American Diabetes Association states that you do not have to be deprived or restricted. The key factors are learning what are the “superfoods”, how much of it you can have and how often. Getting into the habit of eating a healthy diet helps you manage diabetes and prevent complications caused by diabetes.

The following foods are listed on the American Diabetes Association web site as “superfoods”. Try to incorporate as many of these foods into your daily meal plan to enhance the nutrient content of your meals.

The foods listed have a low glycemic index (causes slower rise in blood glucose after eating) and provide key nutrients that are lacking in the typical western diet such as:

- calcium
- magnesium
- potassium
- vitamins A, C, and E.
- fiber

Beans, dark green leafy vegetables, citrus fruit, sweet potatoes, berries, tomatoes, fish high in Omega-3 fatty acids, whole grains, nuts, fat-free milk and yogurt. To learn more about eating these superfoods and recipes visit diabetes.org and sign up for Wellness and Healthy Eating classes at the Little Axe Clinic. Call Sidna McKane to sign up at 405 701-7977.

Source: American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org

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**Injury Prevention Program**

The Mayo Clinic and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention say that if you’re physically active it may help prevent you from falling. The following activities: Walking, chair exercises and Tai Chi, can improve your leg strength, balance, coordination and flexibility. Remember to check with your doctor before starting any of these activities!

Here are some tips on how to stay safe while getting back into the spring of things.

- Be sure to warm-up and cool down when appropriate.
- Wear protective gear - i.e. bike helmets, wrist & elbow guards, pads, etc.
- Rest, especially when your muscles are tired
- Prevent “overuse” injuries (i.e. stress fractures, tendonitis, or inflamed joints) by not overdoing exercise.
- Condition your body before jumping into new activities at full force.

For more information contact: Rosie Tall Bear at 405-701-7601
Little Axe Health Center
What is a Foster Care Worker?

Foster care caseworker training involves completing a bachelor’s degree program in social work through a college or university. Students take courses in psychology, abnormal psychology, sociology, economics, ethics, child welfare policies and complete a supervised internship.

The child’s Foster Care Worker needs to be a partner with the foster parents to ensure that each child receives the full spectrum of services provided and/or arranged by the Department.

Some aspects of this relationship include the following:

- Sharing information on an ongoing basis regarding the child’s individual needs, family situation and adjustment to the foster home
- Encouraging the foster parents to participate in the total service planning process
- Providing the foster parents the opportunity to discuss the child’s progress and any unmet needs which they assess
- Providing the foster parent with information, support, guidance and referrals to other professionals on the child’s behalf
- Helping the foster family, when necessary, to identify and obtain services for the foster child; e.g., medical, educational
- Ensuring that the foster family, on the child’s behalf, has access to all financial resources available to the child while in foster care.

A Foster Care Worker works in conjunction with Tribal Courts, Tribal Law Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other county services. Indian Child Welfare’s goal is to ensure the safety of our tribal children when they placed in foster care. The homes that our tribal children are placed in must complete Child Welfare Background Check, OSBI Background Check, Income Verification, Home Study, and a Physical. Our AST foster homes are licensed by our Foster Care Committee.

Foster Care Payments are as follows:

- 0–5 age $14.73 day $441.97 month
- 6–12 age $17.12 day $513.57 month
- 12 and over $19.30 day $579.13 month

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PAYMENT, ALL THE ABOVE MUST BE MET AND TURNED INTO THE STATE. ONCE PROCESSED STATE PAYMENT WILL BE ISSUED.

This is just a little information on what type of work a foster care worker performs on a daily basis. If you are interested in becoming a foster home, please call 405-878-4030 ext. 133.

Why do we need Indian Child Welfare?

Why do we need Tribal Foster Homes?

Foster-Care System Stretched Too Far

Recent news reports reported on July 2 that Sally Schofield, the foster mother of Logan Marr, was found guilty June 25 of wrapping the 5-year-old’s body with 42 feet of duct tape during a “timeout,” causing the little girl to suffocate.

Schofield could face up to 40 years in prison for the child’s death.

“The child-welfare system failed Logan Marr in every possible way,” said Richard Wexler, the executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform. “They failed her … by … ignoring her cries of abuse and they failed her by letting her die in that foster home.”

Six weeks before she was killed, Logan was on a visit to her birth mother when, in the presence of a child-welfare worker hired to supervise the visit, she complained that her foster mother was hurting her. “She did this to me and I cried ’cause it hurts me,” the child is heard saying on a videotape, although she isn’t seen.

The truth is that we must protect our tribal children; we must protect them from a system that is overworked and in desperate need of an overhaul. We must have a voice in the child welfare system for our tribal children. As tribal child welfare workers there is not a day that goes by where we are not fighting for the rights of one of our tribal children and working to make sure that employees of the State are following OICWA and ICWA. Silence will not ensure the rights of this generation, or the next generation of Absentee Shawnee Children. The Absentee Shawnee Foster Care Program is in need of tribal foster care homes for AST children.

A strong tribe must have a system in place to protect the youngest of its members when they need protection. If we do not have tribal foster homes, our Absentee Shawnee children go into State homes. We have not control over these homes; therefore, the children placed in these homes are more vulnerable. Some will say that no one can love their child as much as a parent, but when parents are unable to care for their children properly, we as a tribe need to be there for the children….We must love that child as their parent.

We use a Native American tradition of the talking stick. You sit and pass it around and whoever has the stick has to talk. Some people just hold it. Others really share.

Let us be a tribe that protects the youngest of our tribal members, let us just not say the words, but open our homes to those children who need us to protect them and offer them safety. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent please notify:

Julie Wilson
AST/CPS/FOSTER CARE 405-878-4702

The Child Welfare Department would like to welcome Glenna Jones and Dara Thorpe as new members of the Foster Care Committee. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to advocate for our children.

Preservation of American Indian culture starts with protection of our most precious resources -- American Indian children and families. Only when our children and families are healthy and happy can there be harmony in our world.

Problems Facing American Indian Children and Families

Today, 5.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) live in the United States

- American Indian children have the third highest rate of victimization
- American Indian/Alaska Natives have the highest rate of poverty of any other racial group in the nation
- In 2006, suicide was the leading cause of death for AI/AN males ages 10–14.
- A 2006 study found that, compared to other groups, AI/AN youth have more serious problems with mental health disorders.
- Alcohol-use disorders were more likely among American Indian youths than other racial groups.
- The AI/AN youth population is more affected by gang involvement than any other racial population.

What can you do to help?

Children often get lost in a system that is supposed to protect them when their parents can’t take care of them. They need someone who can provide a home that is safe. They need their emotional needs met by an adult who can act as if they are their parent. These children need love, shelter, safety, and a place that they can belong, they need a home. They need to know that they are not alone. If you are able to provide these things to one of our tribal children please contact: 405-878-4702 (ext. 133) Julie Wilson ICW/FC.
FOSTER CARE

Racial disproportionality is defined as the over-or under-representation of certain groups (e.g. racial/ethnic, gender, age) relative to the group’s proportion in the general population. Reports conducted in 2008 showed that, compared to other groups, Native American children were:

- 3 times more likely to be referred to CPS
- 1.6 times more likely to be removed from their biological homes
- Twice as likely to remain in foster care for over two years
- Less likely to be adopted and more likely to be in guardianships
- Less likely to be reunited with their biological parents

The sad reality is that there are not enough culturally appropriate homes for these children, resulting in the placement of Native American children in homes that do not share their cultural heritage or traditions. We want to place “our tribal” children in our own homes, to do this we need tribal members to open their homes and their hearts. Are you willing to open your heart? Are you willing to open your home?

If so, please contact Julie Wilson ICW/FC/CPS 878-4702 (ext. 133).

Native American youth are facing a crisis. These children are being removed from their homes and placed into the child welfare system at rates much higher than any other population. Native American children are often placed in homes outside of their families, tribes, and Native American culture and all this contributes to significant social problems. The story of Native American people is a complicated one marked by significant trauma and atrocities. Often times this trauma consisted of the removal of abuse which happened to these young and vulnerable children in many of these schools resulted in overwhelming intergenerational trauma and unresolved grief. This trauma which interrupted the ability to parent has led directly to the most current social problems that plague Native American communities today including alcohol/drug abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and parenting deficiencies. All of these problems have contributed to the break-down of the family unit, leading to the removal of large numbers of Native American youth from their families. The journey of healing and breaking the cycles which have been in place by the historical trauma experienced by generations of Native Americans requires that the cultural identity for so long denied to these children be returned.

Native American youth have two distinct influences, that of their family of origin and that of their caregivers. Absentee Shawnee Tribal Foster Care is in need of homes for children that are in our child welfare system. Your participation in being a foster parent helps to ensure that these children have positive connections to their culture. This interaction helps these children nurture a positive sense of identification as a Native American. By being willing to do this, you can be a valuable part of the healing journey that will help strengthen this next generation of Absentee Shawnee children; in turn, helping those children become the parents that their children will need them to be. Our children are our future, what will we have our future be?

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE CHILD WELFARE
405-878-4702 (ext. 133)

"I don’t want a family. I need one.”
- Current Waiting Child

Currently there are three (3) openings on the Foster Care Board. If you are interested in serving on the board, send your letter of interest to Secretary Dawsey at the Tribal Complex, 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 73801.
It’s hard to believe this year is almost over. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Now onto Christmas!! We want to thank Kristie McGuire for assisting in our flu vaccination clinic. Many of our children had already received their flu vaccines through their doctor but we were able to service a few of the children and eleven Building Blocks employees. This service is much appreciated and will help in our efforts to decrease illness within our center. We also want to thank all of the families who joined us for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. We had a great turnout!! We love involving the families in activities and the children get so excited to spend time with their families at different events. It also gives our staff the opportunity to strengthen their relationships with the families we serve. Our annual Christmas program will be at Tecumseh City Hall on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Each class will perform a Christmas song with their teachers. Please join us for the fun festivities!! Refreshments will be served.

Currently, I am working with Briana Ponkilla, CCDF Coordinator, on budget planning for the next year. Our budgets will include both the Shawnee and Little Axe locations.

Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 19th:</td>
<td>Christmas program @ 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 24th:</td>
<td>Closed for Christmas Eve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 25th:</td>
<td>Closed for Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 1, 2015:</td>
<td>Closed for New Year’s Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy & safe New Year!!!

Thank you,
Billie Thompson
Director
Tutors and students are looking forward to the upcoming holidays and the breaks from their busy schedule at school. We continue to enroll students into the Horse Shoe Bend after school program and now have up to 20 students. These students may choose to come one or more days. The average number per day is approximately 12.

So far this year we have had one snow day on November 17, 2014. There was no after school tutoring due to inclement weather conditions.

Students are staying busy with activities at school and their daily studies. In mid-October North Rock Creek School started their after school program, which is Monday through Friday, and runs till 5:30 pm. North Rock Creek was selected for a 21st Century Grant. This grant will help all students, first through Eighth Grade, with homework and a variety of programs such as: cultural activities, sports, exercise, sewing and cooking classes.

On December 11, 2014, the White Turkey Band Committee, will sponsor a Christmas Party for the after school students and tutors. We would like to thank the White Turkey Band Committee for their support of this program for the past four years. Also, I would like to thank those who have donated items to the after school program. This program impacts our Native American students and all volunteer work and donations are greatly appreciated.

The Sac and Fox Behavioral Health Program, Jamie Barse, has been working with our students twice a month with activities that focus on ‘bullying’ and what to do if they see or are in a situation of being bullied. It is my hope to host an evening in the near future for parents to attend a meeting on this very important topic.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you should have any questions, concerns or thoughtful advice I may be reached at 405-481-0397.

Thank you,
Edwina Butler--Wolfe, Governor
Kenneth Atauvich retired from the US Air Force as a Master Sergeant after serving from October 9, 1987 to October 30, 2011. He completed Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX and Technical Training, as an Aircraft Armament Specialist, at Lowry AFB, CO. Other assignments include Holloman AFB, NM with the 49th Fighter Wing; Dyess AFB, TX with the 7th Bomb Wing; Sheppard AFB, TX with the 82nd Training Wing; Hill AFB, UT with the 388th Fighter Wing and overseas at Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines with the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing and the Royal Air Force Lakenheath Air Base, United Kingdom with the 48th Fighter Wing. In addition he has served numerous worldwide locations in support of Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort and Desert Thunder/Fox during the Persian Gulf War and Iraqi Freedom twice and Enduring Freedom during the War on Terror. MSgt Atauvich earned the Air Force Master Instructor Badge, was a Weapons Safety Manager capturing the Air Combat Command’s Explosive Safety Achievement Award in 2006 and was assigned to the Coalition Air Force Transition Team attached to the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq efforts at rebuilding the Iraqi Air Force for self-sustainment. He has earned 60 Decorations, Medals, Badges and Campaign Ribbons to include the Master Instructor Badge, the Defense Meritorious Service, Meritorious Service, 4 Air Force Commendation, 2 Air Force Achievement, the Army Achievement, 9 Good Conduct, 2 National Defense Service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary, the Southwest Asia Campaign with/1 Bronze Service Star, the Afghanistan Campaign with/1 Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign with/1 Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service, the Armed Forces Service, the NATO, Kuwait Liberation and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals, 2 Joint Meritorious Unit, 4 Meritorious Unit and 7 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and 3 Air Force Overseas, 2 Air Force Expeditionary with/Gold Border, 6 Ire Force Longevity Service, 2 NCO Professional Military Education Graduate and the Air Force Training Ribbons. Of the 1,111 known Comanche veterans MSgt Atauvich is the second most decorated active duty Comanche veteran. Kenneth is one fourth Absentee Shawnee and the son of Mary Birdtail.
CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ABSENTEE SHAWNEE CHILDREN

The Christmas party will be held at the Jones Theatre:

WHEN: DECEMBER 14, 2014
WHERE: JONES THEATRE, Cinema Centre 8, 3031 North Harrison Street, Shawnee, OK
TIME: MOVIE STARTS AT 10:00 AM, DOORS OPEN AT 9:30 AM
MOVIE: PENGUIN

Each Absentee Shawnee Child will need to bring their CDIB Card with them to see the movie and to pick up their $25.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card and will need to be chaperoned by one parent to be able to see the movie. Popcorn and drink will be provided to each child.

We will need to have parent call by December 12, 2014 to give a count as to how many children will be attending. Call Ashley Brokeshoulder at 275-4030, EXT. 307

If unable to receive your child’s Wal-Mart Gift Card on December 14, 2014 you may pick gift card up at the Finance office. Ask for Courtney Green. Only parents and guardians of Absentee Shawnee children will be able to pick gift card up for their child or children.

YOU MUST HAVE THE CHILD’S CDIB CARD.

No exceptions are going to be practiced, again, only parents or guardians will be able to pick gift card up.

Gift cards will be available through January 30, 2015.

Thank you
Governor Butler-Wolfe

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To all of our family we wish you all to stay healthy and safe.

Love, The Kasecas
These are brief descriptions of current programs. Program guidelines are available in hard copy at the Education Department office or for download at www.astribe.com.

- **Academic (K-12) Program**: assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses. Program has a maximum funding limit for the academic year.
- **Zahn Program**: established from a trust fund. Program can help with some graduation expenses and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates. Program has a maximum amount of funding for graduation expenses.
- **Job Training Adult Education Program**: funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions. Program has a maximum funding limit for the calendar year or per program.
- **Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program**: funds for undergraduate degrees, one associate or bachelor degree, at any accredited college or university. Funding levels are determined based upon grade point average and full-time or part-time status.
- **Graduate Scholarship Program**: funds for one master’s degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund one graduate admissions test. Program has funding levels based upon full-time and part-time status.
- **Big Ten Youth Award Program**: annual incentive for High School Seniors for Academic Achievement and Athlete of the Year. Deadline for application submission is March 31st of each year.

All funding is based upon the availability of funds at the time of application.

All applications and guidelines are available at www.astribe.com. Click on Services and select Education.

For more information, please call Testa Spoon at (405) 275-4000, Ext. 121 or 1-800-256-3541 or email to testam@astribe.com
Low Rent Housing

Our low rent housing program is provided to families in need of housing in the Shawnee and Tecumseh area. Rental houses are furnished with kitchen appliances, central heat and air, and mini blinds all throughout.

In the Shawnee area, the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority has two elderly/handicap communities. These areas have fully and partial handicap accessible units. A laundry facility is located in the community for tenant use only.

Tenants in our rental program are provided services through our Maintenance Department. If any maintenance issues should arise you would contact the Housing Authority and a crew member will come and do the repair.

Lease to Own Program

The Lease to Own Program is available for any Native American family who has met our requirements and would like to purchase a home through the Housing Authority. The home offered are ones currently in inventory and owned by the Housing Authority.

This program is designed for income eligible families who have been renting but now feel they are ready for the opportunity to purchase their own home. The application is the same as the rental; accept the income requirements are different. Be sure to specify when completing your application, that you are applying for the Lease to Own Program. If you have substantial rental history and meet the income requirements, your name may be placed on the waiting list.

Down Payment Assistance Program

This program offers a one-time grant of up to $20,000 to assist with down payment and/or closing cost to purchase a home and is designed to make home mortgage payments more affordable.

Eligibility Requirements:

• Applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age
• Must be Native American
• Applicant must be approved for home loan

Each applicant must complete an income and a financial eligibility process. The Housing Authority will work with you to review your situation.

Applicants are now being accepted for families that are over the income limits for our IHBG funded programs. Please contact our Programs & Admissions Department for further details.

Eligibility for each program has income requirements; please be sure and review the current income limits on your application. We will not be able to process your application if you do not meet the income criteria.

Intro

The information being provided is to help families understand what programs are offered through the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority and how to apply.

Our programs target low income Native American families who need housing assistance. The programs currently being provided are Rental, Lease to Own and Down Payment Assistance.

Application Process

Our process begins with the completion of our housing application. When completing the application be sure and answer all the questions that pertain to you and sign all attached forms. If you should have any questions regarding the application; call or come by our office and ask for our staff in the Programs & Admissions Department and they would be glad to assist you.

The application will also require documents to be attached in order to complete the process; which are:

✓ Photo ID
✓ CDIB Card
✓ Social Security Card
✓ Birth Certificate
✓ Marriage License/Divorce Decree/Custody Decree (if applicable)
✓ Declaration of Section 214 (form is included with application)

Each household member must provide a birth certificate, social security card and CDIB card (if enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe). The Housing Authority will conduct a criminal background check and credit check on all adult household members over the age of 18. A home visit is the final step in completing your application.

Waiting List

A letter will be mailed out once your application has been approved notifying you of the date your name was placed on the waiting list. It is very important to stay in contact and notify the Housing Authority anytime changes occur in income, household composition, or contact information.

In the event that your name is next in being offered a home; you will be notified by letter or phone. Annual Updates required to remain on the waiting list. It is very important to stay in contact and notify the Housing Authority.

ABSOLUTE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEPARTMENT

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy

The AST Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Programs are on-call 24 hours per day to provide emotional support, advocacy and crisis counseling to survivors at hospitals, police stations and throughout the legal system. The programs also serve as a resource to the community by offering educational information and referrals.

Transitional Housing

The AST DV Transitional Housing Program serves victims of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault. Participants have up to six months to obtain education and job skills needed to begin a new life.

Court Advocacy

Assists survivors with domestic violence court related costs (when funding is available) and appearances as well as filing for emergency protective orders (EPO) or restraining orders.

Shelter Placement Assistance

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Domestic Violence Program works with other shelters within Oklahoma in order to help victims obtain safe housing. Emergency transportation for the victim and children may also be available.

Housing and Utility Assistance

A victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or dating violence in emergency situations. This assistance may allow for a victim to either receive housing or utility assistance.

Referred Assistance

Assists with providing community resources to those who are in need of additional services outside of the scope of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Domestic Violence Program.

Community Outreach

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Domestic Violence Program offers educational trainings, informational displays, and community events in order to provide more awareness to both Tribal and Non-Tribal communities.

For any questions regarding any of the above services please contact the Absentee Shawnee Tribe’s Domestic Violence staff at (405) 273-2888.
The Absentee Shawnee Health System is pleased to announce that plans are being made to open an Extended Hours Health Clinic in 2015.

The Extended Hours Health Clinic will be located in the “old” Little Axe Clinic in the Casino Parking lot 15702 East HWY 9 Norman, OK 73026

The Extended Hours Health Clinic will be similar to an “AM/PM” clinic for acute illness or injury needs. The clinic will be staffed with a Physician, Physician Assistant, or a Nurse Practitioner. This acute needs clinic is designed to allow increased access to care for our patients after the regular Primary Care clinic is closed and on weekends. If you have an emergent condition such as chest pain or suspected stroke, please call 911 or go to the nearest ER. *The Extended Hours Health Clinic will not be equipped for emergent care.

The Absentee Shawnee Health System

Come join us at the AST Resource Center!!!

- Free tutoring in all subjects!
- Games and activities!
- Delinquency prevention!
- Healthy lifestyles!

And much more!

OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Everything is offered at no charge.....Little Axe School’s bus will transport students to the AST Resource Center on Peebly Road and parents are responsible for picking students up by 6:00 pm.

Duration: Starts September 2nd and will run through the school year.
Monday-Thursday, 2:45pm-6:00pm

For more information and to sign up please contact Blake Goodman at (405) 364-7569.

FOLLOW ME... AWAY FROM METH!

LITTLE AXE • SHAWNEE • HEALTH CLINIC
# Title VI Menu

**December 2014**

## 2% Milk Served Daily

**Menu Subject To Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beef Fingers Veggies Mashed Pot/Gravy Appetizers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chicken Strips Mashed Pot/Gravy Veggies Applesauce</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goulash Okra Salad Bar* Bread</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Egg Rolls Veggies Oriental Rice Fortune Cookie</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chili w/Beans Crackers Oiions Cheese Peaches</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chicken Salad Lett., Tom. Chips Mandarin Oranges</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>&quot;Title VI Closed For Cleaning &amp; Inventory&quot;</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>&quot;Title VI Closed For Cleaning &amp; Inventory&quot;</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Kraut-n-Wieners Veggies Bread Plums</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Breadsticks Tossed Salad*</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Ham Black-eyed Peas Scalloped Pot Cornbread Cookie</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOT GOING TO BE HOME??**
**CALL AND LET US KNOW AT 405-275-4030 EXT 169 OR NOTIFY YOUR DRIVER**

**Lunch Served Monday-Thursday 11 AM TO 1 PM**
**Breakfast Served Fridays 9 AM TO 11 AM**

**Merry Christmas**

**Happy Holidays**