



THE QUAPAW POST

JUNE

2021

CANDIDATES

SPECIAL EDITION

Chairman Byrd Addressing the Nation



Ha-way O-Gah-Pah Nikashi,

Welcome to the Quapaw Post, a media platform dedicated to delivering official news and information on all matters related to the Quapaw Nation and a vessel of information for our tribal citizens. The idea of the Quapaw Post is a tribute to the Arkansas Post, a place where much trading occurred historically, and information was exchanged by people traversing up and down the Mississippi River, which the Ogahpah people controlled at one time. Our Nation has come far since those days, but the need for current information is even more necessary than before, which is why the Quapaw Post exists today.

We have made tremendous progress in the last several months, but the flow of information to our citizens has been a challenge. To help meet this challenge, we have made several changes to how information is delivered, starting with my show, Chairman's Fireside Chat, an informational program highlighting different aspects of our organization through in-depth interviews with our team members. The Chairman's Fireside Chat series is accessible through YouTube, and I encourage everyone to subscribe to the channel. These outlets will help supplement our quarterly tribal newsletter. In addition, it will make information more readily available to our citizens to stay better informed about our government, our businesses, and our community.

The most significant change came when we decided to shift authority back to the Business Committee to oversee our business entities. Rather than controlling most of the authority myself, as Chairman, I dispersed it among the board. As a result, there is a higher expectation of individuals serving in these seats than ever before. As a tribal nation that operates nearly a billion dollars in assets, the days of a B.C. member showing up for a couple of meetings per month are long gone. This change was not only new to those serving but to all of our employees who were accustomed to seeing it done differently for the last twenty years, along with our tribal citizens.

It is only fitting that the Candidates Edition is the first edition of the Quapaw Post. In this first edition, I would like to thank the many employees who dedicate themselves to our nation daily. These employees are the ones who continue to keep us progressing, and I am thankful for their efforts. We have also created the first Quapaw Nation Candidates Forum to allow each candidate the opportunity to share their platforms with our citizens. I encourage everyone to tune into this election because your vote matters.

I look forward to continued growth and our push for a transparent form of government for our Quapaw people. This issue is the first of many to come, so please enjoy the Candidates Edition of The Quapaw Post, and don't forget to vote in this upcoming election.

Guh-ne-gay,
Chairman Joseph Byrd

JUNE '21

THE QUAPAW POST

CANDIDATES

SPECIAL EDITION

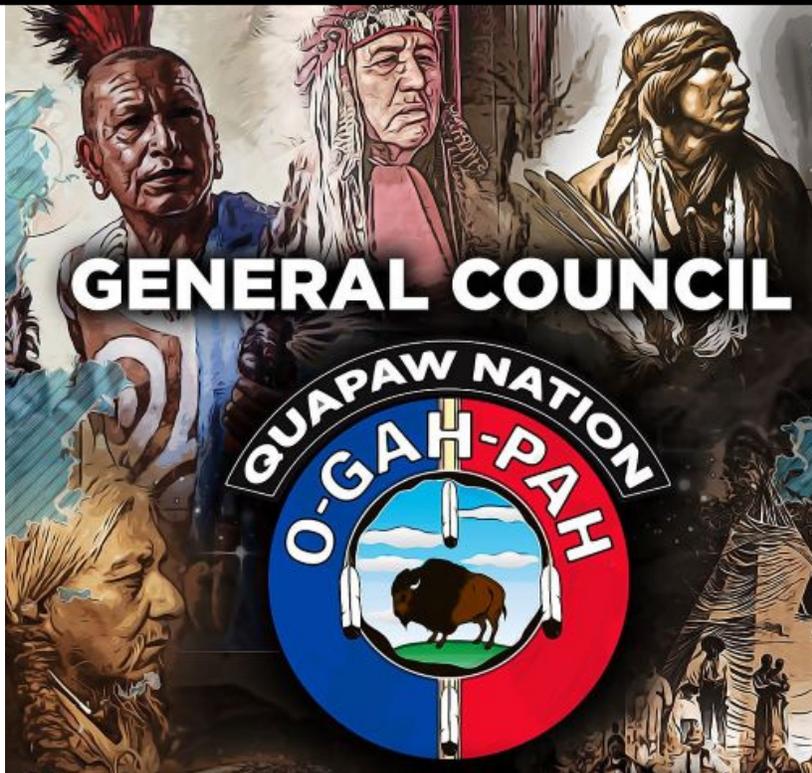
Quapaw Nation General Council - July 4th, 2021

Quapaw Nation's General Council meeting has been set for July 4th, 2021, in the pavilion at Downstream Casino and Resort.

Tribal citizens that plan to reserve rooms for the event are encouraged to do so as early as possible as the rooms tend to fill up fast. Those that plan on using the daycare services can find the form on the Quapaw Post website.

Things Are set to be different this year, with the General Council meeting focusing more on tribal issues than the door prizes and checks of the previous years.

The inclusion of zoom will also be used, but no motions will be taken from the service. For a motion to be taken, the tribal member must be at the meeting. Still, this marks a historic day for those who have not attended in past years through technology improvements. The meeting will begin at 9 am and conclude after adjournment.



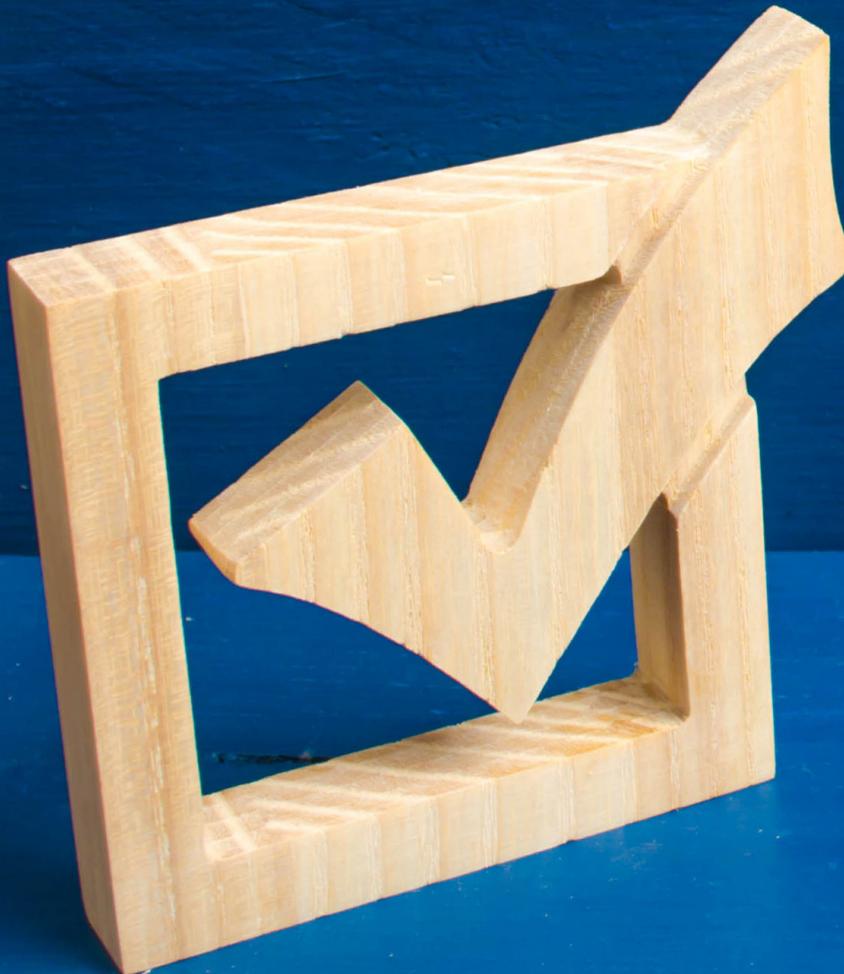
Case Closed John Berrey Loses Defamation Lawsuit

The case filed by John Berrey, Tamara Smiley-Reeves, Barry Switzer, and others in The District Court of Cleveland County in Oklahoma was dismissed yesterday, exactly a month after it was filed. Judge Michael Tupper heard the case.

The motion to dismiss came from two distinct legal doctrines, The Williams Doctrine and Sovereign Immunity, which barred the suit. The Court found the Plaintiffs' arguments against 'unpersuasive'.

Continued on page 7

Vice-Chair Candidates



VICE-CHAIR CANDIDATES

Callie Bowden



Ha-Way!

My name is Callie Bowden, and I have been eager to announce that I am seeking re-election for the Quapaw Nation Vice-Chair position. I am a proud mother of two children and currently reside on a portion of my family's allotted land in Quapaw, Oklahoma. I am also the proud daughter of Sharon Shapp Blalock, a direct decedent of Mary "Mi-Hah-Sa" Stafford, also known as Widow Stafford. I received my Associate's from Northeastern A&M Oklahoma College, my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Missouri Southern State University, and my Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law at the Tulsa University College of Law.

When I first ran for this position, I stated the following: "I want to use my education, expertise, and integrity to ensure the continued success of the tribe.

I am a leader, not a follower and my ultimate goal is to strengthen the structure of our current government, become even more self-sufficient through our businesses, and to serve all Quapaw people. I want to ensure all of us Quapaw Tribal Members have a strong future ahead of us!". I still uphold every aspect of this statement and work towards it daily. I would be greatly honored to serve as your Vice-Chair again.

This election has a record-breaking number of candidates in it. At this time, I would like to stress the significance of your vote. Your vote is so important; it could be the tie-breaking tally for your candidate. Absentee voters, get your information in the mail as soon as possible to avoid any delivery delays. When I served on the Election Committee, it would sadden me each year to see the absentee envelopes that made it a day too late, and that was pre-COVID. Please vote and vote early.

I am just a text, phone call, or email away. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Callie Bowden

cbowden@quapawnation.com

918-961-1952

VICE-CHAIR CANDIDATES CONT.

John Berrey



Ha-way Quapaw people,

My name is John L. Berrey and I am respectfully asking for your vote. Having served nearly 20 years as a member of the Business Committee, together we changed the world for the Quapaw Nation. We have become an economic powerhouse, agricultural leader, environmental clean up leader, and have created so many businesses, jobs and assets for our Quapaw Nation. Our services we provide have grown in unimaginable ways. We have provided greater end of life and insurance benefits, scholarships, day care, jobs, internships, senior housing and so much more for our people. We raised over \$36 million in grants and built the first USDA inspected processing plant and have created over \$1 Billion in assets.

I have heard from and listened to Members who have expressed their frustrations with the Tribe. We need to build a more inclusive Tribal Nation. I believe that ALL Quapaw people should benefit from our programs regardless of where you live. We have the resources and need to use those resources to better serve our people.

It is my plan that when Congress appropriates the \$137.5 Million from the Bear Settlement, every dime should go to all Quapaw people, not lawyers. We need to survey all members to determine the best use of the money. The Bear v. the USA was claims for the Quapaw Nation in its entirety and dated back to our 1st Treaty in 1818. This is due to what is called a Congressional Reference to the Court of Federal Claims and was made possible by our great relationships with members of Congress.

The Quapaw Nation is at a very critical time in this world, and it is very important that we are more compassionate and kind to our members and our employees. Together we need to be a family and heal any wounds, get back to the business of building a strong foundation of businesses, and move our focus to ALL Quapaw members. Although current candidates and BC members are telling us we have more money, more transparency, and we are doing better, I just don't see it. Do you? Do you want to know more? Do you want ALL Quapaw to be treated the same? Do you want to bring back the great pride we all had with our growth and our tremendous successes? Do you want to be treated with kindness and with compassion? We need to share our successes with ALL Quapaw People.

I promise to clear my name and those who served with me and move forward. All Quapaw People deserve Due Process. All Americans are assured due process in the United States Constitution. Can we stop pointing fingers and start to work together for ALL Quapaw people? If I am fortunate to receive your Vote, I will pledge to do all I can to get the Quapaw Nation back on TRACK!

Vote for John L Berrey for Vice Chairman of the Quapaw Nation!

Gun-Ney-Gay

John L. Berrey
Jberrey@ogahpah.com
918-697-8845

VICE-CHAIR CANDIDATES CONT.

Mary 'Heather'

Dismuke



Ha-way!

My name is Mary “Heather” Dismuke, though many know me as Heather. I am excited to be running for Vice-Chair of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee and would like to ask for your support. I am reaching out to all of our people and asking for your help to usher in a new generation that is committed to our people.

My Indian name is Mi Hanka, meaning Sacred Sun. I am the daughter of Walter “Wayne” Harper. The grand-daughter of Mary Alice Harper. I am a proud descendant of Dardenne family. My husband is Steven Dismuke. We met at Haskell Indian Nations University and have been married 10 years. We have two beautiful boys, Marcus and Morgan.

When I turned 18, my father looked at me and I was to either serve my country or my community. I decided to serve my community. I became a volunteer Firefighter, EMT, and Wildland Firefighter. I did this for 4 years, while working on my Associates and Bachelor in Arts. I proudly graduated with both degrees from Haskell Indian Nations University with honors. After I graduated, I decided to serve Indian Country. I did that by serving as the Native American Education Coordinator for Clover Park School District in Lakewood, Wa. In my time there, I was nominated for Vice-President of the non-profit organization called, Western Washington Native Educators Consortium (WWNAEC). After serving for 1 year, I decided that I need to pursue my masters. I was accepted into Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wa in 2014 and graduated in 2016 with a Master’s in Public Administration in Tribal Governance.

Before my grandmother died, she told me that I needed to get my education and come back home. That was exactly what I did. I came back home in 2019. I worked for the Quapaw Nation as the Business Committee Executive Secretary for almost 3 years. I know with my education and previous career experiences has provided me with the skills necessary to serve, protect and unify our Quapaw people

Today, I see no higher calling than serving as Vice-Chair for our Quapaw People. I will represent all our tribal members. I will promote an atmosphere of honesty and understanding. I want all tribal members to come to me with the knowledge that they are being heard. I will bring a good perspective to our Business Committee and will be able to assist our people, by listening and working for the betterment of all our tribal members. I will speak with my heart, with honesty, integrity, and respect.

Although my campaign is in its infancy, I have been honored to have early support from many of my elders. However today, I humbly ask you to consider me in the upcoming election on July 24th. Most of all I want to encourage all our tribal people to vote. We owe it to our children and grand-children for a better tomorrow.

Let’s rise above the standard!!

Gun-ne-gay,

Mary “Heather” Dismuke, Quapaw Nation Vice-Chair Candidate

Quapaw Nation 149th Pow Wow

149TH ANNUAL

QUAPAW POW WOW

JULY 1ST - 4TH | QUAPAW TRIBAL GROUNDS

POW WOW PRINCESS - EMMA MCKIBBEN HEAD SINGER - ARLEN GOODFOX
 HEAD MAN DANCER - CHRISTIAN RANGEL HEAD LADY DANCER - AVIS BALLARD
 MASTER OF CEREMONIES - MIKE BURGESS CO-ARENA DIRECTOR - DENNIS LITTLELAXE
 CO-ARENA DIRECTOR - TONY SHAWNEE HOST NORTHERN DRUM - LITTLE SOLDIER
 STOMP DANCE COORDINATOR - JOEL BARNES

JULY 1: QUAPAW DAY, QUAPAW MEN'S STRAIGHT DANCE CONTEST (AGES 18+),
 QUAPAW WOMEN'S DRESS CONTEST (AGES 18+), QUAPAW YOUNG MEN'S STRAIGHT DANCE CONTEST (AGES 8-17),
 QUAPAW YOUNG WOMEN'S CONTEST (AGES 8-17). ALL QUAPAW TRIBAL FAMILY SPECIALS

JULY 2-4: GRAND ENTRY IS AT 8PM ON THESE DATES.

CONTESTS- MENS - FANCY, STRAIGHT, TRADITIONAL, GRASS,
 CHICKEN TEEN, & JR. - FANCY, TRADITIONAL, STRAIGHT, GRASS
 CONTESTS- WOMEN'S, TEEN, & JR. - CLOTH, BUCKSKIN, FANCY, JINGLE
 MEN AND WOMEN'S GOLDEN AGE (AGES 60+) CATEGORIES ARE COMBINED

FOOD DANCE NIGHTLY FROM 6PM - 8PM | STOMP DANCING- JULY 1ST - 3RD

ADULT & GOLDEN AGE	TEEN (13-17)	JUNIOR (7-12)
1 ST - \$1000	1 ST - \$500	1 ST - \$400
2 ND - \$800	2 ND - \$400	2 ND - \$300
3 RD - \$600	3 RD - \$300	3 RD - \$200
4 TH - \$400		

CONTESTANTS MUST BE IN TWO GRAND ENTRIES!
 ALL CATEGORIES MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF THREE CONTESTANTS, OR THEY WILL BE COMBINED.
 THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CHANGE THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME.



Upcoming Events



June 22-25

9 AM - 4 PM

Days 1-3 Community Building Day 4 Ki-Ho-Ta Center

Ages 8-18 years

Open to all youth

Registration NOW open!

Registration packets available at:

Ki-Ho-Ta Center • Robert Whitebird Cultural Center • Main Office • Quapaw Nation Website

For more information or to VOLUNTEER:

Quapaw Nation Youth Programs

918-238-3152 bburtrum@quapawnation.com

Case Closed

John Berrey Loses Defamation Lawsuit

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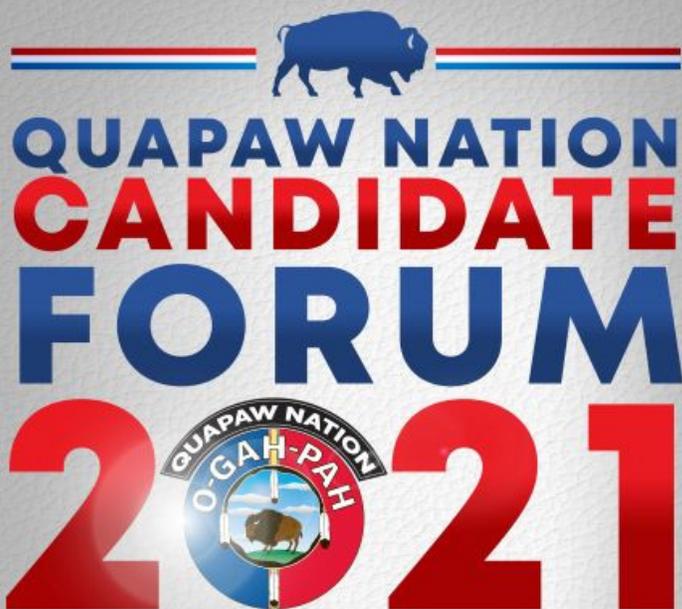
- and inevitably agreed with the defendants.

The Court cited the same legal doctrine the plaintiffs believed gave them a case in Lewis v. Clarke, stating, "It is clear defendants were acting within their official capacities at an event that concerned the internal affairs of the Nation – sovereign immunity applies. Any alleged defamation would have occurred at the direction of the Business Committee during the Annual Meeting."

The courts also granted sovereign immunity to the auditor based on the lack of limitations of what constitutes a tribal official.

The Case Dismissal in its entirety can be found on The Quapaw Post's website.

Quapaw Nation First Candidate Forum



Quapaw Nation is scheduled to hold its first-ever candidate forum on June 10 starting at 5pm.

The event will occur in the pavilion at Downstream Casino and Resort and is hoped to be one of a few held this year.

The event will be streamed live and recorded, and shared through Quapaw Nation's social media platforms for those unable to attend. The event will also be shared on The Quapaw Post's website.

Abby Broyles - Politician and public speaker will be moderating the event.

All candidates in the upcoming 2021 General Election were given just over three weeks' notice of the first event and are encouraged to come.

Future events may be held at the Pow-wow grounds near Beaver Springs or in the Pavilion at Downstream, dependent on weather and availability.

Member Candidates



Member Candidates

Zack Turley



Ha-way,

My name is Zackary Turley, and I am asking for your vote and support for re-election to our Business Committee. It has been an honor to serve on the Quapaw Nations Business Committee for the past four years. I have worked with our Tribal Leaders to move the Quapaw Nation in a more positive and profitable direction. My reasons for running have always been to build upon what we have as a Nation and ensure that our children and grandchildren have something to be proud of, providing career opportunities and benefits to them and their families.

I have proudly worked for the Quapaw Nation Fire/EMS over the last thirteen years, being a licensed Paramedic with training in Fire/Rescue, Emergency management, and many other things dealing with Public Safety. While working with the Department of Public Safety, we have made great improvements for the employees and the citizens of Ottawa County. With the Department of Public Safety being one of the tribal governments' largest departments, it is vital to the organization to have this type of experience moving the department in a positive direction.

I have also served on the Quapaw Nation Cultural Committee for the last three years. It is essential to preserve our culture for our youth and have the ability to involve culture in our businesses and operations. Accomplishments: The Quapaw Nation has successfully opened the Saracen Casino during a Global Pandemic. The Quapaw Nation has partnered with Cypress Valley Meats to help manage our Meat Processing Plant bringing a 265% increase in production from the 4th quarter of 2020 to the 1st quarter of 2021. The Quapaw Nation provided 2 COVID Relief Disbursements to Tribal members during the Pandemic. I assisted with the development and implementation of the Quapaw Nation Community Paramedic Program. This program allows Tribal Members and local citizens to set up appointments with a Paramedic within the comfort of their home. They can see a licensed Physician or Nurse Practitioner via Telemedicine. We have worked with our Grants Department to fund an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that will have the ability to house a 911 dispatch and a Command Center during and after a disaster. We have made many changes with Downstream casinos. The casino is running better and more profitable than it has ever run. The below numbers are compared against 2019 or pre-COVID;

Revenue: Up 10.4%

Operating Expenses: Down 15.7%

Executive Charges: Down 78.5%

Comps: Down 27.5%

Operating Profit: Up 64.2%

Cash: Up 83.3%

In short, more money is coming in the door, a lot less is wasted on benefits to management-level employees and BC members. At the rate we're currently going, Downstream will be debt-free in 6-8 years. In the future, some of the items I will be working on are Tribal Housing, increasing our educational funds and educational opportunities, and continuing to work towards more social services assistance and emergency funding. I want to work towards affordable housing for Tribal families.

Thank you,
Zackary Turley

Member Candidates Cont.

Michelle Newton



Ha Way Family and Friends,

I have been honored to serve our Quapaw people this past term. I am grateful you entrusted me to lead our Quapaw Nation. I would like to continue moving our Nation forward in a much-needed positive direction. As a wife of 30 years to Jeff; a mother to Jonathan, Landen, and Lauren; a Scout leader for 10 years, I understand teamwork which is something your current leadership exemplifies. Having higher education hours in Elementary Ed,

I want to teach our youth via programs like the Culture Camp. I have a shared vision to improve the quality of life for ALL Tribal members and understand the importance of our casino's revenue stream in funding such programs. We've Identified needed changes as Downstream Casino to reduce expenses. These changes have put the casino in a position to reduce the debt owed and eventually expand benefits for all Tribal members.

- I personally advocated for the forensic audit, which evidence proved the need for, and the findings were presented at General Council.
- Completed construction of Methadone clinic, Justice Center, last phase of Elder housing, and new OLC.
- Completed staffing for and opened Saracen Casino in Arkansas.
- Partnered with Cypress Valley Meats to increase revenue and production at our meat processing plant.
- Added a Community Paramedic Program to our EMS Services.
- Added Cultural classes for members.

2021-2023 Goals

Refinancing our casinos to –

- Increase Education and Social Services funding.
- Create more Tribal housing for our elders.
- Provide affordable housing for our young families.

Create a “Youth Tribal Council” to –

- Teach our next-generation leadership skills.
- Provide an understanding of our Tribal government.

Purchase land to diversify business and further Tribal Self-Governance –

- Farming Cattle and Buffalo
- Growing crops

Establish a department to cut and supply wood for our elders.

- Establish a constitution

I'm here to work for you, with honesty, transparency, and a passion to serve. I promise to continue building a better tomorrow, one decision at a time.

Let's talk: 918-325-9195 mnewton@quapawnation.com

Gun-ney-gay,

Michelle Newton - Buffalo Clan

Member Candidates Cont.

Jeremy Olsen



Haway to my Quapaw family,

My name is Jeremy Olsen, though many of my friends and family know me as J.O. My Indian Name is Kahika Nazhi. I am a descendant of Solomon Quapaw and Sigda Tract and was raised by my papa Ed Quapaw and mother Ouita Quapaw. My papa Ed Quapaw served as Business Committee member in years past and spent many years as the Quapaw Pow-Wow Arena Director. He was also a gravedigger and one of our tribal Headmen. He and my mother raised me around our Quapaw people and culture. I was also taught by my uncle Leonard "Catfish" Smith. My other mentors included Kevin Dawes and Jim Greenfeather. My companion is Robyn Crane Olsen who is also a Quapaw tribal member and comes from the Imbeau family. We have six children together who are pride and joy, Leanna, Lendsay, Joey, Skylar, Allison, & Logan.

I am an officer of the Quapaw Native American Church, member of the Quapaw Gourd clan, an active Quapaw Grave Digger, and have been a ceremonial Firemen and Headmen for our people on many occasions. I worked for the Quapaw Nation for the last eleven years in the Maintenance Department and was training to be an electrician until winning the recent special election.

I would like to thank each of you who voted for me in the special election held in March. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our Quapaw people. During my short term in office, I have been busy in a multitude of meetings regarding many issues involving our many business entities. I am currently working towards a housing project aimed at housing tribal members and their families. I have also been able to cast many votes that I believe would better serve our nation in a good way. Recently we as a committee voted to pass the appropriation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to every tribal member that applies.

If re-elected, I want to continue to work for tribal growth and continued assistance for our people. My elders raised me with a strong belief that our Quapaw people are to be taken care of by their own. I want to represent all our tribal members by serving in the capacity of Business Committee Member. I feel that I will be able to bring a good perspective to our Business Committee and will be able to assist our tribal members by listening and working for the betterment of all our tribal members. I firmly believe that all our people deserve to be listened to; and deserve honest answers.

I humbly ask you to consider me in this upcoming election. Most of all I encourage all our tribal people to vote. The future of our Nation, our businesses, and our services depend on the choices we make today. We owe it to our children and future generations to make wise and informed decisions as Quapaw people.

Thank you,
Jeremy Olsen

Member Candidates Cont.

Sean C Mathews



To the Quapaw Nation Tribal members:

My Name is Sean Crawfish Mathews, and I am running for Quapaw Nation Business Committee member.

My Father is JR Mathews, who was formerly the chairman and vice-chairman of the Quapaw tribe. My Grandmother is Florence "Flossie" Mathews, also a former business committee member. My Great Grandmother was Peral Crawfish Dukes, who served on the first Business Committee for the Quapaw Tribe. My Great-Great-Grandfather was Harry Crawfish, an original Quapaw allottee.

I currently work with my family running a dispensary in Miami, Ok where I do all the product ordering and purchasing. I have previously worked in the casino industry for almost 17 years. I worked at both Quapaw Casino and Downstream, doing everything between dealing cards, Manager on Duty, to Table Games Manager. I also worked at the Seneca Cayuga tribal property, several of the Chickasaw properties between -

Goldsby, New Castle and Winstar. I spent time working for the Mescalero Apache property Inn of the Mountain Gods. My last gaming job was working for Rocket Gaming as the sales rep for Oklahoma and Kansas.

Working for and being around other tribes, I have seen things that I have liked and disliked on what the tribes have done. One of the biggest ones is education of the younger generation. My Grandmother and Mother were/are educators. I would like to see the tribe put more resources into education whether it be for college or for a technical school. I believe helping educate the youth will strengthen the tribe in the future. Second would be to do what other tribes have done and that is to start or buy a bank. So, when we can get out or the bonds the casinos are currently in and go to traditional bank financing, we could buy some of our own debt and pay the interest back to our selves instead of other entities. Third would be to look at other opportunities to put our land to work for us. An easy one would be putting a 24hr dinner where the Quapaw Casino sign is just off the turnpike exit in Miami. These are just a few ideas.

I believe the Quapaw Nation Business Committee's job is to do what is best for the tribe and not the individual. I am asking for your vote, but I hope that whoever you decide to vote for in the upcoming election is doing it for the betterment of the tribe.

Thank You,
Sean Crawfish Mathews

Member Candidates Cont.

Mindy Gilmore Riddle



Hello, my name is Mindy Gilmore Riddle. I am the great granddaughter of Alice Crawfish the granddaughter of James S. Gilmore and the daughter of James E. Gilmore. I am 39 years old, a single mother of two amazing boys Heston and Logan Riddle, they are my world. I'm originally from Chetopa, Kansas but after my divorce in 2014 the boys and I moved to Bernice, Oklahoma to be closer to my parents. As a single mom, I spend most of my time running to football games and weight meets. In the summer I like to spend my days off on Grand Lake soaking up the sun, fishing, and just take some time to myself to breathe.

I have been employed at Downstream Casino Resort for 13 years as the Retail/Warehouse Manager and the Intern Trainer that was until the first of April. I have now been removed from those positions after 13 years and been placed as the Horticulture Manager and my previous job was given to another tribal member. I chose this position, knowing nothing about how to do it because the other choice they gave me was to take yet another longtime team members job. Kathy VanStavern, has

stayed through a lot, from being promoted to Director of Hotel Ops to being demoted shortly after to manager of housekeeping after the new GM came on board. She has shown nothing but pure loyalty to Downstream and our people. I was not going to do that to her and the fact they even suggested it shows how poorly they are handling business there. Anyways, I am learning the ins and outs of my new job from the great team I have in the greenhouse.

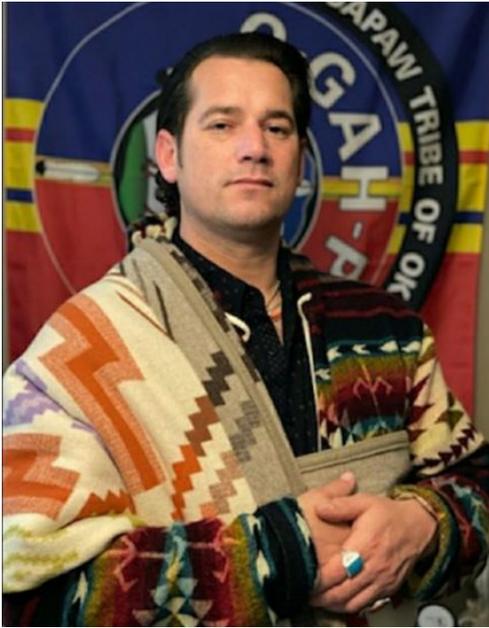
Over the past eight months I have seen things change and not for the better the turnover rate, terminations, or people just walking out on their jobs due to the new GM, CFO, and the business committee, which has been horrendous. Our family members and team members want to be treated with respect and that's not what any of us get anymore. It's heartbreaking to me to have to sit back and watch this but I have no choice at this time from where I'm sitting. I have fought with the GM and the CFO only to get my wages cut and be moved to the greenhouses. I have applied for other jobs outside of DCR but at the same time why should I have to leave my home after 13 years due to the new upper management that doesn't have a clue on how to run a casino?? I mean it's pretty bad when the GM orders himself a book online on how to manage a casino!

I am running for BC to help improve the leadership we currently have. I do not believe in the way things are currently being ran or the way our people and team members are being treated. I am running for BC to be a voice for them and you! I am a fighter and I will fight for what is right. I will not be a yes sir yes ma'am, that you have my word on! So I am asking for your vote at election time. Thank you all for taking the time to read this if anybody has any questions for me please feel free to call or email me.

Mindy Gilmore Riddle
620-762-1474
mlriddle1981@gmail.com

Member Candidates Cont.

Grant Schalk



Ha-Way Ogahpah Nikashi,

My name is Grant Schalk of the Crawfish Clan. I declare my run for candidacy, seat as Member of the Business Committee. I am the proud Great Great-Grandson of Harry Crawfish. My Great- Grandmother was Alice Crawfish Gilmore. My Grandfather was Harry Gilmore, who served on each seat of the Business Committee, including Chairman. My Mother is Bonnie Gilmore Schalk.

When I joined Downstream in 2008, my goal was to run for Tribal Council within 10 years. It's now been 13 years, and I feel without hesitation that it's time to run, get my ideas out there to the tribal members where I can showcase my skills and experience to make a positive impact. I am running for Council is to give back to the Tribe, the Community, and Tribal Members. I have often wondered when and how I would try to give back, and I believe now is the time and being on Tribal Council is the **HOW**.

The Quapaw Nation needs a stable, objective, and strong leadership. We need people unafraid to face criticism who recognize that our general membership is tired of empty campaign promises of change. We deserve new ways of governance, of doing business, and new approaches to recurring problems.

I have had many leadership experiences that have cultivated my passion for running. My 15 years of Casino gaming experience, with 10 years in management roles, has allowed me the qualities and qualifications of being a great addition to the Committee and will work side-by-side with the administration for the betterment of all tribal members. I'd say being articulate and outgoing are my strong suits. If elected Member of the Business Committee, I will build the trust and support of the administration to ensure that the changes that you want to see happen. I will diligently and effectively represent the O-Gah-Pah with the greatest Integrity, Respect, Trustworthiness, Dependability, and Self Responsibility. I believe all Tribal benefits are important, and we can strike the correct balance that permits all of these to continue for Tribal Members for many years to come.

As Member, I'll bring enthusiasm to the job like nothing you've seen before! I will bring ingenuity, fresh new ideas to the table while utilizing my experience. If elected as, Member of the Quapaw Business Committee, I will serve as a voice for all of our people. You will not find a candidate more eager or passionate about the job. I recognize that we have all had an extremely difficult past year, so I am prepared to do everything in my power to help and assure that this year and the years upcoming are as stress-free and enjoyable as possible for everyone. I intend to be a voice for our people while being selfless, dedicated, compassionate, and most of all, genuine.

If you're looking to elect the most passionate, approachable, dedicated, and proactive candidate who can and will execute tangible change for YOU. I humbly ask, vote Grant Schalk on July 24, 2021!

Guhnegay,

Grant Schalk

Member Candidates Cont.

Brandy Shapp



Hello fellow Quapaw Nation Members,

My name is Brandy Shapp, wife of Billy Shapp. Billy and I have 7 children. I am the great-granddaughter of Alice Crawfish Gilmore and granddaughter of James Skidmore Gilmore.

My original campaign post is on social media for viewing (Facebook). I want something different for the Quapaw post.

Most of you that have read my original post know the things that I wrote there were things "I" would like to see changed if voted in. When the reality is we are asking you all to vote based on who had a couple of ideas that sounded good. I've said from day one the Nation needs a change.

After spending the last couple of weeks thinking about it, why are people's campaigns always the same? They basically stayed consistent with "I am going to do this and that....when they have no clue if they actually can. I mean the candidates running for BC seats this elect all seem to wish for most of the same things. Actually, thinking back most candidates have always had similar ideas.

Any of you that personally know me, know I don't fit in a box. So, my campaign is:

KEEPING IT REAL! No lies, No promises to break, just me giving 100% to try to make sure the Nations members' requests are heard!

I am not running for ME. I am running for all of YOU. I could make lists of things I want to try to fix but instead, I want to know what all of YOU want! I want every one of you to fill up my email, text, messenger, mailbox (text cell or private message and I will send my mailing address), or just call! I want to compile everyone's suggestions and then list those by majority suggestions. Once I have completed the spreadsheet I will return the results to everyone who participated. I will then have my to-do list and get to work for all of you if elected!

Thank you,

Brandy Shapp for Business Committee

918-919-9224

blake5065@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/brandy.shapp>

Member Candidates Cont.

Brandon 'Everett' Bandy



Ho-way O-gah-pa Za-ni. My name is Brandon "Everett" Bandy. I prefer to go by my middle name of Everett. I am seeking a member seat in this election and request your support and vote.

I am from the Clark family and we are descendants of John Dardenne, son of Abraham Dardenne II and Teresa Cousatte. Some may remember my great grandmother, Mary Alice (Clark) Harper or some of my great aunts and uncles, such as George Clark, Ruth Clark, Lee Roy Clark or Don "Hoot" Gibson and his wife Mary Sacto.

I graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University. I also obtained certifications of training in Federal Records Handling by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and in Casino Management and Policies from the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in American Indian Studies in 2011. This degree was focused on laws and issues that affect tribes and tribal members.

•I serve as the director of the Quapaw Nation Historic Preservation Program. This position is grant-funded and is established by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). I am responsible for issues concerning the preservation of Quapaw historic sites on trust land and consulting with state and federal agencies to promote historic preservation and carry out the Quapaw Nation's responsibilities under NHPA. This requires me to be well versed in managing a federal grant, managing a tribal department, and be familiar with federal laws such as National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

I am also honored to have been elected by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Northeastern Oklahoma region to represent them on the board of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. I also serve as the elected Secretary for the Quapaw Native American Church Chapter. I have previously served on the Dhegiha Language Committee, the Grounds Committee, and the Quapaw Pow Wow Committee. I have also had the honor to serve as a ceremonial fireman and gravedigger.

Our Quapaw elders speak about our responsibility to be good to one another and take care of our own. I strive to remember this in my actions. If you are willing to entrust me with your vote, I will work to the best of my ability to serve our Nation. As a Business Committee Member, I will work to safeguard and continue to diversify our Nation's economy. I also believe increased attention and fresh perspective for our Tribal Office will be beneficial to our employees and members. As only one member of the board, I will not make promises I cannot keep. I can promise that I will do my best to continue our Nation's mission to take care of our own. I ask you all to exercise your vote and hope you will vote for me to serve our people. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Brandon "Everett" Bandy

everett.bandy@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/voteforeverett

Member Candidates Cont.

Kathryn 'Wena' Supernaw



My name is Kathryn “Wena” Supernaw. I am running for Business Committee Member in the upcoming July 24, 2021 Quapaw Nation election.

I would like to share some details on my ancestry, education, relevant professional experience, and qualifications to serve the Quapaw Nation and ALL of its citizens. I am the great great granddaughter of Louis Angel (Tall Chief) last hereditary Chief of the Quapaw Tribe. My great grandmother was Maude Angel Thompson Supernaw. My grandfather was Ick Supernaw and my father was Jr. Supernaw. My Quapaw name is Mi-na-zhi, Standing Sun, given to me by Grandma Supernaw. I belong to the Snake Clan. Past head woman dancer at Kihekah Steh Pow Wow. I graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

After 30 years with MetLife, I retired last year. My last role there was Vice President and Global Process Leader of Management Reporting.

- **Responsible for** simplifying, standardizing, and creating process efficiencies for Management Reporting, Financial Management Group Transformation Program.
- **Responsible for** the Business Adoption and Organizational Readiness Transformation workstreams. Key outcomes included development and execution of program communication, training, documentation, testing governance, knowledge transfer, site readiness, and status reporting for new global Finance Centers of Excellence. Previous to that role, I was Vice President of Strategic Investment Initiatives.
- **Led teams of business analysts and subject matter experts** in the planning, budgeting, and implementation of domestic and global investment accounting and reporting initiatives.
- **Implemented and operationally responsible for** applications supporting fixed income, equity, derivative, real estate, mortgage, hedge fund trading, trade settlement, accounting, reporting, and reconciliation. Prior to joining MetLife, I spent 2 years in Cap Gemini’s Insurance Investment consulting practice.
- **Responsible for implementing securities accounting, treasury, and derivative accounting applications** for multiple financial services clients.

To summarize my professional experience, these outcomes were achieved through mission clarity, well-defined goals, teamwork, diversity of thought, and respectful direct communication. I have been a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay Board of Directors since 2015. Board Secretary 2016-2017. Board Governance Chair 2017-present. 2021 Board Member of the Year. Positions I advocate include

1. Improve **COMMUNICATION** between the Quapaw Government and the Quapaw people.
2. **ETHICS** through implementing conflict of interest affirmations and code of conduct certifications for all Business Committee members.
3. Sustainable business **GROWTH** to support our culture, language, education, health, environment, technology, our youth, and our elders.
4. **Serve ALL tribal citizens** by working constructively, objectively, and fairly with everyone. Full and equal distribution of Bear proceeds.
5. 2-year, 5 year, and 10-year **STRATEGIC PLAN** with a balanced approach toward growth and expense management.
6. **TERM LIMITS** for all Business Committee Members.

Additional facts:

Moving back to Oklahoma!

Father Jr. Supernaw past head man dancer Quapaw Pow Wow

Aunt Tut Supernaw past head woman dancer Quapaw Pow Wow

Married to Mark Turner for 13 years

Thank you to my family for all of your encouragement and support.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote on July 24!

Member Candidates Cont.

Larry Mercer



Dear Fellow Quapaw members,

My name is Larry Mercer. I am asking each of you for your support in the 2021 Business Committee Member election. I am descended from Benjamin and Amanda (Sims) Cousattee; Ray and Madie (Sullivan) Cousattee, and Bob and Wanda (Cousattee) Mercer.

I grew up in Peoria and Miami where I received my Elementary and High School education. I received my college education from both NEO and MSSU where I was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting. I am a proud Vietnam Veteran having served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Most of my professional career has been with BF Goodrich. When the plant closed in Miami I was transferred to the Tuscaloosa, Alabama plant where I was promoted to several leadership positions. During my career, I had the opportunity to learn a variety of project management skills which allowed me to

develop the ability to listen to all sides of a story and simply do the job that I am given to do. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to take early retirement 11 years ago and move back to Miami to become the primary caregiver for my parents when their health began to fail. I am currently the Chairman of the EFA (Emergency Financial Assistance) Committee of which I have served as a member since 2012. Even before I moved back home, I would make the trip to attend our General Council every Fourth of July. In addition, I pride myself that I have an excellent attendance record for our Monthly Business Meetings over the last 11 years. I am an active member of the First United Methodist Church.

My Priorities if elected include; **Economic Development** – work to ensure that our current business holdings remain viable while constantly looking for future development. All to ensure the future for the Quapaw Nation. **Assist in developing a 5, 10, and 20-year Strategic Plan** to reduce our debt and plan additional Visions for the future. **Increased Elder Care Services** – continue to honor our elders with affordable housing and amenities or those on fixed incomes Support increased Social Services for those experiencing domestic abuse, runaway/missing children, and those with a disability of any form. **Promote Educational Endowments for Quapaw Youth**
Support Quapaw Culture and Language Preservation so this great country never forgets the contributions and accomplishments of the Quapaw Nation

However, none of these priorities can be accomplished without experienced leadership to continue to work for the advancement of all Quapaw people. During my lifetime, I have had the honor to have been mentored by many of our Elders, some living and some that have passed on. I pledge to use all these skills to help maintain and promote the Quapaw Nation, a nation that will thrive and be successful for generations.

I respectfully ask you to consider me, Larry Mercer, when voting for Business Committee Member

Sincerely,
 Larry Mercer

Member Candidates Cont.

Linda Davis



Ha-we to all O-Gah-Pah relations,

My name is Linda Davis. I am the great-great granddaughter of George Redeagle and Minnie (Coldsprings) Redeagle, both full blood O-Gah-Pah. The great granddaughter of Josephine Sophia (Redeagle) Greenback. The granddaughter of Leroy and Margarite (Kennedy) Watson and the daughter of Delbert Longan and the late Martha (Watson) Longan.

I have been taught from a young age to be kind, honest, and respectful. I have been taught to help others in need and to do so without expecting anything in return or "in show." I have been taught to give back to our people and "we take care of our own." It is with these teachings that have led me to a decision along with much prayer, thought, and discussion with elders, family, and friends to announce my candidacy as a member of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee.

My career along with work history has been devoted to the American Indian/Alaska Native population and has primarily been with the Quapaw Tribe, now Nation and the Northeastern Tribal Health System (NTHS) formerly known as the Miami Indian

- Health Clinic (MIHC). From 1994-2004, I worked as the Community Health Representative (CHR) for the Tribe. While in this position, I was appointed by the Business Committee (BC) to represent the Tribe at several Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service meetings, specifically those meetings addressing the federal funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).

I, along with the CHR from the Modoc Tribe, now Modoc Nation, played a pivotal role in securing funding at the local level versus funding going to the Claremore Service Unit, Claremore, OK. Because funding was secured, the MIHC developed and implemented their own diabetes program which continues to this day. In turn, most patients with diabetes were able to receive their care locally and eliminate or reduce their need to travel to Claremore Indian Hospital/Clinic for services. Upon resigning from the Tribe as the CHR, I gained employment with the NTHS from 2004-2016. While employed at NTHS, I worked as the Nurse Case Manager in the Diabetes Program. In 2010, I transferred in-house to become the Public Health Nurse where I remained until my departure. In 2016, I made a decision to return to the Tribe. I began working as a victim services advocate in the Family Services Program. I currently remain in this position. From 1994 to present, I have overseen multiple grants. Both state and federally funded grants. I have a solid understanding of implementation in all aspects of the grants. Because many of the grants the Nation receives are competitive, I would like to see strategic plans written for sustainability and too not simply rely on government funding. Far too often when grants are not sought out and/or awarded, individuals lose the jobs impacting the livelihood of their family. Not only would I like to see the development of strategic plans and sustainability of programs, I would like to see a community assessment, if you will, to better identify the needs of our children, youth, and families. Based upon assessment findings, programs could be expanded and/or potentially seek new programs.

In closing, I recognize the Nation's members have many needs whether it be housing, healthcare, childcare, education, employment, etc. and some of these issues take longer to address and resolve. I also recognize the BC is faced with many challenges. I can assure you if elected to the BC, I will be a voice for the people. I am an independent thinker, detail-oriented, dedicated, and have a strong work ethic! I am thankful and grateful for past and present BC to have appointed me to sub-committees. Now, I humbly ask you as O-Gah-Pah people to cast your vote for me, Linda Davis, as member for the BC on Saturday, July 24, 2021. I would be honored to be a part of the leadership of our Nation. I have no ulterior motive, no hidden agenda, just a pure love for our people that has grown in me since childhood.

Respectfully,

Linda Davis

Member Candidates Cont.

Mike Shawnee



Ha-way O-Gah-Pah Nation Members,

It is with much thought and consideration, along with the encouragement of fellow tribal members, that I come to you. I would like to announce my candidacy for a business committee position on the Quapaw Nation Business Committee in the July 24, 2021 election.

My name is Mike Shawnee, and I am a descendent of Widow Mary Stafford who was fullblood Quapaw. My great-grandparents were Peter and Julia Stafford Shapp. They were the parents of my grandmother, Mary Shapp who married Bill Shawnee. My father was Jerome Shawnee, Sr., who was chairman for 18 years of my childhood serving the Shawnee Tribe, formerly known as Loyal Shawnee Tribe. My two aunts, Mary "Bobbie" Jennings and Christina "Boots" Pettit, both served on the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee for several years in the 1970s. Growing up with my family involved in tribal politics is something in which I was strongly immersed and took a serious and strong interest.

As candidates, we all seem to have the same hopes for our tribal members; to advance and improve our educational, housing, and social services benefits. First, however, I feel that we must address the ongoing tremendous debt that was not paid down over the last 20 years. Becoming a financially solvent entity is my primary focus and reason for running in the upcoming election. Paying down the multi-million-dollar debt needs to be our key emphasis. To help further our growth and provisions, we need to look at ALL industries and enterprises of our tribe and push to make them profitable ventures. Those profits should then be used to increase the benefits that you, our tribal members, deserve to receive. With my experience in the private sector, I have worked 17 years with a Fortune 1000 company and 10 years with a Fortune 500 company, focusing on revenue management and government contracting. Reading government contracts and drafting bids to gain the business of the government continues to be part of my responsibilities. It has been my duty to understand and adhere to federal acquisition regulations as well. I feel that my experience more than qualifies me for a position to serve you and to voice your concerns. My position on the business committee would not only be to serve you but to also conduct your business, on your behalf, for the betterment of the whole tribe. I would hope that all candidates would come into this campaign with the same focus, for the betterment of the entire tribe, and not with an axe to grind over personal issues.

.Thanks to each of you who have voted and supported me as your Quapaw Tribal Pow-Wow Committee Chairman for the past nine years. It has been a pleasure serving you. Hopefully, your support and confidence in me will continue so that I may be your voice in a tribe where voices were previously muted. You deserve the respect to be heard.

Please register to vote and remember to vote on July 24, 2021. I wish the best to all other candidates.

Respectfully yours,
Mike Shawnee

Member Candidates Cont.

Lauren M. Cousatte



HaWay my OGahPah Relations,

My name is Lauren M. Cousatte, a third great-granddaughter of Benjamin Cousatte.

It is with the encouragement and blessing of our elders I announce that I am running for a member position on our Business Committee.

I graduated from Quapaw High School at the top of my class. I attended NEO then Oklahoma State University studying multiple disciplines. My classes ranged from Business Management and Marketing as well as Interior Design at a Top 10 program.

Through high school and college, I have always been a natural leader. This has been reflected in my employment. I have worked at Fortune 500 Retailers and been promoted into management positions. I left to revitalize our coffee roaster. Since being in this position, we have doubled our online sales and social media presence. We have employed two more people bring our total to four Quapaw Nation members. I have recently taken the Gift Shop and Floral Department under my umbrella. I hope to drive our culture forward through the businesses.

This past year has been trying for all of us. It has also brought a bright spot in connecting with more relatives than I could have hoped and dreamed for. I think of all my relations and the future generations to come in my decision-making. What we do now will reverberate through the ages. We are in an unprecedented change and growth within our Nation and Indian Country.

This is a historical election with a record-breaking number of candidates. Use your voice and vote for the future of our Nation. If you are voting absentee, please mail in all required paperwork as soon as possible.

I would be honored to serve you in this position. I humbly ask for your support and vote Saturday, July 24, 2021.

GuhNeGay

Thank you,
Lauren Cousatte

Member Candidates Cont.

Henry M Ellick



Ha-way,

My name is Henry Ellick. I am the son of Cecelia (Quapaw) Ellick. My grandmother was Louella (Crawfish) Quapaw and my grandfather was Solomon Quapaw. I am asking for your vote in the July 24 election for business committee member.

I grew up in Quapaw and graduated from high school in 1965. My education continued at Oklahoma State Technology College. After graduation, I enlisted for 3 years in the Army. During this time I spent 1 year in Viet Nam and a year in Germany. I was in the infantry and received an honorable discharge in 1970.

Upon returning home, I was employed by the Seneca Indian School as a Supervisor Instructional Aid and coach. My employment there lasted 10 years and ended with the closing of the school by government mandate. I graduated from Northeastern A&M during this time. -

I was Business Manager of the Quapaw Nation for 6 years overseeing 14 programs. My next employment was at Eastern State Hospital in Vinita as a Recreational Therapist for 10 years.

I was also employed by ROCMND group home working 7 days a week for 10 years. I transferred from Eastern State to the Department of Corrections and retired from there in 2010.

In 1995, I became a professional boxing and mixed martial arts judge. I am licensed in Oklahoma and Missouri. Boxing has always been an important part of my life. At the age of 64, I participated in and won the Masters Division of Ringside World Championship boxing tournament in Kansas City.

Our traditions and culture have always been important to me. I participate in Gourd dancing, am a tribal grave digger, and have been head gourd dancer at several pow wows. It is an honor to be asked to be a head dancer at the Peoria pow wow this year. In 2015 I was chosen by the AARP as one of Oklahoma's outstanding Native American elders.

Social services are very important to our people. I will do my best to see that our benefits grow along with the nation's success. When the casino was built, it was to be a place for our tribal members to work and make a decent wage. We need to make sure our people are continuously educated and trained to be successful in their jobs.

Education has always been important to the Quapaw. As a nation, we need to make sure our young people have every advantage we can provide for them. Education will ensure that they become successful and self-sustaining citizens. Tutoring and mentoring will help our children. My goal is that we continue to provide education and job opportunities for our people.

I would like to start an Indian Action team to assist people with the basic upkeep of their homes. This would be a win-win situation for everyone by creating jobs and new positions for our tribal members. I am proud to be a Quapaw. We are a special people and we can never forget that.

I would appreciate your vote.

Respectfully,
HenryEllick

Member Candidates Cont.

JoKay Dowell



I am JoKay Dowell. I am a candidate for Business Committee Member in the upcoming July 24, 2021, Quapaw Nation General Election. I am the oldest daughter of Quapaw Nation member Grady and Lillian Dowell, granddaughter of Josephine McKibben Dowell, great-granddaughter of Jake and Bertha Quapaw McKibben, and great-great-granddaughter of Solomon and Minnie Captain Quapaw. I grew up, two blocks south of the Claremore Indian Hospital where my family welcomed many people of all tribal nations to a cup of coffee or a bite to eat while waiting for their appointments or visiting hospitalized relatives. As a girl, I served as princess and head woman dancer at Quapaw and many other powwows across Indian Country. Those titles might seem trivial to some, but they taught me early on that my relatives had expectations of me to always carry the name of my people in a respectful way, and that I had an obligation to give back to the Indigenous cultures that have given much to me. I have always done that in my travels and my work with Indigenous communities throughout Indian Country, the Western Hemisphere.

I worked at Claremore Indian Hospital, for the Cherokee Nation at W.W. Hastings Hospital, the University of Oklahoma Women's Clinic in Tulsa, and other healthcare settings for ten years as a Licensed Practical Nurse. I then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Spanish from Northeastern State University while learning the skills of community organizing, working for the international environmental organization Greenpeace Native Lands Campaign. During this time, I began writing for many Oklahoma and national Indigenous publications. My photography has shown at Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum.

My community and advocacy work, and event planning, has focused on Indigenous peoples' rights and the environment. I have a reputation for standing up for Native people who practice traditional ways and for honesty. I served as Faculty-In-Residence at the University of Oklahoma National Education for Women's Leadership Conference. In 2011, I attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples' Issues at the UN in Manhattan, New York, as an invited delegate with the Seventh Generation Fund. I served many years as the Media Coordinator for the Protecting Mother Earth Conference of the Indigenous Environmental Network. In 2016, with my daughter, I spent five weeks in the resistance camp Oceti Sakowin against the Dakota Access Pipeline at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota, and later returned to the camp with supplies. In April, 2020, I was hired by the Indigenous Environmental Network as coordinator for the Protecting the Peoples Emergency (PPE) Fund, a coalition of international social justice non-profit organizations formed to assess the needs of traditional Indigenous communities most threatened by the spread of the Cover-19 pandemic. By April 2021, we had shipped more than 200,000 protective face masks and other PPE to Canada, throughout the U.S., including the Quapaw Nation, along the U.S. Southern border, Mexico, Ecuador, and the Huni Kui Federation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil.

- * The Quapaw people deserve to have more input in the decisions that affect us. I will work to develop a positive mechanism to give tribal members a voice in decisions made by the Quapaw Nation.
- * Develop mechanisms to guard against conflict of interest in hiring of all staff and contractors.
- * The Downstream Casino debt must be paid down immediately, as it is a financial threat to the future generations of our Nation.
- * Term limits for Quapaw Nation Business Committee members.
- * Bear settlement should be paid equally to all Quapaw Nation members.
- * Many tribal nations are developing and implementing food systems, housing, health, and education programs that are more culturally based in Indigenous traditional knowledge and practice. I would like to Invite representatives of those nations to come to Quapaw, share their experiences with those projects, and possibly develop some of the same for the Quapaw Nation.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote in the Quapaw Nation election on July 24, 2021. Guh-ne-gay.

I can be reached at (918)316-2061, or by email at jokaydowell@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report



Haway O-Gah-Pah Nikashi,

As many of you are aware, the Department of Interior recently announced their formula for appropriating the \$20 billion that the agency was allocated in the American Recovery Plan for Indian country. One billion dollars is to be divided evenly amongst the 574 federally recognized tribal nations. The remaining funds will be allocated to tribes on a pro-rata basis according to tribal population and employee data. We wasted no time and began the application process the same day it was made available. On May 24th, the Chairman called a special business committee meeting to discuss potential uses for these funds with tribal citizens. The tribal member feedback was very thoughtful and informative. The meeting explained that there would be a short wait for official guidelines from the Department of Interior. This wait will provide the business committee time to form a plan to allocate these funds that comports with the interim guidelines that have been provided to date. While the interim guidelines are not all-inclusive, they are very clear about the allowance of individual member assistance. Therefore, the business committee made the unanimous decision to make \$13.25 million available to Quapaw members in the form of a distribution. The application form is now available and can be found on the Quapaw Nation website.

Quapaw Nation and its businesses continue to outperform historical earnings, and again Downstream and Saracen resorts reported the most profitable quarters in their history. These figures have caused the trade value of their bonds to rise well above par value and continue to attract the interest of the top lending institutions in the country. Over the last nine months, I have spent hundreds of hours on the phone and zoom with bankers and analysts from across the country, searching for the best traditional financing to pay down our principal debt. Raising \$700 million in capital is no small venture, but the continued exceptional performance of our businesses and employees has made that task more achievable. I hope to have more exciting news on this subject in the months to come.

With the continued decrease in active Covid 19 cases, Downstream brings concerts and shows back to the property. Brad Paisley will be kicking off his nationwide tour right here in our backyard on July 2nd. Tickets are now on sale at a discounted price for tribal members. So please come enjoy the concert and our 149th annual pow-wow over the 4th of July weekend.

Guh-ne-gay,
Guy Barker, Secretary-Treasurer

Quapaw Nation Approves \$13.25 Million Distribution To Members From ARP Funds

(Quapaw, OK) – Every Quapaw Nation citizen is set to receive a lump sum payment for Covid relief after the Quapaw Nation Business Committee unanimously approved a 13.25 million dollar distribution under the federal rescue plan late Friday afternoon.

“Our Quapaw people have felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, just as our brothers and sisters across Indian Country. The Business Committee appropriated these funds from the \$27.7 million to assist every person in our tribe. We are tasked with implementing a tribal rescue plan, and we continue to adopt a long-term framework for responsible self-governance. It starts here with assisting all our citizens.” Said Chairman Joseph Byrd. “I am encouraged by the outpouring of feedback from everyone throughout this process. I look forward to continuing work towards a sustainable strategic plan for the benefit of our people.”

A tier system will be used in deciding how much assistance each member gets with elders receiving the most. Elders will qualify for \$4,000 while adults qualify for \$3,000 and children \$1,000. The general framework of prior distributions will still be in place. To qualify, you must be a member for at least a year and fill out an assistance application made available to members sometime next week.

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work - Leadership At Downstream Doing Their Part

Quapaw, OK (May 14th, 2021) - Stuart Grayson is not an individual who has escaped challenges since joining Downstream Casino as the properties general manager. With the local job market deeply lacking in potential employees, casinos across the nation have had to adjust. For the property, finances have never looked better, but the employees are feeling the ramifications of not having proper staffing.



"We see the great things that are going on." Said an employee who wished to remain anonymous. "The culture has truly changed in this place. You can see it in the face of all employees, but we do feel over-worked. Yes, we realize there are staffing issues everywhere, but that doesn't change that fact. I never thought I would see a bunch of managers outside picking up trash though."

On Tuesday, May 12th, Stuart held the weekly *managers meeting*, as he does every week, but in the meeting he asked everyone to step up and do their part.

Each Director and Manager was handed a trash bag and gloves before walking outside to clean up the property.

One of the qualities that many employees seem to mention about Mr. Grayson is that he challenges you. He expects more from his executive staff, and it's this exemplification of leadership that has sent those "collecting a paycheck" down the road.

"The atmosphere has completely changed for the better. Everyone is expected to put forth the same amount of effort. It doesn't matter if you're a tribal member or not. If you don't want to be a part of the team, we're sorry to see you go, but we don't need you here." Said Lena McQuary. Lena is not only a long-time employee, having been on the property since the beginning of 2010, but also a tribal member.

It seems to be a common consensus that team members are worn out. Still, hopefully, with Missouri and Arkansas ending the glorification of unemployment, that employee pool will fill back up. The states of Oklahoma and Kansas shouldn't be far behind. Stuart Grayson knows there are many challenges yet to accomplish, and he's got those challenges in his sight.

Annual Memorial Dinner Quapaw, Okla. - Every year, we join together to remember those we lost. 2020 turned out to be an especially heartbreaking year. A worldwide pandemic stole so many shining lights from across the planet. -

Is A Reminder Of Those

We Lost And Those We

Still Have

Continued on next page

\$300,000 Grant Allows Quapaw Nation Paramedics To Connect With Elders And Vulnerable Populations

QUAPAW, Okla. — The Department of Health and Human Services awarded the Quapaw Nation nearly \$300,000, which will fund the tribe's Community Paramedic Program through 2022.

The funding is part of a rural health initiative to increase health care access and strengthen health networks in rural communities during COVID-19. The Quapaw Nation's grant will exclusively support the Community Paramedic Program.

Community resource paramedic programs typically cost less and more effectively assess the needs of patients who would otherwise make numerous calls to 911 or multiple trips to the hospital for non-emergency health care needs. Community Paramedic Kyle Arnell, who works under the Quapaw Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department, made 57 home visits last month alone. He said the grant provides is crucial to helping Ottawa county residents manage their health at home.

"We have had a very positive impact," Arnell said. "A lot of the patients I see are older folks who live by themselves. They need medical attention, but even just having someone stop by and talk with them has been helpful." The Quapaw Nation launched a Community Paramedic Program to encourage vulnerable populations to stay home and take pressure off emergency paramedics during the pandemic. Quapaw Nation Business Committee Member Zach Turley said the program has helped keep service medics available for higher emergency calls.

"We saw a dramatic dip in the number of emergency calls we had just by having a paramedic who was able to go and check on people," Turley said. "They no longer felt like they had to dial 911 to talk to someone they trusted."

Besides home visits, the Community Paramedic Program also conducts home safety surveys to assess fall risks, connect people with social services, and check on patients with telemedicine. Ottawa County residents interested in the Community Paramedic Program's services can reach out to Kyle Arnell for an assessment at karnall@quapawnation.com.

- Quapaw Nation was not left undisturbed.

The halls have seemed quieter. The gatherings we have had were scattered with masked individuals. No smiles, no family hugs. Fear seemed to rule above all else because the thought of us carrying the virus to another we loved was a risk no one wanted to take.

Over the past several weeks, that fear has begun to dissipate, and the yearning to return once more to family gatherings was made clear.

The masks were gone, the smiles had returned, and we were once again blessed with our youth reminding us of days not long ago.

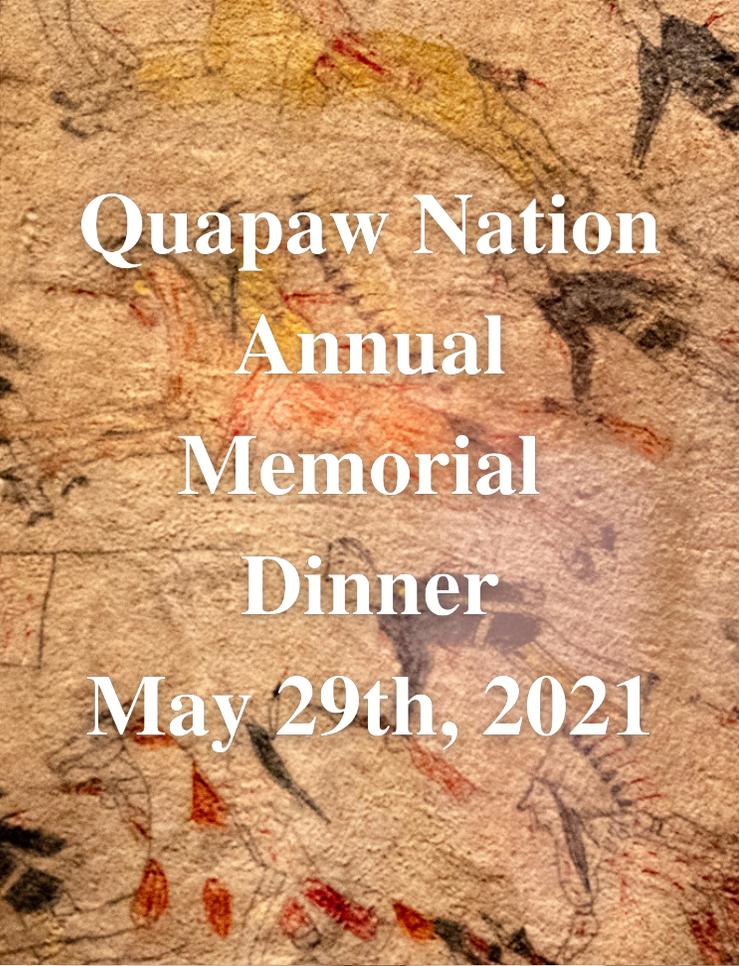
Days when we helped prepare those dinners and helped watch those fires. Days where our elders taught us what they could so that we may one day carry the mantle.



Tribal Citizens spent the morning paying respect to those we've lost and celebrating those still here

Now we watch as those tiny hands push the carts, and we can see an understanding of the importance of this day as it begins to form. We know there will come a day when those tiny hands are not so small anymore; those that are learning now become the teachers of tomorrow, and we are tasked with ensuring that those traditions - those cultures survive after we are gone.

The annual Memorial dinner is a time to remember those that we've lost, but also a time to celebrate those we still have. A time to forget what ails our relationships with one another and perhaps, if only for the moment, share in some laughter together.



Quapaw Nation
Annual
Memorial
Dinner
May 29th, 2021

The Quapaw Post

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To our readers,

We hope you have enjoyed the first edition of The Quapaw Post. Our team couldn't be happier to have our first edition be a special edition for the Quapaw Nation.

Though we are new to the Tribal news source, we are dedicated to bringing you information as it happens with real stories that affect Quapaw Nation and Indian Country today.

This magazine is for each of you; a symbol of what is and what can be for all Ogahpah people.

Here at the post, we are dedicated to Truth, Transparency, and Tradition.

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