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Quapaw Nation
2023 & Beyond
January 2023

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THE QUAPAW POST

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FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRMAN BYRD

Happy New Year!

Many of you, my constituents, have requested to be informed about the internal happenings of our tribe and our Business Committee. During my time as Chairman, I have made every effort to embrace my promise of transparency to you the people, but as the Business Committee has mentioned before, there is some information that due to confidentiality or proprietary issues, we cannot share. This issue, however, has unfortunately taken front and center stage of our tribal

government and businesses. With that, I'll cut directly to the chase.

As most of you are aware by now, there is a petition circulating calling for my removal as Chairman, based on inaccurate information and false accusations of my record. It is no secret that this person has opposed me politically for most of my time as Chairman. What is disappointing is that they are working in concert with some members of the Business Committee that want me out of office because they too oppose me politically. This recall is erroneous because I have continued to exceed and meet all requirements as chairperson. Under our tribal laws, I have attended and chaired every monthly meeting that I am required to attend, with the exception of our October 2022 meeting. That Saturday, my wife and I were expecting our second daughter any moment and I did take leave to be with my growing family at that time. During that time, I limited my capacity to critical matters only, but still made myself available. Two weeks later, much to her dismay, I was back attending tribal events and attending meetings in my normal capacity. There was also a period in August, after the new BC members were sworn in where I did not attend their orientation meetings. While I believe there is always an opportunity to learn and grow, I didn't think it necessary to be orientated because I always remain abreast of our current issues and I wanted the newly elected members to have one-on-one time with our directors as part of their introductory process.

As for my voting percentage, a small sample was taken during a small window of time and that is how my voting percentage appears low according to the petition. What is not included is the actual vote count from every BC member, meaning if there were already 4 affirmative votes on any given issue, it will pass because 4 is all that is needed for a majority vote. The same is true for any votes that were rejected. Also, under Roberts Rules, the Chair's sole duty in terms of voting is to be a tie breaker vote, and under our tribal laws I may vote on any given issue, but the Chair is not required. Again, most of the time in question, the issue was already either going to pass or it was going to fail. I would also like to add that votes don't just happen arbitrarily or without some degree of deliberation from the Business Committee.

As the Chairman, it is my duty to remain engaged in every single issue facing our tribe and our businesses that is voted on, whether my vote is counted or not. I am and have always been very much a part of the discussions and the business decisions that have led up to that point throughout my time as Chairman.

This is the second petition that has been circulated for my recall in the last few months. The first petition failed because it incorrectly cited language from a 1990 Ethics Policy that was never enacted by the Business Committee. The issue of the first petition was brought in the November monthly BC meeting during the Constitution Committee report, where it was shown to contain false and conflicting information by the chair of the Constitution Committee. In that meeting, the Vice-Chair took it upon herself to interject and interrupt the report and attempted to argue that the policy did exist and that it was in force, but never shared her research with the rest of the Business Committee. The issue of this unapproved 1990 Ethics Policy was again disputed in the December monthly BC meeting during the Constitution Committee report. In that meeting, the Vice-Chair again attempted to assert the validity of the policy based on her research and unofficial validation of former BC members. Nonetheless, in that same meeting, the Vice-Chair had the audacity to circulate the erroneous policy to everyone in attendance. After demonstrating numerous issues with the policy, the Constitution Committee chair requested a formal Business Committee opinion, not by a rogue BC member, but the Business Committee as a whole.



Here is where things get interesting. Although it was never enacted by past Business Committee members, following the December 2022 monthly meeting, without consulting the rest of the current Business Committee, the Vice-Chair had a tribal employee upload the resolution in dispute. The policy was posted on our governmental website as the law of our tribe for approximately 48 hours, before the Vice-Chair had them remove the policy. A few days later, at the request of the Constitution Committee chair, the Business Committee received a legal opinion stating the policy in question was invalid for several reasons. According to this legal opinion, not only was the Vice-Chair erroneous in her attempt to recall me, she intentionally misled tribal members in her efforts, and moreover, violated Section 9 of our Governing Resolution which charges the Secretary-Treasurer as the custodian of records. In addition to violating our Governing Resolution, she could very well have violated several laws contained in our Law and Order Code as a Vice-Chairperson and as a leader of our tribe.

Immediately following the December BC meeting, I reached out to one of the former BC members mentioned. In that inquiry, they verified that the conversation with the Vice-Chair had never taken place and her statements were false. As troubling as it was to learn that a sitting BC member intentionally made false statements, the issue of the Ethics Policy was not the Vice-Chair's only attempt to mislead our tribal members that day. Following the Directors Reports, the Vice-Chair went on record to say that she had never participated in discussing her family member's job position or pay and if anything is ever brought up she always recuses herself. This statement was also false, as I have numerous times, along with other BC members, witnessed the Vice-Chair advocate on her family member's behalf to executive leadership within our tribal administration. The Vice-Chairs intimidation and bullying tactics of our employees has been rampant in our business enterprises and throughout the tribal administration and I will no longer tolerate this behavior.

I have put too much faith in our Vice-Chair's willingness to acknowledge the error of her ways, but her behavior and attitude towards me and our employees has increasingly become worse. I believe that opposition is a natural part of the governmental process of our tribe and I encourage discourse in an effort to hold our elected officials accountable and our people informed. What I do not condone is elected officials feeding misleading and false information to our members to further their own political agendas. Unfortunately, that is precisely what has occurred by the circulation of these petitions.

As Chairman of our tribe, it is my duty and responsibility, at all times, to keep our members informed as well as represent the interests of our citizens and employees. I took an oath to uphold and support the laws of our tribe and that is what I intend to do until I no longer hold this office. It has been the highest honor of my life serving as your Chairman. Under my watch, I have witnessed positive growth in our businesses and our government, and I have also grown personally. There is still much work to be done for our people and I would like to continue doing the job that I was elected to do without constant attacks of my character and integrity paired with the potential downfall of our government all caused by the actions of a disoriented individual. However, I understand that the state of our tribal politics will not allow that so simply. Use me while you have me is all I have left to say. Use me while you have me and observe the good that comes from my service to our tribe.

Guhnegay,

**Joseph Tali Byrd
Chairman**



Quapaw Historic Preservation program attends 78th annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference

BY EVERETT BANDY

The Quapaw Historic Preservation Program (QHPP) was able to attend the 78th annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), this fall. Sometimes this conference is not close-by, but this year it was in Little Rock. Even though this was the 78th annual SEAC, this was only the third time the conference has been held in Arkansas.

Collaborative work between archeologists and tribal nations, as well as some of the latest research was discussed. The Quapaw Historic Preservation Program was also able to meet with staff from both the Historic Preservation Offices for Arkansas (AHPP) and Mississippi (MDAH) as well. We discussed our ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and our efforts to preserve sites of historic and cultural importance including archeological sites. On the last day of the conference, a “Public Archeology Day” was hosted in the Old State House Museum. The historic preservation offices for Arkansas and the Quapaw Nation (AHPP, and QHPP) co-hosted a booth discussing preservation efforts in the state. Around 214 members of the public visited our booth and in addition to visiting with us they were provided pamphlets on the Quapaw Museum, and children were able to see images of Quapaw buffalo robes and rock art and were provided paper bags and paint and were able to paint their own designs on the paper bags.

Through the Public Archeology Day event visitors were also provided with other information and activities such as a discussion of lithics (stone tools) and what to do if you find an archeological site. For example, certain laws were mentioned that protect sites in different ways such as NHPA, ARPA, and NAGPRA. The public was reminded that artifacts should be left in place to preserve the condition of the sites, not only so they can be studied by a professional but also so that they can continue to be protected and appreciated for generations to come. Every state has a historic preservation office, as well as a State Archeologist, and if you find an archeological site it should be reported to their office.

Durham, NC - Site of the 78th annual conference



In addition to learning and networking, our office was able to see creative ways to inform the public about our field from all participants who were present. One specific example were miniature 3-D printed artifacts that children were able to handle, such as miniature dug-out canoes. These objects provided a safe, hands-on method for participants to learn with. We plan to work with our colleagues to incorporate some of these concepts to update QHPP's public education efforts in the future.

Those who are interested in more information about the conference can visit: <https://archeology.uark.edu/seac2022-littlerock/>. You can find the contact information for every State Archeologist by visiting: <https://sites.google.com/view/state-archaeologists/find-your-state-archaeologist>. Contact information for every State Historic Preservation Office can be found online at <https://ncshpo.org/directory/>, and every Tribal Historic Preservation Office can be found here: <https://members.nathpo.org/thpodirectory>.





PETITIONS CIRCULATE LEADING TO QUESTION, HOW BROKEN IS THE 2004 ELECTION ORDINANCE? By JOHN E RODGERS

For years, literally generations, elections had always taken place the same way; nominations from the floor, show of hands and immediate implementation. Over the course of a few decades, minor amendments to the Governing Resolution and other resolutions passed and approved by General Council, created modifications to our governing documents. These changes led to the document that Quapaw Nation currently operates under, the 2004 Election Ordinance.

Background

In July 1991, the first real elements of a big change were introduced as Nancy Tuthill made a motion from the floor that, “the Governing Resolution be changed to people seeking elected office would file for that office 30 days in advance and let tribal members know through the newsletter.”

According to record, the motion passed but the minutes do not reflect voting tallies. At the General Council in 1992, language was introduced that would allow for staggered terms of elected officials. In all the previous years, every position on the BC was elected into office at the same time, unless of course there was a resignation, which would lead to a special election. The new language was drawn up by Lloyd Buffalo and JR Mathews based on Tuthill’s motion the prior year.

The language introduced in 1992 added a clear outline, but no vote was taken at the General Council meeting. The measure was reintroduced in 1993, and after further discussion, GC passed the new enactment by a vote of 43 yes, 0 no and 0 abstentions. The vote marked a significant change, and those changes were furthered in 1996 by Buffalo in the form of a motion, which would lead to the Absentee Ballot Ordinance.

The motion made by Buffalo – derived from discussion at General Council dating back to 1994 – called for “providing a procedure of voting by absentee ballot in the election of members to the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee.”

Before 2008, the average voter turn-out for Quapaw Nation elections hovered around 100 citizens, and prior to that year, no more than 200 votes were ever recorded at General Council. The first year Absentee Ballots were implemented was 1996, with 12 total absentees counted, but even those numbers failed to rise until the opening of Downstream Casino.

The numbers below represent general voting counts based on the minutes for General council of the years shown. While the numbers are not always for the election of an official, they can help us understand how many individual tribal members, of voting age, were in the room during these years. It should be noted that the first mention of door prizes was in 2005, and in 2008, Downstream Casino officially opened.

1988 - 83 votes	1996 - 79 votes	2003 - 81 votes	2009 - 230 votes	2014 - 529 votes
1990 - 127 votes	1997 - 76 votes	2005 - 98 votes	2010 - 405 votes	2015 - 550 votes
1992 - 122 votes	1999 - 49 votes	2007 - 134 votes	2011 - 427 votes	2018 - 798 votes
1994 - 122 votes	2001 - 81 votes	2008 - 282 votes	2012 - 340 votes	2019 - 658 votes

A past Chairman of the Election Committee, Russ Garber, introduced the “Election and/or Voting Ordinance in 2001, citing the numerous issues with prior elections. John Berrey – Member of the Business Committee at the time and later Chairman of Quapaw Nation – voted to pass the resolution, the second on the motion was not stated. The motion passed by a vote of 52 yes, 2 no and 4 abstentions. Another motion, made by Lloyd Buffalo, to “abolish the previous Absentee Ballot Ordinance also passed at the 2001 General Council meeting.

Elections would continue to take place on July 4, during the annual General Council meeting through 2001, unless a resignation called for a special meeting to take place. For many, moving elections away from General Council seemed to be a sticking point with the new Election Ordinance. Subsequent discussion on the voting measure would occur and an attempt to rescind the Election Ordinance would transpire in 2002 but fail to garner enough support.

A second attempt to rescind the Election Ordinance would arise at the 2003 General Council meeting and would once again fail. At the time, there appears to be a common feeling of being unsatisfied with the new rules and the way that they had come to pass. There is a reflection in the records of those that wished for “the old way” of voting to be put back in place. It was at the 2003 General Council meeting that individuals in the room agreed that amendments were needed, and though it does not specifically mention calling a special General Council meeting, we can discern that is indeed the direction this headed.

Like in so many other instances, our records only tell us part of the story. Though the meeting minutes of the past are much more detailed than they are today, we still lack certain aspects that can only be found by being in the room. Today, our meetings are recorded and saved for all to watch later. The technology we sometimes take for granted was not always made available, and for that reason, we are left to scour through the old minutes and make our own determinations based on our research.

The Election Ordinance that was passed in 2001 clearly had issues, and we can distinguish that from the minutes of meetings from the years that followed. May 17, 2003, the Election Ordinance would be briefly discussed as a tribal member had wanted to file for candidacy but was unable to file because he/she was not a registered -

voter. It was recorded that the Business Committee does not have the authority to change the ordinance, only General Council would be able to do so.

A few months before the special meeting held in Jan. 2004, a letter from the Election Committee was submitted to the Business Committee requesting that a meeting be called within the following 14 days, “to review the revised Election Ordinance submitted at General Council, so that any necessary changes/amendments may be submitted at the next Business Committee meeting.” The goal of the extra meeting would be to finalize the draft we now know as the 2004 Election Ordinance.

According to all documents available, the 2004 Election Ordinance was well planned out and in Dec. 2004, a motion was made by then BC Member, Tamara Summerfield, to “adopt the Draft Election Ordinance to present to General Council on Jan. 31, 2004 for final approval.” The motion was seconded by Lloyd Buffalo and passed with a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions. Direction had been given for the meeting to discuss proposed changes to the current election ordinance at the regularly scheduled General Council meeting that took place in July the year prior.

On the day of the Special General Council, dated Jan. 31, 2004, many questions arose pertaining to clarification on filing for candidacy, appointments of the Grievance Committee by the Business Committee, voter registration and direct conflicts with the 1956 Governing Resolution.

Carrie V. Wilson was concerned about the appointment of Grievance Committee members – should there be a vacancy – by the Business Committee and stated that she would like to see any revisions to the ordinance be presented at the previously announced April 24, 2004, Special General Council meeting, and at the regularly scheduled General Council in July.

Sidney Griffin believed that the citizens of Quapaw Nation should hold off voting on the election ordinance until the July meeting.

Robert Whitebird and Beth Blalock expressed concerns over the number of signatures required for the recall of Business Committee Members if they are not doing their job and other items such as, requiring voter registration cards.

Jesse Mckibben requested that the Election Day be set as July 4, a sentiment that still echoes strongly within the citizenry of Quapaw Nation.

The final vote for the 2004 Election Ordinance would be 86 yes, 72 no and 4 abstaining, but the vote came with the caveat that the “draft” would have opportunity for amendment – as announced several times in the meeting – at another special meeting in April of that year; the only issue was that the meeting in April never took place. At the regularly scheduled General Council in July 2004, the Election Ordinance Draft was never discussed.

The good, the bad, the ugly

Over the years, there have been several concerns about the 2004 Election Ordinance. Many have lost faith in the document, feel that it has failed them in one way or another and have tried to rescind it on multiple occasions; but is it all bad?

There are things within the 2004 Election Ordinance that standardize voting practices for a people displaced, meaning that just because we are scattered across the continental United States, we are still afforded an opportunity to vote, to participate.

Section 8 discusses candidacy and qualifications and grants opportunity for any registered voter to challenge eligibility of a candidate. This specific section was appraised in 2021, when previous B.C. Chairman John Berrey threw his name in the hat as a candidate for Vice-chairman.

At every turn, Berrey’s candidacy was challenged, and in every instance, the Election Committee conceded that there was no valid reason to keep him from being a candidate in the upcoming election.

The situation was unique in that, although Berrey was facing allegations from Quapaw Nation, he had not been convicted of any crime, and according to all our documents prior to the 2004 Election Ordinance, should have had the opportunity to run.

Precedence was set when the Business Committee weighed in on the subject and voted to disqualify Berrey as a candidate, gaining their authority to do so from section 8.9 of the Election Ordinance.

The decision sent shockwaves throughout Quapaw Nation, with some wondering if the Business Committee had overstepped and others arguing that because of the unique situation, the Business Committee had no choice but to step in. At the time of this decision, citizens within Quapaw Nation – including members of the Election Committee – had no clarity on what allegations Berrey faced.

As we reflect back more than a year later, no matter which side of the aisle you are on the idea is contentious. The issue with appeals is that there are no clear guidelines that the Business Committee must stick to in order to determine eligibility; an issue found often in the Election Ordinance.

Section 13 offers individuals the opportunity for dispute after an Election has been called and lays out every conceivable way that an individual may find issue in the election process.

A window to challenge the results of an election can be found in Section 13, and in 2021, this section was also put to the test. Two candidates in 2021 offered up different disputes based on several issues including, erroneously labeled absentee ballots.

The first step in the challenge process was met by the Election Committee and their denial of the challenges based on extra steps taken to circumvent the issue of mislabeled ballots. The next step in the process was for the Grievance Committee to weigh in. The Grievance Committee declined to validate merit of the challenges by a majority vote a few weeks later.

Section 16 offers clear direction to interested parties on how to handle disputes, make changes in law, and even recall elected officials, if the need arises.

One particularly powerful tool rarely utilized in the document can be found in section 16.1, under petitions.

“The members of the Quapaw tribe reserve the power to independently propose ordinances, resolutions, or other enactments affecting the Quapaw Tribe. Any proposed initiative measure shall be presented to the Business Committee accompanied by a petition [signed] by at least 100 registered Voters of the Tribe. Upon receipt of the petition, the Business Committee shall either adopt the initiative measure by a majority vote without alteration or call an election for the purpose of allowing Registered Voters to vote on the initiative.”



In this specific section, key words such as “shall,” “binding” and “non-appealable” are used that show clear authority in the voice of General Council. What this means, is that any registered voter has the power to propose a resolution with the support of at least 99 other registered voters. Even if the Quapaw Business Committee refused to accept the measure, it would have to be sent out for the General Council to vote on. If the General Council approved the new resolution, it must be adopted, it would be “binding.”

Concerns have been often raised about this section revolving around the number of signatures needed to recall an official, and whether a valid reason is needed to accomplish that task. According to the document, 250 signatures from registered voters are needed, a number harder to reach when compared to the number of signatures required to change laws within the nation, but when it comes to reasoning, the language is ambiguous at best.... While there is a body charged with verifying the validity of registered voters, the Enrollment Committee, and the validity of the petition, the Election Committee, there are no guidelines as to what constitutes a valid recall. It would be safe to assume that you could recall an official because you don't like the way they dress or the car they drive. Maybe you don't like the shape of their eyebrows, the point is, determining what makes a recall valid is not outlined in the document.

Overall, the 2004 Election Ordinance was a step in the right direction, with an eye on the future. Many of the issues are based on a requirement of trust. Do we trust that our elected leaders and appointed committee members will be fair in determining appeals? Do we trust ourselves in creating valid reasons to recall officials? Updates to the document are entirely possible, and because of technology, future elections could become a much easier process for all involved. With each challenging event, Quapaw Nation can learn and assess the issues at hand. Any changes of the Governing Resolution, including the election process, can be addressed by the Constitution Committee with the help of the Election Committee and through the guidance of General Council citizens. Whether the ordinance is broken or not is something the body of General Council will have to decide. It is only through the power of General Council that amendments to our governing laws may come to pass.

NATIVE AMERICAN HAIR TRENDS BY RACHEL CRAVENS

Throughout history Native American people have worn their hair in various ways from tribe to tribe, often meaning different things for each tribe. For many native people, long hair symbolizes power, physical strength and masculinity in males. Long hair most often represents a healthy pride and a strong cultural identity. In most tribal cultures, men and women are encouraged to grow their hair.

There is also significance in the way the hair is worn. There is usually a way to wear the hair for many ceremonies and dances. There are sometimes even special ceremonies for the first haircut, but afterward let it grow. Many native people will cut their hair when there is a death in the immediate family as a representation of their sorrow that physically displays loss. The cut hair represents the time with their loved one, which is over and gone, and the new growth is the life after.

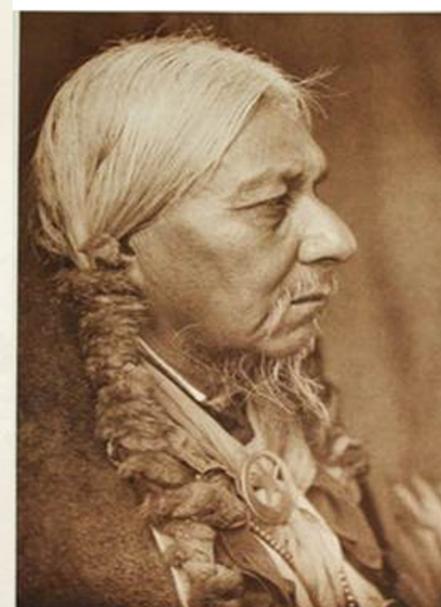
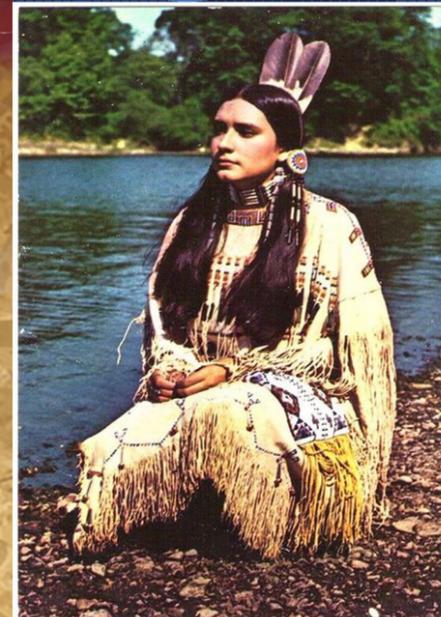
For many Native Americans, braided hair signifies unity with the infinite, and allowing the hair to flow freely symbolizes the free flow of life. It is sometimes believed that long hair in Native American culture physically represents the growth of the spirit, which some say permits heightened perception and connection to all things.

“More often, Quapaw men shaved their heads except for a scalp-lock (one long lock of hair in back) and wore a porcupine roach on top, and Quapaw women wore their hair either loose or braided,” said Orrin Lewis on bigorin.org.

The porcupine hair roach is often made of guard hair of the porcupine, the tail hair of the white-tail deer, moose hair, or artificial stiff hair; often, the hair is dyed a bright color, such as red or yellow, which can symbolize a veteran of combat.

For Quapaw people, there are a variety of ways hairstyles are worn today. In a joint article on archeology.uark.edu, Carrie Wilson and George Sabo III state that in earlier years, “Married women wore their hair loose, but unmarried women wore braids rolled into coils fastened behind each ear and decorated with ornaments.”

We would love to see your Native style, past or present! Share a photo of yourself or a family member's hairstyle at thequapawpost.com or on The Quapaw Post Facebook account.





QUAPAW NATION ELDER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Quapaw Nation once again celebrated the annual Elder's Christmas Dinner Saturday night, Dec. 17, at the Downstream Pavilion. Elders traveled from across the region to reunite with their friends and family for a night of fun and food.

"It's great to see," said Rhonda Weaver. "I call the elders my family, they become part of my family. It's always nice to come and visit with them, talk with them and just have a good time."

For some elders, the annual Christmas Dinner is one of the few opportunities to see their fellow tribal members. This event provides the perfect opportunity for elders across the Quapaw Nation to get together, reminisce and catch up from the past year.

This year elders who could not drive to the dinner were offered a ride from Title VI Director Rhonda Weaver. Only one elder needed a ride this year, but they didn't miss out on the fun-filled night thanks to Weaver's generosity.

As the guests left the dinner, Vicechair Callie Bowden handed out blankets and coffee to the elders. The blanket is designed after the Three Villages Robe, a historical artifact of the Quapaw Nation that tells a story of a battle, a ceremony, and the alliance of the Quapaw and the French.

The blankets are now available for purchase at Quapaw Nation's Museum Gift Shop and Heckaton Gift Shop at Downstream Casino and Resort.





QUAPAW NATION CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE CHILDREN'S PARTY AT HISTORIC COLEMAN THEATRE

DECEMBER 16, 2022



OP-ED



QUAPAW NATION REPRESENTED AT THE WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT



President Joe Biden address the 2022 Tribal Nations Summit delegation.



United States Department of Interior where Tribal Nations Summit was held in Washington D.C.

Joseph Byrd, Chairman of Quapaw Nation and Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior



QUAPAW NATION REPRESENTED AT THE WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT

By Joseph Tali Byrd
Chairman

Last month, I had the honor of traveling with a delegation of Chiefs to Washington D.C. to represent the Quapaw Nation at the White House Tribal Nations Summit. This Summit was started in the Obama Administration, was suspended during the Trump Administration, and held virtually in the Biden Administration. This year marked the first time in six years that this summit was held in person, and approximately 300 tribal nations were represented. The White House Tribal Nations Summit provides an opportunity to engage directly with senior Administration officials and to foster a relationship built on respect for tribal sovereignty and self-governance, honoring federal trust and treaty responsibilities, protecting tribal homelands, and conducting regular, meaningful, and robust consultation.

Prior to the start of the summit, I visited the Department of Justice to meet with officials from the Office of Tribal Justice and the Environmental and Natural Resources Division. Topics of discussion included environmental justice and water rights adjudication. I took this opportunity to advocate for our reservation water rights which are still preserved and will be of utmost importance as we continue to experience global climate change and a shortage of water. It will be beneficial for Quapaw Nation to quantify those rights and this conversation was the first step in doing so. I also took the opportunity to briefly explain the status of the Bear settlement and that because it had stalled in Congress this session, it was still a failure of the federal government to uphold its federal-trust responsibility to Quapaw Nation. Only when the funds have been appropriated and distributed to us will it be complete, but until that time we will continue to pressure the federal government to live up to its word. I anticipate further meetings with DOJ officials to meet and discuss these important topics further in the days to come.



The summit kicked off with a welcome from Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior, who introduced President Biden. The President's remarks included the announcement of a Presidential Memorandum establishing uniform standards to be implemented across all federal agencies regarding how Tribal consultations are conducted. This will also require annual training for federal employees who work with Tribal Nation or on policies with Tribal implications. In alignment with this Presidential Memorandum, nine agencies will implement new or update tribal consultation policies. These include the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Additional remarks reaffirmed this administration's commitment to strengthen and partner with tribal nations to uphold trust and treaty obligations, to invest in infrastructure across Indian Country, improving health care for tribal citizens, restoring and protecting tribal homelands, and strengthening tribal economies.

Other topics of the 2-day summit included Education and Native Language revitalization, Mental Health, Climate and Clean Energy, and access to capital and economic development. In addition to the American Recovery Plan, what we know as ARPA, the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** and the Inflation Reduction Act were also topics of discussion. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides more than **\$13 billion** in direct funding to support Tribal communities and makes tribes eligible to apply for and request billions more. This includes initiatives in areas such as internet, roads, bridges, public transit, clean water and sanitation improvements. The BIL makes the largest single investment in tribal infrastructure in US history. The **Inflation Reduction Act** is intended to build a clean energy economy and combat climate change by providing funding for tribes to plan for and adapt to climate change, mitigate drought, and shift to clean energy production. The IRA provides more than \$720 million in direct climate resilience and energy funding to support tribal nations.

Overall, the White House Tribal Nations Summit fostered a high energy environment of tribal leaders from across Indian Country, all focused on positive outcomes for their people and tribal communities. I enjoyed the experience of witnessing all the amazing projects that were funded and executed over the last couple years during a hard period of uncertainty due to the covid pandemic. From solar farms to youth and language centers, Indian Country has made significant strides with this funding. Quapaw Nation focused its efforts on technology and public safety to better respond to our citizens, and it invested in our employees to minimize impacts to our daily operations. During this challenging time, the Business Committee also made the conscious decision to distribute **\$24.67 million dollars** in covid relief directly to our citizens to address financial hardships they encountered. To date, this is the largest sum of money to have ever been distributed by the tribe and I remain honored and humbled to serve as the Chairman through this period.



There remains much work to be done to secure a good future for the next generation and the White House Tribal Nations Summit was great motivation for me as an elected official of our tribe. The amount of information was significant but my key takeaways from this summit are as follows: Quapaw Nation must be more strategic in every facet and we must extend beyond dependency on gaming dollars to a more independent financial position. Quapaw Nation must be more aggressive and methodical when it comes to grant applications to expand our programs and services to our people. Lastly, Quapaw Nation must be even more forward thinking in its approach to provide a long-term sustainable future for generations to come. The time is now, and as Ogahpah people, **our time is now.**



2023 WHITE HOUSE
TRIBAL NATIONS
SUMMIT





Quapaw Nation

As one year ends, another begins. As we close the chapter over a historic 2022 for the Quapaw Nation, 2023 looks to have much more in store. Refinancing the Downstream and Saracen properties creates substantial revenue growth for the Quapaw Nation, increasing tribal member benefits, expanding departments, and more. Along with the refinance, the Arkansas-based sports betting platform Bet Saracen creates another revenue source for the tribe.

By Austin Headlee

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People are asking: what does the Quapaw Nation have planned for 2023? The Quapaw Post talked with Quapaw Nation directors, from cultural departments to social services, about their upcoming projects and events so tribal members can be aware of what is happening around the tribe.

Quapaw Nation Tribal Member Services:

Quapaw Nation Tribal Member Services' goal is to work together as a team to provide the best services possible from each department for all our Tribal members. We will strive to improve and expand the programs and services we offer to Quapaw Nation Tribal members. Communication and availability are key to a successful working relationship with Tribal members and will be our primary focus.

Communications department:

The Communications Department plans to offer many easy and convenient ways to disseminate information to the Quapaw people. Starting in January, the communications team is recreating the Quapaw Nation's government website to make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

Additionally, the Communications Department will publish a quarterly finance report from all Quapaw Nation departments along with The Quapaw Post magazine. The Communications Department will also publicize special election and annual election information to inform the voters about the candidates. Current events will also be covered on thequapawpost.com.

2023 is shaping up to be a busy year, and the communications team plans to inform all tribal members about the events happening as they happen. As the Quapaw Nation achieves new milestones, holds events, or needs information to be publicized, know that the Communications Department will be there along the way.

2023 & BEYOND

Quapaw Casino:

A new facility is in the planning process for the Quapaw Casino. The new building should create a modern and exciting environment to attract new patrons and build off the casino's already robust player base. Stay on the lookout as details about the new facility will be revealed throughout the year as plans are finalized.

Counseling Services:

Quapaw Counseling Services treats alcohol and drug dependency through abstinence, and proper recovery includes developing a healthy lifestyle based on honesty and respect for oneself and others. Quapaw Counseling Services treats the disease of chemical dependency through mutual support, individual and group counseling, and accepting personal responsibility.

Quapaw Counseling Services is committed to providing treatment of the highest quality at an affordable price through a well-trained and deeply caring staff of experienced professionals.

Outpatient substance abuse services include DUI school, anger management courses and assessments, referral services, urine analysis, and Alcohol and Drug Substance Abuse Courses (ADSAC).

Services are provided to both Native Americans and non-Native Americans. All services are scheduled by appointment, and some of the services require payment.

Quapaw Tribal Library:

The Quapaw Tribal Library spent time listening to our tribal members and the community to fully understand better ways of providing materials, programs, and services that would benefit everyone. As a direct result, the library will offer a greater variety of traditional classes, including basic sewing classes, moccasin making, traditional cooking classes, ribbon skirt classes, and pottery classes. We are working on the schedules and dates for the classes now and hope to have some announcements in early February. We are also recording traditional artists making their crafts and storing them on DVDs which will eventually be checked out from the library and viewed online once the collection is complete. The goal is to have a series of 12 Native American artisans on DVD by the end of 2023. We are also reviving our in-person STEAM classes with the OLC and Storytime classes with the younger children.

The library is constantly adding new materials to the library books, audiobooks, videos, reference materials, etc. New additions during December included graphic novels for children and teens and more Native American materials.

Four public access computers are available for public use, and one children's computer pre-loaded with educational games and activities is available as well. With school back in session, the library sees increased computer usage by students and people looking online for jobs in the area.

Quapaw Tribal Library offers eBooks and eAudiobooks through Overdrive's Libby platform. Libby is easy to download to desktop computers, mobile devices, and eReaders. It is also simple to navigate and use. Quapaw Tribal Library has offered access to the Libby platform since 2014 through generous support from grant funding from IMLS.

If you have not been to the library lately, come by and check out the wonderful resources your tribal library has to offer.

Quapaw Tribal Museum:

The Quapaw Tribal Museum is open to the public and focuses on preserving the traditions and ways of life of the Quapaw Nation. The museum has an exhibit dedicated to the Quapaw Nation's 150th Powwow, which will remain on display until the end of January. Come by, check it out before its removal, and check out the fabulous gift shop!

Child Care Development Fund:

A successful 2023 for CCDF means that we assist eligible low-income Native American families with financial assistance and increase the availability, affordability, and quality of childcare for these families. To be successful, we organize or assist in offering multiple trainings for childcare providers throughout the year, cultural events such as educational children's powwows and our Fall Gathering, and working with different tribal programs that affect our youth. CCDF is currently working on a Splash Pad/Outdoor Educational Park for childcare facilities and area communities that will be located behind the Quapaw Nation Wellness Center. This will give the children in our community a place to not only cool off in the summer but also learn about the Quapaw Nation during the off-season. CCDF is also currently working on renovating the O-Gah-Pah Learning Center Playground with updated equipment and ground surfacing.

Some events for tribal members coming up will be the Culture is Preventing: Native Youth Spring Powwow on May 19th, 2023. CCDF is assisting the Youth Program Manager to provide this for the community. We have the "Block Party" for children, which falls on June 30th, 2023. This allows them to spread awareness of the CCDF Program and, at the same time, give the children something fun to do on what is usually the first day of the Quapaw Powwow.

Quapaw Nation Fitness Center:

As their motto suggests, "Getting Fit and Having Fun" has never been easier, thanks to the Quapaw Nation Fitness Center. We see success as spreading awareness about healthy activities and wellness. Every spring, the Fitness Center hosts a weight loss challenge, scavenger hunts, and specialized classes, such as Tia Chi, walking class, and low-intensity interval training. We also help other Departments with STEM fairs, Health Fairs, and other Tribal activities.

For more information, contact the QN Fitness Center at (918) 238-3154.

O-Gah-Pah Learning Center:

OLC wants to help children develop a positive self-concept, enhance their imagination, develop healthy lifestyles and learn to communicate.

OLC hosts four family events throughout the year to get children's families involved while getting to know their teachers. We also conduct two parent-teacher conferences and multiple classroom parties throughout the year.

The goal for the center is to get certified with DHS and the STARS Program; we also want to start implementing our ProCare System to communicate more effectively with their families.

OLC has 23 staff members currently and is continually looking to expand staffing, currently looking for teachers.

For more information, call the OLC at 918-238-3153 or email OLC@quapawnation.com.

Enrollment Department:

The enrollment meeting is held the Tuesday before the Business Committee meeting, the third Saturday of the month. The deadline to submit paperwork for each month is the Friday prior to the meeting, at the close of the day.

The Enrollment Department provides an array of services that support not only Tribal members but various departments within the Quapaw Nation.

Feel free to reach out for more information about the enrollment department; call Kari Sisson at 918-542-1853 ext. 0257 or Kristen Keys at ext. 0262

QUAPAW NATION 2023 & BEYOND

Quapaw Nation Higher Education & Quapaw Nation Work Force:

Success for QNHE & QNWF in 2023 is to continue to assist our Tribal members in achieving their goals. Education is life-long learning. It is never too late to acquire new skills, knowledge, or training. With a positive mindset and the support of not only QNHE & QNWF but all of Tribal Member Services, we believe our Tribal members can achieve any goals they set, even if they face challenges along the way. QNHE & QNWF look forward to a fantastic year in 2023, carrying on existing programs and introducing new programs to broaden opportunities for our Tribal members and our community.

A new Quapaw Nation Internship Program launches in January for those 18 years and older. Budgeting & Financing 101 classes will be offered on March 22nd, 29th, and April 5th. A graduation banquet will also be offered for Quapaw Nation graduates (high school, college, and vocational schools), and the first-ever QNHE/QNWF Alumni Picnic will take place in September.

QNWF offers resume prep, mock interviews, interview clothing, and more assistance for adults looking to get further in their desired career field. Email qnworkforce@quapawnation.com to set up an appointment. Email Krista Pierce at kpierce@quapawnation.com or Mollie Drapeau at mollie.drapeau@quapawnation.com for more information.

Family Services:

The Family Services Department handles many sectors for the tribe, Indian Child Welfare, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault, General Assistance, Burial Assistance, Employment Assistance, Suicidal Prevention for adolescents and young adults, and individual therapy. Our goal for 2023 is to serve as many people as possible and help provide stability in the lives of individuals facing crises in one form or another. The Family Services Department has applied for a building grant in order to build a new Family Services building that will allow us to apply for more grants and programs such as a supervised visitation grant, train a worker to be a forensic child abuse investigator, have a way to house domestic violence families who are fleeing situations for short term, looking into working in Adult Protective Services, and opening more tribal foster homes. The housing grant approval will come sometime in June 2023 if the grant is approved for the building.

Family Services looks to promote foster homes and set up a booth at functions throughout the year, always promoting child abuse awareness and domestic violence and sexual assault. Youth Program will host several events throughout the year, such as a Youth Powwow, camp in the summer, and other youth activities throughout the year promoted through the Quapaw Post. For more information, contact the Family Services Department at (918) 238-3152 or email FamilyServices@quapawnation.com.

QUAPAW NATION 2023 & BEYOND

Title VI/Caregiver:

Title VI Program seeks to assist the elders in staying physically and mentally healthy so we may remain in their homes longer. Our goal for 2023 is to provide nutritional meals, supportive services, transportation, and recreation to serve as many elders as possible. Lunches are served five days a week, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Homebound meals require a physician's statement or Quapaw Nation CHR recommendation to receive meals. Homebound participants receive hot meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and frozen dinners on Tuesday and Thursday. The delivery route includes Commerce, Quapaw, and Peoria.

Title VI recipients must be 55 years or older and be CDIB cardholders. The spouses of those who meet the requirements are also eligible.

Family caregiver services include individual counseling, support groups, and training to assist caregivers. Title VI also offers nutritional education, hosts arts and crafts, provides monthly health screening services provided by the Quapaw Nation CHR, and offers transportation to special events throughout the year. Call Rhonda Weaver at 918-238-3155 or email her at rweaver@quapawnation.com for more information about Title VI and caregiver services.

Social Services:

The Social Services Department is working on incorporating a couple of new programs for 2024. The business committee approved a \$200 increase in utility assistance for 2023. Tribal members aged 64 and under are now \$1400.00; for Elders 65 and over is now \$1700. They also changed the veterans' assistance, where they only have to apply once a year. It is very important that tribal members get their utility bills to us as soon as we get them because it takes time for us to print and mail checks. Tribal members can email their bills to: socialservices@quapawnation.com.

Farmer's Market & Food Hub:

The Farmer's Market and Food Hub is currently in the planning and design phase of their gardens and buildings. New species of vegetables are assessed to our seed bank annually. Eight beehives are currently in operation and more will be introduced later in the spring.

The Food Hub is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers a wide variety of food options, including beef and bison from the Quapaw Cattle Company. Live Farmer's Markets will resume in May and go through October during the first and third Friday of every month in that span. Follow our Facebook page to stay up to date on our events and check out quapawfarmersmarket.com for more information.

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Quapaw Business Committee December 2022 Summary

The following summary is not the official meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Present – Member Newton (Zoom), Secretary-Treasurer Supernaw, Chairman Byrd, Vice-Chair Bowden, Member Shawnee, Member Mercer

Phone Polls Approved Since Last Meeting

9 PHONE POLLS APPROVED

Chairman's Report

Bear Update:

New members of Congress will be sworn in next month in January. Committee and Sub-committee appointments are being discussed currently and should be finalized by the end of January, first of February.

The Bear Settlement bill will need to be re-introduced which means it will receive a new number and will no longer be HR 4715. This new bill will be introduced in both the House and Senate, where we have support of our congressional delegation for sponsorship.

The Business Committee plans to take a trip to Washington D.C. once the Committee and Subcommittee appointments are solidified to advocate for the bill. Based on the most current information given to us, there are new players in this congressional term that increases our support for passage, which increases our chances of bringing this issue to a close. The Business Committee will continue to update our citizens as we receive information on the Bear Settlement Bill.

During the first week of December, I traveled with a delegation of Chiefs to Washington D.C. for the White House Tribal Nations Summit. This Summit was started in the Obama Administration, was suspended during the Trump Administration, and held virtually in the Biden Administration. This marked the first time in six years that a summit like this was held in person and approximately 300 tribal nations were represented. The White House Summit provides an opportunity to engage directly with senior Administration officials and to foster a relationship built on respect for tribal sovereignty and self-governance, honoring federal trust and treaty responsibilities, protecting tribal homelands, and conducting regular, meaningful, and robust consultation.

Before the summit started, I traveled to the Department of Justice to meet with officials from the Office of Tribal Justice and the Environmental and Natural Resources Division. Topics of discussion included environmental justice and water rights adjudication. I took this opportunity to advocate for our reservation water rights which are still preserved and will be of utmost importance as we continue to experience global climate change and a shortage of water. It will be beneficial for Quapaw Nation to quantify those rights and this conversation was the first step in doing so. I also took the opportunity to briefly explain the status of the Bear settlement and that because it had stalled in Congress this session, it was still a failure of the federal government to uphold its federal-trust responsibility to Quapaw Nation. Only when the funds have been appropriated and distributed to us will it be complete, but until that time we will continue to pressure the federal government to live up to its word. I anticipate further meetings with DOJ officials to meet and discuss these important topics further in the days to come. The summit kicked off with a welcome from the Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland who introduced President Biden. His remarks included a Presidential Memorandum establishing uniform standards to be implemented across all federal agencies regarding how Tribal consultations are conducted. This will also require annual training for federal employees who work with Tribal Nation or on policies with Tribal implications. In alignment with this Presidential Memorandum, nine agencies will implement new or update tribal consultation policies. These include the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Additional remarks reaffirmed this administration's commitment to strengthen and partner with tribal nations to uphold trust and treaty obligations, to invest in infrastructure across Indian Country, improving health care for tribal citizens, restoring and protecting tribal homelands, and strengthening tribal economies.



Chairman's Report CONTINUED

Education and Native Language revitalization, Mental Health, Climate and Clean Energy, and access to capital and economic development were all topics of discussion throughout the 2-day summit. In addition to the American Recovery Plan, what we know as ARPA, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act were also topics of discussion. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides more than \$13 billion in direct funding to support Tribal communities and makes tribes eligible to apply for and request billions more. This includes initiatives in areas such as internet, roads, bridges, public transit, clean water and sanitation improvements. The BIL makes the largest single investment in tribal infrastructure in US history. The Inflation Reduction Act is intended to build a clean energy economy and combat climate change by providing funding for tribes to plan for and adapt to climate change, mitigate drought, and shift to clean energy production. The IRA provides more than \$720 million in direct climate resilience and energy funding to support tribal nations.

Key takeaways from this summit. Quapaw Nation must be more strategic in every facet and we must extend beyond dependency on gaming dollars to a more independent position. Quapaw Nation must be more aggressive and methodical when it comes to grant applications. And Quapaw Nation must be even more forward thinking in its approach to provide a better future for generations to come. The time is now, our time is now.

Accounting Report (Eric Bohn) gave his report on monthly and year to date general fund revenue and expenses, tribal member health benefits, social services benefits, and education benefits. ARPA applications continue to be processed and the application deadline is 12/31/2022. Children's Christmas check application deadline is 12/31/2022.

Constitution Committee (Roman Kihega) Committee continues to meet weekly, thankful Vance Gilmore has joined the committee and began discussing the overall BC role. Can't find where the BC can conduct business outside of this monthly meeting. Trying to find that authority. What delineates a phone poll from regular business? 1/28/23 - 1/29/23 (if needed) Special General Council at Downstream Pavilion. This is a continuance of the 10/22/22 meeting agenda and no new business can be brought up. A proposed amendment was tabled for the BC to obtain legal feedback and implications where the BC is removed from all boards and commissions. Whitten Burrage will have that feedback by 12/31. Per the Constitution Committee, the 1990 Code of Ethics changed the Governing Resolution. In addition, 031905-C was passed for HUD compliance and must be reconciled with the 1990 document and determine which is the prevailing document. Requested formal feedback from the BC as to whether the 1990 document is still in force or the 2005 document.

Vice-Chair - The 1990 Code of Ethics is still in force per 2 previous BC members. All meeting minutes are available on-line. Question on whether it is null and void or still in force.

Election Committee (Linda Davis) Election Committee met on 12/14 to set the 2023 annual election calendar. The annual election will be on July 22, 2023. Met with an attorney to gain clarification on the Election Committee's validation role pertaining to the recall petition. More time is needed to work through that. Will call for Special Election due to the BC vacancy. They are scheduled to meet again on Monday to plan the Special Election. The Election Committee does have a vacancy and will discuss filling that vacancy on Monday as well.

Directors Reports

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE - Everett Bandy - we work on compliance with historic preservation act for federal projects. Last month, we reviewed 385 projects in the Quapaw Nation's ancestral area of interest and several on-going agreement documents. Several conferences were discussed.

Food Sovereignty - Michelle Bowden - described the plans for the upcoming year, including row crops, drip irrigation system, equipment building, wash and pack house, berry and fruit trees, pavilion, trellises, and beehives (currently 9 and going to 20). Monthly tutorials to start up again. The initial one will focus on bison stew. No plans for marijuana or hemp cultivation have been discussed.

IT - Michael Richardson - work continues on a secure Tribal Member Portal and hope to roll that out Q1 2023. Also, planning on upgrading security cameras so storage is on the Cloud. Nominated for the Change Maker award for the Tribal Member Portal.

OPEN FORUM TOPICS

<The audio is low when Tribal Members did not speak into the microphone so not all comments were captured throughout Open Forum. All comments listed are from Tribal Members except for those noted.>

1. Chairman dispelled a number of rumors - Title VI is not closing. Elder Housing is not closing. All of our money is kept in bank accounts under the care of our CFOs and our Secretary-Treasurer.
2. Youth Programs - hiring a contract therapist to work afternoons and evenings for children and their families. January 18-20 hosting a pottery class for 6th - 12th grade from 5-7pm. 15 slots available for Native American children.
3. ARPA distribution to tribal members - all BC members support this. We do need to look at sustainable programs for the future and the survey will help with this.
4. Requested 20-year history on grants and grant dollars returned over that time.
5. Bear - discussion on starting the bill process over and changing the bill language. Chairman - requires additional consultation with Congress members and their staff.
6. Bear - BC passed a resolution last year requesting an equal distribution of the proceeds, but there was never an effort to put that in the legislation. In past discussions, it was stated changing the language would be like starting all over again. Question to each BC member, are each of you committed to making an effort to getting that resolution incorporated into the legislation?
7. Concern regarding Bear distribution to minors. Please place their funds into an interest bearing trust account and when they turn 18, it's available to them.
8. Requested clarification for those tribal members who have passed away while waiting for the settlement to be appropriated.
9. Discussion on BC members not returning phone calls.
10. TERO ordinance is in draft form. Should be ready for vote July 4 next General Council.
11. Language department update. Chairman - awarded a BIA grant. Billy Joe Proctor has been working on a language dictionary. We do want to have better programming and an established department. Technology for language could be funded by ARPA.
12. Law enforcement vehicles - high mileage vehicles reallocated as a depreciated asset and must comply with grant requirements.
13. BC compensation is really coming from DDA even though we want that changed back to the tribe.
14. Request to replace chairs in the Community Building with ones that are more comfortable.
15. Encouraged the BC to hire a BC Secretary.
16. Due to the pandemic, there's been a Great Resignation and Great Relocation. We're missing out on an opportunity to give tribal members home.
17. Thanked the BC for the most recent donation to the NAC to fund improvements.
18. Are there plans to rebuild the Quapaw Casino? Vice-Chair - a feasibility study was done. Should have the GM come present his ideas and that's almost complete. They have enough money in their bank account to fund the new building. This project has been in the works since 2018 and it's a priority for the safety of our patrons and employees.
19. Discussion on what to do with the old Quapaw Casino building.
20. What are the plans for the employees in the trailer with mold? We want to have input into the long-term solution. Vice-Chair - Those employees will go into temporary office at QSA until the permanent location becomes available. For long-term, give your input to your director.
21. Asked the BC to review the employee policy on mold exposure.
22. Discussion on education for all tribal employees with incentives to pursue education during business hours to affect long-term change.
23. To conserve time in 1/28/2023 Special General Council, Please submit those questions to the Constitution Committee at constitution.committee@quapawnation.com who can follow up with their legal counsel and the BC.
24. Discussion and questions on the BC member who resigned and then was hired as a full-time tribal employee in the EMS department. Multiple tribal members voiced their concerns about the impact to tribal members who need emergency services and retaliation against anyone who says anything. Chairman - the BC was not involved in that hiring process. He was not given a severance. Vice-Chair - to address the retaliation concern, recently kicked off a Whistle Blower policy.
25. Discussion on Downstream security uniforms that are not conducive to performing their roles and employees too fearful to say anything to their supervisor. There is no confidentiality at Downstream, including with the Tribal Marshalls.
26. Discussion on tribal employment posting process, duration, conformity with policy, and rehiring. Tribal Members are noticing the process may not be followed correctly all the time.
27. In the audio recording, there was discussion on manipulating the BC vote for the Department of Public Safety pension plan where EMS is included. He might not have received a severance, but he walked into a pension plan.
28. Discussion on the new organizational structure and request to have the chart posted on the Tribal Website.



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