

HowNiKan March (Nmebne Gises) 2009, vol. 30 issue 2 - Page 14 - 15

Hello, Fellow CPN District #2 Citizens,

One of our relations in District #2 wrote to me recently that he did not feel qualified to vote in the upcoming CPN elections, since he was so far from Shawnee and not involved in what is going on with the Nation day-to-day. If you share that sentiment, I hope that you will work, over the next few months, to overcome it by learning more about the Nation, its government, and the candidates running for office. Please talk to any of your relatives who might be closer to the day-to-day operations of the Nation, set aside an hour to click around the www.potawatomi.org Web site, study the *HowNiKan* ads, review the various candidates' Web sites, and call or e-mail the candidates and your legislator and ask questions. It will be a time investment but I hope you'll agree that one of the responsibilities of CPN citizenship is voting in our elections – particularly our elections for Tribal Chairman.

I'd like you to add to the mix of information my personal view that Chairman John Barrett has earned our votes in the upcoming election with his vision and track record of managerial expertise, financial acumen, and dedication over so many years. He has brought us this far which is a very long way and I believe that he can take us even farther, with the help of our enhanced government and citizens' increased participation, even in these tough times.

That being said, I don't always agree with the Chairman. For instance, the Chairman called a Special Legislative Session in mid-February for the Legislature to consider a resolution to amend the Nation's election ordinance now, when we do not have another election coming up until a year from now. I wanted to have the time to think about a comprehensive review and "fix" to the ordinance, to address some other issues with it that the Chairman had not raised.

Others disagreed with me, and by an 11-4 vote, we amended the ordinance to require that, for future elections, all candidates who have worked for the Nation be required to sign a release that permits the Election Board access to their CPN personnel files to determine whether anything in the records reflects misconduct. The amendment also permits the Board to publish in the *HowNiKan* information about such misconduct, along with the candidate's short explanation, if he or she prepares one.

The good news here is that as a body we debated the issues and considered the varied viewpoints, and that each legislator, with independence of mind, cast his or her vote. One legislator's views might not carry the day but it is in the Nation's best interest to have those views expressed and considered.

We met again as a legislature at the end of February, for our quarterly session. At that meeting, we considered 15 resolutions that had been voted out of our various committees. Among the highlights are that we voted to add 179 citizens to the tribal rolls, 16 of whom live in District #2. My cousin Paul Lawless and his four children are among those 16. Paul is in the group of Potawatomis who saw their older siblings get enrolled and then were told that they had been born "too late," and the rolls had closed.

This is the situation I wrote about in my column last month. Since then I've learned from Vice Chairman Linda Capps the history that, in June 29, 1961, the Nation's tribal rolls were closed to descendants unless they possessed 1/8-degree Indian blood. The Nation amended our constitution in April 1989 to open tribal rolls to descendants of persons who already were on the rolls. If any of you are in Paul's situation, please step up, fill out the application form for tribal membership (it can be printed from the CPN Web site by entering into your Web browser www.potawatomi.org/Services/Tribal+Rolls/default.aspx), and officially join us. We're waiting for you!

We also authorized the Nation to seek more funding to benefit our seniors through a grant application to the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Native Americans. Our administration has proposed a project titled the "CPN Senior Support Network," which would offer comprehensive coordination of medical, personal, and social services for our tribal elders and their families. Over two years, we are hoping to receive a \$440,000 grant from HHS. We would need to match that with \$158,000 of our own funds for program - related clinicians' salaries and clinic equipment.

At least 100 elders in Oklahoma would receive comprehensive case management services in the grant's first year. The program would also assist our Kansan elders in the second year. Among the reasons I am excited about this proposal is that the case management approach, along with policies and procedures that we would develop, would serve as a model for future expansion of elder services into other districts.

Other legislative action included voting to submit applications to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to request trust acquisition of two parcels of fee land within former CPN reservation boundaries. (The vote on one of these properties is what Rep. Ron Goyer writes about in his column.) To my thinking one of the critical functions of the Legislature is facilitating the Nation's process of moving fee land into trust land – because we, as a people, can exercise our sovereign authority over land that is trust land.

As the resolutions we approved state: "The Legislature believes that increasing the tribal land base furthers the pursuit of Tribal Self-Determination and allows future generations of tribal leaders to have the flexibility to use the land for the health, welfare, and sovereignty of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

I voted yes with respect to both property applications. I listened to, but was not persuaded by, the opposing view that the Chairman's thoughts for how to ultimately develop one of the properties should we succeed in having them put into trust should change my vote to a "no." The Chairman's thoughts on use of the land are only thoughts, until the revenues to bring them to reality are appropriated by the Legislature; the Legislature always will have the opportunity to review any development plans for trust lands, as we hold the purse strings for the Nation.

Moving on to opportunities to build our District #2 community, there are three upcoming events for District #2. First is an Open House that I am hosting at the Legislative Office in downtown Washington, D.C., on Saturday March 28 from 2 p.m. to 4p.m. I'm billing it as coffee, cake, and conversation with fellow Potawatomis and our families, and children are welcome.

If there's interest we can plan more get-togethers that at least will give those of us in the Washington Metro area a chance to visit regularly. Details are on my legislative page, at www.potawatomi.org. (I hope you are not reading about this after the fact, given the pace of HowNiKan delivery to us "Southeasterners." I apologize if that is the case and that the Open House truly is "news" to you. I e-mailed everyone for whom I have an e-mail address and also requested a U.S. postal service mailing to everyone. To fix this going forward, please send me your e-mail contact details so future invitations arrive timely!)


The other events are two CPN Tribal Area Gatherings in cities in District #2. The first was held in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday March 21. The second is set for Alexandria, Virginia on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be served at both. Invitations have been or will be mailed with details on both events, and information about them is posted on the CPN Web site. I will be at both gatherings and look forward to visiting with everyone who attends.

One last note if you're planning a trip to Washington, D.C. this spring you might want to make room in the schedule for "our" museum – the National Museum of the American Indian. The Washington Post recently carried an intriguing piece on a show that runs through May 31st, "Comic Art Indigène." It features drawings, comic books, and sculpture "with a Native American spin." Included is a rock drawing from 1290 in red, white, and blue featuring a shield-carrying figure known as "All-American Man." Might be something for the whole family.

Thank you for the honor of representing you.

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HowNiKan April (Zisbaktoké Gises) 2009, vol. 30 issue 3 - Page 10



EVA MARIE CARNEY
for District #2 Representative

An Open Letter to the Voters of District #2:

Thank you for the great honor of representing you in the Citizen Potawatomi Legislature as the District # 2 Representative. Since I am unopposed in the upcoming election, I will have the honor of continuing to serve District #2 and the Nation, this time for a full four-year term. I pledge to work constructively and to the best of my ability.

In the Chairman race, I plan to cast my absentee ballot for Chairman Rocky Barrett and urge you to vote for him too. He has led our Nation building and our financial successes, and he can take us even farther with the help of our enhanced government and increased citizen participation.

And last but not least, if you live in District #8, please give your vote to Dave Carney for the Representative position left vacant by the unfortunate passing of Jackie Taylor. My brother Dave is an experienced, ethical and energetic businessman who would work hard for us. See www.dave-carney.com for more information or contact me for some big sister insights!

Megwetch,
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Representative, District #2

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For more information or to share your ideas, visit www.evamariecarney.com
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