



# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News



## Red Sand for Remembrance

Domestic Violence program  
raises awareness for Human  
Trafficking

# Tribal Council members sworn in Saturday, January 16



On Saturday, January 16th, the newly elected Tribal Council members were sworn in. L-R: JoAn Schlotman, District 1 Representative; Becci Sullivan, District 2 Representative; Suzie Baker, District 3 Representative; and Alex Taylor, District 4 Representative.

## District 1 Membership Meeting Saturday, February 20 | 1 pm

Lifesize District 1 Meeting Space

Livestreaming on the member side of the Ponca Tribe website

District 1 Council Members Angie Starkel and JoAn Schlotman are hosting a District 1 Meeting to introduce themselves to members, review current activities and projects, and request input from District 1 members on the needs and wants to be addressed for District 1, and the Tribe as a whole.

This meeting will only be held virtually. If you wish to participate in the meeting, please email [angie.starkel@gmail.com](mailto:angie.starkel@gmail.com) to receive the Lifesize link to attend via computer or phone.

**Remember, to view any content on the member side of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska website, you MUST have a current member login. Visit [www.poncatrIBE-ne.org/login/](http://www.poncatrIBE-ne.org/login/) to login or sign up.**

PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA

*On the cover: January was Human Trafficking Awareness month. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offered opportunities to help create awareness of the issue of human trafficking, including spreading red sand at the Ralston office. The red sand in the cracks of the sidewalk represents those who have been trafficked, who "slip through the cracks" in the system.*

# Pó<sup>n</sup>ka Íye-t<sup>h</sup>e! The Ponca Language

Need help saying the words? **Hear audio recordings on the PTN website at [poncatribe-na.tv/category/language/](http://poncatribe-na.tv/category/language/)** and refer to the pronunciation guide on this page.

A few words and sayings for Valentine's Day and any day. *-Angie Starke!*



**Nó<sup>o</sup>de**  
Heart



**Zhíde**  
Red



**Zhí-ego<sup>o</sup>**  
Pink



**Waxtá**  
Flower



**Wígathe**  
Gift



**Haztáge**  
Balloon



**Zho<sup>o</sup>ná**  
Candy

**Zhe<sup>o</sup>ná-tho<sup>o</sup>wíí.**  
I give you candy. (something round/shaped)

**Xtaáthe.**  
I like him/her/it.

**Zhe<sup>o</sup>ná-tho<sup>o</sup> xtaáthe.**  
I like candy. (something round/shaped)

**Xtáwíthe.**  
I like you. (Speaking to one person)

**Xcháwíthe.**  
I love you. (Speaking to one person)

**Ó<sup>o</sup>o<sup>o</sup>na-áí Ó<sup>o</sup>o<sup>o</sup>na-gáí**  
Hug me! (Said by female/male)

**Í<sup>o</sup>o<sup>o</sup>kígha-áí Í<sup>o</sup>o<sup>o</sup>kígha-gáí**  
Kiss me! (Said by female/male)

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

a	Like a in father
b	Like b in big
ch	Like 2nd ch in church
ch <sup>h</sup>	Like 1st ch in church
d	like d in dig
e	Like e in Vegas
g	like g in game
h	like h in home
i	Like i in ski
í <sup>o</sup>	Like ea in mean
k	Like k in ski
k <sup>h</sup>	Like k in key
m	Like m in man
n	Like n in need
o	Like o in no
o <sup>o</sup>	Like aw in dawn
p	Like p in spot
p <sup>h</sup>	Like p in pot
s	Like s in sing
sh	Like sh in shop
t	Like t in stop
t <sup>h</sup>	Like t in top
th	Like th in that
u	Like u in blue
w	Like w in woman
x	Like ch in German Bach
z	Like z in zebra
zh	Like ge in beige

The raised letter n (<sup>o</sup>) means to nasally say the vowel before the <sup>o</sup>.

The <sup>o</sup> above a vowel (like é) means to stress that sound. There is no "L" sound in Ponca. Some confuse the "TH" as a L sound.

# Outgoing Tribal Council members worked hard to support Ponca Tribal citizens

**Becci Sullivan**  
Tribal Council Representative  
District 2

I would like to send a special thank you to the three outgoing tribal council members for their years of service and dedication to the tribe:

- Patrick Lamoureux
- Steve Laravie
- Candace Schmidt

Steve served on Tribal Council for four years and was rich in culture and tradition. Steve served as a D3 representative, and this was his first term on Tribal Council. He was a former PTN employee and will continue his involvement with the tribe. While on Tribal Council, he focused many of his efforts on our language and food sovereignty.



Steve Laravie

Patrick served as a D1 representative for the past eight years (serving two 4-year terms). He was the previous Vice Chairman of Tribal Council, Chairman of the Tax Commission, and Chairman of the Liquor Board. Also during his time on Tribal Council, he married (Amy) and added two little members, Mikayla and Taylor.



Patrick Lamoureux

Candace Schmidt served D4 for the last eight years, having been elected for two consecutive terms. During her time on Tribal Council, she served all eight years as Secretary of Tribal Council. She also served on the JOM Committee and Law & Order Committee and led the efforts to develop the Elders



Candace Schmidt

Council. As for her district activities, she led the 4th of July celebrations, tailgating parties, Halloween parties, and Back to School events. She also assisted with leading the efforts for iPonca, iMap, iPep, iPep2, freezers, Amazon cards, and Buffalo meat distributions.

## District 2 provides extra Christmas cheer for members

When D2 Tribal Council Rep Becci Sullivan found out that many Toys for Tots organizations were unable to provide toys this year due to the lack of programs funds and lack of donations caused by COVID, she and her helpers went into high (elf) mode. The other members of her elf squad included members of the Schott family (Candy, Cami, Maci, and Ben).



They went out the next day and purchased pres-

ents for D2 members 0-13 years of age! They also

assembled, bagged and tagged each gift. Then, Ponca Express driver, Elf Maylon Knudsen, delivered them to the Fred Leroy Health and Wellness Center. The drive-through gift give was done by Becci and staff members: Elf Brook Zelasney and Elf Emily Driver on Monday, December 21 at the Fred Leroy Health and Wellness Center.

# Member Spotlight: JP Pretty Bull

**Amy Okamoto**  
Outreach Staff Writer

JP PrettyBull is pursuing education as a means to better serve indigenous peoples. JP's extensive education already encompasses five degrees, including a degree in tribal historic preservation. They are currently working on a Masters in Social Work. JP is also a veteran and earned the classification of modern-day warrior for serving nine years of active duty in the US Army.

That experience highlighted to JP the uniqueness of the situation for indigenous veterans and the lack of services that addressed their needs.

JP began working towards the Masters in Social Work program just 5 months ago. They are quickly advancing through the two-year program and anticipate completing all of the class hours and required field placement hours by Fall.

JP's latest field placement



was with the New York nonprofit Live Out Loud, which serves LGBTQ+ youth in grades 6-12. During their internship, JP developed a student leadership program and was instrumental in raising awareness of the Two-Spirit during Indigenous Heritage Month. JP launched a discussion series for Live Out Loud. The first session was held this past December, and the virtual format drew in youth from around the country.

Much of JP's family lives on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. Currently, JP is helping members there, making and

delivering Sunday meals for elders and anyone in need.

JP sees earning the Master in Social Work as a way to bring full circle their earlier education degree in tribal historic preservation. Their goal is to help heal historic trauma and develop a synergy between traditional spiritual health and clinical therapy, dispelling any taboos about mental health care along the way. JP wants to work with Indian Health Services to serve all tribes and has a special affinity for indigenous veterans.

JP is an active Indigenous Archeologist, working with tribes across the country to monitor and protect heritage. Indigenous archeology differs from traditional archeology in that it seeks to preserve the integrity of the site rather than remove pieces and place them on display in a museum. Notable projects that JP participated in include Kerr Dam

on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, now known as the Seli'š Ksanka Qlispe' Dam, and the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.

Though JP's main focus is outreach to indigenous veterans and Two-Spirit, they also are passionate about promoting greater inclusion. JP has facilitated talks with companies regarding diversity and giving voice to indigenous populations. A recent discussion with a media company included more than 100 employees joining in to learn about creating a more inclusive environment for indigenous populations.

Having learned Salish as part of their Tribal Historic Preservation education requirements, JP is pursuing learning more of the Ponca language.

We congratulate JP on their educational successes and thank them for their willingness to give back to their community.

## NEW NORFOLK PHARMACY HOURS

The pharmacy at the Ponca Hills Health and Wellness Center in Norfolk is now open on Fridays.

Pharmacy Hours:  
Monday-Friday from 8 am-12 pm and 1-4:30 pm.



# When Thunder met Lightning: The story of how I met my brother Denny, Part 2

*This essay from Ponca author Cliff Taylor is a continuation from the January 2021 issue.*

## Cliff Taylor

I cut across the street, went up the steps, flowed forward in this busy, swarming zone, got to the door I'd exited from and saw him still standing there, still pseudo-looking at the bulletin board. Not stopping for a second, I walked in.

"Hey," I said, standing behind him. He turned around. He looked full-blood, had a sad, serious, old face, acne, was probably about my age. A silence that I recognized from my own consciousness seemed to permeate him.

"Hey," he said back, friendly enough, returning from the depths of the cosmos that he had inside of that snazzy jacket of his.

"Are you Indian?" I asked, direct, not smooth, going to the room some part of me probably knew we were both already kicking it in.

"I'm Lakota," he said.

"I'm Ponca."

"Cool."

I stuck my hand out and we shook hands.

"I'm Cliff."

"My name is Denny."

"Are you new here?"

"I just moved here for grad school."

"What're you studying?"

"Astronomy."

He made me think of an old book you'd always come across at like the library or the laundromat and sometimes when you'd open it up it'd be just hundreds of strange blank pages or written in a completely foreign language, but then other times it'd be stuffed with maybe the most unique and original and potent shit you'd ever encountered as a rabid, hungering, lifelong book-freak.

"What're you up to now?" I asked, our connection pretty easy, both of us dialing into each other more than we were consciously aware of.

"There's a dinner pretty soon at the Culture Center that I was thinking of going to." He looked outside. "You want to go sit outside?"

We went outside and found ourselves a seat out-of-the-way on the steps, facing the Centennial Mall corridor and the towering, famously phallic Capitol building beyond it, and then we slowly got to talking, like in the far back of our spirits we knew we were building something good and important with each sentence, each question, each exchange; the foundation of a friendship that could support the long-term projects of the spirits and the meteoric hardships still ahead; a dreamworld village site, half pre-Columbian and half present-day, where a piece of each of us would always be living, conferring, collaborating, praying, remembering, checking in, and doing the sacred business of what our connection was fated for; a never-ending crystal heart where everything from our favorite Stephen King books to our childhood visions to our relationships with different women over the years would come to live and run wild like so many painted horses enjoying the Plains of God's Creation. He asked if I knew

a certain local medicine man, said he was the only person in town that he knew; I told him that I did, that the old man was the first Indian I met when I moved to Lincoln, at a Village Inn, where we were both sitting alone in our own booths. And we kept going from there. A half hour slipped by and then another half hour after that. He was the first Indian I'd ever talked to who could follow all the different sides of me, my lone wolf from Columbus side, the emotional Sundancer, the self-comforting artist, the ecstatic in a brown body who dreamed of writing books and making horror movies; he rolled with a similar depth and versatility, relating to all of my experiences, and then he expanded the realm with his detailed stories from back home as a reservation kid who spoke Lakota and grew up around ceremony; the tales that issued forth from him were riveting, vibrating with the unseen, cavernous, well-articulated, not to be forgotten. Night fell over the campus and I'm sure there were many relatives peeking down at

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# Dr. Paul Rozeboom joins Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center

The Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center is proud to welcome Dr. Paul Rozeboom as our new staff pediatrician. Born and raised in Winterset, IA, Dr. Rozeboom completed his undergraduate studies at Drake University in Des Moines, IA, attended medical school at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA, and did his Pediatric training at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, IA. Dr. Rozeboom's career has spanned 30 years, with work in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, and IHS experience at Crow/Northern Cheyenne



Hospital in Crow Agency, Montana.

Dr. Rozeboom's prior experience working with IHS is part of what brought him to work for the Ponca Tribe. As a contract physician at Crow/Northern Cheyenne

Hospital, Dr. Rozeboom truly enjoyed his time, and only chose not to continue with that tribal organization because of a prior obligation. With the Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center, Dr. Rozeboom is once again able to pursue these fulfilling experiences with an IHS facility, working to make a difference.

Medicine is somewhat of a family profession for Dr. Rozeboom, whose father was a family doctor. His mother, as well as his wife, Julie, are Registered Nurses, his younger sister is a nurse practitioner,

and sons Andrew, 25, and Jonathan, 22, are pursuing careers in medicine.

In his free time, Dr. Rozeboom enjoys photography and is currently engaged in digitizing his older projects along with those of his father, who also enjoyed photography.

Dr. Rozeboom would like members to know that, "As a pediatrician for 30 years and a parent for 25, I strive to give children the individual attention, compassion, and care I would give to my own."

# Hy-Vee adopts Fred LeRoy Health staff as part of "Adopt A Healthcare worker"

**Nancie Velasquez**  
Community Health Manager

We all know that healthcare workers have been stressed, tired, and may be feeling unappreciated since COVID-19 showed its ugly face at the beginning of 2020. The Ponca Tribe has had a great partnership with Hy-Vee for years, and they decided to show their appreciation for our clinic staff right before Christmas.

It all started with a Facebook page dedicated to "Adopting a Healthcare Worker." What was a local page, grew into



something so much more. People from all over the US and different countries started adopting CNA's,

MA's, nurses, doctors, Nurse Practitioners. I myself was lucky enough to have someone nomi-

nate me to be adopted. That brings me to Hy-Vee. The 50th and Center store decided they wanted to adopt our clinic staff. Someone had seen the page on Facebook and knew what they wanted to do - show their appreciation to the staff of a small clinic who has been working hard.

We can't thank them enough for the beautiful basket full of goodies they sent over to us. It brightened our day!!

# TAYLOR: The magic that we all have to share

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us from the luminous rim up in their world, blowing on our fires, watching the beginnings of this long-anticipated friendship unlock and add a profound new light to the epic story where we were all making a go of it.

Eventually we left our spot on the stairs and walked back to my apartment, grabbed my car, and went cruising around, continuing to do nothing but talk, laugh, joke, open up, share, tell long stories, unwrap dreams, speculate on the nature of different entities, talk about his grandpa, things on Standing Rock, the strangeness of Columbus and all that happened with my friends, and on and on; time disappearing, the car full of all the characters we recognized as precious in the privacy of our overflowing memories. We went and practically knocked down the door of my salty old grandma mentor friend Char's place, the elder who introduced me to the little people, and got a raucous multi-hour long conversation going with her and her husband, to the joy and benefit of us all. We went and wandered around Wal-Mart, looking at movies, really

just using the place as a haunt and setting to continue launching all of our probes into what was by then clearly the actual passion of both of our souls: the vast reality of our people, our culture, our spirituality, as it extended throughout the Ages, the planes, the wondrous landscapes and human interiors of the Earth. We grubbed at IHOP, good, greasy food that gassed us both up for more; it never occurring to either of us that there were any sort of polite parameters of time that we new friends should heed; we were Indians and we'd been through things most couldn't imagine and if something was happening, like the best conversation we'd both had all year, then you just bought another pack of smokes and kept rolling with it, ya know?

We probably talked for about 10 hours straight and then, by the light in the sky, you could tell that morning was coming. He gave me the directions to the University professor's house where he was staying and I dropped him off there. It all felt pretty cool, pretty natural, seismic but also second-nature.

"Give me a call when you're free for some more chatting," I said, roasted from the kind of all-nighter my sober coffee-drinking Sundancer self has always preferred.

"All right," he said. "Later, brother."

"Later."

He walked up to the professor's house and I drove off. It would be many years before I told him the story of why I turned around and went back to talk to him, of what that voice had told me. Thank God for such voices. Thank God for such instructions.

And that's the story of how I met my brother Denny.

Denny was still running hard on the treadmill in the kitchen down the hall. I wish that growing up someone would've told me about all the magic we have to share as human beings; instead of maybe putting so much emphasis on getting a respectable job or making sure to buy all the things with the right brand names. It felt kind of magical to share that story with Nona, Netflix automatically playing the next episode of SVU on the flatscreen, my face

communicating all of the emotions of the story like some ancient clown who'd volunteered to wear the people's lives on his whiskery mug long, long ago. Now the story was hers. Everything that was inside of it and more, was hers. Someday it'd grow into something that it never was with me while in my possession and maybe she'd pass it on, its medicine doctoring someone, plugging up a hole in their hull, or just making them believe again.

"And then your dad moved into the apartment below mine and we really started hanging out, haha!" I laughed, remembering the five months he lived below me, before he moved back to Kansas to be with his kids. "I'd have a dream, wake up with my eyes buggin', pound down on my living room floor, your dad's ceiling, and then he'd pound back up that he was home and I'd go on down and tell him about my dream, about what the spirits were doing and telling me and all that. He ever tell you that?"

She shook her head, her mood shifting as she recognized that I was

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# Spotting air pollution at home

**Allison Gienapp**  
Air Technician

When most people think of air pollution the first thing that comes to mind is the big factories with the large plumes of smoke in the industrial parks of major cities. There are many different types of air pollution around us. Whether that pollution comes in the form of one of the major criteria pollutants (which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs>) or from the weird smell your new carpet gives off after being installed in your home. It is important to understand what air pol-

lutants are in or around your home especially if someone in your home has a respiratory disease. Air pollutants can cause further respiratory illnesses and aggravate illnesses that others already have, such as asthma.

There are many different sources of air pollution around your homes, both inside and out. Help yourself and others to cleaner air by limiting the exposure of harmful air pollution around your home. Here is a list of things to look for to help combat air pollution at home.

- Motor Vehicle exhaust
- Gas-powered yard equipment
- Residential wood/trash burning
- New carpets and flooring
- Cleaning supplies with harsh chemicals
- Paints and some craft supplies like polyurethane sealants

When using items that could produce harmful air pollutions make sure you are using them in well-ventilated areas. Limit the amount of time you are exposed to air

pollutants and make sure to take frequent clean air breaks.

For more information contact Allison Gienapp, Air Technician at [agienapp@poncatribene.org](mailto:agienapp@poncatribene.org).

Sources:

- <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/10-tips-to-protect-yourself>
- <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/at-home/indoor-air-pollutants>
- <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs>

## Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after **EACH** term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding.

**Summer 2021 deadline: May 15, 2021**

**Fall 2021 deadline: August 15, 2021**

The Ponca Educational Trust Fund is available nationwide to students who enroll at one of the University of Nebraska Campuses/Online Courses: Lincoln ~ Omaha ~ Kearney (Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours per semester to be eligible)

## Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 2020-2021 school year are eligible to receive a \$500.00 Graduation Incentive!
- Our department is accepting projects for incentives in the following areas: Art, Essay/Poetry, and Student of the Month. *\*Winners may receive \$100.00 for 1st place, \$50.00 for 2nd place, and \$25.00 for 3rd place.* Grade divisions are as follows: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12)
- Perfect Attendance \$100.00 (0-.49 days of absenteeism), \$50.00 (.5-3.49 days absenteeism), and \$25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

**Deadline to apply for the 2020-2021 school year is July 31, 2021.**

All Education Department Applications and Program Information is available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen @ office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or [aknudsen@poncatribene.org](mailto:aknudsen@poncatribene.org).

*\*Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs\**

# TAYLOR: Indians are always at the center of it all

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getting jokey again, that thing she was supposed to really hear and listen to receding back into those pools where we trusted it'd be safe.

“I remember you always coming to visit us down in Lawrence. That one time we got you to run on the track with us. That was funny. You looked like a drunk bear.”

We both laughed. I looked off into the clouds of the ceiling. “I think I might’ve been a drunk bear in my past life.”

She shook her head and picked up the remote, un-muted Olivia Benson and Ice-T. In a couple years she’d send me a text asking me if I was going to come to her graduation. She’d tell me that she’d gotten accepted to

the college that was at the top of her list. When I’d ask her what her major was going to be then, she’d text me back, “Creative Writing.” I’d text her back, “That’s what I was going to guess.”

I heard Denny in the kitchen powering down the treadmill and joined Nona in the easy trance of watching SVU.

“You know who I think did it?”

“Who?” Denny said, standing between us.

“The Indian. The Indians are always at the center of it all.”

*Cliff Taylor is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. His first book, “The Memory of Souls,” is available on Amazon.*

## District 2 Easter Baskets

**March 27, 2021 | 9-11 am**

Ralston Administration Building  
5805 S 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

District 2 is providing Easter baskets to District 2 Ponca youth ages 0-12, living in the Service Delivery Area (must be registered with Enrollment). For the health and safety of our Tribal citizens and staff, this will be a drive-thru event. Baskets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, one basket per registered child. Parent or guardian must be present to pick up for their household, unless a prior authorization is given. For more information, please call Becci Sullivan at 531.222.4471.



**PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA**



# Youth Council gets creative with outreach

**Maci Schott**

Youth Council is excited to announce that to start this year we have created an e-newsletter! We hope that this acts as a virtual way to stay connected with the youth of our tribe. In this upcoming e-newsletter, youth will hear from each member of the Youth Council and their take on projects we have accomplished and look forward to accomplishing in the rest of the 2021 fiscal year. In addition to this, Sofia Hegstrom has attached an educational brochure. We hope that this assists youth in their studies and academic work. Plus, Makala Laravie has written a piece on Culture & Tradition with a glimpse at Chief Standing Bear's Journey to Sanctuary Hall. Lastly, Maci Schott spotlights Rebecca



The Ponca Youth Council now has an Instagram account to showcase their activities.

Sullivan and Candace Schmidt for their dedication to helping our tribe receive an abundance of services during this pandemic. We are excited for this first e-newsletter to go out in the upcoming month! We look forward to hearing feedback from youth, informing them of

upcoming events they can participate in, and creating a community of leaders within our tribe. In other exciting news, the Osni Ponca Youth Council officially has an Instagram account! Please inform your family and friends to follow us @poncatribeyouthcouncil for information about Youth Council, events, and other exciting news! With this new form of social media we hope for it to act as a platform for youth in our tribe to learn more about getting involved and having a voice!

If you, your family, or friends are between the ages 14-24 years old and would like to be included in receiving the e-newsletter please email the Youth Council email at [youthcouncil@poncatribene.org](mailto:youthcouncil@poncatribene.org)

## Elder feedback needed regarding COVID vaccine interest

Ponca Health Services is conducting COVID19 Vaccine outreach to our Elder population. Elders ages 55 & Up interested in receiving the COVID19 vaccine once available at either Fred Leroy Health & Wellness Center (Omaha) and/or at Ponca Hills Health & Wellness Center (Norfolk) are encouraged to complete an interest form. This form can be completed online at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f9498dfaac7848d-1a17bc05e94944048>, or by calling 402-738-3169.

Additional information:

- Vaccines will be available to elders 65 years age group first, then 55 and older age group. Number of persons vaccinated will be dependent on the number of vaccine doses received by Ponca Health Services.
- Ponca Health Services is not able to offer home visits at this time due to vaccine storage/use requirements.
- If you have not been seen at either Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness or Ponca Hills Health and Wellness in the past 3 years, please still complete the interest form with your contact information and good time for a staff member to contact you. A Ponca Health Services staff member will contact you regarding the registration process and schedule the vaccination.
- If you have been seen and have an up-to-date registration at Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center or Ponca Hill Health and Wellness Center, please complete the form to include a good contact number.
- Ponca Health Staff will contact persons completing the interest form when the COVID vaccine has

been received. Please do not call the clinic regarding the vaccination, as the clinic is still serving patients. Instead, please call 402-738-3169 with any questions regarding pre-registration for the COVID19 vaccine (55 years & Up). The expected timeframe to receive a call from a Ponca Health Staff member is end of January to the middle of March, 2021.

- Ponca Health Services serves members of federally recognized tribes. Proof of tribal enrollment is required for registration purposes (Enrollment ID, Abstract, CDIB, etc.)”

## Ponca member Robinette reflects on significance of corn harvest

The 7th annual Ponca Corn Harvest was held at Helen and Art Tanderup's farm, in Neligh, Nebraska. The plot of land where the Corn is planted was deeded to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma in 2019.

It was a first-time event for Debbie Robinette and her six-year-old great-grandson, Stanford Robinette. "It was super-hot, but it was a beautiful day, and I really, really enjoyed it. The field was tall, weedy, and hot, and Larry got the first corn, he went in and he got it for me. We took a picture with Stanford, really proud, holding that first cob. They also gave him a little red-seeded one, told him it's sacred. Stanford can always have that memory. I think the best part of the whole thing is, teaching my grandkids the stuff that's important, that what we lost."

"We're always whining about we lost this and we lost that, and people say 'they want to do this' and 'they want to do that' and 'they want to know'... but we don't do anything about it, so now I'm trying. It was really cool to see Stanford's little eyes light up just so happy and having so much fun. He'd just run, run, run, saying 'Look at this one, it's so special, and this one is



Helen Tanderup, Stanford Robinette, and Art Tanderup

so neat!' It was really a blessing to watch him."

"What was really unique about the day, was that all little boys need heroes. They need somebody that they can look up to, someone that is teaching, and the Chairman was there and just kind of took him right along. I don't think Larry realizes that he's a hero to these young kids. He cares about the People. And he doesn't even realize it, but he has a little bitty boy there, that probably someday will say, 'That's my hero.' I know my Big Brother Ted is probably just smiling down at Larry, at his grandson, and all the accomplishments he has made. Larry's grandpa Ted was my big brother, Ted Wright."

"For me to see the Ponca corn for the first time was awesome, it was really cool! Gary (Robinette) was kind of sickly, so

we never got to go when they did any of the plantings or harvests. But we were there when they first started doing the planting and talking about it, and it was really cool then, they showed us the blue, the white, the red, you know, the different colors that they had. And then this was the first time I got to go. I wasn't quite sure because I'd had pneumonia, but then when I slept on it overnight, I thought, you know, that would be the best experience, we have to take him. He's six years old and if this stays with him and this is a part of my legacy to pass on to him, me and Grampa's, I need to do that, it don't matter how I feel, I need to pass it on."

"There was that one bright red ear that was so pretty! Really a bright red! Stanford had a solid blue one, and then he had

one with a mix- it had a little blue, little red, and a little white in it. He pointed out one little cob that he said, 'Those shells, those seeds, look like the back of a turtle. They look like a turtle shell!' That was clever.

"They talked about how this bundle of seed came back to Nebraska, and how it has connected the tribe in Nebraska with the tribe in Oklahoma. I think we can learn from the Ponca in Oklahoma about the sacredness of the Red Seed and why it was considered more special. My Mama never hardly talked about her mom and stuff. Sandy (Stanford Taylor), my brother, sometimes would mention stuff, but he never told a lot of stuff either. As Stanford would say, 'When it went South, they left it down South.' They just kind of never revived it until we were reinstated, and they're trying to bring it back. He always said it was going to be tough, for them to get it all back but I, I think they'll get it."

"The Ponca corn, the blue corn, was a flour corn. When ground, it made a grey powder. A Ponca word for flour is wamóskeuxde. Xúde means 'grey', so their word for 'flour' gives a clue that it was 'grey.'

**continued on page 11**

## ROBINETTE: A moving experience for youth and elders alike

continued from page 10

You know, I don't know if my mom or grandparents ever cooked with any of the old flour corns."

"Meeting the people was really cool. They made you feel so welcome. Stanford was so well-mannered, like he knows when to turn it off and when to turn it on, and when he's genuinely feeling good and at-home, his personality really shines. He was just so relaxed, like, 'I'm here to learn,' He connected so well with Art and Helen (Tanderup), he really enjoyed being with them. They topped the day off for him, with a load of pumpkins! He was just thrilled when Art said, 'Take as many as you want!' He will probably say his little prayers for Helen, because when he makes that bond, he will remember her. And it was nice that there were people there who remember Gary, and that they talked about his Grandpa Gary."

At Tanderup farm, due to the coronavirus pandemic, a much smaller group gathered for this year's seventh annual harvest of sacred Ponca corn - on Ponca Nation land, that crosses the Ponca Trail of Tears and proposed path of the Keystone XL pipe-



Stanford Robinette with a variety bushel of Ponca Corn

line. "The experience of having to wear masks, because it was such a small group, it was very supportive. I appreciate the care that they went to, to make sure everyone was masked and kept social distancing. I actually didn't even think about the Covid, all I could think about was the corn."

The Route of the proposed Keystone XL tar-sands export pipeline:

They talked about 'eminent domain for private gain,' how politicians say that they need this for public service, but the oil isn't going to publicly serve us; it will be shipped to other countries, and serve corporations, and the route that it takes through

the bread-basket of America, the Ogallala Aquifer, and the many rivers and streams that it will cross, including the Niobrara and Missouri, is why we're still fighting. "We think about all the animals that are going get hurt, all the people that could get hurt. All they're thinking about is money and putting more money in their pocket. They have no care for life itself. To think that they're damaging water and ground. In our area we're high risk for cancer; Knox County already has the highest cancer rate in all of Nebraska. It's just terrible."

"I am hoping that next year, hopefully without the Covid, that maybe

one of the youth groups would take our children out there - we're hoping more children get involved in these cultural events. Also, there was the young lady, Stacy Laravie (our THPO). Her great-grandfather was Standing Bear, and like she said, she's learning herself, too. Larry and Stacy both will be an asset for anybody else that goes, and that's what I told Stacy, 'We need to bring our children. We teach through our children, and we need to start doing it, instead of blowing smoke up everybody's nide, let's just do it!'

"Stanford was proud sitting next to Larry, under the trees. I'm just so proud of him, and Larry as well, and Stacy. I'd like to thank two young heroes for our tribe, for the youth - the Chairman and Stacy. Yes, we need heroes. Every group of people needs their heroes, and I really would like to thank them for being heroes for our future youth of tomorrow. I think that's important. Yes, it's for our children, for the future, the future little Poncas. Our future leaders!" Wibthahon!

Cante' Waste' Win Tiospaye' Talking Circle



Please join our Female Talking Circle  
Every 1st Friday of each month @ 7pm  
Cante' Waste' Win Tiospaye' Facebook Page  
Online Facebook Messenger Rooms  
Any questions contact Marissa Wright (402)841-2474

Healing through tradition, ceremony and  
prayer...

## Qualified Expert Witnesses

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is looking for any Ponca members who would be interested in serving as a Qualified Expert Witness in court proceedings involving Ponca children.

QEWs are required in court hearings for foster care placements and actions for termination of parental rights. Court personnel should contact the tribe or other agencies to identify persons with knowledge of the cultural aspects of tribal life that may assist in determining whether a parent's or Indian custodian's continued custody of the Indian child will result in serious emotional or physical damage.

If you have an interest please contact Joan Geardino in the Lincoln office at:

402-438-9222 ext 2017

jgeardino@poncatribene.org



## Elder's Council Meeting

February 1 | 9 am

March 1 | 9 am

March 2 | 9 am

Lifesize & Conference Call available.



## MEMBERS NEEDED!

### CODE REVISION (LAW & ORDER) COMMITTEE

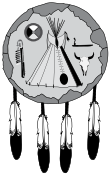
There is one vacancy that needs to be filled for a Tribal Member. This Committee reviews the Ponca Tribal Law & Order Code to ensure that it is an expression of Tribal sovereignty, relevant and Ponca specific. The Committee meets one time per month via video conferencing. Tribal members are paid a stipend of \$250 and mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles. If interested please submit a letter of interest to Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 Attn: Beth Barger or [bbarger@poncatribene.org](mailto:bbarger@poncatribene.org). Deadline for submission is March 1, 2021.

### PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD

There will be two terms expiring on this Board. Applications are now being accepted. The purposes and powers of the Ponca Economic Development Corporation are to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Corporation Business Code. The business and activities of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors which shall be persons with extensive experience in business in Nebraska or Iowa. A \$250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Applicants must submit a letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail [bbarger@poncatribene.org](mailto:bbarger@poncatribene.org). A background check and drug test are required per the Articles of Incorporation. Deadline for Applications is March 1, 2021.

### OSNI PONCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There will be two terms expiring on this Board. Applications are now being accepted. The purpose of Osni Ponca LLC is to engage in economic development activities for the benefit of the Tribe and its members. This Board manages the activities and affairs of Osni Ponca. No member of the Tribal Council, employee of the Tribe or any entities thereof, shall serve on this Board. The Board members must have the following minimum qualification: 1) Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age; 2) either (a) possess a Bachelor's Degree in business or a related field, or (b) possess a high school diploma (or a general equivalency diploma) and have at least five (5) years of business, financial, legal government contracting, tribal government or industry experience; 3) have no felony convictions; and 4) submit to a background investigation which yields no results showing convictions involving tax evasion, tax fraud, embezzlement or moral turpitude. Applications will be accepted from Tribal and non-tribal members. A \$250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Applicants must submit a letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail to [bbarger@poncatribene.org](mailto:bbarger@poncatribene.org). A background check is required. Deadline for Application is March 1, 2021.



# PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760

[www.poncatribene.org](http://www.poncatribene.org)

## PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA Office Locations

### **NIOBRARA 68760**

#### **Headquarters**

2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288  
Ph: (402) 857-3391  
Fax: (402) 857-3736

#### **Enrollment**

2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288  
Ph: (402) 857-3391  
Fax: (402) 857-3771

#### **Cultural**

P.O. Box 288  
Ph: (402) 857-3519  
Fax: (402) 857-3652

### **LINCOLN 68508**

#### **Administration**

1701 E Street  
Ph: (402) 438-9222  
Fax: (402) 438-9226

#### **Osni Ponca**

2756 O Street  
Ph: (402) 434-2127  
Fax: (402) 434-2128

### **NORFOLK 68701**

#### **Administration Building**

1800 Syracuse Ave.  
Ph: (402) 371-8834  
Fax: (402) 371-7564

#### **Gym Building**

1800 Syracuse Ave.  
Ph: (402) 371-8834  
Fax: (402) 379-0988

### **Ponca Hills Clinic**

Ph: (402) 371-8780  
(402) 371-5726  
Fax: (402) 379-4291 - Pharmacy  
(402) 379-4293 - Registration  
(402) 371-4094 - Medical Lab

### **Ponca Express**

Ph: 877-769-3111

### **Northern Ponca Housing Authority**

1501 Michigan Ave.  
Ph: (402) 379-8224  
(800) 367-2320  
Fax: (402) 379-8557

### **Purchased/Referred Care**

Ph: (800) 405-0365  
Fax: (402) 371-0176

### **OMAHA 68107**

#### **Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Clinic**

2602 "J" Street  
Ph: (402) 733-3612  
Fax: (402) 733-3487

#### **Administration**

5805 South 86th Circle, 68127  
Ph: (402) 315-2760

#### **Dental**

2602 "J" Street  
Ph: (402) 733-1325  
Fax: (402) 733-3487

### **Northern Ponca Housing Authority**

10635 Birch., 68134  
Ph: (402) 505-3055  
Fax: (402) 505-3066

### **SIOUX CITY 51103**

#### **Administration**

119 6th Street  
Ph: (712) 258-0500  
Fax: (712) 258-0762

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

#### **Child Abuse Hotline**

800-652-1999 (Nebraska)  
800-362-2178 (Iowa)  
877-244-0864 (South Dakota)

#### **National Child Abuse Hotline**

800-422-4453

#### **National Suicide Hotline**

800-273-8255

#### **Domestic Violence Hotline**

800-799-7233

#### **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

888-373-7888

#### **National Problem Gambling Helpline**

800-522-4700

#### **Elder Abuse Hotline**

800-252-8966

#### **Boys Town Crisis Line**

800-448-3000

#### **Drug Treatment & Referral Hotline**

877-726-4727

#### **Nebraska Family Helpline**

888-866-8660

#### **Veterans Crisis Line**

800-273-8255

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Newsletter is published monthly and printed by Printco Graphics, Omaha, Nebraska.  
Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. In the event the 1st falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.  
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Jessica Hitchcock, [jhitchcock@poncatribene.org](mailto:jhitchcock@poncatribene.org).  
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the member's side (you must log in) of the web site at: [www.poncatribene.org](http://www.poncatribene.org)