



# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News



## Grand Opening

Ponca members get first look at new Lincoln health care facility


# Ponca Tribe of Nebraska cuts ribbon on new clinic facility

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members were given a first look at the new state-of-the-art healthcare facility that the Tribe is opening at 1600 Windhoek Drive in Lincoln. The new Lincoln Health Center will offer expanded services for the native community in the Lincoln area, providing medical, dental, pharmacy, behavioral health, and social services to eligible beneficiaries.

The Lincoln Health Center is the third healthcare facility operated by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and joins the Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center in Omaha, and the Ponca Hills Health and Wellness Center in Norfolk.

The facility will also house Tribal Affairs staff, and have community space for tribal and member events.





## PONCA ELECTION 2022

Ponca members, please make sure you are registered to vote as we approach an election year for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Voter registration forms can be downloaded and printed out on the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska website, [www.poncatribene.org](http://www.poncatribene.org).

Completed forms must be **mailed** to:  
**Ponca Election Board**  
**P.O. Box 9**  
**Niobrara, NE 68760**

Ballots will be verified by your signature on the return envelope.

**Reasons to update registration:**

- If your name has changed
- If your signature has changed
- If your address has changed

Electronic signatures WILL NOT be accepted. The name on your registration form and your return envelope **must** match. *(For example, If your name is Joseph Smith both items must say Joseph Smith, no abbreviations.)*

If you have questions, please email the Ponca Election Board at [electionboard@poncatribene.org](mailto:electionboard@poncatribene.org)



On the cover: A cedar canopy provides an inviting entrance for patients entering the new Lincoln Health Center.

# More pictures from the Grand Opening of the Lincoln Healthcare Facility



# District 1 holds virtual costume and pumpkin carving contests

This year, District 1 held virtual costume and pumpkin carving contests for members of all ages nationwide. There were so many great entries that everyone is a winner! Here are some of this year's costume and pumpkin submissions. Thank you to everyone who participated!

## District 1 Kid Costumes



## District 1 Group Costumes



## District 1 Adult Costumes



## District 1 Pumpkins



# District 2 holds Halloween drive-through event

On Sunday, October 31, 2021 District 2 held their Drive-Thru Halloween Event from 9-11 am at the Ralston Administration office. Ponca families were able to stay in their cars and receive spider donuts, juice, caramel apples, boo-bucks, and boo-bags full of goodies.



# District 3 hosts Halloween event for members

District 3 Drive-Through Halloween was a huge success. Many thanks to volunteers Dave and Stephanie Slobotski, Andrew Montes, Belva GoodTeacher, and Lottie.



# District 4 holds Halloween event and costume contest



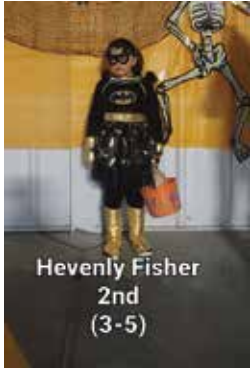
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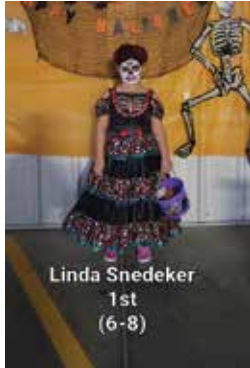
Joseph Corral III  
2nd  
(0-2)



Kardi Moniz  
1st  
(3-5)



Hevenly Fisher  
2nd  
(3-5)



Linda Snedeker  
1st  
(6-8)



Inez Taylor  
2nd  
(6-8)



Richard Torres III  
1st  
(9-10)



Lia Villalpando  
2nd  
(9-10)



CeCe Taylor  
1st  
(11-12)



Ryanna Leiting  
2nd  
(11-12)



Leah Franklin  
1st  
Adult



Cesar Figueroa  
2nd  
Adult





# Celebrating three years with a casino, Carter Lake officials says city sees economic boost

**John Chapman**  
WOWT

CARTER LAKE, Iowa (WOWT) - Carter Lake bet on Prairie Flower Casino and the bet paid off. The casino is celebrating its third anniversary that will last over the weekend and into Monday.

Carter Lake city officials say the success of the casino also means success for Carter Lake.

There were critics of bringing a casino to Carter Lake. Prairie Flower Casino officials say in three years more than 800,000 visits have been made to the casino and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is handing over more than \$700,000 a year to Carter Lake.

“The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska since opening Prairie Flower Casino has committed to the community of Carter Lake. Over \$700,000 voluntarily per year to the city, those funds which now exceed over \$2.3 million since

opening Prairie Flower Casino go to support police fire infrastructure, general city improvements,” said Jimmy Centers, Prairie Flower Casino Spokesperson.

With that money, Carter Lake was able to add three new police cruisers and two full-time officers to the police department. Prairie Flower also helped with the city’s infrastructure around the casino.

“That end of town had a stormwater issue that kind of detoured most people from developing. Ponca took it upon themselves to self-fund that issue, they’re currently in the process of permitting a stormwater project to get this water out of town to the river, something we just don’t have,” said Mayor Ron Cumberledge.

Carter Lake Mayor Ron Cumberledge says the city has broken ground on a new community center and money from the casino also helped move that project off the shelf.

“We had a community center on the plans for 20 years, we just never could find the resources or the funding to go through with it. We have pledged the last three years of this casino money to erect this new community center,” said Cumberledge.

The community center will include a full-size gym, a wellness center, and a brand new senior center.

Bonnie Freeman is on the city’s library board, she says the city’s library will also get a boost from the construction of the community center.

“They’re going to connect the community center to the library and so we’ll all be one facility then we’ll have to rearrange some doors but it will be updated,” said Freeman.

Proceeds from the casino also help to make life better for members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. “Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will be opening very soon a brand new state-of-the-art Lincoln

health care clinic that is built in part by proceeds from the Prairie Flower Casino. Since opening, Prairie Flower Casino has donated \$28 million back to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for those critical services,” said Centers.

Mayor Cumberledge says so far, the casino has been a win-win and he’s hoping Prairie Flower will give bloom to more business in Carter Lake.

“They bring 300,000 visitors a year, absolutely they make that area a lot more attractive to everybody involved.”

Mayor Cumberledge says the price tag for the town’s new community center is around \$4 million.

“We have 500 hotel rooms in town and there’s another hotel coming online to partner up with the Prairie Flower Casino so we’re hoping to bring some more of that entertainment value into town.”

## Attention Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members:

You can access Tribal Council minutes on the tribe’s website at <https://www.poncatribene.org/tribal-documents/council-minutes-agendas/> (note that you must register and be logged in). These are updated as soon as approved minutes are distributed.



# Elders Committee hosts early holiday dinner for District 4 Elders

**Chris Legband**

District 4 Elders were treated to an early Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the trimmings Saturday, November 6 at the Ponca Tribe Transit Facility meeting room in Norfolk.

Several tribal members and their guests gathered around the festive tables for turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, green beans, fruit, vegetables, and pumpkin pie. Many took home to-go boxes of food and four attendees were especially lucky and left with a \$50 gift card for Target.

The event was hosted by the PTN Elders Committee. Committee Vice Chair Mark Peniska opened the dinner with a traditional prayer and thanked those in attendance and the other committee members who



assisted with this event. Committee members in attendance were Chair Chris Legband, Secretary Belva Phillips, Marchita Bair, Rose Birdhead and Rita Pitzer.

Mark Peniska praised Chairwoman Legband for helping to organize the event. “Kudos to Chairwoman Legband

for doing the planning, the decorations, getting the gift cards, and staying with Angie to do all the clean up,” he said.

The committee would like to give a special thanks to Lincoln tribal member Lottie Phillips for her help, Councilwoman Angie Starkel for her help (and that of her sweet children) before, during and after this event, and for Councilwoman Schlotman for attending and Councilman Alex and Kyle Taylor’s continued support.



## Elder’s Committee Meeting

### December 6 | 9 am

Ponca Tribe Offices | Niobrara

### January 3 | 9 am

Ponca Tribe Offices | Sioux City



### 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. Students must apply each school year.

**Spring 2022 deadline: December 15, 2021**

**Summer 2022 deadline: May 15, 2022**

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 2021-2022 school year is July 31, 2022.**

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@poncatrIBE-ne.org](mailto:aknudsen@poncatrIBE-ne.org).

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

# Keep it handy! Keep it safe!

Keeping your enrollment number safe and secure is important! Your enrollment number is the fastest and easiest way to verify your enrollment in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and your eligibility for programs open to members of the Ponca Tribe.

Moving forward all changes to forms and other personal information, online, in person, and over the phone, will require your enrollment number. No changes will be made without a verified enrollment number. Likewise, all Ponca-specific programs will require a verified enrollment number at the time of application to be accepted.

So remember to keep your enrollment number handy, and keep it secure! If you need a new enrollment card or tribal ID, please reach out to the Enrollment Department, [enrollment@poncatrIBE-ne.org](mailto:enrollment@poncatrIBE-ne.org).



# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

### Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760 Fax: 402-857-3771

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MUST BE AN ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

PREVIOUS ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

NEW ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

NEAREST RELATIVE  
PHONE/ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

ALTERNATE/CELL  
NUMBER:

E-mail

DATE NEW ADDRESS IN EFFECT:

To provide better services to Ponca tribal members, this information will be shared with all PTON Departments as needed. Any service may be suspended until this information is corrected and/or updated.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DATE

(Please sign your name in the area below with a BLACK felt tip marker)

I \_\_\_\_\_ I

**TRIBAL MEMBERS**

(please print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WANT YOUR SS NUMBER ON YOUR ID CARD? YES \_\_\_\_\_ OR NO \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please check one of the following: Full SS number \_\_\_\_\_ or Last 4 digits only \_\_\_\_\_

By marking **Yes** you understand it is your responsibility to keep your SSN confidential and acknowledge that the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is not responsible if the card is lost or stolen.

**FOR A PHOTO ID PLEASE SIGN AND FILL OUT THIS PAGE,  
DON'T FORGET TO SEND (EMAIL) YOUR PICTURE AS WELL**

**Photo ID Instructions**

**1. Signature**

Please completely fill in the information on the bottom of the signature page. With a **black** felt tip marker please sign your name in the middle of the top of the signature page. **(Please note that children do not require a signature for theirs.)**

**2. Clear readable copies of the following must be submitted:**

a: State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID card  
(It **must** have your picture and signature on it)

b: If you are **not** an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe but your child is, you must still submit a copy of your State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID and a copy of your child(s) Social Security Card and Tribal Enrollment Card for proof of enrollment.

**3. Photo Options:**

You can email a current photo (without filters) to - enrollment@poncatribene.org

OR

You may scan and email or mail documentation to:

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Enrollment Department  
PO Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760-0288

**CERTIFICATE CARDS**

Certificate cards, or non photo ID's, are available upon request. **This form is not required for certificate cards.** Please contact the enrollment department if you would like an enrollment card without a picture.

**\*\*\*\* NOTICE: All Tribal Members \*\*\*\*****LAW AND ORDER CODE REVISION  
Discussion on January 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.  
During Tribal Council Meeting****\*\*\*\* NOTICE: All Tribal Members\*\*\*\***

The Ponca Tribal Council will be reviewing proposed amendments to the Law and Order Code. The revisions are being considered because the Election Board wants to ensure that the Election Process in 2022 will be fair and impartial.

**There are changes being proposed to Title IX. The revisions being considered include but are not limited to the following:**

- Change the word “herein” to “in this Title”
- 9-1-4 Change the definition of inactive voter
- 9-4-9 Expand the section on signatures to include accommodations for disabled signers
- 9-4-12 Only original petition sheets to be accepted
- 9-4-17 Certification of Petitions to be e-mailed to Tribal Council Secretary
- 9-6-9 Expand the section on Residency Requirements

A complete copy of the proposed amendments is available at the tribal offices, or one may be obtained by contacting Jan Colwell, Tribal Council Secretary at 402-857-3391.

**There will be a discussion by Tribal Council that is open for public comment on January 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard.**

**Written comments will be accepted until December 28, 2021.** The written comments may be emailed to [janc@poncatribes-ne.org](mailto:janc@poncatribes-ne.org) or mailed to

Jan Colwell,  
P.O. Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760

**Dear Ponca Relatives,**

My name is Cliff Taylor. I am the son of Cliff Taylor Jr. and the grandson of Cliff Taylor Sr. and Barb Taylor (Picotte). I'm a writer, a jack of many trades (grocery store cashier, gas station cashier; guess that's pretty much it), a Sundancer, and a poet. I love spending my time working on things that I imagine will be of some help or use or inspiration to our people, especially on things that'll continue to help long after us current folks are gone. And in that spirit, I have a new project I would like to invite you all to be a part of.

I want to put together a book of stories about our Ponca people, stories of all kinds from all of us, to create a portrait of who we are that we can share with each other far and wide, and also pass on to our young ones who are full of all those essential, important questions: like "What does it mean to be Ponca?", "How can I learn about myself and my culture?", "How have our elders handled the challenges of this life?", "What do other Poncas have to say about our tribe and where we're going?"

I would love to see this book composed of stories from Poncas young and old, those who've stayed in the community of our Nebraska families and those who've travelled elsewhere, those who've been a part of our tribe's development in recent decades and those who've carried on our spirit in less seen ways; from Poncas who've had dreams of all kinds, who've been in the service, who've owned businesses, who've remembered what their grandparents taught them, who've had journeys and adventures, who've seen much, pondered much, who have stories worth telling, who've carried something in their heart that they've always wanted to share. I want this book to be a gift we all make together, compiling a wide, rich selection of perspectives, memories, stories, jokes, teachings, history, and things worth knowing, things worth passing on to future Poncas.

And so, how do we go about doing this, how do we make this book together? I'm going to provide my email and my mailing address and it's as simple as sending me a story from your life that you would like to see in the pages of this book. Handwritten letters are especially welcome as there is a certain kind of soul and magic in them that I would like to see at the core of what we're doing, but I'm also open to emails, voice recordings, videos, and anything really that's a story and that can be added to the collection in the book. Think hard (or maybe not too hard), and find something that you would like to contribute. It could be something from your childhood, something that helped form your identity, an experience that you've always known was special, or something that's funny, that's just beautiful to you for your own reasons, something that's instructive, that was hard to bear, that's one of your favorite stories to tell around the fire, that your family won't let you forget, that was spiritually meaningful or illuminating, maybe something one of your relatives told you, that gets a smile every time you share it, that you've always wanted to tell but never found the right moment or audience for, that comes to your heart when you hear the question, "What story would you like to tell your great-great grandchildren?"

Send me a story or two or three. Tell your family about this project and see if they'd like to participate. Share this letter on your social media and do what you can to let other Poncas know about this book we're working on, this tribe-sized group self-portrait we're making out of stories. Get your relatives excited, interested, feel that love that bonds us all together and use that love to help this book come into being. Help all the stories that we would all really like to see in this book to show up, to gallop our way, to arrive in the collection, for this book that I'm currently calling *Stories of Our Northern Ponca People*. Let's collaborate on this together, relatives, and really make it happen!

Practically speaking, I'm going to spend the next 12 months on the gathering phase of this project, seeing what comes in, typing up stories, slowly allowing for the book's content and structure to take shape. As time goes along, I will update everyone on how it's going, on what, if anything, we may need to do as a group, and on anything cool or helpful-to-the-cause that happens along the way. I really believe that we can create something special and beautiful together, that we can learn things we had no clue about by gathering all these stories together into once place, that we can make something we'll all be very proud of and happy to gift to our young ones. A lot of things were lost because our voices were silenced for so long; this book is a chance to speak, to be heard, to make sure the beautiful essence of our lives is really shared and passed on. We all have a story to share. Now is as good a time as any to open up and share it.

My email is [cliffponca@gmail.com](mailto:cliffponca@gmail.com) and my mailing address is Cliff Taylor/ 3710 Grand Ave/ Astoria, OR 97103. I look forward to reading your stories and finding a place for them in *Stories of Our Northern Ponca People*.

Weblaho,

Cliff Taylor

# A message from Tribal Council

On Tuesday, November second, Larry Wright Jr. officially stepped down as Chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. He has decided to pursue a job opportunity and is stepping down a year earlier than the end of his term. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska wishes him the best in his future endeavors, and thanks him for his leadership these past several years.

Tribal Council remains dedicated to tribal growth. We continue to focus on projects that will strengthen the Tribe, including the Joint Venture health center project in Ralston, expansion of the Prairie Flower Casino, and improvement of our office sites and services. Please reach out to your tribal representatives with any questions or needs.




Twins Megan and Andrew Baker, members from California, are students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Megan is a Husker athlete and competed in a UNL swim meet on Friday, November 4th. She placed first in two of her races. Congratulations Megan!



Ally (sister), Abe (champ), Aubrey (mom), and TJ (brother).

Congratulations to Abraham Larson, who placed 7th out of 132 runners at the Nebraska state cross country championships in Kearney, on Oct. 22nd, 2021. Abraham, a senior at Stanton High School has competed at state each year. He completed his cross country career by earning 3 state medals. "I am so proud of you Abe! Keep aiming for the stars." Love, mom



Cante' Waste' Win Tiospaye' Talking Circle

Please join our Female Talking Circle  
 Every 1st & 3rd Friday each month 20-6pm  
 Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition  
 2240 Landon Ct, Omaha NE  
 Any questions contact Marissa Wright (402)309-4503  
 or Lestina Saul (402)885-5445

Healing through tradition, ceremony and prayer...



# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760

[www.poncatrIBE-ne.org](http://www.poncatrIBE-ne.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@poncatrIBE-ne.org](mailto:jhitchcock@poncatrIBE-ne.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.poncatrIBE-ne.org](http://www.poncatrIBE-ne.org)*