



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News

A Life Well Lived

Eldest Ponca
member
Robert Tietgen
honored



Ponca Tribe celebrates Grand Opening of Lincoln clinic

On Monday, March 21st, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hosted a Grand Opening ceremony for their new health center, Ponca Health Services-Lincoln.

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln, which had its soft opening as a preview for members in October of 2021, and began scheduling its first patients in December, marks expanded services for the



native community in the Lincoln area.

The Grand Opening ceremony included a

flag raising, ribbon cutting, proclamations from Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts and Lincoln Mayor Lerion Gaylor

Baird, honoring of Tribal Council, Elders, Ponca Princesses, and Ponca Tribe of Nebraska staff, and was followed by tours of the facility.

The remainder of the new facility, scheduled for completion in 2022, will house Tribal Affairs staff, along with community space for tribal and member events, and a fitness facility for Ponca members, patients, and clients.

Artists Wanted!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to submit art for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow poster and t-shirt, to be used for this year's Powwow! **Designs must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm, April 30th, 2022.**

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. All artwork must be high resolution, scalable to poster and/or t-shirt size. For more information, or to submit designs, please email rwrightjr@poncatrIBE-ne.org



**PONCA TRIBE
OF NEBRASKA**



On the cover: Robert Tietgen and his sister, Marilyn (Tietgen) Baxa, visiting a Native American cemetery east of Herrick, Memorial Day 2014 or 2015. Robert, the oldest living Ponca member, was recently honored by District 1 Tribal Council. Read more about Robert's life and service on pages 10-11 of this issue.

Language educator meet and greet held in Lincoln

On Saturday, March 26th, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska held a meet and greet with Eagle Rhodd, Ponca Language Educator at the Lincoln offices. Eagle Rhodd has been teaching virtual Ponca Language classes for the last couple of weeks. Members enjoyed the opportunity to meet him, and several members of his family who journeyed north for the occasion. A meal was followed by introductions, Ponca hymns, and a language lesson.



District 1 hosts floral applique sewing classes

District 1 Council Reps Angie Starkel and Jo An Schlotman hosted “Intro to Floral Appliqué Sewing,” with Instructor Theresa Foley at the Niobrara and Sioux City offices in March. Theresa has been sewing floral appliqué for Ponca dresses and shawls for over 25 years. Theresa showcased some examples of the floral designs and taught the

participants how to make floral designs, which were appliqué sewed onto bags that Theresa also taught the participants to make.

Angie and Jo An purchased new sewing machines for each office site along with other sewing supplies to be utilized for future District sewing classes. Jo An and Angie will be hosting additional regalia making classes



Pictures of the floral appliqué bags. Front Row: Dannabah Saunsoci, Iyéska Wi Saunsoci, Zaida Teboe; Middle Row: Jo An Schlotman, Cyndi Lingeback, Keira Saunsoci; Back Row: Theresa Foley, Patty Starkel, Angie Starkel



Instructor Theresa Foley explaining how to draw floral designs on newspaper to make a template for fabric. Around the table L-R: Dannabah Saunsoci, Iyéska Wi Saunsoci, Theresa Foley, Keira Saunsoci, Zaida Teboe

this spring and into the summer for District 1. Look to the PTN social media posts and the newsletter for future District 1 sewing classes, like Ponca skirts and shawl with Theresa Foley, as well as other classes and

activities that members are interested.

Sioux City office holds open house to celebrate remodel

The Sioux City offices of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska welcomed members, clients, and the general public for an Open House on Friday, March 25th to showcase

their newly remodeled offices. The updated space offers a large area for meetings and community gatherings, and more office locations for staff.

Attendees had the opportunity to tour the offices, meet several of the Sioux

City staff, and talk about what the future holds for the Sioux City location.



Easter Egg Hunt

April 10 | 10 am

PTN Sioux City Office | 125 6th Street | Sioux City, IA
Niobrara Headquarters | 2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE
Ralston Transit Building | 5707 S 85th Circle | Omaha, NE
Norfolk Administration Building | 1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE
Ponca Tribe Offices | 1701 E Street | Lincoln, NE

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska youth living in the service delivery areas are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at their nearest office location. Easter baskets will be distributed after the Easter Egg Hunt.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



Ponca Tribe buffalo move to brand new pasture



On Friday, March 18th, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska staff and volunteers assisted in moving 92 of the Tribe’s buffalo to a portion of the land that was acquired for their new pasture south of the community building and powwow grounds. When all the fencing is completed, the herd will have around 900 acres of pasture, more than double the acreage that they had previously southeast of Niobrara. Eventually, permanent corrals will also be established on this new land, making it easier to provide the care necessary for the health and well-being of the herd, such as immunizations, and separating those buffalo selected for culling.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska’s Buffalo Program was established in 1996. The herd began

with 26 bison acquired from Wind Cave and the Niobrara Wildlife Refuge and has been overseen by Larry Wright, Sr. for the last 21 years. With his leadership the program has prospered; the current herd numbers more than 160 head and provides healthy, grass fed buffalo meat to elder tribal members each year.

A great way for members and friends of the tribe to show your support for our tribe’s buffalo is through the adopt-a-buffalo program. With your donation, you can choose either the calf/yearling group, the herd group, or the herd bull group. Once this donation is processed, you’ll receive a personalized certificate and an enlarged photo from the group to which you’ve donated.

A job well done and a big thank you is owed



to Steve Kreycik (Land Manager), Jim Wright (Maintenance), Ray Branstiter (tribal member), and all other volun-

teers for assisting Larry Wright, Sr. and the buffalo program with the preparation and execution of this endeavor.

Adopt a buffalo today!

- \$25 for the Yearling Group
- \$50 for the Buffalo Herd Group
- \$100 for the Head Herd Bull Group

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



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.

Summer 2022 deadline: May 15, 2022

Fall 2022 deadline: August 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 2021-2022 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@poncatribene.org.

Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs

Class of 2022

Honoring our Graduating Seniors

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska would like to honor our 2022 Ponca graduates in a special section in our June 2022 newsletter.

Please send a high-resolution photo, and include the name of your graduate, along with school name and city. Feel free to include info about award, honors, future activities and family. Submissions may be subject to minor edits for space and consistency.

Send your graduate's information to info@poncatribene.org, with the subject line: **Class of 2022, no later than May 10th, 2022**, to have your graduate featured in this section.



Nutrition Tip: Eat out less frequently, and make more mindful choices

- Take inventory of how often you eat out. If it's once or twice a month, that's a splurge. If it's more often, that's a habit.
- Any meal not prepared at home is "out," including foods from a drive thru, work cafeterias, or pizza and other food deliveries.
- Plan a few meals out occasionally based on your nutrition goals.
- Many restaurants have nutrition information online, and some phone apps are helpful, too. Learn a few better options to choose regularly when eating out to make it easier to choose more healthful meals.
- Restaurant portions can be too large. Plan to bring home leftovers to enjoy at another meal.



Healthy Living Walk/Run

April 23, 2022

Registration - 9:30 am | Walk Run - 10:00 am

Walk/Run Location - Skyview Lake
1900 West Maple Ave. | Norfolk, NE

Come join the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Diabetes Program for our Healthy Living Walk/Run! Prizes will be awarded in each age category, and all participants will receive a T-shirt.

For more information, please contact Crystal at 402.371.8834, ext. 130.



April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month

Marian Harris
DV Outreach Coordinator

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is defined as any sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the victim.

Indigenous Natives/ Alaska Natives

According to The Department of Justice, non-Indians commit approximately 88 percent of violent victimizations against Indian women. Many sexual assaults that native women have experienced are committed by others outside their own tribes.

As unacceptable as this is, many tribal jurisdictions can do nothing, or are limited in their capacity to prosecute non-native perpetrators. One survivor put it this way: "I call it hunting - non-natives come here hunting. They know they can come onto our lands and rape us with impunity because they know that we can't touch them." ~ Lisa Brunner, rape survivor advocate

Unfortunately, this is the brutal and honest truth. Some of us can relate; others of us can only imagine what our relative goes through after this unimaginable and horrific act. Can you place yourself in their shoes, the fear

of not knowing whether you'll live or die? The shame they feel, the guilt that isn't theirs to bear? We want to embrace our relative and continue to care for them without judgement. If you know the feeling of fear, you know it's very real.

Thankfully there are some small steps being taken politically for tribal jurisdictions to begin to prosecute. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 partially provides special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction to federally recognized tribes. Although this act helps, it is still difficult to prosecute non-native offenders. If you'd like to read more about this, please google: Title IX: Safety for Indian Women

We must not forget that native men also perpetrate sexual violence and remember: One isn't practicing cultural values when they commit crimes against their own women.

What can I do? What can we do as a people, as a community or survivor?

- When you know someone: Let the victim decide who to tell about the assault, even if you know about it. Most victims of sexual assault struggle with a great deal of shame and

embarrassment.

- Avoid giving advice. We want to help and that's ok, but a survivor may already be doing something or simply aren't able or don't want to do anything. It's their pain and experience. Being there to listen, without advice or comments, may be just what they need.
- Create strong community networks with neighbors, where positive relationships can be formed; where learning and talking about sexual assault can happen without judgement.
- Be open with your own family and teach prevention, and provide information about safety and risk factors.
- Attend campaigns and visit tables during community gathering events. Host your own table on this subject and arm yourself with knowledge to pass to others.
- Purchase rape whistles, watch yourself when attending places where drinks are offered or parties, go in a group that watch one another, walk with a partner when out and about, take a self-defense class.
- Address perpetrator risk factors as listed: not

every risk is identified here

- o Alcohol and drug use.
- o Delinquency.
- o Lack of concern for others.
- o Aggressive behaviors and acceptance of violent behaviors.
- o Early sexual initiation.
- o Coercive sexual fantasies.
- o Preference for impersonal sex and sexual-risk taking.
- o Exposure to sexually explicit media

Share with your family, your network, at work, during leisure time, with as many will listen. Remember that our relatives don't ask to be raped or violated. Most victims are trusting people and don't intentionally put themselves in harm's way. Some have been drugged, some have been beaten into submission, some are simply trusting humanity to be human. Be mindful and compassionate. Choose sympathy. Together we stand against Sexual Assault!!

The Color=Teal

**April 28th Denim Day
-Please wear denim in support of our sexual assault survivors**

Sioux City staff members attend Human Rights Commission meeting



On March 2nd, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska staff attended the Sioux City Human Rights Commission focus group. PTN DV Advocate Chris Denny, and Human Trafficking Program Coordinator Adrianna Buffalo Chief Hoffman attended the meeting to assure that the voice of Indigenous peoples was heard in the context of the focus group. Topics of discussion included the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) as it applies to surrounding tribes, and promoting community and business development

within the Indigenous population in Sioux City, IA.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska was praised for their ongoing efforts to serve and support all Indigenous peoples in the area, no matter in what tribe they are enrolled. Through the focus group, it was agreed that there is still work to do within Woodbury County, and continuing efforts towards tribal collaboration needs to continue in order to encourage community growth and development.

PYEF funding updated

The Ponca Youth Enrichment Fund program (PYEF) provides funding to assist in enabling enrolled Ponca Tribe of Nebraska youth to reach their personal goals that may otherwise be unattainable due to lack of financial resources. The purpose of the program is to encourage participation and excellence in physical, educational, developmental, cultural, spiritual and other life-enriching activities.

To apply for funding, the applicant, or parent/guardian of the applicant, should contact the PYEF Committee staff member for their district.

District 1
Joan Geardino

District 2
Donna Larson

District 3
Tiffani Spencer
Joan Geardino

District 4
Crystal Mundorf
Tina Villalpando

Eligibility has been updated to include ALL Ponca Youth ages 0-20 regardless of whether or not the youth live in the Service Delivery Area. Qualified members are eligible for up to \$300 per fiscal year.

Members can also apply for PYEF funding on our website at <https://www.poncatribene.org/services/ponca-youth-enrichment-fund/>

The Child Care and Development Fund provides assistance to low-income families who need child care due to work, work-related training and/or attending school.

For more information or to see if you qualify for acceptance into the program, contact the program coordinator:

Joan Geardino
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
1701 E Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
jgeardino@
poncatribene.org



Decorative floral patterns at the top and bottom of a dark blue box.

Denim Day

April 28, 2022

Please wear denim in support of sexual assault survivors

Return of Thunders

APRIL 23RD 2022

POWWOW

WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Sioux City, Ia.

**FREE ADMISSION
DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

DOORS OPEN AT 10 A.M. CST

EMCEE: *Garan Coons*
ARENA DIRECTOR: *Nach Thomas*
HEAD MAN DANCER: *Chris Denny*
HEAD WOMAN DANCER: *Kyleigh Merrick*

GRAND ENTRY
1:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Categories

Traditional - Golden Age - Mens 18 & under -
Mens 18 plus - Womens 18 & under -
Womens 18 plus - Tiny Tots.

Host Drums
Northern
Mato Pejuta (Isanti)
Southern

Meal @ 5 P.M.
Soup and Frybread

Cash Out @
9:00 P.M.

New Breed (Winnebago)
White Tail Boyz (Umoho)

Vendor booths: \$25 - Proceeds go to dancers
Call: 402-404-1663

SECURITY: OMAHA TRIBE



Return of Thunders Powwow Committee is not responsible for accidents, theft, vandalism, or lack of travel funds. No drugs, alcohol, or fire-arms allowed.

Environmental Department celebrates Earth Day

Hello everyone and welcome to April! This month has a lot of environmental history to it; one of the most talked about is Earth Day. Earth Day started 52 years ago on April 22, 1970 after a lot of people started recognizing the harmful impacts that people were having on the environment, and decided that enough was enough. Laws were put into place to start protecting the land, water, and air, though things were far from perfect.

As your Environmental Department our mission is to promote, maintain, and protect the health of the water, land, and air within the Service Areas of the Tribe and to ensure the continued health and welfare of its Members and culturally relevant plants and animals. Which is why each year we have conducted outreach at our office sites, either with the youth or elders. This year that is limited, so to share the fun of Earth Day, we are including this word search for a few moments of enjoyment. It is our wish that when you are completed and no longer wish to have your newsletter that you recycle it.

H	H	E	K	E	B	Q	E	D	S	U	Y	E	G	G
K	J	S	Z	G	U	R	Q	E	X	H	Z	U	N	Q
Q	S	U	Q	L	U	A	Z	U	X	H	I	I	I	L
K	O	O	B	T	L	M	X	Z	H	M	N	N	L	L
I	L	H	A	D	I	Q	E	E	W	E	A	G	C	Z
J	A	N	S	A	I	R	D	T	D	W	C	F	Y	X
T	R	E	J	B	M	W	M	R	S	X	O	M	C	L
X	N	E	W	G	V	W	A	E	H	Y	N	P	E	C
A	F	R	B	N	F	G	A	H	W	U	S	I	R	R
E	L	G	I	B	I	K	C	T	U	F	E	O	S	V
X	H	T	V	P	R	E	R	A	E	H	R	A	C	K
M	T	W	H	Z	E	C	U	E	D	R	V	J	M	E
H	R	X	M	L	X	J	B	F	T	R	E	E	S	T
N	A	J	K	L	M	B	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W
B	E	X	C	V	V	D	R	B	K	I	D	W	Z	C

conserve
solar
greenhouse
earth
wildlife

ecosystem
recycling
water
fire
nature

trees
gardening
air
feather

Ponca Tribe hosts Mapping Climate Change Workshop

In March, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hosted a Mapping Climate Change Workshop at the Norfolk

Transit facility. All of the Tribes in Region 7 attended.

The workshop focused on GIS and climate data collection.



District 1 Tribal Council honors oldest member

District 1 Tribal Council Representatives Jo An Schlotman and Angie Starkel recently honored the oldest living Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member, Robert Tietgen, who turns 92 on April 30th. Jo An and Angie had the pleasure of experiencing the humor of Robert, a descendent of Amelia Men-

ard, during their recent visit with him. Robert's family was gracious enough to help Jo An and Angie to write up Robert's life story and to provide pictures. Jo An and Angie will be continuing to honor elders in District 1 in the upcoming months.



Robert Tietgen: The oldest member of the Ponca Tribe

Tami Johnson

Daughter of Robert Tietgen

Robert Tietgen is the oldest living member of the Ponca tribe. This is a brief history of a life well lived.

Robert Tietgen was born April 30th, 1930, on the family farm eleven miles south of Burke SD. He was the first-born child of Laverna (Glick) Tietgen and William Tietgen. His sister Marilyn (Tietgen) Baxa was born six years later.

He grew up helping on the farm, but also found time to go fishing and swimming in the creeks. Robert attended grade school at the Glasser Country school through eighth grade

Robert spent his first two years of high school at the Herrick, SD, Public School. While attending school he boarded in Herrick. He worked at the Herrick Meat Locker both before and after school, helping cut meat and making bologna.



Robert has used the skills he learned at that locker all of his life, and has passed that knowledge down to his children and grandchildren.

He attended the Burke Public School his final two years of schooling, graduating in 1948.

After graduation, Robert enlisted in the Navy on June 22nd, 1948.

He attended boot camp, then cook/baker school, in San Diego, CA. After finishing his training, he was then placed on the USS Virgo. He spent five weeks stationed at Pearl Harbor.



From there, Robert went to Guam, where he was stationed from February 1949 to May 1951. While in Guam he was a meat cutter at the air base and for a while at the supply depot. During first 35 months of service, Robert only had twelve days of leave.

Once he returned to San Francisco, Robert reenlisted in the Navy, this time into the Submarine Division. He attended submarine school in New London, CT. After graduation, he was placed on the submarine USS Tigron from September

1951 to January 1953.

On returning home on one of his rare leaves, Robert met Luella Bentz, when she served him the best egg sandwich he had ever eaten. The next time he was able to get leave, they were married, on March 30th, 1952. After the wedding, they headed to Norfolk, VA where he was stationed. On the 14th of April, Robert shipped out to sea, leaving his new bride behind without being able to say goodbye.

July 1st, 1952, they were transferred to Philadelphia. In October, his wife Luella moved back to Burke. Then in January 1953, Robert was assigned to the USS Runner. He made one last transfer to the USS Orion in March of 1953 before leaving the Navy in June of 1953 to return to his wife in Burke. He left the Navy with the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class. Robert is a Korean War veteran.

His service to his country did not end with leaving the Navy. He joined the American Legion, Allen Loudon Post 220 in Herrick, SD. In 1962, Robert took over the position of post Chaplain. He held that position for 55 years. He took this position seriously and took pride in honoring the veterans who had passed. He also is a member of the VFW in Burke, SD.

On several occasions, family members of a deceased would come to him and ask if he could do more than the usual military graveside service, because they could not find a minister willing to do a service for their loved one. Robert always agreed to do it and made the service more personalized and said an extra prayer.

One of his most prized jobs as Legion Chaplain was to do the Memorial Day Services. Besides doing services at the Herrick Cemetery, he did services at three nearby Native American cemeteries. There were usually large crowds at the latter cemeteries. On occasions when he and the other Legion members arrived, an excited child would come running across the cemetery announcing the news to everyone that “the Papa Robert has arrived.”

After leaving the Navy, Robert and his wife Luella settled down on a farm south of Burke. There they raised five children, Pete, Richard, Patricia, Michael, and Tami. Along with their own children, they also had a hand in raising a couple of his wife’s younger siblings, a niece, and a couple nephews. Plus, for a short time they were also foster parents

During his years of farming, Robert raised both dairy and stock



cattle. He also raised pigs, sheep, horses, goats, chickens, and ducks.

During the early years of farming, he raised one thousand chickens at a time. He would get up during the night to feed and water them, then get up early in the morning to help his wife get started butchering them. He would then go do chores while she finished. After the chores and butchering were done, they would load the birds up and go into town to sell them.

Robert, along with his wife, started the State Liners 4H club, and were its leaders for thirty years. During that time, he had a hand in shaping many young lives. He was also the chicken judge at the Gregory County 4H Achievement Days for many years.

Robert has always enjoyed being around children. Besides his five children, he has ten grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Over the years he has also been the honorary dad and grandpa to many others

An excerpt from a Forrest Witcraft poem “Within my Power” could have been written about Robert, “One hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money was in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a better place because I made the difference in a child’s life.”

Another thing that Robert is known for is his love of visiting no matter who it is. In fact, he has never met a stranger, just someone he has not got to know yet. He also has a love of telling and hearing jokes, plus the ability to make a short story long.

In 1989, Robert and his wife moved off the farm and into town. He continued to farm part-time with his son Michael. He also worked part-time for a while as a meat cutter at a local grocery store.

On March 22nd, 2014, his wife Luella passed away, just eight days short of their 62nd anniversary. Robert continued to live in his own house doing his own cooking, baking bread, growing flowers and vegetables. It was not unusual for him to have over fifty planters of flowers and vegetables growing on his deck and in his yard. In 2021, his health started to fail. He is at present living in the Avera Rosebud Country Care Center in Gregory SD.

Robert has always been proud of his Ponca heritage His blood lines trace back several generations.

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)

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@poncatrIBE-ne.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.

Elder Spotlight: Mark Peniska

Chris Legband

Mark Peniska remembers when he was 12 years old visiting his Grandpa Lea and Grandma Maybell in Niobrara.

“They lived in a house by the community building. We drove up in an old 1940s Ford that I remember we had to stop and put chewing gum on the radiator,” Peniska said. “When we pulled up I later found out that my Grandpa asked my Grandma who’s here and she said, ‘I don’t know, but there is a big Indian driving the car,’ who was my dad Mark.”

Peniska remembers there was an outhouse there, no running water, no gas or electric stove. His grandma cooked on a cast iron wood stove and there was a pot bellied stove for heat.

“I remember gathering wood with Grandpa,” he said. “A funny story my dad told me about Grandma was that they had a couple of Ponca men over for supper and when they got done eating the one reached over and wiped his mouth on her kitchen drapes.



She immediately hit him with her broom and kicked them out of the house. My Grandpa Lea was the last Chairman of the Ponca tribe before termination.”

As a young Ponca boy growing up in Lincoln, Mark said his dad, Mark Sr., was his role model and mentor.

“He taught me a lot of Ponca words (when I would listen) and he knew everyone when it came to Poncas and people associated with them,” he said. “I was very proud of my dad; he was a WW2 war hero with the navy’s amphibious forces.”

Peniska reflects on his experiences of being asked why his sister looked different, why her skin wasn’t the same color as his.

“When I was young, people used to ask about me and my sister Nanette because her skin wasn’t as dark as mine,” he said. “People would ask ‘what are they’, because we had that brown completion, but my mom, Irene, who was German and French, said they are

American Indians. Being a true half-breed, and I’m not afraid of the word, unfortunately I got some negativity from both sides.”

Peniska said despite those comments, it made him strong to overcome many life obstacles and become successful.

“I went to small town high schools in Bennet and Palmyra Nebraska, mostly all white kids, and I was pretty happy and didn’t realize until years later that some of the students were prejudiced against Indians,” he said. “Not in my class though. I lettered in football, track and in was in chorus and one act play and was first chair clarinet for 3 years.”

After high school, Peniska said he attended the University of Nebraska for one and a half years, but was then drafted into the Army. However, he had already applied and got into the Navy. He says unfortunately he ended up in Danang,

“I was in Viet Nam to deliver war supplies but I somehow dodged the rockets and mortar and Viet Cong swimmers at the piers,” he said.

After serving his country, Peniska said he married the love of his life Linda and they had four kids, Shad, Melissa, Preston and Angela. Mark and Linda celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary on March 29th. Mark attributes the longevity of their marriage to forgiveness.

“We forgave each other when we needed to,” he said.



Peniska also said he shared another aspect of the culture with his son Shad when he started participating with him in sweat ceremonies 12 years ago.

“That helped to understand the culture and spiritual insight of the tribe more,” he said. “I have danced at pow wows throughout the years and passed down what I know of the language to my children.”

It was later in life that Peniska said his political career began.

In his late 30s, he was appointed to then Mayor Johanns Citizens Cabinet. According to Peniska, the group of over 30 members had leading business leaders and many influential people.

“The group had to elect a chair from the appointees, and this Indian lady on the cabinet nominated me and there were three others,” he said. “I was initially hesitant about accepting the nomination against these other qualified Lincoln city leaders, but I decided to accept it.”

After being elected by what he described as a landslide, he remained Chairman for a year.

“That started my political career,” he said. “Then In the mid 90s, old Ponca member Dan Laravie called me to his house and told me the Ponca Tribe needed some new leadership on the Tribal Council and asked me to run. Unfortunately, he died in a terrible car accident, but I stayed true to his request.”

Peniska said despite losing in the first tribal elections he ran in, he never gave up.

“I finally was elected to Tribal



Council in 2000 by only 8 votes in a hard fought election with Randy Ross,” he said. “My cousin, Freddy convinced me to run for the Chair of the Ponca Tribe in 2002 and I won.”

Mixed in with his political work was a very successful career as a programmer and industrial engineer. He worked at Bruning in Lincoln, and Kwik Way in Cedar Rapids Iowa for three and a half years, and then came back to Lincoln at Teledyne Isco for 44 years, until his recent retirement in 2020.

“I was successful as a machinist, Industrial Engineer and CNC programmer and ended up garnering a large wage and respected position,” he said. “I loved my job. It wasn’t always easy and I had to work hard to get to where I ended up.”



Peniska is proud of what experience he has gained during both his life and time in office. He has served on many boards and committees. Most recently, he is Vice-Chair and a member of the Ponca Elders Committee.

“I have a lot of institutional knowledge about the Tribe and Tribal Council and Ponca Housing Authority that I think could be of help supporting our elders,” he said. “I have personally found ways to successfully promote my health and wealth that I want to bring forward to share and help our elders.”

Peniska also strives to advocate for Ponca elders so that they are not neglected or pushed aside. He said there are always basic needs like food, money and housing, but also believes that the tribal elders need continued emotional support.

“Sometimes there is great pressure not only to take care of themselves but spouses, kids and grandkids, great grandkids,” he said. “This can be very stressful and sometimes depressing for them, but they are private and independent and sometimes don’t ask for help.”

Overall, Peniska understands firsthand that as an elder that finding solutions and answers to problems can take time but encourages all elders to be strong and reach out for help if they need it.

“It would be easier just to give up, but that is why we on the Elders committee need to stay the course and be strong advocates for our elders,” he said. “The Elders committee’s suggestions must be respected and acted upon by our elected officials and always do what is in the best interest of the elder community.”

IT - Perceptions and understanding

Wm. Scott Ruele
Healthcare IT Manager

What do you think of when you think of IT? Yes, that's a loaded question so let's keep expletives out of your answers...

Do you interpret IT as being the people who help you fix your devices or address your login issues?

Do you interpret IT helping you get a new or updated version of your software?

Do you interpret IT as simply being challenging or a P.I.T.A (you can picture an expletive here) by ensuring security and other boundaries are kept?

What if IT was all this and more? What if this was just the tip of the iceberg? What if I stop asking questions?

Every day IT tries to work with each and every one of your departments to not only ensure you are up and running but to also explore what we might do to ensure your needs are being met, that technological solutions are available and can be applied within reason and are effective as well as take a proactive role in trying to help your departments and the organization grow. These efforts are often in the background, are not well advertised due to being limited by participants in the conversation and when word does get out are often greeted with a well-deserved dose of skepticism due to history where you work. But do understand these efforts are taking place. Some of these examples are updating systems, replacing software with newer and more secure programs,

replacing outdated hardware, improving inventory and processes around purchasing your equipment all the way up to mapping out technology solutions for JV. In another words: all around us but not necessarily obvious.

Does this make things (or us) challenging? Absolutely – and believe it or not, we derive no pleasure from being so. Well, not most days - haha. But there are examples of how IT in the workplace is really similar to aspects of our personal lives. Here is one example: our work world requires we have more and more of what we call 2FA as part of our work environment – two factor authentication – which is usually represented by asking a text to be sent to your cell phone or by an app generating a code. Some view this as an inconvenience. But have you ever had or

know someone have their bank account or credit card accessed? How about identity theft? Picture that same breach on our network – how much damage could be done to our patients, among others, by us treating this as important as we do in our personal lives. These are things that happen all around us every day – work and personal. So, for this among other reasons, we'll continue to be challenging.

I would suggest that there is a lot more to IT than most recognize and that IT just has to get better at helping with understanding. Meanwhile, feel free to call me a P.I.T.A anytime you like – us IT folk are used to it.

Thanks for reading,”

Head Cook & Cleaning Staff Needed

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is seeking letters of interest from Ponca members for Head Cook and cleaning staff for the 2022 Annual Northern Ponca Powwow in August.

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. For more information, or to submit your letter of intent, please email rwrightjr@poncatribene.org



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA





Staff attend MHI Summit



Rebecca Tamayo, Nicole Bad Moccasins & Suzanne Mealer attended the Minority Health Initiative Summit on March 11, 2022 at UNL Innovation Campus.

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.

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 eboard@poncatribene.org



Calling all Ponca Veterans!



The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) is working to create a comprehensive list of all Ponca veterans for present and future recognition of service. As such, the THPO is respectfully requesting members that are veterans, or those who have family that have served, help provide information, including:

- Branch of service
- Wars served
- Dates served
- Photographs
- Details or a story from that service

This information will be featured on an veterans honor wall in the Ponca Tribe Museum, and will be used to honor veterans at events, memorials, etc.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

To submit veteran information, please contact Stacy Laravie, THPO via email (ssettje@poncatribene.org) or via mail:

Stacy Laravie, THPO
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
88915 521 Avenue
Niobrara, NE 68760



Interested in Ponca Language classes?

Classes stream live at <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/13507809>. Additionally, a playlist of previous language classes can be found on the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska YouTube channel.

For more information, please contact Ricky Wright, Culture Director, at rwrightjr@poncatribene.org, or 402.371.8834, ext. 120.



Elder's Committee Meeting

April 4 | 9 am

Ponca Transit Building | Norfolk, NE

May 2 | 9 am

Ponca Tribe Headquarters | Niobrara, NE



MEMBERS NEEDED!

ELDER'S COMMITTEE

There is currently a vacancy on the Elder's Committee for District 1 service delivery area. The qualifications are that you must be age 55 or older and must reside in or live within 100 miles of Knox, Boyd or Holt Counties in Nebraska; Woodbury County in Iowa or Charles Mix County in South Dakota. The Northern Ponca Elder's Committee exists to enrich the lives and meet the needs of the Northern Ponca Tribal Elders and to provide ways that positively impacts all Northern Ponca Tribal Elders. Members of this committee receive a stipend of \$250.00 per meeting, along with mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip and they meet on a monthly basis. A background check is required. The term will expire on January 13, 2025.

Deadline to apply for this committee is April 8, 2022.

Letters of interest can be sent to: Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Attn: Beth Barger, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or email: bbarger@poncatribene.org

OSNI PONCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Osni Ponca Board of Directors. 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, Attn: Beth Barger, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail to bbarger@poncatribene.org. A background check is required. Deadline for Application is May 1, 2022.

SPOTTED IN THE NEWS!

Ponca members Candy, Cami, and Maci Schott were proud to attend the Women's March in Omaha, and were featured in the Omaha World Herald.



Keep it handy! Keep it safe!

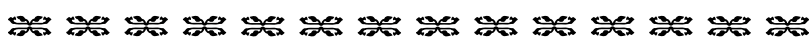
Keeping your enrollment number safe and secure is important! Your enrollment number is the fastest and easiest way to verify your enrollment in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and your eligibility for programs open to members of the Ponca Tribe.

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@poncatribene.org.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



PRAIRIE FLOWER MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members and employees will soon have the chance to purchase unique apparel from Prairie Flower Casino. Beginning April 1, an online store will be available on the Prairie Flower website, www.prairieflowercasino.com. There will be a variety of embroidered polo shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, and other items available to purchase. Purchases can be made from April 1 through May 31, and you will be able to choose to have your items sent to the casino for pick-up or delivered to your home. There are sizing charts for all items, and all purchases are final.

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, 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. I want this book to be a gift we all make together.

Send me a story or two or three. Tell your family about this project and see if they'd like to participate. My email is 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

Cante' Waste' Win Tiospaye' Talking Circle



Please join our Female Talking Circle
 Every 1st & 3rd Friday each month @ 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...

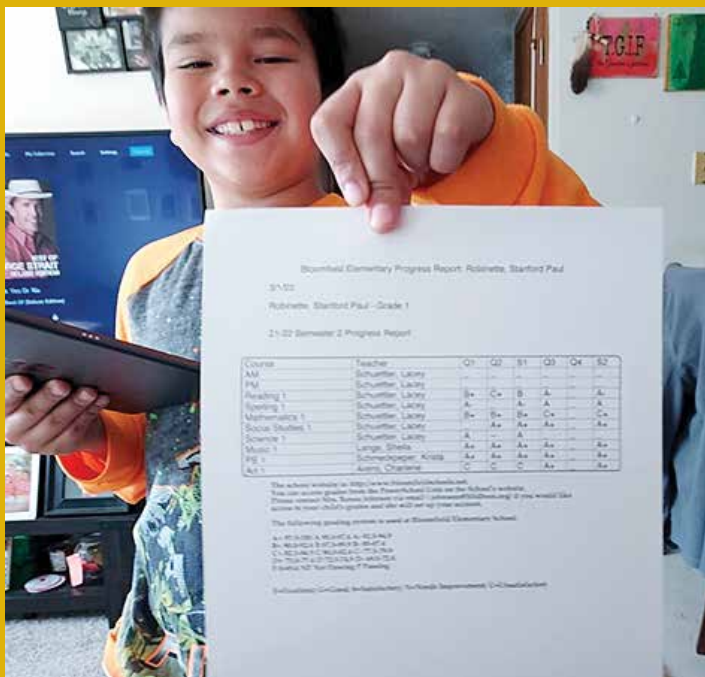
CONGRATULATIONS!



Ponca Tribe member Grace Cramblett was recently signed to the University of Kansas Jayhawks Track & Field team.



Jennifer Harshbarger, daughter of Chris Legband was named to the Midland University Dean's list for the 2021 Fall Semester. Harshbarger is a freshman at Midland, majoring in Youth and Family Ministry, with a minor in Human Services. Harshbarger attends Midland University in Fremont, NE, where she received a vocal scholarship.



Awesome job to Stanford Robinette for raising his grades this quarter! Keep up the great work! Great Grandma is so very proud of you!

In Memory

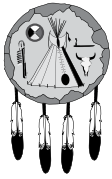


Norma Jean Foster was the daughter of Goldie Rebecca Pappan and Harvey Neils Surverkrubbe. She was born August 9, 1937 in Verdel, Nebraska. Norma was preceded in death by her mother, Goldie, father, Harvey, and brothers, Ronald Suverkrubbe and Harvey (Sonny) Suverkrubbe Jr.

Norma is survived by her daughters, Brenda (Don) Bogacz, Sheila (David) Bogacz, Melody Miodowski, Judy Foster, Leslie Foster, Stephanie Carlson, many Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, and Great-Great Grandchildren, as well as her beloved dog Gizmo.

Norma was a generous, loving, and caring Mother, Grandmother, Friend and Relative. She loved to cook, and all were welcome to come and visit in her home. Norma made the best fry bread, and her bean and corn soups were some of the best around. Norma loved movies, traveling, watching cooking shows, game shows, and was an avid collector of paper dolls, cookbooks, and salt and pepper shakers. She loved to sing and always had a way to brighten up a room, whether it was a story, a joke, a face, or just by being her silly self.

Norma was proud of her Ponca culture and was thankful for all her Ponca relatives that shared memories with her throughout her life. She was a cherished Ponca elder and was the second oldest tribal member residing in District 2. Norma passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, in her home on February 23, 2022, at the age of 84. She lived a life full of love, laughter, and family. She will be dearly missed by all who loved and knew her.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribene.org

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Office Locations

NIORARA 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

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln

1600 Windhoek Dr, 68512
Ph: (531) 248-3030

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

125 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. 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