



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News



Building something special

**Rebuilding of Niobrara
sweat lodge is learning
opportunity for Project
Venture youth.**

Project Venture and Environmental Department recognize Earth Day with activities

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Project Venture Program and the Environmental Department partnered to provide Earth Day activities for youth involved in the Project Venture Program.

Activities on Friday, April 22 included a presentation on the significance and history of

Earth Day, followed by a hike in Niobrara State Park, with the intent of picking up any trash.

On Saturday, April 23, Project Venture Youth helped Buffalo Program Manager Larry Wright, Sr., and Culture Director Ricky Wright harvest willows, and rebuild the sweat lodge in Niobrara.



Ponca Cemetery Cleanup

Hosted by the Culture Department

May 21 | 10 am-2 pm

10:00 AM - Meet at Ponca community building for instruction and caravan to the cemetery for ceremony. We will have trashbags for clean up. If bringing your own small maintenance tools, such as shovels, sheers, or small gardening shovels, please label them.

10:30 AM - Prayer/Memorial ceremony/Flag raising

11:00 AM - Start cleanup

12:00 PM - Lunch (Sack lunch provided). We will meet at the eating arbor. Feel free to bring blankets if you would like to do picnic style at the Family Plots.

1:00 PM - Clean up continued

2:00 PM - Adjourn. Please feel free to visit and share stories.

THPO will be on site with a cemetery map. If you know where any loved ones or ancestors are buried THPO is respectfully requesting information. We will be providing flowers, handkerchiefs, fruit, veteran flags, flowers, etc. for the Graves. Those that are unable to participate physically are still encourage to come and visit. We will have folding Chairs that we can bring to the cemetery. Water will be provided. Please wear tennis shoes or closed toe shoes, as there are small cactus and sandburrs at the cemetery. If children are coming, please be mindful as this is a sacred place.

For questions, please contact:
Richard Wright Jr. Culture Director at 402-371-8834 Ext. 120 rwrightjr@poncatribene.org
Stacy Laravie THPO at 402-857-3519 ssettje@poncatribene.org

**PONCA TRIBE
OF NEBRASKA**



On the cover: Larry Wright, Sr., carefully ties together lengths of willow to rebuild the frame of the sweat lodge in Niobrara. Project Venture youth, the Culture Department, and the Environmental Department worked together to rebuild the structure. More pictures on page 1.

Many hands come together to rebuild Niobrara sweat lodge



Niobrara hosts Easter Egg Hunt for youth



Ponca Tribal History

Instructor: Angie Starkel

Starting May 31, 2022

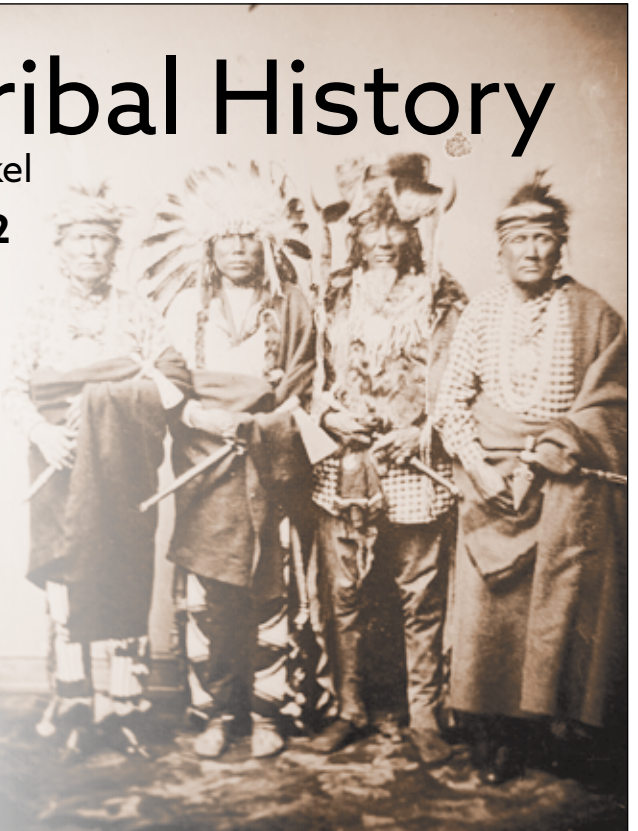
Nebraska Indian Community College
VIRTUAL CLASSES

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member and Tribal Council representative Angie Starkel will be teaching an 8 week Ponca Tribal History class at Nebraska Indian Community College, starting May 31.

Classes are virtual, using Microsoft Teams, and meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1:00 pm-2:50 pm.

Ponca Tribal History is a 3 credit hour course, and tuition is only \$1/credit hour!

For more information, or to register for the course, please visit <https://www.thenicc.edu/admissions/applicant-information.php>



Youth Council hosts Easter Egg Hunt for District 2

Becci Sullivan

On Sunday, April 10th the Osni Ponka Youth Council hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the D2 SDA youth ages 0-12 at the Ralston Transit Building. An estimated 75 youth

showed up to participate in the event to hunt for candy-filled eggs, boxes of Girl Scout cookies, and balls.

Following the hunt, the children went to the Ralston Administration

Building where the D2 Tribal Council members provided Easter baskets for the D2 youth. The children were able to pick out their Easter baskets from a selection within their age group.

Special thanks to Candy Schott, Cami Schott, Maci Schott, and Ben Schott for assisting with the purchasing of supplies needed for the day's event, filling the eggs, and preparing/organizing for the day.



Easter Bunny brings baskets of eggs and fun to District 3



District 4 Easter held, with activities for the whole family



New room to roam for the buffalo

Work continues to provide space for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska buffalo herd, with fencelines being cleared and fences built for new pastures. Many of the buffalo are already enjoying new views, having been moved earlier in the month.



Reel Mentors Fishing Event

May 21, 2022 | 10 am-3 pm

Standing Bear Park
6404 N 132nd St | Omaha, NE

Youth ages 8-18 residing in the District 2 and District 3 SDAs are invited to joining the Youth Council, and Ponca Member Ron Suverkrubbe's Reel Mentors organization for a day of fishing and fun. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

To register for the event, or for more information, please call Becci at 531.222.4471.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Members brave wind for Healthy Living Walk/Run

On Saturday, April 23rd, members, clients, staff, and their families gathered at Skyview Lake in Norfolk for the Annual Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Diabetes Program Healthy Living Walk/Run. While conditions were extremely windy, sunshine and warm temperatures brought several

people out for a run in the sun. This year's event was not followed by a Powwow, but attendees were still able to attend program booths, and register for prize drawings, as well as competing in the run. Participants finished the morning with a box lunch.

Winners in each age group are as follows.

5 years and under:
Maeley Coffman
Maya Machuca

6-10 years:
Neveah McGraw
Harmony Thornton

11-14 years:
Nyla Wright
Alexis Sully

15-18 years:
Miles Knudsen

19-35 years:
Curtis Boschult

36-54 years:
Jackie Angell

55 years and over:
Wanda Kramer



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Men and Boys

Marian Harris

DV Outreach Coordinator

For the purposes of this article: MMIWG stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and MMIWGMB stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls/Men and Boys.

What we know is, they are missing, and although we cannot see them, they are still here. We hear their stories and see their pictures. We are reminded they are still here. We know this, but we do not many times know what to do.

For those Missing/Murdered/Disappeared we take a moment of silence to honor you, and the families who have experienced this traumatizing event.

Let me start by giving some information on a significant problem:

Criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country can be complex, depending on where an incident occurs, whether the defendant or victim is Native American, the type of crime alleged, treaty provisions, various state and federal court decisions, and federal regulations. Professor Robert Clinton described it as a “jurisdictional maze.” This complexity can present serious prob-

lems for law enforcement in Indian Country, from dispatch and initial investigation to court room prosecution. A tribal, federal, or state officer may be needed to adequately investigate and respond to a crime, primarily because initial responders may not have the authority to investigate fully, book a suspect, or cite and release offenders. The crime might have to be filed in tribal, state, or federal court, or concurrently filed among them. Officials may be uncertain about whether the perpetrator or victim is Native American—uncertain as a matter of both law and fact. Officials may also be uncertain about whether the location of the incident is Indian Country. In some of these cases, the uncertainty may remain until a federal or state appellate court decides the issue many years after the incident occurred.

The uncertainty calls for action. Uncertainty is similar to indecision, hesitancy, ambivalence, doubt.

We as a people cannot fall victim to uncertainty. Uncertainty causes doubt and hesitancy. We cannot afford to be hesitant nor ambivalent about MMIWGMB as a crisis. We should not doubt when someone tells us our relative has come up missing

or disappeared.

What can we do?

We can take action by several means. We can attend social events, create media posts, we can gather and host meetings and events. Your monetary gifts can accomplish much by paying for things like rental rooms, refreshments, and material costs for those traveling and presenting MMIWG to communities.

Another way is to know legislation and vote on bills and mandates surrounding MMIWGMB.

We can teach safety, such as watching out for strangers in our community, limiting and monitoring our children on social media, and going in groups vs. alone.

We can teach what to do when one of our relatives does go missing. There are important steps to take. It is the responsibility of every member of a community to be alert and focused when a relative goes missing, whether the missing person is an adolescent or adult.

We need to be prepared. Spread awareness. This is not right, it is wrong, and we, as always, must take care of one another.

Here’s a list of things to get started:

Timing is crucial. The

time duration after a disappearance is so critical. This is why you need to be prepared before it actually happens. This crisis is so disturbing that currently, it is not a matter of if, but when.

- 1. Are they missing against their will?**
Some decide to disconnect, others not so
- 2. Inform law enforcement, and know who to inform.**
If it happened in an urban area, do you call tribal, city, or state police? Many times all of these need contacted as many relatives are urban but stay connected to family
- 3. Issue a public alert through social media, phone calls, or texts.**
The more you inform, the broader the audience
- 4. Track events, document and keep a journal of conversations.**
Any small detail may be of great value
- 5. Take care of yourself.**
It’s extremely stressful not knowing what happened to a loved one. Eating and hydration, as well as sleep, are so important to keep you strong and healthy. Stay in communication with loved ones and tribal beliefs and practices

continued on next page

MMIWG: Empowering the community through education

continued from page 8

6. Take part in searching and justice walks (community events that are addressing this crisis)

7. Honor the MMIWG/MB.

Say their name, tell their story to as many will listen

Be encouraged that many agencies are working hard to bring them home, to promote awareness and safety. Others are educating communities like schools and law enforcement, which is part of my job. Many of us are engaging with families, and empowering them through teaching, spirituality and cultural traditions. We survive and we will NOT be quiet, nor will we back down.

Thank you, my hope is to make you aware and inspire you to action.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to watch a documentary that highlights the movement.

“Silent No More” is a documentary that seeks to expose the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in the United States. It was filmed and edited by a 19-year-old student at Duke University who spent the summer as an intern for White Bison, Inc. The film includes heart wrenching interviews with the family members of Native women who have either been murdered or are still missing. <https://youtu.be/DdjXyUPXtZs>

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



Be ready for the next step.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act- Indian and Native American Program

The Ponca Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program is funded by a Department of Labor Grant. The program assists individuals with education and training, job search activities, and employment related supportive services.

Information about hiring events, job listings, educational opportunities, and more is available on the Ponca Tribe WIOA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ptnwioa.

If you are interested in obtaining education and training, contact the WIOA Program to see if you qualify for assistance.

The WIOA Staff are:

- Colleen Plasek—Ralston | 402.315.2765
- Bianca Marino—Norfolk | 402.371.8834
- Tierra Hernandez—Lincoln | 402.438.9222



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

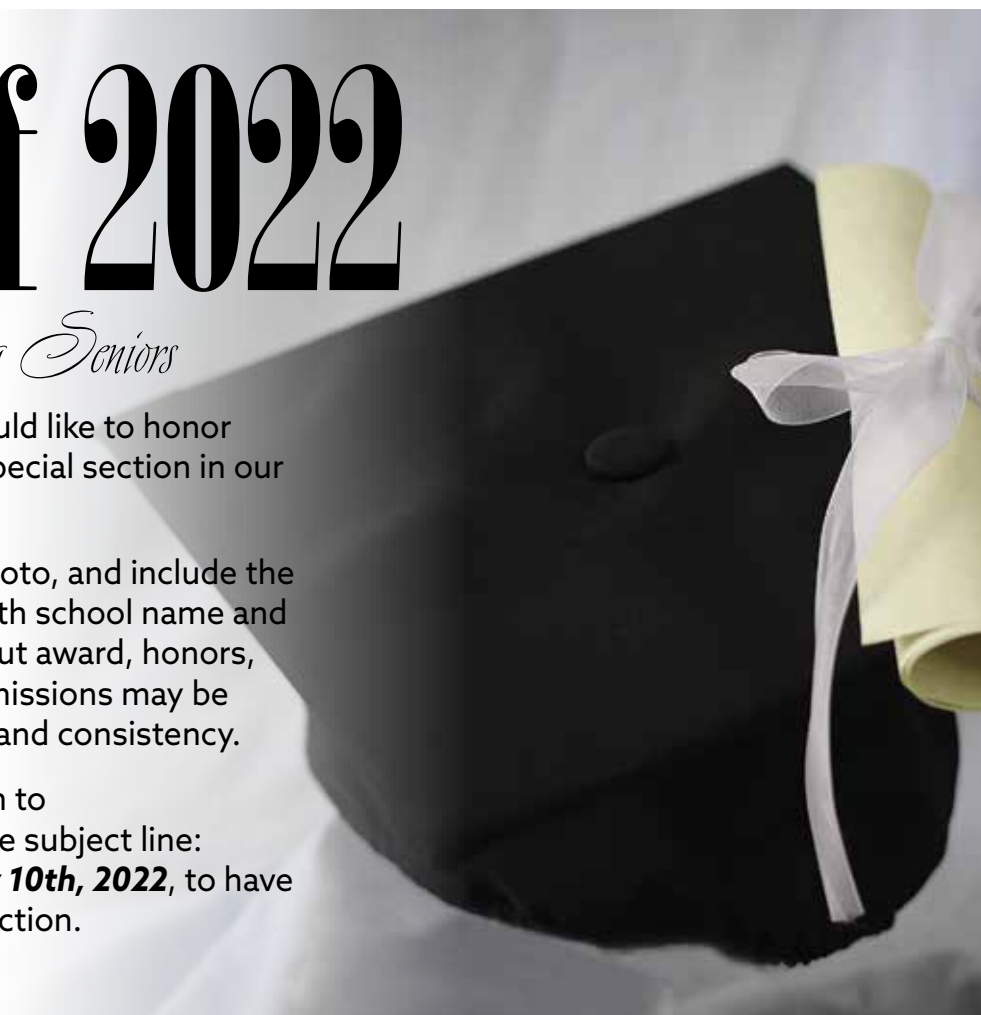
Class of 2022

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.



(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.

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

Little Miss Ponca Princess serves Elders Committee

Marchita Bair

At our monthly Elders Committee meeting in Norfolk, district 4, we had the honor to have lunch served by Little Miss Ponca Princess, Reylynn Lemus, daughter of Jamie Lemus.

This is a good teaching for our Ponca Princesses to represent their title. The parents are doing good when they support them with their good deeds.

Reylynn was fully dressed in her regalia, and she shook all of our hands and introduced herself.

It was so adorably and properly done.

Serving an Elder's meal is good medicine. It was the first that any of the Elders Committee experienced, and this little 5-year-old Princess did a very good deed to her title and she made our day.

Wibthahaⁿ to the Lemus family.



Standing L-R: Rose Birdhead, Rita Pitzer, Little Miss Ponca Princess Reylynn Lemus, Vice Chair Mark Peniska, newly elected Chair Carrie Voss.

Sitting L-R: Secretary Belva Phillips, and Marchita Bair.

Not present: Phil Wendzillo and Christine Legband.

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@poncatrIBE-ne.org) or via mail:

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



Elder Spotlight: Gary Stoltenberg, Sr.

Chris Legband

Gary Stoltenberg Sr. said he remembers words of Native pride being whispered in his ear as a young Ponca boy.

“My earliest memories are talking to my grandmother, Hazel Mae Post Coulter,” he said. “As a young boy, she had always told me of my heritage and to be proud of my Ponca ancestors. I have a picture of my family taken in the late 1800s. It’s a priceless historical document.”

Stoltenberg said although he was not raised in a traditional Native American family, he has great respect for the culture.

“I never attended pow wows but always respect those that lived traditional,” he said. “I see the respect and pride for being Ponca that my Grandmother Coulter instilled in me as a youth in my own family.”

Stoltenberg remembers that his



1. Mark Townsend Post 2. unknown 3. William Eagleshirt 4. unknown 5. Cornelia Post Roe 6. small boy unknown 7. Hazel Mae Post Coulter 8. Emma Sherman Post 9. unknown 10. unknown 11. Midge Post 12. William Sherman 13. Aunt Lizzie Whitefeather Sherman 14. Telford E. Roe 15. Frank Sherman 16. Emma Eagleshirt 17. Caruso Sherman 18. Mabel Kicking Bear

Grandmother Coulter’s house in Hooper, Neb. was always the gathering place for family.

“Holidays, birthdays, celebrations have always been at Grandma’s,” he said. “I live in the house my grandparents lived for 60 years after purchasing it in 1985 from their estate. I moved back to Nebraska from California in 1992.”

Born in Omaha, Stoltenberg said he was raised in Sioux Falls, S.D., and got married to his wife, Carole, in 1964.

The couple met in 1957 at an ice-skating rink.

“I knew the moment we met that she was going to be my wife,” he said. “The way I knew – I looked into her beautiful big brown eyes, saw my future, and understood

instantly why I was alive.”

After 58 years of marriage, Carole unexpectedly died in September in 2021.

“It has left a void in my heart that will never be the same,” he said. “She was my soul mate, my compass, and my guiding light and can never be replaced.”

Stoltenberg said his beloved Carole loved the fact that he was a member of a Native American tribe. He attributes her love and support to helping him be the person he is today.

“It always made me smile when she would use Native American proverbs for stories,” he said. “She was my princess in so many ways and being supportive was one of her strong suits. I will always be



STOLTENBERG: A lifetime of leadership

madly in love with her and the memories, she was indeed one of a kind.”

Stoltenberg attended college in California and has worked for several Fortune 25 companies including International Paper and Quebecor Printing in operations and management.

Stoltenberg has three grown children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He said if he had known having grandchildren was so much fun, he would have had them first.

“Being grandparents is the best thing to happen to anyone, and now I am three times a great-grandfather,” he said. “I am blessed to have them.”

Stoltenberg said he first got involved in tribal politics 12 years ago.

“My memories are mixed, working for the good of the Ponca people is my favorite thing,” he said. Ironically, he says, dealing with inevitable politics are the least favorite part of working with the Tribe.

He takes great pride in the fact that he’s served in a leading capacity in many areas of the tribe.

“I have been elected or appointed as Chairman of the Gaming Commission, the Elders Council (which is now called the Elders Committee), OSNI Board of Directors, PEDCO Board of Directors, and served on the Tax Commission.”

Stoltenberg said he’s most proud of being a part of the original Elders Council, which was formed by invitation of the Tribal Council.



“I was one of the original nine members representing the four districts,” he said. “I hope the Elders Committee continues to live up to the original intent – to be advocates for advancement of benefits and welfare of all Tribal Elders.”

Stoltenberg is hoping to take things politically one step further this year.

“I am strongly considering a run for the Tribal Council this year, regardless of whether I get elected or not, it has always been a goal,” he said. “That goal has always been to work for the good of the Ponca People.”



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

PONCA TRIBE
 OF NEBRASKA

Recognizing 30 Years of Service:

Tribal Council members past and present salute Tribal Council Assistant Jan Colwell

Without Jan, I don't know how Tribal Council would function. Jan is so organized, helpful and nice to boot! She can answer any question regarding what happened at a Tribal Council meeting, what actions were taken, and who voted for what in a matter of minutes. If you want to know what happened at a council meeting 17 years ago, go to Jan! She has an unbelievable recall. When I was new on Council, I would ask a question, and everyone would say, "Ask Jan!" I did, and she was so helpful and knew the answer every single time. And, oh boy, did I ask a lot of questions. If she was annoyed, she never acted like it. I can't believe she has stuck it out for 30 years. What a trooper! I hope she can stick it out for another 30!! Jan has set the bar high!! She is a top-notch employee!

Crystal Howell

Jan was Secretary when I was Chairman and gave me and the Tribe unbelievable support, as she has during her 30 years. Very technically astute and detailed, but a wonderful human being.

Mark Peniska



I don't think I have ever met anyone as versatile in their job as Jan is. While I served on Tribal Council, Jan was my go-to person every time I had a question that I had no answer to. I think everyone is a little lost at first on Tribal Council, but having Jan helps us to make things a little easier. Thank you Jan for all you do.

Patrick Lamoureux

Jan should be on the "SURVIVOR" show! If she can survive 14 different Tribal Councils x 9 members per Council = 126 Tribal Council members ... She is winning the show! I don't know how many times throughout the years I have called her and said, "I need a Life Line." And she has always found the answer. I call her the boss because she is the one that keeps us all in line and knows what happened 15-20-25 years ago ... or at least can find the information. She has had to put up with so many issues and so many personalities throughout the years! She could probably write a book with everything she has done and seen throughout the years. But, with everything she has been through, she has always done so with a great attitude and a smile. She is an amazing human and I think the world of her! THANKS for all you have done for our Tribe, all that you do for us, and CONGRATS ON 30 FABULOUS YEARS!

Becci Sullivan





Jan Colwell, ca. 1993. Photo submitted by Joey Nathan

I, Bill Wright, am writing this letter regarding Jan Colwell Tribal Council Assistant. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Colwell in several different capacities, from being on Tribal Council to being on the Northern Ponca Housing Board. Mrs. Colwell has always been very helpful and professional in her position as Tribal Council Assistant.

In closing, I would like to say that Mrs. Colwell has been a great assist to the tribe, and I would also like to say "Wi Bthu Ho" (Thank you) for all that you do for the Tribal Council and for the members of the tribe.

30 years – that is quite a milestone in this day and age and quite a bit of change. When Jan first started – as the Tribal Council recording secretary, it was handwritten paper notes in pen and pencil. Now, the meetings are held and recorded through the Lifesize system where any member around the world has access to virtually attend meetings. During the 12 years I served on the Tribal Council, dependable was the word that always came to mind. If something needed to be done for any one of us, we knew it would be without question. If we were traveling and ran into an issue, one phone call? would fix everything.

However, it wasn't just the 9 members of Tribal Council she took care of?. Any member that walked into the office, sent an email to her, or gave her a call on the phone – she took care of it. Prior to starting on my 1st term on Tribal Council in 2005, I worked in the Niobrara office where I was fortunate enough to work with her every day for 7 years. She was one of those people that made me feel welcome and made my transition to the tribe very easy. I cannot begin to mention the number of events she planned, coordinated, and made sure everything went smoothly. Personally, she had a big hand in my retirement from the military when the Tribe honored my service. I know she was one of many that contributed –, from experience, I know how much she did to make it perfect.

Working for a tribe is never easy. There are personalities, conflicts, opposing views, uncertainty, but, also, there is joy, happiness, memories, culture, history and growth. On good days or difficult days, Jan never changed. She was always there to help no matter what the need or what the issue might be and always did it with a smile on her face. Over the years, I've called her co-worker, secretary, but, am most of all proud to call her my friend. She balances her great work ethic with a wonderful family life. Married for nearly 4 decades, she raised 2 great kids, and they have now been blessed with their 1st Grandsongrandson.

Jan – I want to say congratulations on 30 years. It is an amazing accomplishment. I appreciate your kindness, thoughtfulness, wisdom, caring, and love you have shown for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and its' members. I humbly and respectfully want to say thank you for the thousands of things you did, reservations you made, trips your coordinated, and finding whatever information the council requested. As I said, you were not only a co-worker and a friend to me, you truly have been a mentor and roll role model as well.

I'm sure your future holds a few more years with the Ponca Tribe (maybe not 30). No matter what you do, I want to wish you the best of luck, and I pray for the very best for you and your family – now and always.

Phillip Wendzillo

Baker twins enjoy swimming in college

by Matt Long

Initially published in the
Folsom Telegraph,
April 21, 2022

Not everyone moves on to college and competes in the same sports they played in high school.

The best of the best earn scholarships to keep playing, while a large majority of athletes stop playing altogether. There is another option, however. Folsom High 2019 graduates Megan Baker and her twin brother, Andrew, 20, were four-year members of the swim team at Folsom High, and didn't have any scholarship offers out of high school. However, both have continued swimming at the University of Nebraska on the school's club swim team.

On April 8-10 at Georgia Tech University, the two swimmers represented Nebraska at the 2022 College Club Swimming Championships. Both swam well and achieved goals. Megan participated in the 500 (yard) freestyle and placed 12th in 5 minutes, 23.85 seconds. She also swam the 1,000 freestyle for the first time and placed 11th in 11:27.40. Andrew's highlights included 14th-place finishes in the 50-yard fly in 22.83 seconds and in the 50-yard back in 22.2.

Andrew, a junior, has six



Ron and Lisa Baker made the trip to Georgia to watch their kids, Megan and Andrew, compete in the 2022 College Club Swimming Championships. The twins swim for the University of Nebraska.

Nebraska club swimming records and Megan; a sophomore because she took a gap year, has four. Andrew's records are in the 25 butterfly, 50 butterfly, 50 back, 100 back, 100 free and 200 mixed free relay, while Megan's records are in the 100 free, 500 free, 1,000 free and 800 free relay.

Megan and Andrew, children of Ron and Lisa Baker, began swimming as 7-years-olds with the Broadstone Barracudas.

"I just remember it as a small club that gave us a good foundation for swimming," Megan said. "By the time I was getting close to aging out, the club had grown a lot and was winning championships. What I remember most is how relaxed the

mosphere to be around."

Megan also swam a few years with the Sierra Marlins and both swimmers swam all four years at Folsom High. They chose to attend the University of Nebraska, in part, because they are part of the Native American Ponca Tribe and earned scholarship money to attend the school.

Both of them enjoy Nebraska.

"Nebraska is really nice, but it took me awhile to get used to it," Andrew said. "It snows here. It's very windy all the time and it's really flat. I love the people."

atmosphere was and the great sense of community. I also did some coaching while I was there."

Added Andrew, "The whole environment was great; the coaches were great; it was just a fun at-

Said Megan, "I really like it here. I've found my people, and am happy here."

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.

Both Andrew and Megan are Environmental Studies majors. Not only do they like the area and the school, both enjoy being members of the club swim team.

“Club is pretty cool because you get out of it what you put in,” Andrew said. “The coaches are basically your teammates and other students. When you come to practice, you decide how hard you want to push yourself. It’s a low-pressure environment and everyone gets along well. It’s been nothing but a positive experience for me.”

Make no mistake, Megan loves to swim.

“First off, I plan on swimming until I can’t do it anymore. The love of swimming has been instilled in me. If I stop swimming, I just get sucked back in. After college, I will probably swim Masters and then coach.”

Megan swam as a walk-on on the women’s varsity team in her first semester and enjoyed it, but this last semester she was just on the club team.

“There is a lot less pressure swimming club and it’s more of a relaxed atmosphere,” Megan said. “In club, there is no coach looking out for the quality of swimming. Practices are shorter and less frequent. There are probably only 15 to 20



Megan and Andrew have been swimming together since they were 7 years old.

people who show up for any given practice.”

The next goals for Megan are to lower her times in her events, while Andrew, after swimming short

(sprint) events for awhile, would like to try some longer events, such as the 100 individual medley.

One thing for sure is the brother-sister combo

enjoy having each other along for the ride.

“It’s cool to be back on the same team with him,” Megan said. “He definitely made it less intimidating for me joining a new team with him already on it. It’s frustrating sometimes for me when he shows up for half the practices and still kicks ass, but he’s taught me to relax a little more.”

Added Andrew, “It’s definitely been helpful having her around. She actually gets into the water more consistently than I do so that helps me to want to do it too. She used to coach as well so she knows all the technique and she’s helped me in that respect to with pointers.”

Keep it handy! Keep it safe!

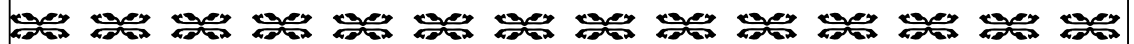
Keeping your enrollment number safe and secure is important! Your enrollment number is the fastest and easiest way to verify your enrollment in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and your eligibility for programs open to members of the Ponca Tribe.

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.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



On Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022, Barbara Parsons was in a terrible car accident in Polson, Mont. She is still here to tell her story. Barbara is 88 years old, she is a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. She is very proud of her affiliation with the tribe. Barbara has had a romantic, interesting, and adventurous life. She is an avid story teller and loves to write about her life and use memories as her muse. Some of her stories include marching with Martin Luther King, Jr., and singing with Willie Nelson. She is the mother of six children, 14 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren, who keep her striving for tomorrow.



Barbara is a fighter and warrior. She is one lucky lady to still be here today. She says she has many things to do before she leaves this world. If you have ever had the chance to know her, you know her stories are always so detailed and exuberant. She can remember the tiniest detail from 60 plus years ago and engulfs her listener into the story as if you are reliving it. She is an excellent author and has written several books. If anyone would like to support her during this tough time, you can help by purchasing her books which are available on Amazon.

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

May 2 | 9 am

Ponca Tribe Headquarters | Niobrara, NE

June 6 | 9 am

Ponca Tribe Offices | Sioux City, NE



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

In Loving Memory



Benjamin (Ben) Marshall Prichard, 35, passed away suddenly on Monday, March 14, 2022 in Lincoln, Neb. Ben was born May 24, 1986, in Lincoln Neb to Stephanie Prichard and William Nielson. He attended school in Lincoln, Neb, Klamath Falls, Ore., and Prescott, Ariz. Ben worked for a variety of local companies as a laborer and environmental technician. Although he never married he had two children whom he loved very much.

When he wasn't working, Ben loved to fish, especially catfish with friends at area lakes, including Branched Oak. While living and attending school in Oregon, Ben became an accomplished archer and won his 4H division multiple times. He enjoyed travelling to special outdoor locations including the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Ariz., South Dakota Badlands, and the Black Hills. Ben loved to cook, smoke meats, and grill food. He especially loved tomahawk steaks and big breakfasts.

Ben is survived by his mother, Stephanie Prichard-Slobotski, stepfather, David Slobotski, father, William Nielson, brother, Noah Dagan Prichard, sister, Dezi Renae Adams, grandparents, Marshall Prichard and Nancy David and his two sons, Elijah and Noah Joshua Prichard.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Celebrating the newest member to our Ponka family, Avett Lea Burke, born 03.29.2022. Parents are Jourdan & Pat Burke. Avett is grandson to Frank & Peggy Madrigal, and great grandson to Marguerite Madrigal. Avett's middle name, Lea, is a 6th generation name, dating back to his 3rd great grandfather, Leander "Lea" Peniska of Niobrara.



Condolences to the family of Tony Bear

We would like to send our condolences to Valerie & Lacy Bear. I'm sorry to hear about your loss, Tony Bear.

I read about it in the Norfolk Daily News. I knew Tony since we were kids. Even though I haven't seen him in 10 years, he will be dearly missed.

I'm sorry I couldn't attend the funeral. I am currently in Federal Prison at the Forrest City, Arkansas - Low. I want the family to know that the Native Brothers here sang a prayer song on the Native Drum for our Native Brother, Tony Bear.

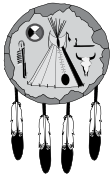
Charlie Iron Thunder
 Michael Roberts
 Darrell blackfish
 Jonathan Kelley
 Anthony Rodriguez, Jr.
 C. Hale

We send prayers to the family from Arkansas.

We will miss you...

Your Friends,

Charlie & Tanya Iron Thunder



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribene.org

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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