

# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News



## Seeds of Resistance

Ponca Corn planting  
offers opportunity to get  
down to earth

# Storm impacts in Niobrara prompt State of Emergency

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, strong storms with winds in excess of 85 mph struck the Niobrara area. Several Tribally-owned properties sustained significant damage from these storms, including Tribal Headquarters, the Powwow Grounds, the Ponca Cemetery, several Northern Ponca Housing Authority properties, and the Niobrara Market. In the aftermath of the storm, the Tribe mounted an immediate response. Many staff worked around the clock, reaching out to Tribal members in the area and working to ensure their health and safety, by delivering food, and gas for generators, while others began the task of assessing damages to Tribal properties and creating a recovery plan.

While damages from this particular storm have affected a far smaller

portion of our Service Delivery Area, area members suffered significant impacts, and damages to Tribally-owned properties were extensive, leading the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to declare a Tribal State of Emergency on Friday, May 13, 2022. Members throughout the area experienced damage to personal property and food losses as a result of the extended power outage from the storm. Tribal Headquarters needed a new roof, parts of the arbor at the Powwow Grounds must be rebuilt, and several other structures on land owned by the Tribe will need to be repaired or replaced.

While many of the structural damages to Tribal buildings and grounds were significant, one of the most heartbreaking effects of the storm was the loss of several of the large, sentinel cedar trees

in the Ponca Cemetery. Knowing the significance of these trees, their locations are being carefully marked before cleanup. If families would like to have any of the wood from fallen trees that were associated with the final resting place of their loved one, please contact Stacy Laravie, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, at 402-857-3519.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska would like to offer a special thanks to Tori Champaign, Jim Wright, Chris Armitage, Bill Yunker, Larry Wright Sr.,

Steve Kreycik, the staff of the Niobrara Market, Nancie Velasquez, Katie Yunker, Joey Nathan, Angie Starkel, Jessica Gaden, Misha Mazurkewycz, Jessica Hitchcock, Mosiah Harlan, David Gleiser, Becci Sullivan, and so many others on what was, and continues to be, a team effort.

For more information on current recovery efforts, and how you can help or donate, please reach out to Tori Champaign at 402-315-2760 or David Gleiser at 712-258-0500.



*On the cover: Richly colored kernels of Ponca Corn fill a volunteer's hand, ready to be planted in the soil. Read more about the corn planting event on page 1.*

# April showers no bar to planting of the Sacred Ponca Corn

Wet and windy weather did not dampen the spirits of those who gathered for the annual planting of the Sacred Ponca Corn, April 23, 2022. The corn was planted on land north of Neligh, that was returned to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska by the Tanderup family.

Nebraska, have met to plant Ponca corn in the path of the now abandoned Keystone XL pipeline. These “seeds of resistance” have been a key element uniting the efforts of tribal members with others wishing to protect the land and water.

For several years now, Ponca members and staff, along with a host of friends from other tribes and activist organizations, like Bold

Despite wet and windy weather earlier in the day, planting went well, with rain ending just before planting began.



# A lesson on the significance of seeds and resiliency

**Stacy Laravie**  
Tribal Historic  
Preservation Officer

During the Trail of Tears and removal of tribes across the globe, there were seed keepers and protectors. The seeds were sacred as they fed us and gave life. Many would braid them in their hair to hide the seeds or sew them in clothing. We were taught to think seven generations ahead. This was exactly what our ancestors

did. I braided seven Ponca Corn seeds in my hair to honor the ancestors and to be a reminder of seven generations ahead. We talk about generational trauma, but we don't think much of generational healing. We are the 7th generation from our ancestors, and we are the generation of healing. These seeds and resiliency of them are a type of healing and gift from the Buffalo and our ancestors.



## 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 who 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 a 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](mailto:ssettje@poncatrIBE-ne.org)) or via mail:

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



# Reel Mentors event gets Ponca youth hooked on fishing

District 2 Ponca youth enjoyed a day of fishing Saturday, May 21, at Chief Standing Bear Lake in Omaha. Ponca member Ronnie Suverkrubbe's Reel Mentors organization was on hand to help youth learn the basics of

fishing, from tying knots to casting, before sending the budding anglers forth to catch some fish! The event, organized by the Ponca Youth Council, also included snacks, lunch, and fishing poles,

donated by Scheels, for each participant. The Youth Council is planning another Reel Mentors event in Niobrara, in conjunction with the Annual Powwow in August.



# District 2 expresses appreciation for Shannon Malone

A special thanks to Shannon Malone for all she does behind the scenes for D2. We count on her for a lot as you all know, and she doesn't want or need the recognition, but I just wanted to let you all know that she is appreciated! She takes on many, many projects and has never turned down assisting

our members-whether that be passing out gift certificates or tickets, assisting with food packs, mailing flyers, getting elders their goods, or just stepping up to get it done! Thank you, SHANNON, for all you do besides your regular job duties! We love you!

-Becci




## Quasar Drive-In Gift Certificates

District 2 is offering two \$10 gift certificates to Quasar Drive-In for District 2 Service Delivery Area members, good for any time during the 2022 season. Certificates can be used for entrance fee or concessions.

Tickets are available for pickup from Shannon at the Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Members **MUST** be registered with a valid address with Enrollment to be eligible. For more information, please contact Becci at 531.222.4471.

# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



# Elder Lunches return to all office locations in May

**Nancie Velasquez**  
Community Health Manager

In the month of May, we officially welcomed our Elders back for the weekly Elders Congregate Meals (Elder Lunches). Although we did have to reschedule Niobrara’s lunch due to the storm damage. But, in order to keep them safe, our

CHW Katy was on the spot and ready to deliver their lunches to them. This has been a moment that not only the Elders were looking forward to, but so were the CHW’s in each location. We kicked off the week with great food, lots of familiar faces and BINGO!! This has been months in the

making. The CHWs have planned out some great lunches over the next few months with games, health presentations, crafts, and we’ll even throw in a movie or two.

Please see the following for your city’s day and time:

Lincoln – Mondays, 12-2  
Omaha – Tuesdays, 12-2

Sioux City – Wednesdays, 12-2  
Norfolk – Thursdays, 12-2  
Niobrara – Fridays, 12-2

We welcome all Elders to join us for the weekly meals



# Halting elder abuse

**Marian Harris**  
DV Outreach Coordinator

Elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional or neglectful act by a caregiver or any other person that results in harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.

Due to the nature of this type of abuse later in life, many times, one doesn't know abuse is happening, as it seems unfathomable. Many times the abuse goes unreported.

Our elder relatives are our teachers, wisdom counselors, spiritual advisors and keepers of our histories. To have abuse happen is a stain on any community. There are ways to combat elder abuse, but let's first explore how to recognize it.

When physical abuse is happening you may observe broken glasses, unexplained injuries, regular bruising or welts.

Signs of neglect by caregivers can include weight loss, malnutrition, deprivation of medicines, or bed sores. Neglected elders may also experience isolation and a neglect of basic hygiene from not having assistance with bathing.

Financial abuse is probably one of the more common experiences that

our elders endure. Look for changes in banking such as overdrafts, signed paperwork that the elder cannot give you a reason for, or unexplained, high-interest loans from suspicious sources.

The most serious crimes are physical and sexual abuse.

We can report to authorities and each other, check on our elders so they are not isolated. We can cook and take them some food, or ask if they need assistance with medicines or paperwork. We can call the authorities who can help.

Our elders are full of knowledge, healing and traditional ways. Elders should be held in high regard and respect. As a people, we can look for these signs and take action. We need our elders for future generations, we need our elders to be safe. We all can play our part in creating safe places for those who are vulnerable and rely on us to serve and protect.

Let's be for our elders and not against them. Let us not ignore the issue of elder abuse, and pretend it's not happening. Let's respect and assist our elders. Together we can be a part of preventing elder abuse.

# 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](https://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







### District 2 movie day not too “Bad”

On May 1, D2 families were invited to attend the Majestic Theater at 14304 West Maple Road at 10:30 am for a private showing of “The Bad Guys” movie. Our families had popcorn and pop with this morning

matinee. The movie was hosted by Tribal Council members Becci Sullivan and Crystal Howell. They were assisted by Youth Council members in the D2 area, Cami Schott, Maci Schott, and Ben Schott.



### District 4 members enjoy a day of fun and fellowship

A few more pictures from the District 4 Easter celebration, held April 10, 2022. Youth participated in an egg hunt and a bunny hop race. Pictured are some of the winners. The day included a meal for all members.



# Ponca leader named Nebraskan of the Year

**Shirley Sneve**  
Indian Country Today

Judi gaiashkibos is the first Native American to receive the Nebraskan of the Year award. She has been the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs since 1995.

She was honored at a lunch on April 19 by Lincoln’s Rotary 14 Club that has been honoring Nebraskans for 33 years. During her tenure, she has served as a highly effective cultural mediator and bridge builder between government and the private sector.

She chairs the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. gaiashkibos is an enrolled citizen of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and has been integral in advancing knowledge of the history of Native peoples in the state.

Nebraska state Sen. Tom Brewer worked alongside gaiashkibos to pass many bills to advance Native people.

“Judi gaiashkibos has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for all Nebraska Native Americans. Her leadership in every area from legislation to youth



leadership programs have truly made a difference,” Brewer said.

Legislation includes an in-depth study of missing and murdered Native women and children, and changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day. This fall, LB 848 authorized the permanent installation of flags from

Nebraska’s found headquartered tribes in the state capitol building.

What may be most visible in raising awareness of Nebraska Native Americans is the commissioning of two sculptures of the Ponca leader Standing Bear and the first Native American medical doctor Susan La Flesche Picotte.

La Flesche Picotte, of the Omaha Tribe, opened a hospital in Walthill, Nebraska, in 1912. Its unique design promotes spiritual, physical and mental health. gaiashkibos helped launch a restoration effort for the hospital in 2017.

During her tenure, she has created many scholarships and learning opportunities for youth.

She co-chairs the Genoa Indian Boarding School Digitizing Project and, in serving, honors her mother who was sent to the federal institution which aimed to “kill the Indian, save the human.”



## PONCA ELECTION 2022

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

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

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

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

**Reasons to update registration:**

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

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

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

## PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



# Class of 2022

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska would like to honor all of our 2022 graduates. Congratulations on all of your hard work and accomplishments!



**Shyanne Danielle Atz**

Hastings Senior High School  
Hastings, NE

Attending Central Community  
College for mechanics.

Daughter of Tracy Laravie,  
granddaughter of David  
Laravie, great-granddaughter  
of Florence Snoozy, great-  
great-granddaughter of  
Benjamin Laravie, great-great-  
great-great-granddaughter of  
Chief Standing Bear.



**Eva Burns**

Northwest High School  
Omaha, NE

Daughter of Vanessa Burns  
and George Burns, grand-  
daughter of Rita McCray, and  
great -granddaughter of Eva  
Knudsen.



**Grace Cramblett**

Shawnee Mission Northwest  
Shawnee, KS

Attending University of  
Kansas.

Received Cerner Scholars  
Internship, Girl Scout Gold  
Award, NCWIT Award for As-  
pirations in Computing, Var-  
sity Track and Field, Varsity  
Cross Country, Robotics, IT  
Fundamentals Pro Certifica-  
tion, OSHA-10 certification.



**Emma Marie Dahlberg**

Grantsburg High School  
Grantsburg, WI

Attending UW Stevens Point,  
studying psychology

Daughter of Erin and Patrick  
Fowler, granddaughter of  
Marie Dahlberg and the late  
Timothy Dahlberg.

B honor roll each year of high  
school.



**Maggie Forbes**  
 Kaycee High School  
 Kaycee, WY  
 Pursuing a college degree in  
 Animal Science.  
 Maggie has received her FFA  
 State degree.



**Calvin T. Gilpin**  
 Kindergarten Graduate  
 Crescent Elementary  
 Rhinelander, WI  
 Son of Gabriel Gilpin, great-  
 great-great grandson of Delia  
 Yellowhorse.  
 Plays basketball and baseball.



**Lavara Gilpin**  
 Laona High School | Laona, WI  
 Attending Madison Tech  
 College, majoring in Web and  
 Media Design.  
 Daughter of Nate &  
 Teresa Gilpin, great-great-  
 granddaughter of Delia  
 Yellowhorse.  
 Indigenous Games Gold  
 Medalist Basketball, WI State  
 Runner-up Volley Ball.



**Michael D. Gilpin**  
 University of Wisconsin  
 Madison, WI  
 Bachelors of Science,  
 Environmental Science  
 Son of Nate & Teresa Gilpin,  
 great-great-grandson of Delia  
 Yellowhorse.  
 Will be employed UW  
 Madison Lab/Research  
 Systems.



**Zoe Glenn**  
 Salinas High School | Salinas, CA  
 Attending Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences at University of  
 California, pursuing a Bachelor's in Informatics. She is hopeful to continue her academic  
 journey and one day obtain a law degree to be in the front line of advocating for Native  
 American girls to be in STEM fields.  
 Great-granddaughter of Mardel Glenn.  
 She is a member of the National Honors Society and is graduating with an overall  
 GPA of 4.473.



**Marissa Haeft**  
 Omaha Northwest  
 Omaha, NE  
 Attending college, pursuing a  
 nursing degree.  
 Granddaughter of Holly  
 Newton-Derra and great-  
 granddaughter of Dean  
 Newton.  
 Currently working on getting  
 her CNA License.



**Sierra Moon Knudsen**  
 University of Stanford  
 Stanford, CA  
 Bachelor's in International  
 Relations  
 2023 Law School  
 Daughter of Susan Knudsen  
 & Todd Johnson.



**Madison Knudsen**

Stanton Community High School | Stanton, NE

Attending Wayne State College, majoring in communication studies. After her bachelor's, she plans to get her Masters in speech-language pathology.

Madison was in cheer, dance, track, student council, varsity choir, jazz choir, one acts, and FFA all four years of high school. She was also in Tri-M her sophomore year to senior year of high school and national honor society her senior year.



**Abraham Larson**

Stanton High School  
Stanton, NE

Attending Northeast Community College

Son of Aubrey Knudsen and Tim Larson. Siblings: TJ Larson and Ally Knudsen.

Abraham is a state medalist in both cross country and track and played basketball all four years.



**TJ Larson**

Northeast Community College  
Associate of Arts Degree with a Business Major

Attending Wayne State College

Son of Aubrey Knudsen and Tim Larson. Siblings: Abraham Larson and Ally Knudsen.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



**Aaryna McDaniel**

Williams Field High School | Gilbert, AZ

Attending Northern Arizona University, studying Philosophy of Politics and Law, on a full academic scholarship.

Daughter of Tina Spreng, granddaughter of Sandy Lamoureux, and great-granddaughter of Donna Wendzillo.

Aaryna is graduating 10th out of 450 students in her class, with a GPA of 4.67. Winner of the Best of the Nest Award, winner of the State Championship for Skills USA for Crime Scene Investigation. Participated in Teen Court, supervised by the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department, serving as defense attorney. Aaryna plans to graduate in two years, and proceed on to law school, hoping to eventually open a nonprofit helping juveniles.



**Rowan McGraw**

Pacific High School | Sitka, AK

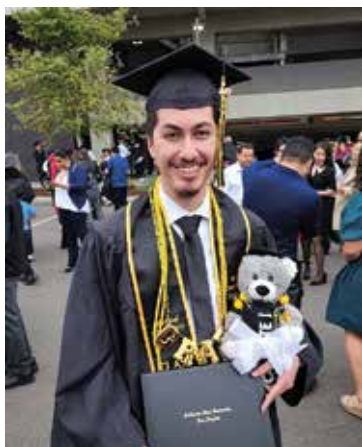
Rowan is working on a road reconstruction project in Sitka for the summer.



**Cyenn Moerike**

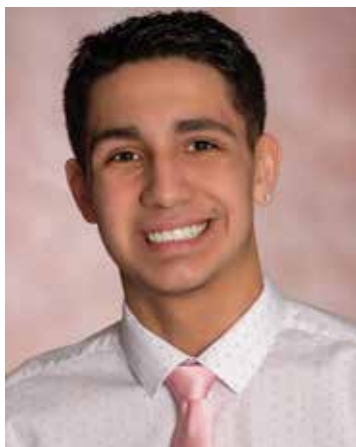
Benson High School  
Omaha, NE

Daughter of Cassandra Christiansen and Blaine Moerike, granddaughter of Pat Wright, Ginger Jensen, Lonnie Christiansen, and Jessie Stahl.



### Michael Morris

California State University  
Son of Tom and Irma Morris,  
grandson of Susan Baker.  
Straight A student, on the  
Dean's List.



### Hunter Oestreich

Battle Creek High School  
Battle Creek, NE  
Attending college, pursuing  
an education in graphic design  
and business.  
Son of Mark and Rhonda  
Oestreich, grandson to the  
late Claudette Vacha, great-  
grandson to the late Ernest  
and Babe IronThunder.  
He participated in cross  
country, basketball, and track.



### Charles Starkel

Norfolk Public School | Norfolk, NE  
Attending Northeast Community College, majoring in physics.  
Son of Anthony Starkel and Ashly Koch, grandson of Jim and Patricia Starkel.  
Lettered in theater, performed in play production one-acts, musicals, and spring plays.



### Kendra Sydnor

Oak Harbor High School | Oak Harbor, WA  
Attending Saint Martin's University, pursuing a degree in Business Administration with a  
major in accounting.  
She has maintained straight As all throughout high school and currently holds a 3.92  
GPA. She has been a member of the National Honor Society throughout high school and  
currently is the treasurer. Kendra was team captain of the volleyball team her freshman  
year and then was the team manager. She has played golf all four years, which she lettered  
in her Junior year. She has been on the Honor Roll all four years and earned her academic  
letter.



### Alaina Marie Villalpando

Northeast Community College | Norfolk, NE  
Associate of Science Degree in Nursing  
Attending the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha to pursue a Bachelor's of  
Science in Nursing (BSN). After a year of critical care experience, she plans to continue her  
education in hopes of becoming a nurse anesthetist.  
Daughter of Alex and Tina Villalpando, granddaughter of Donald and the late Shirley Ann  
(Taylor) Bair.  
Alaina, so many people are going to be blessed, not only because of what you've studied,  
learned, and experienced...but also because of your devotion and the person you are.  
Congratulations on your nursing degree. We are so proud of you! Congratulations on your  
well-deserved success! We love you.



**Claudia E. Villegas**

Benson High Magnet School | Omaha, NE

Attending the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, majoring in art. Recipient of the Nebraska Emerging Leaders Scholarship, the We Are Nebraska Commitment, and the Husker Power Scholarship with UNL.

Daughter of J. and Gwendolyn (Boettger) Villegas, granddaughter of (the late) Melvin Boettger and Maxine Birdhead, great-granddaughter of (the late) Otto and Lulu Rose (LeRoy) Birdhead.

Claudia has a GPA of 3.8 and is ranked 30th out of 353 students in her class. Claudia finished high school early on February 7th, 2022, but waited until May 27th, 2022 to walk the stage with her class.



**Trey Weston**

Millard West High School  
Omaha, NE

Attending Arizona State University

Son of Scott Weston and Tribal member Rhonda Free, grandson of the late Fred LeRoy.



**Faythe Nichole Williams**

Legacy High School  
Broomfield, CO

Attending Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL, majoring in childhood psychology, specializing in working with autistic children.



**Gabriel Mark Wortman**

Randolph High School | Randolph, NE

Joining the Army National Guard, Specialty Infantry Parachutist. Attending Northeast Community College, majoring in criminal justice.

Son of John and Danielle Bauer, grandson of Mark Wortman and Shelly Wortman, great-grandson of the late Barbara Beavers, and great-great-grandson of the late Geneva Arrow.

Gabriel has lettered in cross country, track, wrestling, choir, and band all four years of high school. Gabriel’s dream is to become a police officer.



**Gwendolyn "Quincy" Wright-Santiago (Yellow Feather Woman)**

Norfolk Senior High School | Norfolk, NE

Daughter of Robin Wright and Javier Santiago, granddaughter of Loyalee Wright and Thomas McAnally, Great-granddaughter of Theodore Wright and Gwendolyn Birdhead, also of Ila May Pickett and Richard McAnally of Montana. Quincy is also a descendant of Chief Gall of the Hunkpapa Lakota Nation and Yellow Horse of the Ponca Tribe.

Quincy enjoys spending time with family and friends. She was raised to respect and honor her family, especially her Elders, and she takes great pride in doing so. Helping others is something that comes naturally to her and she jumps at the chance when given the opportunity.

## Schott named to UNITY's 25 Under 25 National Leadership Program

Congratulations to Maci Schott, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Youth Council Chairwoman. Maci was selected to the 5th Class of UNITY's 25 Under 25 National Leadership Recognition Program. Maci is the daughter of John and Candy Schott of Omaha and the granddaughter of Patricia Eichberger, Norfolk.



a hardworking, compassionate young lady, and we couldn't be prouder."

The biennial program, launched in 2014, recognizes and celebrates the achievements of 25 outstanding Native youth leaders under the age of 25 in Indian country.

"Our Native youth have a passion for building and bettering their communities. UNITY's 25 Under 25 program recognizes their achievements and encourages these young

people to stay involved and further develop their leadership skills," said Mary Kim Titla, UNITY executive director.

In addition, each awardee will receive a unique handmade beaded medalion and special training by UNITY for seven months geared to assist them in building on their individual achievements. Recipients will be recognized at the National UNITY Conference, which will take place in Minneapolis, July 8-12, 2022.

"She is truly deserving of this honor, and I am looking forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the future," said Becci Sullivan, Vice Chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Founded in 1976, United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) is a national network organization promoting personal development, citizenship, and leadership among Native youth.

UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth ages 14-24, and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement. UNITY's network currently includes 320 affiliated youth councils in 36 states. Youth Councils are sponsored by Tribes, Alaska Native villages, high schools, colleges, urban centers, and others.

To learn more, please visit <https://unityinc.org>

### 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.

**Fall 2022 deadline: August 15, 2022**  
**Winter 2022 deadline: November 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 are available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen @ office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or [aknudsen@poncatribene.org](mailto:aknudsen@poncatribene.org). *\*Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs\**



# Elder Spotlight: Carrie Voss

**Chris Legband**

Knowing she was Ponca was something Carrie Voss said she always knew.

“I was 9 years of age when our Tribe was terminated from all Federal rights of the United States Government in 1966.”

She said her paternal grandfather, Thomas Otto Knudsen, worked for the United States Federal Government, and told stories of how unfairly the Poncas, along with other tribes, were treated.

“That’s why I wish to learn all that I know about the U.S government to share with our younger generation,” she said.

Voss’s hope, wish, and prayer is that her children, grandchildren and other relatives learn and know about these things; who governs what, how and where.

Voss said her Ponca role models and mentors were her parents, and it was through these relationships she learned some of the Ponca language, as both her parents were fluent speakers of language.

Voss also said she learned how to plant and care for a garden from her dad, and attributes her cooking skills to her mother.

“My earliest memories of helping care for a garden was at the age of 4,” she said. “I remember trying to help pull out all the weeds from the plants. It was so difficult to differentiate between the two at such a young age, but eventually I got the hang of it.”

She remembers that her mother never measured whenever she cooked.

agthí<sup>n</sup> sáto<sup>n</sup>



“I just had to watch her and learn,” she said. “There really weren’t any traditional foods so to speak of in those days because we were only given rations to work with, so we made what we could out of them. Flour, sugar, and lard.”

Voss said her family made use of all things in the garden during the summer months.

“We ate berries, green apples, chokecherries and wild plums,” she said. “During the winter we ate chicken, duck, and rabbit. I learned to be humble and to be thankful for what we had.”

Voss treasures the memories spent with family, who lived down the road from where she grew up.

“They were my dad’s family. We all grew up together.”

Another special memory Voss has is of her father singing at dances and powwows.

“He was invited to sing Ponca songs at the Santee Sioux powwow,” she said. “I was so proud to be his daughter.”

Voss said after the tribe was reinstated, many of the dances were held at the old Ponca Agency building.

“There were no dances or celebrations for many years until 1991,” she said. “It truly was a wonderful blessing and brought a feeling of peace when they started again.”

She attributes her dear relative Aljo Picotte, who brought them all together to drum, dance and sing.

“I witnessed a lot of tears from all of the relatives,” she said. “Words can never express how I felt when our Southern Ponca relatives joined us with the burning of cedar and recapping our hearts with song and prayer.”



**\*\*\*\* NOTICE: All Tribal Members \*\*\*\*****LAW AND ORDER CODE REVISION**

**Discussion on July 5, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m.  
During Tribal Council Meeting**

**\*\*\*\* NOTICE: All Tribal Members \*\*\*\***

The Ponca Tribal Council will be reviewing proposed amendments to the Law and Order Code. The revisions are being considered because the Tribal Council wants to provide the legal framework for organizing business entities in order to expand the business sector in the territory of the Tribe. Enacting all 4 codes at one time will ensure there is no gap or conflict in laws being in place to govern PEDCO and Osni.

**There are changes being proposed to Titles 14, 15, and adding Titles 19 and 20. The revisions being considered include but are not limited to the following:**

- Title 14 is a rewrite of the code that will govern all businesses, regardless of form.
- Title 15 is a rewrite of the LLC Code, removing the parts that should just apply to all business entities.
- Title 19 is a new Code that will govern “for profit” corporations
- Title 20 is a new Code that will govern “nonprofit” corporations

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

**There will be a discussion by Tribal Council that is open for public comment on July 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard.**

**Written comments will be accepted until June 30, 2022.** The written comments may be emailed to [janc@poncatribene.org](mailto:janc@poncatribene.org) or mailed to

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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR BLOOD QUANTUM ON YOUR ID? YES \_\_\_\_\_ OR NO \_\_\_\_\_

**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 mail documentation and your current photo to:

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

**CERTIFICATE CARDS**  
Certificate cards, or non photo IDs 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.

**ELECTION BOARD APPLICANTS NEEDED!**

The Tribal Council is accepting letters of interest from all districts at this time. It is an Election Year, and in the event an Election Board member needs to resign due to an immediate family member running for Tribal Council these vacancies need to be filled ASAP. Board Members are paid \$250 per meeting and mileage will be paid for a maximum of 410 miles round trip at the federal government approved rate. Most meetings are held in Niobrara, Nebraska.

To be qualified to be appointed to the Election Board, a person shall:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Tribe
2. Be a resident of the voting district from which they are appointed.
3. Be eligible to vote in the election for which they will serve as an Election Board Member; and
4. If convicted of a felony, have completed his/her sentence requirements, including any parole, at least two (2) years prior to appointment.

No individuals shall be permitted to sit as an Election Board member who:

1. Has been convicted of a crime involving the theft of funds or property of the Tribe in any court of any jurisdiction regardless of any pardon or restoration of civil rights for said offense;
2. Currently holds elective office in the Tribe
3. Is or plans to be a candidate in any election during his or her term; or
4. Has an immediate family member who is currently a member of the Tribal Council, or who is or plans to be a candidate in any election during his or her term
5. No Ponca Tribe of Nebraska employees may serve on the Election Board per the PTN Employee Handbook.

A criminal background check will be conducted.

Please submit a letter of interest to Ponca Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or via e-mail to [janc@poncatribes-ne.org](mailto:janc@poncatribes-ne.org).



I'm proud to share that my wife, Candace Schmidt, was selected as the Norfolk Area Chamber Ambassador of the Year and was presented with an award at the Chamber's Annual Banquet last month. Candace has been a Chamber Ambassador for over six years and has now reached Ambassador General (highest level) status. The Chamber Ambassadors are an active group of community and business leaders that support the Chamber, local businesses, and civic organizations at events. Way to go, we are proud of you!

Love Darrek, Devin, Emery, Sloane, a Daxtyan



Congratulations to Ponca Tribe of Nebraska employees Jan Colwell (left) and Ann Dather (right) on 30 years of employment with the Tribe!



We would like to congratulate Micah Crapo Jr. on taking first place in his UIL Social Studies district competition and his team taking second!

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) was created by The University of Texas at Austin to provide educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

Students were required to try out for each club. Micah made it into two UIL academic clubs, Number Sense and Social Studies. They studied and practiced for five months and ended their season with a district-wide competition against six other elementary schools. Your family is very proud of you Micah! We love you!



Ponca member Donnie Barfield Jr., son of Donnie Barfield Sr., of Omaha, NE has been on a hooping streak. Donnie Jr. may only be in eighth grade, but he will be attending Westside High School next fall and is hoping to score a position on the varsity basketball squad. To prove he is deserving of the position, his current AAU TNE (Team Nebraska Express) has taken the metro area one tournament at a time. Donnie has been playing with this league since he was in second grade.

Recent accomplishments include:

- League Championship of the Recruit Look Tournament at the Bellevue Lied Center
- League Championship of the OSA Pella League Champions at the Union Bank and Trust Center
- Donnie was recently named Top Performer at the Battle of the Lakes Tournament.

Donnie continued to attend tournaments with his team in Illinois and Texas, continuing competitive play through the month of May.

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

Send me a story or two or three. 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

Patricia Ann (Patti Solano) Bergtold, 87, of Sherman, passed away May 12, 2022 following a brief illness. Patti was born October 16, 1933 in Niobrara, NE to Earl and Evelyn Reynolds. At age 16, she earned her teaching certificate and later educated children of Lynch, NE in a one-room schoolhouse. She attended Saint Jospeh's Mercy College of Nursing, and her 20s found Patti a military wife. Two wars left her a virtual single parent to four active boys in consistently unfamiliar locales. Patti also managed the offices of several of Sherman's most respected physicians.



A relentless advocate for women's rights, Patti founded Lacies of Sherman in 1984. A consummate servant, her family home was always "safe haven" for persons in need. Mother to four musicians, she endured tortuous saxophone and/or percussion practices without complaint. An avid gardener, she could make things grow - even through the harshest Texoma summers. Her culinary abilities were unmatched, and everyone loved her peach cobbler. She helped raise livestock, chickens, peacocks, guineas, and even pet raccoons. Patti loved to witness the comings and goings of the tiniest birds on Earth. Glass globes filled with sweet, red liquid hung from towering elms scattered around her manicured lawn. Each feeder served as a hummingbird airport and refueling station. She was a gifted writer, who penned countless offerings that shined truthful yet uncommon light on the plight of women in the 1950s and 1960s. She crafted whimsical poems - consisting of reflections on life with her very active boys.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents and a 3-day-old son, Henry Solano. She is survived by brother, Jerry Reynolds and wife, Mary, of Bells; sister, Judy Nichols of Sherman; sons, Michael Ray Solano and wife, Joy, of Blue Ridge, Anthony Earl Solano and wife, Jo, of McKinney; Jerry Dean Solano of Pottsboro, and Timothy Lee Solano of Lake Texoma, OK; grandchildren Andrew Solano of Statesboro, GA, Julie Holloway and husband, James, of Sherman, Angelieq Solano of Sherman, Chylynnne Dean of McKinney, Jerianne Solano of Durant, OK, Presley Solano of Sherman, Timothy Solano II and wife, Brittany, of Austin, Anastasia Smith and husband, John, of Baltimore, MD, Sydney Solano of McKinney, and Brayden Solano of Lake Texoma, OK; nine great-grandchildren; other family members; countless friends; and her adoring Shih Tzu, Laci.

At the decedent's request, there will be no funeral, memorial, viewing or family night. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Grayson Crisis Center (PO Box 2112, Sherman TX 75091, 903.893.5615) in her memory.

### 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@poncatrIBE-ne.org](mailto:rwrightjr@poncatrIBE-ne.org), or 402.371.8834, ext. 120.



## Elder's Committee Meeting

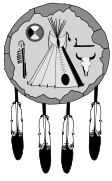
**June 6 | 9 am**

Ponca Tribe Offices | Sioux City, NE

**July 11 | 9 am**

Ponca Tribe Offices | Ralston, NE





# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760

[www.poncatribene.org](http://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](mailto:jhitchcock@poncatribene.org). See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the member's side (you must log in) of the web site at: [www.poncatribene.org](http://www.poncatribene.org)*