



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News



Taking the next step

Ponca Tribe
breaks ground on
phase 2 of Prairie
Flower Casino

Ponca Tribe breaks ground on phase 2 of Casino construction



On Monday, October 31, 2022, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska broke ground on Phase 2 of construction for Prairie Flower Casino. The 60,000-square-foot expansion will include more gambling machines, dining, and a sports book, creating an estimated 200 new jobs.

The ground breaking, held on the 4th anniversary of the initial grand opening of Prairie Flower Casino, and the 32nd Anniversary of the reinstatement of the

Ponca Tribe, marks another step in the long range vision of the Tribe. During the first four years of the Casino's operation, the Tribe has been able to reinvest \$28 million into three health clinics, transportation, housing and cultural preservation, expanding services for Tribal citizens and members of other federally recognized tribes in the community.

The new expansion is set to open in Summer of 2024.



On the cover: Shovels of earth are turned to break ground on phase 2 of Prairie Flower Casino.



We're planting seeds... will you help them grow?

Become an instrumental part of the growth of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Language Program! We have several upcoming openings for positions teaching the Ponca language, and facilitating that education process. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE FLUENT IN PONCA TO APPLY!** Successful candidates need only have the desire and dedication to learn, as training will be provided. The Tribe will soon be hiring the following positions: Language Instructors (4), Language Coordinator, Culture Multimedia Specialist

Look for these jobs to be posted on the PTN website at <https://www.poncatribene.org/careers/> in the near future. Please contact Culture Director Ricky Wright with any questions at 402.371.8834 or rwrightjr@poncatribene.org.

Ponca Language 1

Virtual Beginners Class

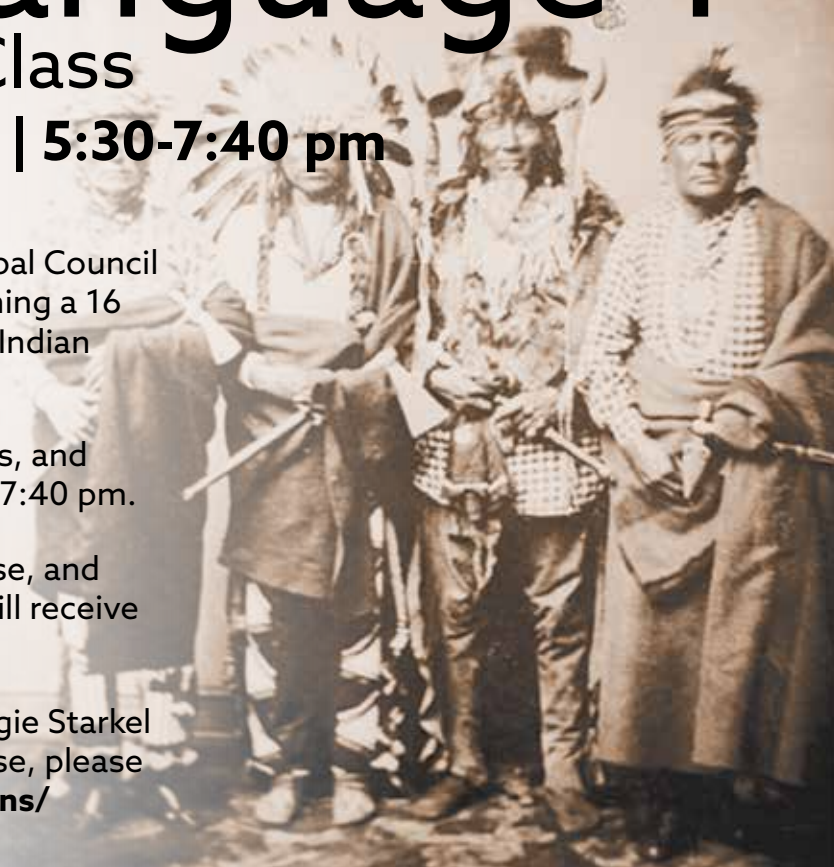
Mondays & Wednesdays | 5:30-7:40 pm
Starting January 17

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member and Tribal Council representative Angie Starkel will be teaching a 16 week Ponca Language class at Nebraska Indian Community College, starting January 17.

Classes are virtual, using Microsoft Teams, and meet Mondays & Wednesdays from 5:30-7:40 pm.

Ponca Language 1 is a 4 credit hour course, and tuition is only \$1/credit hour! Students will receive a final grade cash bonus.

For more information, please contact Angie Starkel at 402.922.0436. To register for the course, please visit <https://www.thenicc.edu/admissions/applicant-information.php>



Ponca Tribe hosts Halloween events for members

The Ponca Tribe hosted a variety of family fun get togethers for members in October. Here are some highlights from those events. More photos can be found on the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Facebook Page.





Congratulations to the D2 Virtual Costume Contest Winners!

Cutest:
1st - Amaia Cantu
2nd - Samara Crawford

Scariest:
1st - Hunter Svagera
2nd - Cristian Villagas

Funniest:
1st - Ashleigh Pojar
2nd - Leighton Pojar

Creative:
1st - Jennifer Crone
2nd - Travis Cantu



Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest

District 2 members nationwide are invited to have a doggone good time with our very first Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest! Members of all ages are invited to don their ugly sweaters, take some photos, and join in the fun!

Prizes: 1st Place - \$100, 2nd Place - \$50, 3rd Place - \$25

Please submit an individual picture (no group photos will be accepted) and include first and last name, contact phone number and full address. **All entries MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN December 26, 2022.** If all your information is not included, your entry will not be included in the contest. Winners will be announced on January 3, 2023. The winner will be announced online, and contacted directly.

Please submit photos and information to D2UglySweater@poncatribene.org. For questions, contact Becci Sullivan at 531.222.4471.

All submissions will be featured on PTN social media, and winners will be featured in the February newsletter. By submitting your picture and information, you agree to allow us to post your pictures.



Elders dress up, get spooky at Elders Halloween parties



Elders Christmas Parties

Elders are invited to join our Community Health Workers in each location from 12-2 pm for holiday food, fun, and fellowship. Enjoy holiday games, and wear your ugliest sweater for the Ugly Sweater Contest! Prizes will be awarded.

Lincoln: December 19 Sioux City: December 21 Niobrara: December 22
Omaha: December 20 Norfolk: December 22



How to help victims and survivors this holiday season

Andrea Womaque

Trauma Informed Care Specialist

December has arrived and we are now in the thick of Holiday Season. In fact, it is very unlikely that we will be able to go anywhere in public without being subjected to a never-ending loop of Holiday tunes. December often comes in just like a blizzard. For some of us, it is as if we are sucked into a flurry of activity, chaos, and holiday themed string lights. It can be a tangled but quite enjoyable mess.

On the other hand, blizzards also bring a sense of renewal and replenishment, and force us to slow down. While we wait for the blizzard to pass, safe from the whirling wind and activity, we can reconnect with family and friends, plan some “lazy time” for ourselves, cook and eat hearty meals, and start setting goals or making plans for spring.

Unfortunately, blizzards can also be destructive and frightening. They can make us feel tremendous fear and leave us feeling powerless to protect ourselves and our families. This is exactly what December can feel like to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking.

Victims and survivors do have power, but often times they may need help from their friends, family, and the community to use that power. Often, victims and survivors feel so much pressure to make things go well during the Holiday season that they are unlikely to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and needs. In our role as elders, parents, siblings, friends,

community members, and tribal members, the greatest gift we can give to our loved ones this season, who are either currently experiencing violence or abuse or who have suffered violence and abuse in the past, is to be available, supportive, and encouraging.

Here are some tips to keep in mind over the Holidays on how to be a positive support for friends or family that have experienced abuse or violence or who are currently experiencing abuse or violence.

Listen. Allow them to fully tell their story. Believe what they are saying to you because this is their experience and it is very real to them. Remember, people can experience symptoms from trauma as if it has just occurred, even if in reality the experience occurred years ago.

Do not judge friends or family for what has happened or is happening to them. Encourage treatment and services.

Ask friends and family members how you can help. Offering to babysit or even do laundry can allow a victim or survivor to attend appointments or seek out services that will allow them to get out of abusive or violent situations.

Love. Tell your family and friends that you love them. Remind them often.

If you or someone you know has experienced or is experiencing abuse or violence due to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or elder abuse, please reach out to The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for assistance.

We can also help friends and family members support victims and survivors with resources and referrals. Please reach out to us with any questions and we will guide you in the right direction. We can also help connect members with other Ponca Tribe programs to make this Holiday Season a joyful one. Please Call.

Norfolk:

1800 Syracuse Ave.
Norfolk, NE. 68701

Thomas Wright II
Domestic Violence
Program Coordinator
Office: 402.371.8834 ext. 105
Mobile 402.266.1652

Omaha:

Fred LeRoy Center
2602 J Street
Omaha, NE. 68107

Ralston Transit Bldg:

5701 S. 85th Circle
Ralston, NE. 68127

Ralston:

5805 S. 86th Circle
Ralston, NE. 68127

Marian Harris
DV Outreach Coordinator
mharris@poncatribene.org
Office: 402.315.2760
Mobile: 402.750.9296

Cheyenne Moore
Domestic Violence
Case Manager
cmoore@poncatribene.org
Office: 402.734.5275
Direct: 402.738.3182
Mobile: 402.992.6836

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HELPING: Ponca Tribe DV staff are here to help at anytime

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Trauma Informed Care Specialist
awomacque@poncatribе-ne.org
Office: 402.315.2760
Mobile: 402.690.4204

Lincoln Office:
1600 Windhoek Dr.
Lincoln, NE. 68512

Julie Flynn
Elder Abuse Case Manager
jflynn@poncatirbe-ne.org
Office: 531.248.3030 ext. 1152

Shea O'Brien MA LMHP
Domestic Violence
Case Manager
sobrien@poncatribе-ne.org
Office: 531.248.3030 ext. 1109
Cell: 402.937.3074

Sioux City Office:
125 6th St.
Sioux City, IA. 51103

Adrianna Buffalo Chief Hoffman
Human Trafficking Program
Coordinator
abuffalochiefhoffman@
poncatribе-ne.org

Office: 712.258.0500
Cell: 402.943.6291

Chris Denny
Domestic Violence
Case Manager
cdenny@poncatribе-ne.org
Office: 712.258.0500
Cell: 402.681.6414

Toby Doucette
Trauma Informed Care Specialist
jdoucette@poncatribе-ne.org
Office: 712.258.0500
Cell: 402.860.5839

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@poncatribе-ne.org) or via mail:

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



District 3 holds beginning sewing classes

District 3 members are getting the chance to learn to sew regalia. Ponca member Theresa Foley has been teaching sewing members of all ages how

to create applique designs and sew ribbon skirts. Look for more information on future District 3 sewing circle dates!



Free assistance to Ponca member owned businesses to help you compete for government contracts!

Do you own a business?

Would you be interested in developing your business through government contracting?

PEDCO PTAC can help—by offering completely free of charge procurement counseling that will help your business to succeed in the government marketplace! Our services include (and are not limited to):

- Assisting your business with all necessary registrations for government contracting
- Identifying and applying for special government contracting certification programs that leverage your business's minority owned status
- Marketing your business to government agencies and prime contractors
- Locating contract opportunities that are suited for your business
- Assisting you to write bid proposals
- And much, much more!

To learn more, visit our website at www.pedcoptac.org. Sign up at the website for client services, or contact Darren Osborne (Program Manager) for more information. Darren can be reached by phone at 712.308.1366 or by email at dosborne@pedcoptac.org.



District 1 Ponca Families Holiday Potluck

December 10, 2022 | Noon-2 pm

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Headquarters
2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE

December 11, 2022 | Noon-2 pm

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Offices
125 6th Street | Sioux City, IA

District 1 Ponca families are invited to a holiday potluck. Turkey and ham will be provided for the main dish, along with beverages. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. There will be games and activities for the kids.

For more information, please contact District 1 Council Representatives JoAn Schlotman, 712.276.7103 or Angie Starkel, 402.922.0436.

**PONCA TRIBE
OF NEBRASKA**



Diabetes program presents for World Diabetes Day

Monday, November 14th was World Diabetes Day! Participants in each office location dressed their best in blue and enjoyed a pre-

sentation about diabetes. Prizes were awarded to participants wearing the most blue to raise awareness about diabetes.



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

THPO works with team assessing cultural impact of highway widening

On October 25, a team of archeologists met with Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Stacy Laravie and Environmental Manager Misha Mazurkewycz. The team is working along Hwy 12 near Verdel, Nebraska, as they are considering moving and enlarging the highway.

These archeologists have consulted with our THPO and are doing spot sampling

along a potential new route to determine if it would impact any sites for the Tribe. Along this corridor it is vital to do such surveys when any roadway is being done, and along Hwy 12, there are many cultural resources. Stacy, as THPO, works alongside these surveys to ensure Ponca lands and ancestors are protected. This survey is a phase two survey, which involves dig pits.



Sampling done to check mercury levels in fish in Niobrara area

On October 25, 2022, the EPA conducted fish sampling to test if the fish around the Tribe's land contained mercury. If humans consume fish with high concentrations of mercury, it can cause harmful effects to the brain and kidneys. In past testing, mercury was not detected in any fish, but checks are done yearly to ensure that there is no change.



To test the fish, an electric shocker is used to

stun the fish, which are then caught in nets, and

placed in a bucket with an air bubbler until they are weighed, measured, and using a punch device, a small piece of the skin and meat of the fish is taken, for sampling. This is only done to larger, predatory fish because they accumulate more mercury. The fish are then released back into the river. The samples taken are sent to the lab, with results being available in about a month.

Region 7 and 8 Tribes collaborate on environmental issues

October 18-20, Region 7 Tribes, Region 8 Tribes, and EPA representatives gathered at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting at Haskell Indian Nations University. Each region presented work on topics ranging from clean water, drones, food sovereignty, pesticides, climate change, and solid waste. This event

also featured a Memorandum of Understanding signing between the EPA and Haskell University to work together in assisting Haskell students in getting involved in EPA work. This collaboration was a first for this region. Around 35 tribes participated in person and virtually.



Great Pumpkin winners

Youth:
 1st-Kamron Grant
 2nd-Bella Wright
 3rd-Laila Chamberlain

Adult:
 1st-Rebecca Wright
 2nd-Myron Grant
 3rd-Ezron Grant



Are you a young adult 18-25 with experience in a Nebraska Tribal or State child welfare system?



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Incentives and travel reimbursements available!



NICWC wants to hear from you!



The Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition is working to build supports for tribal youth involved with the child welfare system. Learning about your experiences will help us do this in a good way!



Email Kitty @ kitty@nicwc.org or scan the QR code to get started.



Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after **EACH** term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding. Students must apply each school year.

Spring 2023 deadline: December 15, 2022
Summer 2023 deadline: May 15, 2022

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

Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 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 of absenteeism), and \$25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

Deadline to apply for the 2022-2023 school year is July 31, 2023.

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@poncatrIBE-ne.org. *Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs*

**PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
TRIBAL COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION 22-71

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian Tribe (P.L. 101-484) whose business affairs are conducted by the Ponca Tribal Council as defined in the Constitution approved July 22, 1994 by the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the Constitution of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Ponca Tribal Council exercises legislative powers to enact and promulgate resolutions and ordinances subject to all express restrictions upon such powers contained in the constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribal Council has reviewed the proposed amendment to the Law & Order Code Title VI - Judicial Remedies; and

WHEREAS: The revisions were considered because the Tribal Council wants to create laws that will allow people to file a suit against insurance companies instead of the Tribe directly to deal with any suit where the Tribe has insurance. It keeps the Tribe from having to be in Court or pay out damages, but also helps ensure people have a remedy when insurance won't pay; and

WHEREAS: The proposed Title VI Judicial Remedies proposed revision was placed on the November 1, 2022 Tribal Council Agenda to allow comments from the public and on November 8, 2022 and November 15, 2022 for first and second readings respectively. A notice of intent to amend the Law & Order Code Title VI - Judicial Remedies was mailed to all heads of household at least 14 days prior to any final action satisfying the requirements for the adoption, amendment, or abolishment of Ordinances.

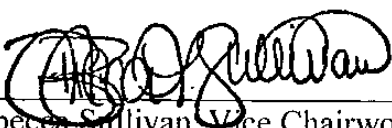
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ponca Tribal Council does approve the amendment to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Law & Order Code Title VI – Judicial Remedies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these amendments shall take effect immediately.


CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY AND AFFIRM that the above and foregoing resolution was duly authorized and passed by the Tribal Council of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska at a duly called meeting held in Niobrara, Nebraska on the 15 day of November, 2022 by a vote of 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent. Chairperson _____ voting not voting. A Quorum of 8 was present.

ATTEST



Rebecca Sullivan, Vice Chairwoman
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska



Kyle Taylor, Secretary
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Change of Address Form

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

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MUST BE AN ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

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

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

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@poncatrIBE-ne.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.

MEMBERS NEEDED

TAX COMMISSION:

The Ponca Tax Commission is charged with the administration and enforcement of all Tribal tax laws. Commissioners are paid a \$250.00 stipend per meeting plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to apply. Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2023

LAW & ORDER CODE REVISION COMMITTEE:

There will be an upcoming vacancy for a tribal member. The responsibilities of the Law & Order Committee are to review the Law & Order Code and recommend changes to the Tribal Council. A \$250 stipend is paid plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2023.

ELECTION BOARD:

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for District 2 and District 4, for the Election Board due to terms expiring. 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 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.
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.

If you are interested in serving please submit a letter of interest and/or resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribene.org. A background check is required.

OSNI PONCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Osni Ponca Board of Directors. The purpose of Osni Ponca LLC is to engage in economic development activities for the benefit of the Tribe and its members. This Board manages the activities and affairs of Osni Ponca. No member of the Tribal Council, employee of the Tribe or any entities thereof, shall serve on this Board. The Board members must have the following minimum qualifications: 1) Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age; 2) either (a) possess a Bachelor's Degree in business or a related field, or (b) possess a high school diploma (or GED) and have at least five (5) years of business, financial, legal government contracting, tribal government or industry experience; 3) have no felony convictions; and 4) submit to a background investigation which yields no results showing convictions involving tax evasion, tax fraud, embezzlement or moral turpitude. Applications will be accepted from Tribal and non-tribal members. A \$250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip.

Applicants must submit a letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail to crepenning@poncatribene.org. A background check is required. Deadline for application is February 1, 2023.

Ponca Storyteller's Corner

Is there anyone out there who doesn't have a story, or a few, that means the world to them?

Stories contain worlds, convey knowledge, shape identity, live in the best parts of our hearts and memories. Without them, the world would be drab, colorless. Without them, we might wind up forgetting everything we most want to remember.

As Ponca People and as Natives, stories are particularly important to us. For thousands of years, we were an oral culture, meaning the spoken word and storytelling were among the primary ways we transmitted what we knew from generation to generation, how essential things and just lovely things moved through families, clans, and societies. Recently, as we all know, we Poncas have made our way through a kind of apocalypse. It has been difficult, tough, tragic. But we are still here and we are rebuilding, regenerating, and our story as a tribe continues. Guided by our ancestors, we persevere and go forward.

And we Ponca People still have plenty of stories—baskets, pickup trucks, and houses just full of them. They make us laugh, they make us cry, they make us who we are. We remember them from long ago when we were kids, and we remember them from yesterday. We tell them around the fire, and we tell shortened versions of them in our Facebook comments. They're treasures; sacred, precious family belongings. But they're also jokes, lessons, cultural history, and dreams. Aren't they the best? Isn't it awesome that as Ponca People we still have such a beautiful mountain of stories standing at the center of who we are as a people and as a tribe?

In this column, which I'm calling the Ponca Storytellers Corner, I'm aiming to create a place in our monthly newsletter where us Ponca can share our stories—any of them that come to mind—that are meaningful or educational to us, that need sharing or might be inspiring. My hope is that this column feeds our growth, feeds our journey, feeds our soul, because isn't that what a good story does anyway?

If you have a story you'd like to share in the Ponca Storytellers Corner, email it to cliffponca@gmail.com and jhitchcock@poncatribene.org. We are richer as individuals and as a people when we share the stories we have to tell. Let's make each other rich again as Poncas with the stories we carry.

Weblaho, Cliff Taylor

THANK YOU!

I would sincerely like to THANK everyone who supported and voted for me during the Tribal elections. I look forward to running again during the next election and will genuinely appreciate your support and votes again.

-Sincerely, Beth Branstiter

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

December 5 | 10 am

Ponca Tribe Offices
Niobrara, NE

January 9, 2023 | 10 am

Ralston Admin Building
Omaha, NE





Janet Lee Velasquez Saiz

Janet Lee Velasquez Saiz was a woman of tremendous drive, energy, charisma and courage. At every venue she attended, she took center stage. At powwows held in Wisconsin she was often the head woman dancer, and in her sixties she was a featured dancer at a powwow held in Germany. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1938 and is the daughter of Gavino and Ga-thay-dash-tway, Clara Peniska Velasquez, a prominent Northern Ponca elder and storyteller.

Janet attended public school in Omaha where she excelled in numerous subjects, such as art (drawing especially) dance, choir, theatre, and girls' varsity sports. Later, after she married and had children, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned honors as a history major by making the Dean's List.

Janet was courageous. She was a social and political trendsetter and tireless leader. At Madison, she was a leader in the American Indian student organization Wunk Shek, and

later, as a corporate manager for AT&T and one of the few minority women in positions of power, she was a member of the National Organization for Women, one of the leading figures for Wisconsin's Women of Color, and an influential supporter of La Raza Unida in its campaign for Latino migrant workers' rights.

Janet is survived by her sisters Marguerite and Katherine, as well as her ex-husband Prospero. She is also the mother of four sons: Sean, Augustine, Michael, and Peter. Her beloved grandchildren are Gabriel, Jorge, Isabella, Antonio, Christopher, Katherine, Emma, and Augustine Jr. All have excelled in their respective professions due to her sacrifices, nurturing, and being a role model. In addition to teaching her sons and grandchildren the value of education and hard work, she taught them to cherish their heritage as Northern Poncas. She passed on her knowledge of Ponca traditions, wisdom, history, and culture to them. She was a proud Ponca who loved her life as an Indian woman and as a political leader, a successful businesswoman, elder, mother, and grandmother, and she wanted to be reunited with her traditions and return here to Niobrara her homeland for her final journey accompanied by her family and friends under the auspices of Ponca rituals.

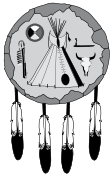
PEDCO/PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD

There will be one position open due to a term expiring. Applications are now being accepted. The general mission of the Corporation is: a) to assist the members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to become more employable, including through technical assistance, training, and development of skills; b) to increase members marketable employment and business skills and proficiency in order for them to achieve better employment and economic opportunities; c) to assist members with establishing, developing, and growing their own businesses and increasing their business opportunities, including through loan and other funding programs as well as the provision of technical assistance and training for business; and d) to otherwise improve and increase the economic well-being of the members and community of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska as a whole. The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Ponca Economic Development Corporation and the Bylaws are on the website www.poncatribene.org for your viewing or a copy can be e-mailed to you if requested.

The management and affairs of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors to carry out the purposes of the Corporation. To be eligible for appointment as a Director an individual:

- a. Need not be a resident living on Tribal lands or within the territory of the Tribe.
- b. Must meet all requirements set forth in the Business Entities Code and any other law of the Tribe applicable to the Corporation; and
- c. Must meet any other standards or requirements which the Member's Representatives may from time to time require.

A \$250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Applicants must submit letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribene.org. A background check is required. Deadline for applications is February 1, 2023.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribene.org

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Office Locations

NIORRARA 68760

Headquarters

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

Enrollment

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

Cultural

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

LINCOLN 68508

Administration

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

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln

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

Osni Ponca

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

NORFOLK 68701

Administration Building

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

Gym Building

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

Ponca Hills Clinic

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

Ponca Express

Ph: 877-769-3111

Northern Ponca Housing Authority

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

Purchased/Referred Care

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

OMAHA 68107

Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Clinic

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

Administration

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

Dental

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

Northern Ponca Housing Authority

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

SIoux CITY 51103

Administration

125 6th Street
Ph: (712) 258-0500
Fax: (712) 258-0762

OTHER RESOURCES

Child Abuse Hotline

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

National Child Abuse Hotline

800-422-4453

National Suicide Hotline

800-273-8255

Domestic Violence Hotline

800-799-7233

National Human Trafficking Hotline

888-373-7888

National Problem Gambling Helpline

800-522-4700

Elder Abuse Hotline

800-252-8966

Boys Town Crisis Line

800-448-3000

Drug Treatment & Referral Hotline

877-726-4727

Nebraska Family Helpline

888-866-8660

Veterans Crisis Line

800-273-8255

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