

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News

Creating Community

District events, athletics,
Annual Powwow, and more
bring communities together
as summer ends.



September 2023

Princess contests a Saturday night showcase



Coffee & Conversation

YOU BRING THE CONVERSATION AND I'LL BRING THE COFFEE.

I invite you to reach out and visit with me. Would love to hear from you, whether you have a question, concern, would like to provide feedback on any of our programs/services, or have an idea for something new... Please don't hesitate to reach out. Contact me by email, phone, or text below to set-up a time either in person or to schedule a virtual visit. Talk soon! Wi Btha Ha

Chairwoman Schmidt

Email: candaces@poncatribene.org

Call/text: (402) 860-1497


Have you heard?
We are doing a
needs assessment
and want your
feedback!



On the cover: The 2023 Ponca Princesses (L-R) Senior Princess Stevie Horse, Little Miss Alizay Ironheart, and Junior Princess Talilah Zephier. More Powwow pictures on pages 12-13. Look for even more photos in the October issue, and on our Flickr account: Flickr @PoncaTribeofNE.

District 1 holds end of summer picnics in Niobrara and Sioux City

District 1 hosted picnics for their members in Niobrara and Sioux City at the end of July. Members enjoyed swimming, bounce houses, and food provided by Ponca-owned businesses.

District 1 College Student Incentive


District 1 is offering a \$200 incentive to members attending college this fall, to help with expenses.

- Must be an enrolled District 1 Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member (students residing in and outside the Service Delivery area are eligible)
- Must be enrolled in college for the Fall 2023 semester
- Deadline to submit for this incentive is September 29, 2023

Send proof of college enrollment to Angie Starkel at astarkel@poncatribes-ne.org, or text to 402.922.0436.

**One time incentive*

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



District 2 children get prepped for school with backpack event

District 2 held its Back-to-School event on Sunday, July 30 from 9-11 am at the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Ralston Administration Office. D2 SDA members from ages 3-17 were provided gift cards to purchase school supplies and each child was able to pick out age-appropriate school backpacks, lunch boxes, and socks. Once they were done, Kona Ice was onsite to provide a final sweet treat! Special thanks to the volunteers that assisted on the day of the event: Candy Schott, Cassandra Svagera, Maci Schott, Ben Schott, and Abbey Jenkins.



ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED

Tribal membership is central to the health, welfare, economic security, and political integrity of the Tribe and elemental to the Tribe's very existence as a sovereign and independent political community. The purpose of this Title is to implement Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution and provide rules, regulations, and procedures governing the enrollment and honorary membership of eligible individuals in the Tribe as an exercise of the inherent authority of the Tribe.

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Enrollment Committee. Members are paid \$250 stipend per meeting and mileage will be paid for a maximum of 410 miles round trip. All meetings are held in Niobrara, NE. A background check is required.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Ponca Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, PO BOX 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or via e-mail to crepenning@poncatribene.org. Deadline for applications is October 17, 2023.

Food, fun, and language lessons at District 3 Back-to-School



District 3 Membership Meeting Saturday, October 14 | 12 pm

1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE
Lifesize available for those wishing to attend virtually

District 3 Ponca Tribe members are invited to join District 3 Tribal Council Representatives Susie Baker and Shanna Carpenter for a District 3 Membership Meeting at the new Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offices in Lincoln. This meeting will be a time to share your ideas, comments, and concerns with your District 3 Tribal Council Representatives, and collaborate with other District 3 members. Members from both within and outside the Service Delivery area are invited. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the meeting at 1 pm. Meeting attendees will be entered into a gift card drawing.

Please RSVP no later than October 7th if you plan to attend in person. To RSVP, receive information to participate virtually, or for more information, please contact District 3 Tribal Council Representatives Susie Baker, 925.788.0649 and Shanna Carpenter, 402.805.0883.



Fun and games at D4 Back-to-School

District 4 offered backpacks and bright arcade lights to students returning to school. The annual Back-to-School event was held at Pizza Ranch this year, with D4 member students and JOM participants receiving backpacks and game cards to enjoy the arcade.



First Annual Creator's Game Classic brings youth together

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, in conjunction with several community partners, hosted the First Annual Creator's Game Classic on Saturday, August 5th. The event featured an explanation of the history and cultural significance of lacrosse,

and a demonstration of the game in its more traditional form, followed by exhibition games between teams from Lincoln and Alliance. Afterwards, youth had the opportunity to come try out basic skills and learn from coaches and players.



Understanding the impact of removal policies on Native American communities and families

Toby Doucette

Trauma Informed Care
Specialist

The removal of Native American children from their families and communities via social services and other governmental agencies has a long and painful history with all Native American communities in the United States. For the future of our communities, it is important to learn about the historical context and contributing factors surrounding the government's forced removal of Native American children from their homes, the devastating impact this removal has had on families and communities, and the efforts that are being made to address these issues.

The forced removal of Native American children via governmental agencies can be traced back to racist beliefs of assimilation into Euro-American culture. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the government implemented policies aimed at forcibly assimilating Native Americans into mainstream Euro-American culture. This included the establishment

of boarding schools, where Native American children were forcibly separated from their families, forbidden from practicing their culture and language, and taught to adopt Western customs.

During this time, Native American children were forcibly removed from their families and placed in boarding schools and foster care or placed with non-Native Americans through social services from every state in America. These removal policies were rooted in the Western belief that by removing children from their cultural environments, they would facilitate Native assimilation into mainstream "American" society. This resulted in the disruption of family ties, cultural loss, and the erasure of Native American identity and traditions. It also resulted in a significant number of Native children dying to disease and murder.

The removal of Native American children has had devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities that are still with us to today. Children experienced an

untold amount of trauma from being forcibly separated from their families, leading to long-lasting psychological and emotional effects. Families were torn apart, and traditional kinship systems were disrupted, weakening the fabric of Native American communities. Cultural identity and knowledge were eroded, and the intergenerational transmission of language and traditions was severely impacted.

Recognizing the harmful impact of these removal policies, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1978.

ICWA is a federal law designed to protect the best interests of Native American children and preserve their cultural identity. It provides guidelines for child custody proceedings, prioritizing placement with Native American families, extended relatives, or tribal communities. The United States Supreme Court upheld ICWA on 6/15/2023, after three challenges to the legitimacy to the law. Those challenges were seen by many to be an attack to tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

continued on next page



Let them
not be
forgotten.

Submit your loved
one's information to
have them honored
at the MMIR event
September 24
in Sioux City

OSNI PONKA
YOUTH COUNCIL

REMOVAL: Continuing efforts needed to heal communities

continued from previous page
In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need for reconciliation and addressing the historical trauma inflicted on Native American communities. Efforts have been made to collaborate with tribal governments, support cultural revitalization, and improve compliance with the ICWA. Training programs for child welfare

workers and judges have been implemented to ensure the law’s proper implementation and to promote cultural understanding and sensitivity. There is still a lot of work to do with this, but with ICWA being upheld, there is some progress being made.
The removal of Native American children from their families and communities and

their placement in social services has had a profoundly negative and long-lasting impact on Native American communities. The historical trauma and cultural loss suffered by these children and their families cannot be understated. The enactment of the ICWA was a significant step towards rectifying the harm caused, prioritizing

the preservation of Native American identity, and promoting family and community cohesion. However, ongoing efforts are needed to ensure the proper implementation of the ICWA and to support healing, reconciliation, and the revitalization of Native American cultures. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

SAVE THE DATE

Every Child Matters Awareness Week 2023

Monday, September 25
Presentation & Community Activity
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

Wednesday, September 27
Movie Night: "Older Than America"
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

Friday, September 29
Awareness Walk
Nebraska State Capitol | 1445 K Street | Lincoln, NE



Make plans to join the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Program for community awareness and education opportunities surrounding Every Child Matters Awareness Day, September 30. Every Child Matters is a movement that was started to shine a light on the tragedies experienced by Native American/Indigenous/American Indian children at boarding schools.



ND42 Basketball Camp teaches more than just basketball skills

Ponca Health Services Behavioral Health hosted the ND42 Basketball Camp in Norfolk and Lincoln in July, where professional

athlete Noah Dahlman taught kids basketball drills and the connection between athletics, health, and mental wellness.



Honoring Our Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives

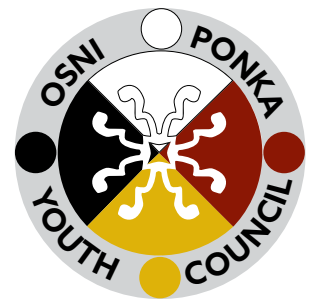
Sunday, September 24 | 1:30-3:00 pm

Sioux City Museum | 607 4th St | Sioux City, IA

Everyone is invited to join the Osni Ponka Youth Council as we honor those relatives taken from us. We will be honoring these relatives with a short video presentation, followed by a speaker. Lunch will be provided. Please wear red in honor of our missing and murdered relatives.

All attendees **MUST** pre-register for the event. Register online by using the QR code below, or by visiting https://poncatrifeofne.formstack.com/forms/mmir_registration.

For more information, please contact Becci Sullivan at 531.222.4471.



Dhegiha Language Conference a unique opportunity for Language program

In late July, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Culture and Language staff, and members of the Language & Culture Committee attended the annual Dhegiha Language Conference. The Ponca, Omaha, Quapaw, Kaw, and Osage are considered Dhegiha tribes. This means that our languages are similar and have a shared history and culture. The annual Dhegiha conference is an opportunity to come together, share, and network regarding the importance of the language and what can be done to preserve it.

There are typically presentations from each of the tribes. The



two Ponca speakers that gave presentations were Dr. Headman and Eagle Rhodd. Elders and language staff from other tribes also gave presentations.

This was a great opportunity for our language staff to observe and get ideas from more established language programs. The staff learned a lot

and is eager to apply their new knowledge to our budding language program.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR
INFO REGARDING DISCOUNTS ON YOUR INTERNET!

WWW.FCC.GOV/ACP

\$30-75 per month towards internet service for eligible households

Sweat Lodge & Traditional Healing
Last Friday of each month at 6 pm
 Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center
 2602 J Street | Omaha, NE

For more information or to volunteer to help:
 Robert Sweeney 402.637.1372
 Rose BirdHead 531.255.8088

Language & Culture Committee hosts meal and hand game Thursday before Powwow



Good, clean fun at Diabetes Program Bubble Run

The annual Diabetes Walk/Run was held in conjunction with Friday night of Powwow. Walkers and runners of all ages were exuberantly showered with bubbles as they took off down the road leading to the Powwow grounds.



 **Looking for more photos?** All our official Ponca Tribe of Nebraska photos are available on Flickr @PoncaTribeofNE.

Reel Mentors program teaches kids fishing basics

Tribal member Ron Suverkrubbe's Real Mentors program and the Youth Council invited youth to come learn fishing basics on Friday morning before Powwow. Participants learned how to tie basic fishing knots,

and how to cast. This year, conditions at the pond were not favorable for fishing, but the youth involved had a great time practicing their casts, and enjoyed a cookout after all their hard work.



Archery range a new offering at this year's Powwow

This year's activities at Powwow saw the addition of an archery range! Open range times were

offered Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. Participants learned archery

basics, and had the opportunity to practice their new skills, or improve on old ones.



29th Annual Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Powwow



Watch for even more Powwow photos in October's edition!



Looking for more photos? All our official Ponca Tribe of Nebraska photos are available on Flickr @PoncaTribeofNE.

Potato Dance Switch Dance Team Dance



Horseshoe and cornhole tournaments draw great participation



Ponca Health Services-Lincoln hosts Circle of Health event

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln was proud to host their first Health Fair this year on July 31st. The event included information on the

programs offered by the Ponca Tribe, booths from community partner agencies, prizes, food, traditional games, and so much

more. Booths filled the main hallway and the gym area of the Lincoln facility, and a meal was served in the community room.



Ponca Health Services

Annual Health Fair

Saturday, September 30 | 10 am-2 pm

5811 S 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

Learn more about achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle with the Ponca Tribe's programs and services, along with booths from many community agencies we partner with, at our Annual Health Fair. Lunch will be provided, and participants will enjoy lots of activities, freebies, prize drawings and more! Fun for the entire family! For more information, contact Candy Schott at 402.315.2768.



Tribal leadership attends Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board Summit



Members of the Ponca Health Services leadership team and Tribal Council attended the 2023 Annual Health Summit of the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board (GPTLHB). GPTLHB represents the 18 tribal communities in the four-state region of South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska & Iowa.

Unclaimed Monies

The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration currently holds \$80 million in trust for thousands of beneficiaries with no known address.

Visit our website for a list of Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members that have unclaimed money: www.poncatrIBE-ne.org/unclaimed-monies/



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, or 402.371.8834, ext. 120.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MEMBERS:

Complete the Tribal Member Needs Assessment by September 15, 2023 to be entered into a drawing for \$100 Visa gift cards!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members 18 years and older nationwide are invited to complete the Tribal Member Needs Assessment. Your responses to this assessment are crucial to help shape how Tribal resources and programs are structured to meet member needs now and in the future.

The assessment can be accessed via QR Code, at <https://forms.gle/uy94HxguwzYUBx2K6> or a hard copy can be mailed upon request or picked up at office sites from the Office Coordinator.

Return hard copy assessments to:
 Tribal Council
 P.O. Box 288
 Niobrara, NE 68760.

Ponca Tribe Environmental Department hosts Tribal Science Council

July 25th-27th, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Environmental Department and the Santee Sioux Environmental Department co-hosted the bi-annual meeting of the National Tribal Science Council, which includes representation from tribes from all 10 EPA regions as well as the EPA counterparts. On Tuesday, July 25th, Environmental Director Misha Mazurkewycz kicked off the meeting by sharing the programs and current activities of the PTN Environmental Department. Tribal Council Vice Chair and



District 1 Representative Angie Starkel also shared more about the Tribe's land, history, and relationship with the environment. After

the Monday morning session, attendees had the opportunity to tour the Ponca Educational Trail, with Councilwoman Starkel providing more

information on the Tribe, the Trail, and the stories of the Ponca People in their homelands.



Job fairs highlight career opportunities for members

During July, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, in conjunction with Prairie Flower Casino and Woodstone Inc, held job fairs at each office location to showcase the open positions for the next phase of the Prairie Flower Casino construction project.

many great opportunities with Woodstone. You can also reach out to Joe Merwin at jmerwin@woodstoneinc.com for more information.



Did you miss our in person fairs, but are still interested in one of the open positions? The Ponca Tribe will be hosting a virtual job fair on October 4 to provide more information on the



Build your future as you help us build ours!

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

October 4, 2023 | 5-8 pm

Online via Teams at:
<https://ow.ly/Uqw650PEzbv>

Meeting ID: 252 337 507 023
Passcode: ew6icD



Join us online to find out about the many career opportunities available on the next phase of construction for Prairie Flower Casino! We are looking for Ponca members to join Woodstone as Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Project Manager, along with a wide variety of jobs in associated construction trades. No experience necessary. If you're interested in a career in construction and/or trades, log on and learn more!



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA





Did you know?

Our PTN Education programs are open to members nationwide!

- Need based funding in our Higher Education, Adult Vocational Training, and Graduate programs at the post-secondary level.
- K-12 Youth Incentive program
- GED Incentive Program and GED testing fee assistance

For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Education Department at 402.371.8834, via email at pate@poncatrIBE-ne.org or aknudsen@poncatrIBE-ne.org, or via mail:

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Department of Education
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE 68701

**PONCA TRIBE
OF NEBRASKA**



Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

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

Winter 2023 deadline: November 15, 2023

Spring 2024 deadline: December 15, 2023

Summer 2024 deadline: May 15, 2024

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 2022-2023 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 2023-2024 school year is July 31, 2024.

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 at: office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or aknudsen@poncatrIBE-ne.org. **Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs**

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

HELP US UPDATE OUR MEMBER INFORMATION!

Hello Members,

The Enrollment Department is doing their best to keep our members information current and up to date but we can't do it without your help. If you've moved or need to report a death please contact us to let us know.

Below is a list of members that are inactive. **This means that we do not have a current address for them on file or maybe a death was never reported or documents were never received.** If you see the name of someone you know who has moved please contact them and tell them to update their information with us. If there is the name of someone you know who has passed please contact us. We need a death certificate or document on file in order to change their status.

You may contact the Enrollment Department at enrollment@poncatribene.org, or contact the Niobrara or Lincoln offices.

We appreciate your help!

INACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF 9/1/2023

Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott	Evans, Matthew James	King, Gavin Michael	Scuderi, Jana Marie
Arrow, Robert Eugene	Fasthorse, Beverlee Ann	Klug, Jeremy Tyler	Scurlocke,
Bagent, Wayne Orval	Fink, Alissa Rose	Krueger, Annette Marie	Athena Larissa Lucille
Baggett, Donovan Joseph	Flagg, III., George Albert	Kyles, Jarred Joseph	Sherman, Brian Nicholas
Baker, Jacob Jessie Bowen	Flowers, Diamonds Ann	Lasley, Santana Rose	Sherman, Cody Lee
Banuelos, Christa Rose	Flowers, Joseph	Latimer, LaRohn Lewis	Sherman, Harold Dewayne
Barber, Gabriela Marie	Foley, Michael Joseph	Le Roy, Gisele Marie	Sherman, John Glenn
Bear, Joshua Gilbert	Freeman, Xavier Lee	Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray	Sherman, Michael Ray
Beaver, Jason Chaska	Garcia, Cia Christine	Lieb, Donovan Joseph	Sherman, Mitchell Everett
Becker, Jr., Anthony Arnold	Glenn, John Allen	Lieb, Syllas Vittorio	Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Becker, Sr., Anthony Arnold	Glisan, Cynthia Lynn	Linn, Micayla Naomi	Sherman, William Edward
Becker, Tyller Randell	Gortarez, Gina Marie	Little, Jeromy Todd	Skinner, Jessie Russell
Bell, Darian Patrick	Gortarez, Rudy John	Livermore, Lakin Mardell	Smith, Ashley Nicole
Bell, Shaune` Kay	Goss, Mamie L.	Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco	Smith, Joni Sue
Birdhead, William Randolph	Govia, Isaiah Lee	Maben, Jessica Paige	Sparks, Carter Mason
Blowe, Dominick Adams	Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo	Mann, Sydney Desiree`	Standblack, Marko Tulio
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick	Grant, III., Jesse Clarence	Mategko, Lisa Louise	Stivers, Amanda Katherine
Blowe, Tyrone Richard	Haahr, Anneliese Teresa	McGrath, Bryan Thomas	Stuczynski, Drake Keegan
Boettger, Dakota Birdhead	Hamilton, Bobbi-Jo Danielle	McGrath, Daniel Patrick	Swinarski, Alicia Estrada
Boettger, Jarell Duncan	Hart-La Londe,	McGraw, Landon Harris	Thomas, II,
Boyer, Berlin N.	Kaedyn Mikael	Mercier, Jade Sharice	Scott Richard Herbert
Branstiter, Brett Theodore	Hennek, Gail Howe	Peck, Brandalynn	Thomas, Jenny Anne
Brownrigg, Steven Francis	Henritze, Karen June	Peck, Tyler Duane	Thomas, Natana Lynn
Buffalo Chief, Martel	Hill, Mary Jane	Petersen, Kevin Lee	Thomas, Robin Diane
Buffalo Chief, Santana	Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.	Phillips, Noah Trench	Treichler, Jasmine Dawn
Marquerite	Holiday, Vessa Cheriss	Phillips, William Diamond	Tubbs, Shea Micah
Burston, Sandra Lee	Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann	Pierce, Raychel Marie	Vaughan, Linda Lou
Carter, Amber Lynn	Horine, Ashley Danielle	Polly, Rachael Anne	Veals, Clifford James
Cooks, Jeremy Jurai	Howard, Michelle Leigh	Prichard, Joseph John	Velder, Tristen Leo Spencer
Cournoyer-Galindo,	Howard, Truman Ardell	Prunty, Austin Joe	Voss, Michael Roy
Monique Rosabelle	Howe, Richard H.	Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose	Waters, Deon Koleen
Courtright, Michael Todd	Humphreys, Belinda Kay	Raymond, Joseph Allen	Wayte, April May
Crowder, Delorse Sue	Iron Thunder, Norman Noel	Richard, Robert Brandon	Wells, Isaiah David
Cutshall, Katline James	Jeppesen, Zachary Lee	Roberts, Marquitta Ruby	Weston, Mikah James
Danielson, Daniel James	Johnson, Daniel James	Rulo, Byron	Wilson, Clarence Roy
Drapeaux, Juston Lee	Johnson, Lukus Tyler	Russell, Kristina Anne	Wilson, Justice Carrie Marie
Eckley, Lane Emory	Johnson, Nicholas Adair	Sainz, Tritia Jeanene	Wright, Kiera Michelle
Eilers, Richard James	Jones, Christopher Lee	Saiz, Jr., Augustine Mark	
Esser, Jeremiah Joseph	Kelso, James Alan	Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee	
Evans, Kaci Antonette	Kerrigan, Kathleen Ann	Schmidt, Jr., Karl Michael	

Welcome!



Danny Barfield Jr. and Kanessa Whitcomb, Omaha, would like to introduce Damari and Damiri Barfield born February 12th at 7:10am and 7:11am (4 lbs 3oz & 4 lbs 9oz, 17.4 inches & 17.1 inches at birth)

Congratulations!



Ponca Tribe members Lavara and Nate Gilpin represented Team Wisconsin at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Elder's Committee Meetings

September 11 | 10 am

Ponca Office | Norfolk, NE



Member Registration for Website: In the fall of 2019, we moved our websites to a new host to improve functionality. If you previously had membership-level access to our website, please note that you will need to register for the site again.



The Gilpin family has a tradition of award winning athletes competing in the North American Indigenous games.

L-R: Michael Gilpin 2014 BBB Gold Medal - Regina SA, Nate Gilpin 2023 BBB Gold Medal - Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Lavara Gilpin 2017 GBB Gold Medal - Toronto, ON.

Ponca members, Gilpin Siblings Gold Medalists. Gilpin strong, making Indian country proud!

In the face of seemingly insurmountable health challenges, I am a proud mom to twin Ponca members and we choose to inspire others to live life to the fullest by embracing the spirit of adventure and cherishing every moment. My name is Jonelle Drapeau, and despite battling Rheumatoid Arthritis, Epilepsy, Brainstem Compression Disorder, Cerebellar Stroke Syndrome, Lupus SLE, Brain Aneurism, and loss of eyesight, I refuse to let my health define my life.

I am a devoted parent to energetic 6-year-old twins, Jeanetta and Maximus. Rather than allowing my health conditions to get the best of me, I choose to focus on creating memorable experiences for my children, filling their lives with joy and adventure.

My twins and I make the most of our free time by engaging in a wide array of outdoor activities. Kayaking, hiking, snorkeling, jumping on the trampoline, finding rock climbing walls, swimming, biking, walking our dog Pongo, and fishing are just a few of the exciting adventures we embark on together. Our shared love for the great outdoors and our Native American connection to nature resonate deeply with our family values.

One activity that holds special significance in our lives is attending Powwows. Witnessing my daughter Jeanetta embrace her passion for dance has been my source of immense pride and joy. Jeanetta's grandfather, world-renowned Hoop Dancer, Dallas Chief Eagle, has been a guiding force in nurturing her love for dancing. Recently, Jeanetta was gifted her very own fist hoops by her grandfather. It was a moment of great significance as she unveiled her unique hoop dancing style at the most recent Milk's

Camp Powwow in South Dakota. We were captivated by her skill and passion as she performed with grace and enthusiasm. We also had a heartwarming surprise when Maximus, inspired by his sister's dedication, decided to join her in the arena at the Greenwood Powwow. It was a testament to the loving bond shared between the twins and their deep-rooted connection to cultural heritage.

My only goal in life is to inspire my children to make the most out of life despite any hurdles and to teach them to be proud to say that they are of Ponca and Ihanktowan descent.

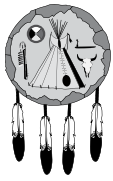
I instill in my children that life is precious, and every moment should be cherished. By engaging in all of the above activities together, we not only create beautiful memories but also strengthen our family bond and are able to celebrate our heritage daily.

As Indigenous people our resilience of the human spirit is strong and we become a beacon of hope for everyone facing adversity. One of my favorite daily reminders; it is not the challenges we encounter that define us but rather how we choose to respond to them.

As a mother of twins enrolled in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, I ask everyone to cherish their culture, seize each day with gusto, and make the most of every moment. By sharing our lives I hope it inspires others to overcome their own obstacles, celebrate life, and embrace the gift of every new day with a spirit of adventure and resilience.

Wopida, Jonelle Drapeau





PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatribene.org

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Office Locations

NIOBRARA 68760

Headquarters

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

Enrollment

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

Cultural

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

LINCOLN 68512

Administration

1600 Windhoek Dr.
Ph: (402) 438-9222
Fax: (402) 438-9226

Ponca Health Services-Lincoln

1600 Windhoek Dr
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: (402) 939-0297

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 web site at: www.poncatribene.org