Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Member News



Celebrating our people

Halloween pictures, Restoration Powwow, and more!

December 2025

Member Card Design Contest

Ponca Tribe members are invited to submit their original designs for a chance to **win $200**, and have their design featured on the front of the 2026 member birthday cards! Three winners will be chosen!

Must be a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to submit a design. Only one submission allowed per member. Designs must be submitted by 11:59 pm, December 1, 2025. Please include member name, age, and any additional notes about the design when submitting. All design submissions must be large, full color, high-resolution images to be considered (no cell phone photos, high-resolution scans are fine).



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

To submit your design, email **crepenning@poncatribe-ne.gov**. For more information, please call Candace Repenning at 402.857.3391.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

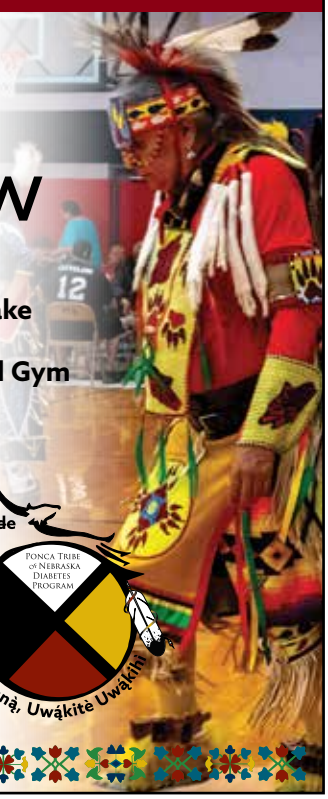
Annual Healthy Living

Walk/Run & Powwow

April 18, 2026

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

Powwow Location - Ponca Tribal Gym
1800 Syracuse Ave. | Norfolk, NE



The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and its organizers, agencies, representatives, agents, employees, and sponsors ("Tribe") do not accept responsibility and expressly exclude liability for any loss or damage to any personal property during the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow or any injuries that may occur or be suffered at or during the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow. The Tribe makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, including with respect to information posted about the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow. By attending the event, vendors, participants, and attendees assume any and all risks, known and unknown, and responsibility for any harm, loss, damage, injury, and/or death resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with participation any and all activities at the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow. In consideration for being permitted to attend and participate in the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow, attendees and participants release, waive, discharge, and relinquish any right of recovery and release the Tribe from any liability or claims of loss or damage whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated that may occur from attendance at or participation in the Diabetes Walk/Run and Powwow, regardless of cause of origin.

Wamí Uskíde
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Diabetes Program
Kikíbaną, Uwąkítę Uwąkíthi

Fred LeRoy-Jai Steadman

Holiday Hoops Event





Honoring Fred LeRoy, Former Ponca Tribe Chairman

ND Fighting Hawks vs. NE Cornhuskers

December 21, 2025 |7:00 pm

Pinnacle Bank Arena | 400 Pinnacle Arena Dr. | Lincoln, NE

Jai Steadman, proud Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member, and Head Men's Basketball Coach at Independence Community College in Kansas would like to invite 25 Ponca students and their families to come and watch as the NE Cornhuskers take on the North Dakota Fighting Hawks.

- FREE Admission!
- FREE Food Voucher
- FREE Christmas Gift Bag!

Tickets are limited, and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, or to RSVP, please call Nancie at 402.450.1095.

Sponsored by:
PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

On the cover: November northern lights behind the Chief Standing Bear statue in Niobrara. Photo by Charlie Yunker

Chairwoman's Corner

"The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived. True resilience is not the refusal to bend, but the capacity to bounce back stronger after the bend is complete."

Thati'a relatives,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. As the year begins to wind down, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past couple of months.

Your Tribal Council has been working diligently, navigating complex issues and implementing initiatives that aim to strengthen our community and ensure the well-being of our membership.



Vice Chairwoman Angie Starkel, Councilman Alex Taylor, Eastern Band of Cherokee Principal Chief Michell Hicks, Chairwoman Candace Schmidt at Inauguration Ceremony

A primary concern we focused on was the federal government shutdown. As you know, stable federal funding is the bedrock of many services across Indian Country. Council and Administrative staff have worked diligently to implement contingency plans and manage our Nation's finances so that the uncertainty in Washington had little to no impact on our vital tribal programs and services. Ensuring the continuity of health care, education, and social services for our Ponca people is always our paramount concern, and I am proud of the efforts that kept everything running smoothly.

During the shutdown, we distributed a Federal Shutdown Impact Survey to gather firsthand accounts of how the situation affected your household. Thank you so much to the approximately 200 members who took the time to respond. Your willingness to share your experience is invaluable. The Tribal Council will be reviewing this information in detail. It will not only give us a clear picture of the shutdown's real-world impacts but, more importantly, help us know how best to strategically assist our members based on your needs and feedback in future situations.



Chairwoman Candace Schmidt, CEO of Tribal Affairs Courtney Chavez, Transportation Director Dannette Wright, Culture Director Patience Teboe, and Councilwoman Angie Starkel at Oneida Nation Corn Harvest

The Tribal Council approved setting aside dollars for crucial Food Security Initiatives. This included issuing and assisting with groceries for our members who are SNAP recipients and those federal employees who were furloughed or laid off during the shutdown.

In addition, recognizing the financial strain the holiday season often brings, the Council also sent out grocery cards to all heads of household nationwide to help alleviate some of the cost of food expenses for the holidays. We hope this measure brings some small comfort and allows you to enjoy time celebrating with your families.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of you who attended our most recent General Membership Meeting last month. Your commitment to showing up, offering your perspectives, and engaging in respectful dialogue is what makes our Nation strong. Your input is vital and helps us to improve and grow together.

Below are some additional highlights of Council activity for the last couple of months.

- Weekly Tribal Council meetings
- Meetings with local, state, and tribal officials

continued on page 2



Secretary Deb Haaland with NCIA Director Judi Gaiashkibos, Santee Chairman Alonzo Denny, Chairwoman Candace Schmidt

Chairwoman's Corner (cont.)

continued from page 1

- Federal briefings and consultations
- Great Plains meetings
- ATLMA Conference and Eastern Band of Cherokee Special Invitation Event
- Restoration Powwow Celebration in Norfolk
- Chief Standing Bear Courage Award
- Oneida Nation Ag-Tour, Harvest Festival, and meetings
- Native Tourism Conference
- Ponca Heights Grand Opening
- NCAI Convention and meetings
- School visits and presentations

I wish you and your family a safe and peaceful holiday season.

wíbđahà (thank you),
Chairwoman
Candace Schmidt
candaces@poncatribe-ne.gov (402) 860-1497

District 2

Youth Holiday Gift Cards

This year, District 2 Tribal Council will be giving gift cards to every District 2 youth aged 0 to 18 for Christmas! Members must be actively enrolled in the tribe (all information current with Enrollment when information is pulled) to qualify.

Gift cards will be available for pick up at the District 2 Holiday party. If you are unable to make it to the party, please pick up your gift card from Shannon Malone at Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center.

Gift cards for outside of the service delivery area will be mailed out according to Enrollment information.

For more information, contact Tribal Council Representatives Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



Member Spotlight: Bruce Franklin



Bruce Franklin was born and raised in The Dalles, OR. He is the youngest of three. His father – born in Verdel, NE, 100 years ago – is descended from Mele LaCharite Sherman.

Bruce joined the US Air Force in 1980 and learned aviation electronics. He, his wife, and kids lived in South Carolina, Alaska, and settled back in Oregon after his military service ended.

For the past 25 years, he has worked as a manager in the avionics department at Aero Air, LLC. During that time, he was fortunate to work on a program that converted DC-10s into firefighting aircraft. Aero Air maintains five such aircraft for the US Forest Service, as well as aircraft for Life Flight planes and helicopters.

During vacations, the family traveled through Niobrara, NE, and came to participate in August Powwows. One such visit culminated in a stay at the William Bear House, which was relocated into Niobrara in 2008 and completely restored. Learning it was for sale, Bruce took the opportunity to purchase it in 2021, knowing this was where they wanted to retire. They made the move in August 2025.

Since then, he spends his time improving the property, watching for wildlife, and taking Ponca language classes. He has a keen interest in walking the places his ancestors lived and raised their families. He attends the Elder council meetings and joins the Elder lunches each Friday in Niobrara.



Bruce loves classic cars, traveling, science fiction, and keeping physically fit. He plans family reunions here during August Powwows as his son, daughter, their families, and multitudes of relatives come to visit. He and his wife have been blessed with 3 grandchildren.

Bruce feels honored with the opportunity to live close to the homeland, looks forward to learn culture and traditions of his ancestors, and hopes to be of service to the Ponca community.

Monster Mayhem at District 2's Trunk or Treat Event








District 2

Christmas Party

December 6, 2025 | 1 – 3 pm
Ralston Cabinet Building
5811 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

District 2 Ponca Tribal members and their families are invited to come and celebrate the holidays together. Please join us for a hot cocoa and cider bar, decorating ornaments, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and presents from Toys for Tots. Don't miss out on the fa-la-la-la fun!

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representative Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallager at 402.213.2058.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA






District 3's Dino-mite Trunk or Treat Event









District 3

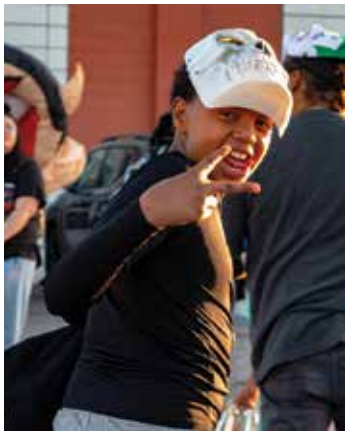
Christmas Party

December 7, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm

Lincoln Community Room
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE

District 3 Ponca Tribal members and their families are invited to come and celebrate the holidays together. Join us for food, activities, Bingo, and a visit and gifts from Santa! Dress your best for FREE family photos.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at 402.805.0883 or at shannac@poncatribe-ne.gov or Susan Baker at 925.788.0649 or at sbaker@poncatribe-ne.gov.


Ghastly Ghouls visit District 4's Trunk or Treat Event





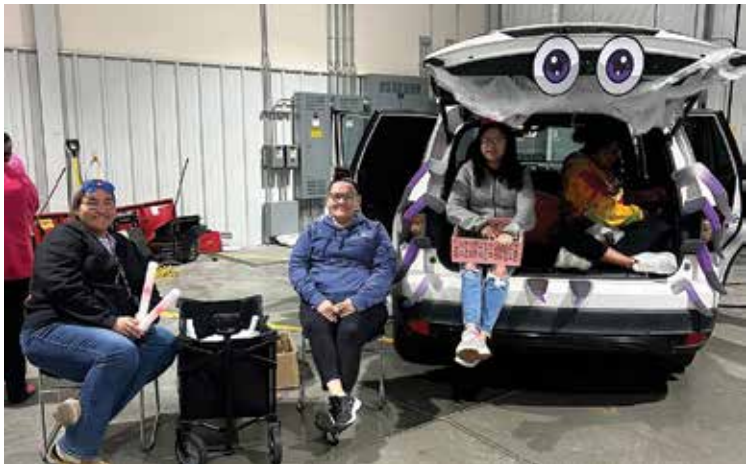
















District 4

Christmas Party

December 12 | 5:30-7:30 pm
(Meal will be served at 7:00 pm)

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Gym & Cafeteria
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

District 4 members are invited to come celebrate the holidays together. Join us for a hot cocoa station, meal, bounce houses, a visit from Santa, and live music! Dress your best for FREE family portraits! For more information, please contact Kyle Taylor at 402.750.4299.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Happy Holidays
by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

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Nákąde - Lights

Taxtì Gią Ma - Reindeer

Uite - Presents

Mikae Škąažì - North Star

Wáđixa Gáxe Ma - Elves

Ugasnu - Slide

Ma Niášiga - Snow Man

Wakąda Wađahątì - Church

Mązé Nì - Milk

Užígđą - Baking

Ąba Waxúbe Tąga - Christmas Day

Mázi Búta Uđiša - Wreath

Máđè - Snowing

Máđè Uskáskà - Winter Solstice



District 1
Christmas Parties

December 7, 2025 | 2 pm
Sioux City Museum | 607 4th St | Sioux City, IA

December 6, 2025 | 1 pm
Niobrara Headquarters | 2523 Woodbine Street | Niobrara, NE

District 1 Ponca Tribal members and their families are invited to come and celebrate the holidays together. Please join us for:

* Dinner and sweet treats!
* Fun activities for kids!

For more information, please contact
Angie Starkel at astarkel@poncatribe-ne.gov
or Patrick Lamoureux at plamoureux@PoncaTribe-ne.org

Restoration Powwow Į'ųtį & Blanket Trader Game

On Friday, October 24, the Ponca Tribe kicked off Restoration Powwow Weekend with an evening filled with culture, connection, and fun. The night began with the į'ųtį (Hand Game), hosted by Shannon Leroy with Drowning Creek as the Host Drum. New and returning players gathered to enjoy a delicious meal before lively singing, guessing, and playful trickery that filled the gym with excitement.

Following the Hand Game, CEO of Tribal Affairs Courtney Chavez introduced a new and engaging community activity, the Trader Blanket Game. Participants brought new, handmade, or gently used items and sat in a circle around a blanket laid out on the floor. Items up for trade ranged from snacks to handmade earrings to small appliances.

Thank you to the Oneida Nation for introducing us and giving the Ponca Tribe permission to bring the Trader Blanket Game to our members.

Together, both games made for a memorable night of sharing, storytelling, and good company - the perfect way to start Restoration Powwow Weekend and strengthen community bonds.







Ponca Member Food Distribution

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is pleased to share that Food Distributions for Ponca Tribal Members will resume. The first distribution under this renewed program is scheduled for the week of ***December 15.***

This program is for Ponca Tribal Members only. To participate, please be prepared to provide the following at pick up:

- Proof of Tribal Enrollment (Tribal ID)
- If picking up on behalf of another household, you must present their Tribal ID at the time of pick-up
- Limited to **ONE** food package per address

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to serving you and supporting our Ponca community during this time. Additional details will be shared as they become available.







Tee-Time For Members!

Tatanka Golf Club

53138 NE-12 | Niobrara, NE

Ponca Members can now request one tee-time per day for one foursome of golfers at the Tatanka Golf Club. **Some exclusions apply.

To book a tee-time, please book with the QR code For more information, please contact Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@poncatribe-ne.gov

Restoration Powwow: a time for celebration

















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Cornhole Tournament: a Powwow favorite









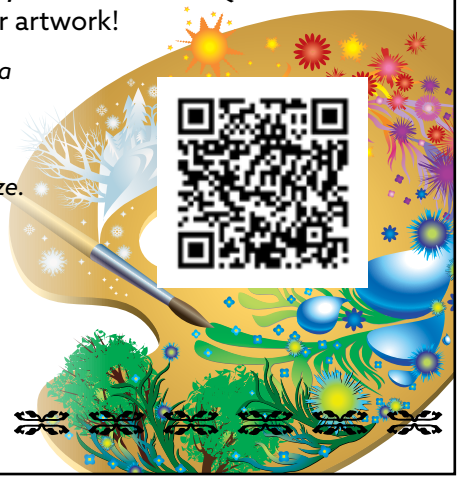
Artists Wanted!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to submit art for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow t-shirt, to be used for this year's Powwow. The artist whose design is selected will be compensated $300 for their art, and have their art credited on the t-shirt and poster. Artists may submit previously submitted art.

Designs MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm, January 31, 2026. Scan the QR code below to submit your artwork!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. All artwork must be high resolution, scalable to poster and/or t-shirt size. For more information, email pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA



SAVE THE DATE! Diaper Distribution

December 2, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm

Sioux City Office
125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

December 10, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm

Norfolk Gym
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

Lincoln Community Room – North Entrance
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE

Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine St | Niobrara, NE

Cabinet Building Garage
5813 S 86th Cir | Omaha, NE

Please bring Tribal ID or proof of enrollment for you or the child in need to participate.

Child Care Assistance Program expands to new counties!

The Child Care Assistance Program of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska assists eligible Ponca members with childcare expenses.

The Human Services Department works collaboratively with State agencies and applicable families to help low-income families achieve and continue their independence from state welfare assistance and obtain self sufficiency.

This program extends the Department's philosophy of promoting, maintaining, and enhancing levels of social functioning when a person's ability to do so has been adversely affected by life circumstances.

To qualify for this program, a child must:

- Be an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska (or pending enrollment in the Tribe)
- Must be 12 years old or younger OR is 13 to 18 years old and involved in active protective services
- Reside in one of the approved counties (see the expanded list of approved counties above)

For parents to qualify, they must:

- Be employed OR training for work OR attending an educational institution or program AND be free from sanctions from the State Department of Health and Human Services in the county, town, state in which they reside (NE, IA, or SD).
- Be free from any past due bill to any daycare agency that provided care to their child(ren).

Eligible families must provide the PTN Child Care Assistance program with:

- A copy of the denial letter finding individual ineligible for state assistance
- A report earnings on a monthly basis

Any changes in household income, job status, employment, school and/or other educational programs must be reported to the Child Care Coordinator within 10 working days of the change.

Childcare providers must either be licensed or be able to obtain a criminal background check and provide a copy of their Social Security card to the PTN Child Care Assistance program.

Licensed providers must provide a copy of their certification, and unlicensed programs must meet Tribal and State requirements for an unlicensed childcare program.

Providers are also responsible for verifying all information provided by Child Care Assistance program recipients and submitting billing summaries within 45 days of service to receive payment. Providers will only be paid for the dates that the child(ren) actually attend the childcare program, with the exception of illness or family emergency.

For more information or to determine eligibility, please contact your local Human Services representative, or email childcare@ponca-tribe-ne.gov.

CCAP Expanded Counties

The Child Care Assistance Program has expanded to new counties! The CCAP will cover the following counties:

NEBRASKA

*Adams	*Dodge	Sarpy
*Antelope	Douglas	*Seward
*Butler	Hall	Stanton
Boyd	Holt	*Washington
Burt	*Kearney	Wayne
*Cass	Knox	*York
*Cedar	Lancaster	
*Cuming	Madison	
*Dakota	*Pierce	
*Dixon	Platte	

IOWA

*Harrison
*Mills
*Monona
Pottawattamie
*Shelby
Woodbury

SOUTH DAKOTA

Charles Mix

**Expanded county*



Give yourself the gift of knowledge this holiday season.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's
Native American Youth Enhancement Program

This unique program is open to Native American youth, ages 13-18, nationwide. NAYEP is being offered primarily online via Google Classrooms and offers a unique opportunity for our Native youth to build confidence and discover your strengths in a supportive and empowering environment. This program is a dynamic path to success, culture, and community. As you move through the program, you'll find many ways to earn incentives that reward your dedication and achievements. We've structured NAYEP into five engaging units :

- **Self-Esteem and Self-Awareness:** Learn to recognize your worth and celebrate what makes you, you. We'll provide you with practical skills to boost your confidence and build a strong sense of self. Dive deep into understanding your emotions, thoughts, and values. This knowledge can help you navigate challenges and make choices that align with who you are.
- **Native American History:** Discover the vast rich history of the Native American people, how we lived and who we are.
- **Native American Contributions:** Learn about the many ways Native American people have contributed to the culture, from games and place names to laws and business.
- **Cultural Traditions:** Connect with your heritage and see how your culture is a source of strength. We'll explore the incredible resilience and wisdom of our ancestors, helping you find pride in your identity.
- **Native American Role Models; both past and present:** You will find Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratovich, Little Priest, and Winona La Duke and many others at the NAYEP!

Ready to take your first step? Sign up today!

Contact: Amber Appling at 402.371.8834 Ext. 2037, or aappling@poncatribe-ne.gov
(Make sure to include your email and phone number with your application as well as proof of lineal descendancy, or proof of enrollment in another type of Indian program).

Youth Initiatives Program

Attention all K–12 students nationwide: apply to the Youth Initiatives Program today! Deadline to apply for the 2025–2026 school year is **July 31, 2026**.

Art & Literature Projects

- Art and essay/poetry projects may be either home or school projects
- Awards include:
  First Place ($100)
  Second Place ($50)
  Third Place ($25)
- Grade divisions:
  Primary (K-2)
  Intermediate (3-5)
  Middle (6-8)
  High School (9-12)

Student of the Month/Year

- Student of the Month will receive $100 in their grade division
- Student of the Year will be picked from all Student of the Months and receive an additional $100

Attendance Incentive

- Perfect Attendance: $100
- 3 days or less of absenteeism: $50
- 5 days or less of absenteeism: $25

Senior Incentive

- High School Seniors for the 2025-2026 school year are eligible to receive a $500 graduation incentive

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.gov. **Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs**



Cooks Wanted!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is seeking Ponca members to apply for Head Cook for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow. Applicants must be 18 years or older to apply, and, if selected, be able to attend up to two Powwow Committee meetings at the Committee's request.

Applications MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm, January 31, 2026. Scan the QR code below to submit your application!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. For more information, email pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Education Deadlines:

HIED - Spring 2026: December 15th, 2025

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 2026 deadline: December 15, 2025
Summer 2026 deadline: May 15, 2026
Fall 2026 deadline: August 15, 2025

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)

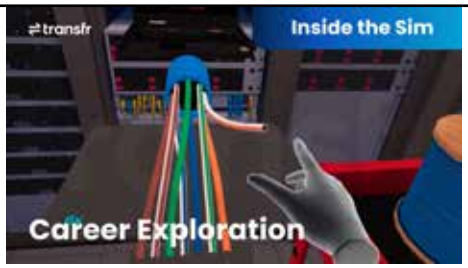
All Education Department Applications and Program Information are available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the Education Department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at: office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.gov. **Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs**

Calling all Ponca Artists

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to sign up to sell their handmade items at the Niobrara Market.

Please scan our QR code or visit **https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca_artists_niobrara_market** to sign up. For more information, contact Rebecca Sullivan at bsullivan@osniponca.com.

NIOBRARA MARKET



AVAILABLE NOW!

PEDCO Career Quest XR

No matter how old you are, choosing a career can be tough. It's even harder when you're not sure what you want to do or don't know what kind of jobs exist out there. Wouldn't it be great if you could try on several different careers at once to see how they fit?

You can, and PEDCO can help. Thanks to our new extended reality (XR) work exploration program, Career Quest XR, you can sample a wide variety of careers through virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Fun, immersive simulations of realistic job scenarios let you try out the kind of tasks real-world professionals perform regularly. We'll even provide a free career assessment to help you discover jobs aligned with your unique blend of skills and interests.

Whether you're in school, looking for work, underemployed, or deep into a career, PEDCO's Career Quest XR can help you plan your next move. To schedule your free appointment at one of our locations in Lincoln, Omaha, or Norfolk, please contact info@pedco-ne.org today!

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

EXTENDED REALITY (XR) CAREER EXPLORATION

EXPLORE REALISTIC ON-THE-JOB SCENARIOS

FIRST-PERSON SIMULATIONS

FREE CAREER INTEREST TOOLS TO HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR DREAM JOB

PEDCO
2756 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402.434.2127

PEDCO-NE.org





COMING THIS JANUARY!
FREE FINANCIAL EDUCATION CLASS

Ever feel overwhelmed trying to make ends meet? You are not alone. Millions of Americans feel stressed by money. In fact, MarketWatch estimates 57% of households live paycheck-to-paycheck. Fortunately, help is here. Starting January 2026, the Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) will offer **Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families**, a culturally relevant financial literacy curriculum developed by Oweesta Corporation specifically for Natives.

When: **Session 1: Developing a Spending Plan, Working with Checking & Savings Accounts** **Monday, Jan. 12, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**
Session 2: Understanding Credit & Credit Reporting, Using Credit, and more **Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

Where: **Lincoln Health and Wellness Center Community Room, 1600 Windhoek Drive Lincoln, NE 68512**

FREE supper both nights! Participants completing all sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

Building Native Communities empowers tribal members to adapt traditional skills to their financial lives, including wise budgeting, credit use, economic citizenship, and smart consumer behavior. Due to high demand, space is limited—please contact PEDCO today to reserve your free spot!

Can't make it this time? Additional trainings will be offered at other Tribal offices throughout the year.

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES

FREE FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA MEMBERS

IN-PERSON (Virtual options will be available at future dates)

FACILITATED BY PEDCO

INTERESTED? CONTACT
PEDCO
Info@pedco-ne.org
402-434-2127

Meet Our Ponca Pathways Team: Brett Berkebile

With a career spanning 20 years in sales and marketing, Brett Berkebile serves as manager of our new Ponca Pathways Thrift and Career Center.

Brett's ability to create and promote new initiatives, along with his extensive experience overseeing workforce development programs, aligns with PEDCO's mission to generate economic and employment opportunities for tribal members.

His strength in digital marketing will help the Ponca Pathways Thrift and Career Center reach a wide audience and raise revenue for the tribe.

Brett holds a bachelor's degree in marketing management and a minor in communications from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

After establishing his career in the franchising and corporate industries, Brett felt called to contribute his insights and skills to the nonprofit sector, where he advocates for underserved and marginalized communities.

Outside of work, Brett loves spending time with his family, having fully embraced his secondary role as "Dance Dad" and "Hockey Dad."



Contact us today at:
poncathrift@pedco-ne.gov

CredibleMind: The One-Stop Shop for Mental Wellbeing Resources

Coming this December!

CredibleMind is the free online platform that brings together expert-rated and vetted videos, podcasts, apps, online programs, books, and articles all in one easy-to-use place.

Confidential, anonymous, and available 24/7, with CredibleMind you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment, and browse our library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

CredibleMind covers over 200 topics including:

- Stress and Burnout
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Relationships
- Mindfulness
- Coping with Medical Diagnosis
- Resilience
- Time Management
- Happiness
- Sleep
- Parenting
- Grief and Loss
- Flourishing
- Substance Use
- Aging

Your mental well-being matters. Stay sharp with a simple check-in. Some assessment you'll find on CredibleMind are:

- Is it Job Stress or Burnout?
- What's your Mental Health Profile?
- How Strong is Your Resilience Network?
- Is Caring for Others Taking a Toll on You?
- Is Your Mind Full or Are You Mindful?
- What's Your Meditation Style

By signing up, you will have access to past assessment results to track improvement over time, your favorite resources, and handpick CredibleMind resources right to your email! No matter what you are going through, CredibleMind has resources to help with science-backed evidence you can trust.

Release date coming soon. Stay tuned for updates. For more information, email us at info@pedco-ne.org.

CredibleMind

PEDCO
Ponca Economic Development Corporation

NAFC hosts Personal Trainer Cerification at PTN

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hosted the Native American Fitness Council's Personal Training Certification course from October 20th to 23rd. Twenty people, including eight PTN Health Staff, learned about how to keep people healthy and safe through physical education while having fun.

"Everybody likes to have fun," says Brian Laban, lead instructor of NAFC. "Once they learn this system, they're able to breakdown any exercise and meet people where they're at."

Brian and his team have dedicated 24 years to teaching people across the US on the importance of sharing fitness in the Native community, "It's about giving them the information so they can take it back to their communities."









PONCA YOUTH AGES 14-24:

Complete PEDCO's needs assessment survey for a chance to win a $50 Visa gift card!



Share your needs in the areas of education, job training, and career exploration and help us develop our Workforce program to better serve Ponca youth!

Scan attached QR code and take the survey for your chance to win a $50 Visa gift card. Contact: Greg Moser, PEDCO Director at 402-434-2127 Ext. 7.

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NOW AVAILABLE! FREE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Anyone can do it—but there are certain things you need to know first. Fortunately, you can now access a free entrepreneurship program geared specifically for Native Americans, thanks to our partnership with the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC). NICC's Indianpreneurship curriculum provides comprehensive information on the most important aspects of starting a business, including planning, accessing capital, bookkeeping, human resources, problem-solving, and marketing. Equip yourself with the skills you need to take your business idea from daydream to launch. To learn more and enroll, please visit https://www.thenicc.edu/career-services/TCSBA-Indianpreneurship.php.

Nebraska Indian Community College
TCSBA
Indianpreneurship

INDIANPRENEURSHIP®

FREE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FACILITATED BY THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTERESTED? CONTACT
Anthony Warrior
sanawarrior@thenicc.edu
402-241-5943

Boo-tiful Halloween Costumes at Elder Lunches






















Behavioral Health's 1st Annual Smudge Walk

On October 26th, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Behavioral Health Program held their 1st Annual Smudge Walk, aimed at honoring cultural tradition in recovery.

Guest speakers Wendell Birdhead and Tehya Wright shared stories of strength, hope, and resiliency with walking the Red Road.











Circle of Health team shows off their moves















THV and Ponca Dental Group Connection

Tribal Home Visiting teamed up with Ponca Dental for their October group connection. Dr. Aitken and Kathi Narlock shared important information with families about dental care for children under the age of 5.

This was THV's first group connection that included their new Omaha division. If you live in the Omaha or Douglas County areas and would like to sign up for THV, please contact:

Abbi Miranda-Carreto
amiranda-carreto@poncatribe-ne.gov

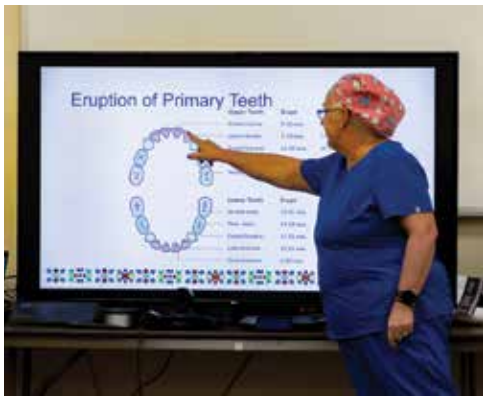
Candace Walahoski
cwalahoski@poncatribe-ne.gov

Jilee Gorus
jgorus@poncatribe-ne.gov

Tonya Wulff
twulff@poncatribe-ne.gov









PONCA PATHWAYS
THRIFT AND CAREER CENTER

Don't Toss It – Donate It!

Give your items a second life and support a meaningful cause. Your gently used clothing can help Native Americans build brighter futures through the Ponca Pathways Thrift & Career Center

Phase 1.. What we are accepting:

- **Clothing**
- **Outerwear**
- **Footwear**
- **Jewelry**
- **Hats**
- **Scarves**
- **Gloves**
- **Purses**
- **Handbags**
- **Belts**
- **Ties**
- **Backpacks**

READY TO DONATE?

Donation location:

1001 Fort Crook Rd N
STE 201
Bellevue, NE 68005
Tuesday through Thursday– 9 AM to 5 PM
Friday–Saturday– 11 AM to 7:00 PM
402-405-3773

PEDCO

Cleaning Staff Wanted!



The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is seeking Ponca members to apply for cleaning crew for the Annual Northern Ponca Powwow. Applicants must be 18 years or older to apply. Prospective cleaning crews must be made up of at least 6 members. **Applications MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm, January 31, 2026.** Scan the QR code to submit your application!

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members only. For more information, email pteboe@poncatribe-ne.gov.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Open Enrollment for Medicare, Medicai

MEDICARE

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period will begin October 15, 2025, and go through December 7, 2025. Medicare participants who currently have active Medicare Part B and/or Medicare Advantage can make changes to their health and drug plans for 2026.

Medicare Part B or Medicare Advantage participants can make any of these changes to their current plan.

1. Switch from Medicare Advantage back to Original Medicare
2. Dis-enroll from Original Medicare and enroll in Medicare Advantage
3. Change from one Medicare Advantage plan to another
4. Sign up for a Part D prescription drug plan
5. Change from one Part D prescription plan to another
6. Cancel your prescription drug coverage

If you opted out of Medicare Part B in your initial enrollment period and would like to sign up for benefits in 2026, open enrollment period for Medicare Part B will begin January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026, and coverage will begin the next month. A 10% penalty fee in addition to the annual Medicare Part B premium may apply.

NEBRASKA & IOWA MEDICAID

Thinking about changing your Managed Care Organization Plan with Medicaid? Open Enrollment begins November 1, 2025, through December 15, 2025.

For participants who currently have active NE or IA Medicaid can change their 2026 plans. Each Managed Care Organization (MCO) offers added benefits: Healthy Reward Programs, Athletic Memberships, GED Programs.

Nebraska Managed Care Organizations

- Molina Healthcare of Nebraska
- Nebraska Totalcare
- United Healthcare Community Plan

Iowa Managed Care Organizations

- Iowa Totalcare
- Molina Healthcare of Iowa
- Wellpoint of Iowa

Don't Have Medicaid?

If you have experienced any changes in your household income, such as lost jobs, decreased hours, switched jobs and/or added a new member to your family, you may now qualify for Medicaid. Medicaid offers several programs based upon income and household size.

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

The health insurance marketplace Open Enrollment and Annual Redetermination period will begin November 1, 2025 and go through January 15, 2026. Enroll by December 15, 2025 for coverage to start January 1, 2026.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

Individuals who don't have health coverage through a job, Medicare, Medicaid, or another source that provides qualifying health coverage can apply for healthcare coverage.

What is qualifying health coverage?

Qualifying coverage refers to any health insurance plan that is considered minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

What is minimum essential coverage?

Health insurance that satisfies the ACA's individual mandate.

Is the Indian Health Services considered qualifying healthcare coverage?

No, Indian Health Services alone does not meet the minimum essential coverage defined by the ACA, therefore is not considered qualifying health coverage.

d, and Marketplace open for 2026 plans

If I am eligible for Purchased/ Referred Care (PRC), isn't this considered my health insurance coverage?

No, PRC is not an entitlement program. It is not insurance and cannot guarantee payment. PRC funds are meant to compliment and supplement other health care resources available to eligible patients. To ensure compliance, an individual must apply for and use all alternative resources that are available.

How much does health insurance through the Marketplace cost?

Premiums are based upon your annual income and household size. Some individuals may have the option to utilize their annual tax credits to pay their monthly premium, which can result in no upfront, out-of-pocket premium cost for them.

Are there multiple plans available?

The Health insurance marketplace offers several different plans, ranging from Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) to Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) with little to no cost for deductibles, out-of-pocket, copay and coinsurance costs.

Can I continue to receive my healthcare services Ponca Health Services?

Yes, we accept insurance plans offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace. This allows us to bill the insurance plan for our services, and will provide third party revenue to our facility so we may offer for additional services in the future.

I already applied for the Marketplace in 2025. Do I need to reapply again?

Participants who are currently enrolled in a Marketplace plan will need to reapply to determine their eligibility for 2026.

Can I change my current healthcare plan with Marketplace?

Yes, after submitting your 2026 marketplace application, applicants have the option to remain in their current healthcare plan or choose a new plan that better suits their healthcare needs.

Get assistance with your Medicaid, Marketplace, or Medicare today!

Schedule an appointment with one of our Patient Benefits Coordinators over the phone or in person to discuss the plans and options that best fit your needs!

FRED LEROY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Sylvia Allen-Lopez
402.738.3151
sallen-lopez@poncatribe-ne.gov

Michelle Hallowell
402.738.3177
mhallowell@poncatribe-ne.gov

LINCOLN HEALTH CENTER

Michelle Runyan
531.248.3030 ext. 1144
mrunyan@poncatribe-ne.gov

PONCA HILLS HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Andrea Burbach
402.371.8780 ext. 2012
aburbach@poncatribe-ne.gov

Holiday happiness can mean holiday hopelessness for victims of domestic violence

Brook McCurdy
Domestic Violence
Outreach Coordinator

The holiday season is often portrayed as a time of joy, togetherness, and celebration; a time when families gather, and communities come together. Unfortunately, for many, this season full of joy is a living nightmare.

Domestic violence is an epidemic that causes tremendous harm to our communities. While DV is not seasonal and occurs every day of the year, the holiday season can intensify the stressors in an already volatile situation, causing a spike in domestic violence rates and incidents.

Factors that contribute to the spikes are not limited to, but include the following:

Financial Stress

This year has been hard financially for many families before the added holiday strain of buying gifts, hosting celebrations, or the cost of travel. For someone experiencing domestic violence, this pressure can be even more intense.

Isolation

Domestic violence often thrives on isolation, as it is a tool to help the abuser maintain power and control. During the holidays, survivors may feel even more alone, as social gatherings and family events often highlight the absence of a supportive network.

Increased Alcohol Consumption

The holidays are often marked by social gatherings where alcohol is present, which can trigger violent or abusive behavior. An abuser's substance use can escalate tensions and increase the risk of physical violence, and in some cases, death.

Pressure to Uphold an Image

The holidays can sometimes amplify the societal pressure to present a perfect family image. Survivors may feel obligated to mask the abuse, pretending everything is fine for the sake of keeping up appearances, sheltering children, or avoiding judgment.

Emotional Vulnerability

The holidays can amplify emotions of loneliness, regret, and hopelessness, especially for those who have experienced abuse and generational trauma. For survivors, being reminded of family togetherness can highlight their sense of isolation and disconnection, leading to depression, anxiety, or a desire to "make things work" with their abuser despite the risks.

How to Support Survivors of Domestic Violence During the Holidays

If you know someone who may be experiencing domestic violence, the holiday season is an important time to check in with them. Support is crucial, and there are many ways you can offer help without putting them at risk:

Reach Out and Stay Connected

Simply offering a listening ear can make a world of difference. Let the survivor know you're available and willing to support them when they're ready. Avoid telling them they must leave the relationship.

Offer Practical Assistance

Sometimes, offering help with tangible things– like transportation, childcare, pet boarding, or a safe place to stay— can empower a survivor to act. If the victim is not ready to leave, this assistance can still provide options for when they are ready to seek help.

Be Patient and Nonjudgmental

Many victims of domestic violence stay in relationships because of fear, shame, or emotional manipulation. Understand that leaving an abuser is often not as simple as it seems, and be patient in providing a safe and open space for them to share their feelings when they are ready.

Encourage Safety Planning

A safety plan can help someone in an abusive relationship prepare for what to do if they are in danger. This includes having a list of emergency contacts, a packed bag with essentials, and a clear plan for leaving the home in an emergency.

Act

If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call emergency services or encourage the survivor to contact a helpline for advice on how to stay safe.

Raising Awareness and Breaking the Silence

As a community, we recognize that domestic violence does not take a holiday. If we are to create a culture of empathy and support, we need to continue to speak out against abuse and stand with survivors.

Through education, open conversations, and supportive actions, we can help break the cycle of violence and offer survivors hope and resources.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, help is available through these services:

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-SAFE (7233)

StrongHearts Native Helpline
844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

National Sexual Assault Hotline
800-656-HOPE (4673)

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
866-331-9474

All services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or reach out to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Program to access the support or resources needed.

For those experiencing domestic violence, remember that there is always hope and help is available. Together, we can work towards a safe and jolly holiday season for all.

Domestic Violence Awareness Week & Crafts























Emerging Contaminants: a growing concern for impacts on humans and wildlife

Olivia Pospisil
Environmental Hazards Specialist

Science has known for many years that contaminants in the air, water, and soil can have adverse effects on the health of plants, animals, and humans.

Multiple regulations are in place to protect the health of our environment. However, an increase in emerging contaminants detected in the environment marks a new area of concern in efforts to protect the earth.

Emerging contaminants are defined as synthetic or naturally occurring chemicals or microorganisms that are not commonly monitored and are of growing concern due to potential risks to human health and the environment.

Examples of emerging contaminants are:

- PFAS (substances that are used to make products resistant to heat, oil, water, and stains)
- Microplastics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Personal care items
- Pesticides

These contaminants are being detected at low levels in surface water, soil, and air with increasing frequency.

Most of these contaminants have unhealthy effects on humans, wildlife, or the ecosystem. These emerging contaminants are still fairly new, but multiple studies are being conducted to better understand their impact and appropriately restrict their use.

While most emerging contaminants are not acutely toxic, these contaminants are known to have effects on the endocrine system, which can alter normal functions of hormones.

Low levels of these contaminants can have a variety of effects on humans and wildlife, specifically impacting reproduction and fertility.

Join us for future editions for more on these emerging contaminants, and ways to reduce their impacts on you, your family, and the environment around us.

For more information, contact the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Environmental Department or visit the EPA's website on emerging contaminants: www.epa.gov/wqc/contaminants-emerging-concern-including-pharmaceuticals-and-personal-care-products

Adopt a buffalo today!



You can help our buffalo to prosper by adopting one or more members of our herd. Our Adopt-A-Buffalo program is open to both Tribal members and Non-Tribal friends. You will receive a photo of your buffalo along with an official adoption certificate. Just choose from the three categories of yearly support listed below:

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

Make Checks payable to: Northern Ponca Buffalo Program
Mail to: Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, Nebraska 68760
ATTN: Northern Ponca Buffalo Program



Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760
Fax: 402-857-3771 or enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov

ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER REQUESTING ADDRESS CHANGE:

_____

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:_____

MAILING ADDRESS:_____

_____ PHONE: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING):

_____

_____

EMAIL:_____

VETERANS ONLY: MILITARY BRANCH:_____

*****Service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department if you are requesting a military seal.**

**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 must submit a current photo without filters and a solid colored background. You can email it to enrollment@poncatribe-ne.gov or you may mail documentation and current photo to:
   Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Enrollment Department, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760-0288
   *****Please note that we can/will NOT use a photo from your state ID or driver's license.**

4. Military Seals:
   Military branch seals are available for veterans. Military service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department to show proof of veteran status.

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@poncatribe-ne.gov, or contact the Niobrara office. We appreciate your help!

INACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF 10/1/2025

Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott
Aungie,
Mariah Keeley
Shaye Madison
Bachmeier, Tristan Chad
Bagent, Wayne Orval
Bair, Wesley David
Baker, Skylar Dominick
Baker-Ferguson,
Jared Riley
Bear, Joshua Gilbert
Beaver, Jason Chaska
Beaver, Jason Eugene
Becker, Jr.,
Anthony Arnold
Becker, Sr.,
Anthony Arnold
Becker, Tyller Randell
Bell, Darian Patrick
Bell, Shaunè Kay
Birdhead,
William Randolph
Blair,
Hunter Wo Day Leon
Blowe, Dominick Adams
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick
Blowe, Tyrone Richard
Boettger,
Dakota Birdhead
Bonge, Stevie Lorene
Bonge, Todd Joseph
Boyd, Myron Ralph
Boyer, Berlin N.
Brooks, Angela Ellen
Brown, J. Wesley
Brownrigg,
Steven Francis
Buffalo Chief,
Uriah Jordan
Burston, Sandra Lee
Carlson, Emma Rose
Carter, Amber Lynn
Chwalowski,
Kaitlin Martika
Courtright, Michael Todd
Crouse, David Lee
Cutshall, Katline James
Da Moude, Deborah Kay
Danielson, Daniel James
Dedicos, Heather Maria
Detoffoli, Emily Nicole
Dodd, Sara Rae
Drapeaux, Juston Lee
Droescher,
Samantha Roma Rae
Droescher,
Savannah Jo Anne
Eckley, Lane Emory
Eckley, Leigha Irene
Eilers, Richard James
Evans, Kareem Antwon
Fegan, Maria Christina
Fierro, Brandon Michael
Flagg, I I I., George Albert
Flowers, Joseph
Foley, Michael Joseph
Freeman, Xavier Lee
Glenn, John Allen
Glisan, Cynthia Lynn
Goss, Mamie L.
Govia, Isaiah Lee
Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo
Grant, I I I.,
Jesse Clarence
Green, Brooklyn Marie
Gutierrez, Kassandra Rae
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa
Hendren,
Adavia Gabrielle
Hennek, Gail Howe
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann
Horine, Ashley Danielle
Horse, Alexander Bruce
Horse,
Neveah Rosemarie
Howard, Truman Ardell
Howe, Richard H.
Humphreys, Belinda Kay
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee
Johnson, Lukus Tyler
Kellogg,
Mardale Eddie Wayne
Kelso, James Alan
King, Gavin Michael
Knudsen, Crystal Mae
Krueger, Annette Marie
Kyles, Jarred Joseph
LaPointe,
Alejandro Jauquine
LaPointe, Robert James
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan
Latimer, LaRohn Lewis
Lea, Tychicus James
Leach, Isaiah Marcus
Leal, Amanda Maria
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray
LeRoy, Sophia Storm
Lieb, Donovan Joseph
Lieb, Sylas Vittorio
Lindenberg,
David Charles
Little, Jeromy Todd
Loftis, Timothy James
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco
Maben, Jessica Paige
Mann II, Steven Michael
Mann, Desireè Leann
Mann, Sydney Desireè
Marlow, Skyler Jade
Mategko, Janet Louise
Mategko, Lisa Louise
Mategko, Michael Steven
Matthews, Jett Haden
Mc Cray,
Jallen Christopher
Leonard
McGrath, Bryan Thomas
McGrath, Daniel Patrick
McKeen, Juanita Rose
Mercier, Jade Sharice
Mullen, Deven Miles
Mullins, John Frederick
Muscutt, Elias Gordon
Muscutt, Jr.,
Gordon Dean
Myers, Doron Helmut
Olmer, Dakota Michael
O'Meara, David Joseph
O'Rear, Makenna Shay
Peck, Brandalynn
Peck, Tyler Duane
Phongsavat, Tia Arianna
Picotte - Felde,
Diamond Rose
Picotte, Braden Bardo
Pierce, Raychel Marie
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook
Polly, Rachael Anne
Prichard, Joseph John
Prunty, Austin Joe
Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose
Raymond, Joseph Allen
Reed, Alcina Jewel
Rhoden III, Enoch Clay
Rhoden IV, Enoch Clay
Rich, Mitch Andrew
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby
Rodas, Christian Jayce
Rulo, Byron
Russell, Kristina Anne
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee
Schmidt,
Dylan Andrew- Philip
Schmidt,
John Thomas Carl
Scuderi, Jana Marie
Scurlocke,
Athena Larissa Lucille
Sherman, Cody Lee
Sherman, David Alan
Sherman,
Harold Dewayne
Sherman, John Glenn
Sherman, Michael Ray
Sherman,
Mitchell Everett
Sherman, Robert Le Roy
Sherman, Savannah
Sherman, Tristan Ray
Smith VII,
William Thomas
Smith, Analicia Shanon
Smith, Stephanie Rae
Smith, VI,
William Thomas
Snoozy, Ben Michael
Spencer, Peyton Thunder
Standsblack, Marko Tulio
Stastny, Rachel Colleen
Stegman,
Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh
Stuczynski,
Drake Keegan
Suverkrubbe,
Colt Everett
Suverkrubbe,
Nathan Fernando
Suverkrubbe, Saje Moon
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada
Taylor, Kàili Brianna
Teboe,
Temperance Tayen
Thomas, II,
Scott Richard Herbert
Thomas, Jenny Anne
Thomas, Natana Lynn
Thomas, Robin Diane
Torrez, Jr.,
Lawrence DeWayne
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn
Vanderlinden,
Desiree Lynn
VanDervoort, Lucius Kain
Vaughan, Linda Lou
Veals, Clifford James
Velder Jr., Jason Lee
Voss, Joshua Le Roy
Voss, Michael Roy
Warner, Stormy Renee
Waters, Deon Koleen
White, Abrianna Aliya
Williams,
Andrea Michelle
Wilson, Samantha Tyre
Wright, Alina Lee
Wright, Asheena Lee
Wright, Cherita Alberta
Wright,
Cruz Montgomery
Wright, Howard Floyd
York, Gregory Allen

Congratulations, Diane!

We would like to recognize Diane Wagner, Financial Grants and Contract Specialist, for her 30 Years of Service to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

During her career with the Tribe, Diane has held positions with the Health Services, Tribal Affairs, and Finance Departments. Diane works hard every day behind the scenes to keep the Tribe's financial accurate and current, and to keep the funding pools moving forward. She's extremely dependable, positive, and always keeps the Tribe's best interest in mind.

Diane is always willing to go above and beyond her job duties by working with any staff that reach out for help with completing tasks. She does it all with a smile, and the Tribe is blessed to have her as an asset.

Congratulations to Diane on reaching this milestone and we thank her for her dedication and hard work!

– The Finance Department



Honoring Our Heritage in School

Beverly Everhart honored her Ponca roots during her school's People in History day. She dressed up as Ponca writer and artist Susette "Bright Eyes" LaFlesche and presented about Bright Eyes, Chief Standing Bear, and Ponca history. Many of her classmates and teachers listened to her presentation.

Three Ponca generations were at Beverly's presentation including herself, her mom Bonnie Everhart, and her grandfather James Christiansen.

Well done, Bright Eyes Beverly! We are so proud of you.









Ponca Culture Presentation

Mr. and Mrs. Iron Thunder along with Little Miss Ponca Princess Rhemi Johnson did a Ponca History presentation on Chief Standing Bear, Powwow protocol, and the Language and Culture of the Ponca people for 7 periods at Lincoln Northeast High School.

Thank you to Rhemi Johnson, Little Miss Ponca Princess for Representing the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska! Little Miss introduced herself in Ponca and helped with some giveaway bags to present to teachers and faculty members.

We also want to thank Tayton and Alicia (Dental Assistant with Ponca Dental) for recommending us for this presentation at Lincoln Northeast High School!









Alton Clark Taylor (September 6, 1961 – October 31, 2025)

Alton Clark Taylor, 64 of Lake Andes, South Dakota passed away on October 31, 2025, at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

He was born on September 6, 1961, in Norfolk, Nebraska to Clifford and Barbara Picotte Taylor. He attended elementary and high school and quit after the 10th grade and later received his GED. He then went to college for AutoCAD for architecture.

Alton married Mona Winkler, and they lived in Norfolk and Lincoln, Nebraska before later settling to Lake Andes, South Dakota until his death.

He was very kind and loved helping people. He would help whenever he could, and loved spending time with his family. While he didn't like many animals, he adored cats. He would train them to do things for him, talk to him, and fetch. He was a cat whisperer. He enjoyed fishing, drawing pictures, and coin collecting.

Alton is preceded in death by his parents, his grandparents, Alex & Elizabeth Knudsen Taylor and Jasper & Helen Larvaie Picotte, and his nephew, Jacob Taylor.

He is survived by his daughter Ashley Taylor and grandchild; brother Mark from Lincoln, NE, Vince from Norfolk, NE, and Clifford Taylor Jr. from Sioux City, IA; sisters Sheila O'Meara and Alexia (Misti) Taylor from Norfolk, NE, and Charmaine Taylor of Sioux City, IA.

Welcome, Baby Danielle!

Danielle Joi was born on November 12th, 2025, weighing in at 7 lbs 15 oz and measuring 20 inches.

Parents:
Joaquin Archambeau

Grandparents:
Thomasina Robinette

Great Grandmother:
Loren and Alvina Klug

Great-Great Grandmother:
Debbie Robinette

Congratulations on your newest addition to the family!



Youth Mentoring Progam

Behavioral Health is happy to announce that we will be offering a mentoring program for all Native youth ages 13 to 24 in our service delivery areas. Our focus is to help young relatives gain knowledge as they navigate life.

Our mentors are here to provide guidance, support, and encouragement as you work toward your personal, academic, or professional goals. Your well-being matters to us, and we're here to support you in the ways we can.

For more information, contact our team.

Norfolk & Niobrara:	Leah Franklin	531.269.0279
Lincoln:	Joe Bad Moccasin	531.739.2107
Omaha & Sioux City:	Zach James	402.689.6142

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Ponca Health Services-Lincoln
1600 Windhoek Dr
Ph: (531) 248-3030

Osni Ponca
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Fax: (402) 434-2128

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Fax: (402) 371-7564

Gym Building
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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 8th of each month. In the event the 8th falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Shea VanCleave, sthompson@poncatribe-ne.gov.
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.gov