



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News

A Pawtastic Valentine's Day

DV Program hosts
My Furry Valentine events



April 2026

Join Us for Lunch!

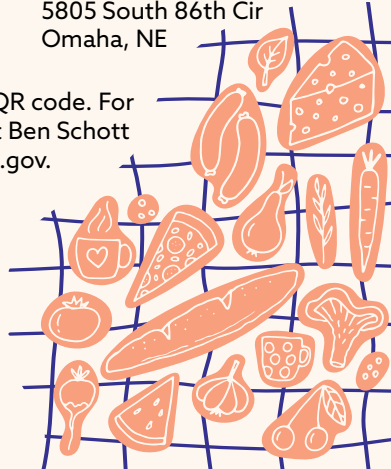
Members are invited to come and share lunch with the Executive Team at our monthly meet and greet! We look forward to sharing a meal, and hearing member input on projects and prospects facing our Tribal nation. Please be sure to RSVP, so we can save you a spot at the table!

April 17, 2026
12 - 1 pm
Niobrara Headquarters
2523 Woodbine St
Niobrara, NE

May 15, 2026
12 - 1 pm
Ralston Administration
5805 South 86th Cir
Omaha, NE

To RSVP, please scan our QR code. For more information, contact Ben Schott at bschott@poncatribene.gov.

Scan Me!




20th Annual Healthy Living Walk/Run & Powwow

April 18, 2026

10:00 am: 2 Mile Prayer Walk and Run
Skyview Lake | Parking off N 25th St. | Norfolk, NE
Registration starts at 9:30 am. **Prizes in all age categories!**

11:30 am-12:30 pm: Lunch
Ponca Tribe Gym | 1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE
Lunch will be provided to all walk/run participants and powwow attendees.

1:00 pm-5:00 pm: Powwow
Ponca Tribe 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.

Register Today!

(Into the Wild)
Maṭ'ánaḡà Déwaèè : Ponca Youth Camp
June 7 - 11, 2026
Niobrara Grounds | 88915 521 Avenue | Niobrara, NE

Registration for the Into the Wild: Ponca Youth Camp is now open! To register for the camp, scan our QR code or visit https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca_youth_camp_2026 Spots are limited! For more information, please contact Misha Mazurkewycz at misham@poncatribene.gov.




SAVE THE DATE!

Diaper Distribution

April 7, 2026 | 10 am - 6 pm
Sioux City Office
125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

April 14, 2026 | 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.



On the cover: DV Staff Heather Oberg with her dog at Sioux City's My Furry Valentine event

Chairwoman's Corner

"One of the things my parents taught me, and I'll always be grateful as a gift, is to not ever let anybody else define me; that for me to define myself . . . and I think that helped me a lot in assuming a leadership position."

Thati'a relatives,

It's been an incredibly busy few months with many meetings and a lot of work being done. We have been working closely with the other three Nebraska Tribes through the Nebraska Intertribal Coalition to support LB1032, which would provide for Tribal Customary Adoptions in the State of Nebraska. We also put forth a resolution in opposition to the proposed Medicaid Waivers that would eliminate retroactive coverage.

In Washington DC, we visited with US Congressional and Senate offices to discuss the importance of modernizing and reauthorizing Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). Back home, it was a pleasure to host our first Legislative Luncheon with Nebraska Senators to highlight our completed projects and those on the horizon, such as the Ponca Heights Elder Housing Development, the Chief Standing Bear Center, and the JV

Health Clinic expansion.

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

- NCAI Executive Council Winter Session & NAHASDA Reauthorization meetings
- Transportation Regional meetings
- Hosted Great Plains Tribal Leadership for Health and Chairpersons meetings
- NE Legislative Luncheon
- Meetings with Nebraska US Senators and Congressional Staff
- Strategic Planning Review
- Genoa Remembrance Day Event at University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Chief Standing Bear Center Workshop and Member meetings
- Rising Together RES 2026
- Weekly Tribal Council meetings and subcommittee meetings
- Meetings with local, state, tribal officials

There is a lot of work ahead, but I am proud of the progress we are making together. I hope to see many of you at the Healthy Living Walk Run and Powwow coming up on April 18th. Until next time. Take care and take care of each other.

wibđahà (thank you),

Chairwoman Candace Schmidt
candaces@poncatribene.gov
(402) 860-1497



Group pictures of attendees with Chairwoman Schmidt at the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session in Washington DC.



Group picture of attendees with Chairwoman Schmidt and Councilman Lamoureux at the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session in Washington DC.



Chairwoman Schmidt, Councilwoman Carpenter, and Randall Nunez at the Genoa Remembrance Day event at the University of Nebraska Lincoln



Chairwoman Schmidt with Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary William Kirkland

Veteran Spotlight: Mark Lee Peniska

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska proudly recognizes Mark Lee Peniska for his service to both his country and his tribe. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Mark spent time living in Niobrara before attending school in Bennet and Palmyra, later settling in Lincoln.

Mark served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam, from 1969 to 1970. During his service, he worked on deep-water piers as a longshoreman in a war zone, facing rocket attacks and mortar fire near his barracks. Like many Vietnam veterans, he was also exposed to Agent Orange and continues to experience related health complications today. Despite these challenges, Mark considers himself a survivor and is grateful for the care he receives through the VA.

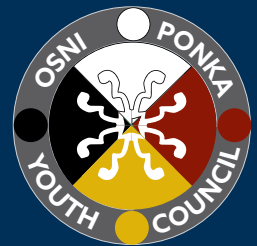
Beyond his military service, Mark has dedicated much of his life to serving the Ponca community. He is a former Chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and also served with the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs. Today, he continues his service as Chairman of the Elders Committee, Gaming Commission, and Law and Justice Committee. Mark also appeared in the film Trial of Standing Bear, portraying the role of the notary.

Military service runs deep in Mark's family. His father and his father's three brothers - Leo, Paul, and Laramie - served during World War II, continuing a tradition of service among Native families.

When asked why Native Americans serve at such high rates in the military, Mark shared that Native people love their country and are loyal and brave.

Mark's message to Ponca youth is simple but powerful, "Honor your elders and family. Keep up Ponca traditions. Be strong and never give up on any of your endeavors." The Ponca Tribe honors Mark Peniska for his service, leadership, and continued dedication to his people.

The Veteran Spotlight Series is brought to you by the Ponca Tribe Youth Council and is dedicated to honoring and sharing the stories of Ponca veterans. To participate or nominate a veteran, please contact Aliyah Taylor at tayloraliyah56@gmail.com.



Elder's Committee Meetings

April 6 | 10 am

125 6th Street | Sioux City, IA

May 3 | 10 am

5805 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

May 5 | 10 am

5805 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE



SHOUT OUT A PONCA EMPLOYEE!

Celebrate those who are making a difference working for the Tribe! Scan the QR code to submit your shout outs and Mí' Úwađit'ą ákà (Employee of the Month) nominations for April.



**Poems Written While Reading
Louis Headman's *Walks On the Ground***

Dr. Louis Headman, author of the Ponca Dictionary, published *Walks On the Ground: A Tribal History of the Ponca Nation* – a powerful and deeply meaningful work that stands as one of the most comprehensive histories of the Ponca people. Widely regarded as a gift to present and future generations, the book continues to inspire reflection, learning, and cultural connection among Ponca readers today.

Writer and Ponca Member Cliff Taylor, building on that inspiration, has started a new writing project: *Poems Written While Reading Walks On the Ground*. These are poems in response to the book reading and engaging with Dr. Headman's work, as well as the living culture of the Ponca Nation today. You can read the first poem below:

Before you open the book
you look at its cover.

An old photograph of thirty-some
Ponca (I counted 34) standing
in a line facing a Sundance tree.

Can you feel in your body how
your ancestors were there?

When the Mystery wasn't far off
at all, but the actual sacred
world that engulfed us, suffused
us – before the sky – high wall
of Western culture encircled us,
tried to cage us.

The beauty felt while
pondering those traditionally
dressed figures is its own
small map through the
wall, back into the Mystery.

The grief a light that helps
us see. And that Sundance
tree? It's only a matter of time
until we Northern Ponca have
our own Sundance again, until
we're all gathered in a line looking
at that tree just like the Ponca
on the cover of Louis Headman's
book. I put my hand on the
book/photograph and am eager,
excited for all of it.

Don't miss out on next month's poem from Cliff.

Chairwoman Schmidt recognized by Norfolk Area United Way

Chairwoman Candace Schmidt was recognized alongside three other incredible board members, who have officially termed off after a combined 27 years of dedicated service to Norfolk Area United Way.



Norfolk Area United Way had this to say about all four board members they honored:

"Through countless budget meetings, board discussions, tough conversations, strategic planning sessions, and behind-the-scenes work, they have faithfully helped guide our mission and strengthen our impact across Northeast and North Central Nebraska.

Each received an award recognizing their Waves of Lasting Impact and Infinite Dedication – and those words truly capture the legacy they leave. The ripple effects of their leadership will continue to bless our communities for years to come.

Board service isn't always visible, but it is invaluable. It takes time, wisdom, generosity, and a deep belief in this work – and these four leaders exemplified all of it.

We are incredibly grateful and truly blessed with the best board there is in Northeast Nebraska. Thank you for your leadership, your heart, and helping move this mission forward."

SAVE THE DATE!

4-Day Powwow!

32nd ANNUAL PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA POWWOW August 6-9, 2026

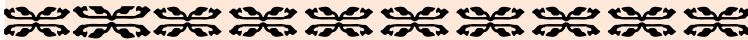
All Dancers, Vendors and Spectators Welcome.

For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/PTNCultureDepartment/

or contact Culture Director Patience Teboe, pteboe@poncatrIBE-ne.gov

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 Annual Powwow or any injuries that may occur or be suffered at or during the Annual Powwow. The Tribe makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, including with respect to information posted about the Annual 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 Annual Powwow. In consideration for being permitted to attend and participate in the Annual 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 Annual Powwow, regardless of cause of origin.



All District 2 (SDA & OSDA)

Membership Meeting

April 26, 2026 | 10 am - 12 pm

Ralston Transit Facility

5805 South 86th Circle | Omaha, NE

Join us for District 2 membership meeting! This will be a potluck style meeting and your D2 representatives will provide the main dish. To sign up for a dish to bring, visit https://poncatrIBEofne.formstack.com/forms/d2_potluck. Can't join us in person? No problem! Join us virtually on Lifesize at <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/22243458>.

This will be the first of several informational sessions. We'll begin with a WIOA overview, followed by member questions, and close with open dialogue to help prepare for our next D2 meeting! For more information, please contact Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.



Save the Date!

4th Annual

Camp Creator's Game

June 26 - 27, 2025

LNK Community Room | 1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE

Standing Bear Park | 2320 Park Blvd | Lincoln, NE

Please save the date for the Fourth Annual Camp Creator's Game! We will have a team bonding dinner at the Lincoln Community Room on June 26th. On June 27th, Edison Rednest will host a presentation on the importance of the Creator's game. Youth will get a chance to participate in the game afterwards. For more information, please contact Sarah Lehl at slehl@poncatrIBE-ne.gov.



Eye See What You Did There

by **Patience Teboe**, Culture Director

Ú A T U I Ú É Í S C W P O É Z Į P A Ú W K J I Š Í
 Z Š W C K Y Į Ĺ Á É V Á É I J Ì W F F Ž Ì Į Ě A Į
 Ú È Y N Y Į Į Į T M À H P Į M K W À Š G D Ì É M D
 T S U U Ì Z K M Š S T Ì É A Ą Ą J F I D R M K Į Q É
 Á Ì W E È A Ì U Į G Š Ž N Š G U R Ú R È Í Į Š R W
 Ì Į Ą Ú R Š Ą G N L H Z A Ì E À Í Š X À C Y B Į S
 T Ì Ą I F P Š U Ì H Į Á X E D Ú M U Á Ą D Ž O F Ž
 I W Q W É B W Ì Š Q P Q I L I L E G Į O Į A Í A Š
 B L H W O Ą P Ú Ž V É M X P W S Ą Ú B Á Ž X G Ì M
 N L È Ú D À Ú Ž A Ą Á À È F C J L L Š Q Ą Ú W Y R
 V U Ž K Ú V A É V U Ą Ą F Ą B U T M Z V U È G Š À
 Ì N S Ú K R É Į I Á K A L Į Z Š Ą P Ž I È N À A D
 I Ą È Í Ì T Á I U Í X C Q D X Š Š I N Ą D E J G H
 T A Í S Y B P Ą J R E Ą Q C Ì X H I T Š T Ą È G T
 Į Z C Š Į Ě Ž Į Š O Á F Ú K Š L F A Š Á Ú P T Į Į
 N L N Í W R A Ž H C Ì W V B Š R É Á Ì Ì Ž U S Ą F
 T F P T U A G S Ą Į Ĥ Á Á G J Ą Y Į G K G J U È Q
 N M Á W Š Š Í M T Į J Z Ì F Á M S S F W Ú O À I À
 F X U Ì C C C Á Ž Ú Ú U Š K M Ą T Á D Į Ĥ W Á G Y
 Í É S Į Q Ą Á A Š I H Š Ì C Š Á A R K T Š Š O O E
 I Ž K I É Š E P H Ą P I Į Í P R X Ą Ú Á È R Į Ì F
 Į Ĺ Í U Ą N X È Y A P Z O K I Ž Ú Á O L A Z Ì O È
 Á J D B Ì Š A Į W Q F Q Ą Š P Í Į W T È È E Í Ą Ĺ
 V K À W E G U Y Į S J É È Ą N Į Ą Į U Š Ą I Ą Ě Į
 Į Ì Š P Ž A U R H Ą N K E N D Z S O G Ž A A Š Š B

- Šinąde** - knee
- Ast'úhi** - elbow
- P'áhì** - neck
- Įdė'** - face
- Nus'í** - armpit
- Žibe** - leg
- Našk'í** - head
- P'a'uskidà** - nose bridge
- Mąge** - chest
- įkì** - chin
- P'énaxixè** - eyebrow
- Įštá** - eye
- P'á'** - nose
- Žúga** - body




Member Mailing Questions

Have questions about tribal mailings? Reach out to your District Representatives!

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4
Angie Starkel 402.922.0436	Falon McAlpin 402.208.0297	Shanna Carpenter 402.805.0883	Alex Taylor 402.750.2045
Patrick Lamoureux 712.899.8563	Samantha Gallagher 402.213.2058	Susan (Susie) Baker 925.788.0649	Kyle Taylor 402.750.4299





Get important news from your Tribe in your email!

Contact Jessica Hitchcock at jhitchcock@poncatribene.gov to sign up today!

Coming soon: Text message alerts for important updates

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.gov or aknudsen@poncatrIBE-ne.gov, 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.

- Summer 2026 deadline: May 15, 2026**
- Fall 2026 deadline: August 15, 2026**
- Winter 2026 deadline: November 15, 2026**

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 2024-2025 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 2025-2026 school year is July 31, 2026.

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**



Uplift your spirit

with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's
Native American Youth Enhancement Program

Here's your chance to spend time with a heritage rooted in a rich culture and traditions handed down through generations. For Native youths between the ages of 13 - 18, the Native American Youth Enhancement Program (NAYEP) is here with five engaging units for you to connect with:

- ★ **Self-Esteem**
- ★ **Cultural Traditions**
- ★ **Native American History**
- ★ **Native American Role Models: Past and Present**
- ★ **Native American Contributions**

And it gets even better: for every unit you complete, you will receive a \$20 incentive, that's a total of \$80 for spending time learning about your culture. For a limited time, you can receive one of our NAYEP t-shirts just for signing up and completing any one unit.

Ready to take your first step? Sign up today!

Contact Aubrey Knudsen at aknudsen@poncatribene.gov or at 402.371.8834 ext 2026, or visit us at www.poncatribene.gov/services/education/

(Make sure to include your email and phone number with your application as well as proof of lineal descendency, or proof of enrollment in another type of Indian program).



Class of 2026

Honoring our Graduating Seniors

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska would like to honor our 2026 Ponca graduates in a special section in our June 2026 Newsletter.

Please complete the online form **NO LATER THAN May 8th, 2026** to have your graduate included in this section. Submissions may be subject to minor edits for space and consistency.

To submit your graduate, scan our QR code, or visit https://poncatribefne.formstack.com/forms/2026_graduates.

Questions? Please email info@poncatribene.gov.

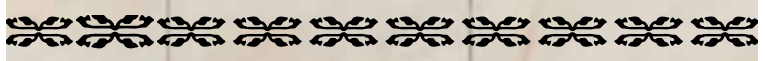



Youth Mentoring Program

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:	Tara Stahly	402.958.0746
Lincoln:	Joe Bad Moccasins	531.739.2107
Omaha & Sioux City:	Zach James	402.689.6142



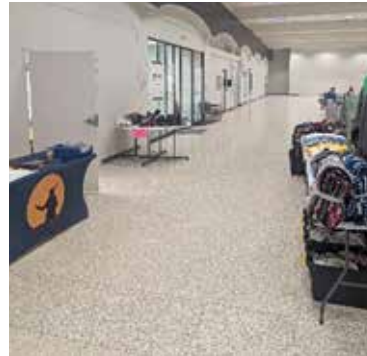
Ponca Pathways' first ever Fill Your Bag Friday a hit with community members!

On Friday, February 27th, Ponca Pathways hosted its first-ever Fill Your Bag Friday, and the response from the community was incredible. Shoppers shared great feedback about the fun, treasure-hunt atmosphere and the chance to score one-of-a-kind finds and amazing bargains all in one place. In total, about 100 donated items found new homes.

From vintage t-shirts and cozy sweaters to unique accessories, participants were able to fill their bags for just \$10, helping support Ponca Workforce initiatives and employment programs through Ponca Pathways.

Thank you to everyone who came out, shopped, and supported the mission!

Fill Your Bag Friday occurs on the final Friday of each month. The next opportunity to shop is happening on Friday, April 24th, from 11:00am to 5:00pm at Ponca Pathways Donation Center.



SHOP WITH PURPOSE

PONCA PATHWAYS THRIFT

Each purchase can change a life

Every dollar of each purchase from Ponca Pathways Thrift supports the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and creates economic opportunities for tribal members.

poncathrift.com 402-405-3773

Shop 24/7 for Vintage t's, rare finds, and bargain deals!

PEDCO
PONCA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INDIANPRENEURSHIP®

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>.

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

Share your voice and your story for PEDCO

The Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) is seeking video testimonials from Tribal members about what being a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska means to you, to your family, and to your future.

These videos can be brief (one to five minutes) and recorded on your phone. PEDCO may use clips from Tribal member submissions as part of a fundraising video to fund the establishment of the Ponca Pathways Thrift & Career Center. Videos can be sent to PEDCO Grants Manager Tom McCauley at tmccauley@pedco-ne.org.

Ponca Pathways will be a hybrid thrift store and career development center that will assist members with career exploration, job training, and employment.

Through the sale of donated goods, the thrift store portion of Ponca Pathways will raise money for Tribal workforce development programs. All proceeds will be

reinvested into the Tribe to help ensure opportunities for PTN members to prosper.

To make this vision a reality, however, PEDCO needs to secure funding from donors and foundations. That all starts with telling our story powerfully and effectively. That is why your heartfelt perspective is so crucial. By sharing your story, hopes, and dreams, you can directly influence the hearts and minds of donors who are willing to help.

If you wish to participate, the following questions can help get you started. You don't necessarily have to answer these directly, but you are more than welcome to do so if you want!

- What does being a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska mean to you personally?
- What are your hopes and dreams for the future of our Tribe?

- How can this new initiative strengthen our cultural values and economic success?
- How have the Tribe's initiatives or programs positively impacted your life or the lives of your family?
- What opportunities would a nonprofit thrift store and career center create for you or others in our community?

Videos can be informal and up to five minutes in length. If you're using your phone to record, please hold it sideways for landscape mode, rather than vertically. Simply speak honestly about your experience and your hopes for the Tribe.

Thank you sincerely to all who are willing to contribute. Please email your video to Tom McCauley at tmccauley@pedco-ne.org or contact (660) 233-2409 for further assistance.

NOW AVAILABLE!

SC Training Online Learning Platform

FEATURES

- Mobile-friendly training anytime, anywhere
- 1000+ free training courses in various in-demand industries
- Microlearning lessons can be completed in as little as 3-7 minutes
- Skills-based training and job readiness content available

For free access, please contact info@pedco-ne.org

PONCA MEMBERS

Complete PEDCO's workforce needs 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 strengthen our programs to better serve the Ponca Tribe!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/322BKMR>

Honoring strength and sovereignty: Sexual Assault Awareness Month & Native American Communities

Heather Oberg
Domestic Violence
Case Manager

In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first official nationwide campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness. As a result of those coordinated efforts, each April, communities across the United States observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) – a time to raise awareness, support survivors, and commit to prevention. For Native American and Alaska Native communities, this month carries particular urgency.

Studies from the National Institute of Justice show that more than four out of five American Indian and Alaska Native women experience violence in their lifetime, and over half experience sexual violence. Native men and Two-Spirit people are also affected at disproportionately high rates.

These numbers reflect not only harm on an individual level, but generations of systemic inequities rooted in colonization, forced removal, boarding schools, and ongoing jurisdictional barriers.

For decades, tribal nations were limited in their ability to prosecute non-Native offenders who committed crimes on tribal lands. Important legislative reforms – including the 2013 and 2022 reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act and the Tribal Law and Order Act – strengthened tribal authority and improved coordination among federal, state, and tribal systems. While progress has been made, advocates continue to call for full funding, expanded jurisdiction, and respect for tribal sovereignty.

Native-led organizations are responding with culturally grounded, survivor-centered

approaches. Groups such as the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the StrongHearts Native Helpline provide advocacy, legal education, and confidential, culturally appropriate support.

Many tribal communities incorporate traditional healing practices, language revitalization, and community accountability into their response efforts – recognizing that healing is both personal and collective.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we are called to listen, learn, and act. Supporting Native communities means honoring tribal sovereignty, uplifting Native voices, and investing in prevention efforts that are rooted in culture and community strength.

This April, let us stand in solidarity by acknowledging the realities, honoring

resilience, and committing to a future free from violence.

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.

Denim Day | April 29, 2026

Please wear denim in support of sexual assault survivors.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM



DV Program's paws-itively fetching photo booth at their My Furry Valentine event





A hands-on training program for Native American adults in Nebraska.



Wisdom in Water: Hydroponics Class

May 13 & 14, 2026 | 9 am - 4 pm

Norfolk Transit Facility | 1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ◇ Native American adults 18 & over
- ◇ Limit one growing system per household
Space required: 5'w x 7'h x 3'd
- ◇ Attendance required to receive full growing kit

WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE:

- ◇ Free hydroponics started kit
- ◇ Seeds including heirloom, non-GMO varieties, and other culturally relevant varieties
- ◇ Expert training with local experts
- ◇ Marketing tools and guidance on branding, Canva, and social media



To start the application process, scan the QR code or visit our link:

https://go.unl.edu/wisdom_in_water

Deadline to apply is **May 10, 2026**. For more information, please contact the Program Contacts.

Ian Peterson
 ipeterson4@unl.edu
 402.727.2775

Tim Thielen
 tthielen2@unl.edu
 308.878.8104





Start Your Wellness Journey Today

About Us


CredibleMind is the free online platform where you can learn new skills, understand your own mental health, take a mental health assessment and browse a library of thousands of mental wellbeing resources.

[PEDCO.crediblemind.com](https://pedco.crediblemind.com)

Benefits

- Confidential
- Available 24/7
- Personalized
- Expert-Vetted






BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CLASSES

Ever feel overwhelmed trying to make ends meet? You are not alone. Millions of Americans report feeling stressed by money. In fact, MarketWatch estimates 57% of households live paycheck-to-paycheck. Millennials and Gen Zers in particular face greater financial barriers than previous generations. Fortunately, help is available. Starting in 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.

Building Native Communities empowers tribe members to adapt traditional skills to financial management. Learn about budgeting, developing a spending plan, managing checking and savings accounts, accessing credit, and being a smart consumer. Reach out to PEDCO today for more information.



BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES

FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

FACILITATED BY PEDCO

INTERESTED? CONTACT

PEDCO
info@pedco-ne.org
 402-434-2127

Red Berry Woman Fashion Show gives a runway for creativity and awareness

The Behavioral Health Department, in collaboration with Red Berry Woman, hosted a fashion show at the Lincoln Indian Center on February 14th.

Red Berry Woman is created and owned by Norma Baler-Flying Horse, an enrolled member of the Hidatsa Tribe, member of the Dakota Sioux, and adopted member of the Crow Nation. She created RBW to influence contemporary fashion with her Native American culture.

Two local design teams also had their work shown. Christina Wedner and Billie Wedner of The Crafty Aunties presented their work. Within the threads and beads of their designs are the songs and prayers for the ones who will wear them, as learned from our Elders.

Trauma Warriors works on confidence, team building, and leadership skills. They hope to create a safe space for youth to learn about different coping skills for managing stress and how historical trauma shows up in our lives today. Their work was centered around harajuku themed fashion that highlighted Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Relatives and All Women are Sacred.



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

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (Please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

DOB: _____ VOTING DISTRICT: _____ (see back of form)

I, _____, hereby certify that I am a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and that I am at least 18 years of age or will be 18 years of age on the date of the election.

Signature

Date

Completion of and return of this registration form is necessary if you desire to become qualified to vote in the forthcoming election. This form must be received no later than the first **Friday in September** of each General Election year. This form, upon completion and return to the Election Board Registrar, shall be the basis for determining whether you qualify to have your name placed upon the list of registered voters and to receive a ballot.

Completion of this form is voluntary.

Contact person for questions regarding the Tribal Election, etc:

Election Registrar, 402-857-3391

Return this form via U.S. Postal Service to: Ponca Tribe Election Board, Voter Registration Form, P.O. Box 9, Niobrara, NE 68760.

Please note: *If you are in the military and stationed outside of the United States, you need to register in your "home" state. **Example:** If you are from Texas, but stationed in Iraq, you need to register in District 2, not District 1.*

Revision .007
December 2025 - Robin Rich, Enrollment
Manager

VOTING DISTRICTS – PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

DISTRICT (1) consists of the following NEBRASKA counties: Antelope, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Cedar, Cherry, Dakota, Dawes, Dixon, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Rock, Sheridan and Sioux.

Also included in **District 1** are the following counties in Iowa: Allamakee, Bremer, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Clayton, Dickinson, Emmet, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Mitchell, Obrien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Sac, Sioux, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Woodbury, Worth and Wright.

The following states are also included in District 1: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin and all areas outside the United States of America.

DISTRICT (2) consists of the following NEBRASKA counties: Burt, Cass, Douglas, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Sarpy and Washington.

Also included in **District 2** are the following counties in Iowa: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fremont, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Story, Tama, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington and Wayne.

The following states are also included in District 2: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas.

DISTRICT (3) consists of the following NEBRASKA counties: Adams, Buffalo, Butler, Chase, Clay, Dawson, Dundy, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Jefferson, Kearney, Keith, Lancaster, Lincoln, Nuckolls, Perkins, Phelps, Polk, Red Willow, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, Webster and York.

The following states are also included in District 3: Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming.

DISTRICT (4) consists of the following NEBRASKA counties: Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Deuel, Dodge, Garden, Garfield, Grant, Greeley, Hooker, Howard, Kimball, Logan, Loup, Madison, McPherson, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Scottsbluff, Sherman, Stanton, Thomas, Thurston, Valley, Wayne and Wheeler.

The following states are also included in District 4: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington

Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760
Fax: 402-857-3771 or enrollment@poncatribе-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@poncatribene.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 4/1/2026

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adams, Elijah James | Chwalowski, | Kellogg, Pearl Marie | Peck, Tyler Duane | Stastny, Rachel Colleen |
| Adams, Zachary Thomas | Kaitlin Martika | Kelso, James Alan | Pedroza, Jacob Roberto | Steadman, Jennifer Renae |
| Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott | Cournoyer, Ellis Emery | King, Gavin Michael | Phillips, Julianne Esauna | Stegman, |
| Arellano, Carlos Montana | Courtright, Michael Todd | Knudsen, Crystal Mae | Phongsavat, Tia Arianna | Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh |
| Ashrun, Oriana Mae | Cox, Nickolas Duane | Knudsen, Miles Henry | Picotte - Felde, | Stuczynski, Drake Keegan |
| Aungie, | Crouse, David Lee | Koenig, Jody Alan Jo | Diamond Rose | Suverkrubbe, |
| Mariah Keeley | Cutshall, Katline James | Krueger, Annette Marie | Pierce, Raychel Marie | Nathan Fernando |
| Shaye Madison | Da Moude, Deborah Kay | Kyles, Jarred Joseph | Pilcher, | Suverkrubbe, Saje Moon |
| Bachmeier, Tristan Chad | Danielson, Daniel James | LaPointe, | Francisco Nico Lee | Swinarski, Alicia Estrada |
| Bagent, Wayne Orval | Dedicos, Heather Maria | Alejandro Jauquine | Polly, Rachael Anne | Teboe, Temperance Tayen |
| Bair, Wesley David | Drapeaux, Juston Lee | LaPointe, Robert James | Prichard, Joseph John | Thomas, II, |
| Baker, Cayden Nathaniel | Droescher, | Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan | Prunty, Austin Joe | Scott Richard Herbert |
| Baker, Skylar Dominick | Savannah Jo Anne | Laravie, Justin Matthew | Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose | Thomas, Jenny Anne |
| Baker-Ferguson, | Drummond, | Lea, Tychicus James | Raymond, Joseph Allen | Thomas, Natana Lynn |
| Jared Riley | Gregory Gene | Leach, Isaiah Marcus | Reed, Alcina Jewel | Thomas, Robin Diane |
| Bear, Cashlyn Rae | Eckley, Lane Emory | Leet, Ayden Alexander | Rich, Mitch Andrew | Torrez, Jr., |
| Bear, Joshua Gilbert | Eckley, Leigha Irene | Leet, Elijah Antonio | Rivera, Dani Lyn | Lawrence DeWayne |
| Beaver, Jason Chaska | Eilers, Richard James | Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray | Roberts, Marquitta Ruby | Treichler, Jasmine Dawn |
| Becker, Jr., | Evans, Kareem Antwon | LeRoy, Sophia Storm | Rouse, Mary Mae | Tubbs, Steven Kyle |
| Anthony Arnold | Fierro, Brandon Michael | Lieb, Sylas Vittorio | Rowe, Crystle Anette | Upton, Parker Allan |
| Becker, Sr., | Flagg, I I I., George Albert | Lindenberg, | Rulo, Byron | Vanderlinden, |
| Anthony Arnold | Flowers, Joseph | David Charles | Russell, Kristina Anne | Desiree Lynn |
| Becker, Tyler Randell | Foley, Michael Joseph | Little, Jeromy Todd | Sainz, Tritia Jeanene | VanDervoort, Lucius Kain |
| Bell, Darian Patrick | Fossum, Tanner Allen | Loftis, Timothy James | Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee | Vaughan, Linda Lou |
| Bell, Shaunè Kay | Freeman, Xavier Lee | Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco | Scherbeh, Kimberly Marie | Veals, Clifford James |
| Bennett, Erica Paige | Glenn, Brittany Leeann | Maben, Jessica Paige | Schmidt, | Velder Jr., Jason Lee |
| Birdhead, | Glenn, John Allen | Mann II, Steven Michael | Dylan Andrew- Philip | Voss, Joshua Le Roy |
| William Randolph | Glisan, Cynthia Lynn | Mann, Desireè Leann | Schmidt, | Voss, Michael Roy |
| Blair, Hunter Wo Day Leon | Goss, Mamie L. | Mann, Sydney Desireè | John Thomas Carl | Warner, Stormy Renee |
| Bligh, Timothy Lee | Govia, Isaiah Lee | Marlow, Skyler Jade | Scuderi, Jana Marie | Waters, Deon Koleen |
| Blowe, Dominick Adams | Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo | Mategko, Janet Louise | Sherman, | Williams, Andrea Michelle |
| Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick | Grant, I I I., Jesse Clarence | Mategko, Lisa Louise | Brandon Eugene | Wolff, Toby Timber |
| Blowe, Tyrone Richard | Green, Brooklyn Marie | Mategko, Michael Steven | Sherman, Cody Lee | Wood, Sara Ethel |
| Boettger, | Green, Carri Kaye | Matthews, Jett Haden | Sherman, David Alan | Wright Jr, |
| Dakota Birdhead | Grist, Carri Kaye | McGrath, Bryan Thomas | Sherman, | Eugene Theodore |
| Bogacz, Brenda Kay | Gutierrez, Kassandra Rae | McGrath, Daniel Patrick | Harold Dewayne | Wright, Alina Lee |
| Bonge, Stevie Lorene | Haahr, Anneliese Teresa | McGraw, Jr., | Sherman, John Glenn | Wright, Asheena Lee |
| Bonge, Todd Joseph | Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle | Jonathan William | Sherman, Michael Ray | Wright, Cherita Alberta |
| Boyd, Myron Ralph | Hennek, Gail Howe | McKeen, Juanita Rose | Sherman, Mitchell Everett | Wright, |
| Boyer, Berlin N. | Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C. | Mercier, Jade Sharice | Sherman, Robert Le Roy | Cruz Montgomery |
| Brooks, Angela Ellen | Honeycutt, | Meyer, Earl Levine | Sherman, Savannah | Wright, Howard Floyd |
| Brown, J. Wesley | Andrew James | Moniz, Cherish Toshia | Sherman, Tristan Ray | |
| Brownrigg, Steven Francis | Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann | Mullen, Deven Miles | Smith VII, William Thomas | |
| Buffalo Chief, | Horine, Ashley Danielle | Mullins, John Frederick | Smith, Donald Eugene | |
| Uriah Jordan | Horse, Alexander Bruce | Muscutt, Elias Gordon | Smith, Stephanie Rae | |
| Burgon, Jeremy Edward | Howe, Richard H. | Myers, Doron Helmut | Smith, VI, William Thomas | |
| Burston, Sandra Lee | Humphreys, Belinda Kay | Olmer, Dakota Michael | Snoozy, Ben Michael | |
| Carlson, Emma Rose | Jeppesen, Zachary Lee | O'Meara, David Joseph | Spencer, Peyton Thunder | |
| Carter, Amber Lynn | Johnson, Lukus Tyler | O'Rear, Makenna Shay | Standblack, Marko Tulio | |
| | Kellogg, | Peck, Brandalynn | Stastny, Evan Matthew | |
| | Mardale Eddie Wayne | | | |

MEMBERS NEEDED

NORTHERN PONCA HOUSING AUTHORITY

The District 3 & At-Large representative terms will be expiring 5/31/26. District 3 represents Hall & Lancaster Counties of Nebraska. At-Large represents all District counties.

Commissioners receive a \$250 stipend per meeting as well as mileage reimbursement and per diem. Typically, meetings are held once a month.

Other qualifications to serve on this Board are as follows:

- Any person appointed to the Board shall not be less than twenty-five (25) years of age.
- If convicted of a felony, or a sexually related conviction, misdemeanor or otherwise such a person shall not be allowed to serve as a member of the Board.
- No immediate family members may serve on the Board at the same time. Immediate family means mother, father, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, spouse or individuals residing in the same household. This shall include half, step and in-law relations.
- No member of the Tribal Council, employee of the Tribe or any entities thereof, shall serve on the Board of Commissioners.

Please mail your letter of interest with a resume or brief background on why you would be a good candidate for the Board of Commissioners to the Ponca Tribal Council, PO. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or crepenning@poncatribene.gov. If you need more detailed information please contact Joey Nathan, Executive Director of the Northern Ponca Housing Authority at 402-379-8224. A background check will be conducted on all candidates. **Deadline for Application is May 4, 2026.**

Aleah James and Bloomfield Bees take on Nebraska Girls State Basketball!

My daughter, Aleah Ruth James, attends Bloomfield High School in Nebraska. She is a sophomore, one of the starting five on the girls' basketball team, and proudly wears jersey #2. Their starting five consists of four sophomores and one freshman.

On February 13th, the Bloomfield Bees finished their regular season with a perfect 23-0 record. Districts for Nebraska Class D1 began February 18th, at 6:00 PM in Bloomfield. Bloomfield went on to win their district and district finals, finishing 26-0 and qualifying for the state basketball tournament in Lincoln, Nebraska. They earned the overall #1 seed in Class D1. The NSAA Girls State Basketball tournament began on March 5th, where the Bloomfield Bees made it all the way to the finals.

I wanted to shine a light on this team and what a wonderful season it has been watching these young ladies compete. I am so proud of them.

Aleah is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and half Santee Sioux. We are both descendants of Chief Standing Bear.

Our family roots are very important to us. Aleah's great-grandfather is Tom Wright, and her great-grandmother is Vietta Swalley of Santee, Nebraska. Her grandparents are Cheryl and Bill James of Norfolk, Nebraska. Her mother is Cassandra Barger of Bloomfield, Nebraska, and I am her father, Brandon James of Norfolk, Nebraska.

- Brandon James



Anna Lisa LaPointe (October 19, 1959 – November 28, 2025)

While surrounded by the love of her family, Anna Lisa LaPointe, lovingly known as Lisa, 66, began her journey home to the Creator on November 28, 2025.

Lisa was the eldest daughter of Clarence and Carmen LaPointe, born on October 19, 1959, in Norfolk, Nebraska. Lisa lived in many places throughout her life because she believed in "not letting the grass grow under your feet," but her heart and home has always been grounded in Niobrara, where she spent the past 25+ years raising her children and creating a home that became the center of laughter, love, and warmth.

As the Creator blessed Lisa to bless others, she has always been known to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Her generosity was a reflection of her spirit-steady, resilient, and rooted in love. Lisa was a strong and fiercely independent woman. She had a heart that was equal parts gentle and tough. Her children went to her when they needed wisdom and guidance. Her friends found themselves drawn to her humor and contagious laughter. She told the truth exactly as it was, stood firm in what she believed, and always presented as her authentic self.

Lisa was a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Isanti Dakota Sioux Nation. She dedicated much of her life to her people. As she worked at the Ohiya Casino & Resort, she became known for her famous cooking, baking, and salad-making. For the past nine years, she had worked at the Santee Head Start, where she poured her energy, knowledge, and compassion into the children and families she served. The little ones always knew "Grandma Lisa" would take care of them and their needs by preparing the best meals and the coziest place to be. Her commitment to her work was a reflection of her belief in supporting the community's youth and preserving the future.

Lisa found joy in the careful work of her hands. She loved cooking, baking, completing puzzles, sewing, and crafting. You could always find her watching her Huskers, listening to country music, playing solitaire or mahjong on her phone, or writing in her word search books. When she was not tending to her own interests and hobbies, she was cherishing every moment and visiting her friends and family. Lisa was even very fond of her many grand-dogs, who brought her companionship and joy.

What made Lisa truly extraordinary was her selflessness. She always put others first, even when she had little to give. She offered help before being asked, gave her last dollar without hesitation, and showed up for the community no matter how tired or busy she became.

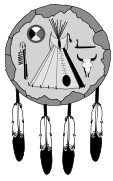
Lisa was the devoted and spirited mother of five children who were her proudest accomplishments and her greatest sources of joy: Harold (Dionne) LaPointe of Yankton, SD, Michael (Amy) Danh of Niobrara, NE, James (Jacob) LaPointe of Omaha, NE, Shana LaPointe of Lincoln, NE, and Steven (Victoria) LaPointe of Omaha, NE. She was the proud and loving grandmother to her grandson, Greyson Leo, whose life brought her endless fulfillment and happiness. She also embraced Karley, Ally, and Eli, the children of her children's partners, as her own bonus grandchildren.

Lisa is survived by her mother, Carmen LaPointe of Santee, NE; her siblings: Virgil (Nadine) LaPointe of Columbus, NE, Cecelia (Leon) Klug of Niobrara, NE, Alicia LaPointe of Santee, NE, and Shane (Mandy) LaPointe of Yankton, SD; along with many amazing nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends and family who loved her deeply.

As Lisa took her last breath, she was welcomed to the Spirit World by her father, Clarence; her grandmother, Alice; her grandmother, Laura; her partner, Gordy; and many relatives who have gone before her. Knowing they were there to meet her brings her family great comfort.

If Lisa were to leave us with one final wish, it would be to continue to support and love each other. Her memory will remain forever in the hearts of those who love and care for her. May her journey be peaceful, and may she walk with her head held high, knowing those she left behind are safe and supported.





PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

www.poncatrIBE-ne.gov

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Office Locations

NIORRARA 68760

Headquarters

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

Enrollment

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

Cultural

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

LINCOLN 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 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