

51st Annual Sac and Fox Nation Powwow Review

by Sam Spang *FDPIR Director*

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port; Language Department for helping us to preserve and perpetuate our language, song, & dance... our culture for each generation and those yet to come, kewawiyamenepwa;

Library for welcoming and informing our tribal members & visitors each year who come in to visit and learn about our history and culture;

Maintenance Department for taking care of our wonderful powwow grounds each year ensuring everything is ready to go with our camps and arena, and surrounding facilities, ketephipwa neniwaki (thank you men);

Social Services for your continued support;

Realty for your continued support; Historic Preservation Department for your continued support and for providing biographical information for our veterans and families;

RAP Department for your continued support;

Our SFN Elders for your continuous support and guidance to all generations coming up under you, we're saddened to see your building destroyed by fire but



Powwow Committee: (From Left) Sam Spang, Cheryl McClellan, Eddie Fullbright, Cathrine Walker, Robert Williamson, Sanrtana Spang, Mason Williamson, Russell Saunders, W.C. Harjo and Xavier Masquas (photo by SFN News)

were also glad that no one was hurt, we wish you a great year ahead;

And last but not least, thank you to each one of our Head Staff for your hard work and contributions all weekend ensuring a successful powwow: RG Harris

(MC), Lloyd Gwin-Hunter (MC), Anthony Monoessy (Head Singer), Dwight Whitebuffalo (Headman Dancer), Ursula Hill (Headwoman Dancer), Host Gourd (Blackbeard Descendants), Jeff McClellan (AD), Damon Roughface (AD), San-

tana Spang (Sr Miss SFN Princess), Patience Longhorn (Jr Miss SFN Princess), Ciera Johnson (Lil Miss SFN Princess), and water carriers Eddie Fullbright & Xavier Masquas. Once again, thank you all, kewawiyamenepwa... Many Ahos!!!

Chief's Address To The Nation

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rior. "This Fund is an important tool to help students across Indian Country to pursue their dreams and have success in the 21st Century workplace."

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said, "The American Indian College Fund is thrilled with the news that these resources are being forwarded to support Native student scholarships. Thanks to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, current and future generations of Native college students will have the financial ability to obtain a higher education, helping to give them, their families, and entire communities a better future."

Sam Deloria, Director of AIGC, said, "We are grateful to all involved for the opportunity to administer the graduate portion of the Cobell Scholarship program and enable countless Native students to pursue post-graduate education. The rapidly-increasing cost of higher education makes this program even more important, and we are eager to begin its implementation."

The Cobell Education Scholarship Fund is funded in part by the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program). The Buy-Back Program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractionated interests in trust or restricted land from willing landowners. Consolidated interests are transferred to tribal government ownership for uses benefiting the reservation community and tribal members.

Interior makes quarterly transfers from Buy-Back Program sales – up to \$60 million – to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund based on a formula in the Cobell Settlement that sets aside a certain amount of funding depending on the value of the fractionated interest sold. These contributions do not reduce the amount that an owner will receive for voluntarily consolidating their interests.

More information about the Cobell Education Scholarship Program can be found at the American Indian College Fund website, www.cobellscholarships.org

To date, the Buy-Back Program has sent more than 33,000 purchase offers to owners of fractional interests. The Program has successfully concluded transactions worth over \$72 million and has restored the equivalent of more than 203,000 acres of land to tribal ownership.

Offers are currently pending for landowners with fractional interests on the Pine Ridge (deadline: July 21, 2014) and Rosebud Indian Reservations (deadline: August 16, 2014).

Landowners can contact their local Fiduciary Trust Officer or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at 888-678-6836 for more information or to register as willing sellers. More information is also available at www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/landowners.

Individual participation in the Buy-Back Program is voluntary. A decision to sell land for restoration to tribes does not impact a landowner's eligibility to receive individual settlement payments from the Cobell Settlement, which are

handled by the Garden City Group.

NCAI Broadcast Legislative & Policy News Keepseagle Settlement Meetings and Webinars Announced to Discuss Settlement Funds Updates

Settlement Funds Update in the Matter of Keepseagle v. Vilsack Approximately \$380 million in settlement funds remain undistributed from the Keepseagle v. Vilsack litigation. The Settlement Agreement approved by the Court requires that these funds only be given to nonprofit organizations providing services to Native American farmers and ranchers.

(A \$760 million settlement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture was reached earlier in the Keepseagle v. Vilsack class-action lawsuit, which claimed that USDA discriminated against Native Americans by denying them equal access to credit in the USDA Farm-Loan program.)

The parties to the litigation propose creating a trust that would distribute most of these remaining funds as grants to eligible nonprofit organizations. Counsel for the plaintiff class wants to discuss the trust and seek input about the trust's mission and who should oversee it. For that purpose, counsel has scheduled several regional meetings and webinar (telephone conference) calls on the dates noted below. Interested individuals, tribal governments, nonprofits and other organizations are invited to participate.

2014 Public Meetings:

Exact locations will be announced soon. All meetings will run from 9:30am to 4:00pm local time.

- July 30 _____ Tulsa, OK
- August 5 _____ Albuquerque, NM
- August 7 _____ Phoenix, AZ
- August 12 _____ Rapid City, SD
- August 14 _____ Bismarck, ND
- August 19 _____ Spokane, WA
- August 21 _____ Billings, MT
- August 26 _____ Raleigh, NC

2014 Webinars:

Call-in numbers will be announced soon. For the webinars, all times are stated in Mountain Time.

- August 6 - 2:00pm - 5:00pm MT
- August 16 - 10:00am - 1:00pm MT
- August 20-6:00pm- 9:00pm MT

NCAI Contact Information: Sherry Salway Black, Partnership for Tribal Governance Initiative - sblack@ncai.org.

Workforce Development Workforce Investment Act

Reauthorization Passes Congress

On July 9, 2014 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), H.R. 803, by a vote of 415-6. Two weeks prior, on June 25, 2014, the U.S. Senate passed WIOA by a vote of 95-3. President Barack Obama also formally issued his support and is expected to sign the bill very soon. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - soon to be Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act - provides essential opportunities for Native workers to develop critical skills for job entry, re-entry, advancement, and security. WIOA is the result of bipartisan negotiations between the House and Senate to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act. WIA became law in 1998 and expired in

2003, but Congress never reauthorized it and continued to fund WIA through the annual appropriations process. Last year, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act (SKILLS Act), which passed the House, would have reserved a 1 percent tribal set-aside, but would have eliminated the current Native American program and all of its critical components. NCAI was very engaged throughout the process and helped preserve the Native American program in the new WIOA bill.

The Native American program remains as Section 166 in the WIOA bill. Here is a summary of the changes in the program:

* Primary Performance Indicators were placed on all programs, including the Native American Program. However, the Secretary of Labor and the Native American and Employment Training Council will reach agreement on adjusted levels of these indicators, taking into account special conditions of tribes, and develop additional performance indicators that take into account the needs and special circumstances of tribal communities.

* Programs are being funded at their current level and will increase incrementally until Fiscal Year 2020, with the Native American program being funded at its current level of \$46,082,000 for FY 2015 to a funding level of \$54,137,000 by FY 2020.

* Alaska Native descendants are defined as eligible for services provided.

* Every 4 years the Secretary of Labor will make grants or enter in contracts or cooperative agreements with tribal grantees, instead of every 2 years.

* Entrepreneurial skills are included in the purpose of the program.

Short Takes

* On June 27th, The United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and (UINOKT) met at the Downstream Casino & Resort, Miami, OK and then tribal leaders met with Governor Fallin later that day.

* On July 1st, United States Attorney

Western District of Oklahoma Sanford Coats re Proposed Indian Law came to our tribal complex to discuss any concerns of our Nation.

* On July 8th, National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Executive Director Ahniwahzi Rose met with our Business Committee at the tribal complex to discuss how our Nation can partner with NIEA in promoting education for Native American students.

* Stroud Elders / Veterans Building – On July 10th, this building caught fire due to an electrical shortage and received heavy smoke and water damage to the interior and contents. The building received damage to the middle portion from the fire. The building had insurance of the structure and contents and as of date no plans have been developed as to the replacement of the structure.

* A meeting was held July 22nd for the FY2015 Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) between the Sac and Fox Nation and the Department of Interior (DOI). The Business Committee approved the AFA on July 24th.

* On July 28-31st, I attended the Self Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC) and Technical Workgroup Quarterly Meeting with the Department of Interior (DOI) and Indian Health Service (IHS). A Self Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC) Board meeting was held in conjunction with the SGAC meetings. Sac & Fox Nation has a seat on the SGCETC Board.

I wish all of our students the best for this next school year in the academic realm, in the sports arena(s), and in your everyday lives. Remember to keep your eyes upon our Lord and Savior in everything you do.

And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ... 1 John 3:22

May God bless you and our Nation. Amen.

George Thurman, Principal Chief



Electrical Shortage Causes Fire: On July 10th the Elders/Veterans Building in Stroud caught fire and sustained major damage. (photo by Jared King, Treasurer SFN)