

**Tribal Member Accepts National Position** *By Ben Sherman Courtesy of the Cannoneer* From Page 1

theology. Wright was an early-day missionary to several tribes surrounding Fort Sill in the 1890's. So I feel a close affinity with him," Megehee said.

When he portrayed the reverend in Grierson Chapel, visitors often thanked him for bringing spirituality of the plains to life." People will come to me after a presentation and say 'Mr. Megehee, I had the best time I have ever had in my life.' So it's a very humbling experience when people say that," he said.

Megehee said over the past 22 years, which was the greater part of his career, it has been a pleasure working with the museum collections.

"I give tours and I love teaching classes,

but I always go back to the artifacts, to the 'real-McCoys,' if you will, because that's what people come to museums to learn about. Someone can read a book about a weapon, or they can go on the Internet and learn a lot about it, but when they come to this Army museum they see the actual weapon, the actual uniforms and that's what we have here," he said.

I would say my contributions to the Fort Sill museum include a great deal of effort recognizing and prioritizing those items, whether they are military or Native American; to give them attention so they might receive contracts of restoration. We have been very successful getting some Native American and military

gear restored; I am very proud of that," Megehee said.

"It's been a holistic experience – working with the collection and the audiences, developing exhibits or working with exhibit designers. At Fort Sill, the sky is the limit, because we have old West, the Indians, artillery, the Buffalo Soldiers and the stories about some of the people who were famous or infamous who were here and need to have their stories told."

"They say no job is perfect, but in my years with Army museums I have had wonderful experiences. There's a high caliber of people in the Army museum business," he said.



Mark Megehee

**Chief's Address To The Nation**

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**Bar, Court and Committee Memberships:**

- Oklahoma Bar Association, 2009-Present
- Eastern District of Oklahoma Federal Court
- OBA Law Day Committee
- Chair Person of the OBA Mock Trial Committee
- Advisor/Coach for OK State Champions At Nationals

We are currently advertising for a Grants Writer to add to our Economic Development Department and becoming part of our team. This person will be seeking grants for economic development as well as assisting other departments of our Nation in seeking funding to operate our programs. The purpose is to expand and improve on the services for our tribal members.

The plan is to diversify economic development and not to solely rely upon gaming and federal funding but to add to our self determination by providing funding for our Nation; to provide jobs for our members; and to become more self-sufficient. This will benefit everyone and build more pride within our people as we proudly proclaim that we are Sauk. Tribal members have been notifying us that they have been stopped by various law enforcement agencies, within and out of state, and questioned about their tribal license tags. Our current license plates do not have the wording Oklahoma on them and the agencies are wanting to check verification of the Sac & Fox Nation location. The former plates had Oklahoma on them at the bottom which was removed, replacing the word Oklahoma with the word Nation; Sac and Fox still on top. The consensus of the Business Committee was to have our Tax Department research other tribal tags within Oklahoma and the result is that they have the word Oklahoma on their tags.

We now are considering adding the word Oklahoma, not of Oklahoma back to our license plates for identification purposes only; adding our Nation's name in our Sauk language; and possibly changing the design layout in the process. If we do proceed in this endeavor, the new designed tags will be replaced whenever tribal members renew their current tags, turning in the old one and would receive the new one. This can be accomplished over the period of a year. We will keep you informed if or whenever the decision is made.

The Business Committee in conjunction with Sauk Business Enterprise, Inc. are exploring possible uses of our "Cushing Building" located in the Industrial Park of Cushing, OK. The 25,000 sq. ft. building was purchased in the 1980's and has been rented to other entities over the years. The site consists of approximately 5 acres which is in trust, thus the possibility of gaming. A feasibility study needs to be conducted as to a casino being successful at this location; the possible use of some of the building for the much needed community building for tribal members use in this area; or for locating a business owned by our tribe.

We have been in discussions and listened to a proposal by The Penta Building Group, Las Vegas, NV for the rehab of the building for any use that our Nation may decide. This proposal was presented at our annual Governing Council meeting held September 6th for feedback from our membership. I will keep everyone informed in my future articles as to this endeavor.

I wish to report on the July 10th fire at the Elder's / Veteran's Building located in Stroud, OK. The building and contents were insured and we now know what amount we have from the insurance to allocate for the building of another facility. I want to meet with our elders / veterans to gather recommendations as to plans of location, design, and other ideas as we proceed to replace this facility. Please be patient as to accomplishing this endeavor as we work together to plan a facility that will benefit everyone.

The fire has reinforced my desire to locate and build a fire substation at our tribal complex. The benefits of having firefighting equipment close if we should have a fire will help with our insurance by lowering rates; quicker response time to our buildings located at the complex; and can be located to benefit multiple uses for our complex. The quicker response time to fires south of Stroud on tribal members land is another reason to have a substation, this is dwellings and grass fires.

We have visited with the city of Stroud over the years to have their volunteer fire department partner with our Nation by providing their firefighters; we provide the substation to house some of their equipment/trucks; and our personnel training with theirs if they wish to become a volunteer firefighter.

Tribal members have served with other tribal firefighting crews that are called to fight fires nationwide and there is an interest to establish our own crew. The fire substation would also be a facility to house their equipment. This crew will be able to help with "control burns" on tribal member's lands and maybe help with clearing brush – fire prevention. We

will pursue this proposal of having our own crew established at our complex and I will report on our progress in future articles.

I truly enjoy working with the Business Committee and staff as we continue to lead our Nation and provide services for you. Keep us in your prayers, Amen

Sincerely,  
George Thurman, Chief



Chief George Thurman

**Food Distribution Program Updates**

**FDPIR Income Guidelines:  
New Deductions Expected to Boost Participation Nationwide**

With our increased FY14 Net Monthly Income Standards, new income deduction rules were also approved in the CFR. Households that pay rent or utilities, regardless of amount, are now allowed a Standard \$300 Deduction of their Net Monthly Income that is measured against the USDA Net Monthly Income Standards. For elderly or disabled household members there is now a Medical Expense Deduction that can be claimed for all out of pocket medical expenses with no limit regarding the amount. Also there is a new Meal Deduction that can be claimed should a household member require the full time services of a home health worker.

For more information on these deductions or to see if you qualify please call (866) 622-2310 Shawnee Office or (800) 256-3398 Stroud Office.

**Sac and Fox Elders 2014 Calendar of Events**

**Sept 3, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders monthly meeting, at 10 am in the Social Services Building, Stroud lunch room. Pot Luck

**Sept 3, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders Bake Sale in the Social Services Building, Stroud.

**Sept 5, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders Taco Sale in the Multi Purpose Building, Shawnee.

**Sept 12, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders Olympics and Conference, Sac and Fox Community Building. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the games, please contact Margaret Stevens, or any of the Officers.

**Oct 8, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders monthly meeting, at 10 am in the Multi Purpose Building, Shawnee. Pot Luck

October activity to be determined at September meeting.

**Nov 12, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders monthly meeting, at 10 am in the Social Services Building, Stroud lunch room. Pot Luck

November Thanksgiving activity/meal to be determined at September meeting.

**Dec 6, 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders Winter Dance, Sac and Fox Community Building. Head staff to be determined at September meeting.

**Dec 2014:** Sac and Fox Elders monthly meeting, Multi Purpose Building, Shawnee. (Dec date to be determined.)

At the December meeting, the Elders will be electing new officers for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer. Please attend the December meeting to nominate and vote on three positions of the Elders Advisory Committee.

**EAC Officers:** Cheryl McClellan, Chair • Jamey Noble, Vice-Chair  
Beverly Jackson, Secretary • Laveta Ashley, Treasurer  
Margaret Stevens, Member • BC Liaison, Orvena Gregory

**Sac and Fox Nation Food Distribution Program**

**CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY!!!**

**STROUD OFFICE (800) 256-3398**

**SHAWNEE OFFICE (866) 622-2310**

**If at least one member of your household is Native American, you reside within our service area, and you meet our income guidelines... You May Qualify. Call Today!!!**

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