SAC and FOX NEWS

Photo provided by Cheryl McClellan

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Tribal Member Teresa Runnels Wins National Recognition

Tribal member Teresa Runnels won national recognition in March as one of the Library Journal's Movers and Shakers for 2014, an honor awarded to only 50 individuals per year.

This is the national publication's 13th year to recognize outstanding persons in the library field, naming 50 Movers and Shakers as Advocates, Change Agents, Community Builders, Innovators, Marketers, and Tech Leaders. Runnels won as an Advocate. She is the third Oklahoman so honored by the Library Journal but the first for the Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL).

The Movers and Shakers are the "emerging leaders in the library world", according to the Library Journal website, the "up-and-coming individuals from around the world who are innovative, creative, and making a difference."

"I was very surprised," said Runnels, the coordinator for the American Indian Resource Center (AIRC), housed at the Zarrow Regional Library of the Tulsa City-County Library. "I didn't know I had been nominated."

Gary Shaffer, CEO for TCCL, nominated her.

"(Teresa) has an amazing can-do attitude," said Shaffer. "Nothing is impossible in Teresa's mind."

The Library Journal received 225 nominations for the 2014 honors but selects only 50. "They are considered the 50 people shaping the future of libraries," Shaffer said. "With over 100,000 libraries in the United States, the competition is very tough."

Only 650 people have been named as Movers and Shakers since the Library Journal began its recognition, including Shaffer, named in 2006 when an Administrative Librarian at the County of Los Angeles Public Library.

Shaffer stated, "Teresa's #1 attribute is her role as a community builder for the American Indian Nations. She brings the Nations and individual tribes together to celebrate their languages, their history, and their diversity."

"My parents and grandparents would tell me to do the best job that I could, no matter what it was," said Runnels about what inspires her. "I have always stuck to that."

Her job includes maintaining collections of non-fiction, fiction, periodicals, and media, overseeing two award selection committees and planning the award programs for the American Indian Writers award and the American Indian Circle of Honor award, planning the Festival of Words each March, hosting a story time once a month, planning programs for the Teen and Children's Sumer Reading Program, maintaining a webpage on the library website, and sending out a monthly newsletter.

"I try to maintain a library presence in the Indian community and maintain a presence for the AIRC at library events," said Runnels.

She accomplishes that by working with libraries within TCCL to provide cultural and native language programming, conducting outreach to tribes and tribal organizations, answering reference questions related to Indians for internal and external customers, and maintaining a tribal librarians distribution list.

"I look for ways to include native languages into the programs and projects that I work on," she said.

She started a series of "READ" posters that feature native people and a word in their tribal language that translates into "read" or activities related to reading. (She selected Sac and Fox tribal member Henrietta Massey for one of the 2012 posters.)

A new project she is working on is a native comic book series of programs, and she started a Cultural Garden last year.

Pictured (left to right): Judy Randle, Tulsa City-County Library Commission Chair; Mr. Wiley Washington (Teresa's father); Teresa Runnels American Indian Resource Center Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library; Mr. Gilbert Matthews (a close family friend), and Gary Shaffer Chief Executive Officer, Tulsa City-County Library. (Photo submitted by Tulsa City-County Library)

Runnels has been recognized in the past for her work in language preservation with the Oklahoma Humanities Council "Humanities in Education" Award (for the Native Language Supplemental Packet that included the Sac and Fox language) in 2011 and the City of Tulsa Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission Dreamkeepers Perry Aunko Indigenous Language Preservation Award in 2012.

"We are extremely proud of Teresa, as is her family," said Shaffer.

Her family consists of husband Jack Runnels and daughter Abby, father Wiley Washington (Muscogee Nation) and sister Peggy Fox. Her mother is the late Billie Washington (Sac and Fox Nation).

"The Sac and Fox Nation is proud of Teresa Runnels, and we thank and congratulate her for her work, not only on behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation but for all tribal nations," said SFN Principal Chief George Thurman. "Her efforts have brought honor not only to herself as an individual but also to her family, the Tulsa City-County Library, and the Sac and Fox Nation."

Melvil Dewey, the inventor of the Dewey decimal system, founded the Library Journal in 1876. The publication's article about Teresa Runnels can be found online at http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/people/movers-shakers-2014/teresa-runnels-movers-shakers-2014-advocates/. The Sac and Fox National Public Library has also posted a hard copy of the article on its bulletin board.

Upcoming Events

April 8
Sac and Fox Nation
Veterans' Meeting
Elders Bldg Stroud

April 9
Elders Advisory
Committee Meeting
Stroud 10 am

April 18
10 am - 2 pm
Elders Easter Party
Sac and Fox Elders/
Veterans Bldg
Stroud

April 19
Sac and Fox Nation
Easter Party
1 pm Community Bldg

May 10
Mothers Day Dance
Sac and Fox Gym

May 17-18
Camp Clean up
Pick up May 19 & June 23

May 31
Princess Competition
Communty Bldg
6 pm

Chief's Address To The Nation

Tribal Members,

Our Sac and Fox Nation is noted for fighting for our inherited sovereign rights, paving ways for other tribal nations as well as ourselves to protect our sovereignty, and will continue to preserve our right to self-governance.

Tribal nations across the United States have encouraged their memberships to register to vote, to exercise that right, and are making a difference in their respective areas by having representation in city, state, and national governments.

Native Vote!

A nationwide movement has been ongoing for many years to encourage tribal members to register and vote on the local, county, state, and national levels of government; as well as in their tribal elections.

I am encouraging our tribal membership, no matter where you may reside, to register and then exercise your right to vote. Check your local telephone directory to find the local Election Board location and telephone number to help you with your voter registration. Yes, your vote matters and does count by:

(1) Allowing you a say (voice) in how any government affects your family and the way you are taxed, consulted, and represented.

(2) Combining your voice with others that have a common cause/issue that collectively can make a difference/result that is in their/your best interest.

Local News

I included in my article within the March issue of our Sac and Fox News a threatening letter from the city of Shawnee, OK government that says we are required to collect and pay sales tax to them. In addition to their demand for payment, they passed an ordinance to criminalize the failure to report taxes due to them. They are threatening to take us to court!

The most powerful thing we have to fight this battle is our votes! 3100 people voted in the last City election, it takes only half of the votes plus one to win.

Getting all non-registered voters to register will be the first step. May 30th is the last day to register someone in time for the Shawnee City Commission elections to be held on Tuesday, June 24th. The application must be mailed and postmarked on or before May 30th.

If you live in Shawnee and are a registered voter, your vote is needed in the upcoming election. If any of your family are in Shawnee and are registered voters, we need your help in asking them to vote. If you live in Shawnee and are not registered to vote, we can help you register. Candidates for the three city wards #1, 5 and 6 are to be decided June 24th and the tribal nations will have our own candidates seeking the City Commission seats, thus needing your support by voting in this very important election. (See ward map on page 3)

Our two smoke shops and casino are located on federal Indian trust land. The casino location has been "allotted land" and there is a question as to if, when, and how the city annexed this land into the Shawnee city limits.

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Area Tribal leaders recently met to discuss tax concerns with the City of Shawnee. From Left: Principal Chief Sac and Fox Nation, George Thurman; Honorable Edwina Butler Wolf Governor Absentee Shawnee and Chairman John Barrett Citizen Potawatomi Nation (Photo Sac and Fox News)

Principal Chief George Thurman was officially sworn in March 12 after litigation was dropped concerning the past election. From Left: Second Chief, Orvena Gregory; Chief District Judge, Darrell Dowdy; Principal Chief, George Thurman; Marilyn Thurman and Marvin Thurman. (photo by SFN)