



Nemîshâtênemo êhthâkîwiyâni

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Chief's Address To The Nation

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps." Confucius

I want to thank all of the people that sent notices of support and prayers for the newly elected Business Committee officials. The growth of our Nation will depend on your support and the hard work of the elected officials and staff. There is a lot of work to be done beginning with the approval of new budget for the new fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015. As the quote says, don't adjust the goals but find solutions and steps needed to get the job done.



Elizabeth Kay Rhoads
Principal Chief
Sac and Fox Nation

The Business Committee has been meeting with the program directors to look at what goals they have set for their programs and problems they are facing. Many of the problems result in staff position unfilled, lack of program funds and a budget modification processes that slows down the release of program funds to serve the people. The BC will be reviewing and approving budgets and looking at a process to speed up the budget modification process.

What the BC has observed at this point is program funds are very limited and new funding sources will have to be identified to help support the programs and increase services to the tribal members. This will require new grants and economic development ventures. Many of the Directors have identified alternative funding sources but this will take time to secure the funding from outside sources.

The previous Business Committee began a process to de-

velop a casino in Cushing and the current Business Committee will continue to work on this development. The Sac and Fox Business Enterprise Board, Gaming Commission, Economic Development Director and Grants Writer have been meeting to plan the casino development. The creation of this casino hopefully will bring a bigger per capita and revenues to support needed programs to serve tribal members.

Businesses other than gaming will have to be developed to ensure the Nation has a diverse economy. The staff has offered various possibilities that are being explored as possible business ventures. Due diligence will have to be conducted on each plan before the Nation proceeds. There are several opportunities for us to explore that makes this a very exciting time for the Nation.

As we meet with the Program Directors, they share their goals and ideas on how to provide more or better services and grow their program activities without budget increases. The staff has been challenged to push themselves more and be more creative with their programs and jobs. I am confident they can rise to the challenge.

A lot of positions have not been filled and the programs need the staff to run more effectively and provide services that our tribal members need. The Business Committee has directed the various departments to proceed with the hiring of these positions and to prioritize the hiring of qualified Sac and Fox members.

Each day we discover new issues that must be resolved. The challenge of running the Nation is a huge undertaking but it offers so many opportunities and we are excited to accept the challenge of moving the Nation forward. We will work diligently to increase our economic development, increase program services and improve government operations.

Please check the Nation's website to get up-to-date information on the happening of the Nation. Governing Council meeting will be held quarterly to address concerns of the tribal members. A **Special Council meeting** has been re-scheduled for **October 10, 2015** to allow more time to get information on the agenda topics. A **RAP meeting** is scheduled for **October 24, 2015** to approve the RAP budget. The **Quarterly Council Meeting** will be scheduled for **December 12, 2015**. Please notify the Business Committee of any issues you want discussed at the Council Meeting by **November 13, 2015**.

There are several committees that have vacant positions and I encourage you to submit your name to serve on a committee. We need your help to serve as advisors and give input from our tribal members on what issues need to be addressed.

Thank you for your support and we will do our best to address the concerns of our Nation's members.



Sac and Fox Nation Newly Elected Officials: (From Left) Principal Chief, Elizabeth Kay Rhoads; Second Chief, Don Abney; Committee Member, Robert Williamson and Grievance Committee Member, Dora S. Young. (Photo SFNews)

A Yes Vote Could Give Pott County Schools a Boost

Since 2008, Oklahoma Public Schools have endured the worst funding crisis in the history of Oklahoma Education. Now, public schools in Pottawatomie County finally have hope that help is on the horizon. At a time when most local school boards have maxed out their bonded indebtedness and are unable to ask patrons for another bond issue for needed improvements, they must begin thinking "outside the box" to provide for their students.

In a bold move, a local group of Superintendents, along with the District Attorney, have asked the Pottawatomie County Commissioners to place a question on the ballot for the November 10th election to provide long term relief for the 14 public schools and their students. On November 10, 2015 voters will have the opportunity to go to the polls and make a resounding vote "YES" for the children

in Pottawatomie County! This vote will be in the form of a countywide 1/2 cent sales tax for a period of 10 years. The generated \$3.8 million per year would provide capital improvements at the 14 school districts in Pottawatomie County. Schools could construct, repair, and furnish buildings, while purchasing buses, technology, as well as much needed safety equipment. No salaries will be paid with these funds.

In addition to public schools, a small portion of the funds will equip and run a Juvenile Justice Center in Pottawatomie County called "One Safe Place". This center will house several countywide organizations that assist with juvenile victims' needs from the onset of the crime through the trial period. Juvenile victims and their families will be able to meet with law enforcement, obtain medical assistance, receive advice,

and counseling without having to travel.

As anyone can readily see, this proposal and vote will provide much needed help for all children in Pottawatomie County. Where will the sales tax come from? Sales tax is a tax levied on the sale of goods and services that is usually calculated as a percentage of the purchase price and collected by the seller. Keep in mind; since sales tax is collected from all retail sales in the county, all out-of-state and out-of-town travelers will assist county residents in paying this tax. Interstate 40 is well traveled and many people stop along this corridor on a daily basis to spend money in our county. The tax will be divided among the school districts on the basis of average daily membership.

Please see chart on page 11 for what this could do for your local school.

Black Hawk Health Center SoonerCare Primary Care Provider Program

By Don Whitehead Health Director BHHC

SoonerCare (Oklahoma Medicaid) is a health coverage program jointly funded by the federal and state government. This program helps pay some or all medical bills for many people who can't afford them. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is the state agency that administers the program and determines financial eligibility for the program.

Black Hawk Health Center is now a SoonerCare Primary Care Provider (PCP).

SFN Employees Receive Training

On Friday, September 11th the SFNPD in cooperation with the Sac and Fox Casino in Stroud hosted a training session for employees on identification of counterfeit currency and how to identify counterfeit or cloned credit cards.

The class was instructed by Agent William Wind of the Secret Service. The subject matter was informative and by the end of the class employees had a solid understanding of counterfeit detection/identification.

A SoonerCare PCP provider is someone who will be responsible for all your health care. They will coordinate and monitor all your medical needs, from treating you in the clinic to making medical necessary specialty referrals. Specifically, we will:

- See you for a check-up or for routine care
- See you when you are sick

or injured

- Refer you to a specialist if you need one, or
- Arrange for you to be admitted to a hospital

To pick Sac and Fox Nation/Black Hawk Health Center as your PCP, call 800-987-7767 and request us to be your PCP.

Our patient benefits coordinator can also help you with this.



Agent William Wind of the Secret Service instructing a training class on identifying counterfeiting. (Photo Major A.M. Selfridge)

Upcoming Events

October 10
Special Council Meeting

October 13
Sac and Fox Nation Veterans Meeting Cultural Center

October 14
Sac and Fox Elders Meeting Stroud 10 am Title 5 Dining Room November 4, 10 am Shawnee

October 15
Sac & Fox Nation Womens Auxiliary

October 24
RAP Council