



# THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

// AUGUST 2021

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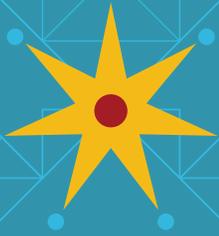
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# THE SHAWNEE TRIBE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS

### GREETINGS TRIBAL CITIZEN,

These past few weeks, our administrative offices have been hectic with the processing of CARES Act distributions of fifteen hundreds dollars to the Shawnee Tribe's adult citizens. About half of the qualifying Shawnee Tribe's citizens have been processed at the time of this writing. If you still have not completed your application, please hurry to complete it prior to the September 30 due date. Online applications can be found on the Shawnee Tribe's website.

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned the Shawnee Tribe's victory in federal court that resulted in our receiving CARES Act dollars for our peoples, but we have also since received funds from the American Rescue Plan. Receipt of these monies and the obligations that accompany them have challenges that we are meeting by increasing the staff of the Shawnee Tribe. We are no longer an organization that has a couple of handfuls of employees. We are quickly approaching thirty employees, and I suspect we will exceed forty full-time positions within a couple of years. As we have always done, our practice has been to prefer Shawnee applicants when deciding between job candidates.

While the CARES Act monies must be spent before the conclusion of this year, the funds provided to our Nation from the American Rescue

**CHIEF**  
**BEN BARNES**



Plan will be eligible to use until the end of 2024. Last newsletter, I mentioned the Shawnee phrase “ke’melonaatehe”, or to do something at a measured and considered pace. It is with “ke’melonaatehe” in mind that we are crafting a process for our Nation to adequately plan for our people during this lingering pandemic. The planning processes we are developing will measure the needs of you and your family to fund the pressing needs of the Shawnee people.

We also have some great, new programs to share with you when we see you at the annual meeting. As we did last year, we are again planning with pandemic prevention measures in mind. Details for the annual meeting are on p. 4 and Business Council candidate info begins on page 9.

On behalf of my office, the Business Council, and the rest of the Shawnee Tribe’s administration, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

niyaawe, hini lekhi, ke’pekwihoоло



Ben Barnes  
Chief



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS

### **hato caaki wiyefa,**

I hope that everyone is doing well as the pandemic continues. I know that many are still experiencing difficulties and will for some time. I would like to assure you that we are doing our best to serve you by restoring programs such as education assistance and adding new programs such as burial assistance. In the recent past, we were forced to suspend programs such as educational assistance when supporting funds to that program and others disappeared. Today as we bring those programs back, we are determined to ensure that those programs will have support for generations to come. I would also like to inform all citizens that we plan for most of the tribal supported programs to serve all citizens from coast to coast and abroad. In the future, you will see many changes aimed at providing everyone with information about our tribe in culture, language, program accessibility and citizen support.

Over the past two years, our tribal government has shared many new experiences accelerated by COVID-19 and other changes. In the past, for instance, council meetings often took only a couple of hours. Today they have been expanded to two days a month, often going from 3 to 4 hours. The recent CARES Act COVID-19 financial assistance checks were only able to be issued because of a lawsuit we were forced to file against the federal government, beginning with

**SECOND CHIEF**  
**ROY BALDRIDGE**

# SHAWNEE TRIBE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021**

**8:00 – 11:00 AM / POLLS OPEN**

(Learn about the candidates running for Business Council Seats 5 & 6 on page 9.)

**11:00 AM / MEETING BEGINS**

Temperature checks will be required of all attendees. Family tents will be available for households to sit together. Masks, physically distanced seating, handwashing stations and bottled beverages will be provided.

the Trump administration and ending with the Biden administration. Chief Barnes's eloquence during meetings with the federal government and other tribes ensured rectification for not only our tribe, but also for many smaller tribes that shared our experience of being miscounted by the U.S. Treasury.

Today, as a result of our past, we are proactive in planning our future. We are constantly contacting other tribes such as the Chickasaw Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee to learn best practices and pitfalls to avoid as we prepare for a self-sustaining future for all Shawnee citizens. We are working toward transparent operations and communications so that citizens' ideas about our tribe's future may always be part of the discussion. In closing, I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

nियाawe



Roy Baldrige  
Second Chief



## LOCATION

**OTTAWA POWWOW GROUNDS**

**11400 S. 613 RD, MIAMI, OK 74354**

# ELDERLY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AVAILABLE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

The Elderly Energy Assistance Program (EEAP) assists eligible tribal elder households that are unable to pay utilities (electric, water, gas, propane, sewer, trash removal) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EEAP can assist eligible elder households with current utility payments or a window air condition unit. Telecommunication services (telephone, cable, Internet) delivered to the dwelling are not considered to be utilities. This program is only available to enrolled Shawnee Tribal elders aged 55 and older. This program is limited to one tribal member per household. The amount paid on a utility bill by EEAP will not exceed \$150 (anything over that amount will be paid by the citizen). Funding is available on a first come, first served basis through September 30.



## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Enrolled Shawnee Tribal citizen must be 55 years or older
- 2 Tribal Elder must reside in Oklahoma
- 3 Tribal Elder can not apply for LIHEAP and EEAP during the same funding period  
(May 7 - September 30, 2021)

## TO APPLY

Please contact the Tribe at (918) 542-2441 or email [housing@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:housing@shawnee-tribe.com) to request an application.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Completed application
- ✓ Copy of Tribal Enrollment Card for Tribal household members
- ✓ Copy of Social Security Cards for all household members
- ✓ Copy of Utility Bill  
(Bill must be in tribal member or spouse's name)  
(Account number must be on bill)

VISIT SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM  
AND CLICK



# VEHICLE TAGS

TO START YOUR RENEWAL APPLICATION

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## TAG RENEWALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Visit [shawnee-tribe.com](http://shawnee-tribe.com) and click or tap on 'Vehicle Tags' to start your renewal application today. Email any questions to [tagrenewals@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:tagrenewals@shawnee-tribe.com).

NEED A NEW TAG?

Come by the tag office Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm.

We recommend calling ahead to make an appointment during office hours. 918 - 542 - 2441

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## IMPACT ASSISTANCE

Under the United States Department of Treasury's CARES Act Funding, adult Shawnee citizens may apply for assistance to help alleviate the financial burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The application period will end on September 30, 2021.** Applications postmarked or submitted online after this date will not be processed.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT 1,415 OF OUR ELIGIBLE CITIZENS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED & RECEIVED ASSISTANCE AS OF AUGUST 13, 2021!**

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M NOT YET 18 BUT WILL TURN 18 BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE? (SEPTEMBER 30)**  
Applications for citizens who are turning 18 before September 30th will be processed immediately following their birthdate. We recommend that these citizens wait until the week of their 18th birthday to submit their application.

**IT HAS BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE I SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION—WHY HAVEN'T I RECEIVED MY CHECK YET?**  
Approved applications are all submitted to our finance team and sent via USPS First Class mail service within two weeks. Since the tribe has no control over the speed at which USPS First Class mail is delivered, we request that citizens remain patient.

**I NEED TO CHANGE THE ADDRESS THAT MY CHECK IS GOING TO BE DELIVERED. WHERE DO I GO TO DO THAT?**  
Please be careful of this when submitting your application—the address that you submit on your application is the address to which we will mail your impact relief payment. Due to the volume of applications we have received, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to change your delivery address before your check has been mailed. Email [cares@shawnee-tribe.com](mailto:cares@shawnee-tribe.com) and your request will be processed in the order that it's received.



# WANT TO HEAR FROM US MORE OFTEN?

- **SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS**  
AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT [SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM](http://SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM)
- **FOLLOW OUR OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE**  
[FACEBOOK.COM/SAAWANOOKI](http://FACEBOOK.COM/SAAWANOOKI)
- **PREFER TO RECEIVE NEWS THROUGH MAIL?**  
LET US KNOW BY CALLING 918-542-2441 OR FILLING OUT AND MAILING BACK THE FORM BELOW!
- **KNOW ANY SHAWNEES WHO'VE MOVED RECENTLY?**  
LET THEM KNOW TO UPDATE THEIR ADDRESS WITH US!

CUT OUT AND MAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:

**SHAWNEE TRIBE**  
29 S HWY 69A  
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74354



**I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS:**

(CHECK ONE OR BOTH)

- VIA:  EMAIL  
 NEW MAILING ADDRESS

CITIZEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

## RUNNING FOR SHAWNEE BUSINESS COUNCIL

An election shall be held at the general council meeting on September 18, 2021 for the following elective offices: Fifth Councilman and Sixth Councilman to the Shawnee Tribe Business Council.



### MONTY COOMBES

FIFTH SEAT (INCUMBENT)

HOMETOWN:	VINITA, OK
CURRENT CITY:	TULSA, OK
OCCUPATION:	COURIER

Hello, My name is Monty Coombes. I am running for Shawnee Tribal Business Council fifth seat. I have held this position for the last few years. During my time on the council, we have made our tribe a bigger and better tribe. From getting our tribe on a good financial path to getting our casino out in Guymon, Oklahoma up and running. I grew up in Vinita, OK, but live in Tulsa, OK. I have worked for Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa for over 25 years. I have worked in the hospitality and casino industries. I am an Eagle Scout and a Value Award winner from Saint Francis Hospital.

**I am seeking election to the Business Council to help finish what we have done for the past few years that I have been on the council. And to make our tribe a better tribe for the future of our citizens.**

*If re-elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?*

I have the knowledge of the hospitality industry and how it works (hotel and casino).

*If re-elected, what issues affecting Shawnee Citizens do you intend to prioritize the most?*

There are several issues that we need to prioritize. It is hard to put them in order or which one needs to go ahead of others. But we need our language, educations for our young tribal members, taking care of our elders, and saving our culture.

*If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?*

E-mail me at [mwcharliebc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwcharliebc@sbcglobal.net) or call 918-660-0099 and leave a message.



# LEE BLUEJACKET

## SIXTH SEAT

**HOMETOWN:** WELCH, OK  
**CURRENT CITY:** BLUEJACKET, OK  
**OCCUPATION:** ATHLETIC DIRECTOR  
 TEACHER / COACH

Hatito,

My name is Lee Bluejacket, and I am extremely excited to be able to declare my candidacy for a council seat of our Shawnee Tribe. I am very proud to be Shawnee and am a descendant of Chief Blue Jacket, one of the greatest leaders and military tacticians in the history of our tribe. I reside in the town of Bluejacket that was founded by Chief and Reverend Charles Blue Jacket that was the grandson of Chief Blue Jacket. I am a long-time educator and currently teach at Bluejacket Public Schools, where I am also a coach and athletic director. I am also a small business owner, and with my education and life experiences, I will utilize my skills to promote and grow our tribe and our people.

**The reason I wish to be elected is to be able to contribute to the success of our tribe and to help us grow as a tribe so the Shawnee people can be more prosperous in life.**

### *If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?*

The personal qualities I would bring to the Business Council are Leadership, Work Ethic, Business Mindset and most of all Passion. As our tribe and infrastructure grow, it is beneficial to have a person such as myself on the council that has the traits to achieve things for our people. With my educator and business background, I will bring an expertise to the council needed to move forward, and with my passion and work ethic, things will be accomplished, and I will not use the position just as a social hour or for status only.

### *If elected, what issues affecting Shawnee Citizens do you intend to prioritize the most?*

The three top issues I would prioritize most are Education, Careers and Health Care. Shawnee people that want to seek an education through a Trade School, Certificate Program or College should be able to do so without putting a financial burden on their family. I see the major need to fill trade careers and these high-paying careers could be filled by Shawnee tribal members, and I will work endlessly to achieve this as it addresses two major issues with our people in education and employment. As an educator and small business owner, I have the insight to achieve great progress in these areas if given the opportunity to do so. There is no reason why society is begging to employ someone that can have a great paying career of \$20 to \$100 per hour and can't fill it with a Shawnee.

The next issue is health care, and this is something that every member will face at some degree. I believe it is a shame to have someone on a contact health board approve procedures and deem whether or not it is a necessity of life. If a Dr. determines a procedure is needed, then it should be provided, period.

In closing, I have a passion for education and business and would love to have your vote so I can be in a position to utilize my talents to grow our tribe and promote the education and general welfare of the Shawnee people.

### *If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?*

I have an open door policy and will always be available to my people so don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I ask for your support and vote at the General Council Meeting and if you have any questions or comments I can be contacted through email at: lbluejacket@bluejacket.k12.ok.us or Facebook messenger on my FB page of Lee Bluejacket or by text or call on my personal cell at 918-961-0239.

Niyaawe,  
Lee Bluejacket



## ROBERTA COOMBES

SIXTH SEAT (INCUMBENT)

HOMETOWN:	VINITA, OK
CURRENT CITY:	TULSA, OK
OCCUPATION:	RETIRED

I am Roberta Coombes, and I am running for re-election for the 6th seat on the Shawnee Tribal Business Council. My parents are Calvin and Elizabeth Dick. I grew up at White Oak, Oklahoma. I graduated from Vinita High School, then I went to NEO A & M in Miami, Oklahoma where I met my husband. We have three children. We were married for 60 years. J.C. passed away in 2017. I retired from Vinita Public Schools in 1991. I worked in the Indian Education Office for 15 years. I have served in the following organizations: Red Cross Board for Craig County, Craig County Genealogical Society (treasurer), National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Craig General Hospital Vinita, (VIM) for Craig County Retired Educators, and AARP nominee for the Shawnee Tribe.

**I would appreciate your vote on Saturday, September 18, 2021. I would like to finish some of the things we have started.**

*If re-elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?*

To make our tribe a better tribe for our citizens.

*If re-elected, what issues affecting Shawnee Citizens do you intend to prioritize the most?*

We have a lot of issues that need to be prioritized. There is no way to say which one we need more than another. Our issues right now that we need to be prioritized are our tribal elders and education.

*If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?*

They can contact me by email at [robertacoombes@gmail.com](mailto:robertacoombes@gmail.com)



## BRITTANY HALL

### SIXTH SEAT

**HOMETOWN:** CLAREMORE, OK  
**CURRENT CITY:** LAWRENCE, KS  
**OCCUPATION:** GRANT COORDINATOR  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Hato! My name is Brittany Hall, and I am running for 6th Council seat. I am Bird Creek Shawnee and great great granddaughter of Joseph Axe Washington. I was adopted at a young age and unfortunately did not get to grow up around our people. Once I grew into my adult years, I felt the calling back home. Now, we travel home as frequently as possible to be with our people. I now raise my son in the Shawnee ways with our identity and have made this a commitment as a parent and in our community. I am an alumni of Haskell Indian Nations University, which I give thanks to for helping me find this path, by attending general council, ceremonies at White Oak, and the KC Cultural Preservation Sub Committee. Currently I have roles with Haskell Alumni Association, Native Staff and Faculty at Kansas University, Haskell Board of Regents, and adjunct professor at Haskell. **I want to help Shawnees move into the future and gain opportunities that our ancestors could not. I have experience working with diversified communities I believe will help contribute to building a culturally sustainable future for our children and elders.**

#### *If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?*

Some of the personal qualities I possess to bring to the Business Council are my attention to details, my voice on advocacy, honesty, resilience, accountability, problem solving and my drive and passion for our citizens.

#### *If elected, what issues affecting Shawnee Citizens do you intend to prioritize the most?*

Some of the issues I would prioritize would be to help all citizens with the pandemic and the outcomes we have all faced. This could be from healthcare for all, mental health and overall wellness of each individual. I want to help ensure we have made sure all elders have been taken care of and first with their health and our Shawnee language. Then our focus would be the children to be the next generational leaders and everyone's education.

#### *If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?*

The best way to reach me is my cell phone and email [bhall@shawnee-nsn.gov](mailto:bhall@shawnee-nsn.gov). I do my best to respond as quickly as possible to help assist.



## MIKE 'MICK' SEARS

### SIXTH SEAT

HOMETOWN:	VINITA, OK
CURRENT CITY:	WELCH, OK
OCCUPATION:	ROAD FOREMAN

I graduated from Vinita High School in 1988. After graduation, I went on to welding school at North Eastern Vo-Tech Welding School. I became a welder and have been welding for twenty years. During that time, I became the Fab Shop Forman for Express metal Fabricators. Worked in Heavy Equipment Operations where I'm currently employed.

**I want to preserve the Shawnee culture and Language for our children and grandchildren and help our elders however we can.**

*If elected, what personal qualities will you bring to the Business Council?*

Honesty and Integrity.

*If elected or re-elected, what issues affecting Shawnee citizens do you intend to prioritize the most?*

Try to make sure our language and culture education programs continue.

*If a citizen has further questions for you, what is the best way for them to contact you?*

I can be reached by email at [michaelsears2016@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsears2016@gmail.com).

# SAAWANWAATOWEWE

## SHAWNEE LANGUAGE WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden LEFT, DOWN and DIAGONAL.

NOTE: The glottal stops have been removed from the word search grid.

haateekwa (crow)

mhwewa (wolf)

msifwa (rattlesnake)

wiinasi (buzzard/vulture)

kakaalhwe (raven)

paskitipeefomfoofwa (buffalo)

wiskilofa (bird)

metkwa (golden eagle)

miyaalwe (hoot owl)

waapalanyefi (bald eagle)

H E W F A A Y I M S S L W S P F A K W O  
N L F C P L F O N K M A Y W L C K M C Y  
I S C Y M I K Y K E C T Y N H W P I L C  
Y K P M F L C N O A W K T E M M L I O L  
P A S K I T I P E E F O M F O O F W A S  
C W C P W F P E F M H S T N P K P K H C  
E F N S A F O L I K S I W T S N H I I N  
M I S P C K A E W L A A Y I M E O W P Y  
H S O S M S K A K A A L H W E I H K L H  
W M A K C W A I P A L A N Y E F I Y P T  
E K T O T M C F Y T S P T M M A W E C N  
W P N C A O A P M E L K H Y S M C K N W  
A A Y H F L I W A W I I N A S I F T K P  
M O P O A W K E E T A A H F I E H T P E  
P K T K H E A N O I L O F A M F C W T S



**SHAWNEE TRIBE  
29 S HWY 69A  
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA  
74354 U.S.A.**

PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 777  
OKLA CITY OK

\*Please note, there was a typo in the June issue of the Shawnee Journal that had the date of this meeting as September 19. The correct date is September 18.

OTTOMA TRIBE POWWOW GROUNDS  
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA

## **ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING & BUSINESS COUNCIL ELECTION**

**SEPTEMBER 18**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
YOU CAN VIEW A SHAWNEE TRIBE COMMUNITY CALENDAR  
ON OUR WEBSITE? ON YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE,  
VISIT SHAWNEE-TRIBE.ORG/EVENTS

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

