



THE SHAWNEE JOURNAL

JUNE 2022

IN SAAWANWAATOWEEWE, JUNE IS PO'KAMAAWIKIISFWA (LIT. "PLUM MONTH")

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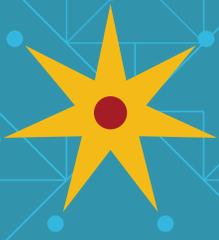
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THE SHAWNEE TRIBE

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS

hato saawanooki

(Hello Shawnee citizens)

At the end of April, I was privileged to join President Fawn Sharp (National Congress of American Indians) and Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin (Cherokee Nation) at the United Nations in New York City to deliver remarks to member states and representatives of the Indigenous peoples of the world. President Sharp reiterated her previous calls for member states to adhere to the principles of “free, prior, and informed consent,” while Chief Hoskin described the fantastic work his nation has done by creating jobs centered around preserving the Cherokee language.

I spoke to the assembled nations of the world and her Indigenous peoples about boarding schools, reeducation centers, and manual labor camps used by member states to indoctrinate and assimilate Indigenous peoples. As you’re more than likely aware, these historic and ongoing practices remove children from their communities and deprive them of their languages, traditions, and cultures. In too many instances, these practices expose children to abuse. I called upon all member nations to cease these harmful practices and immediately return the stolen lands upon which the perpetrators built these so-called educational institutions.

CHIEF
BEN BARNES

Then on May 12, the Shawnee Tribe was one of five parties asked to share testimony regarding HR 5444, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. Second Chief Baldrige and I flew to Washington DC at the invitation of the US House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States to speak to members of Congress about the impact of the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School. The only tribal leader in attendance, I testified for our Shawnee children in solidarity with boarding school survivors Jim LaBelle (Inupiaq), Dr. Ramona Charette Klein (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), and Matthew War Bonnet (Oglala), and the CEO of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, Deb Parker (Tulalip).

During my time in this office, I've been forced to reckon more than ever with the intergenerational effects that boarding schools and other assimilation methods have imposed on our people. From the coercive push on Shawnee families to abandon their identity and culture to pernicious ideas passed down that claim learning saawanwaatoweewe (the Shawnee language) is "useless" or even "no good."

But in the few weeks since returning from Washington, Business Council members and I traveled to Topeka, KS, to meet with Governor Laura Kelly and witnessed her signing Senate Bill 405, which returned to the Tribe a half-acre cemetery where members of the Parks, Silverheels, and Bluejacket families are buried. The next day, our Business Council gathered for a weekend of

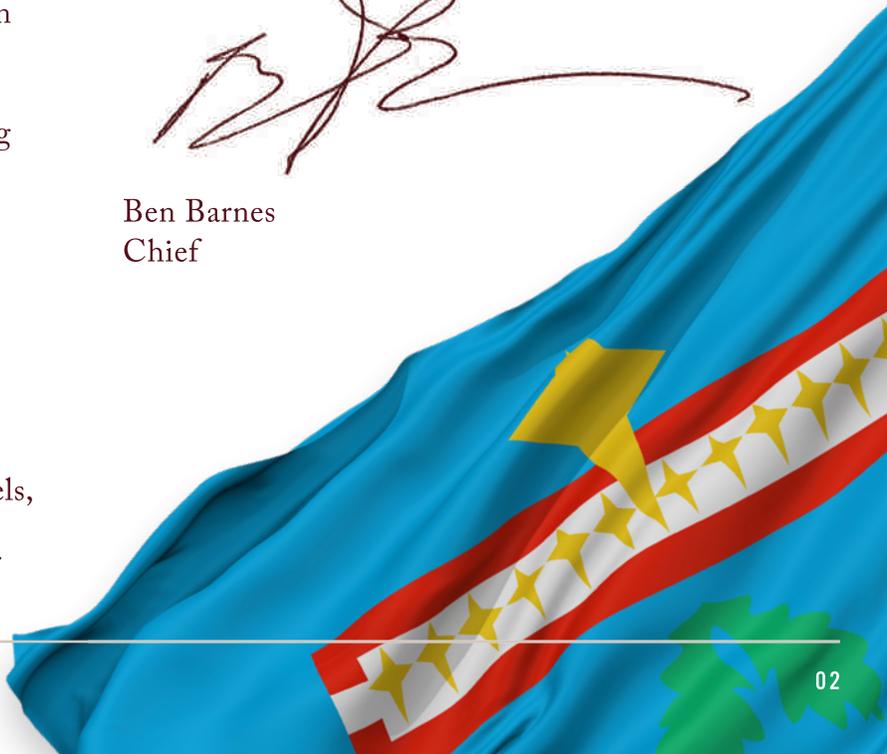
special planning sessions to discuss the Tribe's growth over the past year and lay out strategic goals for the next. Our administrative staff continues to roll out new housing assistance and social service programs. We have close to 5% of our citizens participating in the Shawnee Language Immersion Program, and scores of Shawnee students are now receiving meaningful financial aid for their continuing education.

I am tremendously excited about these developments, and we will be adding even more opportunities as our programs continue to grow. If you or a loved one need information about higher education assistance (summer deadline is June 15!), contact Joshua Shawnee at education@shawnee-tribe.com. All of our staff's contact information is available at shawnee-tribe.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.



Ben Barnes
Chief



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS

hatito caaki wiyeefa

(Hello everyone)

I hope that all is well for you and your families. Since my last letter, many of the programs mentioned at that time have now been implemented. It is our hope that those can not only be sustained but expanded and that other programs can be added to meet our citizen's needs.

In addition to the implementation of programs, many of you have noticed changes to our tribal website allow for greater accessibility to information regarding news and programs. The noticeable changes are the result of a new Communications Department headed by Maggie Boyett. As I write this letter, Language Director Joel Barnes and his staff have made amazing strides towards the revitalization of our Shawnee language by offering virtual classes to citizens across the country.

Many of you have also noticed that the number of staff has increased at the tribal offices here in Miami and in Guymon. This expansion has occurred with the intent to better serve the citizens of the Shawnee tribe by delivering services that have been needed and deserved for some time and are finally possible. As with any change or growth, occasional hiccups

SECOND CHIEF
ROY BALDRIDGE

can be expected. It is our goal to address situations as they occur.

Over the last couple of years Chief Barnes, the Business Council, our staff and I have worked hard to reinstitute lost programs and add new ones. I am witness to the countless time put in by Chief Barnes beyond normal business hours. I have witnessed many 4-hour monthly Council meetings that have occasionally required additional dates to ensure that programs developed by staff were ready for implementation.

Every day, I remember and appreciate the hard work that has been done by previous Council members and staff. Their efforts have made today possible. As our Tribe moves into a more complicated future, I have to say that it is an honor to work with them, Chief Barnes, the current Business Council and staff as we continue to work for a sustainable future for you, our children and future generations.

niyaawe (thank you)



Roy Dean Baldrige

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 6 – JUNE 17
BUSINESS COUNCIL ELECTION FILING PERIOD

More information on page 15.

JUNE 17 – JUNE 20
SERPENT MOUND SUMMER SOLSTICE TRIP

More information on page 7.

SEPTEMBER 17
ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING IN MIAMI, OK

SEPTEMBER 30
ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION IN FAIRWAY, KS

SEPTEMBER 30
FISCAL YEAR ENDS

Check shawnee-nsn.gov/services for important deadlines regarding citizen programs.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MARCH 26, 2022

The proposed amendment to Section 1 of Article XII of the Shawnee Tribe Constitution passed at the Special Meeting and Vote of the Tribal Council by unanimous vote and has been adopted.

Shawnee citizen Betty McDowell (age 93, of Miami) who was in attendance and cast her ballot, shared with the Tribe the following handwritten note:

"I was very Impressed"

*It gave me a sense of Belonging.
It reminded me of my Heritage
The quality of Leadership of past years
and The Quality of Leadership of present days*

*Niyasaw
Betty*



SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO READ THE AMENDMENT AND VIEW THE VOTE CERTIFICATION

APRIL RECOGNIZED AS

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In collaboration with the Tribe's Indian Child Welfare Office, the Office of the Chief designated **April 2022** as Child Abuse Prevention Month with proclamation 2022-04-01. Staff participated in #OKWearsBlue on April 1 to kick off the month of awareness.



UPCOMING EVENT

SUMMER SOLSTICE AT SERPENT MOUND

JUNE 17-20, 2022

Gather with us for the 2022 summer solstice at Serpent Mound in Peebles, OH. Programming provided in partnership with the Ohio History Connection.

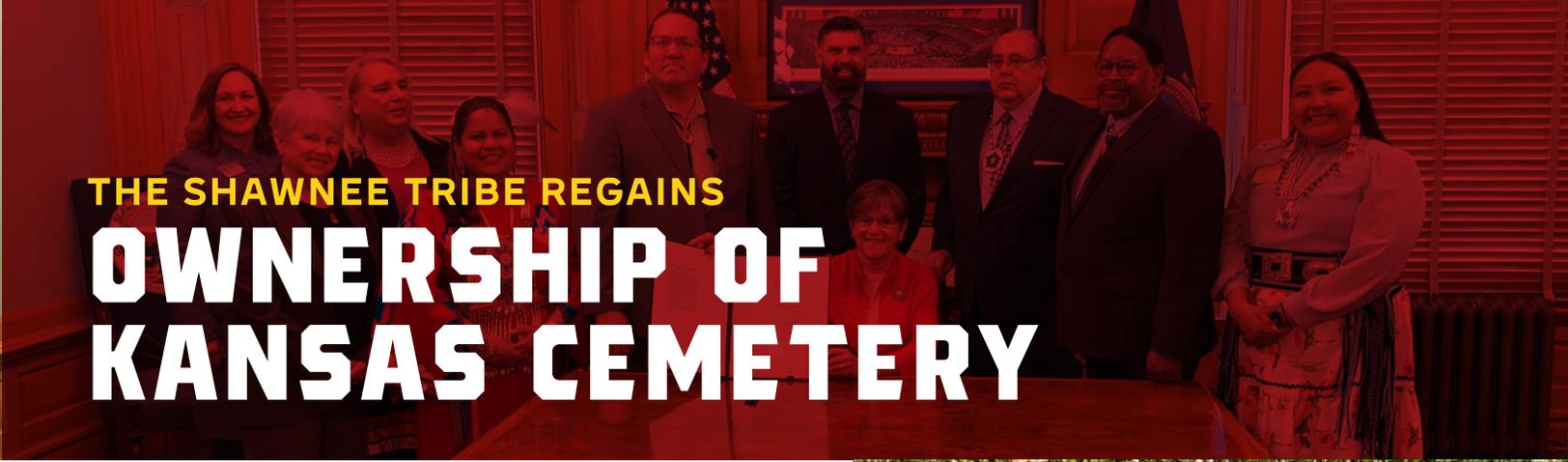
Roundtrip charter bus transportation between Miami, OK and Ohio, three nights of hotel accommodations, and some meals will be provided by the Tribe. Participating citizens are only responsible for a nominal commitment fee

(\$200 for a single room / \$100 to share a room), due no later than June 10. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Citizens in need of financial assistance to cover some or all of the commitment fee or other expenses should contact us at the email or phone number above. Given the administrative costs and anticipated demand for this trip, cancellations after June 10 will only be refunded on a case-by-case basis.

**TO SIGN UP, CONTACT US AT:
SOLSTICE@SHAWNEE-TRIBE.COM
(918)542-2441, EXT. 132
OR
SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP**





THE SHAWNEE TRIBE REGAINS

OWNERSHIP OF KANSAS CEMETERY

In May, Kansas Governor Laura Kelley signed Senate Bill 405, authorizing the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), to convey the Shawnee Indian Cemetery located in Johnson County, to the Shawnee Tribe. The 0.52 acre parcel of land is the final resting place of Shawnee personages such as Chief Joseph Parks and family members of famous general Chief Bluejacket.

“The Shawnee Tribe considers the cemetery a sacred place, a traditional cultural property,” said Chief Ben Barnes. **“We are committed to protecting the gravesites of our ancestors and to the preservation and conservation of the historical, archeological character of the site.”**

The Shawnee Indian Cemetery is located near Nieman Road and W 59th Terrace, in Shawnee, Kansas. Chief Barnes and Second Chief Baldrige previously met with the leadership of





the City of Shawnee with plans to continue relationship-building between the Shawnee Tribe and the City of Shawnee.

“Besides being a sacred site for our people, it also signifies the general location of our last true home,” said Second Chief Roy Baldrige. **“We are grateful to the Kansas Legislature and the Governor’s office for the conveyance of the cemetery. We also appreciate the assistance of the Kansas Historic Preservation Office.”**

The Kansas Attorney General has reviewed and approved the deeds and conveyance. The bill states the Shawnee Tribe agrees to pay all costs related to the conveyance and grants the State a historic preservation easement that will reflect current federal preservation laws regarding properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.





SAAWANWAATOWEEWE STUDENTS WIN AT LANGUAGE FAIR

CONGRATULATIONS!

Young students from the Shawnee Language Immersion Program participated in the Sam Noble Language Fair on April 4, 2022.

Winning entries from our students were presented by Eloisa Roach, Gage Stand, Mya Blanchard, Cecily Blanchard and Kaya Stand.



VIEW THEIR STORY ON YOUTUBE!

SCAN THIS WITH YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA

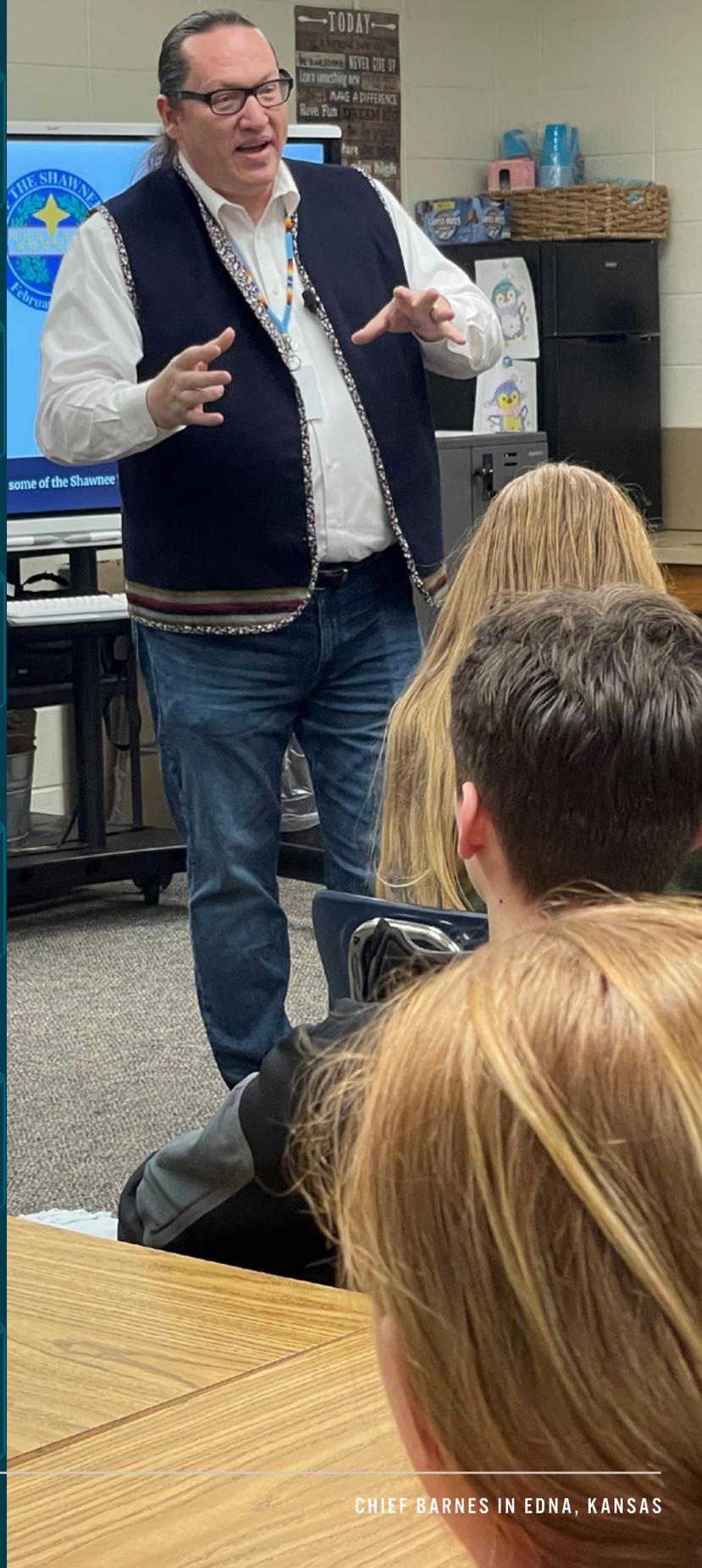


CHIEF BARNES VISITS

PRIMARY SCHOOL ALMA MATER

Chief Barnes spoke to a class of 7th graders at Edna School in Edna, Kansas.

Chief Barnes attended school at Edna in his youth and spoke about tribal sovereignty while taking questions from students.





GOLDEN MESA

CASINO VISIT

In late March, the Shawnee Tribe Gaming Commission staff was thrilled to host one of our Commissioners Kathie Kent. Commissioner Kent and her husband traveled to Guymon, OK to visit Commission Staff and tour the Golden Mesa Casino. Pictured are Internal Auditor Consuelo McFadden, Mr. Kent, Commissioner Kent, Staff Accountant Melissa Padilla, Executive Director Otis Hughs, Compliance Officer Marla Gonzales and not pictured are Lead Compliance Officer Lisa Gipson and Licensing Agent Elvia Hernandez.

SHAWNEE SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING PROGRAMS

NEW! DOWN PAYMENT CLOSING COSTS ASSISTANCE

The Tribe will provide financial assistance up to \$7,500 assistance in down payment closing costs to relieve a portion of the financial burden to purchase a new home.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Program assistance may only be used for the applicant’s primary residence.
Only one (1) Down Payment Closing Costs Program assistance/grant per household is allowed.
All payments or checks will be paid directly to the title company or appropriate financial closing institution.

PK-12 SCHOOL CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT

The Tribe will assist qualified students with up to \$400 for clothing and shoes. All clothing purchase receipts must be turned in before September 15.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Shawnee Tribal citizens, age 4 years or older must be enrolled in a State certified Head Start program or Pre-K through 12th grade.
The household the student lives in must fall at or below the following gross income thresholds* that correspond with household size.

Household Size	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four People	Five People	Six People	Seven People	Eight People
Gross Income Maximum	\$44,744	\$51,236	\$57,528	\$63,920	\$69,034	\$74,147	\$79,261	\$84,374

*If your household does not meet the income guidelines as listed but you are otherwise eligible, please contact us.

SUMMER 2022 HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS

Undergraduate, graduate, doctorate and vocational program financial assistance available.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: JUNE 15

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

The Tribe will provide financial assistance up to \$5,000 for the costs incurred in connection with the funeral and burial services of the named deceased, after all other financial and insurance funding is depleted.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any enrolled Shawnee Tribal Citizen (Family members or a representative may apply on the deceased's behalf. A representative of the deceased is defined as the individual(s) officially coordinating funerary services with the funeral home.)

Applications and supporting documents must be received by the Social Services Department within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date of death.

Applicant income, location, or dual citizenship status will not be used to determine applicant eligibility. All program assistance will be awarded as funding is available.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP provides financial assistance to help very low-income households pay for the costs of heating and cooling their homes. Because the funding is provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services and restricted to a state-based program, a tribe can serve only residents of the state in which it is headquartered. For this the reason, LIHEAP funding is available only to Shawnee Tribe citizens living in Oklahoma.

For full program guidelines and more information about all citizen programs & services, visit shawnee-nsn.gov/services.

ELECTION NOTICE

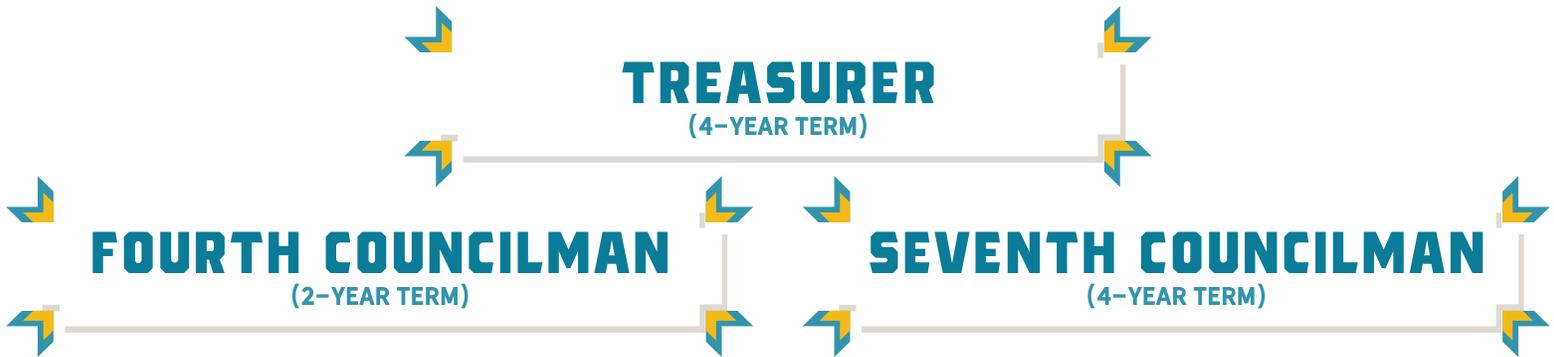
CALL FOR DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

QUALIFICATIONS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe, and Title 6 of the Shawnee Tribe Elections Act, the Election Committee of the Shawnee Tribe announces an election shall be held on September 17, 2022, for the following elective offices:

AS PER THE SHAWNEE TRIBE CONSTITUTION AND TRIBAL ELECTION ACT.

SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO VIEW THE ELECTION ACT



OPENS

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

CLOSES

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022

MANNER OF FILING

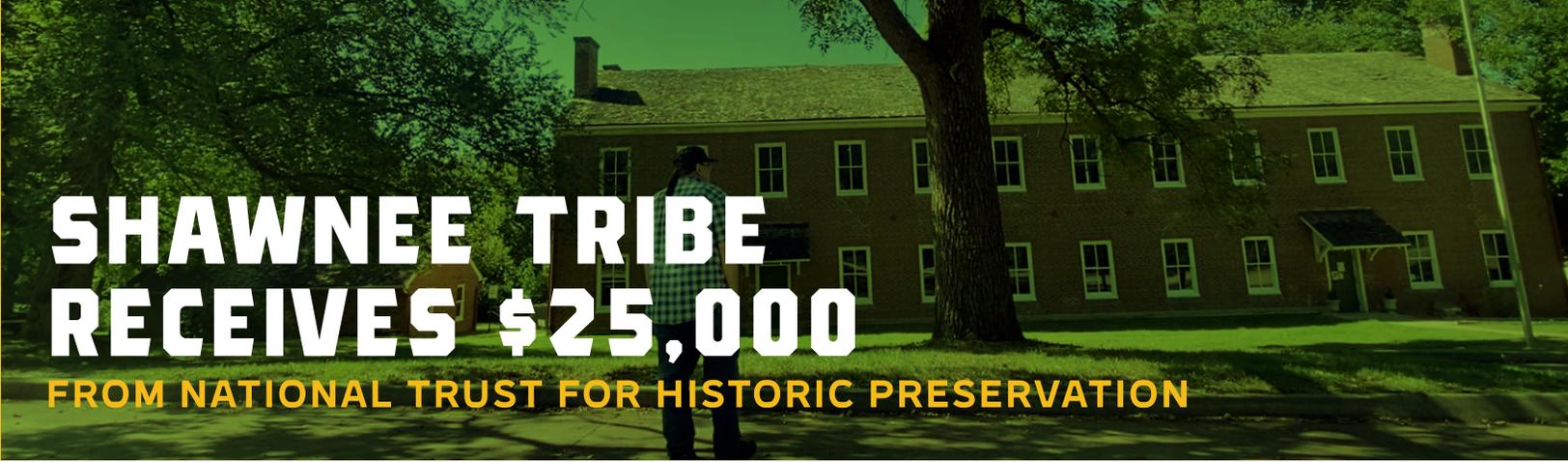
Submit a handwritten or typed statement indicating intent to run, signed by the candidate. Include title of office in which candidate is filing for, candidate's Shawnee citizen enrollment number; full name, mailing address, and primary phone number. Tribal staff will receive filings by mail or in-person delivery. Please phone the office to arrange hand-delivered filings. All filings must be postmarked by June 17, 2022.

FILING FEES

Council Seat: \$15 Treasurer: \$20
The filing fee must be included with candidate statement; personal checks, cashier's checks, and money orders will be accepted.

WHERE TO MAIL

Shawnee Tribe, c/o Election Committee
P.O. Box 189, Miami, OK 74355
918-542-2441 or 918-325-6341



SHAWNEE TRIBE RECEIVES \$25,000

FROM NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

At a virtual news conference on April 7, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Telling the Full History Preservation Fund announced its award of \$25,000 to the Shawnee Tribe. The grant is one of 80 given to select organizations nationwide with projects that helped preserve, interpret, and activate historic places to tell the stories of underrepresented groups in our nation.

This grant will help the Tribe prepare an official Historic Structure Report for the three two-story brick buildings of the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School in Fairway, KS, which is perhaps the oldest, surviving federally mandated Indian Boarding School in the US. A Historic Structure Report, or HSR, is acknowledged in the museum and preservation industries as the baseline for preserving and managing historic sites. It is important for an HSR to be robust, including details on the site's historic significance, building chronology or changes over time, existing conditions and recommendations for repairs & maintenance. This grant from the National Trust and the forthcoming HSR will support the Shawnee Tribe's overall goal of completing a full-period restoration of this Shawnee Sacred Site and creating an updated interpretive program with an accurate history to restore this National Landmark to its period of significance.

"We are encouraged to have the support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Kansas State Historical Society as we begin to uncover our Boarding School's full history," said Chief Ben Barnes.

The grant was made possible through a one-time

\$2.5 million grant program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021.

"The Telling the Full History Preservation Fund represents the largest number of grants given through a single program at the National Trust," said Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer. "These 80 projects are driven by many dedicated volunteers, staff, and experts, all seeking to expand how we compose the American narrative. We are grateful for the work that they do on the ground and in their communities to reveal, remember, celebrate and illuminate these stories through these extraordinary places," she continued.

"The National Endowment for the Humanities commends the National Trust for Historic Preservation for its work in administering American Rescue Plan funds to assist historic sites, museums, and preservation organizations around the country in recovering from the financial impact of the pandemic," said NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Diné). "These awards will reach deeply into communities large and small, lift up often overlooked voices, and tell important, untold stories of our country's rich and diverse history."



HISTORIC HEARING IN WASHINGTON D.C.

MAY 12, 2022

“The stories of human suffering at these institutions can no longer be hidden...”

On May 12, Chief Barnes testified before the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States in support of H.R. 5444,

“The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act.”

This legislation would establish a federal commission to locate and make available the records from Indian boarding schools that operated in the U.S. Native American children were treated harshly at these schools which sought to “civilize” Native Americans by eliminating their culture and heritage. The Shawnee Indian Manual Labor Boarding School in Fairway, Kansas was one of over 400 such schools.

Testimony was also provided by survivors who personally experienced boarding schools and leaders of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition in support of a national strategy to increase public awareness and cultivate healing for the profound trauma experienced by Native American individuals, families, and communities.

“It really sank in today that I’m the only federally recognized tribal leader that’s going to be speaking today,” said Chief Barnes on his way to the hearing. *“My daughter reminded me that there’s other tribes that need this story told—that need their truth told. That’s really the importance of this bill. It’s just the starting point.”*

“182 years they’ve not let us talk about it,” he continued. *“I’m tired of being told what not to talk about.”*

To watch Chief Barnes and other witnesses’ testimonies, learn more, and get involved, visit shawnee-nsn.gov/simls and follow [@saawanooki](https://twitter.com/saawanooki) on social media.



WANT TO HEAR FROM US MORE OFTEN?

SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS

Get your Shawnee Tribe news and updates in real time at shawnee-tribe.com or by signing up for our monthly newsletter, piyeetaacimooweneefa (little news messages), by scanning the QR code on this page.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the official Shawnee Tribe Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts @saawanooki.

PLEASE NOTE:

We recognize that digital communications via social media and the internet are not necessarily preferred by or accessible to every citizen of the Shawnee Tribe. As such, we will always introduce new services & programs for citizens through the Shawnee Journal or other direct mailings to all citizens before we broadcast them online.

KNOW ANY SHAWNEES WHO'VE MOVED RECENTLY?

Let them know to update their address with our Enrollment Department so they continue receiving tribal news!



**CUT OUT AND MAIL YOUR
COMPLETED FORM TO:**

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



SCAN HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER!

(CHECK ONE OR BOTH)

- PLEASE UPDATE MY MAILING ADDRESS
- PLEASE SUBSCRIBE ME TO THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

CITIZEN NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

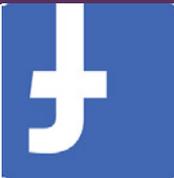
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FOLLOW @SAWANOOKI AND @CHIEFBARNESI 

The Shawnee Tribe is getting digital: be sure to find us on your favorite social media app to keep updated on the latest news and information.