



SMOKE SIGNALS

-- THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ABSENTEE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF TEXAS --

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February 2024

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Principal Chief: Lee R. Young

Assistant Chief: Louis B. Watson

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mary S. Young, Secretary

Clarence G. Ward, Treasurer

Marsha Jo Butler

Richard L. Watson

PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S MESSAGE: Hensci, Seminoles

This June we will be holding our 3rd General election of Tribal Council members. Any eligible tribal member is encouraged to seek one of the Tribal Council positions. Eligibility requirements are detailed in our Tribal Constitution, adopted June 18, 2016, amended September 14, 2018. Seven (7) Tribal Council positions:

Principal Chief, Assistant Chief, and 5 Tribal Council Members will be elected. The constitution requires the Tribal Council select from council members a secretary and treasurer. Anyone desiring to bring forth their ideas and service on the Tribal Council is encouraged to run for a position on the council.

Tribal Council Meeting

On January 20, 2024 the Tribal Council met in a Zoom Teleconference. Attending the meeting were: Lee Young, Mary Young, Marsha Butler, Clarence Ward, Richard Watson, and Tribal member Ebonie Walker. Louis Watson, Assistant Chief was absent due illness. We pray Lou has a speedy recovery. The meeting opened by Principal Chief Lee Young a prayer was delivered by Richard Watson. The minutes from the previous Tribal Council meeting, 02/11/2023 were read and accepted. The financial report was delivered by Chief Young: Total assets: \$3,044, Operating account \$1,699.33, scholarship fund \$1,345.00. The financial report was accepted. Membership report: current enrollment is 227 enrolled members. Discussion regarding our general election this June 2024, and holding an event supporting scholarship fundraising. Decision made to have general election and fundraising on June 15, 2024 in Brckettville. Event will consist of a sale of food, raffles, Loteria, and dance. We have obtained use of the Kinney County Civic Center on June 15, 2024. Other details of the general election and fundraising event will soon be announced.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. The governing body of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas shall be the Tribal Council which shall consist of Seven (7) members. The Tribal Council shall consist of an elected Principal Chief, elected Assistant Chief and five (5) Council members elected at large by secret ballot of the qualified voters of the Tribe.

Section 4. The executive authority of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas shall be vested in a Principal Chief and shall be known as the Principal Chief of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas. The Principal Chief shall be elected by majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters of the Tribe, for a term of four (4) years. The initial four (4) year term shall commence following ratification of the Constitution and Bylaws, and election.

Section 5. Any member of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas who is at least 25 years of age may be eligible for the office of Principal Chief and Assistant Chief. No person who has been convicted of a felony by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be considered eligible for these offices until either pardoned or five years have passed since released from confinement.

ARTICLE V - TRIBAL COUNCIL

Section 1. The legislative authority of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas shall be known as the Tribal Council and shall consist of five (5) Council members of the Tribe meeting the qualifications set forth in Article V, Section 2 of this constitution and bylaws, elected at large by secret ballot of qualified voters.

Section 2. Any member of the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas who is at least 18 years of age is qualified to sit on the Council when duly elected pursuant to this constitution and bylaws. No person who has been convicted of a felony by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be considered eligible for any position on the Council or any appointment by that body until either pardoned or five (5) years have passed since release from confinement. In the event any question should arise regarding the qualifications of any candidate for office or appointee, the decision of the Tribal Council shall be final.

February Birthdays

Loretta A. Benson – Feb 1
Kathleen D. Spain – Feb 1
Pacia R. Carter – Feb 4
Clarence G. Ward - Feb 5
Luther W. Ward – Feb 5
Barbara Jo Lewis – Feb 6
Kinsley M. Aguilera – Feb 10
Mary Payne Disla – Feb 13
Carlos J. Page - Feb 16

Arga M. Carter – Feb 17
Priscilla A. Dittmer – Feb 21
Phillip M. Dixon - Feb 22
Mitya L. Quick - Feb 23
Isabella G. Meza - Feb 24
Mark A. Hicks – Feb 24
Sylvia A. Lewis – Feb 25
Jerry Factor – Feb 26
Rosalind R. Tabora – Feb 28



Spouse
Steven B. Aguilera – Feb 4

SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications for the tribal scholarship are due on April 30, 2024. The applications are available for download from our website: <https://absenteeseminoletribe.org>

If anyone has any questions, suggestions or would care to make a donation to the scholarship program, please contact our office.

TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS: Tribal Identification Cards are available for \$25, valid for 5 years. The Tribal Identification Cards, are an official means to identify tribal members. Tribal Identification Cards do not replace any official government issued identification, they provide a means for members to proudly display their tribal enrollment.



TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION CARD RENEWAL

Tribal Identification Cards are beginning to expire – we will mail expiration notices. Everyone encouraged to check the expiration date on their Tribal Identification Cards. Renewal only requires submission of payment of \$25, payable to Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change residence, get a new telephone number, new email address, or any other changes in contact information. Forward your new information to our office.

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/AbsenteeSeminoleTribeTexas/>

FB users visit and “Like” our FB page

**Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas
P. O. Box 1932
McKinney, TX 75070-8162**

E-Mail - info@AbsenteeSeminoleTribe.org

Website: <https://AbsenteeSeminoleTribe.org>