



# SMOKE SIGNALS

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

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[absenteeseminoletribe.org](http://absenteeseminoletribe.org)

March 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 June 2024 we will be holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> General election of Tribal Council members. Any eligible tribal member is encouraged to seek a position on the Tribal Council. Eligibility requirements are detailed in our Tribal Constitution, adopted June 18, 2016, amended September 14, 2018.

### Tribal Council

Principal Chief, Assistant Chief, and 5 Tribal Council Members. 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.

*Excerpts from Constitution and Bylaws Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas*

## 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.

### March Birthdays

Marsha Jo Butler - Mar 2  
Selena M. Brown - Mar 4  
Janay C. Francis - Mar 6  
Cubert G. Young IV – Mar 8  
Nicholas M. Blanks – Mar 10  
Jamin K. Stocker - Mar 10  
Earl C. Hicks - Mar 10  
Jasmine L. King - Mar 16  
Monica R. Watson – Mar 7  
Curtis Jay Mobley – Mar 16  
Andre Michael Ellis – Mar 12

Karizma A. Juarez – Mar 21  
Felton L. Dunlap - Mar 22  
Joshua P. Watson – Mar 26  
Cody V. Brooks, Mar 29  
Dwayne A. Dixon – Mar 30  
Alfred L. Exum – Mar 31  
Dwayne A. Dixon - Mar 30



Spouse  
Cynthia “Cindi” M. Watson – Mar 12  
Jaqueline Ann Factor – Mar 9

Associate  
James C. Pledger – March 25

### 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**

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**Website: <https://AbsenteeSeminoleTribe.org>**