



51st Annual Pow Wow July 10, 11, 12, 13



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Sauk Language Department Hosts An International/Regional Language Conference

by Terrie Kinsey

On Wednesday, May 21st, the Sauk Language Department hosted a Language Conference that was attended by over 50 representatives of other regional tribal language programs. But the guests of honor of this Conference were a large group of Maori from New Zealand.

The Maori are the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, and the individuals who attended this Conference are all members of the Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo, the Institute of Excellence in the Maori Language. Membership into this Institute is based on a "very high competence in the use of formal and informal language usage, the appropriate use of idiom, mythical, proverbial, and biblical allusions, when to be assertive and when to be gracious, when to attack and when to retreat." (Taken from the directives of the Te Panekiretanga o Te Reo).

The first half of the Conference was held at the Sac and Fox Nation Pow-Wow grounds. An opening ceremony was performed to welcome the Maori to the Sac and Fox Nation.

The Sac and Fox Veteran's Honor Guard brought the flags into the arena, led by Joshua Williamson with the Eagle staff, and followed by the Sac and Fox Veteran's Princesses and the Sac and Fox Nation Women's Auxiliary. With Memorial Day weekend coming up, this was a visually vivid reminder to all members of the audience of the sacrifices Veterans, as well as our current military members, have made and are making now for the sake of each of us. The traditional Flag song,

the Memorial song, the Victory song, and the Brave songs help to keep those feelings of gratitude to our current and retired military from being forgotten.

The Sauk Language Department Director, Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, offered a prayer in Sauk, giving thanks for the beautiful (but very windy) day, blessings for all in attendance, blessings for the visitors, and asking for guidance in learning from each other in order to gain more knowledge in keeping our Native languages surviving and thriving in each of our communities.

Principal Chief George Thurman welcomed all visitors to the Sac and Fox Nations, and especially welcomed the Maori onto the lands of the Sauk people.

The Maori performed their traditional songs and prayers of receiving the welcome by Chief Thurman.

After the welcoming ceremony, there were more dances where all tribes in attendance, many Sac and Fox tribal member, and the Maori joined together to enjoy the day. After the dancing, the Maori were introduced to the different tribal language programs and the many Sac and Fox tribal members.

The remainder of the day was spent in discussing and sharing the successes and difficulties of Native language revitalization. In the mid-1970's the Maori made the realization that their language was disappearing. Facing the same obstacles now before the Sauk Language Department and other tribal language programs, a small group of Maori made the difficult decision to speak only Maori, no English at all. This was made even more daunting due to the fact that none of them even spoke more than a few words of Maori, if at all. They persevered, and today the Maori language is flourishing, with education in Maori from newborns to PhDs. These successes prove to other Native language programs that with strong determination, resourceful and dedicated staff, and the utmost support of tribal members, an endangered language can be brought back from the brink of extinction.

The Sauk Language Department was honored to be one of three Oklahoma tribes the Maori visited this year, and appreciated their wisdom and advice on keeping the Sauk Language alive, and flourishing for many generations to come.

An event of this scope is not the work of one or two people. Many people, from different Sac and Fox Nation departments and organizations contributed their assistance and expertise to make this a most successful and fun event. We would like to thank the current and past members

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Guests of Honor: The Maori, indigenous peoples of New Zealand, were the honored guests at the International/Regional Language Conference recently held at the Sac and Fox Nation. The conference was hosted by the Sauk Language Department. (photo by Sac and Fox News)

Chief's Address To The Nation

Greetings,

I share with our tribal members the latest developments within our tribal government. Some very qualified people have been selected to some key positions - Chief Financial Officer: Phillip Ellis; Chief of Staff: Rick Quarry, Health Director: Donald P. Whitehead; Human Services Director: Terrie Anderson; and Sauk Business Enterprise Board member: Carl Packwood. We are diligently seeking an Economic Development Director to spearhead our new Economic Development Department and a much needed Policy Analyst.

This month's article is comprised of two long awaited developments that will affect every American Indian: the implementation of the Cobell Settlement and the federal recognition of Native American tribes.

H.R. 4694/S. 2387 Implementation of the Cobell Settlement. Cisco C. Minthorn, Esq., Counsel and Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs in the United States House of Representatives, Committee on Natural Resources, stated in a Thursday, May 22, 2014 letter that Ranking Member DeFazio, Representative Hanabusa, and Senator Walsh introduced a bill "that would address tribal concerns with the implementation of the Cobell Settlement and give the Department of the

Interior the tools it needs to effectively implement the Settlement.

"...the Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee held a hearing on April 3rd about the implementation of the Cobell Settlement. At that hearing, it became apparent that tribes have several concerns with the Settlement's implementation that could easily be dealt with through legislation. It also became apparent that the Department needed explicit Congressional authorization to do some

of the things tribes were asking it to do. These bills make the needed changes. ...

"H.R. 4694/S. 2387 Would:

(1) Allow Tribes to Administer the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations Under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act - At the hearing, tribes universally supported this notion and the Department testified that it would need Congressional authorization to permit tribes to do so. Tribes have been man-

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Update: Shawnee Sales Tax Issue

This is a letter that Principal Chief George Thurman sent to the Honorable Wes Mainord, Mayor, City of Shawnee.

Dear Mayor Mainord:

The Business Committee of the Sac and Fox Nation has reviewed the letter dated April 10, 2014 sent by Vice Mayor Harrod on your behalf. In that letter, you propose the use of a mediator to resolve differences regarding city sales tax application to tribal operations.

At the March 24, 2014 meeting between the City and the four tribes addressed in your first letter, you made it very clear that the City is not seeking to apply city taxes to tobacco operations or gaming opera-

tions since both are covered by existing compacts with the State of Oklahoma. Given this statement, the Sac and Fox Nation have no operations that might be in dispute.

The Sac and Fox Nation faces the challenges of all governments in effectively deploying governmental resources to serve its citizens. The Business Committee has determined that is not an effective use of the Nation's limited resources to participate in mediation when the Nation is not involved in a dispute. The legal resources, Business Committee members' time, and other professional time invested in this issue to date have already

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Upcoming Events

June 10

Sac and Fox Nation Veterans' Meeting
Elders Bldg Stroud

June 11

Elders Advisory Committee Meeting
Stroud 10 am

June 3 - July 25
SFN National Public Library Summer Reading Program

June 8 - 14

Jim Thorpe Native American Games
Shawnee, Oklahoma

July 10

Sac and Fox Nation Health Fair
10:00 - 1pm

July 10 - 13

51st Annual Sac and Fox Nation Powwow



Nation Honored: The Iowa Nation of Oklahoma recently recognized the Sac and Fox Nation for donations made to their eagle avairy "The Bah Kho-je Xla Chi (Grey Snow Eagle House)" (From left) BC Member, Stella Nullake; Second Chief Sac and Fox Nation, Orvena Gregory; Actor Adam Beach; Sac and Fox Nation Treasurer, Jared King and Principal Chief Sac and Fox Nation, George Thurman. (Photo by Sac and Fox tribal member Lavonda Youngman)