

SAC & FOX



NEWS

Merry Christmas

• Phone: (918) 968-3526 ♦ 920883 S Hwy 99 Bldg A ♦ Stroud, OK 74079 ♦ Vol. 32, No. 12 December 2011

First Class Mail
Sac and Fox News
920883 S. Hwy 99
Stroud, OK 74079

FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 84
STROUD, OK 74079
PAID

Chief's Address To The Nation

Merry Christmas to the Sac and Fox Nation!

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2012! I hope the recent distribution of the per-capita payments will make your holidays a little more enjoyable.

I am reporting this month on recent business trips, meetings, invitations, and plans for the new year.



Chief George Thurman

Second Chief Orvena Gregory, Committeeperson Stella Nullake, and I attended the 68th Annual National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention in Portland, OR in November. Results of this trip benefiting our Nation follow:

(a) We met with Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry EchoHawk to discuss "squatter" issues on tribal members land in Cushing, OK; discussed using our federal charter(s) to place land into trust; and discussed our Nation's involvement with the Thorpe family's legal battle to have Jim Thorpe's remains returned to Oklahoma.

(b) While in Portland, we visited with the leaders and representatives of Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Iowa Nation whom have agreed to let our Sauk Business Enterprises (SBE) utilize their Policies and Procedures for our Gaming operations. These three tribes have had their policies and procedures already approved by the National Indian Gaming

Commission (NIGC) and have graciously agreed to allow our casino(s) the use of these much needed documents.

(c) Sac and Fox Nation is now represented on the NCAI Executive Board when I was elected as alternate Southern Plains Region Area Vice-President. Robert Tippeconnie, Comanche Nation / Southern Plains Region Area Vice-President and I will be working together this next year with all tribes in the Southern Plains Region. A week later I attended the Intertribal Monitoring Association (ITMA), Albuquerque, NM 21st Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV where I was re-elected ITMA Board Secretary for 2012. Our Sac and Fox Nation has been invited to and accepted an invitation to participate in a national program called the Leadership for Healthy Communities (LHC). The following letter will explain our participation:

(1) "Dear Principal Chief Thurman:

"The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is pleased to invite the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma to participate in the Leadership for Healthy Communities (LHC), a national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The national LHC program is designed to support government leaders in their efforts to reduce childhood obesity through public policies that promote active living, healthy eating, and access to healthy foods. Since Indian Country suffers from significantly high diabetes and obesity rates, NCAI is partnering with LHC to create a policy framework for tribes.

"How can your tribe participate? Through this grant, NCAI is funding workshops at four tribes from Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma to determine how tribal policy-making can positively affect healthy eating and active living (HEAL) practices throughout tribal communities. We would like your tribe to hold one of the three-hour workshops and be willing to commit to do so sometime at your convenience before January 30, 2012. Workshop attendees would include tribal program directors from projects that are tackling health and wellness issues, and tribal representatives with policy-making authority. Our facilitators will introduce successful HEAL efforts in Indian Country, and work with workshop participants to develop an action plan that is targeted to meeting the needs and culture of your tribe. It will also identify potential partnerships that may exist with neighboring governments, businesses, and nonprofit entities. We hope that your tribe will participate in this unique opportunity. There will be no out-of-pocket cost to the tribe.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Executive Director"

(2) We also accepted the following invitation, which explains Native Aspirations project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services

Dear Chief Thurman:

Please accept this letter of invitation to participate in an important effort to reduce youth violence, bullying, and suicide in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities across the nation. Native Aspirations is a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, implemented through a contract with Kauffman & Associates, Inc. (KAI), an American Indian owned federal contractor, based in Spokane, Washington.

Native Aspirations has been working with 49 communities beginning September 2005 to the present. Sixteen more communities will be added to the project over the next 2 years. We are pleased to inform you that the Sac and Fox Nation has been identified to participate in the project. The nomination of the Sac and Fox Nation is based on an analysis of available national data related to youth violence, bullying, and suicide, in conjunction with qualitative interviews with key administrative stakeholders in the Oklahoma Indian Health Service (IHS) Regional Area.

The Native Aspirations Project provides training and technical assistance to the participating communities and assists with community mobilization and planning focused on youth violence, bullying, and suicide prevention. The Native Aspirations Project will provide resources and information to help develop, enhance, and sustain your community's prevention planning activities and interventions. In addition, this project will help develop local evaluation capacity.

After receiving this invitation letter, the next steps will follow:

1. Within one week from the date of this letter, the Native Aspirations Team will contact the tribe to confirm receipt of the letter and to identify a local contact person to assist in identifying appropriate entities and/or individuals to discuss the project in more detail; and

2. A Clarification Call will be scheduled and held with local stakeholders to provide an in-depth review of the Native Aspirations Project.

The Native Aspirations Team will contact you by November 15, 2011 to confirm receipt of this letter and to discuss next steps. We anticipate communities will make a commitment to participate in the project by December 8, 2011. If we are unable to secure the Sac and Fox Nation's participation by this date, KAI will extend an invitation to participate to another community from the Oklahoma IHS Area that has already been identified through the project's community selection process.

We look forward to assisting you in this important work and eagerly await your reply. For questions, please call Gloria
(Continued On Page 3)



Native American Heritage Observance: (L to R) Arvo Mikkanen, Assistant US District Attorney; Bill Thorpe; George Thurman, Principal Chief Sac and Fox Nation and Sanford Coats, US District Attorney.

Jim Thorpe Honored By Native American Heritage Observance

The Sac and Fox Nation participated in the November 16th Native American Heritage Observance that honored legendary athlete Jim Thorpe and took place in Oklahoma City at the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Assistant U.S. Attorney and Tribal Liaison Arvo Mikkanen organized the event in recognition of the upcoming centennial of Thorpe's 1912 Olympic successes. "Tribes weren't citizens of the United States until 1924, twelve years after Jim Thorpe won his Olympic medals," said Principal Chief George Thurman. "I like to say he won those for us. In 1912 he was a citizen of the Sac and Fox Nation only."

The program included a presentation by Jim Thorpe's son Bill Thorpe and Thorpe biographer Robert Wheeler, a background of Jim Thorpe and the Sac and Fox Nation by Chief Thurman, an explanation of Sac and Fox tribal dress and the closing of the day's event by Princess Lyndee McClellan Tofpi, and Native American food prepared by Krystal and Amy Caesar, who have lineage from the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa.

Wheeler wrote Jim Thorpe: World's Greatest Athlete and, with his wife Florence, also in attendance, cofounded the Jim Thorpe Foundation, which was instrumental in the restoration of Thorpe's amateur status and Olympic medals in 1982. Wheeler is the Foundation's President.

Also in attendance on behalf of the Sac and Fox were Second Chief Orvena Gregory,

Committeeperson Stella Nullake, Edna Thorpe, and Cheryl McClellan.

Mikkanen stated that he was "very excited" about the tribal participation in the day's activities, which also included a welcome by U.S. District Attorney Sanford Coats and Indian sign language to song by Miss Indian Oklahoma Devon Frazier and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma Raven Morgan.

Nathan Hart, Executive Director of the Jim Thorpe Native American Games, appeared on the program to speak about the upcoming Games scheduled for the week of June 10-17, 2012 in Oklahoma City. Competitive sports include stickball (as well as stickball exhibitions), baseball, basketball, track and field, softball, golf, tennis, wrestling, and volleyball. The Jim Thorpe Native American Games is a non-profit organization. Proceeds of the Games help fund the Jim Thorpe Bright Path Youth programs and Native American Diabetes Research.

Also on the program was a video excerpt of an interview by author Sally Jenkins, who wrote The Real All Americans about the Carlisle Indian School football team with one chapter dedicated to Jim Thorpe. Jenkins is a sports columnist whose work has appeared in The Washington Post and Sports Illustrated. A copy of her book was given as a door prize.

Other sponsors of the event were the U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. District Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, and the Federal Public Defender's Office.

For more information about the Jim Thorpe Native American Games, call (405) 208-9253 or email at info@jimthorpegames.com. Visit the website at <http://jimthorpegames.com>.

Carla Reed Sworn In As New Treasurer



New Treasurer: Carla Reed was sworn in as the new Sac and Fox Nation Treasurer at 11:00 am, Wednesday, November 23, 2011. (L to R) Carla Reed, Rev. Thomas Morris and Principal Chief, George Thurman
(Staff Photo)

Upcoming Events

Elders Activities Planned

Dec. 3

Elder's Winter Pow-Wow
- Stroud Community Bldg
2pm-?

Dec 9

Elder's Christmas Dinner/
Bingo Community Bldg.
11:30am/1:00pm

Dec 14

Regular EAB Mtg - Stroud
10am

For information contact
Gloria Ellis EAB
Chairperson @
405-878-8534
or Stella Wilson Sac and
Fox Elders Bldg. (Stroud @
918-968-2583 Tues-Thurs.
8:00am - 4:30pm

