

Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma  
General Council Meeting  
Downstream Casino Resort (Pavilion)  
July 4, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:15 AM

**INVOCATION:** Ardina Moore

**WELCOME:**

Chairman John Berrey thanked Ardina for that wonderful invocation to this meeting. He also thanked Mike Shawnee and the Pow-wow Committee for all their hard work to make sure we have a great pow-wow every year. With the great work being done by the tribe this is a good time to be O-Gah-Pah people. John spoke about recently meeting with the new EPA Administrator and he promises to keep us in business doing our own work which is about \$20 million a year.

In just a couple of weeks the beef and bison processing plant approved by the USDA will open on trust land. When that opens we will start with the processing of some bison. We have also been contacted by other tribes to help with the processing of some of their cattle. We are gaining national attention for our agricultural efforts. John mentioned that people can now order our coffee and meat off the tribal website and we will ship it to you at a tribal member rate.

Chairman Berrey took the time to recognize Rob Weaver and his family for their amazing efforts in assuring our tribal members have health insurance. With their help we are close to getting prescriptions at the VA price. Which will bring a savings of over 80%. Tribal members will also be able to get their medicine by mail. Chairman Berrey announced that Rob Weaver is also up for the Director of Indian Health Services. It will serve the tribe well to have him in that position.

Chairman spoke about the education department and how it has continued to benefit tribal members of all ages. We are also able to help those who are in graduate programs. We have more individuals going to school and furthering their education than ever before.

Mr. Berrey spoke briefly regarding the ongoing court cases. The court has ordered that discussion on the three cases be limited. The three cases are the Goodeagle, the Quapaw, and the Bear. They are three different cases, three different claims, and three distinct groups that qualify. The Quapaw case is for the entire tribe. The Goodeagle class is more defined. It has around 300 people that opted out of Cobell and who have IIM accounts and trust land. The Bear case is a little different. This case was brought to the Court of Federal Claims, which suspended the statute of limitations and that allowed us to sue back to the 1818 Treaty. That stated we would receive \$1000 a year for education and there is no proof that anything was ever paid to that affect. That class is made up of all tribal members born after the date the claim was filed.

There are great things on the horizon for the O-Gah-Pah people. Chairman Berrey, has been conversing with the state of Arkansas about building a resort and gaming facility in Arkansas. John mentioned there is a 50/50 chance that this will become a sure opportunity, which will hopefully benefit the tribe for a long time to come and result in regular tribal member payments. It may not be a lot, but to be able to give \$5,000 a year to every tribal member will go a long way to help our Quapaw people.

**READING, CORRECTION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the July 4, 2016 General Council were presented for approval. **Motion by JR Mathews to approve the minutes of July 4, 2016 General Council meeting as presented. Seconded by Sonny Glass. Motion passes by unanimous consent.**

*Due to a great number of attendees and the fast pace at which motions were given.  
Some names were not acknowledged.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT: ANNUAL POWER POINT PRESENTATION:** All financials, including tribal and federal funds were submitted in the power point presentation presented prior to the calling to order of the General Council. **Motion by Cathy King, to approve the Treasurer's Reports as submitted and published. Seconded by Mollie Drapue.** In discussion Judy Bodo asked that she be provided a copy of the ten year plan for the two tribal casinos by July 31, 2017. Chairman Berrey explained to Judy that we do not have a ten year plan due to the fact that all members on the Business Committee are on a two year term. Mr. Berrey suggested that this information be published in the next newsletter. **Motion passes by unanimous consent.**

### **ELECTIONS:**

**ELECTION PROCEDURES WERE CONDUCTED BY MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

**A:**

Nominations from the floor:

### **TRIBAL PRINCESS**

Meika Mathews  
Spring Chalake  
Cassidy Shafer  
Christina Sharp  
**Lakyn Buffalo**

**Motion by tribal member to cease nominations. Second by a tribal member. Motion passes by unanimous consent.**

### **Tribal Princess Nominees Acceptance Speech:**

- **Meika Mathews** – Meika is the daughter of Thomas and Tonya Mathews, the granddaughter of JR and Beth Mathews and Lela Stand. She is the Great Granddaughter of Flossie Mathews and Betty Imbeau Stand. She attends Miami High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Kiwanis Club, and Key Club. It would be a great honor to be the Quapaw Tribal Princess.
- **Lakyn Buffalo** – Lakyn is a junior at Quapaw High School. She is active in cheerleading, basketball and softball. She will be attending Votech in the fall to be a CNA. Lakyn is the daughter of David and Jennie Buffalo, the granddaughter of Lloyd and LeAnn Buffalo and Maria and Bill Cochly and Paul Waters Sr. She is honored to be nominated.
- **Kassity Shafer** – Kassity is a junior at Baxter Springs High School. She is the daughter of Scott and Lori Shaffer, the granddaughter of Beverly Buffalo-Jones, and the great granddaughter of Arthur Buffalo. She is honored to be nominated.
- **Spring Chalakee** – Spring is a junior at Muskogee. She is the daughter of Marta Star and Robert Chalakee Jr and the granddaughter of Lucille Powell. She is a jingle dress dancer and has been dancing since she was 4 years old. When she was Quapaw Pow-wow Princess she attended over 30 pow-wows and she also had the opportunity to go to Standing Rock. She has met many people during her reign. She has also been taking the Quapaw language classes with Ardina Moore for about 3 years. Spring said a prayer in our O-Gah-Pah language.

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Some names were not acknowledged.***

- **Christina Sharp** – Christina is the daughter of Deena Ray Hughey and James Sharp and the granddaughter of Tommy Rae Hughey and Kenneth Hughey and she is the great great great granddaughter of Solomon Quapaw and Minnie Captain. She is a senior at Miami High School and president of NAC (Native American Club). She plans to attend NEO after she graduates and enter the nursing program.

**Chairman Berry crowned the new 2017-2018 Tribal Princess, Lakyn Buffalo.**

The outgoing Quapaw Tribal Princess Erin Casoose thanked the tribe for all their support and for allowing her to serve as the 2016-2017 Quapaw Tribal Princess.

**B:**  
Nominations from the floor:

**POW-WOW CHAIRMAN**  
**Mike Shawnee**

**Pow-wow Chairman Nominees Acceptance Speech:**

- **Mike Shawnee** – Mike thanked the grounds workers for their hard work and thanked everyone for their support and hoped they enjoyed the pow-wow.

**Motion by Tribal Member, Barbara Collier to add on to next year's ballot the changing of the name from the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma to the Quapaw Nation. There was open discussion about the possibility of a name change and how it wouldn't affect current Tribal affairs. Seconded by Quapaw Tribal Member, Tony Mize. Motion passes by majority.**

**RE-ENROLLMENT:**

If a tribal member relinquishes their Quapaw role after their eighteenth birthday a vote from the General Council, with a yes vote of 74%, is required in order to reestablish their Quapaw enrollment.

Bennie Pittman – For: 53.3% Against: 34.4% Abstain: 12%

Robert Hyatt – For: 59.2% Against: 34.6% Abstain: 6.2%

**OPEN FORUM:**

**Motion by a tribal member to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by a tribal member. Motion passes by majority.**

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**BENEDICTION:** JR Mathews

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:02 am

Tamara Smiley-Reeves  
Tamara Smiley, Sec./Treas.

Minutes Prepared In Accordance with  
Robert's Rules of Order  
[RONR (10<sup>th</sup> ed.), pg 451, 1. 25-28  
By: s/ Hanan Matthews  
Hanan Matthews  
Business Committee Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

Approved by a motion and unanimous vote of the  
General Council of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma on  
July 4, 2018

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