Chairman Berrey Works to Help Graduates Wear Eagle Feathers

When Chairman Berrey received a call from tribal member Minnie Francis Hawk that her grandchildren and granddaughter weren’t going to be allowed to wear their eagle feathers at their graduation, he immediately started making phone calls to see what he needed to do to help. He called Kingston schools and talked to their superintendent, football coach, guidance counselor, and secretary. He even called the local newspaper in Kingston. After realizing that the tribe was involved and wasn’t going to back down, Kingston school administration changed their policy and allowed the graduates to wear their eagle feathers.

Kyser-Collier Named Regulator of the Year

Barbara Kyser-Collier received the Regulator of the Year Award at the OTGRA 2016 Spring Conference held April 10-13, 2016. The Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association (OTGRA) is made up of tribes in the state of Oklahoma. There are few honors higher than that of being recognized by your peers.

Barbara is a proud member of the Quapaw Tribe (the Downstream People) and is a descendant of the Beaver Clan, Muskēē nah bonnéh (white) Sun Coming. Barbara’s career spans over forty (40) years, being a staunch and tireless defender of tribal sovereignty and economic self-sufficiency. Her recent concentration in these efforts has been in the field of tribal gaming regulation. She has served the Quapaw Tribe from the initial beginning of the tribe’s gaming operations. In 2003 she was a Gaming Commissioner, then transferred to a compliance position on the Gaming Commission staff, and since 2004 up to this present time has held the position as Director of the Quapaw Tribal Gaming Agency.

In addition to being a founding member and first Chairwoman of the Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association (OTGRA), following its inception in May 2006, continuing through the Fall of 2009, Barbara has distinguished herself as an active participant in the National Indian Gaming Association and also the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners/Regulators Association, where she previously held the office of Secretary from April 2006 through November 2009.

Oklahoma tribes have benefited from Barbara’s years of experience and her willingness to tackle the tough issues. She can be counted on to be wherever the pressing issues of the day are being discussed – at home or abroad. Her voice has been heard across the country by tribal, state, and federal leadership, and is recognized as being a voice of reason and of passion.

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O'Brien Graduates

Tribal member Billy O'Brien graduated from Choctaw (OK) High School. He is the 18-year-old son of Amie O'Brien, the grandson of Nanci Bradford, the great-grandson of the late Colleen Wilson-Austin, and the great-great-grandson of the late Irvin Wilson. His plans for the future are to join the armed forces.

Kyser-Collier, from 1

Barbara has many other outstanding accomplishments concerning gaming, and other facets of Native American issues/concerns from office management to accounting, education, housing, environment, Tribal Admin-

istrator, and one of her greatest memories is to see the growth of the gaming industry from back in the "paper" bingo days in the mid-1980's up to this present time of Class II and Class III gaming, not only for the Qua-

paw tribe but for all other tribes and the people of Oklahoma. Barbara is always being proactive and interactive with all tribes, always striving for excellence to ensure the positive integrity of gaming regulation.
QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
ANNUAL ELECTION
JULY 23, 2016
OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CANDIDACY

Chairman
John L. Berrey
Carol Green

Secretary/Treasurer
Tamara Smiley-Reeves (Unopposed)

Member
George (Ranny) McWatters Jr. (Unopposed)

In accordance with the Charter-Act/By Voting Ordinance accepted at the January 31, 2006 General Council, Page 6, Section B.4, voting.

Daylight is Here for O-Gah-Pah!

VOTE
CAROL DAYLIGHT
GREEN

CHAIRPERSON QUAPAW BUSINESS COMMITTEE
STANDS FOR:

• HIGHER EDUCATION
• TRADITION AND CULTURE
• FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
• OPEN DOOR TO TRIBAL MEMBERS
• DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES
  (TO YOUTH, FAMILIES, ELDERS)

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My Name is John Lane Berrey, and I am asking you to please honor me with your vote this year. My Indian names are Hum-Buh-Gah-Kah given to me by the late Grandma Supernaw who was my relative; and, my Osage name is Neé Wah given to me by my Uncle Harry Redeagle Jr. I am the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lane Berrey and the grandson of Bessie Lane Berrey. I am the proud father of Jack Harrison and Lane Elizabeth Berrey. I have five wonderful sisters and many nieces and nephews.

I have been the Chairman of the Business Committee for some time. Under my leadership with our wonderful Business Committee members, we have come a very long way: Jobs, Medical Coverage, Vision Coverage, Dental Coverage, Life and Death Benefits to all Tribal Members. I have overseen increased Social Services Benefits, Education Assistance, Elder Housing and affordable Tribal Member Housing. Together, with the team effort of the other dedicated Business Committee members, we increased Emergency Assistance, and so many other donations that have benefited so many tribal members.

Together, with the Culture Committee headed by Ardina Moore, our Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Everett Bandy and Risi and Billy Supernaw and Carrie Wilson, we have made tremendous progress in protecting our culture, language and spiritual ways. With the help of so many including the current hard working BC members Ranny McWatters, Marilyn Rogers and Tamara Smiley and past members JR Matthews and Lloyd Buffalo, we created Downstream Casino Resort that has delivered over $100 million to the Quapaw Tribe funding our many programs.

We spend about $80 thousand a week on our current healthcare needs for Quapaw Tribal members.

Together, with the Business Committee, we have become the primary remediation contractor at the Tar Creek Superfund site doing over $20 million of work and creating many jobs for Quapaws. We have created businesses built around products and services we need and have created infrastructure, capacity and capital investments with huge value: the Q-Store, Quapaw Convenience Store, Eagle Creek Golf Course, Quapaw Beef, Quapaw Bison, Quapaw Honey, Ogahpah Pride Kennels, Quapaw Coffee and now Quapaw Mercantile. We have also purchased hundreds of acres and increase our land base forever.

We are leaders in Indian Country, and our progress is revered across this great country. I am currently managing one of the largest pieces of litigation ever seen in Indian Country in the Court of Federal Claims with the Goodeagle, Bear and Quapaw lawsuits. Our case is set for trial in October of this year, and I am currently in settlement discussions with the USA to try to bring home a large sum of money for our people and tribe.

I am asking for your vote with the promise that I will continue to dedicate my life to the Quapaw Tribe and Quapaw People and will continue to deliver more benefits and programs to make lives better and build a future for our children and generations to come.

Please Vote for John L. Berrey
Chairman Berrey Speaks on Superfund Regs

By Kimberly Barker

WASHINGTON D.C. — Chairman John Berrey of the Quapaw Tribe de- plotted the burden of unnecessary governmental regulations on his tribe’s efforts to clean and restore its reservation land in the Tar Creek Superfund Site, as well as other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that hold back Native-American tribes, in congressional tes- timony on June 7.

The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight held a hear- ing, Oversight of EPA Unfunded Mandates on State, Local, and Tribal Governments, to hear from state, local, and tribal government represen- tatives on the impact of EPA regulations and unfunded mandates on American states, localities and tribes.

U.S. Senator Jim Inhoffe (R-Okl.), chairman of the Senate EPW Commit- tee, introduced Berrey, who testified as a witness at the hearing and discussed how regulations and unfunded mandates issued by the EPA impact Indian tribal governments.

Despite federal commitments, it is apparent to most in Indian Country that Uncle Sam is not going to fully fulfill his responsibility to provide services to Indian people,” Berrey said during the meeting. “If that’s the case, he needs to get out of the way and let Indian tribes develop their resources and their economies without the Regulatory Monkey on our backs.”

Berrey cited the many new and expanded rules and regulations related to public water supply, underground storage tanks, air emissions, and more, that hinder the abilities of sovereign tribes to generate revenues in their local economies.

“We have a heavy legal burden that’s put on us because we’re Native Americans, and we don’t get the opportunity to consult with the EPA and other agencies, so it makes it very difficult for us to keep up with the rules and regulations that come down the pike every time that the Quapaw Tribe tries to incorporate our resources to develop economic opportunity for not only our people, but the people for the local community,” Berrey said.

“Earlier, we discussed the Tar Creek Superfund site that is 40 square miles within our travel jurisdiction. It’s a scar you can see from the moon. It’s the result of heavy zinc and nickel mining that left a lot of contamination on the land.”

Chairman Berrey’s Quapaw Tribe is the primary entity attempting to clean up decades of lead and zinc contamination in the former mining district of Northeast Oklahoma and Southeast Kansas, an EPA Superfund “mess,” he said, that has long been neglected by the state and federal governments.

“The EPA --- our Trustee --- does not view things the way we do and has been adding layer after layer of new and expanded rules and regu- lations on most, if not all, of what the Quapaw Tribe does,” Berrey said.

He added that the unnecessary regulations on energy producing tribes is even worse, pointing to the virtually devastated coal projects of the Crow Nation in Montana and the Navajo Nation in the southwest.

Berrey said if it weren’t for a lot of the regulations and the mandates set by the EPA, the tribe would most likely be further along in the cleanup than they are to date.

“Currently, the Quapaw Tribe is the contractor of choice for the state and for the EPA to do the removal of the contamination on the surface, but we’re constantly facing new rules, new mandates that make it difficult for us to stay focused on doing what it is that we do to save the taxpayer’s money and get the work done,” Berrey said.

“We’re constantly dealing with this federal system of rules and regulations that impede us in our ability to work fast, gain financing, get projects going and get them completed to actually create something that creates more jobs, more economic development and more opportunity.”

The Quapaw Tribe hopes to receive true consultation, communication and collaboration from the EPA in future efforts to clean up the Tar Creek Superfund site.

“We believe we know what’s best for our people,” Berrey said. “Native Americans don’t want to trash the rivers. We don’t want to trash the air or make the world a worse place for our grandchildren. We believe we have the insight and the respect for mother nature that’s necessary to come up with new rules that come out without any thought put into it with the local community.

On behalf of the Quapaw Tribe, Berrey thanked the senators for working with the Native Americans across the country.

I am pleased to have had John Berrey from my state of Oklahoma testify on the effects that EPA’s unfunded mandates have on tribal governments like the Quapaw Tribe,” Inhoffe said. “The Quapaw Tribe is one of the largest employers in the state area where Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma meet so when EPA issues new rules and regulations on the tribe, there are significant economic impacts. As Chairman Berrey so clearly stated in his testimony, EPA’s unfunded mandates have a disproportionate effect on tribal enterprises.”

To watch the full video of Berrey’s speech on YouTube, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ac5D2uHKxXw.

“I want to say thank you to everyone for the support you’ve given me over the past several years. We’ve made huge strides as far as increasing em- ployment and educational opportunities, utilities assistance, housing op- portunities, medical benefits, and school clothing assistance just to name a few accomplishments. I’m aware that there is still room for improve- ment and we work every day to lower costs and make the best use of the revenue generated by our tribal businesses. Chairman Berrey has done an outstanding job of bringing our tribe very close to settling decades of mismanagement of tribal and individual assets by the federal govern- ment. I’m looking forward to being a part of putting to rest some of the injustices Quapaw people have endured for over a century. If the Congress is in our favor, this settlement will not only provide additional resources for the tribe to continue to provide services to our members but individual members will also benefit. There are so many great things on the horizon for the Quapaw Tribe and I thank you again for having the faith in me to allow me to continue to serve in the capacity of Secretary-Treasurer of the Business Committee.”

Sincerely, Tamara Smiley-Reeves

Thanks from BC Secretary-Treasurer

Tamara Smiley-Reeves

Reelected Unopposed

I would like to thank my fellow tribal members for their continued sup- port of my position on the Quapaw Tribe Business Committee. The trust you have shown me is very humbling. My goal is for our tribal members to join together to ensure that we remain a strong entity. We need to continue our economic success, while preserving our history and cul- ture. Again, I am proud to serve our tribe.

Respectfully,

Ranny McWatters

Visit Quapaw Mercantile to get all your Quapaw beef and buffalo!
Always grain fed and NO hormones!

Open Monday through Friday
Store hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed on holidays!

Thanks from BC Member

Ranny McWatters

Reelected Unopposed

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Thanks from BC Secretary-Treasurer

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Respectfully,

Ranny McWatters
Community Garden

The Environmental Department was awarded a Water 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant to build a community garden. The funds were used to build raised beds, flower beds, benches, and a picnic table in the area west of the Title VI building. There are various herbs, vegetables, and plants that will be enjoyed by Elders and various community members through the Title VI program. The community garden will be utilized by the Environmental Department, Tribal Elder Program, and community schools to facilitate non-point source education and outreach. For questions please call the Environmental Department at 918-238-3097 or to volunteer with the upkeep please call Title VI at 918-238-3155.

Former Pow-Wow Princess Places at Art Contest

Above, the 2014 Quapaw PowWow Princess Kassity Shafer placed third at the CNC League Art fair. The league is through Shafer’s school and includes Cherokee, Neosho, and Crawford Counties. Kassity will be a sophomore this fall at Baxter Springs (KS) High School.

2016 Pow-Wow Update

Thanks to everyone who was able to make it to this year’s Quapaw PowWow. In the next issue of your tribal newsletter, we will share memories of the 144th Annual Quapaw Powwow. We will have photos and names of dance winners!

PowWow shirts are for sale at the tribal office $5 each, plus shipping. Call Anna McKibben at 918.542.1853 to order your 2016 shirt!

At left is Stephen Moore, tribal member, wearing the shirts that are for sale!

At right is the 2016-17 Quapaw PowWow Princess Spring Chalakee after being crowned by Chairman John Berrey.

At right are Title 6 cooks Kathy Williams, Tracie Speak, and Kelly Boyd, all tribal members. They worked with area tribes at the Elder Roundup at Buffalo Run in Miami in June. They dressed up for the clown theme!

Far right, Kelly Boyd making sure everyone has plenty of cold water to drink after coming inside out of the heat.
Guess Who!

Above, right, and below is the 2016-2017 Quapaw Tribal Princess Erin Casoose. Above, she’s standing in front of her family’s camp that her great-grandpa built. Erin is the daughter of Avis Ballard and James Casoose. She is the granddaughter of Annie Ballard and Mary and Alvin Casoose. She is the great-granddaughter of Louis Ballard. A sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, Erin is a member of the American Indian Student Association and a sister of the Gamma Delta Pi sorority. She is very honored and excited to serve as the Quapaw Tribal Princess!

Above, Quapaw Marshals representing the Quapaw Tribe with Wyandotte Nation Police officers attending a national police meeting in Washington, DC.

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Member
George (Ranny) McWatters Jr. (Unopposed)

In accordance with the Election And/Or Voting Ordinance accepted at the January 31, 2004 General Council, Page 6, Section 8.3, states:

“No later than three (3) business days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Complex a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy.”

Lori Shafer, Secretary of the Quapaw Tribal Election Board, certifies that the above named individuals have met the requirements to have their names placed on the official ballot as a candidate for the office of the Quapaw Tribal Business Committee.

Lori Shafer, Secretary
Quapaw Tribal Election Board

Meet the 2016-2017 Tribal Princess Erin Casoose

Above, right, and below is the 2016-2017 Quapaw Tribal Princess Erin Casoose. Above, she’s standing in front of her family’s camp that her great-grandpa built. Erin is the daughter of Avis Ballard and James Casoose. She is the granddaughter of Annie Ballard and Mary and Alvin Casoose. She is the great-granddaughter of Louis Ballard. A sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, Erin is a member of the American Indian Student Association and a sister of the Gamma Delta Pi sorority. She is very honored and excited to serve as the Quapaw Tribal Princess!