

My name is Mari Comer, many of you know me as Little Mari. After much soul searching and with the support of my family, I have decided to run as a candidate for the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis as a Tribal council member from the Michigan At-Large district. I have been actively involved in the Tribal Community for many years and would love the opportunity to give more as a council member.

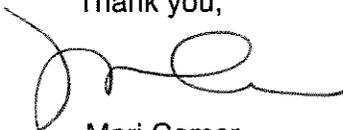
I am the proud mother of six beautiful children and grandmother to six awesome grandchildren. I have spent the majority of my life in the Bradley/Salem area of Michigan, much of which was in the care of my grandparents and extended family. During this time I was diagnosed with leukemia, which I can say I am blessed to have overcome this life changing battle through family support, prayers and God's grace. I believe this has helped to lead me down the path I have taken as an adult, facing any issue head on and attempting to make good choices in my personal and professional life to grow and learn and attempt to do good in the world which has led me to the roles I currently have in the Tribe and local community.

I have been employed within the Gun Lake Health & Human Services Department since 2012. During this time I have attended numerous trainings that relate to various aspects of tribal government, health and welfare of families and children, and leadership and management. Prior to working for the Tribe, I was a construction administrative assistant for Skanska USA, the construction manager for the initial building of Gun Lake Casino. I am happy to be a part of this piece of Tribal history and have assisted with building this piece of the Tribe's legacy. After the casino construction, I became Skanska's Diversity Coordinator and the Diversity manager until I found my niche in the Health and Human Services department. I have also served on the tribal election committee as an alternate since 2012. This has been a great learning experience for me and has given me a great opportunity that I am thankful for.

I am one of the few licensed foster care providers that specializes in caring for native american youth. Since 2010, I have fostered 14 children and feel blessed that I am able to give back to the native community in this way. My family and I have volunteered in numerous community events, including Santa Claus Girls, Kid's Food Basket, and volunteering at the christmas party and other Tribal events. I feel if I can be a voice for our native children, I can be a voice for our tribe and future.

I believe that I am an active listener and will do my best to listen to the needs of the community, and be a voice for what is best for the community as a whole. As many of you already know, I am willing to ask questions, hold people accountable and do what I can to meet the needs of our Tribe. The Tribe is going through a time of transition and I believe as a member of council I can aid in bringing everyone together for the longterm and help ensure the growth and prosperity that our elders have worked so hard to provide for us. I love my life, family, tribe and community. If elected, I will hold a high commitment to listening to our people, focusing on the direction of growth and prosperity in our culture, traditions and spiritualism. I give so much credit to our elders and community for all the wisdom and teachings they have provided. With this great foundation, I will continue to help move us forward into OUR future as an effective leader who listens, who speaks not just for me but for all of us .

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mari Comer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mari Comer



Anni' my name is Phyllis Ann Davis, current Tribal Council member representing the At Large District and I am seeking re-election in the August 2016 General Tribal Election for the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band Pottawatomi Indians. I currently live in Grand Valley, west of Standale Michigan, and am married to Monte Davis Sr. I am an grateful Elder and proud mother of two sons and 4 lovely grandchildren. I have worked for the Gun Lake Tribe since 1998 and assisted in the program development of the Tribes Health and Human Services Department. Early goals consisted of promoting partnerships, educating our local, regional, state and federal agencies about who we are as the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band Pottawatomi and the many barriers we face as indigenous people living here in West Michigan. I have been an active participant in these discussions through the Tribal consultation process, and we have established many solid relationships with those local, state, regional and federal partners throughout the years. While this work must always continue we must also be looking at our future and how important it is to lay down a path that will have a solid base to build upon. This is a goal for our youth to have a solid base to build upon for future endeavours. I am a firm believer in the voices and wisdom of our ancestors who brought our tribe through negotiations and relocation to the Bradley Indian Community, our home. Our tribal home and our youth are our future, we must protect and assist them however we can. This is my dream for our 7<sup>th</sup> generation by exercising our Tribal Sovereignty I can see this come to fruition, to teach our youth of this inherent right is our duty as an elected official but also as a tribal community and elder. It's our greatest responsibility, to make them strong and proud of their culture, to know their history and their language, to reach for new dreams and goals and to know that anything is possible.

I have always been committed to the growth and expansion of programs and services across the tribal government system and to the economic engine and opportunities that has driven our tribal community to new levels of success. I will always be committed to positive outcomes for new economic growth and opportunities and serving our tribal citizens to the greatest capacity necessary.

I have been so proud to serve the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians in this capacity and would be honored to serve another term.

Blessings

Phyllis Davis



One of my earliest memories is taking care of the rabbits my grandfather was raising in the backyard. My sister and I were fortunate to live close enough to our grandparents, Lorenzo and Miyoko Trevan, that we were able to spend days there playing with our cousins. Our grandma always spoiled us by making homemade dinner, but Sundays were the best. She would make mustard potato salad, red Hawaiian punch, and delicious roast chicken...later known as my fluffy sweet bunny rabbits.

I was blessed to grow up in Kalamazoo where I finished high school and earned an Associate degree with a focus on business. My love for Art History and Photography brought me to Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia on a merit scholarship. Yes, I was the nerd in the front row of every lecture, but I graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

I've been running a fun and successful commercial photography studio for almost 20 years now. My camera has brought me around the world to document events, and to mentor other photographers into profitable businesses. I have been honored to photograph so many milestone events for our tribe including ground blessings, ground breakings, and all of the ribbon cutting growth that our tribe has celebrated in recent years. (By the way, I love it when we celebrate anything together.) You will always see focusing on youth and elders at our pow wows because when I photograph them I am really documenting history.

The last 10 years I have been dedicated to serving families through our local non-profit organization called Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep. I lead a team of generous photographers with the mission to make beautiful portraits of families that have lost their newborn babies in the hospital. Our hope and prayer is that these images help them through their grieving process and validate the short time they had with their child. I know there is nothing I did to deserve healthy babies, but loving on perfect strangers in this vulnerable sacred space makes me love appreciate my family and life even more.

I am currently representing our tribe as the Employment Liaison on the casino expansion project. I am here to support and encourage tribal members, their families and other Native Americans who want to learn and work on the job site. It is extremely rewarding to see our citizens take so much pride in what they do. It's dusty and dirty out there, but I will hug or high five everyone on the construction site.

Every election cycle brings change, I would like to be your voice of care and optimism on Tribal Council. I feel that our tribal government to run smoothly with open conversations and transparency. The only way this is going to work is by knowing what is important to you, and what your big dreams and ideas are for the future. I follow my heart, but will always make common sense decisions for our tribe's best interest. Together we have the creativity, love and resources to take care of each other, and to be world changers in Indian country.

Almost 40 years later I find myself raising two adventurous boys with my sweet husband Corey. As I watch them grow, I feel blessed by the amazing cultural experiences they've had through our tribe. I find our youth to be incredibly passionate, curious, brave...and they all have the promise of an amazing education. I pray that these friendships will grow into the next generation of tribal leaders that work together and learn from our elders.

So as I watch my boys weave a rabbit skin blanket on the shores of Drummond Island, I know my grandfather smiles. He is also the tug on my heart to serve our tribe.

I respectfully request your support to represent the Gun Lake Tribe and our community. It would be an honor.  
Holly Henderson

Bozhoo Citizens; my name is Jodie G. (Webb) Palmer and I am running for tribal council as an at-large candidate. I am a grandmother, mother, wife, educator, and turtle clan woman. I have been married for forty-four years to Richard (Rick) Palmer. We proudly have three children who all work for tribal communities: Jeremy (GLT Casino), Jason (Firekeepers Casino), and Jennifer (GLT Membership Services).

I was born in Allegan, MI to Noel Webb (Herbert Sampson Marks) and Julia Webb. My paternal grandparents were Stephen Marks and Rosa (Pigeon) Marks. I graduated from Allegan High School and went to Michigan State University where I met my husband. After he graduated, we moved to Portage, MI. where he was employed as a professional firefighter for over thirty nine years.

I continued my education at Kalamazoo Community College and Western Michigan University. I graduated with certifications to teach elementary education, art education and family life education. I was employed in Kalamazoo Public Schools for thirteen years; the majority of the time was as the project supervisor of Indian Education. I was responsible for grant writing, reporting, teaching craft and culture classes, and working with a parent advisory committee. After leaving KPS, I was hired to be the education director at Pokagon Potawatomi. I was delighted to be able to continue working with federal grants for Indian education, including Johnson O'Malley, Indian Education, tribal libraries, culture and language, and employment. After my resignation, I taught fourth grade at Bahweting Anishnabe School for the Sault Ste, Marie Tribe. It was an incredible experience teaching with culture and language infused into lessons. I next taught "young fives" in Paw Paw Public Schools for a couple of years before starting a new fifteen year career at Western Michigan University. I was given the opportunity to represent Anishnabe in the Division of Multicultural Affairs and later all people of color in the College of Education and Human Development. I was actively involved on numerous committees in the university, community, and state as well as teaching elementary social studies and multicultural education. I am a strong believer in lifelong education and continue to seek new knowledge. I have been retired for almost one year.

A brief resume of relevant experiences:

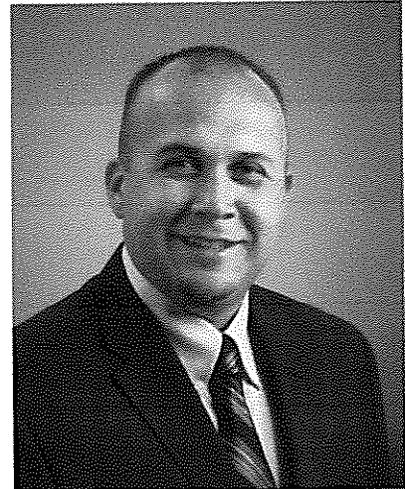
- Indian Education Project Supervisor
- Tribal Education Director
- Teacher: Young Fives, Fourth Grade, First Grade, and College
- B.S. and M.A. Degrees from Western Michigan University and doctoral studies in educational leadership
- Gun Lake Tribe Committees: Education, Housing, Elders, Language, and Gathering (Elders)
- Diversity training and trainer
- Board of Directors for Catching the Dream Native Scholarship

The decision to run for council was not made lightly. I feel our citizens have the responsibility and the right to be heard by our elected representatives. The Council should be representative of the membership and always have their best interest in their hearts and minds. In my leadership studies, I have learned and believe the best leaders listen more than they speak. I love our tribe and if elected, I will strive do my best for us and our future generations.



Greetings Tribal Citizens,

My name is Ben Brenner and I have been a resident of Hopkins for the past 37 years. My wife Stacy and I have been married for 10 years and we have three beautiful daughters, Grace, Olivia and Claire. I am the grandson of Rev. Lewis White Eagle Church and Gladys Church. I am running for Tribal Council to represent the Salem District. I have a strong commitment to my community and I work hard every day to enhance the lives of those who live in that community. I accomplish this by treating others as I would like to be treated, being a good steward of community resources, and by being an active participant in society. My family is paramount in my life and everything I do is as a result of their love, support and encouragement. Being a positive role model for my children is the most important job I have. Our children are going to be the future leaders of our Tribe and our surrounding community. Decisions that are made by the Tribal Council have a direct impact on my family's lives and I want to be part of that decision making process.



My personal values and beliefs allow me to look at all perspectives and to base my decisions on what is best for the community and not personal gain. I have served on many professional committees and boards, which include the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, Michigan Association for Behavioral Health, Mercy Health Leadership Academy, as well as, the Hopkins Village Council, Hopkins Area Fire Board and Hopkins Public Schools Board of Education. All of these are important, but serving on the Tribal Council is especially meaningful to me. Decisions made today will have lasting impact on future generations. Lastly, I am very proud of my heritage and what our elders have built for the betterment of all. I am committed to serving the tribal citizens and to preserving all the good that has been created by previous leaders. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the tribal community, surrounding communities and my family if I am elected for the one of the Tribal Council positions.

Employment - I have been employed by Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services for the past 17 as Manager of Staff Development and Clinical Systems Analyst.

Education – I graduated from Hopkins High School in 1997 before attending Kellogg Community College and earned my Associate of Arts Degree. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Ferris State University with Bachelors of Science degree. My current path has led me to attending Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ben Brenner

6/23/2016



Aanii,

My name is George Jeffery Martin, the second born of four children to Syd and George Martin. I am enthusiastic to announce my candidacy for Tribal Council of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Salem district. I reside in Dorr, Michigan with my family. My wife Ella Shannon Martin and I have been married over 19 years, she is from Walpole Island First Nations Reserve, Ontario, Canada. Together we have 5 beautiful children, Ashley McKenna (Martin), Priscilla, George, Gladys and Charles. Our oldest daughter Ashley is married to Danny McKenna and together they have given us 2 beautiful grandchildren, Claire and Timothy.

I entered active duty into the U. S. Army in November 1982 and retired Honorably on 1 December 2003. During my military career, I completed 3 overseas tours, twice to West Germany and the Republic of South Korea. My stateside duty assignments were Ft Hood, Texas twice, Ft Bliss, Texas and Ft Knox, Kentucky. The units I was assigned to were some of the U. S. Army's finest and most combat decorated units in the U. S. Army. They were the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division twice, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. While assigned to those units, I received numerous awards and accolades for service while deployed to Southwest Asia (Kuwait) and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Items of business important to me are 3 things, representing the Tribe and all Tribal citizens along with safe guarding the assets that will ensure Tribal membership wellbeing remains, the progressing development of Tribal ventures, investments and undertakings. I think it is important that we as a Tribe seek more and different avenues to ensure our future generations can carry forward continued and enjoyed success. Another item is to have Tribal Council positions become full time positions for all Council members. With the growth of the Tribe today and in the future, in all aspects, tribal citizens deserve to have their leadership focused on all Tribal operations.

My current and previous work for the Tribe, currently serving on the Elders Committee, Environmental Committee, Revenue Allocation Committee, Sweetgrass Moon Powwow Committee, Round Dance Committee, 2016 Gathering of Eagle Staffs the Tribe is hosting in September 2016 and a member of the Gun Lake Tribe Ogitchedaa. I was also on the 2014 Pottawatomi Gathering Committee. In closing thank you for your consideration.

Migwech

Bozho, my name is Ed Pigeon and I would like the opportunity to continue representing the membership of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi as a Tribal Council member from the Salem district. I have been serving on the Tribal Council since 2000 and during that time I have used my best efforts to ensure the long term viability of the Tribe for generations to come.

In 2008, the Tribal Council selected me as Vice Chairman of the Tribe. In that role, I have had the opportunity to work extensively on a wide array of projects for the Tribal Government. This appointment has provided me invaluable experience that you will not find with other candidates. My time on Tribal Council has allowed me to learn and be mentored by many of our elders and assist the Tribe with growth and development. Key highlights of my work include drafting the revenue allocation plan; reshaping the tax agreement area to maximize its accessibility; lobbying on behalf of the Tribe at both the federal and state levels on several issues, including the Gun Lake Reaffirmation Act and settlement of our compact issues with the state. One of my responsibilities has been acquiring new Tribal lands; our reservation trust lands have nearly tripled in size since I was given this task. I continue to work with the BIA towards putting the remaining lands into trust. I am honored to have drafted the Elder's General Welfare Fund, which provides additional financial support to our elders while maximizing tax benefits. I have strived to implement strategic planning and greater fiscal responsibility throughout the organization. During my term, I have helped to create two permanent funds for the Tribe. One fund is to ensure long term viability, and the other fund is to pay for the education of Tribal members for generations to come.

As we continue to grow as a Tribe, the community needs to unite to help shape a sustainable vision for our future. Our community possesses an abundance of talent, knowledge and a desire to be involved. In this time of growth and transition, I will look to decentralize our government and provide greater opportunities for Citizen input. I hope to utilize your knowledge and areas of interest in this endeavor. Although diligent efforts are given, a seven person council can have difficulties representing the entire Citizenry effectively on every issue. I would like to explore ways to restructure various boards and committees to give a greater role to Citizens. It is critical that the membership come together with council to create a shared voice for our community.

I helped form the Tribal nonprofit, the Jijak Foundation, with the goal of promoting cultural education. I would like to see diversification in the Jijak Board of Directors to include Tribal Citizens with a passion for language and culture to guide the organization to the next level. Following Jijak's strategic plan, we can optimize the organization to create a cultural center and museum that meets the needs of the Citizens.

Throughout my last term, we conducted extensive research of other Tribal nations with successful economic development corporation models. I will continue to work on expanding and diversifying our economic opportunities. In late 2014 we formed Gun Lake Investments (GLI), of which I am now a board member. Using research and diligence developed by the Gaming Authority, GLI will begin the construction of our first non-gaming project on the Tribal Reservation. I will utilize my experience and institutional knowledge to ensure GLI grows in a manner consistent with the vision of the Tribe.

One of the key issues expressed by Tribal Citizens is the need for open communication and transparency, and I have worked to create a foundation for this. You may have noticed recent changes to the website, social media and newsletter. Enhancing communication is a priority to me and I am pleased with the direction we are heading with the addition of the communication coordinator. With your help, we will continue to create an avenue where all Citizens feel that their input is welcomed, considered and valued by leadership when shaping the growth of the Tribe.

To be a Gun Lake Tribal Citizen is to be a part of a community, rooted together in a rich past and reaching forward toward a bright future. It is to be a part of a legacy of a proud, close knit and generous group of people. We are a people who are defining our own future on our own cultural terms, given to us by our ancestors and carried forth by our children. I feel that I still have a role to play in this endeavor and ask for your support this August. I am available at: [edpigeon@gmail.com](mailto:edpigeon@gmail.com), or by cell at 616-681-1015.

Migwtech,



Ed Pigeon

## *What being Pottawatomi is to me*

Over the last twenty years, I have dedicated my life for the betterment of not only this Tribe, but to Indian Country in general. I pride myself in being apprised of all that is happening to our world and how our fight for self-determination is always threatened.

Why am I this way? It would all go back to who I am as Pottawatomi and being surrounded by proud family members. I remember growing up not being in a federally recognized tribe, but communities of Anishnabe people. I remember going to community events like family gatherings, many held at my parent's farm in Allegan, and powwows in Mendon, where the Pamp family hosted a wonderful gathering. I learned from my extended family about being Pottawatomi. I still remember the fun times hanging out with my father, grandparents, uncles, aunties and many cousins.

I remember my elders talking about the Pottawatomi treaties and how we were never paid and how we should be federally recognized. It was then that I wanted to help, so I went back to school where I began my path to helping our people. When I graduated from WMU, DK took my family out to dinner to celebrate and asked me if I could consider sitting on the Tribal Council, which was called the Elders Council at that time. I was honored that he would ask me and thought about the work my father did after he was laid off from Rockwell. He loved working with DK and was really into the work of helping the tribe administer some grants. I humbly accepted.

I have served on Tribal Council for 12 years and worked for the last 18 for the Tribe. I am proud of the milestones we have achieved. The pursuit of the Gun Lake Casino is a well-known story of persistence in Indian country. What we accomplished here was nothing short of a miracle. Miracle in the fact that the jobs and revenue supports the tribe and our members and miracle in the overwhelming opposition we defeated. The casino revenue funds our essential programs. I often reflect on the family members I lost to things like diabetes and heart disease and if they had access to our current health programs they may still be with us.

I am proud of the work I have done on behalf of our tribe and Indian people. There is a lot more to be done and I am raising my hand to again to help achieve more great things. I am running for something and not against anything or anyone. I don't like the gamesmanship or politics that I see sometimes. I feel we are all good people and we must all work together to make sure our future generations know that they are Pottawatomi and be proud of that.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration and taking the time to read my story. Being Pottawatomi is being humble, thankful, caring, and most importantly, family. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [jlshagonaby@charter.net](mailto:jlshagonaby@charter.net) or tap me on the shoulder. Miigwetch!

In a good way,

JOHN SHAGONABY

Boozhoo Jayek – my name is Lorraine “Punkin” Shananaquet and I’m announcing my intent to run for tribal council representing the Salem District for the August 2016 elections. I have lived in Hopkins and Monterey Township in Allegan County for 54 of my 56 years of life. I graduated from Hopkins High School in 1979. In 1982 I married Dave Shananaquet and we share 2 beautiful children together, Paul and Carly. They in turn have gifted us a grandson, Mzhakwod John Shananaquet (4) and granddaughter, Lillian Marie Hills (2). I have come to love even more than thought possible by being an active grandparent and seeing someone, “a new life” who is an extension and reflection of you and your children.

I am currently in my 13<sup>th</sup> year of employment as a Community Health Representative. I have seen tremendous growth in individual tribal departments and services. Tracking our progress from our humble beginnings in Dorr, Michigan to a stand-alone government campus. I see daily, visitor’s native and non-native who come to our tribe in a personal or official capacity to seek out services most providers would envy. There is much to be said about the leadership, program directors, and individual community task forces who have influenced leadership, policy, and endless resolutions to give growth and define a physical place we should all be proud of as Gun Lake Tribal Citizens.

I want to conclude my statement with contributions that reflect and define a part of who I am.



- Community Task Force to design and build the Luella Collins Community Center – 2006 through 2009 completion
- Gun Lake Casino Design Committee – 2006 through 2011 completion
- Gun Lake Tribe Education Committee Member – 2006 – Current
- Gun Lake Tribal Council Member – Salem District – 2008 – 2012
- Community Task Force to design and provide cultural components for the Jichak Cultural Foundation Pow Wow Arena – 2012 until completion for Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the tribe in 2014 and an inaugural and historical event for our tribe
- Language Advisory Board to assist with the Language in the Home Program – 2016 – Current
- Revenue Share Board – 2011 – Current
- Michigan Anishinabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) 2005 – Current
- Sweetgrass Moon Pow Wow Committee – Chairman 2015 – Current
- Community Health Representative 2003 – 2016

*Lorraine "Punkin" Shananaquet*



Leah Sprague-Fodor

I am excited to announce my candidacy for Tribal Council of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians' Salem District. I have been married to husband and best friend, Bill, since 1994 and we reside in Dorr, Michigan with our beautiful 10-year-old son named Brice William. He enjoys attending events with me and helping the elders. He considers himself the elder helper!

It has been an honor, and a humbling experience to work for our Tribe since March 1996. I feel privileged to be one of the original employees of the Tribe. Most of my time on the tribal government staff was spent in Member Services. In 2012, I was honored to be elected to the Tribal Council, and on June 2, 2016 I was chosen by my fellow Council members to serve as your Chairperson.

I view all tribal citizens as my family, because we are. Through the roles that I have with the Tribe it has given me not only a variety of perspectives, but also insight into many of the real life struggles that we face as indigenous people. It has been my pleasure to assist in the following areas:

- Volunteered on the Land Use Committee. We have written and adopted an Integrated Resource Management Plan. We have also adopted the Land Use Master Plan.
- Volunteer on the Library Council; having accurate records of our history is an important tool for all our citizens. I believe we can conquer ignorance through education.
- Assist with planning the annual Michigan Indian Family Olympics. This started as a van with a couple children and parents and it has become an overnight stay and over 140 tribal citizens giving us an excellent representation in Mt. Pleasant!
- My passion has always been with the elders. I have worked hard to get them more active and as a result we now have a working Elder's Committee. This five-person committee is dedicated to the success of the elder's program. We now have an elder's craft room where we meet bi-monthly.

It is with great excitement that I am running for the esteemed position of Tribal Council. My years of work for the Tribe have afforded me first-hand experience of the triumphs, and struggles, that our citizens face. I am confident that my knowledge of our Tribe's history, along with my years of experience in government programs and services, makes me an ideal candidate for Tribal Council.

A few items of importance to me include gaining additional housing opportunities for citizens, protecting Gun Lake Casino as our tribal government's sole source of income, and enhancing our programs and services to benefit you – the tribal citizens. I do not believe that Tribal Council should be involved in every decision that needs to be made for our Tribe. I believe in putting intelligent and capable people in important roles and delegating authority to them to act reasonably and responsibly on behalf of our citizens. If I am fortunate enough to have your support on Election Day, I pledge to maintain a consistent and transparent office of Tribal Chairperson.

I have been blessed with an opportunity to be a voice for the children and the elders. I would be forever honored to serve each and every tribal citizen as a member of the Tribal Council. I ask for your support on August 23rd. Please vote Leah A. Sprague-Fodor for Tribal Council.