Merry and Bright

Holiday events bring cheer to members.
District 3 holds holiday celebration

On Thursday, December 8, District 3 hosted tribal member families for a holiday gathering. Members enjoyed a meal together, served by PTN staff. Santa even made a surprise visit, bringing gifts for the kids!
Niobrara Craft Show showcases Ponca member artwork

On Saturday, November 26th, The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hosted a Craft & Vendor show at our Niobrara headquarters, featuring Native artists and businesses. Several Ponca members were able to display their art and crafts, as attendees enjoyed some holiday shopping, and prize drawings throughout the day.
Adopt-A-Buffalo Sponsors

These friends have helped our buffalo herd prosper by adopting herd members through our Adopt-A-Buffalo program! Thank you for your support and preservation of this majestic symbol of Native America.

**Yearling group supporters:**
Anna Mandel & Damon Plotnik
Carolyn & Brett Carlson
Ramona Henry
Peggy O’Keefe
(a gift for Barbara Dennis)
Cooper Hill

**Herd Bull Supporters:**
David Gleiser
Telford Sellers

**Herd Group Supporters:**
Standing Bear High School
Shania O’Flynn
Peggy O’Keefe
(a gift for Barbara Dennis)

Have Diabetes?

Join the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Diabetes Program for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support Classes. Classes are taught by the Ponca Health Services team at all 3 clinic locations.

**Class Topics**
- Healthy Eating
- Being Active
- Monitoring
- Taking Medication
- Problem Solving
- Healthy Coping
- Reducing Risk

Gain knowledge, get support, and work with the health services team members to make an individual plan for diabetes management.

**DSMES can help:**
- Improve blood sugar and A1c levels
- Improve blood pressure and cholesterol levels
- Reduce the risk of diabetes complications

**Classes Start January 9, 2023!**
Fred Leroy Omaha – Mondays | 5pm – 6pm
Lincoln – Wednesday | 10am – 11am
Ponca Hills Norfolk – Thursdays | 10am – 11am

**Incentive for completing all 8 classes!** A meal will be provided.
To find out more information or to register, call:
Jessica Bollig MMN, RDN, LMNT
(O) 402.738.3183 (C) 402.940.2606
Kris Foley MS, RD, LD, LMNT
(C) 402.830.5339
Be ready for the next step.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act - Indian and Native American Program

The Ponca Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program is funded by a Department of Labor Grant. The program assists individuals with education and training, job search activities, and employment related supportive services.

Information about hiring events, job listings, educational opportunities, and more is available on the Ponca Tribe WIOA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ptnwioa.

If you are interested in obtaining education and training, contact the WIOA Program to see if you qualify for assistance.

The WIOA Staff are:
Colleen Plasek—Ralston | 402.315.2765
Bianca Marino—Norfolk | 402.371.8834

Member Registration for Website: In the fall of 2019, we moved our websites to a new host to improve functionality. If you previously had membership-level access to our website, please note that you will need to register for the site again.
How the past impacts the present

Toby Doucette
Trauma Informed Care Specialist

A new year provides us with the opportunity to look toward what is to come. January is unique, in that we can think about the past and what is to come in the New Year. What we may not consider is that what has happened to us in the past can impact what we think and say in the present.

Winter is settling in on us, and cold weather, snow, and wind are here for some time. We prepare for this change in the seasons each year by wearing warm clothes, gloves, hats, and warming our houses. If there is snow on the roads, we drive slower, and leave a little earlier in the morning to get to places like school and work. We plan for what may happen, because few of us like the cold, and may have experienced some bad weather in the past. These small steps of thinking about the future help to keep us safe and prepared.

What we may not plan for is an extended snow storm, or other bad weather like an ice storm that closes down the roads for a long time, or extended power outages. Maybe we did not plan to have extra food in the house to weather the longer storm, or maybe we did not plan to have extra gas in our cars. This is a lot like other parts of our lives. We may have experienced trauma in the past, and we know how to work with that trauma for a short time. Perhaps we have talked to someone about the trauma, but did not plan for the unexpected extended re-surfacing of that trauma.

As the calendar flips from 2022 to 2023, take the time to make a long-term plan to help you and your loved ones with their trauma. If you do not know where to start, ask an elder or your Trauma Informed Care Specialist. Having a short-term plan to help you with your trauma is great, but having a long-term plan for you trauma can help you be better prepared to help you in the future. Spring is on the way, and soon we will see flowers, and feel the warm sun.

Be well and take care of each other.

You can reach Toby, the Trauma Informed Care Specialist for Sioux City, Norfolk, and Niobrara, at jdoucette@poncatrine-ne.org, or by calling 712-258-0500

You can reach Andrea Womacque, the Trauma Informed Care Specialist for Lincoln, Omaha, and Ralston at awomacque@poncatrine-ne.org, or by calling 402-315-2760
Craft & Vendor Show

January 7, 2023 | 10 am-2 pm
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Transit Building
5701 S. 85th Street | Omaha, NE

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will be hosting a Craft & Vendor show, featuring Ponca and Native artists and businesses. Healing Ribbons will be providing lunch (until gone) for a fee to support the mission of the group.

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

For more information, please contact Becci Sullivan at 531.222.4471.
Calling all Ponca Veterans!

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) is working to create a comprehensive list of all Ponca veterans for present and future recognition of service. As such, the THPO is respectfully requesting members who are veterans, or those who have family that have served, help provide information, including:

- Branch of service
- Dates served
- Details or a story from that service
- Wars served
- Photographs

This information will be featured on a veterans honor wall in the Ponca Tribe Museum, and will be used to honor veterans at events, memorials, etc.

To submit veteran information, please contact Stacy Laravie, THPO via email (ssettje@poncatribe-ne.org) or via mail:

Stacy Laravie, THPO
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
88915 521 Avenue
Niobrara, NE 68760
Youth Council assemble gifts for Seniors and Teens!

On Saturday, November 19, members of the Osni Ponka Youth Council and their advisor went on their annual shopping trip to Walmart to fulfill the Senior Secret Santa and Toys for Teen requests. This year the applications were online for both programs and SDA members that met the age requirements were able to select a theme for their gift. Our Seniors got to pick from comfy cozy, sweets, or holiday decor. The teens choose from comfy cozy, spa, or techy. After the shopping event, the youth council members went back to the Ralston office to assemble the gifts and organized them by office location to be shipped out for the members to pick up at their convenience. In total, the Youth Council elves assembled about 300 gifts for our SDA teens and elders. Hope everyone enjoyed their gift!

Keep it handy! Keep it safe!

Keeping your enrollment number safe and secure is important! Your enrollment number is the fastest and easiest way to verify your enrollment in the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and your eligibility for programs open to members of the Ponca Tribe.

Moving forward, all changes to forms and other personal information, online, in person, and over the phone, will require your enrollment number. No changes will be made without a verified enrollment number. Likewise, all Ponca-specific programs will require a verified enrollment number at the time of application to be accepted.

So remember to keep your enrollment number handy, and keep it secure! If you need a new enrollment card or tribal ID, please reach out to the Enrollment Department, enrollment@poncatribe-ne.org.

Are you a young adult 18-25 with experience in the Nebraska state/tribal child welfare system?

We want your voice to be heard!

Tribal youth are not accessing services to help in the transition to adulthood. We want to change that. YOU can help!

Please contact us by emailing kitty@nicwc.org or scan the QR code to get started.

Incentives and travel reimbursements available
Ponca Language 1
Virtual Beginners Class

Mondays & Wednesdays | 5:30-7:40 pm
Starting January 17

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska member and Tribal Council representative Angie Starkel will be teaching a 16 week Ponca Language class at Nebraska Indian Community College, starting January 17.

Classes are virtual, using Microsoft Teams, and meet Mondays & Wednesdays from 5:30-7:40 pm.

Ponca Language 1 is a 4 credit hour course, and tuition is only $1/credit hour! Students will receive a final grade cash bonus.

For more information, please contact Angie Starkel at 402.922.0436. To register for the course, please visit https://www.thenicc.edu/admissions/applicant-information.php

MEMBERS NEEDED

TAX COMMISSION:
The Ponca Tax Commission is charged with the administration and enforcement of all Tribal tax laws. Commissioners are paid a $250.00 stipend per meeting plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to apply. Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2023.

LAW & ORDER CODE REVISION COMMITTEE:
There will be an upcoming vacancy for a tribal member. The responsibilities of the Law & Order Committee are to review the Law & Order Code and recommend changes to the Tribal Council. A $250 stipend is paid plus mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2023.

If you are interested in serving please submit a letter of interest and/or resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribe-ne.org. A background check is required.

OSNI PONCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Tribal Council is accepting applications for the Osni Ponca Board of Directors. The purpose of Osni Ponca LLC is to engage in economic development activities for the benefit of the Tribe and its members. This Board manages the activities and affairs of Osni Ponca. No member of the Tribal Council, employee of the Tribe or any entities thereof, shall serve on this Board. The Board members must have the following minimum qualifications: 1) Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age; 2) either (a) possess a Bachelor’s Degree in business or a related field, or (b) possess a high school diploma (or GED) and have at least five (5) years of business, financial, legal government contracting, tribal government or industry experience; 3) have no felony convictions; and 4) submit to a background investigation which yields no results showing convictions involving tax evasion, tax fraud, embezzlement or moral turpitude. Applications will be accepted from Tribal and non-tribal members. A $250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip.

Applicants must submit a letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribe-ne.org. A background check is required. Deadline for application is February 1, 2023.
Change of Address Form
Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760 Fax: 402-857-3771

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD MUST BE AN ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

PREVIOUS ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

NEW ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER:_______________________________________________________________

ALTERNATE/CELL NUMBER:____________________________________________________

E-mail:______________________________________________________________

DATE NEW ADDRESS IN EFFECT:__________________________________________________________________________

To provide better services to Ponca tribal members, this information will be shared with all PTON Departments as needed. Any service may be suspended until this information is corrected and/or updated.

____________________________________  _______________________________
SIGNATURE REQUIRED   DATE

Approved: 10/18/2008
(Please sign your name in the area below with a BLACK felt tip marker)

TRIBAL MEMBERS
(please print)

NAME: _______________________________________  DOB: _______________________

ADDRESS: _____________________________________________

____________________________________________________

PHONE: _______________________

DO YOU WANT YOUR SS NUMBER ON YOUR ID CARD? YES ______ OR NO ______
If yes, please check one of the following: Full SS number _____ or Last 4 digits only _____

By marking Yes you understand it is your responsibility to keep your SSN confidential and acknowledge that the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is not responsible if the card is lost or stolen.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR BLOOD QUANTUM ON YOUR ID? YES _____ OR NO _____

Photo ID Instructions

1. Signature
   Please completely fill in the information on the bottom of the signature page. With a black felt tip marker please sign your name in the middle of the top of the signature page. (Please note that children do not require a signature for theirs.)

2. Clear readable copies of the following must be submitted:
   a: State Driver’s License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID card (It must have your picture and signature on it)

   b: If you are not an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe, but your child is, you must still submit a copy of your State Driver’s License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID and a copy of your child(s) Social Security Card and Tribal Enrollment Card for proof of enrollment.

3. Photo Options:
   You can email a current photo (without filters) to - enrollment@poncatribe-ne.org
   OR
   You may mail documentation and your current photo to:

   Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
   Enrollment Department
   PO Box 288
   Niobrara, NE 68760-0288

Please sign your name in the area below with a BLACK felt tip marker)
Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after EACH term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding. Students must apply each school year.

**Summer 2023 deadline: May 15, 2022**
**Fall 2023 deadline: August 15, 2022**

The Ponca Educational Trust Fund is available nationwide to students who enroll at one of the University of Nebraska Campuses/Online Courses: Lincoln ~ Omaha ~ Kearney (Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours per semester to be eligible)

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Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 2021-2022 school year are eligible to receive a $500.00 Graduation Incentive!
- Our department is accepting projects for incentives in the following areas: Art, Essay/Poetry, and Student of the Month. *Winners may receive $100.00 for 1st place, $50.00 for 2nd place, and $25.00 for 3rd place. Grade divisions are as follows: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12)*
- Perfect Attendance $100.00 (0-.49 days of absenteeism), $50.00 (.5-3.49 days absenteeism), and $25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

**Deadline to apply for the 2022-2023 school year is July 31, 2023.**

All Education Department Applications and Program Information are available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen @ office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.org. *Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs*

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MEMBERS NEEDED

**LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE:**

The Language & Culture Committee has a vacancy for District 3, due to a resignation, the term will expire on March 9, 2023. Applications are now being accepted. This Committee is an updated version of the previous Culture Committee with a larger focus on the preservation and revitalization of the Ponca language.

The Committee consists of 6 representatives; a representative from each site within the Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) and a representative from outside of the SDAs. Committee members will be selected according to their knowledge of Ponca language, culture, and traditional ways. If a representative is not who meets the above qualification is not available from each site, any qualifying member may be appointed to the committee.

Members will be expected to attend all Committee meetings scheduled monthly and will be paid a stipend of $250 per meeting and claim associated travel at the government rate, not to exceed a total of 410 total miles.

Some of the responsibilities of this committee are:

- To provide guidance to the Culture Department and Language Program with long-term planning, programming, and the use of traditional knowledge.
- To generate culturally-appropriate programming to increase tribal involvement on culture and language activities and create a sustainable culture and language program for tribal members inside and outside the SDAs.
- To act as a resource for Tribal departments to create culturally-based programming by providing guidance, knowledge, wisdom, and expertise on Ponca culture, traditions, history, and beliefs.
- To assist the Ponca Tribal government in the formulation of policies and procedures pertaining to the Ponca Language, culture, and history.
- To review and approve all Ponca culturally related educational material, such as instructional materials and modern communication media productions, to be used to provide instruction to
- To review and reserve approval on all other activities and tasks related to the Ponca language, history, and culture as may be referred the Committee.
- To periodically assess and review the Language Program and provide such assessments to the Tribal Council.

If you desire more information regarding this committee, please contact the Culture Director, Richard Wright Jr., at rwrightjr@poncatribe-ne.or or 402.371.8834. Please forward your letter of interest including your qualifications/resume for this Committee to Ponca Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobra, NE 68760 or via e-mail to crepenning@poncatribe-ne.org. Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2023.
Pedco/Ponca Economic Development Corporation Board

There will be one position open due to a term expiring. Applications are now being accepted. The general mission of the Corporation is: a) to assist the members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to become more employable, including through technical assistance, training, and development of skills; b) to increase members marketable employment and business skills and proficiency in order for them to achieve better employment and economic opportunities; c) to assist members with establishing, developing, and growing their own businesses and increasing their business opportunities, including through loan and other funding programs as well as the provision of technical assistance and training for business; and d) to otherwise improve and increase the economic well-being of the members and community of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska as a whole. The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Ponca Economic Development Corporation and the Bylaws are on the website www.poncatribe-ne.org for your viewing or a copy can be e-mailed to you if requested.

The management and affairs of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors to carry out the purposes of the Corporation. To be eligible for appointment as a Director an individual:

a. Need not be a resident living on Tribal lands or within the territory of the Tribe.

b. Must meet all requirements set forth in the Business Entities Code and any other law of the Tribe applicable to the Corporation; and

c. Must meet any other standards or requirements which the Member’s Representatives may from time to time require.

A $250 stipend per meeting is paid as well as mileage reimbursement up to 410 miles roundtrip. Applicants must submit letter of interest and current resume to the Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or by e-mail crepenning@poncatribe-ne.org. A background check is required. Deadline for applications is February 1, 2023.

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Elder’s Committee Meetings

**January 9, 2023 | 10 am**
Ralston Admin Building
Omaha, NE

**February 6 | 10 am**
Ponca Tribe Offices
Lincoln, NE

Tribal members Lexi (middle) and Abriella (right) Knudsen danced in their first school powwow in November, celebrating Native American Heritage Month with their classmates. Lexi and Abriella are the daughters of Alyssa Martinez Knudsen.
January 2023

Member's Corner

Martin Clancy Jr.

Martin J. Clancy Jr., age 79, of Henderson, Nevada passed away on Friday, November 4, 2022. Martin was born on April 10, 1943 in Crofton, Nebraska to Myrtle E. Porter and Martin Joseph Clancy. He was the oldest of five children. In 1950, the family relocated to Henderson, where he would grow up, and graduate from Basic High School in 1961.

On March 21, 1963 Martin would enlist in the U.S. Air Force; where he would serve honorably for the next four years. Upon discharge from active duty in 1967, Martin would continue his service in the reserves for another 2 years, being honorably discharged in 1969.

On August 29, 1969, Martin would meet the love of his life, Toni Thompson, in Tallahassee, Florida. They married on August 29, 1970, at Little Church of the West in Las Vegas, Nevada. Martin enjoyed racing and had a passion for building cars and motorcycles. He was also a gun enthusiast. Martin was a man who enjoyed life to the fullest. He was an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, a true patriot of his country, and will truly be missed.

Martin was preceded in death by his father Martin Joseph Clancy, his mother Myrtle E. Porter, grandmother Esther Howe Porter, great grandmother Emily K. Howe, and his sister Shannon Rose. He is survived by his wife, Toni Clancy; his siblings: Faythe Hurd (Sioux City, Iowa), Patrick Clancy (Las Vegas, NV), and Erin Hayter (Henderson, NV).

Ponca Storyteller's Corner

Is there anyone out there who doesn’t have a story, or a few, that means the world to them? Stories contain worlds, convey knowledge, shape identity, live in the best parts of our hearts and memories. Without them, the world would be drab, colorless. Without them, we might wind up forgetting everything we most want to remember.

As Ponca People and as Natives, stories are particularly important to us. For thousands of years, we were an oral culture, meaning the spoken word and storytelling were among the primary ways we transmitted what we knew from generation to generation, how essential things and just lovely things moved through families, clans, and societies. Recently, as we all know, we Poncas have made our way through a kind of apocalypse. It has been difficult, tough, tragic. But we are still here and we are rebuilding, regenerating, and our story as a tribe continues. Guided by our ancestors, we persevere and go forward.

And we Ponca People still have plenty of stories—baskets, pickup trucks, and houses just full of them. They make us laugh, they make us cry, they make us who we are. We remember them from long ago when we were kids, and we remember them from yesterday. We tell them around the fire, and we tell shortened versions of them in our Facebook comments. They’re treasures; sacred, precious family belongings. But they’re also jokes, lessons, cultural history, and dreams. Aren’t they the best? Isn’t it awesome that as Ponca People we still have such a beautiful mountain of stories standing at the center of who we are as a people and as a tribe?

In this column, which I’m calling the Ponca Storytellers Corner, I’m aiming to create a place in our monthly newsletter where us Ponca can share our stories—any of them that come to mind—that are meaningful or educational to us, that need sharing or might be inspiring. My hope is that this column feeds our growth, feeds our journey, feeds our soul, because isn’t that what a good story does anyway?

If you have a story you’d like to share in the Ponca Storytellers Corner, email it to cliffponca@gmail.com and jhitchcock@poncatribe-ne.org. We are richer as individuals and as a people when we share the stories we have to tell. Let’s make each other rich again as Poncas with the stories we carry.

Weblaho, Cliff Taylor
The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Newsletter is published monthly and printed by Printco Graphics, Omaha, Nebraska.
Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. In the event the 1st falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before.
All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Jessica Hitchcock, jhitchcock@poncatribe-ne.org.
See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the member's side (you must log in) of the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.org