Reintroduction

By Ty “Dancing Wolf” Ellis

Kulamalsi Hech? I hope all families are well and in good health.

This is the first issue of our digital Tribal Newsletter. We have not had a newsletter being dispersed in years. We are now in the age of technology, where we can reach out to all corners of the nation, both indigenous and non-indigenous alike, with just an e-mail. We were once limited to phone calls and physical mail outs, which were not only limiting, but also expensive. A set schedule has not yet been established for the release of these newsletters, but they will become regular. We aim to keep our Tribal Community informed, as well as maintain a healthy relationship with the public communities that aim to continue to support us!

It’s been a very VERY long year. Our Tribal Community has not had any physical meetings since the beginning of the state shut down early last 2020. Though this invisible threat has not yet been defeated, we have faith in our Creator that all will be as it should.

Our tribal community will resume physical general meetings on March 20th. However, Zoom Meetings will remain available for all other committees and meetings. The Tribal Leaders and officials have been working hard to remain proactive during this pandemic, but we all still have a lot of catching up to do. This has affected the entire world. As such, we encourage each and every person to continue to adhere to health & safety guidelines! Our people have overcome such viruses before. We can do this; Together!
This year, we have all lost many. Hopefully, all will take this time as a point of Reflection and Remembrance.

**Reflection:** We’ve all had to quarantine. We’ve all been shut in and dealt with the uncertainties of the future. We’ve all had to take time off of work; some not by choice. This has been the time that we have all taken to reflect on what we all took for granted. As well as reflect on who we were, and how this pandemic has begun to shape us into something entirely different.

**Remembrance:** We have lost many in this past year. Most due to this virus, whether directly or otherwise. Indigenous and non-indigenous alike. We want to remember each and every one of these people. We offer condolences to all of you who have lost loved ones.

In Loving Memory of many that Indigenous People have lost...

Chief Richard “Quiet Thunder” Gilbert (Top Left)
Aunt Pat Rossello (Top Right)
Kevin Tarrant (Bottom Left)
Emelie Jeffries (Bottom Right)
Herbert Pierce Sr.
Neal Cuff
Steven Cuff
Olin Gould
Margaret “Peggy” Cossaboon
John Goldsboro
Dolores Munson
Sharon Munson Oslap
Ivanette Mosley-Pierce
James Leon Inloes Sr.
Agnes Sammons-Greene
Christopher Melvin Durham
Percival L. Pierce
Preston Henry Hines
Jim Tobias

Condolences to those who were unnamed...
Unfortunately, due to Covid, we weren’t able to have our annual Pow-Wow for the first year in four decades. As stressful has it is to put the event together, seeing all of your smiling faces and how much of a good time is had both inside and outside the circle always made it worth it. We had to miss out on the good food, the good laughs, the songs, the food, the dancing, the crafts, and, just in case I forgot to mention, the food!

Pow-Wow Committee has been meeting via Zoom. We decided to plan for the Pow-Wow’s potential happening in 2021. However, due to the many uncertainties, we may once again need to cancel the event. Which pains me, as I’m having Pow-Wow Fever. But, safety and health come first. This is a pending decision (which will be discussed at our next meeting), and the resolve will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Last year, in lieu of the Pow-Wow, the funds from the grant that we were awarded for having the event were allocated to produce a 5-Episode documentary touching on multiple topics. These topics include things such as ongoing Native Arts, history of our people, modern issues we still face, the strength (and display) of songs and dances, etc. These will be released online in the near future. Stay tuned to the website. We will send out digital newsletter announcements as they become available.

Though, due to the pandemic, we have not done many programs, I’ve been able to do some Zoom programs with many educational institutions. We will continue to accept these program requests as they come in.

Please feel free to donate to the committee by following the link to our page on the website (or any page, find the donate tab on the sidebar, and select Pow-Wow). [https://nlltribe.com/eventsprograms/](https://nlltribe.com/eventsprograms/)

Wanishi!

The IT Committee is the newest formed committee, tasked with maintaining the Informational & Technological needs of the Tribe in this modern age of technology. Especially during this pandemic, the need and desire for online inclusion has grown. We have been putting this tool we call ‘the internet’ to use, as we now have casual informative meetings online, without the need to leave our homes. This allows us to reach all of our members that are out of state as well.

Other responsibilities of the IT Committee include...

- Digitizing existing paper documents
- Maintaining storage servers
- Maintaining security to all digital resources
- Assisting all committees in uploading to Tribal Sites
- Corresponding and/or redirecting general online E-mails & messages
- Upkeeping proper network, programming, & internet functionality @ all Tribal buildings
- Research & Proposal of technological utilization that may promote convenience

We have been uploading meeting minutes and videos to our tribal website (which are protected, and for tribal members and associates only). We have begun trying to regulate and increase our online presence, which would include social media management.

We hope to serve the Tribal Community in a good way. And we hope that our reach to the public continues to strengthen!
Hello from the Ways & Means Committee!

We hope that this letter finds everyone healthy and safe. The Covid 19 virus has kept all of us apart, but remember, you are in our thoughts and heart. Our Spring Fling Dinner Dance had to be postponed, due to the Covid 19 outbreak. We hope to reschedule the dance when the virus is under control, the department of health lifts the restrictions and it is safe to hold this event.

We participated in the Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends fundraiser on October 14 & 15. Boscov’s donated 5% of sales for every shopper who mentioned our tribe when making a purchase. Thank you for your support and participation.

Ways & Means would like to thank the tribal members and all those who continue to support our fundraising efforts.

We pray that everyone stays safe and healthy and that the new year brings blessing to all of our tribal family.

Ways & Means Committee
Linda Jackson
Ronda Carney
Charlene Johnson

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The Naticoke Lenni Lenape elder’s lunch program has been shut down for the last eleven months. The Covid 19 Pandemic has affected our elder population greatly. Our weekly attendance was increasing with new lunch members joining each Tuesday. The tribal elder’s council were meeting and coming up with a wide array of activities and outing for the lunch group. Everything has been put on hold until we are able to meet again. When talking with our elders, they miss one of our most successful weekly activities is BINGO! They love it!

Due to the pandemic we had to cancel our trip to Sight and Sound in April. We were looking forward to this adventure and the delicious meal that we always have at the Shady Maple Buffet. We were able to obtain a Covid 19 governor’s wife grant to feed our elder one hot and two frozen meals each for 5 weeks. They enjoyed the meals and we enjoyed seeing them in our drive by feeding program.

The Naticoke Lenni Lenape Elders Lunch Program would like to invite and welcome anyone who is 60 years or older to come and be a part of our program. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our luncheon program by April or May 2021. Not only do we serve some of the tastiest and delicious food, but we have a lot of fun and exciting adventures planned for when we are able to continue our luncheon program.

“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things are connected.”

-Chief Seattle
The Membership Committee have gotten an overwhelming amount of tribal applications and ID forms. Of course, due to Covid-19, we have not had a quarterly meeting since December 2019! The good news is that we plan to resume meetings and process applications this coming March! And ID’s will also be processed very soon!

For those unfamiliar with the Membership Committee, we are tasked with processing applications for tribal enrollment. We have to link the applicant with our tribal community through lineage with a combination of knowledge of one’s family and physical documentation that proves one’s connection to said family (such as Birth Certificates with parents’ names).

In the future, this will where we welcome our newest members!

New Dawn & Little Acorns are our Tribe’s youth groups.

New Dawn is our youth council at ages 13 – 18 (extending to 21 for those who have spent years in the group). Little Acorns is the name for the kids ranging from 5 -12. Like all the other Committees, the youth groups have to met since before the pandemic in person. New Dawn has met via Zoom over the course of the last couple of months. Thanks to this, we are now able to include young adults who live entirely too far to make it to physical meetings otherwise.

Typically, the youth groups are often led by appointed adult advisors and chaperones. Throughout the years, they have raised money to go on meaningful trips that help promote both their learning of culture and their willingness to coordinate with youth of other nations. Trips to museums, other nation’s Pow-Wows, and youth conventions (such as UNITY) help build these young ones into being strong leaders that will one day take up the mantle.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there have been no trips. But, we are hopefully for the future.

If you would like to donate to the Tribal Youth Group or their annual Youth Camp, please visit NLLTribe.com and donate on the side bar. Be sure to select your designation in the drop down menu!

Wanishi!!
Economic Development is a committee whose focuses are on the tribe’s economic growth. We highlight potential means of income as well as non-financial improvements to our way of life in which are meant to be directly funded, researched, and/or effected by the Economic Development of our tribe.

Additionally, any opportunity to prioritize the use of businesses owned or operated by our Tribal Citizens should be taken. Likewise, these businesses are to comply with the standard of care in which they would professionally lend to any other customer/client.

In the near future, we will be providing a directory of businesses owned and/or operated by our people. There are individuals amongst us who have studied special trades and are active working members of our communities. Architects; Landscapers; Teachers; Photographers; Plumbers; Mechanics; Hair Stylists; Business Managers... the list goes on. The aim is to provide the means and platform for our members to gather future business. If you are an enrolled Tribal member, and would like to be included in this directory, please email NanticokeLenapeTribe@gmail.com to be put on the list of people who are reached out to with an official form in the future.

One of our current major efforts in production is the new Museum on our Tribal Grounds. It is in the early phases, but hopefully one day soon, we will be going out to bid and opening this historic exhibit. In addition, after it is established, it will be a location for performing arts, so that schools and groups may come to see performances by our tribal community. Keep an eye out for this. We will update you all every step of the way.

Other items in progress include

- Solar Panels on property to power tribal buildings
- Potential cell phone towers on property to provide the area with better service
- Land clearing for a future Pow-Wow on our very own property

Please, feel free to donate to the Economic Development of our tribe via NLLTribe.com’s donation page located on the sidebar of each page!

Thank you all!