



LIAISON



Quarterly Newsletter of the
OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Volume XII, Issue III

JANUARY EDITION

COMMISSION BEGINS 41ST YEAR AS STATE AGENCY – ACTIVITIES IN FULL SWING

As the **OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION (OIAC)** moves into its 41st year of existence as a state agency, agency staff are busy with a myriad of projects.

Annual publications and activities are in various stages of development.

▶ the “**2008 Oklahoma Tribal Leadership Poster**,” which features the principal leadership of Oklahoma’s tribal nations in office as of January 1, 2008. Of the 37 federally-recognized sovereign nations in Oklahoma, 34 principal leaders will be featured on this year’s poster. Dissemination will take place on or before the end of January.

▶ the “**Oklahoma Indian Nations Pocket Pictorial Directory – 2008 Edition**” is also in the process of being completed. The Directory, our most popular publication, contains information obtained from tribal nations compiled from an annual survey. It is anticipated that the 2008 Directory will be available in early February.

▶ the “**5th Annual Opening Day Legislative Reception**,” will take place on Monday, February 4, which is the opening day of the 2nd session of the 51st Legislature. The purpose of the event is four-fold: (1) to support the continued existence of the OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION; (2) promote positive State-Tribal Relations; (3) provide a venue to discuss State-Tribal issues with Legislators; and (4) to meet newly elected Legislators and other officials. This year’s event will take place in Devon Hall of the Oklahoma History Center. Contributing hosts for the event include the **CHOCTAW NATION; CHICKASAW NATION; HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN, & WALKER LAW OFFICES; and ANDREWS DAVIS LAW OFFICES-TULSA.**

▶ the co-sponsorship of the “**Sovereignty Symposium XXI**,” which is sponsored by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. This year’s forum is scheduled to take place on June 4-5 at the Skirvin Hotel in downtown OKC. The OIAC will be hosting Oklahoma’s tribal leadership at a private luncheon just prior to the processional of tribal flags in the opening plenary session.

▶ the quarterly publication of the agency’s newsletter, the “**LIAISON**” continues to be published on schedule after a major design overhaul.

Two activities carried over from the 2007 fiscal year include the long-awaited redesign of the agency’s web site and the “**Oklahoma Indian Nations Information Handbook – 2007 Commemorative Edition**.”

The Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission **web site** has recently been reconstructed by **OK.GOV** and contains resource information about the Commission; Commission board meetings; Oklahoma’s tribal nations; tribal broadcasts; state-tribal relations; compacts, contracts, and agreements; events; employment; publications; links; and FAQ’s. **The new web site address is: oiac.ok.gov.**

The **2007 Commemorative edition of the information handbook** is in its final stages of completion and contains new resource and statistical information. The 2008 Edition will be developed during the second half of the agency’s fiscal year with a projected dissemination date of May.

The second half of the each fiscal year is the busiest time for the **Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission** as projects are being implemented and completed before the end of June. During the Legislative session, the agency tracks bills and often provides committee testimony as well as providing legislation updates to tribal leadership. For more information or copies of Commission publications, please visit our web site.

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL
RELATIONS APPOINTED**

The Joint Committee on State and Tribal Relations, created by statute in 1988, (74 O.S. § 285(41)), represents the legislative branch of Oklahoma's state government during the compacting process. A total of 10 members are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Committee Chair and Co-Chair positions rotate between the House and Senate every two years.

Under current law and with the exception of tobacco compacts and motor fuels contracts (which are otherwise provided for by law), cross-deputization agreements, Class III gaming compacts, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) agreements, Motor Vehicle Licensing Compacts, and all other applicable agreements are reviewed by the Joint Committee on State and Tribal Relations and, if the agreements and compacts address all valid concerns and include all necessary criteria, approval is authorized by the Committee.

SENATE MEMBERSHIP

As of November 2007, the Senate membership of the Joint Committee on State and Tribal Relations had significant changes to membership.



Chairman
Sen. Sean Burrage
D-Claremore

This session's **Chairman of the Committee** is **Senator Sean Burrage**, a Democrat from Claremore. Burrage also serves as Co-Chair of the Senate Rules Committee.



Sen. Charles Wyrick
D-Fairland

Senator Charles Wyrick (D-Fairland) is the only Senator who remains on the Committee from 2007. Wyrick was appointed Democrat Whip in 2007 and 2008 and serves as Co-chair of the Senate Agriculture & Rural Development Committee.

Other new members include: **Senator Mike Johnson**, who also serves as Co-Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee; **Senator Mike Mazzei**, who serves as Assistant Co-Floor Leader and Co-Chairs the Senate Finance Committee; and **Senator John Sparks**, Co-Chair of the Senate Retirement & Insurance Committee.



Sen. Mike Johnson
R-Kingfisher



Sen. Mike Mazzei
R-Tulsa



Sen. John Sparks
D-Norman



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House membership also had changes. The Co-Chair of the Committee is still **Rep. Paul Wesselhoft** (R-Moore), who also serves as the House Industry & Labor Chairman. Returning members include:



Rep. Lisa Billy
R-Purcell

Rep. Lisa Billy (R-Purcell), who has been appointed as Majority Caucus Vice-Chairman and Deputy Majority Whip in addition to serving as Chairman of the House International, Federal, & Tribal Relations Committee;



Co-Chairman
Rep. Paul Wesselhoft
(R-Moore)



Rep. Rob Johnson
R-Kingfisher

Rep. Rob Johnson (R-Kingfisher) filled the position vacated by Speaker of the House Lance Cargill. Johnson also serves as Majority Whip;



Rep. Shane Jett
R-Tecumseh

Rep. Shane Jett (R-Tecumseh) serves as Chair of the powerful House Rules Committee; and



Rep. T.W. Shannon
R-Lawton

Rep. T.W. Shannon (R-Lawton), serves as Assistant Majority Whip of the House and Vice-Chairman of the House Judiciary & Public Safety Committee.

Meetings are convened at the call of the Chair, usually during the legislative session. As of FY-08, 116 cross-deputization agreements, 58 gaming compacts, 10 TANF agreements, one Boxing compact, and one motor vehicle license compact have been executed.

JOB VACANCY

POSITION OPENED: 1/11/08 POSITION CLOSES: 1/31/08 OR UNTIL FILLED
THE OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SEEKING QUALIFIED, ENERGETIC APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN

PRINCIPAL DUTIES INCLUDE: RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BI-MONTHLY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS AND ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING; GENERAL CLERICAL AND RECEPTION; COORDINATION OF LARGE MAILINGS; STAFFING FOR AGENCY RECEPTIONS, FORUMS, LUNCHEONS, AND OTHER EVENTS; AND OTHER OFFICE DUTIES.

SALARY RANGE: \$22,000 – \$27,000 + GREAT FRINGE BENEFITS

- HIGH SCHOOL WITH SOME COLLEGE AND/OR VO-TECH PREFERRED;
- STATE, FEDERAL, AND/OR TRIBAL EXPERIENCE A PLUS;
- WRITING SKILLS A PLUS; COMPUTER SKILLS A MUST.

E-MAIL RESUME'S TO:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT oiac60@oklaosf.state.ok.us

OR FAX RESUME' TO: (405) 522-4427

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THE OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



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BULLETIN BOARD

NEXT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 20, 2008
10 a.m.

**LINCOLN PLAZA
OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 284
Oklahoma City, OK
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www.oiac.ok.gov

2ND SESSION 51ST LEGISLATURE LEGISLATIVE SESSION DEADLINES

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|-------------|--|
| December 7 | Bill Request Deadline |
| January 17 | Bill Introduction Deadline |
| February 4 | SESSION CONVENES |
| February 21 | Bill in Committees - House of Origin Deadline |
| March 13 | 3rd Reading in House of Origin Deadline |
| April 3 | Bills in Opposite House in Committees Deadline |
| April 24 | 3rd Reading in Opposite House Deadline |
| May 30 | SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT by 5 p.m. |