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Newsletter

OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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Delaware Nation & Suquamish Tribe Create Historic Partnership



Barbara A. Warner, Executive Director, Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission (OIAC), attended a reception hosted by the **Delaware Nation** to welcome the **Suquamish Tribe** of Washington state to Oklahoma as a part of their strategic “historical” partnership.

In a press release issued by the Delaware Nation: “Negotiations on this partnership started when **Kerry Holton, President of the Delaware Nation** and Chairman of the Delaware Tamamend Foundation, and **Harold Pruner, CEO of the Delaware Foundation**, visited the Suquamish Leaders on Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, early last year. Cooperation between the two tribal foundations was quickly established and they jointly negotiated the right for Indian Tribal Foundations to become a member of the prestigious Council on Foundations, a nation trade association. Previously, other minority foundations could join the Council, but for unclear reasons, sovereign tribal foundations had not been allowed to join.”

“This is an important breakthrough, because becoming a member of the CoF will allow sovereign tribal Foundations to access valuable services that other large foundations, like the Ford and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations enjoy. The rapport between the two tribes lead

to a decision to work more closely together in a number of areas, including history and heritage preservation, health, education, and economic development.”

The June 19 reception in Oklahoma City included Oklahoma dignitaries, as well as the Suquamish Leader, **Chairman Leonard Forsman**, who is a descendent of Chief Seattle, **Linda Holt**, a member of the Suquamish tribal council, and **Michael Felts**, CEO of the Suquamish Foundation.

Executive Director Warner stated that: “This partnership is significant. These two tribal nations should be commended for clearing the path for other tribal nations to establish similar foundations for the purpose of furthering their economic stability.”

Chairman Kerry Holton said, “I’m proud to welcome these distinguished Suquamish Leaders to our home and we hope our deliberations culminate in a synergistic working relationship between our two tribal nations.”

Harold Pruner, CEO of the Delaware Foundation added: “Both tribes have created a strategic advantage by forming Foundations that can initiate and develop programs to serve their people in areas not now available.”

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of Cherokees

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Kaw Nation

**State Dept. of Education,
Indian Education Office, to host**

"Oklahoma Indian Education Exposition"

September 25-26 is the date for the Oklahoma Indian Education Exposition, which will take place on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. The format for the exposition will highlight cultural competitions for Native American students.

These competitions include: Essay, Oratory, Video/Power Points and Books about personal achievements, singing (big drum, hand drum, choral) dancing (intertribal and stomp dancing), and hand games.

A few non-competitive categories include tribal dress and a Wall of Fame depicting photographs and biographies of

achievements. Also included this year will be math and reading competitions, an art contest, and a spelling bee.

The Oklahoma Secondary School Athletic Association has sanctioned this activity and allows all winners to be declared as "All State."

All funds will be used to provide meals, awards, motivational speakers and other materials needed to carry on the competitions.



For more information, contact the OK Dept. of Education, Indian Education office at (405) 522-1591.

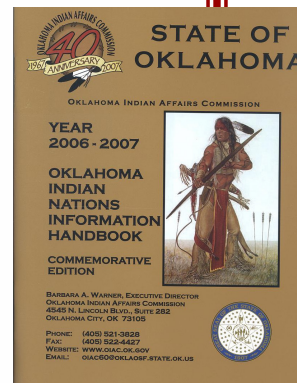
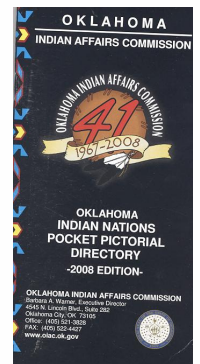


OIAC 2008 Tribal Leader Poster to be distributed to Oklahoma's Libraries and Schools ... and other publications ...

The 2008 OK Indian Nations Pocket Pictorial and the 40th Commemorative OK Indian Nations Information Handbook, as well as the 2008 poster, have been sent to OK Legislators and department heads; the 37 Tribal Leaders of the federally recognized tribes of Oklahoma; OK U.S. Congress; Native and non-Indian organizations and other "friends of the Commission."

The Tribal Leader Poster was sent to the Dept. of Libraries where it will be distributed to Oklahoma's 207 public Libraries and to approximately 25 "depository" libraries (those who contractually distribute state publications to the public).

These publications will soon be available online. A limited number of copies are currently available at no cost to the public and may be requested by calling our office at (405) 521-3828 or by email on our website (www.oiac.ok.gov).



Skibine to Temporarily Assume Responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

WASHINGTON -- George T. Skibine, a top career official in Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior, will temporarily assume the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Skibine is the Acting Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development – Indian Affairs.

Interior Deputy Secretary P. Lynn Scarlett issued the delegation of authority action on May 23, 2008, following Carl J. Artman's departure from the post. The delegation is effective until further notice.

"George Skibine is an experienced federal manager who is well known and respected throughout Indian Country," said Deputy Secretary Scarlett. "The Office of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education will be in very capable hands during the search for a new assistant secretary for Indian Affairs."

Skibine, who is an enrolled member of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, has served as the acting deputy assistant sec-

retary since 2004. He also currently serves as Director of the Office of Indian Gaming in the Department and has directed that office since 1995. From April to August of 2007, he served as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs.

His experience at the Interior Department also includes having served as an attorney in the Office of the Solicitor and as Deputy Associate Solicitor for the Division of Indian Affairs. He also served for several years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Skibine holds a degree in economics from the University of Chicago and a law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School. Skibine holds a degree in economics from the University of Chicago and a law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School.



Tribal Leader Luncheon

The Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission has been the host to Oklahoma's tribal leadership at a private luncheon in conjunction with Sovereignty Symposium since 2000.

This year's luncheon took place at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City on June 4 and was attended by approximately 75 dignitaries including Tribal Leaders, Lt. Governor Jari Askins, State Supreme Court Justices, Sovereignty Symposium panelists, and other VIP guests.

OIAC Vice-Chairman, Dan Jones, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Several of the Tribal Leaders spoke to the crowd.

Principal Chief Kelly Haney of the Seminole Nation expressed his appreciation for the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission saying it is through the Commission that he stays informed of legislation and affairs of the State and that he appreciates the Commission's hard work.

Principal Chief Jim Gray of the Osage Nation also expressed his appreciation to the Commission for its hard work and spoke at some length



about positive state and tribal relations in Oklahoma in the future.

The OIAC is governed by nine Governor-appointed Commissioners for 3-year terms and include: **Chief Bill Follis** (Modoc Tribe), OIAC Chairman; **Dan Jones** (Ponca Nation), OIAC Vice-Chairman; **Chairman John Barrett** (Citizen Potawatomi Nation); former Governor **Ken Blanchard** (Absentee Shawnee Tribe); **Mary Flute-Cooksey** (Cherokee Nation); **Principal Chief A.D. Ellis** (Muscogee Nation); former Chief **Charles Enyart** (Eastern Shawnee Tribe); **Assistant Chief Charles Locust** (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees); and former Chairman, **Wanda Stone** (Kaw Nation).

The luncheon precedes the "Opening Ceremonies" of Sovereignty Symposium, which is sponsored by the Oklahoma Supreme Court under the guidance of Justice Yvonne Kauger and co-sponsored by the OIAC. The OIAC moderates the processional of tribal leaders, who bring in the flags of their sovereign nations. This year, 26 tribal nations were represented by 19 CEOs and seven tribal representatives.

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"This publication, printed by the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, is issued in compliance with § 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes. 500 copies of this publication have been printed and distributed at a cost of \$1.23 each. Twenty-five copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma, Department of Libraries."

BULLETIN BOARD

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

"ANNUAL MEETING"

JULY 17, 2008

Annual Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman Offices

4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 284
(next door to OIAC office)
Oklahoma City, OK

JOB VACANCY

POSITION OPENED: 7/1/08
POSITION CLOSES: 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.

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"Death did you say? There is no death,
only a changing of worlds."

Chief Seattle (Suquamish)