

# LIAISON

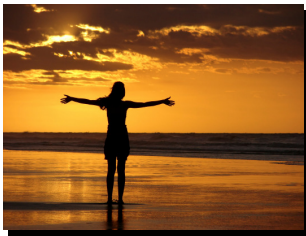
OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Volume IX, Issue I

Quarterly Newsletter

July 2009 Edition

## WHO'S ON FIRST: TRIBAL WATER MEETINGS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE ON STATE AND TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS ISSUES



**Lindsay Robertson**, University of Oklahoma School of Law, and the **Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission**.

The purpose of the meetings were "to provide a practical overview to the law and policy issues relating to Tribal Water Rights in Oklahoma and the **Oklahoma Water Resource Board's** ongoing effort to update the Oklahoma comprehensive State Water Plan."

The first water meeting was hosted by the **Citizen Potawatomi Nation** at the Nation's Cultural Resource Center in Shawnee on May 18, 2009. Twenty-eight individuals representing 13 tribal nations and other entities were present for this inaugural meeting. OU Law Professor **Emily H. Mezell** provided information on the topic of water planning in Oklahoma from a historic perspective. **Taiawaigi Helton**, also with the OU School of Law, provided attendees with information regarding the Oklahoma Comprehensive State Water Plan initiatives historically and to present day. Chickasaw Nation Special Counsel on Water and Natural Resources **Steven Greetham** discussed experiences with state and tribal water rights as a practicing attorney that deals with the water rights issue on a daily basis. OU Law Professor **Lindsay Robertson** served as Facilitator for the meeting.

**Barbara Warner**, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission who attended the session at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation said, "Considering the complexity of the issue of

water rights relative to states and tribes, the information was presented in a most informative, understandable level by outstanding presenters. The discussion among tribal leaders and other tribal representatives was excellent and I think most of us walked away with a far better understanding of the issues involving state and tribal water rights than when we arrived."

The second water meeting was held on June 16 at the Cherokee Resort in Catoosa hosted by the **Cherokee Nation** and a third meeting is being planned for August in Lawton.

For more information regarding these meetings, you may contact **Daniel Red Thunder Wind**, Environmental Coordinator for the Sac & Fox Nation, by email at [daniel.wind@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov](mailto:daniel.wind@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov).

*"The discussion among tribal leaders and other tribal representatives was excellent and I think most of us walked away with a far better understanding of the issues involving state and tribal water rights than when we arrived."*

*-Barbara A. Warner,  
Executive Director, OIAC*



**BARBARA A. WARNER**  
Executive Director

**CAROL F. JONES**  
Projects Coordinator

**ANGIE ATAUVICH**  
Administrative  
Assistant

**VACANT**  
Administrative  
Technician

**COMMISSIONER &  
OIAC Chairman**  
**CHIEF BILL FOLLIS**  
Modoc Tribe

**COMMISSIONER &  
OIAC VICE-  
CHAIRMAN**  
**DAN C. JONES**  
Ponca Nation

**COMMISSIONER**  
**JOHN A. BARRETT**  
CHAIRMAN,  
Citizen Potawatomi  
Nation

**COMMISSIONER**  
**KEN BLANCHARD**  
Absentee Shawnee Tribe

**COMMISSIONER**  
**MARY FLUTE-COOKSEY**  
Cherokee Nation

**COMMISSIONER**  
**A.D. ELLIS**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF,  
Muscogee (Creek)  
Nation

**COMMISSIONER**  
**CHARLES LOCUST**  
ASSISTANT CHIEF,  
United Keetoowah Band  
of Cherokees

**COMMISSIONER**  
**RON SPARKMAN**  
CHAIRMAN,  
Shawnee Tribe

**COMMISSIONER**  
**WANDA STONE**  
Kaw Nation

## The Board Report ...from the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING May 21, 2009



The last regularly scheduled **Board of Commissioners Meeting** of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission for FY-2009 took place on May 21, 2009, hosted by the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority (NACEA).

In attendance were Commissioner and Chief **Bill Follis**, OIAC Chairman; Commissioner **Dan Jones**, OIAC Vice-Chairman; Commissioner and Chairman, **John Barrett**; Commissioner **Keneth Blanchard**; Commissioner & Chief **A. D.**

**Ellis**; Commissioner & Assistant Chief **Charles Locust**; and Commissioner **Wanda Stone**. Commissioners absent due to other commitments were **Charles Enyart** and **Mary Flute-Cooksey**.

Following a welcome by NACEA Executive Director Gena Timberman was the approval of the March Board minutes and a review and discussion of the FY-2010 Goals & Objectives of the agency. The NACEA staff also provided a powerpoint and DVD presentation to update the Board on the progress of the building of the **American Indian Cultural Center and Museum**, which includes a Cultural Center and Museum; a landscaped park and trail system; a Visitor/Welcome Center; and an arts market place in a 300-acre cultural park.

OIAC Executive Director **Barbara A. Warner** discussed the current funding level of the agency for the last quarter of the fiscal year and projected carryover funding to be included with new monies received for FY-2010.

**Carol Jones**, OIAC Projects Coordinator, reported on the progress of various activities and publications that were scheduled during FY-2009, including:

- Board Meeting Presentations by Ex Officio board members, Advisory Committee Members, or by other individuals or groups bringing public information to the Board;
- the publication of the *2008-2009 Edition of the Oklahoma Indian Nations Information Handbook*, the *2009 Oklahoma Indian Nations Pocket Pictorial Directory*, the *March 2009 Edition of the LIAISON*, and the *2009 Oklahoma Tribal Leadership Poster*;
- An update on Sovereignty Symposium XXII, which was to take place on June 3-4 at the Skirvin-Hilton Hotel in downtown OKC. As of meeting time, 31 tribal nations were confirmed to be represented at the OIAC-sponsored "Private Tribal Leader Luncheon" and to take part in the Opening Day professional. Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee, House Budget Chair Rep. Ken Miller, and T. Boone Pickens were also among the VIP's invited to attend the luncheon; and
- Executive Director Presentations.

Following the agency report portion of the agenda was a report about the Tribal Water Issues workshops that were being developed by Lindsay Robertson, OU Law Professor in conjunction with the Sac & Fox Nation and the OIAC. The first meeting was held at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation on May 18, 2009 and other meetings have been tentatively scheduled for June 18, 2009, in Catoosa and July 15, 2009 in Lawton.

Information was provided to the Board by the Executive Director regarding legislative updates for the final week of the legislative session and a copy of information broadcast to tribes regarding a State-Tribal Environmental issue occurring at the federal level. The Annual Meeting and election of officers of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission Board of Commissioners will take place during the Annual Meeting on July 16, 2009.

**Visit our website at [www.oiac.ok.gov](http://www.oiac.ok.gov) for  
meeting information and tentative agenda.**

# OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING NEWS JULY 16, 2009



**Chief Bill Follis was re-elected as OIAC Board Chairman.**

**Chief Follis** is the great-grandson of James Long, "The Youngest Modoc Warrior," and was first appointed to the Commission in 1995 by former Governor Frank Keating. He has served five three-year terms as Commissioner and was elected **Board Chairman of the Commission** in 2004 and has served in that capacity for the past four years.

Follis, a horseman and rancher residing in Miami, Okla., was first elected Chief of the Modoc Tribe in 1973 and is credited with obtaining federal recognition for the Modoc Tribe and re-establishing a tribal land base. Under his leadership, the Tribe has initiated the Red Cedar Recycling Company, entered into a joint venture with the Miami Nation to establish "The Stables," an off-track wagering casino, and has reintroduced a bison herd as a part of the Tribe's economic development plan.



**Commissioner Dan C. Jones was re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the OIAC Board.**

**Dan Jones** has served as a Commissioner since his appointment by Governor Brad Henry in January 2006. He was first elected **Vice-Chairman of the Commission** in 2007. A filmmaker and writer, Jones currently served on the Tribal Council of the Ponca Nation. As the former Chairman of the Ponca Nation and in other tribal capacities, he has led efforts to hold major polluters accountable for petroleum contamination on the Ponca reservation.

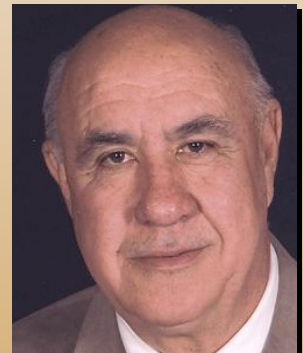
Jones is a traditional straight dancer and resides in his hometown of Ponca City.

**Commissioner Seat vacated by Charles Enyart, Eastern Shawnee Tribe; Filled by Chairman Ron Sparkman of the Shawnee Tribe.**

**Ron Sparkman**, Chairman of the Shawnee Tribe as well as the Northeast Intertribal Council, will be filling the position vacated by Commissioner Charles Enyart, former Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Sparkman's term is from August 15, 2009, to August 15, 2012.



The Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission would like to thank **former Chief Charles Enyart** for his leadership and support while serving on the OIAC Board of Commissioners. We wish you much success in your future endeavors.



**OTHER Commissioners who will lead us in FY 2010:**



**Left-to-right:** Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John A. Barrett; Absentee Shawnee Tribe - Ken Blanchard; Cherokee Nation - Mary Flute-Cooksey; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees Assistant Chief Charles Locust; and Kaw Nation - Wanda Stone.

# Tribal Leader Luncheon - 2009 -





Sponsored by the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission

## RED EARTH Still Maintains Strong Economic Impact . . .

### Red Earth Attendance Increases

For nearly 30 years Red Earth Inc. has been recognized as the primary multi-cultural resource in Oklahoma for advancing the understanding and continuation of Native American traditional and contemporary culture and arts. The 2009 event saw a 20 percent increase from 2008, according to Red Earth Board of Director's President Jonna Kirschner.

"It has been quite an exciting June," Kirschner said in an email. According to Kirschner, the 2009 Red Earth Festival drew 155 juried artists, 552 registered dancers and 31 Native Exchange vendors. The email also cited that gross ticket sales equaled \$111,295.

The 2009 event drew 15,825 paid attendees plus 10,237 total participants including artists, vendors, dance groups, volunteers, media, performers, Ambassador of the Year Luncheon attendees, parade participants and spectators, and Red Earth Run participants. The 2009 total attendance of 26,062 represents a 20 percent increase from 21,689 in 2008.

Next year's event is June 18 - 20, 2010.

For more information, visit the Red Earth website at [www.redearth.org](http://www.redearth.org).

2009 Red Earth Attendance	3-day
Paid Event Attendees	15,825
Artists (155 plus 298 artist guests)	1349
Native Exchange Vendors (31 plus 198 vendor guests)	687
Dance Competitor Attendance	1656
Dance Volunteers	75
Media Attendance	420
Performers (General/Youth Art)	174
Hospitality Suite Guests	140
Parade Volunteers	125
Volunteers - General	248
Youth Art Volunteers	34
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>4908</b>
Ambassador Luncheon Attendees (Thurs.)	119
Parade Participants & Spectators (Fri.) est.	5000
Run Participants (Sat.)	210
<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>5329</b>
<b>Attendance Total</b>	<b>26,062</b>



### Johanns Receives Standing Bear Bust

NCIA Director **Judi M. gaiashkibos** presented Nebraska **Senator Mike Johanns** with a bust of **Ponca Chief Standing Bear** at a July 1 meeting

at the Senator's Omaha office. The gift was acquired with the assistance of **Barbara Warner**, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, and a member of the Southern Ponca tribe; Standing Bear Foundation Executive Director **T.L. Walker**; and Foundation Chairman **Carl Renfro**. The bust was a replacement for a damaged bust that was previously presented to Senator Johanns by former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating.

Senator Johanns, a member of the **U.S. Committee on Indian Affairs**, was excited to receive the surprise replacement and extended his thanks to all of those who made the gift possible.

*Article and photo courtesy of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, Lincoln, Nebraska, [www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us](http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us)*

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oklahoma Historical Society Indian Archives to be Celebrated

Mark your calendars for October 29-30, 2009 to be present for the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when the Indian Archives opened to the general public in 1934.

A wide range of speakers including Dr. Dan Littlefield, Gus Palmer Jr., Jack Baker, Ron Graham, Sharron Ashton, and a host of other notables will be on hand to discuss the important role the Indian Archives has played in the enhancement of Oklahoma's historiography and genealogical resources.

There will be a Friday evening reception with traditional Indian music with a grand entry.

For more information please contact Bill Welge at (405) 522-5209 or [mrarchives@okhistory.org](mailto:mrarchives@okhistory.org)

# AMERICAN INDIAN SURVIVAL: THE BOARDING SCHOOL ERA & OKLAHOMA'S CHILOCCO INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL



*Photo courtesy of Chilocco Benefit Association*

**“The farther backward  
you can look,  
the farther forward  
you are likely to see.”**

**-SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**



*Photo courtesy of Chilocco Benefit Association*

**“The ‘Boarding School Era’ was the catalyst that began the disintegration of many American Indian families. As collective peoples, the removal of children from the home to teach them the ways of the dominant society disrupted that collective way of thinking as well as the American Indian societal structure. As an individual who’s mother was a part of and survived the ‘Chilocco Boarding School’ era, I know how important it is to understand the historic significance of this time in American Indian and Oklahoma history. That experience and others like it must be recognized as a part of the unresolved grief of the American Indian not only in Oklahoma, but for tribal nations across the United States.”**

***Barbara A. Warner, daughter of Cynthia McDonald Warner (Born Jan. 12, 1919) - Chilocco Graduate***

***The following is a partial excerpt from the Common Ground brochure provided to OIAC by the Council of the Confederated Chilocco Tribes:***

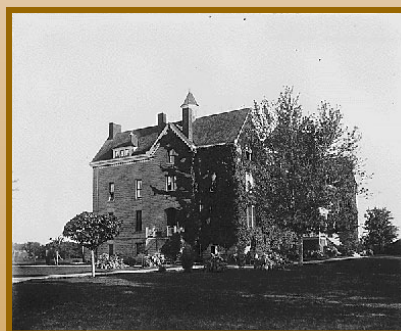
“In 1880, the United States Government created the five original Indian Boarding Schools across the country: Carlisle, Haskell, Fort Simon, Chemawa and Chilocco. This occurred at the end of the ‘Indian Wars’ as a final action to deal with Indian Culture.

Of the five historic schools, Chilocco is the only one available today for development and the only one truly owned by American Indians.

The five tribes of North Central Oklahoma—Kaw, Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee, Ponca and Tonkawa—were given part of the Chilocco school grounds by an Act of Congress in 1986. As the Council of Confederated Chilocco Tribes, the five tribes jointly own Chilocco and each separately owns approximately 800 acres surrounding the campus. Chilocco’s 72 limestone buildings on the 165-acre main campus were recently placed on The National Register of Historic Places. The school has been closed since 1980 and needs much repair. The five tribes have come to the decision that Chilocco should symbolically belong to the collective body of American Indians, who all have a profound heritage to the Indian boarding school legacy.

During its one hundred years of activity, Chilocco saw thousands of students from hundreds of American Indian tribes

and nations. It is located near the center of the nation and is the only remaining place in America where so many tribes shared a common ground to survive and to flourish in the face of great hardship. This was reinforced by a resolution of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in 2007. The resolution states ‘if there were ever to be a place in America where so many tribes and nations could call common ground, Chilocco would be that place.’




*Photo courtesy of Chilocco Benefit Association*

The Council of Confederated Chilocco Tribes (CCCT) governs the Chilocco campus. The non-profit organization, The Chilocco Benefit Association (CBA), has fiscal, monetary and developmental responsibility of the Chilocco Project. Through the CBA, the CCCT has successfully separated the tribal politics from the organization entrusted with the development of Chilocco. No elected leader is a member of the CBA Board, but rather it is comprised of members of tribes and nations who are dedicated to creating an intertribal experience on common ground.

In the very history place where American Indian culture was to leave the human race is where the American Indian chooses to preserve it forever.”

***“The Chilocco Capital Campaigns kicks off in the summer of 2009. Please help us preserve this common ground for future generations. For more information, contact us at (580) 762-4748 or visit our Web site at [www.Chilocco-Benefit.org](http://www.Chilocco-Benefit.org).”***



**OKLAHOMA  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Ste. 282  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**



## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**OKLAHOMA  
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2009  
10:00 AM**

**LINCOLN PLAZA OFFICE CENTER  
4545 N. LINCOLN, SUITE 284  
OKC, OK**

Notice & Agenda will be placed on the  
OIAC website at: [www.oiac.ok.gov](http://www.oiac.ok.gov)

### **FY 2010 OIAC BOARD MTGS.**

September 17, 2009

November 19, 2009

January 21, 2010

March 18, 2010

May 20, 2010

Meetings are held at 4545 N. Lincoln, Ste. 284,  
OKC, OK - UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED.

**“OPEN TO THE PUBLIC”**