

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs  
December 6, 2019  
Quarterly Board Meeting

**Kenneth Mallory, Chairman**

**Judi M. gaiashkibos, Executive Director**

**Commissioners Present**

**Georgiana Ausan, At Large**  
**Gabriel Bruguier, City of Lincoln**  
**Derek LaPointe, Santee Sioux**  
**Steve Laravie, Ponca Tribe**  
**Kenneth Mallory, Winnebago Tribe**  
**Jason Sheridan, Omaha Tribe**  
**Kirby Williams, City of Omaha Rep.**

**Commissioners Absent**

**Dr. Rudi Mitchell, City of Omaha Rep**  
**Stuart Red Wing, Santee Sioux Tribe**  
**Darren Wolfe, Omaha Tribe**  
**Larry Wright, Jr., Ponca Tribe**

**Ex-Officio Present**

**Lance Foster, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska**  
**Matt Reed, Pawnee Tribe.**

**Commission Staff Present**

**Judi M. gaiashkibos, Executive Director**  
**Scott Shafer, Administrative Assistant II**  
**Karen Torrez, Administrative Secretary**

**Commission Staff Absent**

**Call to Order**

The December 6, 2019 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs at Morrill Hall State Museum, 654 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, was called to order by Chairman Mallory at 10:20 a.m. CST.

The invocation was given by Chairman Mallory.

Roll call indicated seven of 11 current commissioners in attendance and constituting a quorum. Two Ex-Officio members were also present. Guests from the Omaha and Santee Sioux tribal council were also recognized.

**Motion #1** Commissioner Ausan motioned to approve the agenda for the December 6, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

**For:** Ausan Bruguier LaPointe Laravie Mallory  
Sheridan Williams

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried. Chair did not vote.*

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**Old Business**

**Motion #2** Commissioner Bruguier motioned to approve the August 23rd, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

**For:** Ausan Bruguier LaPointe Laravie Mallory  
Sheridan Williams

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried. Chair did not vote.*

NCIA Administrative Assistant Scott Shafer gave an overview of the agency general ledger detail report as well as the agenda budget status to date. Commissioner Ausan asked about the status of the USDA grant project and funds. Shafer responded that the grant program was completed with all goals and objective accomplished to the satisfaction of the funder. He informed the board that the grant was on a reimbursement basis, with expenses incurred by vendors, relayed to USDA for approval and subsequent payment to the NCIA federal fund and then payment out to the vendors. Executive Director gaiashkibos then informed the board that this grant then led to the USDA awarding a second, larger grant of approximately \$580,000 to the Dr. Susan La Flesche board. She also noted the Shakopee tribe gift of \$50,000 for roof repairs which along with other gifts, donations and grants totaled approximately \$900,000 to date.

**Motion #3** Commissioner Ausan motioned to approve the General Ledger Detail Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier

**For:** Ausan Bruguier LaPointe Laravie Mallory  
Sheridan Willems

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried. Chair did not vote.*

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**New Business**

**A. Update on Native license plate program and scholarship fund:** NCIA Administrative Assistant Scott Shafer gave an update on the tribal license plate program. He gave an overview of the program and order process and provided a financial report that indicated a program to date income of \$33,833.75. Shafer reported that these funds are periodically granted to the Standing Bear scholarship endowment hosted at Lincoln Community Foundation. He reported that the balance of the endowment is approximately \$123,000 which exceeds the goal of \$111,000 which was the minimum amount necessary to fund two \$2,500 scholarships each year.

**B. Director's Report**

1. Standing Bear Statuary Hall Recap: Executive Director gaiashkibos reviewed the historic Statuary Hall dedication of the Ponca Chief Standing Bear sculpture. She showed short video clips by Senator Fischer and Congressman Fortenberry recounting the highlights of the event and reviewed the legislative process and efforts in Washington necessary to make this event happen. Chairman Mallory asked if the commission was planning on hosting another Chief Standing Bear Breakfast. gaiashkibos affirmed that there was interest in the event from some people, however it is a lot of work with minimal financial return for scholarships. She informed the board that she is in discussions with UNL Center for Great Plains Studies about co-hosting a Native American fashion show as a fund raiser that could serve as replacement event of sorts to the Standing Bear Breakfast.
2. National Native Health Conference: Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that the National Indian Health Board Public Health Summit will be held in Omaha, Nebraska on March 17-19, 2020, Omaha, NE
3. Indigenous People's Day: Executive Director gaiashkibos informed the board that there is renewed interest in introducing legislation for establishment of a National Indigenous Peoples Day.
4. Genoa Digitizing Project: Executive Director gaiashkibos gave an update on Professor Margaret Jacobs digitizing project. She informed the board that Jacobs had hired two Winnebago college students at UNL to work on the project.
5. State Social Studies Standards Update: Executive Director gaiashkibos gave an update on the Nebraska Department of Education new Social Studies standards. She is working with NDE director Matt Blomstedt on the creation of a Native American Advisory Committee. First meeting is tentatively planned for April 16 at the Educational Service Unit office in Milford, Nebraska. The board is still in the planning stages and is looking for funding to support it. gaiashkibos asked the board if they had any ideas for individuals that could serve on this committee. Carlton Edwards from the Omaha Tribal council asked what the deadline was for requesting to be included on the committee. Staff took down his name for follow up.

**C. ICWA Court Case:** Commissioner LaPointe asked if anyone was aware of the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court review of ICWA case of Brackeen v. Bernhardt. The plaintiffs requested an *en banc* rehearing before the Fifth Circuit. LaPointe asked if it would be possible or useful for the commission or the Nebraska tribes to issue any sort of letter of support of the original court finding reaffirming the constitutionality of ICWA. Commissioner Williams was familiar with the case, and suggested that the Nebraska ICWA group and Nebraska Appleseed coordinate and take the lead on this case to avoid confusion and working at cross purposes. Executive Director gaiashkibos said that she would reach out to these organizations and inquire about the status of the rehearing and if it would be

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useful for the tribes to submit any letters in support of ICWA and if so, who or where would such letters be sent to. She suggested that perhaps a representative from one or both organizations be invited to present on the matter at the next board meeting.

- D. Repeal of Archaic Laws:** Commission LaPointe asked the board if they were aware of efforts to review and repeal archaic laws affecting United States tribes. He cited for example a law that still remains in effect that denies entry of Santee tribal members to the state of Minnesota. Staff pulled up information on the issue and Commissioner La Pointe asked that it be shared with the Director for review and possible action.

Break For Lunch 11:48-12:35

- E. Welcome to Facility:** Susan Weller, Director of University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History welcomed the commissioners to the museum and also introduced Kaitlyn Trammell who has duties as the NAGPRA assistant. Weller and Trammell presented historic Omaha tribal booklets to Omaha Tribal Council member Carlton Edwards. NCIA commissioners were then given a short tour of the newly completed exhibits on the Museum 4<sup>th</sup> floor.
- F. MMIW Update:** Elizabeth Weidner, NCIA's Missing Women Coordinator was introduced to the commissioners. Weidner was hired by the commission as a contractor funded through a \$15,000 JAG grant awarded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. She presented a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of some of the reporting issues and problems related to missing women. Dr. Tara Richards and Dr. Emily Richards from UNO introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their grant funded project researching Missing and Murdered Native Women in partnership with the Indian Commission. Captain Matt Sutter from the Nebraska State Patrol introduced himself as the point person from the Nebraska State Patrol working with the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs as directed by LB 154. Omaha Tribal Council member Everett Baxter Jr. asked Captain Sutter about efforts to educate tribal communities about the dangers of trafficking and what to look for. He also asked if there were law enforcement efforts to identify criminal groups and traffickers who are targeting tribal communities. Sutter responded that there is the possibility that Nebraska State Patrol can conduct a training about warning signs and indicators of trafficking.
- G. Nebraska Consortium of Tribal State and Federal Courts:** Mary Anne Harvey presented a PowerPoint overview of the court's Public Engagement sessions with tribal communities. She gave an overview of the community concerns and the challenges related to courts discussed at the various meetings.
- H. CCPE—GAP Assistance Financial Aid Program Legislation:** Gary Timm, the Chief Finance and Administrative Officer of Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary presented and passed out an informational handout on the GAP program and how it works and also the challenges for Native students.

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**Motion #4** Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the Director's Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

**For:** Ausan Bruguier LaPointe Laravie Mallory  
Sheridan Williams

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried. Chair did not vote.*

**Motion #5** Commissioner Bruguier motioned for the next meeting to be held on March 6, 2020 at a location to be determined. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

**For:** Ausan Bruguier LaPointe Laravie Mallory  
Sheridan Williams

**Opposed:** None

**Abstain:** None

*Motion carried. Chair did not vote.*

**Quarterly Meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs adjourned Friday, December 6, 2019 at 2:21 p.m.**