

Osage News

SPECIAL EDITION

Volume 8 • May 2012 Special Edition

The Official Newspaper of the Osage Nation

Guide to June 4 Election Day

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Election Day is less than a month away and Osages around the country will be deciding who will be the next six members on the Third Osage Nation Congress.

On the ballot for the Osage General Election June 4 will be 34 candidates and seven possible amendments to the Osage Nation Constitution.

The poll opens at 8 a.m. and is located at the Osage Nation Congressional Chambers and closes at 8 p.m. The results of



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

From L to R: Candidates Becky Johnson, Candy Thomas, Olivia "Libbi" Gray, Joseph Roger Lynn, Maria Whitehorn and Matthew Shunkamolah prepare to answer questions May 5 as the first group to debate at the 2012 Osage News Debates, hosted at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Grayhorse Indian Village.

Candidates debate in the 2012 Osage News debates

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The *Osage News* hosted its 2012 Congressional candidate debates in the Grayhorse Community Building with 26 of the 34 candidates attending to answer questions on topics including the Nation's government operations, their plans if elected and what improvements need to be made to the government.

Eleven Osage Congressional candidates participated in the Day One debates held May 5 at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Indian Village. A total of 16 candidates were scheduled to participate, but five candidates did not attend, so two of the three scheduled debate groups were combined into one group.

The *Osage News* staff and fellow Osages sat on a question committee to develop over 20 potential questions for the candidates. Those questions were written on pieces of paper, put into a hopper and were randomly drawn by four independent moderators. Those moderators kept track of the time, read the questions aloud and enforced the debate rules, which included a three-minute limit on answering questions and one

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the election will be announced that evening.

The *Osage News* will be posting news throughout the day on osagenews.org and will post the results as soon as they are announced.

The poll

When Osages head to the polling place they will need their Osage Nation Membership Card (this is not a CDIB card) and must be at least 18 years old, on or before Election Day. Osages must also have a government issued photo ID with them, such as a driver's license (even if expired), passport,

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Candidates turn out on second day of News Debates

Topics debated include culture, land repurchases, decreased government spending and legislative experience

By Shannon Shaw Duty
Osage News

Day two of the Osage News Debates saw more candidates, with the only absence coming from incumbent Congressman Mark Simms.

More than 70 people looked on as candidates discussed topics covering Osage law, the Osage Minerals Council, Osage culture, per capita, cultural preservation, Osage lands, gaming profits and government spending.

Group One

The first group to debate was R.J. Walker, Teresa DeRoin Hudgins, Cecelia Tallchief, Shane Rencountre and Carl Sellers. Simms was scheduled for the first group.

The first question asked to the candidates was, "Can you name any Osage Nation laws you particularly like or support?" The second question asked: "Do you incorporate any traditional Osage values into your daily life or campaign?" And the third question asked: "Do you feel it is important to have knowledge of the Osage culture to serve as a member of the Osage government?"

The candidates were given three minutes to answer each question and one minute for rebuttal.

Candidates touched on laws such as the "Speak What's on Your Mind Act," which protects employees' freedom of speech; the "Merit Pay for Performance Act," which gives the Nation's employees a bonus system based on performance evaluations; the "Competitive Bidding Act," which changed the process to obtain contracts in a fair and fiscal manner; and the "Osage Limited Liability Act," which separates the Nation's businesses from the Osage government.

In terms of applying Osage traditional values to their daily lives all candidates agreed that they pray, have

respect for elders and others, and attend the yearly In-Lon-Schka dances in June and pass on their knowledge of tradition to their children.

On bringing traditional knowledge to their jobs as legislators if elected, many did not believe that is the number one priority to being a legislator.

Tallchief said along with the knowledge of the Osage culture, an Osage legislator needs to be able to bring the knowledge of the culture and work ethics together and find a balance.

"Culture is important and dear," she said later in her rebuttal, "However, you have to have good work ethics. The culture comes about when an elder comes into the [congressional] chambers."

Walker said it is important to have knowledge of the culture and incorporate it in the government to a certain degree.

"I don't think knowledge alone of our culture is the most important to be on our congress, but it is important," he said. He later said that on the many committees he's sat on it always comforted him to know that

there was someone on the committee who knew the culture more than him because a considerable amount of time was always spent on inserting the Osage culture.

Sellers said that culture is important, absolutely. But legislators need to think outside the box.

"You don't need to think Indian all the time," Sellers said. For many years Sellers was an educator and he now works as the Athletic Director at Dick Conners Correctional Facility where he teaches Native culture to the prisoners.

Hudgins said that it's important for Osage government officials to know the culture because in instances such as funerals, members of congress need to know the processes so as to know how to work around it and how they would do that.

"I can't exactly say what I incorporate into my daily life because I am me, this is what it is, this is who I am," she said. "Respect the elders, teach the children, love the family."

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Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

From L to R: Candidates R.J. Walker, Teresa DeRoin Hudgins, Cecelia Tallchief, Shane Rencountre and Carl Sellers prepare to answer questions May 6 as the first group to debate on the second day of the 2012 Osage News Debates, hosted at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Grayhorse Indian Village.

Osage News

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2012 Congressional Debates

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minute for rebuttals if a candidate wished to follow-up and elaborate on his or her original answer.

Four volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa moderated the debates with two people attending each day of the debates to select the questions from a hopper, draw the number order in which the candidates would respond to a question and to keep track of the candidate's response time.

Debate group one comprised candidates Olivia "Libbi" Gray, Matthew Shunkamolah, Becky Johnson, Joseph Roger Lynn, Candy Thomas and Maria Whitehorn, which received the following three questions.

What is your understanding of the separation of powers, and more specifically your approach to the exercise of Congressional powers?

Lynn said his understanding of the separation of powers "is pretty straightforward, we have a legislative branch which drafts laws, we have an executive branch which carries out those laws ... My approach to Congressional powers is to address problems through laws and, when necessary, engage in informative hearings ... without a specific problem or issue we're facing, it would be hard to address that."

Johnson said her understanding of the separation of powers is "we have a three-branch government – there's the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch and the Congressional branch, which is legislative, creates laws that are necessary to carry out the requirements of our Constitution and in all matters they should be considering the will of the people because our powers derive from the people as a government and all laws should be for the good of a whole."

Thomas said "Congress passes laws, makes appropriations and provides oversight to the laws; Executive carries out the laws and ad-



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

From L to R: Candidates Rose Mary Shaw, Jerri Jean Branstetter, Berbon Hamilton, Jenny Miller and Linda LaZelle prepare to answer questions May 5 as the second group to debate at the 2012 Osage News Debates, hosted at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Grayhorse Indian Village.

ministers the day-to-day business of the government and judicial resolves disputes ... My approach in the separation of powers is we need to have very defined roles and I think we're a new government I think we're in the process of defining those roles, I think as time goes on we'll be more clearer on those roles."

Gray said "The separation of powers gives each of our branches very specific functions... the legislative branch makes the laws, the executive branch implements and enforces the laws and the Judicial Branch will interpret those laws if there's a dispute over the meaning." With regards to Congress, Gray said its roles include writing laws, appropriating money, which involves reviewing budgets, annual plans and asking questions.

Shunkamolah said the Congressional Branch does appropriate money and pass laws, but the legislative branch in the government world represents the quality of the government which is the people, it represents what they stand for, what they

feel the needs are and what are the best things for the Nation."

Whitehorn acknowledged the basic roles of the three-branch government, adding: "My approach to carrying out Congressional powers would be to listen to the people, to see what the people need for the laws ... (Congress) needs to listen to how we can best serve the people ... we write law, we appropriate the funds to implement programs once the funds are approved and we have oversight."

The Osage government offers various social programs for the community at large. Do you feel these programs are helpful to the Osage people?

Thomas said "Yes I think the social programs are important to the Osage people, I got on the Web to look at the various social services that we offer and a lot of them are in protecting the child, children and families ... The children are the future of our Nation and we need to be able to provide services from our

own people rather than go outside to other services."

"I think our social programs are very beneficial to our people," said Gray, "But from time to time I do think that we can evaluate those programs to see exactly how many Osages are using them." Gray also said the programs should be evaluated to determine if something is missing ... "From time-to-time I think we need to reevaluate what we've got in order to do a better job, I also think we need to do a better job of letting our people know what services are out there."

In a rebuttal answer, Gray said quarterly reports would be helpful to Congress to follow-up with the Executive Branch to determine whether any problems are improving.

Of social service programs, Johnson believes "we need to put measurements in place to make sure that they are being used properly and that the neediest people are receiving

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2012 Congressional Debates



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

Onlookers of the 2012 Osage News Debates listen to candidates debate Osage issues May 5.

ing services. We do have WIC, we have child welfare programs, and crisis assistance programs, but some of those programs don't have set rules on them that define what is a crisis or who can receive these funds." She also believes restrictions need to be in place to stay within the annual budget to prevent more spending.

"I think we need better communication on what's available," Lynn said of the Nation's social programs. "Comprehensively you shouldn't have to search out the Web site and hope for the best in trying to find something that's buried inside there ... We need to be able to communicate better of what we have available, what's there to help all our Osages. The other thing is we need to measure the impact of these programs," he said of determining whether all Osages would be served under the programs.

"I think they are there to respectfully serve our Osage people," Whitehorn responded. "I think their privacy is real important in our service to them. We need to be able to have a survey to evaluate the service that we do provide for our people ... then we need to seriously take a look at those and change weak programs

however they need to be fixed to help others. Communication is lacking, our Web site is not very user-friendly to be able to find what we need on there ... I think we need to work on that as a Nation, as a whole."

"Obviously the programs are needed and they are helpful, but there's always room for improvement," Shunkamolah responded. "Our tribe needs to look at these social services and hire the right people and as Congress people, as legislators, we need to hold the Executive Branch accountable for the people that they hire." He also agreed communication is a problem, stating that he's had fellow Osages ask him what services are available from the tribe.

What Osage Nation laws remain unaddressed that you can name as your priorities if you're elected to the Third Osage Nation Congress?

Shunkamolah said "My biggest problem with legislation that has passed is – laws that are there – is they are not being executed, there's a lot of laws that have ethics in-

involved... as a student of government I have seen that ... We need to attack those types of issues by holding the Executive Branch to the fire by saying: 'we need your help, we're willing to work with you, we need to carry these things out.'

Thomas, who is currently on the Nation's Gaming Enterprise Board, said one problem she's noticed, is there's several passed laws that conflict with each other, mostly newer legislation that conflicts with earlier laws. "I would like to see some kind of a legislative review, maybe an independent third party that would come in and evaluate all the laws and see what's conflicting and what's conflicting with the constitution and straighten those out."

"We're missing a lot of business laws," said Gray, "We do have a couple of business laws that I actually drafted, the first drafts of those for Congress (the ON Secured Transactions Act and the Osage Limited Liability Company (LLC) Act)... I think we need to sit down at the drawing board and come up with a very comprehensive set of business laws that will allow us to bring more money into the treasury so that we can take care of our people."

Johnson referred to the 2006 Constitution's Article 15 which discusses the Nation's natural resources and minerals management and said "One of the things I would like to see us do is pursue our hunting and fishing rights and one of the big other tribes has worked with the state of Oklahoma so that tribal members receive the ability to freely take both game and fish as long as they have a tribal license to do so." She added that water rights are also important to the Nation "because as water becomes less available to our bigger cities, they are going to start looking for rights and we need to protect ours before someone takes them."

Lynn said: "If our executive branch isn't implementing laws that are being passed by our Congress then there needs to be some kind of penalty in place ... To simply choose to

ignore a law because you don't like it or because you're Chief or you're the president or whatever your title is, that's wrong ... If they're not doing their job, we need penalties to keep that from happening ... We need something specific that says 'if you don't do this, this is what's going to happen and you're not going to like it, if you keep not doing it, it's going to get worse.'"

Whitehorn attended several sessions during the 2012 Hun-Kah Congressional Session where she learned that several current laws in place do not have penalties written into them. "To me, we need to take a long hard look and see which laws need to be implemented or what happens to you when you break the law because it's not a game, you know, it's government."

Group Two

The debates originally had three groups scheduled each day with the first groups having six candidates and the last two groups having five each. Due to several candidate absences on the first day, the second and third group candidates were combined into one to make up for the shortfalls.

Day One's scheduled candidates who were absent are: Kathryn Red Corn, Archie Mason, Roscoe Mays, Anthony Shackelford and Jacque Jones.

The revised second group comprised: Berbon Hamilton, Linda LaZelle, Jerri Jean Branstetter, Rose Mary Shaw and Jenny Miller. The first question was:

Can you explain how you will determine whether an issue requires legislative action, if elected?

Jerri Jean Branstetter, currently the Congressional Speaker, shared the legislative process and said legislation typically outlines the intent of the law (if passed), whether there

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is a committee involved and what its role will be “to tell specific individuals what they will do.”

Miller said “sometimes what I believe what we’re doing here is we’re passing legislation that really isn’t necessary ... I feel like what we need here is we need to do a lot of research into whether or not this law is going to benefit the people, if we’re wasting our time, and money, and effort before we do it.”

Shaw said a question that should be considered (in passing legislation) is “how does it benefit the people? Number two is ‘is this law or a policy and procedure issue that can be handled by executive and how will it benefit the people?’” Shaw also said a town hall meeting could be held in which the feedback could be beneficial in making a decision on legislation.

Hamilton said, “legislative action would be how critical the law is that would require action... and communication with the people, they will let us know how they feel.” As an example, Hamilton referred to the Osage Casino land-into-trust issue resolved last year, which required Congressional action to authorize the action and any applicable fees.

LaZelle, a former Congressional staffer, discussed the legislative process which includes getting a Congress member to support and sponsor a bill (if the law idea comes from a member of the Osage public), which is then drafted, filed and introduced into a session and faces initial consideration in committee meetings of jurisdiction. “As a legislator, if we find that a piece of legislation is very controversial, we can have a public hearing – that’s where you the Osage people are invited to attend and to hear those comments and guide us through.”

In her rebuttal time, Branstetter added that any member of the public is invited to attend a committee meeting where bills are usually sent for initial review and any amendments once they are introduced.

Miller said in her rebuttal the Na-

tion needs to have its own regulations in enforcing laws.

In her rebuttal, LaZelle said one of the items on her “foundation is to establish a repeal law for those unconstitutional laws that exist right now so you still have an opportunity to come in and participate in the amendment.”

What is your experience working on or with a legislative body and/ or legislative processes?

Miller, who has worked as a paralegal, said she has experience in reading law and also worked at the Oklahoma state Capitol with legislative procedures. “During that time, we did actually write legislation, for the Oklahoma legislature. Some of our bills got passed, some of them went to the floor.” Miller also added she’s been observing the Osage government movements and reading legislation “so I could understand the direction they’re taking us which is a direction that I’m not really comfortable with.”

Before she working for Congress for 4.5 years, LaZelle said she put in 26 years working for the Oklahoma state government and witnessed the legislative process at the Capitol while working for the Department of Corrections. She added she believes the Second and First ON Congressional bodies are two different entities with the First Congress who “set the foundation for how they’re going to do things” and the Second Congress as the one who “took full force and I think the Third Congress are going to be the people that is going to say ‘OK we’ve got the foundation, we’ve got the process going, now let’s involve the people.’”

Branstetter, who was elected in 2006 to the First ON Congress and has been Speaker since 2010, recalls setting the foundation for Congress after being elected to the First ON Congress noting it was difficult at times because “at that time we knew nothing ... There were personality

conflicts (on the First ON Congress), so with the Second ON Congress, they have produced more legislation in the Tzi-Zho Session and the Hun-Kah Session than they have in five years.”

Shaw said she also has worked in Oklahoma state government, sat on finance committees and met with legislators and “they’d want to know where’s the money coming from and we’d answer.” She praised Branstetter for her efforts as Speaker and added that Roberts Rules of Order should be maintained.

Hamilton said he’s sat on several boards and committees where we “hash out all the obstacles we face and sometimes the discussions got pretty heated ... we can come to agreement sometimes and sometimes we don’t ... I look forward to working with other people on Congress.”

In her rebuttal, Branstetter said the Congress has set up a Roberts Rules of Order training for the new Congress members as an orientation before the first session.

Miller said in her rebuttal she would like to see more use of debate time because if there’s no heated debate, there’s not enough thinking going into the legislation.

LaZelle said she would like to see changes to the fast tracking of bills in Congress and suspension of the rules, which includes waiving the requirement of Congress to read written Executive Branch veto messages aloud to increase transparency for those who want to know why a bill was vetoed.

Which Osage Nation laws do you think need changing?

“We definitely need to make some big big decisions on this Minerals Estate issue,” Miller said. “The reason I am so concerned about it is because, of course for the protection of the shareholders, but let me just say if we are breaking law, and we have these casinos and we’re working for all Osage people, not just shareholders we make some bad bad

decisions, they’re going to be illegal.” Miller then added, “The law is the law is the law, you have to abide by it, you cannot ignore it and when you do, you put not only the shareholders interest at risk, you put the non-shareholders interest at risk.”

Branstetter said the Nation’s 2009 motor pool law needs work because there has been discussion on the tribal government vehicle use and whether the vehicles are needed or used for personal use. “I think it demonstrated that they should be set in a parking area and people would go to check vehicles out,” she said of the government vehicles and the law sponsored by former Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson.

Shaw said she would like to see a law that clarifies the Constitution, which addresses ambiguous laws. She also agreed with LaZelle that the vetoes should be read aloud to keep accountability in check and also because not everyone has computer access to view them online.

Hamilton said the Nation’s Bidding Act should also be improved to give Osage entities and business a chance to bid for projects advertising jobs as a way “to keep the business that we have in with our Osage citizens.”

LaZelle said Osage laws needing changes are those, which infringe on separation of powers and any law that does not uphold the Constitution.

Approximately 60 Osages and their family members attended the Day One debates.

This is the second election year in which the *Osage News* has hosted election candidate debates. In 2010, the newspaper hosted two-day debates in Pawhuska for those seeking office in the Principal Chief and Congressional races.

VISION

- A productive strong nation, fully developing our resources and industry
- Creating real jobs and wealth for the Osage Nation
- Adminstrating resources equitably for the benefit of all Osages
- A government free of corruption and unethical practice

LEADERSHIP

- Business owner and effective leader in management

DIRECTION

- Communication – Enhance communication between the Executive, Congressional, and Judicial branches, and the Minerals Council
- Make clear decisions concerning our destination, prioritize the issues and commit to achieving these goals

"As a headright shareholder, I'm glad Maria respects our mineral estate and its business. As a Congressman, I'm glad she cares so deeply for the betterment of all our people."

—Geoffrey Standing Bear, Congressman and former Assistant Chief



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Maria Whitehorn
OSAGE NATION CONGRESS



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Libbi for Congress

<http://libbiforcongress.com/>

Dear Osage Voters:

We've just completed another regular session of the 2nd Osage Congress. Our next regular session will contain the budgets and annual plans for each department, program, and enterprise of the Nation under a new 3rd Osage Congress. If you are looking for a member of Congress who will use their knowledge, their experience, their respect for our culture and their passion for what's in the best interest of the Osage people, then I ask for your vote.

VOTE *Libbi* FOR CONGRESS

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Guide to Election Day

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military ID, etc. If the voter does not have an ID, they can still vote if two election officials identify them and sign an affidavit confirming the person's identity.

Once a voter is identified and has the proper verification, they are looked up in the Osage Voter Registry and asked to sign their name. The voter will receive an index card with an anonymous barcode on it and will be asked to present that card to election staff who will scan the barcode and print off a ballot that matches the barcode.

The voter will take their ballot and cast their vote. Talking and the use of cell phones will not be permitted. When the voter is finished they will place their ballot, unfolded, in the locked metal ballot box.

Early absentee ballot processing, not counting

To cut down on absentee ballot processing and to prevent the delay of election results on election night, the election board staff will be processing absentee ballots early, not counting them.

In the 2010 General Election the results weren't posted until 1 a.m., causing some Osages to doubt the validity of the election and some Osages to look in the windows of the polling place to see what was taking the Election Day staff so long to announce results.

Early processing includes signature verification and recording; exterior envelopes will be opened and separated from interior envelopes; interior envelopes will be opened and ballot removed, bundled and returned to the locked box with all envelopes and associated material, which shall be secured in a bank vault with a time lock before close of the business day, according to the presentation.

No electioneering

No electioneering will be allowed

within 300 feet of the entrance of the polling place.

Examples of electioneering: written or printed materials for a candidate; signs, stickers, buttons, shirts, bumper stickers, fans etc.; talking about voting for or against a particular candidate or issue; candidates or their campaign committee members greeting voters as they approach the polling place.

Only election officials and voters going to cast their votes will be allowed to remain within 50 feet of the polling place.

The consequences of electioneering could be a misdemeanor and summons to appear in the Osage Nation Tribal Court; if convicted of electioneering the person may be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and jail time.

Absentee Ballots

Only voters with completed absentee ballot requests will be sent ballots. Completed requests include a completed form and government issued ID, and the signature on the form must match the signature on the envelope.

Ballots will be mailed every week

Ballots will be mailed from Maryland, taking approximately five to seven days to receive the ballot. If a person does not receive their ballot within this time, they are asked to contact the election board office to get a new one sent to them.

For more information contact the Election Office at (877) 560-5286.

Day Two of Congressional Debates

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Rencountre mentioned the U.S. Declaration of Independence as an example of a government document that had incorporated culture in it and that the Osages had done the same with the Osage Constitution. He said he teaches his children what he knows about the culture, but it's not the most important thing to know as an Osage legislator.

"Do I think it's the end all? No, I don't," he said. "We have to go forward. We cannot remain or we're going to stay the same."

Group 2

The second group to debate was Hank Hainzinger, Jim Ryan, John Jech, Justin Mays and John Maker.

The first question asked to the candidates was, "What role does the Osage Minerals Council have with the Osage Nation?" The second question asked: "Do you feel it's important for the Nation to buy back Osage original reservation lands? If so, what is your strategy in doing this?" And the third question asked: "Do you support a per capita based on our current gaming profits?"

The candidates were given three minutes to answer each question and one minute for rebuttal.

All candidates agreed that the Osage Minerals Council is separate and that the OMC is in charge of looking after the Mineral's Estate. All candidates also agreed that a per capita payment to all Osage tribal members was not in the Nation's best interest at this time.

In terms of buying back original Osage reservation lands, Hainzinger said that the issue was a close one to his heart, being that he is a rancher and a landowner. He said he would like to see an office set up that would just be specifically for the purpose of purchasing land but he would also like to see some sort of credit union that would make it easier for individual Osages to buy back reservation land.

"I would like to see Osage people own Osage land," he said.

Mays said, "I've always lived on Indian land, all my life, never lived anywhere else," he said.

He said owning your own land gives an individual an economic advantage and that more economic



Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

From L to R: Candidates Nicki Revard Lorenzo, Shannon Edwards, Angela Marie Pratt, Amanda Proctor and Jozi Tall Chief prepare to answer questions May 6 as the third group to debate on the second day of the Osage News Debates, hosted at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Grayhorse Indian Village.

development in the tribe would aid the Nation in buying back lands. He later said that the Osage casinos are important to the tribe for economic development.

Maker said he is a landowner and that his family has nearly all of their original allotted land. He said that in the past he asked an Osage elder who had sat on many Osage tribal councils and asked him what he would've done if he had the gaming money the Nation does now. The elder said he would buy back land.

"I would like to see an Osage Realty Office for buying back land within boundaries of the reservation," Maker said. "I have a map of all the land that is no longer in our possession ... it's really sad."

Jech said that buying back land is important, but before the Nation buys back a piece of land the Nation needs to look at whether or not the land can be used by the Nation. The Nation also needs to prioritize its spending before looking into repurchasing land.

"We need to set up some sort of mechanism where the individual [selling the land] wouldn't know who they were [selling it to]," Jech said, mentioning that prices in Osage County tend to go up when the sell-

ers know who they are selling to. "I think Osages need to have an opportunity to buy the land — we need to have land and legislation in place before the Nation buys it."

Ryan said he believes in repurchasing restricted property and he is a supporter of any legislation that has to do with repurchasing land.

He later said in his rebuttal that when the Nation repurchases the land the Nation needs to look at establishing ranches or cattle operations, maybe buffalo reserves, and going into business — "Osage beef."

Group three

The third group to debate was Nicki Revard Lorenzo, Shannon Edwards, Angela Marie Pratt, Amanda Proctor and Jozi Tall Chief.

The first question asked to the candidates was, "What kind of health initiatives would you support to address health related issues such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, etc." The second question asked: "What will you do as a legislator to help preserve the Osage culture?" And the third

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Photo by Chalene Toehay/Osage News

From L to R: Candidates Hank Hainzinger, Jim Ryan, John Jech, Justin Mays and John Maker prepare to answer questions May 6 as the second group to debate on the second day of the 2012 Osage News Debates, hosted at the Grayhorse Community Building in the Grayhorse Indian Village.

ATTENTION: OSAGE VOTER

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 Toll Free: (877) 560-5286 • Phone: (918) 287-5286 • Fax: (918) 287-5292
 E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org

**GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION**

- MAY 15, 2012:** Deadline to Submit Absentee Ballot Requests. If you do NOT receive your absentee ballot contact the Election Office to find out the status of your ballot or to be sent a duplicate ballot. Only ONE ballot will be counted on Election Day.
- JUNE 4, 2012:** Election Day. Ballots must be received by 10:00 a.m. in the Pawhuska Post Office in order to be considered valid.
- BALLOT SIZE:** Actual size of ballot will fill an 8 1/2 X 11" sheet of paper. Voter assistance is available on Election Day to assist with reading the ballot, if necessary.

SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION

- JUNE 29, 2012:** Absentee ballot mailing begins.
- JULY 24, 2012:** Deadline to Submit Absentee Ballot Requests. If you do NOT receive your absentee ballot contact the Election Office to find out the status of your ballot or to be sent a duplicate ballot. Only ONE ballot will be counted on Election Day.
- AUGUST 13, 2012:** Election Day. Ballots must be received by 10:00 a.m. in the Pawhuska Post Office in order to be considered valid.

Feel free to contact the Election Office with questions.

“Osage people deserve a government that responds to the people.”

I believe...

- Congressionally- and supplementally-funded projects must be accountable.
- Legislation should be written where funding and expenses can be evaluated.

If elected, I will...

- Work to make sure ethics violations are enforced for all employees and elected officials, including myself.
- Work to make sure the Osage employment practices are fair and free of favoritism.
- Seek membership on the Congressional Ethics Committee and work to ensure that Congress is held to the same ethical standards as employees.
- Convene a Congressional hearing to determine how the merit law is being applied in the Nation.
- Sponsor laws that will ensure elder and youth are taken care of
- Sponsor laws that will require programs to document need and evaluate outcome.
- Sponsor legislation that require programs to be accountable to the people.
- Ask the people what they need from their government.
- Set-up an easy way for you to communicate with me, including the Internet and regular mail, and my office will answer all your calls and emails.



“As a former legislator and business leader, I'm a good communicator who understands the value of listening. Yet, not only do I listen, but I'm equipped with the strategic skills and experience to turn words into actions and thoughts into plans. I understand the importance of reevaluating the issue and following through to ensure legislation is addressing the issue and answering it correctly.”

-Cecelia Tallchief

Find her by Cecelia Tallchief
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Third ON Congressional candidates meet California Osages

Twelve candidates attend United Osage of Southern California meeting and share their campaigns for office

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

CARLSBAD, Calif. – Twelve Osage Congressional candidates hit the West Coast to ask California Osages for their votes in the 2012 Osage Nation General Election with more than five weeks left on the campaign trail.

The United Osages of Southern California hosted its annual spring meeting on April 28 in Carlsbad and the Northern California Osage met the following day in Oakland. Both organizations invited this year's 34 candidates to the meetings to discuss their campaigns and plans if elected to one of the six Congressional seats during the June 4 election.

The Osage News attended the UOSC meeting held at the Carls-

bad by the Sea Resort, which had 12 Osage candidates participating.

Joe Mashunkashey, who spoke first, said he brings more than 30 years of professional experience in working with tribal and federal government and gaming entities. Mashunkashey, who is the facilities construction project manager for Osage Casinos, said he's previously worked on housing, water and sanitation projects for several tribes and would like to see more economic development opportunities for the tribe and the tribe should ensure protection of the Osage Minerals Estate "for future generations."

"My vision is to look into finding more money to benefit the tribal people," Mashunkashey said, adding, "we need to look at what's going to benefit the tribe."

Becky Johnson, human resources director for Osage Casinos, shared her professional experience, which includes earning a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a law degree from the University of Colorado. Johnson said she previously worked as a prosecutor and staff attorney at Cherokee Nation where she



Photo by Benny Polacca/ Osage News

Osage Congressional candidate Jim Ryan speaks with attendees during the 2012 United Osages of Southern California gathering on April 28 where he and 11 other candidates spoke about their run for office.

gained legislation-writing experience.

While at Osage Casinos, Johnson said she has worked on the entity's professional leadership program, which targets Osages interested in leadership programs. If elected, Johnson said she promised, "I will communicate with the public and will obtain input as much as possible to follow the will of the people."

Olivia "Libbi" Gray said she also has legislation-writing experience, which includes writing the first draft of the Osage Limited Liability Company Act and said she would work on legislation dealing with employment law, the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) and domestic violence if elected.

"My goal is to sit down with our employees because they have the best grasp on what laws need to be passed," Gray said, adding she would "get out and communicate with the people."

Maria Whitehorn said she has attended several 2012 Hun-Kah Congressional Sessions and believes the Nation has improvements to make to its government, which includes bud-

getting tribal funds. "I will do my best to keep you informed and include you in (Congressional) business," Whitehorn said if elected.

"I believe we've done some things really well," Whitehorn said, adding, "I see we've run into a few problems, we need to get better and look at what we have to appropriate." She said if improvements aren't made, it would be difficult to maintain tribal services, which include the health benefit card program available to all Osages.

Jim Ryan said, if elected, any action he takes as a Congressman will include the question of "how does this benefit the Osage people?" Ryan said one of his first forays into Osage government involvement was offering a health initiative idea (in response to a newspaper advertisement seeking suggestions), which has since evolved into the Nation's health benefit card program passed as a 2008 law (sponsor is Congresswoman Shannon Edwards).

Edwards said the idea for the health

See CALIFORNIA OSAGES MEETING

—Continued on Page 12



Photo by Benny Polacca/ Osage News

Osage Congressional candidate Jacquie Jones and Shannon Edwards (background) visit with attendees during the 2012 United Osages of Southern California gathering on April 28 where they spoke about their run for office.

California Osages Meeting

—Continued from Page 11

benefit card came from a multitude of Osages and not just one individual.

Ryan said another piece of legislation he suggested is ONCA 11-78, which is a law rescinding the ON Treasurer's authority of signing/endorsing written instruments on Osage Minerals Council accounts. Ryan said the idea was sparked by a 2011 Facebook discussion to keep the Nation's and Minerals Council funds separate. Congresswoman Alice Goodfox sponsored the bill, which passed after Congress overrode a veto by Principal Chief John Red Eagle in October 2011.

Goodfox said Ryan was not the only person to suggest ONCA 11-78, that it was a collaborative effort made by 10 or more Osages, including Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear.

RJ Walker said he's built good relationships with local entities around Osage County thanks to collaboration on road projects as the Nation's Roads Department. While director, Walker said the Nation contributed \$30 million to construction projects and added he's proud the department has not received negative findings in handling the federal funds awarded to the Nation for those projects.

Walker's other professional experience includes serving as chairman of the Osage County Industrial Authority. He said his collaborative experience on the board includes networking with entities such as the Tri County Technology Center, City of Pawhuska and the Nation to develop the Pawhuska Business Development Center, now under construction. When completed, the center will provide classroom facilities and business incubator space for prospective businesses.

Rose Mary Shaw, whose previous work includes director of the Nation's Counseling Center, budgeting and grant writing, describes herself as "a mover and a shaker, there's no wishy-washy — you get what you see."

Shaw said she wants to see the Nation offer a supplemental insurance program for Osages over age 65 and education initiatives targeting col-

lege students such as assisting those who are taking college entrance tests.

Jacque Jones opened her address acknowledging her fellow candidates and attendees as "friends and relatives," noting that she has spoken with several of those in attendance who call the Nation's Constituent Services of which she is director. "I'm ready to move this Nation forward with a group of exceptional, educated, bright Osages," she said.

"I believe in this Constitution, I believe the Minerals Estate is for the shareholders ... I believe in family and I believe in unity," Jones said noting the Congress members need to work together "or we're not going to have enough money to provide services."

Shannon Edwards, who is seeking re-election, said she is running again because she believes there is still work to be done and added that she is running on consistency. She referred to a story in that morning's Daily Oklahoman newspaper in which a Clinton bank froze the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes' bank accounts amid an ongoing fight over tribal leadership. "That's what happens when there's no consistency in government," she said.

"Government doesn't just work by itself, it needs people ... with gifts to bring to our Nation," she said. As an example of unfinished business, Edwards said no appropriation was approved by Congress to supplement the Nation's health benefit card program during the 2012 Hun-Kah Session and said: "I think an amendment needs to be created so it can be perpetuated."

Candy Thomas said her professional experience in public service includes working as a grant writer. "Planning is a very important process in how we realize our dreams," she said.

Thomas, who currently serves on the Gaming Enterprise Board said the projected revenue for gaming funds distributed to the Nation's government is likely to remain a steady \$40 million for the next five years as the Osage Casino officials plan to expand two of the seven casinos.

Thomas said one way to plan for the future would be to hold a government summit with all government branches and boards and commissions involved.

John Maker said fairness is one quality voters should consider in their choice for Congress members. He referred to oral tradition stories, which include lessons such as: "If someone doesn't have food, you should share with them."

Maker believes the Nation has "a great education program now," but added: "as we all know, the cost of education goes up, we need to keep up with the cost of education." He also said the Nation should consider creating its own college which would help address the student dropout rate and the Nation should also look into the need for "our own financial institution."

Nicki Revard Lorenzo said she's learned that many out-of-area Osages feel underrepresented and that there's no follow-up on some issues.

"I've made that commitment: the importance of listening to the people and following up," she said

Lorenzo's previous experience includes serving as a school superintendent and teacher in northern California, which includes working on budgeting and polices. She said Congress needs to improve budget work to avoid overspending, adding, "I'd like to see Congress more accountable."

About 50 people including Osages, candidates and family members attended the April 28 meeting.

Bill Myers, leader of the UOSC, said the organization, a source of networking for Osages in the state, conducted a survey, which found that one Osage who attends the UOSC meetings talks to at least six other Osages.

- Education
- Protection
- Life & Health
- Culture



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- Expand Economic & Financial diversity
- Increasing tribal revenues & Distributing back to Osage People
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- Increase the Land Base

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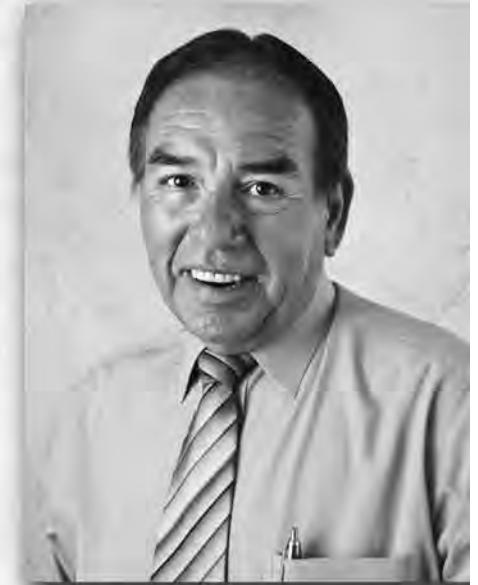
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Osage Nation Congress

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CARL L. SELLERS

Osage Nation Congress

New Mexico Osages band together for upcoming election

New Mexico Association of Osages hosted 15 Osage candidates May 1

By *Sunnie Clahchischiligi*
Special to *Osage News*

The New Mexico Association of Osages made their presence known to 15 Osage congressional hopefuls during its first meeting at the University of New Mexico on May 1.

The association, which is in its building stages, put together a meeting where they shared their vision as an association and invited Osage congressional candidates to share their platforms and engage in a question and answer session with an audience of about 50-plus people.

While a meet-and-greet with the candidates was an important part of the meeting the highlight was getting to know the association itself.

Richard Chissoe, a New Mexico Osage and the former Osage Nation Gaming Commissioner from 2006-2010, was one of the main initiators behind the association. Chissoe served as moderator for the event and said that the meeting was a great way to showcase the association and get it on the minds of the candidates before the General Election in June.

"I will say that being election season that that really kind of promoted this meeting to take place now," Chissoe said. "This is an idea that's kind of been generated over a couple of few years now."

The association isn't new to the Osage people especially to those living in New Mexico. The idea for the association originally generated in 2005 and 2006, but with the new Osage government (at the time) in effect, gaining recognition for the association was difficult.

"At the time the government was new, voter registration wasn't available ... there wasn't as much awareness in terms of the government," Chissoe said. "I think really the time was more right now to roll this out."

But now that the association and



Photo by *Sunnie Clahchischiligi*

Maria Whitehorn, Osage Nation congressional candidate, answers a question during the Q&A session of the New Mexico Association of Osages' inaugural meeting held at the University of New Mexico on May 1. Whitehorn was one of 15 candidates who showed up at the one-day event in Albuquerque, N.M.

its initiators, as they call themselves, had more time to plan they finally got the ball rolling.

And there couldn't have been a better time than election time.

Chissoe said those initiators behind the association decided to host their first meeting in conjunction with a visit from Osage congressional candidates.

He said that there hasn't been a charter established by laws that will ultimately shape the mission of the association.

But right for now, Chissoe said the initiators behind the association would like to see it become an organization that ties Osages living in New Mexico to the Osage people, culture, history, politics, education, language and more, together.

"This organization would serve to be somewhat of a bridge between New Mexico Osages and the Osages back home," Chissoe said. "(To see) just what's going on back in the Osage."

Chissoe has lived in New Mexico

four different times in his life. He moved to New Mexico from Oklahoma in 2000. In the fall of 2006 he was asked to return to Oklahoma as the gaming commissioner for the Osage Tribe. He returned to New Mexico again in the spring of 2010 and now serves on the Laguna Gaming Control Board.

The organization consists of about 8-10 initiators. All of who do not take ownership of the association. Chissoe said they are "just people who have taken the initiative" on the association.

The meeting started off with a brief introduction of the association and its initiators followed by candidate introductions. Lunch was provided for the candidates and those in attendance, followed by an afternoon of presentations and a question and answer session.

The agenda also included a slot for Osage Nation Congressman Geoffrey Standing Bear who spoke about the recent constitutional amendments.

Those candidates present for the meeting were; Archie Mason, Maria Whitehorn, Shannon Edwards, Matthew Shunkamolah, Candy Thomas, Becky Johnson, Cecelia Tallchief, Carl Sellers, Nicki Revard Lorenzo, Jerri Jean Branstetter, Angela Marie Pratt, Joe Mashunkashey, Olivia "Libbi" Gray (Chissoe's sister), Joseph Roger Lynn and RJ Walker.

The candidates were first given the opportunity to give their platform speeches and later engaged in a three-hour question and answer session.

Osage Nation Congressional Candidate Becky Johnson, who like many of the other candidates visited both Osage organizations in California and in New Mexico, said many of the Osages in all three organizations and in Osage County shared the same concerns.

"They were similar to the ones in California, people were concerned about businesses, what's going on with those businesses, it seems like people aren't sure if they're getting accurate information with what's happened with some of the business deals," she said. "People are concerned about possibly overreaching of the different branches, violation of separation of powers, people getting news stories they get as much accurate information from that as much as they can ... they had their opinions and they wanted to see what the candidates would do in the situations."

"They (all three organizations) were all pretty rigorous," Johnson added.

Other topics candidates addressed included elder care, economic development, education, cultural preservation and more.

Some candidates even briefly mentioned continuing to push for the efforts of the association.

While most candidates knew little about the association many were open-minded and fell favorable to the idea of having such an organization.

Johnson said she for one could have

See **NEW MEXICO OSAGES**

—Continued on Page 27

Osage candidates visit Oklahoma City voters

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

OKLAHOMA CITY – Nine Osages seeking a Congressional seat in June’s General Election sounded off during an April 21 political gathering sharing their concerns about the current tribal government and what they would focus on, if elected for a four-year term.

Jim Ryan, who is seeking a seat in this year’s election, coordinated the event, billed as the “Revard Rally” and invited fellow candidates and the Osage public to the event held in The Village Library. Ryan, a member of the Revard family, organized a similar rally in Edmond for the candidates in the 2010 general election.

Shannon Edwards was the lone Congressional incumbent attending the event. She said there are several unfinished items needing Congressional attention, which she wants to focus on. Edwards said, as an example, the Nation needs to focus on improving the government campus infrastructure, which has been a longstanding topic.

Edwards said upgrading the campus could cost between \$10 million and \$20 million. “One of the things we’re going to have to do is prioritize budgeting,” she said adding the Nation also needs to focus on investing the \$50-plus million it has in reserve money. “It could be earning as much as three to four percent, with stronger help it could earn eight to 10 percent.”

Edwards requested to speak first so she could leave early due to family medical reasons. Her father, Oklahoma City attorney John T. Edwards, died the next day.

Matthew Shunkamolah, who spoke next, said he is running to address problems he encountered or is aware of after working for the Nation most recently as the Gaming Commission Executive Director. He resigned from the post in March stating, “I felt that the executive (branch) side ... they’re not doing their job,”

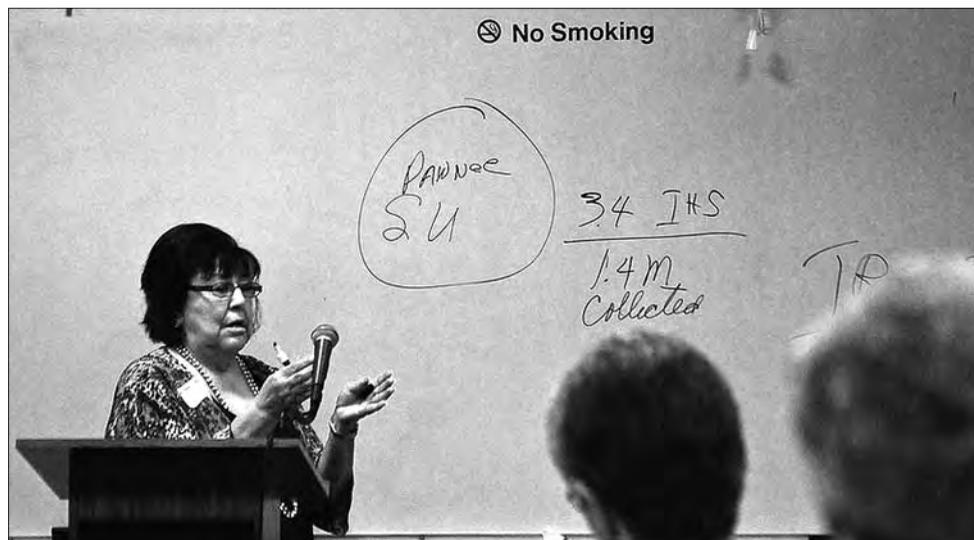


Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

2012 Osage General Election candidate, Rose Mary Shaw, speaks to attendees at the Revard Rally April 21 in Oklahoma City.

and listed concerns he would like to address.

Shunkamolah said he believes the Nation’s law enforcement entities are underfunded and the tribal police officers need higher salaries, more training and upgraded equipment. He also believes the Attorney General’s office needs to be expanded with more specialty attorneys to handle the Nation’s legal and litigation matters.

Hank Hainzinger is a first-time office seeker for the Osage tribal government and believes his fresh perspective will be beneficial if elected to Congress. Hainzinger said he is not running for office in wake of any recent event affecting the government, but believes Congress will face tough decisions such as budgeting. “There’s cuts to be made, people won’t like them all,” Hainzinger said.

Hainzinger, a lifelong Osage County resident with a ranching background, took an audience question of whether the cattle industry is profitable in Osage County and a possible additional revenue source for the Nation. Hainzinger said the demand for beef is presently high, but notes that could change with the economy. He said there are plenty of acres for cattle in the county, but also said it may not spur a lot of local jobs.

Rose Mary Shaw said she wants the Nation to improve its health services for the people. Shaw believes the Nation needs to get stronger mental health services with a full-time psychiatrist otherwise patients face a months-long wait to be seen by a part-time provider. Shaw also believes the Nation still needs to compact the Pawhuska Indian Health Service Clinic despite the recent departure of the four-member Health Authority Board, which resigned in wake of recent decisions made by the Executive Branch.

Shaw’s brother, Ron Shaw, M.D., served on the Health Authority Board which is needed as part of several requirements for a tribe to contract an IHS facility to have a stronger say in spending millions of federal money allocated annually for health care. “We have no say-so in our funding,” she said of the IHS clinic budget currently determined by IHS officials in Pawnee or at the Oklahoma City Area Office.

Olivia “Libbi” Gray said her professional experience comes from working as a consultant with several tribes. “I’ve seen what works and what doesn’t work in Indian Country,” she said adding she’s familiar with the Nation’s programs and said

the tribe’s business shouldn’t come to a standstill if elected leaders don’t get along. Gray is married to former Osage Principal Chief Jim Gray.

“What I’m going to ask you guys to do is look at the skills, expertise (of the candidates) and also look at their attitudes,” Gray told the audience. “There will be problems, likely investigations, there’ll be times you’ll have to tell someone ‘no’ (at budget time), laws have been broken. Those things have to be handled – we don’t need to scream from the rooftops.”

Jim Ryan said he would like to see the Nation improve its senior citizen services and opportunities such as providing facilities and housing in Fairfax and Hominy to mirror Pawhuska’s. “We need to get senior activities across the board,” he said adding computer literary classes as an example.

Ryan said he wants to see more health initiatives offered such as nutrition and exercise opportunities to reduce the diabetes risk among Osages. Ryan believes the Nation should also explore developing a sports authority board and a gym membership card program, which mirrors the current health benefit card, to help all Osages cover health club-related costs.

Amanda Proctor said one focus for the Nation is the Osage Limited Liability Company (LLC). Proctor has concerns with the LLC after hearing recent reports and political chatter regarding the entity’s finances and activities. “I think it’s definitely something that warrants attention,” she said adding that she’s seen both good and bad instances of contracting occur in the Indian law field where she works as an attorney.

If elected, Proctor said she would look at her Tulsa area law practice to see if any potential conflicts of interest are present in response to an audience question. Proctor said she’s worked with 11 area tribes in efforts,

See CANDIDATES VISIT OKC VOTERS

—Continued on Page 18

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE



Osage Nation Election Office

P.O. Box 928 • Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056

Toll Free (877) 560-5286 • Phone (918) 287-5286 • Fax (918) 287-5292

E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



DATE: June 4, 2012
TIME: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. CDT

POLL LOCATION: Osage Nation Tribal Administration Building
Congress/Minerals Council Chambers
813 Grandview
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE:

- Any enrolled member of the Osage Nation that is eighteen (18) years of age or older on Election Day who has been issued an Osage Nation Membership Card on or after October 9, 2002, which bears the signature of a Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.

MANNER OF VOTING:

- Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- Except as otherwise provided, any qualified voter may vote by:
 - Appearing at the prescribed polling place;
 - Announcing to the election officials his or her name;
 - Presenting a government issued photo identification* (Example: Driver's License, Passport, Military ID, etc.);

*If you do not have a photo identification to present, you may vote if two (2) election officials sign an affidavit affirming your identity.
 - Signing the ballot sign out sheet; and
 - Marking the ballot and placing it in the ballot box.
- Any eligible voter who will be unable to vote in person may vote by Absentee Ballot.

REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- To request an Absentee Ballot Request form, either:
 - Visit our website at www.osagetribe.com/electionboard, click on the Information Page, click on the Forms Link, and then fill out, print, and sign the Absentee Ballot Request form; or
 - You can request for the Absentee Ballot Request form to be sent to you by calling the Election Office toll free at (877) 560-5286 or by e-mailing electionoffice@osagetribe.org.
- Return the completed Absentee Ballot Request form along with a copy of a government issued photo identification (Example: Driver's License, Passport, Military ID, etc.) to the Election Office. Please sign the Absentee Ballot Request form the same way you will sign the absentee ballot return envelope. Use one of the following methods to return your completed request:
 - Scan and e-mail to electionoffice@osagetribe.org;
 - Fax to (918) 287-5292; or
 - Mail to P.O. Box 928, Pawhuska, OK 74056.
- The deadline for the Election Office to receive your completed Absentee Ballot Request form and photo identification is MAY 15, 2012 no later than 4:30 p.m., CDT.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- Instructions for marking and mailing your ballot can be found enclosed with your ballot.
- All Absentee Ballots must arrive by 10:00 a.m. CDT on June 4, 2012, which is the day of the election, in the Pawhuska Post Office in order to be valid.
- Ballots that bear a readable official U.S. postmark no later than one (1) day prior to the election and received at the Pawhuska Post Office within forty-eight (48) hours after the deadline may be considered Provisional Ballots.
- Any eligible voter who receives an Absentee Ballot who does not complete and mail the ballot, but instead wishes to cast his or her vote in person must first:
 - Surrender his or her ballot to the Election Supervisor or authorized designee on Election Day; or
 - Sign an affidavit stating they received a ballot, but did not vote it.
- IMPORTANT: Pursuant to the Osage Nation Election Code, 5.2 (F) (1), a person is guilty of a violation of this code who knowingly votes more than once at any election. The penalty for this violation pursuant to Section 5.2 (G) is a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or a term of imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year, or both.

METHODS OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE IN VOTING:

- On Election Day, if a voter or voter's agent presents him or herself and states that the voter, because of a physical disability or language barrier, is unable to mark the ballot, assistance shall be provided by at least two (2) election officials. The voter may also be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.
- A wheelchair shall be available at the polling place to assist a disabled voter into the designated polling place so a voter may cast his or her ballot. At least two (2) election officials shall be available to assist the disabled voter from their vehicle into the polling place where the ballot shall be cast. The voter may also be accompanied by a person of their choice in casting their ballot. No proxy voting will be allowed.
- If you need additional assistance on Election Day, please contact the Election Office toll free at (877) 560-5286 or locally at (918) 287-5286 in advance, if possible.



If you do not currently have the above card, please contact the Osage Nation Membership Office toll free at (800) 818-6517.

Osage candidates speak at The Cedar Chest

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Candidates for the Third Osage Nation Congress have started their trek on the campaign trail with several making a stop at the Cedar Chest to share their interest in seeking public office.

Cedar Chest co-operators Julie O'keefe and Danette Daniels held an April 12 reception for the Legislative Branch candidates who are seeking the six Congressional seats up for grabs in the June election.

O'keefe said the store held a similar forum during the 2010 election season when Daniels ran for the Second ON Congress and wanted to repeat the event. Candidate names written on paper pieces were drawn from a bowl to determine the speaking order, which were limited to five minutes each.

The following candidates addressed the reception and here are some of the thoughts and comments they shared in running for office:

Berbon Hamilton, who was selected to speak first, said he believes more education to the people is needed on the Nation's government operations. For example, Hamilton said more education is needed on how Constitutional amendments work considering Osage voters will decide on several amendment questions, which will make the June ballot and a special election to be held in August.

With a smile, Hamilton closed his speech in referring to his name order on the ballot: "I'm number three on the ballot, I'm number one in your heart."

Jacque Jones said she has heard the needs and concerns of many Osages over the years who sought assistance from the Nation's Constituent Services office where she serves as director. Jones said she is dedicating herself to learning about every operation in the government in preparing for a potential Congressional run.

Jones said the Nation needs to sustain itself through health and economic development opportunities and



Photo by Benny Polacca/Osage News

Osages and their families listen to 2012 Congressional candidates speak at an April 12 reception held at the Cedar Chest in Pawhuska. Candidate Berbon Hamilton addresses the crowd.

closed with: "I've always had an open door and that's not going to change."

Jozi Tall Chief said is concerned about political divisiveness and said she was addressing the public as family. "I feel like we need to come together as one and get rid of this divisiveness," she said.

If elected, Tall Chief said she would address items she believes are at issue which include "unchecked powers to the Executive Branch" and legislation which would address elder care for Osages.

RJ Walker said an asset he holds in running for office is "the ability to get along with everyone."

As director of the Nation's Roads Department, Walker said his experience in exercising tribal sovereignty is working with several entities to secure millions of federal dollars each year awarded to the Nation for road projects in Osage County.

Congressional Speaker Jerri Jean Branstetter is seeking a second term and said it can be difficult at times to serve on the Congress with the need

to make hard decisions that are up for Congressional consideration. She shared her professional experience in working at the state government level and was active with the Osage government reform movement when the 2006 government was being developed.

Branstetter said the Congress faces challenges in appropriating funding for tribal government operations. At issue during the 2012 Hun-Kah Session has been whether to dip into the Nation's reserve funds to support money requests. Branstetter said "I would never vote to use that money at this point."

Amanda Proctor said she plans to use her experience as an Indian law-focused attorney in her Congressional work, if elected. As an attorney, she has worked with 11 tribes and previously worked as a tribal housing director where she gained experience in issues such as land-into-trust processes and grant writing.

"I hope you, the people, give me the chance to apply (my experience)

to the Osage Nation," Proctor told the audience. One area Proctor said she would address, if elected, is day care so it is affordable and has Osage preference for the tribal clientele.

Olivia "Libbi" Gray said she would look at the Nation's ethics laws if elected. "I think as elected officials, we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard," she said.

Other areas Gray said she would look at, as an elected official are water rights and employment laws.

Kathryn Redcorn said "I have served as the real treasurer" referring to her director's post with the Osage Tribal Museum. She touted her professional experience in working with various entities in safeguarding and collecting Osage artifacts, historical items and clothing.

Anthony Shackelford, who is seeking a second Congressional term, said ideas regarding the future "starts with us first. It takes confidence and trust in leadership" to serve, Shackelford said in asking for the people's vote to serve again.

Maria Whitehorn said "we need strong leadership to knit us together." She pointed at various knitted artwork on display in The Cedar Chest and said the Nation "needs a person to hold all of those pieces together."

A first-time office seeker, Whitehorn encouraged the people to share their thoughts and concerns with her. "There's lots of things I want to do, come talk to me," Whitehorn said, adding she is open to hearing more ideas.

Candy Thomas said her entire professional life has included public service and planning. She shared her job experience, which includes grant writing, and working as an economic development specialist for the Osage County Industrial Authority.

"I feel like a keystone of my platform is going to be strategic planning," Thomas said.

Shannon Edwards is seeking a second Congressional term and said

See CEDAR CHEST HOSTS EVENT

—Continued on Page 18

Cedar Chest Hosts Event Candidates Visit OKC Voters

—Continued from Page 19

she would work on legislation where there's more work to be done. She shared various pieces of legislation she's worked on during her six-year tenure as a congresswoman, which includes the bill establishing the Treasury Office and the health benefit card for all Osages.

If reelected, Edwards said she also wants to focus on investing the Nation's surplus funds, which sit at approximately \$50 million.

Linda Lazelle, a former staffer in the Congressional office, said one area of concern she wants to address is stronger legislation if elected. "Legislation sometimes didn't meet the needs of Osage people," she said.

"I would certainly like to (address) things that need improving," Lazelle told the people, adding "you can call me at anytime."

Angela Pratt took a moment to laugh at herself during her opening remarks. "I'm the oldest, shortest, chubbiest daughter" in the family. She said her placement in her family taught her a lot about responsibility.

In the legislature, Pratt said she would like to see more done for the Education Department and health programs to address the needs of the people.

Joseph Roger Lynn said an area of focus for the Nation is economic development so the tribe will be "self-sustaining and self-sufficient" to generate non-gaming revenue.

"What we need is a department of commerce and trading," Lynn said adding, "We need to give our people hope, something to aim for."

The Cedar Chest gathering is one of the first political public gatherings of the 2012 election season. Candidates have also been invited to Osage association group meetings in southern and northern California, New Mexico, Tulsa and Oklahoma City between now and June.

To view more photos taken at The Cedar Chest candidate reception, visit the *Osage News* Flickr page online at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/osagenews/sets/72157629491638214/>

which include: putting land into federal trust status; working with the Ponca Tribe on a land boundary dispute; and working with the Muscogee Creek Nation on its recent purchase of the Riverwalk Crossing development in Jenks.

Carl Sellers told the crowd: "I will serve all Osage people, I want to emphasize all Osage people." He said he supports outreach efforts on the part of Congress to hold town hall-style meetings, "where we come to you."

With regards to education, Sellers said he supports efforts to award all Osage college students the same scholarship amount regardless of the institution. This is in reference

to prior Congressional discussion of whether students attending low-cost or tuition-free institutions should receive lower scholarship awards versus the maximum amount. "We promised them \$3,500, you should receive \$3,500," Sellers said.

Nicki Revard Lorenzo said her prior educational experiences has prepared her to take on government duties and she added the budgeting process should be improved. "I'd like to see a template placed on all appropriation bills which asks the question: 'Will this bill benefit all Osage people?'"

Lorenzo said she tackled policies and procedures, budgeting and dealt with federal and state dollars while

superintendent and principal at an all-Native school with Pomo students in northern California. She said her educational experience also involved reaching out to the public and addressing tough issues, which were needed to "heal the community."

Approximately 20 people, candidates, their families and fellow Osages attended the April 21 event.

A second Revard Rally is scheduled for May 12 in Tulsa at the Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., starting at 1 p.m.

To see more photos, visit the *Osage News* Flickr page online at: www.flickr.com/photos/osagenews.

—Continued from Page 15

2012 Official Congressional Candidate List

- 1) Jerri Jean Branstetter
- 2) Shannon Edwards
- 3) Olivia "Libbi" Gray
- 4) Becky Johnson
- 5) Jacque Jones
- 6) Berbon Hamilton
- 7) Hank Hainzinger
- 8) Teresa DeRoin Hudgins
- 9) John Jech
- 10) Linda Lazelle
- 11) Nicki Revard Lorenzo
- 12) Joseph Roger Lynn
- 13) John Maker
- 14) Joe Mashunkashey
- 15) Bill Mashunkashey Jr.
- 16) Archie Mason
- 17) Justin Mays
- 18) Roscoe Mays
- 19) Jenny Miller
- 20) Angela Marie Pratt
- 21) Jim Ryan
- 22) Amanda Proctor
- 23) Kathryn Red Corn
- 24) Shane Rencountre
- 25) Carl Sellers
- 26) Anthony Shackelford
- 27) Rosemary Shaw
- 28) Matthew Shunkamolah
- 29) Mark Simms
- 30) Jozi Tall Chief

- 31) Cecelia Tallchief
- 32) Candy Thomas

- 33) Maria Whitehorn
- 34) RJ Walker



NICKI REVARO
LORENZO
For Osage Congress

**Working Hard for
ALL Osage People**

COMMITTED TO:

- ❖ Protect, preserve, maintain separation of the Mineral Estate
- ❖ Evaluate and act on Legislation that does not benefit all Osage people
- ❖ Control wasteful spending
- ❖ Establish follow-up review policies for legislation
- ❖ Provide full financial accountability
- ❖ Build and improve youth and elder services

Paid For By Nicki Revard Lorenzo for Osage Congress Fund

Hank Hainzinger

Osage Nation Congress

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY DEFINES "NEW" AS "DIFFERENT FROM ONE OF THE SAME CATEGORY THAT HAS EXISTED PREVIOUSLY".

As we approach the election on June 4th, I ask that you keep this definition in mind. Although we have roughly 13,000 registered members in the Osage tribe, there seems to be a lot of familiar names on the ballot, but very few "new" names. It's important to **REMEMBER THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS SET UP TO ALLOW "NEW" MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE EVERY 4 YEARS.**

This is done for a reason. It assures fresh and original ideas and visions for the future. The "new" people should, in theory, be able to build on the foundation of the people serving before them. We are fortunate to have some members of Congress whom we have put our trust in and who have earned our respect. On this upcoming Election Day, we need to look carefully at the pool of candidates labeling themselves as "new".

IF WE CHOOSE THE RIGHT "NEW" PEOPLE, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHILE ADDING A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE ISSUES.

THIS is how our young government will move forward. When I say I am running as a "new" candidate, you can be assured that is the truth. I am unique, in that it has been 30 years since anyone in my family has worked for the tribe. I will focus my energy on promoting the opportunities of our tribal members in regard to education, health care, job creation, cultural issues, and real estate acquisition. I will work to fully fund the useful and constructive programs already in place, and promote projects which will be beneficial in the future. These are some of the same issues our ancestors dealt with 100 years ago, and we are still benefitting from their decisions. **MY GOAL IS THAT 100 YEARS IN THE FUTURE, OUR RELATIVES WILL REMEMBER US WITH THE SAME GRATITUDE, RESPECT AND HONOR.**

I urge you to reflect on the definition of "new", and ponder the potential greatness of the Osage Nation if we elect sound minded, moral candidates, who are willing to leave their personal biases at the door, and whose judgment we can trust to lead us toward a prosperous future. I AM THAT MAN. Vote "HANK" June 4th.



congress
A GOOD MAN.

John F. Maker

OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

It's time for a change.

Although fine people have served in Congress, and I thank them for their service, it's time for a change in leadership. We can't afford more of the same.

Let's move forward to a brighter future. We need better programs and more funding for education. Many of our elders are having a difficult time because they cannot live near their families.

We need change...

I can bring a new focus to our tribe, a new vision of leadership. As candidate for the Osage Nation Congress, I want to work with you to help grow our Nation to greater strength, more security, and a continuously-flowing prosperity. A vote for John F. Maker is a vote for change!

www.makerforcongress.org

john@makerforcongress.org • [facebook.com/makerforcongress](https://www.facebook.com/makerforcongress)



I'll champion:

- Establishing our own financial institution
- Diversifying the Nation's business portfolio to generate revenue from other areas
- Improving funding for research and technology
- Increasing scholarships to match growing college expenses
- Creating an Osage college
- Extending elder housing to all districts
- Protecting our Minerals Estate

Paid for by a contributor to the John Maker for Congress campaign

John F. Maker

OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

Re-Elect
Jerri Jean Branstetter
 THIRD OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

*We will
 work for...*

- Government accountability
- Higher Education
- Economic Development
- Healthcare
- Protection of Tribal Resources
- Preservation of our Culture and Language



“Effective leadership...that’s what has streamlined operations in the Congressional offices and brought the positive changes we’ve seen. I listen to everyone and read everything that crosses my desk ~ every email, every phone call, every Osage who enters my door. No issue is too small or problem too big that I won’t make the time to be there for my constituents.

That’s who I am...”

*Experienced. Dedicated.
 Leadership.*

Re-Elect **Jerri Jean Branstetter**
 #17 on the Ballot
 THIRD OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

Paid by Jerri Jean Branstetter Campaign

Cecelia Tallchief
 OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

“As a former legislator and business leader, I’m a good communicator who understands the value of listening. Yet, not only do I listen, but I’m equipped with the strategic skills and experience to turn words into actions and thoughts into plans, understanding evaluation and follow-through are critical components of any legislation.”

-Cecelia Tallchief



What’s Important?

Accountability. Congressionally funded and supplementally funded projects must be accountable. We must document need and evaluate outcome, being accountable to our people.

Ethics. I will seek membership on the Congressional Ethics Committee and work to see that Congress, including myself, is held to the same ethical standards as any Osage employee.

Fairness. I will work to make sure that Osage employment practices are fair and free of favoritism.

*Questions? Let’s talk!
 ctallchief8@yahoo.com*

“The Osage People deserve a government that responds to their needs. If elected, I will ask the people what they need from their government and I pledge I will make it easy for you to communicate with me via the Internet and regular mail. My office will always be open to you.”

Paid for by Cecelia Tallchief
 for Congress Campaign

www.ceceliatallchief.com

KA KO KA HO KA

Wa-KO Ki-He-Kab “Woman Chief” #11 on the Ballot

Cecelia Tallchief
 OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

RE-ELECT

MARK J. SIMMS

Osage Nation Congress

"I believe that the businesses of the Osage nation must thrive in order to ensure services and benefits to the Osage people wherever they may live... strong businesses will be the pillars that uphold the Osage Nation."

The economic health of the Osage Nation is, and will continue to be, a top priority for six-year Osage Congressman and Candidate Mark J. Simms. "The way the Osage people will prosper is to make Osage businesses profitable," Simms says. "I believe that the businesses of the Osage nation must thrive in order to ensure services and benefits to the Osage people wherever they may live," he adds. "Strong businesses will be the pillars that uphold the Osage Nation.

Simms says, "We need to look at the business entities of the Osage Nation and help them focus more on business strategy. Specifically, the Osage Casinos and the Osage L.L.C need to develop sound business strategies and improve communication with Congress," Simms explains. Such communication comes from the Osage Gaming Enterprise Board and the Osage L.L.C. Board, which report both to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee to and to the Osage Congress.

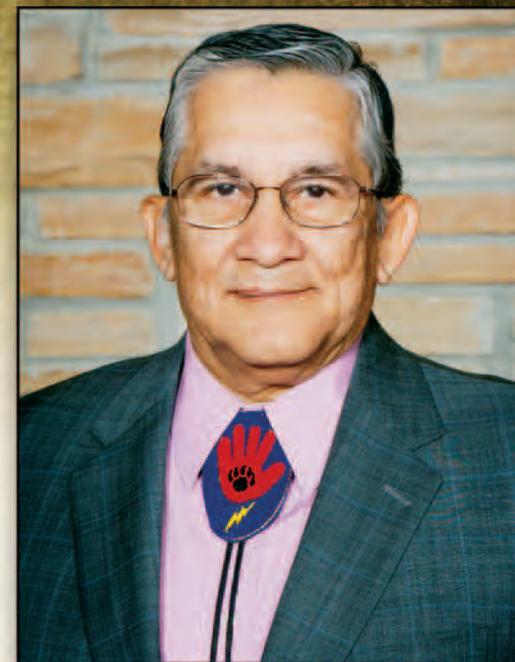
With regard to the Osage Casinos, Simms believes that expansion is good, as long as the expansion is purposeful. "We need to have a plan which ensures that as expansion occurs, the business remains profitable. For example, new construction at the Osage Casinos is already underway. This needs to be done in a fiscally responsible manner in order to preserve profits as these projects progress. There has to be accountability at each step and I will work to ensure this takes place."

Mark Simms has a proven track record in building profitable businesses. Simms founded Accent Pest Control Inc. in 1980, which has grown to be the largest independently owned company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He is also the founder of Bartlesville Properties, Inc., established in 1989, which has grown to provide housing to 52 families.

Another important goal Mark Simms will work toward is for the separation of Minerals Estate Trust from the Osage Nation. For the past six years, the Osage Minerals Estate Trust has been held within the Treasury of the Osage Nation. Simms disagrees with this policy. "The Minerals Trust needs to be separate and independent from the Osage government and I will strive to make that happen," Simms says.

Mark Simms, who is married to Linda Bellamy Simms, is the son of Evelyn Onhand Pitts and is the grandson of Ralph Onhand (Wah-Tsa-Ah-Tah) of the Beaver Band, original Allottee 582. After his father died, Simms was raised by the late William Pitts, brother of former Chief Paul Pitts, as his own son in the traditional ways of the Osage. Later, Simms was adopted into the Bear Clan and was given his Osage name, Le-Ta-Xoh, by Mary Red Eagle.

Simms attended Oklahoma State University for three years majoring in the Business Administration with a minor in Psychology. He left OSU to serve in the U.S. Army. When he returned from the U.S. Army, he enrolled in Oklahoma State Tech where he earned an associates degree in bookkeeping.

**WE BELIEVE IN:**

- Sound business strategies
- Fiscally responsible expansion
- Government accountability
- Protection of the Minerals Estate Trust
- Preserving Osage culture and traditions

MEMBER OF:

- Commerce and Economic Development Committee
- Appropriations Committee
- Cultural Committee

RECOGNITION:

- President's Business Commission (2001-2009, appointed by President George W. Bush)
- Businessman of the Year from Oklahoma (2003, Business Advisory Council and the National Republican Congressional Committee)

RE-ELECT

MARK J. SIMMS

#23 on the Ballot
Osage Nation Congress

Paid by Simms for
Congress Campaign
Committee

RE-ELECT
ARCHIE MASON
 for Osage Nation Congress



I am seeking your vote for reelection so that I may continue working as your congressman, building on the successes and handling the challenges that come before Congress. I am committed to reading, researching, and understanding each piece of legislation. I have remained committed to accountability, transparency and open communication to all Osages. I will continue to listen to all voices, all sides, and then base my decision and vote for the betterment of our Osage people everywhere.

I remain dedicated to the Osage Nation, our government, our constitution, our cultural existence, and will continue to serve you, the Osage people with honesty, integrity, passion, and compassion.

For more information visit
www.archiemason.net

Ad paid for by Archie Mason



The best source for Osage news now!
osagenews.org

#30
 Respect the elders, teach the young, cooperate with the family. Play when you can, work when you should, rest in between. Share your affection, voice your feelings, and **leave your mark.**

Teresa DeRoin Hudgins for Osage Nation Congress

Paid for by Teresa Hudgins for Osage Congress

Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you'd like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 109 E. 6th Street, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or email sshaw@osagetribe.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

Osage Nation 2012 Election

Mark Your Ballot Like This ■



P 01

181-12-01

01

Members of Congress (Vote for up to 6)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Jech | <input type="checkbox"/> Jenny Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Mashunkashey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> R. J. Walker | <input type="checkbox"/> Becky M. Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Roscoe Mays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berbon R. Hamilton | <input type="checkbox"/> John F. Maker | <input type="checkbox"/> Archie L. Mason |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Justin M. Mays | <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Roger Lynn, Jr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl L. Sellers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Shackelford | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerri Jean Branstetter | <input type="checkbox"/> Hank Hainzinger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candy Thomas | <input type="checkbox"/> Angela Marie Pratt | <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Mary Shaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicki Revard Lorenzo | <input type="checkbox"/> Amanda S. Proctor | <input type="checkbox"/> Teresa DeRoin Huggins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linda LaZelle | <input type="checkbox"/> Shane Rencountre | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Ryan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Mashunkashey | <input type="checkbox"/> Jozi Tall Chief | <input type="checkbox"/> W. Jacque Jones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew C. Shunkamolah | <input type="checkbox"/> Olivia "Libbi" Gray | <input type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Red Corn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cecelia Tallchief | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark J. Simms | <input type="checkbox"/> Maria Whitehorn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Love Edwards | | |

Mark Your Ballot Like This ■

Mark Your Ballot Like This ■

Constitutional Amendments

- Yes** **1) ONCR 10-21. Shall Article XI, Section 3 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of signatures by qualified Osage voters necessary to file a petition for initiative or referendum?**
- No** Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to tie the number of signatures necessary to file an initiative or referendum directly to the number of qualified Osage voters who exercise their right to vote, instead of the Osage electorate as a whole. For example, the total Osage electorate is 11,814; of which, 2,351 voted in the 2010 election for Principal Chief. Currently, 1,772 signatures are needed to file an initiative or referendum, (15% of 11,814). If the amendment passes, 588 signatures would be required, (25% of 2,351).
- Yes** **2) ONCR 10-22. Shall Article XI, Section 8 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of signatures by qualified Osage voters necessary to file a petition for recall?**
- No** Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to tie the number of signatures necessary to file a recall petition directly to the number of qualified Osage voters who exercise their right to vote, instead of the Osage electorate as a whole. For example, the total Osage electorate is 11,814; of which, 2,351 voted in the 2010 election for Principal Chief. Currently, 1,772 signatures are needed to file a recall petition, (15% of 11,814). If the amendment passes, 588 signatures would be required, (25% of 2,351).
- Yes** **3) ONCR 10-23. Shall Article XX, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of signatures by qualified Osage voters necessary to propose an amendment to the Constitution?**
- No** Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to tie the number of signatures necessary to file a petition to amend the constitution directly to the number of qualified Osage voters who exercise their right to vote, instead of the Osage electorate as a whole. For example, the total Osage electorate is 11,814; of which, 2,351 voted in the 2010 election for Principal Chief. Currently, 1,772 signatures are needed to file a petition to amend the constitution, (15% of 11,814). If the amendment passes, 588 signatures would be required, (25% of 2,351).
- Yes** **4) ONCR 10-26. Shall Article XX, Section 1 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the number of affirmative votes from 5/6 to 3/4 of the Congress to put a Constitutional amendment before the Osage people for approval or rejection at an election?**
- No** Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the number of affirmative votes necessary for the Osage Nation Congress members to propose an amendment to the Constitution from 5/6, or ten members, to 3/4, or nine members.
- Yes** **5) ONCR 10-30. Shall Articles III, VI, VII, VIII, XIII and XV of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to replace all references to "membership" with "citizenship" and to replace "eligibility for membership" with "right to citizenship"?**
- No** Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to remove all Constitutional references to "membership", which has suggestions of belonging to a social group or club, and replace them with "citizenship", which denotes a link between individual and a sovereign nation. Citizenship carries with it a connotation of rights and responsibilities, such as the right to politically participate, vote, and receive certain protections, as well as a duty to protect the integrity of the nation. The need for this amendment was derived out of the transition from the Osage Tribe to the Osage Nation.
- Yes** **6) ONCR 11-05. Shall Article IV, Section 3(G) of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to remove the penalty and punishment limits for persons convicted of a crime?**
- No** Purpose: Article IV, Section 3 of the Osage Constitution, which contains the penalty and punishment limits, is modeled directly after the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968. The limits in the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 were subsequently amended by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. The purpose of this amendment is to remove the limits in order to avoid amending the Osage Constitution each time the underlying federal law is changed.
- Yes** **7) ONCR 11-10. Shall Article VII, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to limit the Principal Chief to three terms?**
- No** Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to limit the number of times any one person may hold the position as Principal Chief to three. Under the current Constitution, a person may be elected as the Principal Chief for an unlimited number of times.

DETACH HERE BEFORE ENCLOSING BALLOT PORTION IN SECRET ENVELOPE

DO NOT DISCARD THIS PORTION



123456

Nick Voter

Nick Voter

NOT ACTUAL SIZE.
Official Ballot will be
printed on an 8-1/2x11
sheet.

Candidate's Statements



RJ Walker, Jr.

Developing a Comprehensive Education plan

I believe that children and grandchildren are our greatest gift, and that our greatest loss is a failure to nurture a child blessed with talent. Every Osage child deserves the best chance to determine their own fate.

We need to work with our schools to keep our children from "falling through the cracks" in our educational system. We can do this by working with with sports and after school programs and tailoring them to each child's progress.

We cannot predict the challenges our Osage children will face. We can, however, foster creativity and problem solving abilities of our youth, readying them for the challenges they will face when it is their time to decide the direction of our Nation.

Get updates at RJWalkerJr.com.

GENERAL ELECTION PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS I



Osage Nation Election Office

P.O. Box 928 • Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056

Toll Free (877) 560-5286 • Phone (918) 287-5286 • Fax (918) 287-5292

E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



Dear Osage Voter,

Enclosed you will find the seven proposed Constitutional Amendments that will be on the ballot for the General Election to be held on June 4, 2012. Below is a brief explanation of the format used to provide this information.

1. Reference to the Resolution Passed by Congress

- A. Proposed Amendment:** The ballot question as it will appear on the General Election ballot.
- B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution:** The section of the Osage Nation Constitution showing the changes, if approved. This is reflected using a ~~strikethrough~~ for language being deleted and new language appearing in *bold italics*.
- C. Purpose:** A description of the proposed amendment's purpose prepared by the Osage Nation Attorney General expressed in one hundred (100) words or less and composed in language that is true and impartial with no prejudice for or against the amendment.

This information will also be posted for future reference on the Information Page of our website at www.osagetribe.com/electionboard. Please feel free to contact the Election Office toll free at (877) 560-5286 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Osage Nation Election Board & Office

1. ONCR 10-21.

- A. Proposed Amendment:** Shall Article XI, Section 3 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of signatures by qualified Osage voters necessary to file a petition for initiative or referendum?
- B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution:** If approved, **Article XI – CITIZEN INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):
- Section 3. Petition for Initiative or Referendum:** After certification of the application, a petition containing a summary of the subject matter shall be prepared by the person authorized by Osage law to do so for circulation by the sponsors. If signed by qualified Osage voters who are equal in number to at least ~~(15) fifteen percent of the electorate~~ *twenty-five (25) percent of the number of voters placing votes in the preceding general election in which the Office of the Principal Chief was on the ballot*, it may be filed.

- C. Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to tie the number of signatures necessary to file an initiative or referendum directly to the number of qualified Osage voters who exercise their right to vote, instead of the Osage electorate as a whole. For example, the total Osage electorate is 11,814. Of which, 2,351 voted in the 2010 election for Principal Chief. Currently, 1,772 signatures are needed to file an initiative or referendum, (15% of

11,814). If the amendment passes, 588 signatures would be required, (25% of 2,351).

2. ONCR 10-22.

- A. Proposed Amendment:** Shall Article XI, Section 8 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of signatures by qualified Osage voters necessary to file a petition for recall?

- B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution:** If approved, **Article XI – CITIZEN INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 8. Recall: All elected and/or appointed officials of the Osage Nation are subject to recall by the qualified Osage voters. The grounds for recall of a judicial officer shall be established by the Osage Nation Supreme Court. The grounds for recall of an officer other than a judge are serious malfeasance or nonfeasance, during the term of office, in the performance of the duties of the office or a conviction, during the term of office, of a felony or conviction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. After certification of the Application, as set forth in Section 2 of this Article, a petition for recall shall be prepared by the person authorized by Osage law to do so and the petition shall set forth the specific conduct that may warrant recall. A recall petition may not be issued for circulation by the sponsors until the Osage Nation Supreme Court has determined that the facts alleged in the petition are true and are sufficient grounds for issuing a recall petition. A recall petition must be signed by qualified Osage voters who are equal in number to at least ~~fifteen (15) percent of the electorate~~ *twenty-five (25) percent of the number of voters placing votes in the preceding general election in which the Office of the Principal Chief was on the ballot*. (The remainder of Section 8 remains unchanged).

- C. Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to tie the number of signatures necessary to file a recall petition directly to the number of qualified Osage voters who exercise their right to vote, instead of the Osage electorate as a whole. For example, the total Osage electorate is 11,814. Of which, 2,351 voted in the 2010 election for Principal Chief. Currently, 1,772 signatures are needed to file a recall petition, (15% of 11,814). If the amendment passes, 588 signatures would be required, (25% of 2,351).

3. ONCR 10-23.

- A. Proposed Amendment:** Shall Article XX, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of signatures by qualified Osage voters necessary to propose an amendment to the Constitution?

- B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution:** If approved, **Article XX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

GENERAL ELECTION PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS II



Osage Nation Election Office

P.O. Box 928 • Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056

Toll Free (877) 560-5286 • Phone (918) 287-5286 • Fax (918) 287-5292

E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



Section 2. Amendment by Petition: Amendments may be proposed to this Constitution by petition of the qualified electors of the Osage Nation. Every petition shall include the full text of the proposed amendment, and be signed by qualified electors of the Osage Nation equal in number to at least twenty-five (25%) of the *electorate number of voters placing votes in the preceding general election in which the Office of the Principal Chief was on the ballot.* Such petitions shall be filed with the person authorized by law to receive the same at least ninety (90) days before the election at which the proposed amendment is to be voted upon. Any such petition shall be in the form, and shall be signed and circulated in such manner, as prescribed by Osage law. The person authorized to receive such petition shall upon its receipt determine, as provided by law, the validity and sufficiency of the signatures on the petition, and make an official announcement thereof at least sixty (60) days prior to the election at which the proposed amendment is to be voted upon.

C. Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to tie the number of signatures necessary to file a petition to amend the constitution directly to the number of qualified Osage voters who exercise their right to vote, instead of the Osage electorate as a whole. For example, the total Osage electorate is 11,814. Of which, 2,351 voted in the 2010 election for Principal Chief. Currently, 1,772 signatures are needed to file a petition to amend the constitution, (15% of 11,814). If the amendment passes, 588 signatures would be required, (25% of 2,351).

4. ONCR 10-26.

A. Proposed Amendment: Shall Article XX, Section 1 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to change the number of affirmative votes from 5/6 to 3/4 of the Congress to put a Constitutional amendment before the Osage people for approval or rejection at an election?

B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution: If approved, **Article XX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 1. Amendment by Legislature: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Osage Nation Congress. Proposed amendments agreed to by ~~five-sixths (5/6)~~ *three-fourths (3/4)* or 9 of the members ~~in of~~ *the Osage Nation* Congress shall be put before the Osage People for their approval or rejection at the next general election, except when the legislature shall order a special election for that purpose.

C. Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the number of affirmative votes necessary for the Osage Nation Congress members to propose an amendment to the Constitution from 5/6, or ten members, to 3/4, or nine members.

5. ONCR 10-30.

A. Proposed Amendment: Shall Articles III, VI, VII, VIII, XIII and XV of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to replace all references to “membership” with “citizenship” and to replace “eligibility for membership” with “right to citizenship”?

B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution:

1. If approved, **Article III – CITIZENSHIP** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 1. Base Membership Citizenship Roll: The base *membership citizenship* of the Osage Nation shall consist of those persons whose names appear on the final roll of the Osage tribe of Indians pursuant to the Act of June 28, 1906 (34 Stat. 539).

Section 2. Qualifications for Membership Citizenship: All lineal descendants of those Osages listed on the 1906 Roll ~~are eligible for membership~~ *have the right to citizenship* in the Osage Nation, and those enrolled members *citizens* shall constitute the citizenry subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the laws enacted and regulations approved pursuant to this Constitution.

Section 3. Dual Enrollment: An enrolled member *citizen* of the Osage Nation can choose to be dually enrolled as a *citizen or* member of another Indian tribe without forfeiting Osage *membership citizenship*.

Section 4. Membership Citizenship Laws: The Osage Nation Congress shall have the power and is required to regulate *membership citizenship* and maintain a correct roll of all Osages enrolled as *members citizens* of the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation Congress shall enact laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, prescribing rules and regulations governing *membership citizenship*, including the application and appeal procedures, loss of *membership citizenship*, and the adoption of *members citizens*.

2. If approved, **Article VI – LEGISLATURE** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 4. Qualifications: Enrolled *members citizens* of the Osage Nation, who are at least twenty-five (25) years of age on that date of the election, who have never been convicted of a felony, are eligible to serve as members of the Osage Nation Congress.

3. If approved, **Article VII – EXECUTIVE** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 3. Qualifications: Enrolled *members citizens* of the Osage Nation, who are at least thirty-five (35) years of age on that date of the election, who have never been convicted of a felony, are eligible to become a candidate for the office of Principal Chief of the Osage Nation.

4. If approved, **Article VIII – JUDICIARY** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

GENERAL ELECTION PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS III



Osage Nation Election Office

P.O. Box 928 • Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056

Toll Free (877) 560-5286 • Phone (918) 287-5286 • Fax (918) 287-5292

E-mail: electionoffice@osagetribe.org



Section 3. Composition of Supreme Court; Qualifications: The Supreme Court shall consist of one Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. Any **member citizen** of the Osage Nation, who is at least forty (40) years of age and duly licensed to practice law for no less than ten (10) years, is eligible for the office of Chief Justice. Anyone duly licensed to practice law for no less than five (5) years, is eligible for the office of the Associate Justice. The Justices shall serve until their successors are duly appointed and installed.

Section 6. Composition of Trial Court; Qualifications: The Trial Court shall consist of one Chief Judge and, as deemed necessary and appropriate, additional Associate Judges. Any **member citizen** of the Osage Nation, duly licensed to practice law for no less than five (5) years, is eligible for the office of the Chief Judge.

5. If approved, **Article XIII – SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 1. Qualified Voters: All enrolled **members citizens** of the Osage Nation who shall have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and are registered to vote as provided by Osage law shall be qualified to vote under the authority of this Constitution.

6. If approved, **Article XV – NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINERALS** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 4. Management of the Osage Nation Mineral Estate: The Mineral Estate of the Osage Reservation is reserved to the Osage Nation. The government of the Osage Nation shall have the perpetual obligation to ensure the preservation of the Osage Mineral Estate. The government shall further ensure that the rights of **members citizens** of the Osage Nation to income derived from that mineral estate are protected.

To discharge those obligations, the Osage nation hereby creates a minerals management agency, designated the Osage Minerals Council, consisting of **members citizens** of the Osage Nation who are entitled to receive mineral royalty income from the Osage Mineral Estate, as provided by federal law. Only Osage mineral royalty interest holders shall be entitled to vote in electing the Osage Minerals Council.

(All subsequent paragraphs of Article XV, Section 4 remain unchanged).

- C. Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to remove all Constitutional references to “membership”, which has suggestions of belonging to a social group or club, and replace them with “citizenship”, which denotes a link between individual and a sovereign nation. Citizenship carries with it a connotation of rights and responsibilities, such as the right to politically participate, vote, and receive certain protections, as well as a duty to protect the integrity of the nation. The need for this amendment was

derived out of the transition from the Osage Tribe to the Osage Nation.

6. **ONCR 11-05.**

A. Proposed Amendment: Shall Article IV, Section 3(G) of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to remove the penalty and punishment limits for persons convicted of a crime?

B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution: If approved, **Article IV – DECLARATION OF RIGHTS** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 3. Inalienable Rights of Osage Citizens: There shall be certain inalienable rights, which shall not be abridged or denied by any branch/department of the Osage Nation government or by any official of the government. Furthermore nothing in this Constitution shall be interpreted in a way that would diminish the rights and privileges of any person within the jurisdiction of the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation government in exercising sovereign powers shall not:

- G. require excessive bail, impose excessive fines, inflict cruel and unusual punishments; and in no event impose for conviction of any offense any penalty or punishment greater than imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of five thousand dollars, or both;

C. Purpose: Article IV, Section 3 of the Osage Constitution, which contains the penalty and punishment limits, is modeled directly after the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968. The limits in the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 were subsequently amended by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. The purpose of this amendment is to remove the limits in order to avoid amending the Osage Constitution each time the underlying federal law is changed.

7. **ONCR 11-10.**

A. Proposed Amendment: Shall Article VII, Section 2 of the Osage Nation Constitution be amended to limit the Principal Chief to three terms?

B. Proposed Changes to the Constitution: If approved, **Article VII – EXECUTIVE** shall be amended as follows (new language appears in *bold italics*):

Section 2. Term of Office: The Principal Chief shall be elected by qualified Osage voters at a general election to a term of four (4) years and shall serve until a successor has been elected and installed. The Principal Chief shall be elected by a majority of votes. *No person shall be elected to the Office of Principal Chief more than three times.*

- C. Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to limit the number of times any one person may hold the position as Principal Chief to three. Under the current Constitution, a person may be elected as the Principal Chief for an unlimited number of times.

Becky Johnson announces her candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

With humility and excitement, I am announcing my candidacy for Osage Nation Congress. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology/So-



Becky Johnson

ciology from Dartmouth College and a law degree from the University of Colorado. I have worked for Indian People for about 18 years in the areas of health, business, employment, and law, including 8 years in Cherokee Nation's law offices. I have written tribal legislation and regulations in areas to include employment rights, tribal preference, child care and protection, criminal law, taxation, citizenship, freedom of information, rights to privacy, several environmental areas, and court procedures.

To me, "It's all about US. Unity and Sovereignty." Although we're all different, we accomplish the most and reach our greatest potential if we work in Unity. We must focus on People, Sovereignty, and Self-Determination. Our culture and language are a great source of strength, and we

must continue and improve current programs in these areas. We need to help our People be independent and self-sufficient through programs for children from prenatal to adulthood, education, mental health, substance abuse, career services, veterans' services, elder services, and health prevention, education and services.

Legislative support must be in place to protect and strengthen our Sovereignty. We must ensure that our Attorney General's Office and Court system are properly funded and necessary infrastructure to protect our Sovereignty. We should allow for greater opportunity to participate in government, ensure transparency

and access to government records and financial information, and Congress should be allowed to obtain all records of the government and enterprises so long as protections are in place to prevent inappropriate disclosures.

Lastly, we must focus on Self-Determination. We can control our own destiny and must do so through economic development. We must diversify our economic base and prepare ourselves for the future when our gaming compact expires. Supporting small businesses allows our People to be more independent and brings jobs to our communities. We should support our People in determining and reaching their career goals and

must increase our employees' security and stability by protecting their rights to privacy and preventing retaliation, discrimination and harassment. We should also support our Veterans especially in transitioning to the civilian world.

I am from Fairfax, OK, and live in Tulsa. I am a Cook on the Grayhorse I'n-Lon-Schka Committee and enjoy ribbonwork and fingerweaving. I am the daughter of Judy Johnson and Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Leo Johnson, both of Fairfax and the granddaughter of the late Ted and Mary (Black) Ha-

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Nicki Revard Lorenzo announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

People become frustrated when problems are seen and solutions ignored. When situations persist, people lose faith in the ability and willingness to change old patterns. As a congresswoman, I would respect the traditions that ensure the importance of our people and work to change persistent problems.

I decided to become a candidate for Osage Nation Congress after much thought and after years of hearing and seeing the frustrations and concerns of many of my fellow Osage. We can have the Osage Nation we want and walk tall through our participation and our selection of committed elected officials. You, as an Osage, have an important decision to make: Who will best represent you in Congress?

My background as an educator and a businesswoman has prepared me



Nicki Revard Lorenzo

to be a congresswoman. I graduated from Sonoma State University with a degree in anthropology and received

a master's degree in education from Dominican University. I have been a teacher, education specialist, superintendent/principal, and businesswoman working with district, county, state, and federal education codes and managing state and federal money. I was a superintendent/principal for a school district with all Pomo students. I worked hard to financially meet the best educational needs of students and upgrade the learning environment with the support of the tribal council. I served on the board of the American Indian Public Charter School in Oakland, CA, which addressed needs of urban Indian youth. I was a member of California Indian Education and National Indian Education Associations.

I moved home to Pawhuska in 2005 to be close to my mother, Betty

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Hank Hainzinger announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

As a lifelong resident of Osage county, I, Hank Hainzinger, have been honored by the number of people who have encouraged me to run for Osage Nation Congress. It was in part because of their confidence and the support of my family that I now have the distinct privilege of being a candidate for Osage Nation Congress in 2012. As you read on you will learn more about me and understand why I felt the need to run for Congress.

I attended college at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and earned a Bachelors degree in Ag Business. After graduation I worked alongside my Grandfather (Walt Colby) on his ranch in Osage County. For the past 25 years I have partnered with my father in the family business of oilfield construction. Upon the death of my Grandfather in 1991, I took over the family ranching operation. I am the 4th generation to make a living from our land, and that makes me proud. I am even more proud, however, that the land where I raise cattle and wheat today includes the original allotment of land from my Great Grandmother Ora (Dennison) Colby. The realization that over one hundred years ago, our Osage ancestors had the forethought to make decisions that continue to benefit us today is absolutely remarkable. THIS is the main reason I decided to run for Osage Nation Congress. I am ready to be part of the decision making process that will benefit future generations of Osage people. I won't be the first in my family to serve. My uncle Joe Colby served on the council in the 1970's and my great uncle Sylvester Tinker was chief from 1970 to 1982. The fact that I have never worked for the tribe and I have no family members who work for the tribe sets me apart from many other candidates and assures that I will enter this job with fresh ideas and an open mind.

I am fortunate to have a supportive and devoted family. My parents are Henry and Ora Lee (Colby) Hainzinger. My wife, Sara, of 16 years is a Licensed Professional counselor in Osage county, as well



Hank Hainzinger

See **HAINZINGER ANNOUNCES**

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Mark Simms announces his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

To All Osage People: The economic health of the Osage Nation is, and will continue to be, a top priority for six-year Osage Congressman and candidate Mark J. Simms. "The way the Osage people will prosper is to make Osage businesses profitable," Simms says. "I believe that the businesses of the Osage Nation must thrive in order to ensure services and benefits to the Osage people wherever they may live," he adds. "Strong businesses will be the pillars that uphold the Osage Nation.

Simms says, "We need to look at the business entities of the Osage Nation and help them to focus more on business strategy. Specifically, the Osage Casinos and the Osage LLC need to develop sound business strategies and improve communication with Congress," Simms explains. Such communication comes from the Osage Gaming Enterprise Board and the Osage LLC Board, which report both to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee and to the Osage Congress.

Simms has been a member of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee throughout his six-year term. He also serves on the Appropriations Committee, which works to ensure that expenditures stay within the Osage Nation's projected annual budget. In addition, Simms serves on the Cultural Committee to preserve the Osage language and traditions.

With regard to the Osage Casinos, Simms believes that expansion is good, as long as the expansion is purposeful. "We need to have a plan which ensures that as expansion occurs, the business remains profitable. For example, new construction at the Osage Casinos is already underway. This needs to be done in a



Mark Simms

fiscally responsible manner in order to preserve profits as these projects progress. There has to be accountability at each step and I will work to ensure that this takes place."

Mark Simms has a proven track record in building profitable businesses. Simms founded Accent Pest Control, Inc. in 1980, which has grown to be the largest independently owned company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He is also the found of Bartlesville Properties, Inc. established in 1989, which has grown to provide housing to 52 families.

Because of his business acumen, Simms was appointed as a member of the President's Business Commission during the administration of President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2009. This Commission was charged with providing "leadership and input in moving the President's initiative forward and promoting a pro business agenda in Washington."

In 2003, Simms was selected as

See **SIMMS ANNOUNCES**

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Candy Thomas announces her candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Candy Thomas was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After graduating from Edison High School, she received a B.S. in Sociology, with a minor in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego. Candy resides in Pawhuska along with her immediate family, Steve and Nila Thomas, Joe Thomas, Tyler, Hannah and Cooper Thomas.

Candy's career has been entirely in the public sector, first as an employee and for the last 18 years as an independent consultant to cities, counties, non-profits, state and federal governments. She has written and administered over \$30 million in grants related to community and economic development projects. Many of the grant projects were a part of larger construction projects which involved complex financing and grant reporting procedures.

For the past five years, Candy has been the Community Outreach Coordinator for a private company doing environmental remediation in two different locations in Oklahoma. Candy's knowledge of the communities and her established working relationships with the local government representatives made her effective as a liaison between the company, the local governments, and the public. Candy has worked with the Osage County Industrial Authority to develop an Incubator/Training Center in Pawhuska, and the Osage County Comprehensive Plan 2020. She serves as Executive Director for the Pawhuska Community Foundation Fund. She has been on the Osage Nation Gaming Enterprise Board since October, 2011 and was recently confirmed by Congress to a three year term.

Candy has been involved in the Osage language program for 6 ½ years. She studied under several dif-



Candy Thomas

ferent teachers and became a part of a small group under Mongrain Lookout at Wakon Iron that evolved into the formal Osage language department. She also dances every June and attends many other cultural events throughout the year.

Candy's great grandmother Agnes Lombard married Dr. Sam Kennedy who served on the 9th, 12th and 13th Osage Tribal Councils. He was the first doctor in Oklahoma Territory. Candy's grandfather's brother, James Kennedy, served on the 19th and 20th Osage Tribal Council.

"I've chosen to run for Congress because I have qualities and experience that would make me a good Congresswoman" states Candy. My skills include management, organization, and attention to detail. I am a good listener, open minded, and very hard working. I would use these qualities and my experience in business and government, along with my strong desire to move the Nation forward, to serve the Osage People. The Osage Nation is in an important transition time. Leadership and experience

are critical to provide government stability and economic sustainability. As a member of Congress I will diligently work to facilitate stronger working relationships between Executive, Congress, Minerals Council and other branches of government. I believe that strategic planning is

the key to bringing all parties to the table in order to develop policies and legislation that reflect common goals and objectives for the future of the Osage Nation. "Planning is bringing the future into the present, so that you can do something about it now". (Alan Lakein)

Hainzinger Announces

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as being a busy mother to our 3 children. Our family is involved in Church, school, sports, rodeo, and 4-H activities. I was elected President of the 2012 Jr. Livestock show in Osage county. I have also been elected to the Board of Directors for the 101 Ranch Rodeo in Ponca City, OK for the past 18 years. I am a member of the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association and a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Want to know more about me? Ask your friends and neighbors. You will hear that I am a good-natured family man, with integrity and common sense. I have the ability to work hard and get along with absolutely anyone. I am anxious to serve ALL the Osage people. I look forward to building on some of the good decisions that have been made by Congress, and I am confident that we will be able to work through the current challenges. Thank you to my friends and family for encouraging me to "throw my hat in the ring."

Lorenzo Announces

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Revard and to participate in the Osage community which has given me its traditions, history and identity. I visited Pawhuska as I was growing-up and always knew this was home. My grandfather, Clarence Revard, instilled in me the pride and understanding of being Osage and to always walk with my head held high in the Indian and non-Indian worlds.

I serve on two boards, volunteer at a soup kitchen and act as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. I am president of GFWC Heeko, a women's service club. Being involved in the community is something that I have always done.

I am married to Frank Lorenzo, have one son Cory, who lives in Ignacio, CO with his wife Kalica. My husband and I are owners of Buffalo Hills. I dance In-Lon-Shka, have taken Osage Language classes and my Osage name is Xu-Thon-don-ee (Looking at the Eagle).

Although I advocate many of the same issues as other candidates, I believe very strongly that it is time to put the people first. A start is analyzing each congressional bill for how it will benefit the Osage people before money is appropriated. I would consider it a great honor to serve you as an Osage Nation Congresswoman. I will be your spokesperson. I will listen to you. I will follow through with the best of my ability.

Email me at nickiforcongress@gmail.com or find me at www.facebook.com.

Simms Announces

the Businessman of the Year from Oklahoma by the Business Advisory Council and the National Republican Congressional Committee. This recognition was for top U.S. business leaders who had successfully integrated business and financial success with the support of Republican issues such as tax cuts and decreased government regulation. These individuals were singled out to receive this prestigious award because of their unselfish commitment to the Business Advisory Council and for standing strong in the face of economic adversity. Simms and individuals from other states were featured in the Wall Street Journal that year.

Another important goal Mark Simms will work toward is for the separation of the Minerals Estate Trust from the Osage Nation. For the past six years, the Osage Minerals Estate Trust has been held within the Treasury of the Osage Nation. Simms disagrees with this policy. "The Minerals Trust needs to be separate and independent from the Osage government and I will strive to make that happen," Simms says.

Mark Simms, who is married to Linda Bellamy Simms, is the son of Evelyn Onhand Pitts and is the

grandson of Ralph Onhand (Wah-Tsa-Ah-Tah) of the Beaver Band, original Allottee 582. After his father died, Simms was raised by the late Williams Pitts, brother of former Chief Paul Pitts, as his own son in the traditional ways of the Osage. Later, Simms was adopted into the

Bear Clan and was given his Osage name, Le-Ta-Xoh, by Mary Red Eagle.

Simms attended Oklahoma State University for three years majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology. He left OSU to serve in the U.S. Army. When he

returned from the U.S. Army, he enrolled in Oklahoma State Tech where he earned an Associates degree in bookkeeping.

You may contact me at: Mark J. Simms. 1111 S. Osage Ave., Bartlesville, OK 74003 or via phone at 918-907-1377

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RJ Walker announces his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the Osage Nation Congress. Over the last decade I have served as Director of the Osage Nation Roads Department and seen the potential of our Nation to overcome our differences. Also, while serving on boards in the community, I have seen the potential for our Nation to work with the city, county and state. This type of cooperation produces results that benefit all Osages, especially our elders and children.

Osage children are our most important resource, and the opportunities available to them should be our highest priority. I believe our children and grandchildren deserve meaningful opportunities in the arts, sciences, and trades that, if available, would help them explore their strengths. These strengths can turn into passions, which can turn into careers, and well planned initiatives that provides these opportunities will have my support. This includes K-12, college, or career techs to ensure the future success of our Nation.

Cooperation and collaboration between local governments is a practice that benefits all. The Pawhuska Business Development Center is proof of that benefit. As Chairman of the Osage County Industrial Authority, I had the pleasure of collaborating with the City of Pawhuska, the Osage Nation, and Tri County Tech



RJ Walker

to create learning opportunities, business consulting services, and a business incubator that is available to everyone, including planned tenants who are Osage entrepreneurs. This type of cooperation and collaboration in the Osage Nation Congress can and will be a force for regional prosperity.

A strong economy is also built on reliable infrastructure, developed from a sustainable budget. Over the past eight years, the Osage Nation Roads Department has utilized self-determination opportunities to handle our own affairs and employ fellow Osages in positions that were

once filled by non-Osages in federal government agencies. During that time, the program has enjoyed clean audits without negative findings, resulting in a steady stream of funding to improve the infrastructure we use every day. In cooperation with the other local governments, the department has executed dozens of agreements to make our bridges and roads safer. In Congress, I will continue to prioritize not just our roads, but our water, sustainable energy, and communications so that our infrastructure stays resilient and able to support growth.

This is especially important at the core of our Nation where we are making strides in the development of the Master Campus Plan. This plan will modernize our facilities, enhance employee's workdays, and be a regional example for innovation. As we grow as a Nation, these changes will make the Osage Nation a healthier, more productive place to work while reducing operating costs. I have served on this committee and will continue to encourage the enactment of this plan.

Lastly, I understand the importance of the Minerals Estate and will ensure that an informed, common sense approach is taken anytime issues arise that affect the powers afforded to the Minerals Council in the Constitution and the 1906 Act.

Visit RJWalkerJr.com or Facebook for more information.

Johnson Announces

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zembaker and Leo and Cleo Johnson, all of Fairfax. I have two brothers, Master Sergeant (Ret.) Casey Johnson, of Fairfax, and Scott Johnson of Oklahoma City. I am a descendant of original allottees Tena Carlton Woodring, Anna Woodring Black, and Daisy Ware Hazelbaker.

I would be honored to serve the Osage People and will work hard to move our young government forward. I respectfully ask for your vote. Please visit my website at www.bec-ky4osagecongress.com. Thank you taking the time to read this message.

Shane Rencountre announces his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

My name is Shane Rencountre and I am an Osage. I would like to serve as your congress person for the next four years.

I have moved a lot around the United States while growing up, but it provided me with many experiences from different areas of this great country. As an adult I have also had the blessing and opportunity to work and travel in other parts of the world. But throughout my life I have always returned to the Osage Nation. I chose to go to high school in Pawhuska, even though my immediate family was still moving about. My best accomplishments were in sports but I regard the academics more important for the longer term. I have since worked in law enforcement, pipeline, road/building construction, HVAC, and now I am a project manager/inspector for the Osage Nation. Without a doubt in my mind there is truly something special about our home. Many Osages before me have



Shane Rencountre

ventured away to explore but then returned to our lands.

This is where we have built our

foundation, the very building blocks for the future. Our elders set this foundation and it has fallen upon us as descendants, and as citizens and stewards of our tribe, to continue this work and clarify the vision of our future.

My mission as your congress person will be to improve upon our tribal capabilities and responsibilities. Although I have many, my main ideas are the following:

- Define what the Osage Nation economic and social responsibilities are.
- Reform and improve services provided by the Osage Nation to its people.
- Plan and structure economic development.
- Determine productivity of natural resources for longer term sustainability.
- Provide funding for public schooling and higher education.
- Expand Osage culture, history, and language teaching to tribal members in public schools.

Our policies and regulations need to be fair to all Osages. Fiscal responsibility of the Osage Nation Congress includes regulatory oversight – we need to monitor that appropriations are used what they are intended for. Throughout my multi-faceted experience here and abroad I have learnt that everything can be a resource. Our efficiency can be improved. For example, the Osage Nation has yet to implement its recycling program.

Monetary funds are not the only resource available to us. We as a people are the greatest resource of all. We are the caretakers of our environment, our elders, our children, and their future. We need to teach our children how to be the best stewards of our nation by being the best possible role models.

John Jech announces his candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

My name is John Jech and I am a candidate for the Osage Nation Congress. I am the grandson of Charles and Nancy Big Elk. My great-grandparents were Charles Big Elk (Allottee #705) and Cora Pitts Lohah Big Elk (Allottee #706). I was born, raised and reside in Pawhuska with my wife Melissa and our daughters Cortlynn and Brecklynn.

I am a graduate of Northeastern State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration

and major in accounting. I am a Certified Public Accountant and member of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants.

I am the owner of John Jech, CPA PLLC in Pawhuska and provide individual and small business tax planning and preparation services, small business bookkeeping and accounting services and auditing. I opened my business in 2011 after having served as the Osage Nations Treasurer from 2006 through 2010. I had devoted 16 years of service to the

Osage Nation where I began in 1994 as a junior accounting clerk; in 1996 I became the Nations Controller and eventually became Chief Financial Officer in 2006.

I have an excellent understanding of the Nations organizational structure and processes. I am knowledgeable of the programs and services the Nation offers and have worked closely with the Executive branch, Legislative branch and department

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John Jech

Jech Announces

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directors in budget preparation, analysis and reporting.

I plan to focus my efforts on increasing accountability at all levels of government, providing our constituents with fact based information and protecting the minerals estate. We all want increased services for our members but these increases can only come in two ways, increased revenue stream or reallocation of funds. In my years of service to the Nation I have seen firsthand there is opportunity for reducing spending within our programs. We have to change the attitude of our employees and give them ownership of their programs. With this ownership comes accountability.

We must also provide reliable, timely fact based information to our constituents. I will work to increase transparency within our government and work to develop a more efficient means for transmitting information to our people.

As a shareholder I feel it is important we work to continue to preserve and protect the Minerals Estate for future generations.

As a Nation and Government we cannot realistically expect to satisfy the needs of every citizen but we must always strive to make fair, educated, informed decisions based on all relative and available fact based information that will benefit the majority of our citizens.

We must elect ethical individuals with analytical, leadership and decisive skills and I feel I possess those needed qualities. If elected I will be faced with making tough decisions that affect our Nation and its citizens. I feel that I can draw from my past experiences to make fair and educated decisions for the betterment of you the Osage People.

I would appreciate your vote on June 4, 2012. I encourage any citizen to contact me with questions or concerns at john.jech@sbcglobal.net or (918)287-1494.

Carl Sellers announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

HA-WE. I am Carl Lee Sellers (VOTE # 27) and my nickname is "Chico". I am of Osage and Cherokee descent. As a life long resident of Pawhuska, I have been dancing for the past 30 years and also serve as a committee member on the Pawhuska In-lon-schka dances. On my Osage side, I am a direct descendant of Pierce St. John. My mother was Kathleen "Kie" Rector and her mother was Doris St. John. My Osage name is Obee Cosa To-ah and it means Buffalo Horn. I am also an Osage shareholder. My father; Carl Sellers was Cherokee descent.

My wife is Denise Keahtigh Sellers and together we have six daughters, two sons and 10 grandchildren. Presently, and for the last 30 years, I have worked as the Athletic Director for Dick Connors Correctional Facility in Hominy, OK. As a department head, part of my responsibilities have been to oversee the departmental budget, hiring, order supplies, negotiate contracts with vendors, teach CPR, First Aid, A.E.D., self-defense, and manage over 1300 offenders in both the minimum and high medium facility. As a coach, I am a motivator and a team player.

Thirty years ago, I started a charity run for abused children with all the proceeds staying here in Osage County and going to the Youth Services Shelter of which I have been a board member for the past 25 years. I am presently the board president. The State of Oklahoma has given special recognition to me for the charity work I have done with the Child Abuse Run.



Carl L. Sellers

A short list of my community involvement includes:

- Little league baseball and football coach/ referee
- Past President of the Pawhuska Parks and Recreation Summer Program
- Instrumental in returning the JOM back to the Osage parents
- Former JOM President
- Former Title IX President
- Co-coordinator and Torch runner for Osage County Special Olympics
- Member of the Pawhuska Elks Lodge
- Member of Haskell Alumni Association

- Past member of American Red Cross and American Heart Association

- Member of Immaculate Conception

- Osage Nation Shareholder

Carl's educational background:

- Pawhuska High School graduate
- A.A. from Haskell Indian Junior College
- B.A. in Education from Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma
- Former Teacher at Phoenix Indian School

As a tribe we need to look at investment differently. We need to diversify. Oil has been the life blood of the Osage people, and now the casinos, but there is nothing wrong with diversifying our portfolio. Any person that is in business knows that best practices look for ways to improve.

Let's encourage the development of an employees' rights board. This also is a sound business practice. Employee morale is essential to high performance from our Osage Nation workers.

Our traditional obligation is to help our elders. Can we start with assisted living? Nothing is in the Master Plan for seniors, so we might look at a residential home for our assisted living needs.

Thank you. Vote # 27 on the ballot, Carl L. Sellers.

Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you'd like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the *Osage News*, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 109 E. 6th Street, Pawhuska, OK 74056 or email sshaw@osagetribe.org. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.

Roscoe Mays announces his candidacy for Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

ROSCOE MAYS (PeH-TseH-Han-KaH)(TSING-TSA-LI clan, or WOLF)

Roscoe Mays was the first Osage Indian to become a Union organizer helping others get better benefits, and better wages. He was also a Union Representative for Homeland stores in Oklahoma, and Kroger stores in Texas. He fought for the people in getting their jobs back, being discriminated against, being sexually harassed, and keeping the management from taking advantage of the people. Roscoe worked in Hominy for Marvin's Grocery store as the manger in which he hired all the Native Americans that he could. He is presently the manager/owner of the Highway 123 Smoke shop in Bartlesville, Ok. The Mays family opened the first smokeshop in Oklahoma and has been in business for 25 years now.

Descended from a great leader of his time, Chief Strikeaxe. I believe we should not forget our roots. Because that is who we are and that is what a real Osage is. Why we the Osage People are unique and how we became that way. It wasn't because the United States gave us those unique rights it's because our ancestors went to Washington and fought for those rights. Our ancestors had us in mind when they paid for our land and how their actions would protect forever their descendants.

Why then would we want to give up those inherited rights, i.e? (Signing compacts with the state that gives up our sovereignty). I believe we should be the Warrior nation we used to be and stand up for our rights not bow down to the state of Oklahoma. Our past and present leaders of the new Osage government know our Osage history i.e.; (1906 act, the 1872 Pur-



Roscoe Mays

chase Agreement of the 1906 act, or the Code of Federal Regulations title 25). These Acts, Doctrines, and Treaties are and forever will protect the Osage; Unless, Osage government leaders do not know what rights the people they lead have. I believe in per-capita payment for our people.

I believe that how revenue is spent and the issues involving millions of our dollars that come before congress should be put to the people first. That way issues like whether to give an LLC more millions or whether to buy a sky cam or pay for a road the people never use wouldn't take precedence over elder meals or scholarships or adequate medical facilities or housing for our people or health care and education. I believe the people of the Osage should know what their elected officials are doing. A change is always good!

Jerri Jean Branstetter announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

After great thought and consideration, I am announcing my candidacy for re-election to the Third Osage Nation Congress.

For the past six years, I've been honored to serve my Osage people in the capacity as Speaker of the Second Osage Nation Congress. During this time, we have witnessed great things for the Osage Nation. As a member of the Osage Trust Settlement Team, we won the largest settlement ever given to Native Americans. I drafted and amended the Osage minimum wage law that provided Osage Nation employees with a livable wage. Everyday, we have opened our door to all Osage, no matter what the issue, and listened with an open heart and mind to their concerns.

As Speaker, I believe in full disclosure and sharing with my colleagues the issues before us. To me, there is no partisanship. There is no "us or them." We must work together to ensure a healthy Nation for today, tomorrow and future generations of Osage. This commitment to the spirit of collaboration has created a stronger bond with the Executive Branch and my fellow colleagues, which I believe has brought forth the achievements we've seen by this Congress.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, in my roles on various committees, chairwoman and as Speaker, I've had the opportunity to listen to many Osage people and hear firsthand the issues that are most relevant to you. From Oklahoma, New Mexico to California and all other places we reside, the need for governmental accountability, funding for higher education, and greater and more diversified economic development are at the forefront of your concerns. Preserving our culture and language, providing better healthcare and protection of our tribal resources was often expressed. As I have done for the past six years, fighting for the things important to my Osage people, so I will continue to do if re-elected to Congress.

For me, tradition and heritage is important, I am a full blood Osage,

See **BRANSTETTER ANNOUNCES**

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Jerri Jean Branstetter

Cecelia Tallchief announces her candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Let's build a stronger Nation. As a former legislator and business leader, I'm a good communicator who understands the value of listening. Yet, not only do I listen, but I'm equipped with the strategic skills and experience to turn words into actions and thoughts into plans, understanding evaluation and follow-through are critical components of any legislation.

Cooperation is the key to success, whether it be in business or personal life, and I believe it is time we as a people learn to cooperate for the betterment of our Nation. I believe the Osage Nation Congress should have an eye on the future, to ensure coming generations of Osage have a Nation in which they will be proud.

Developing legislation that follows the Constitution and the Strategic plan will strengthen and build the Osage Nation

My strengths are:

- Practical, hands-on business experience
- Understanding strategic planning for the future
- Successful implementation of various programs
- Excellent communication skills
- Management and private industry experience

Healthcare: The issue of healthcare has always been near and dear to my heart. As a Nation, we must try to improve healthcare for future generations through better programs and



Cecelia Tallchief

legislation designed to facilitate these goals.

Economic Development: It is imperative we bring jobs to the Osage Nation. A strong infrastructure of economic development will help build a stronger nation that can weather the tests of time and our Congress must enact legislation to assist in this process.

Education: Educational assistance and opportunities for Osage citizens need to be enhanced. As a graduate of Pittsburgh State University, I understand the costs faced by families wishing to send their children to college. As a member of Congress, I will work to see fiscally-responsible legislation passed to help achieve these goals.

If elected, I will work hard for you, the people of our Osage Nation, to ensure your voice is

See **TALLCHIEF ANNOUNCES**

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Amanda Proctor announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Amanda S. Proctor is a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Tulsa College of Law, where she earned the Native American law certificate and the oil and gas law certificate. In 2005, Amanda became one of the few graduate students to receive the University's Marcy Lawless Award for Excellence in Service to the Community.

Prior to entering law school, Amanda served as a program director for three Native American tribes. As a tribal housing director, Amanda facilitated large land acquisitions, the development of two low-income housing subdivisions and the operation of an adult foster care (assisted living) facility as a HUD-approved model activity. She successfully designed and implemented a number of housing programs, including home repair and rehabilitation, home acquisition, down payment and closing cost assistance, air conditioner assistance, winterization and an emergency housing assistance program. Amanda is well-versed in all aspects of federal program compliance, including grant acquisition, environmental due diligence and performance reporting requirements.

As an attorney, Amanda advises and counsels Indian tribes and tribal entities throughout Oklahoma, including those involved with gaming and social services. However, the special emphasis of her law practice is Indian housing. Amanda recently assisted the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma with the successful closing of its first Low-Income Housing Tax Credit project, which resulted in nearly 4 million dollars of outside investor equity for the Seminole Nation.

Amanda also has commenced and managed complex litigation on behalf of tribes and individual Indians,



Amanda Proctor

including Osage tribal members. As such, she has developed a strong working knowledge of the 1906 Act of Congress and all amendatory acts.

Amanda was listed in the 2010 and 2011 editions of the "Super Lawyers" directory, and was one of only two lawyers recognized in the Indian law practice category for those years. Amanda is licensed to practice law in Oklahoma state courts, the federal courts for the Northern and Western Districts of Oklahoma and the tribal courts of the Osage, Cherokee, Iowa, Ponca and Muscogee (Creek) Nations. She currently serves as the President of the Osage County Bar Association.

Amanda is at home under the arbor or in the arena, having participated from an early age in the Native American cultural community. She founded the Harvard University Powwow in 1995 and the University of Tulsa Native Justice Powwow in 2005. She frequently serves on the head staff of powwows throughout the United States and Canada.



Teresa DeRoin Hudgins

Teresa DeRoin Hudgins announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

I have lived in Osage County all of my adult life. I am from a traditional Osage family. I descended from the Harvey, Pryor, Wood, Bighorse, and Chouteau families. I have 3 grown children and 1 grandson, Jet Thomas. I am a graduate of Tulsa Junior College and the University of Missouri – Kansas City with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. I am a Registered Nurse and have practiced primarily in rural hospitals where I take care of friends, neighbors and family. I was raised to take care of others and the nursing profession has suited my personality and skillset. Being service oriented has influenced my decision to run for Osage Nation Congress.

I believe I have something

See HUDGINS ANNOUNCES

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Joe Mashunkashey announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

To my Osage people:

I am Joe Mashunkashey, from the Wah Ka A Li District. I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the Osage Nation Congress. I am of Osage, Otoe and Cherokee decent and was born in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. After graduation from Pawhuska High School, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years and I am a Vietnam Veteran. After my military service, I attended Tulsa Jr. College and Pioneer Vo-Tech schools. I currently reside in Bartlesville, Ok. I follow traditions of the Osage and I am a member of the Native American Church. I support the Osage language program, cultural center and Osage museum.

I bring 35 years of work experience with federal and tribal programs along with Indian Gaming. I currently work with the Osage Casino Central Office as their Facilities Construction Project Manager. I have managed tribal funded HUD programs and worked in upper level management with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 10 years. I have assisted with the development of housing, water and sanitation projects with several tribes throughout the United States.

I will strive to bring in economic development business enterprises that deal with our natural resources and mineral estate and protect these mineral rights for our future generations. I will support businesses dealing in high technology fields. I will support purchasing more land for the Nation and help to create a land management office.

My vision for the Osage people is to assist in looking for more funds to aid our tribal health programs that benefit the young and the old. We need to look into “what’s going to be helpful for the tribe”. I will bring to the table free day care for em-



Joe Mashunkashey

ployees. We need to have a place for our elders to go stay after released

from the hospital something similar to apartment type assisted living, where people are never left alone, fully staffed with health care personnel. We need to have state of the art Wellness Centers equipped with swimming pools so that elders can do water aerobic physical therapy. I will find ways that the Nation can increase revenue to generate more revenue.

We need a unified government so everyone gets on the same page... when unified we make better decisions. Making the transition from old government to the constitutional government, which gives us the ability and have business enterprises.

Thank you for your support, I appreciate your vote in this Osage Nation Congress election...my ballot number is 24. Thank you, Joe Mashunkashey. Email: tjoemashunk@hotmail.com.

Branstetter Announces

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the oldest daughter of the late Jerome and Angie Barnes. I am blessed with three wonderful sisters; Judy Hight of Skiatook, Mary Monetathchi of El Reno, and Patricia Pratt of Pawhuska. My grandparents were Nellie Morrell Roubidoux, George Pratt, and Ralph and Rose Malone, all full blood Osages and original allottees. Born in Los Angeles, California, I was raised in Hominy, Oklahoma. Currently, I live in rural Wynona with my husband, John. We have one son, Marvin Lee (M.L.) Clark, II and I have two beautiful grandchildren, Marvin Lee (M.L.) Clark III and Samantha Jean.

I am humbled by your confidence in electing me to Congress as your Speaker and, if re-elected, will continue to work diligently and fervently for you, my Osage people.

Tallchief Announces

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heard. My office door will always be open to hear your concerns. Using my extensive knowledge of tribal operations, along with my communication skills, I believe I could help bring a new level of cooperation and vision to our Nation. When thinking of leadership for the future, vote Ce-

celia Tallchief for Osage Nation Congress, #11 on the ballot.

I would appreciate hearing from you, so please contact me via email at ctallchief8@yahoo.com; my phone number is 918-724-1615. Please visit my website at www.ceceliatallchief.com

Linda LaZelle announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

The Osage Nation Government must stand united for our future. Our leadership must mend differences and work in concerted efforts to establish laws derived from strategic planning and necessary to expound the provisions of the Osage Nation Constitution. Our government should strive to meet the needs of Employment, Education, Health, Social Services, Preservation of our Culture, and our Mineral Estate.

“We, the Osage People based on centuries of being a People, now strengthen our government in order to preserve and perpetuate a full and abundant Osage way of life that benefits all Osages, living and as yet born.” —Osage Nation Constitution

My name is Linda LaZelle and I am a candidate for a Congressional seat in the Legislative Branch. I am from the Zon-Zo-lee district; member of the Deer Clan, my name is Humpah-toka. I am the daughter of Irene Hamilton LaZelle and the late Pete Allen LaZelle both Osage and from Hominy. I am a descendant from the Hamilton, Pratt, Whitehorn, Webb & Chouteau families. I have three children, three grandchildren and 7 god children. I attend the St Joseph Catholic Church and the Native American Church. I have served on I lon shka committees in all three districts as a lady singer or Cook.

I completed 26 years of service to the State of Oklahoma, Division of Institutions and the Division of Program & Services. My positions included 24 years in administrative and leadership positions. In 2007, I accepted a position with the Osage Nation.

I bring the Osage people 4½ years of first-hand experience working with the Legislative Branch. Employed as a Legislative staffer for the 1st and



Linda LaZelle

2nd Congress, I am knowledgeable of the Legislative process and value the importance to communicate with Constituents and all branches of government. I plan to capitalize on this experience and provide a legislative return to the Nation.

I bring you hope and a vision of collaborated efforts that will strengthen our Nation. I support Sovereignty, Separation of Powers and Strategic Planning. I believe the people have the right to voice in our government and legislators have the responsibility to listen and advocate. The Osage Nation has created a foundational government and the guardianship should foster cooperation while seizing opportunities for economic development. I believe I am like you. I want a prospering Nation, one that demands honesty and integrity, a government that provides services, generates revenue

See LAZELLE ANNOUNCES

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Angela Marie Pratt announces candidacy for Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

Pratt was raised traditionally, is an honored veteran, and has achieved success in education, career and social services.

I am honored and humbled to announce my candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress. I believe that candidates should have the knowledge and communication skills necessary to address the needs of our people. I am running for election because I feel my education, experience, and upbringing have prepared me to represent our Osage people.

I earned a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. I have completed several hours towards a M.S. in Counseling Psychology and I am currently enrolled in an American Indian Studies program. I served in the United States Army. I am a member of the American Legion Post 198 in Pawhuska, OK. and was recently re-elected to serve as Vice Commander. As an Osage veteran, I will author or support legislative efforts to provide additional services for our veterans.

My traditional upbringing has afforded me the opportunity to witness firsthand the significance of our culture. I feel that our government should always place our culture and elders at the top of our priorities. I support the Nations endeavors to provide better healthcare for our people and extended benefits to our elders.

Education continues to be a priority for our nation. It is my intention to ensure our children are receiving the best education services we can offer. We must help them to understand that higher education is an obtainable goal and provide the tools and encouragement they need.

For seven years I worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration. I worked with several local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Before my employment with the DEA, I worked as a Veterans Education Benefits Counselor at Tulsa Community College for the Veterans Administration. I currently serve as the Director for three Osage Nation programs; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA) and Financial Hardship Assistance (FHA), formerly known as the Crisis Assistance Program. In my position, I see the various social issues that are affecting Osages of all ages. What is happening today can have a serious effect on us for generations to come.

I believe we need to address these issues to ensure our families are safe from homelessness, drug and alcohol dependency, child abuse and



Angela Marie Pratt

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Jozi Tall Chief announces candidacy for the Third Osage Nation Congress

Press Release

I am Alex “Jozi” Tall Chief. 3/8 Osage from the Fairfax/Grayhorse district. I was raised by my grandparents, Alex Tall Chief III and Juanita Roan Horse-Tall Chief. I was educated in Pawhuska and graduated in 1981. I attended college at N.O.C. in Tonkawa, OK. I attended fashion design school in Kansas City, before returning to Fairfax to care for my elderly grandparents and attended Ponca City School of Cosmetology. I owned my own salon in Fairfax, until it became imperative I attend my grandmother fulltime. I fulfilled that duty until her demise in 2008. Now, I breed and sell English bulldogs and paint both cowboy/Indian (Osage) art. I live in Fairfax and fully understand what it means to live and operate businesses here. I never desired nor sought any public office and was perfectly content to let those I deemed “smarter” or better educated hold the reins of tribal governance. However, recently, I felt the need to heed the voices of my ancestors urging me into the political arena, although it is not what I wanted to do. Hence, I am offering myself to help extricate our tribe from the quagmire we find ourselves in. It is impossible to condense everything into five hundred words. However, We all have a grasp on the issues facing our people. And, some of us have great ideas to overcome them. But, before any new projects or legislation to outlay more Osage dollars are introduced, we must clot the fiscal hemorrhage rapidly and ridiculously depleting our meager financial reserves. I have always been honest about who and what I am. When I was called upon to be there for my family, I was. My grandparents instilled in me a life-long sense of spirituality, honor, integrity, family and tribal history, which placed me in good stead for the road that lies ahead of me. As my



Jozi Tall Chief

name implies, I come from a long line of leaders and chiefs, including my grandfather, Peter Bigheart, whose service to his country and his people

include being a Union soldier, federal marshal, council member, two terms as Chief of the Osage and was instrumental in preserving our mineral estate, making me an avid proponent of the 1906 act. His example alone demands I recognize and perform the duties I am called to do.

Subsequently, my descendants will also share my heritage and will serve our people, whether elected or not. We have a “noblesse oblige” we cannot shirk. With your help, we shall TOGETHER, bring about an “Osage Renaissance”. Thus restoring our “Mighty Osage” people to our rightful place of prominence. Not just in “Indian Country”, but in our dealings with the federal government as well. May Wah Kon Tah bless us and guide our decision making as we cast our votes in June.

Thank you, Jozi Tall Chief.

Pratt Announces

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neglect, domestic violence, and unemployment. There is a need for effective legislation that will produce positive results for our people. The programs that I oversee require our clients to job search; therefore, I see first hand the need to create jobs within the reservation. I will support any enterprise that after careful study and consideration is deemed beneficial and will create jobs for our people.

We have an obligation to protect our Sovereignty and work diligently towards Self-determination. I hope to enhance the communication between all three branches and among the people in order to move towards self governance. I am #18 on the ballot and I respectfully ask for your vote on June 4, 2012.

LaZelle Announces

–Continued from Page 38

and controls spending. We have a responsibility to acknowledge the needs of Osages living outside of our reservation.

I support legislation that provides contingency plans in response to federal cut backs. I will exert efforts to establish laws of the land and government as opposed to policy and procedural initiatives for another branch, which may violate and infringe on separate of powers provided within our Constitution.

As a member of this Nation, a shareholder cultured in the Osage way of life, I give you my commitment to uphold the Constitution, put our people first and strive to strengthen our Nation.

Hudgins Announces

–Continued from Page 37

to give to my people. Taking care of people has been my life and I am ready to expand on that and reach out to my Osage people, wherever they are. I want our leadership to be transparent and accountable. With teamwork, we can solve the problems our great Osage Nation is facing.

Everyone has something to give. We all have different skills and experience. Our leaders need to be able to put aside emotions and personal beliefs and work towards a common goal. Effective communication skills are essential for a governing body. Communication enhances performance and progress.

My healthcare background has been primarily clinical, but for the past 5 years I have been the Director of Nursing at a rural hospital. Five years ago, I was appointed to the governing board for Osage Home Health, serving as the Chairman for the past year.

I am willing to spend the time needed to educate myself on the issues affecting our Nation. I will not let my pride get in the way of progress. We would all like to believe that we are right and many people believe that their way is the only right way. I want to create a better Osage nation and that begins by respecting the opinions of others. The Osage Nation needs a diverse group of leaders to come together and create a cohesive, transparent, accountable governing body with integrity so that we can regain the respect of our citizens and others. I have the personality and skills to help this happen. I would appreciate your vote on June 4th.



Vote for Kathryn Red Corn

Contact: 918-287-1735

I am Kathryn Red Corn and my Osage name Klu Ah Toi was given to me by my Great Uncle Wakon Iron. For over ten years I have served the Osage Nation as the director of the Osage Tribal Museum, Library and Archives. My home is located in the Pawhuska Indian Village and was built by my mother's family in the 1880's. Unfortunately, I have been a shareholder of the Osage Minerals Trust since 1973 when my mother passed away.



Family



Economics



Culture/Tradition



Communication

Together we can create a lasting treasure and legacy for future generations.



WHY am I running for an Osage congressional position?

- Several people asked me to run for this position
- Those people have been quoted to say "your tireless efforts are an inspiration to all of us and your ability to rally people to work together to complete projects is just amazing."
- I prayed and gave tremendous thought about this challenge.

An undertaking of this magni-

tude is a great responsibility, because a congressional member makes decisions that affect the lives of the Osage people. I am up for the challenge!

WHAT sets me apart from other candidates?

You must ask yourself, "do you really want to look for things that sets the candidates apart?" I say "no", we need to look at the qualities and skills each individual has that

- will unite us,

- obligate us to each other, and
- encourage us to work together as a team cooperatively.

WHAT do I want to change?

- Bring back respect for one another
- Promote communication
- Rebuild the Osage Nation land base
- Move the Osage Nation forward

WHAT am I passionate about?

In 1808 the Osage controlled

over 96 million acres (in portions of Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri).

- In 1906 the Osage controlled over 1.5 million acres in Indian Territory.
- In 2012 the Osage controls the agency campus and 160 acres at each of the three Indian villages.

I want to change those numbers. I know it is not going to happen quickly...but it can happen.

Paid for by campaign to support Kathryn Red Corn