

SECCI COUNCIL/MEMBERSHIP MEETING: MARCH 19, 2011

COUNCIL PRESENT: Principal Chief Vivian Panther Lawson; James Black Wolf Barfield, Tribal Marshall; Joyce Spirit Wind Bugaiski, Tribal Secretary; Pamela Standing Bird Sandusky, Treasurer; Lee Spotted Pony Billingsley, Historian/Registrar; Tar Morningstar Drazdowski, Orator; Ken Quiet River Fisher, Alternate.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Diane Beaty, Jeremy Lang, Dewey Lawson, Pat Cummings, Orville Cummings, Ken Howell, Christopher Brinson, Theresa M. Jones, Shawnee Running Beaver Barfield; Kathleen Barfield;

COUNCIL ABSENT: Don Standing Bear Schreiner, V. Chief; Audrey Autumn Snow Jones, Parliamentarian.

CHIEF PANTHER CALLS THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CHEROKEE COUNCIL TO ORDER: 10.15 a.m.

The minutes from the October 2, 2010 meeting are read by Joyce Spirit Wind Bugaiski.

Motion was made by James Black Wolf Barfield to accept the minutes as read, seconded and minutes were approved.

Chief Panther asks Joyce Spirit Wind if the 4.5 Amendment to the By-laws has been added to the web site yet. Joyce states, not yet. Chief Panther instructs her to add the Amendment at the end of the By-Laws on the web site page.

REPORTS:

From the Treasurer: Financial Report

Pam's report is as follows:

The 2010 end of the year Financial Report

General Fund Balance began January 1, 2010: 4708.50

Income/Donations for the year: \$2286.00

Membership Fees: \$3106.00

Talking Leaves Income/Donations: \$277.00

Sales: \$586.00

Camping: \$ 120.00

Misc. Income: \$80.00

Total Income: \$6455.00

Transferred in from Money Market Account to General Fund: \$684.18

Expenses for the year:

Utilities: \$1439.99

Annual Fees Paid: \$75.00 (Fees to the state)

Talking Leaves Exp.: \$1822.08

Taxes, Ins. Etc.: \$1179.23

Food/Supplies: \$294.99

Post Office: \$104.14

Expense for Sales: \$10.00

Misc.: \$819.52 (ink, website exp., refunds of overpayments, recorders)

Scholarships: \$500.00

Grounds Repairs: \$692.03 (covered bridge, drum arbor, bathrooms, misc. repairs)

Transfer out: \$750.00 (to Grounds Fund)

Total Expenses Paid: \$7686.98

Balance in General Checking Account at the end of last year: \$4160.70

Grounds Fund Account Balance Jan. 1, 2010: \$146.44

Transferred in \$750.00 (from General Fund)

Donations: \$70.00

Expenses: \$966.44 (forklift rental, mower repair, bridge repair, bathroom repairs)

12/31/10 Balance left in Grounds Fund: \$188.76

1/1/10 Chief's Petty Cash Balance: \$167.90

Postage Expense: \$44.00

Balance 12/21/10: \$123.90

Money Market Account Balance 1/1/10: \$21982.35

Transferred out: \$684.18 (to General Fund)

Interest Paid: \$95.27

12/31/10 Balance: \$21993.44

Money Market holds all funds for the Blue Heron Medicine Lodge, Scholarships, New Hope Fund, Interest Income and General Fund.

- Our expenses were more than our donations again. If you notice also that our Talking Leaves took in \$277.00 in donations and cost us \$1800.00 to produce. In February, the last edition, the cost was a little over \$1000.00 which included the \$200.00 bulk rate fee. It went from 500 editions to 750 editions being printed. But we are now doing less pages. I still have concern over the cost of the Talking Leaves. We may possibly have to look at the cost of this when we get down to using money in the Money Marketing account to continue to produce the Talking Leaves.
- One thing we need to do is to remove the people on the receiving list that do not submit the form in the Talking Leaves. This form has been made a requirement and needs to be adhered to and the mailing list updated to keep the cost of the TL down to a minimum. We cannot continue to send out the TL to people that are not sending in the form because we are not sure if they are even receiving the paper.
- James Black Wolf Barfield states that to date, he has only received one request for the Talking Leaves and he informed them to send in the form from the Talking Leaves.
- Pam apologized for going off where I'm only supposed to give the report but I'm just giving you the concerns that I have after reading the report. Chief Panther says that this is part of her report.
- Pam asks Lee Spotted Pony that when he gets new members is he giving that information to Rick Running Bear to add to the Talking Leaves. Lee states that not every new member but every new address. There are some people that call also with new addresses and he forwards that change to Rick as well.
- Chief Panther asks if they are supposed to send in this form every year. Pam states yes, we put it in every issue. After the first issue if they don't respond with sending in the form they are not to receive the Talking Leaves the following year. Chief Panther asks if this has been made clear to Rick? Pam states that yes, she has made this clear to Rick. Lee says perhaps we should only finance so many

issues. Chief Panther says the all new members need to receive the Talking Leaves so they have the opportunity to fill out that form.

- Pam Standing Bird states that we still need to have a conversation with Rick to get him to understand where we're coming from with this. Pam states that it is her understanding that Rick is not dropping the people off of the mailing list that did not respond again. We need to follow through with this that we send the form out in the very first issue of the TL in February. If Rick hasn't received a new address or response by those people from that form then in the February issue of the following year their name should be dropped. If people wish to receive the Talking Leaves they must return the form. If the form is not returned the paper should not be sent the following year to those people. Chief Panther states that we need to make this clear to Rick Running Bear. No form returned, no paper.
- Lee Spotted Pony asks if the Talking Leaves is still available on line. Pam states yes the Talking Leaves is still available on line. Chief Panther states that not all of the members have access to the internet.
- Tar Drazdowski states that we should have a subscription rate. She feels that's the only way we are going to be able to fund the Talking Leaves. We will still have it available on line. Joyce Spirit Wind and Chief Panther both state that "we tried that and it didn't work". She feels that's the only way we are going to be able to fund the Talking Leaves. We will still have it available on line.
- One of the problems we have is there is a minimum printing quantity to keep the cost low. Pam states also that each individual person should be paying for the paper and perhaps cut the pages again. If we have to continue to take money from the money market account we are we going to go broke.
- Dewey Lawson states that we should only print for those that are willing to pay for an annual subscription fee so the paper could pay for itself.
- Tar states that she prefers to get the Talking Leaves on line and that she doesn't really want the paper. If she really wants it, she will print it.
- Chief Panther states that the TL is automatically sent to all Council Members.

Pam states that she is just asking for donations because members are not sending the 4 x 12 gifts so he will take any donation she can get.

Chief Panther asks for a motion.

- Lee Billingsley says that there are many that are elderly and do not have access to the paper on line and would hate to just cut them off from receiving the paper.
- Pam states that the form for renewal each year is in the TL and in order to continue to receive the paper you MUST RETURN THAT FORM.
- Lee says that sometime people move and do not get that issue with the form. Pam states that the form is in every issue.
- We can put a subscription form to print on the website for the Talking Leaves at the very beginning of the page for the Talking Leaves.
- Pam states we can't keep the same mailing list year after year without filling out that form. People move and the list is not updated with the new information because the people do not contact us.

- Lee states that since the major source of the tribe's income is from applications, what if we increase the application fees enough to cover a subscription fee and have the members renew the membership. Chief Panther says then we would be considered a club and not only that, we would have to reprint a card.
- Dewey Lawson states that it should be a separate entity to that one-time fee and make it like a magazine subscription because it in itself cannot pay for itself with a one-time fee.

Tar Drazdowski suggested we make a motion to end the treasurer's report as read and move on to new business.

A Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report as read by Joyce Bugaiski, seconded and passed.

From the Registrar: Membership Report

With apologies, Lee Billingsley states that he is unprepared to offer definite report. He states that they do receive 20 to 25 referrals a month address changes, card requests. The total number of members would be close to 5900.

Motion made by Joyce Bugaiski to accept Lee's report along with his apologies, seconded and passed.

Talking Leaves Committee Discussion:

All discussions regarding making the Talking Leaves available through subscription only will be tabled until we can get more information from Rick RunningBear at the October meeting.

Chief Panther stated that she would contact Rick and let him know it is important for him to be at the October meeting.

From the Leader of Bands/Clans:

(Jack Shryock not present at meeting – report sent via email) Leader of bands Report, March, 2011

Jack's report was ready by Joyce Spirit Wind Bugaiski.

Of the twenty six bands, twenty one reports were received by me in a timely manner and sent to the treasurer for her report to be completed as required.

At this time we have one band in formation which is the Arizona Medicine Keepers. Hopefully, they will have met their requirements for full status by the October meeting.

We have three Charter Bands: Florida Blue, Oklahoma Turtle and the Virginia Red Cedar. There are bands that have had many years of association with SeCCI and their health has restricted their leadership ability. We honor them in this way.

I have been unable to make any contact with the leadership or any member of the North Carolina Uwharrie Band (no report received). I will continue in this attempt.

Concerning the North Carolina Wee Toc Band: the 2009 band report stated that they did not wish to continue as a band. I had a conversation with the band chief and suggested that we take some time to see if anything could be done to change their situation. Nothing has changed. My vote would be to honor their request.

There is a lot of good things happening with many of our bands. I would like to see them share their activity so that others would be encouraged, especially with our ceremony. Some have asked me for help and I have given what I can. It would be good if we could have more communication between band chiefs.

Blessings “Jack White Eagle “Shryock

Joyce Bugaiski makes a motion to accept Jack’s report as read, seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Panther states that she doesn’t know of any old business so we should just move on to new business. Everything has been followed-up on and done for old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joyce Bugaiski states that she has some new business from Jack Shryock.

- Jack states that he felt that all band reports should go to Pam and not to him. He felt she needed this financial information for her reports and she does the money and takes care of the 501c3 financial information. Pam states that he is the one that needs to get that information because he is the one that needs to keep track of all the band information and then she will get her dollar figures from the report that he sends to her. Pam states that she has no problem with Jack sending her the reports at the end of the year for filing with the tribal records but the reports still need to go to Jack. Pam states that Jack needs this information to answer his own band/clan questions so he doesn’t have to call her.

A motion of disagreement was made and passed that we do not agree with Jack Shryock suggestion that all band/clan reports be sent to Pam Sandusky instead of Jack. The reports will continue to be sent to Jack Shryock as Leader of Band/Clans.

Chief Panther states that Joyce, as secretary needs to notify Jack of the decision not to accept his request.

- Jack Shryock is asking for a membership list. He feels that as Chief of Bands/Clans he should know who all the members are since not all members do not belong to a band or clan.
- Jack Shryock feels we need to indicate on the ballot whether or not a person is a member or an associate member. The By-laws state an associate member cannot be Chief, V. Chiefs or band chiefs but they can serve as the lower officers, i.e. secretary, treasurer.
This will be tabled until Jack can be on the grounds and clarify this request.

Joyce Bugaiski states that when she returns home there will be a merchandise page created on the SeCCI website. She’s already taken photographs of what we have on hand these items will be put on the merchandise page with order form for printing for purchase of these articles. All orders will be mailed to the tribal address. Pam and Chief Panther state that there are so many problems with Pay Pal so we will not be using Pay Pal.

Joyce also states that we need to list our website address on our membership forms.

- Pam suggested that Jack Shryock as leader of bands and clans sends out the initial letter with request for annual band report. When that report doesn't come in to him then she feels that the Treasurer who is responsible for giving the financial information to the IRS then sends a letter asking the band chief for the annual report to be sent to her. If there is then no response from that band/clan, she feels they should be deactivated. It is a requirement of the By-laws and a requirement of the IRS to supply this financial information
- **Pam Sandusky makes a motion**, Jack Shryock submits a band/clan report request those band or clans to do not file an annual report should be given a letter from the Treasurer and if they do not follow through within 30 days, they should be removed from activation as a band or clan.

Motion seconded and passed.

GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE TRIBE:

Chief Panther asks if anyone has any prayers to ask for.

Chief Panther states that they are attempting to get medicare for her daughter, Mary Lynn to help with the cost of treatment. She is still having seizures. She is in great need of all of our prayers.

Ariel is doing well but still needs more surgery.

Joyce Spirit Wind thanks everyone for all of their prayers during her illness.

Please keep Pam Sandusky in your prayers.

Please keep Jan Hicks and her son Austin Hicks in your prayers. Pray that they also find a way to help themselves. She was the SeCCI secretary for seven years.

Tar asks for everyone to pray to Creator to help us to fulfill our mission and to also raise up leadership. We need people who have a genuine interest and love of this tribe so that we can continue in the future. But we have to start training people now to assume those positions of leadership ten to twenty years down the road. We have to do that now. We need to find people that have that true heart. So, we need to pray to Creator to send us those people.

Chief Panther states that we need younger people.

PRESENTATIONS

There are not presentations at this time.

Lee passes around a card for everyone to sign for Anne.

Chief Panther asks if there is anything else. As there is nothing else Chief Panther declares the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Spirit Wind Bugaiski to Chief Panther for approval.