

Gah-Yah-Tont

(It Is Written)



State of the Nation
Chief William Fisher

July 2015



July 2015

Dear Fellow Nation Members

I hope this letter finds you and your families doing well. The last few months have marked several important milestones as we move the Nation forward on a path of excellence. I'd like to share some highlights with you, and then I invite you to read on for more information on many of these topics:

- ◆ Our General Council meeting took place on June 6.
 - Attorneys Kirk Kickingbird and John Ghostbear presented information on Grand Lakeside (formerly Royal Bay) and the disputed contract with Mr. Larry Steckline. While the Business Committee takes the matter seriously, we cannot comment on pending litigation. A press release is included for your information.
 - Becky Carter from our CPA firm Finley & Cook presented the state of the Nation's finances. When we took office, the financial disarray we found was very serious. Draw-downs on federal grants had not been done for months, and the Nation owed the IRS substantial back payroll taxes. With a lot of hard work, those issues have been resolved. A copy of the letter I received from the IRS to that effect is included
 - Casino and Tobacco shared about the good work that has been done at both those enterprises.
- ◆ Three referendums passed, including entering baby's names into membership, funding Education, and the end of dual enrollment. Details are inside.
- ◆ The main building and 6 acres at Grand Lakeside were placed in trust of the federal government on behalf of the Nation in October and the Grand Lake Casino Lodge entered into trust a short time later.
- ◆ The Nation's 2014 Audit was completed and submitted to the Federal Clearinghouse on time this past month. For the last 19 years, the Nation's audits have been consistently late (and poor), jeopardizing funding and reflecting years of neglect and mismanagement. This year, our audit firm pointed out a few areas for continued improvement but noted that we are on the right track. This huge accomplishment marks a turning point in our ability to manage our resources for the benefit of all the Nation's members.

We have made monumental changes in how our Nation operates and manages itself in a very short period of time. We have much work still to do, but we have come a long way. I continue to devote myself to ensuring the Nation is well-managed and positioned for a successful future for all its members. I will continue to keep you posted on changes and progress to come.

Meanwhile, Green Corn is just ahead of us. Camp Day is August 2. The Tobacco Company will provide hamburgers and hot-dogs. Come and be a part of celebrating our heritage.

Respectfully

William L. Fisher

William L. Fisher, Chief

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Office of Indian Tribal Governments
1645 S. 101st E. Avenue, St. 226
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128**



TAX EXEMPT AND
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES DIVISION

Date: April 17, 2015

Mr. William Fisher, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Nation
23701 South 655 Road
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

Re: Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Tax I.D. #XX-XXX5881

Dear Chief Fisher,

Your office recently contacted me to discuss the payment of \$871,376.34 made on July 24, 2014. When that payment was made, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation (SC Nation) was seriously delinquent in two areas: failing to deposit employment taxes and failing to file employment tax returns. Your office received notification from IRS that Notices of Levy had been filed.

Penalties were assessed for failing to deposit taxes and failing to file tax returns. Interest was building on both the unpaid taxes and the penalties. You were made aware that the SC Nation owed taxes of more than \$870,000.00. You were notified that penalties and interest had been accumulating for years. The total of penalties and interest exceeded \$322,000.00. The SC Nation's tax liability was more than \$1.2 million dollars.

When your office contacted me to figure out how to get the mounting tax bill paid, we talked about different avenues to consider. For example, payments over time would slowly reduce your liability, but the payments wouldn't release the Notices of Levy, and couldn't guarantee that assets would not be seized. Payments over time would not reduce the assessed interest or penalties. We talked about making one large employment tax payment and how it would affect the Seneca-Cayuga's tax liability. In July, 2014, the SC Nation paid \$871,376.34 in employment taxes. Afterwards, the SC Nation requested that this office consider abating the related penalties and interest.

Our office did consider very carefully the SC Nation's financial situation and the fact that the SC Nation had paid its delinquent employment tax bill. We also considered the SC Nation's recent financial struggles through embezzlement and incorrect advice. Based on our evaluation of all factors, this office determined that reasonable cause did exist.

We recommended that penalties and interest of \$322,547.88 be abated, or removed, from the SC Nation's tax liabilities.

The SC Nation still owed taxes on other tax periods, so there were payments made every month of \$25,000. New penalties were assessed when the IRS computers recorded late tax returns and late payments. However, our office recognized that reasonable cause applied to one additional quarter, and requested that the new penalties and interest be abated. Those penalties of \$14,069 were also abated.

At this time, *because the Seneca-Cayuga Nation has so diligently worked with our office to pay the 2011 through 2014 employment tax liability*, the following has happened:

- 1) Over \$336,000 in penalties and interest has been removed;
- 2) Notices of Intent to Seize and Notices of Levy have been halted;
- 3) Our government-to-government relationship has been strengthened as we each worked to assist our governmental partner.

Please contact me if I may provide further information.

Sincerely,



Jeanette Ross, Specialist
I.D. No. 1000739992

cc: Sue Channing, Sec/Treas,
Seneca-Cayuga Nation
Vicky Fine, Finley & Cook, CPA's

2015 Referendum Election Results

Proposition A: Allotment and Distribution of Education Funds

252 Yes

120 No

Proposition B: Approval of Proposed List of New Seneca-Cayuga Nation Members

236 Yes

129 No

Proposition C: Abolish Dual Enrollment?

213 Yes

160 No

Lawsuit says former Seneca-Cayuga Nation chief paid twice what he reported for Oklahoma tourist attraction By Sheila Stogsdill, For The Oklahoman



GROVE — The former owners of a Grand Lake tourist attraction site said Seneca-Cayuga Nation officials signed off on an \$8 million promissory note and had full knowledge of the loan.

“The purchase price did not mysteriously double from \$3.9 million to \$8 million,” James J. Proszek wrote in an email.

Proszek is the attorney representing Larry and Carla Steckline, former owners of the Royal Bay properties.

Earlier this month the tribe released a statement claiming former Chief Leroy Howard misled tribal members about the purchase price of the Cherokee Queens riverboats, Royal Bay Restaurant, Royal Bay Convention Center and Royal Bay Marina.

Proszek said the Seneca-Cayuga Nation business committee approved the sale of Royal Bay properties in January 2012.

A tribal resolution dated Jan. 12, 2012, signed by Howard and four of the committee's six members, approved the memorandum and gave Howard freedom

to sign all legal documents related to the purchase of the properties.

A memorandum of agreement dated March 8, 2012, and a promissory note dated March 16, 2012, show Howard and Larry Steckline signed the documents approving the \$8 million price tag.

Land deed documents filed in the Delaware County Courthouse show the tribe paid \$3.9 million in 2012.

The purchase of the Royal Bay properties involved more than just real property, Proszek said.

“The sale also included ongoing businesses as well as a substantial amount of personal property,” he said.

The land deed document does not include any interest on the sale, he said. The \$8 million purchase price includes interest that will be paid on the 10-year loan, Proszek said.

The Stecklines did offer to discuss a restructure of the payment terms if the tribe needed to do so, he said.

“As chief, I was authorized to sign a memorandum of understanding to purchase the property for \$3.9 (million) from Larry Steckline and his representative companies,” Howard said in a prepared statement.

Steckline agreed to finance the deal so any amounts paid beyond the \$3.9 million would be the cost of capital charges to the tribe, he said.

Steckline filed a civil lawsuit in April against Chief William Fisher and business committee members after a \$200,000 payment was missed.

The petition accuses the tribe of failing to make periodic installment payments on the loan and of failing and refusing to operate the “Lake Businesses” and property in the same or better condition.

Source: <http://newsok.com/dispute-continues-over-the-seneca-cayuga-nations-purchase-of-grand-lake-site/article/5426693>

© 2015 Produced by NewsOK.com

Donald Edward Mundy
10/7/1961 - 4/9/2015

Leo Broome
7/7/1930 - 5/14/2015

Jennifer Louise Logan
1/21/1977 - 6/4/2015

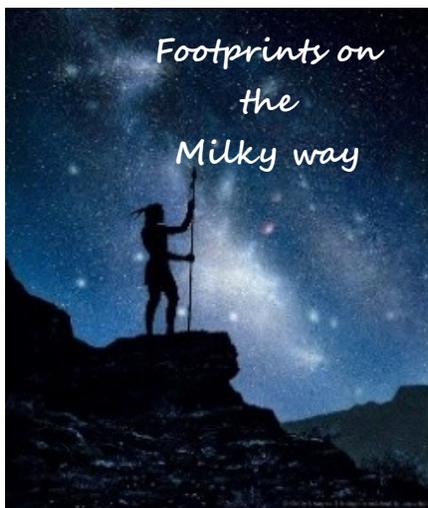
Dorothy Loraine Stoner
3/9/1928 - 1/13/2015

Ginger Rae Burton
10/18/1962 - 5/26/2015

Eric Shawn Logan
5/22/1972 - 6/20/2015

Douglas Wayne Golden
7/30/1948 - 2/11/2015

Charla Rae Arnce
12/7/1972 - 4/9/2015



Jackie Thomas Spicer
5/21/1935 - 6/3/2015

Kenneth David Crowe
5/16/1954 - 1/18/2015

Amanda May Greenback
7/2/1917 - 5/20/2015

Edith Irene Bowers
3/13/1943 - 6/20/2015

Johnnie Lee Greenback III
8/22/1986 - 2/8/2015

Steven Michael Enyart
7/15/1958 - 4/27/2015

Iva Jean Morgan
6/7/1928 - 6/5/2015

Roy David Charloe
8/19/1955 - 2/15/2015

Travis Gordon Putnam
12/3/1973 - 3/28/2015

Leon Scott Bitsie
12/24/1982 - 3/24/2015



23701 South 655 Road Grove, Oklahoma 74344 | P: 918-787-5452 | F: 918-787-5521 | www.sctribe.com

**PRESS RELEASE FOR THE SENECA-CAYUGA NATION
ROYAL BAY**

June 03, 2015

Royal Bay: When a \$3.9 Million Purchase Costs \$8 Million--Restaurant, Riverboat Price Tag to Tribe Doubles Overnight.

At the end of March 2012, newspapers in Oklahoma carried the news that the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe (now the Seneca-Cayuga Nation) bought a Grand Lake Restaurant and two sightseeing riverboats for \$3.9 million. This transaction was known as the Royal Bay purchase.

In June of 2013, a new Seneca-Cayuga Chief and Business Committee were elected. Upon assessing current tribal economic operations, including the Royal Bay purchase—a restaurant, convention center, marina, and the Cherokee Queen boats—tribal officials discovered the purchase price in the documents signed by the Nation's prior leader, LeRoy Howard, was listed as \$8 million, not \$3.9 million.

It quickly became clear to the Nation's current leadership that the transaction was more than double the initially reported price. Even worse, what the Nation received in return for that stiff price tag was not as promised: the boats were inoperable as acquired, while the buildings were in significant need of repair inside and out. Current tribal officials are left wondering how former Chief Howard could have ever thought the deal made economic sense for the Tribe— even at the lower reported price of \$3.9 million.

In February of 2015, current Chief William Fisher met with the seller of Royal Bay, Larry Steckline, in the hopes of opening discussions about the problems with Royal Bay and in hopes of addressing the mysterious doubling of the purchase price by Steckline. Steckline refused to discuss the details of the transaction, the condition of the riverboats and restaurant and the mysterious purchase price increase. Standing firm on the price of \$8 million, Steckline referred to it as, his “retirement”. The Nation now finds itself the defendant in a lawsuit initiated by Steckline over the Royal Bay transaction. The Business Committee is confident that the lawsuit will provide the Nation’s current leadership the opportunity to carefully examine the prior and current relationship between Steckline and former leader Howard, along with the unexplained justification of the purchase price increase.

As the current tribal leadership continues to seek resolution of this controversy in the coming months, the Nation’s best interests will remain the primary focal point. One very important initial step that has already been accomplished is the taking into trust by the federal government for the Seneca-Cayuga Nation of 6.1 acres that were part of the Royal Bay transaction.



**Picnic with
Hamburgers and hotdogs
Starts 12:00**

**Green Corn
Camp Day Aug. 2, 2015**

**Children's activities
from 12 to 4
West of new community bldg.**



ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

NAME: _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____

WORK TELEPHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT NUMBER: _____

*TRIBAL CHILDREN @ ADDRESS: _____ ROLL #: _____

_____ ROLL #: _____

_____ ROLL #: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

Tribal Member Signature

Date

*If change of address is being submitted for minor child or incompetent adult, please sign below:

SUBMITTED BY: _____

Parent/Guardian

Signature Date



Enrollment Department 23701 South 655 Road Grove Oklahoma 74344
 P 918-787-5452 ext 250 F 918-517-3586

The Enrollment Department is
 need of any corrections to
 your address, phone number,
 email address and/or additions
 to your family.

Please contact the Enrollment
 Department NOW to keep
 your family connected with
 the Nation.

FUNDS NOT AVAILABLE TILL AFTER AUGUST 1st



23701 South 655 Road Grove, Oklahoma 74344 Phone: 918-786-5576 Fax: 918-786-9245

**School Clothing/Coat
Application**

Youth Fellowship Fund Application

Submit to the above Address – “Attention: Claims Committee”

PLEASE PRINT

Date

Student Name

Roll #

Address

City/State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Cell Number

Work Number

Email Address

Check her if the above is a new address

Name of the School Attending

Address of the School Attending

City

State

Zip Code

I am requesting Youth Fellowship Funds for the above named student for the school year of 2015/2016. I am the parent or legal guardian and have the right to sign this form. All information provided on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to provide proof of the information I have provided on this form. I agree to notify the Seneca-Cayuga Claims Committee of any changes in the above information.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

A complete application package must be done for each student for whom funds are sought. Only complete applications packages will be reviewed and processed

- The application packet includes the items below:
1. ____ Student Tribal Membership Card
 2. ____ Proof of Legal Guardianship if signed by a Legal Guardian
 3. ____ Parents Tribal Membership Card
 4. ____ Proof of School Enrollment

Statement of Understanding

I have read and understand the Seneca-Cayuga Claims Committee Guidelines for the Youth Fellowship Fund Program and agree to comply with all stated requirements listed

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

*****FOR CLAIMS COMMITTEE USE ONLY*****

Date: _____ Action Taken: Approved _____ Hold _____

Reason: _____ Remitted To: _____

Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Balance: _____

Approval: CD _____ PA _____ SWV _____

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
23701 S. 655 Road
Grove, OK 74344

Seneca-Cayuga Business Committee

Main Number 918-787-5452

CHIEF

William Fisher (918) 787-5452 x300

SECOND CHIEF

Jerry Crow (918) 787-5452 x301

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Sue Channing (918) 787-5452 x302

FIRST COUNCIL PERSON

Sallie White (918) 787-5452 x305

SECOND COUNCIL PERSON

Lisa Spano (918) 787-5452 x303

THIRD COUNCIL PERSON

Calvin Cassady (918) 787-5452 x304

FOURTH COUNCIL PERSON

Geneva Fletcher (918) 787-5452 x306

SENECA - CAYUGA
—▲—
NATION

