



# SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

<b>DATE</b>	Monday, February 02, 2026	<b>TIME PLACE</b>	6pm CT Zoom only	<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
<b>Roberta Smith</b>	Not Present	<b>Yvonne Perryman</b>	Present - Zoom
<b>Carrie Kneeland</b>	Present – Zoom	<b>Jo Lynn Gentry</b>	Present - Zoom
<b>Natalie Dixon</b>	Present - Zoom	Others Present:	<b>Curt Lawrence – Not Present</b> <b>2 General Council Members</b>

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:00pm	<b>Called to Order</b> - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	Carrie
	<p><b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – January 05, 2026 minutes spoken to, minor corrections made via email including word changes (<i>keep on hand</i> changed to <i>maintain</i>) or additions (<i>“detailed”</i> annual report) as well as minor grammatical changes for clarification of understanding – <b>minutes APPROVED</b></p> <p>January 07, 2026 minutes spoken to, minor corrections made via email including minor word and grammatical changes and the addition of “notice” under due process measures, and on the record corrections including adding former Secretary-Treasurer Joan Edwards’ name – <b>minutes APPROVED</b></p> <p><b>See 01/19/2026 minutes for Certification of 01/05 and</b></p>	Natalie



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	<p>Committee and any materials on the codification of laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chairperson to write a letter requesting official documentation as previously requested</li> <li>● General Council Resolution passed at the 2025 Annual Meeting that creates the Constitution Committee has not been signed and sent to Secretary of Constitution Committee as requested, it is currently unknown the Resolution # and if the document has been signed by the Chief and Secretary-Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At the 2025 General Council meeting the Parliamentarian stated that the budget attached to the General Council Resolution was not actually mentioned in the original Resolution and thus it was not relevant to passing the Resolution</li> <li>○ The General Council Resolution (GCR) is what authorizes the Business Committee to spend General Council monies on General Council initiatives and it is imperative to have a signed GCR to properly spend the money</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Constitution Article III Membership of the Nation drafting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Addition of the word biological</li> <li>● Clarification on the role of Enrollment Committee in approving membership applications</li> <li>● The original 1937 roll creates a base roll and all future members thereafter are descendants</li> <li>● Prior meetings of the General Council included the reading of names to the General Council for membership ratification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution Committee member understands this as a power as the “supreme governing body” Constitution Article IV</li> <li>○ Enrollment Ordinance was changed within past 5 years so ratification by the General Council is no longer required; waiting for General Council ratification caused delay in enrollment and benefit eligibility</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Possible check and balance in this article could be that any decision of disenfranchisement, enrollment, or</li> </ul>	

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	<p>disenrollment goes through the General Council via the Enrollment Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafted language surrounding enrollment is reviewed as a group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The membership of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall consist of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Original Membership.</b> The original membership roll of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall consist of all persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll of the Nation as of January 1, 1937.</li> <li>▪ <b>Biological Lineal Descendants.</b> The biological lineal descendants of the original membership are eligible for enrollment and tribal citizen benefits upon application approval by the Enrollment Committee.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dual enrollment in another Native Nation has been weaponized against tribal members, this article may be an appropriate place to place dual enrollment protections that do not allow for a tribal member to be disenrolled for dual enrollment in another Nation (including international countries eg. France, United States)</li> <li>• Should the Enrollment Ordinance and any related procedures be mentioned in this article? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current Enrollment Ordinance is presumed to be overseen by Secretary-Treasurer and their duties</li> <li>○ Current Enrollment Committee has reported changed Enrollment Ordinances without their knowledge or input in recent years</li> <li>○ Relinquishments are discussed as a possible mention in a Membership article but are found to be better for an Enrollment Ordinance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conditional Relinquishment – when a relinquishment is filled out, often to apply to another Native Nation, which is accepted only if the other Native Nation approves enrollment or some other similar condition is fulfilled</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unconditional Relinquishment – when a relinquishment is filed for nearly simultaneous withdrawal of enrollment, often done when running for office for certain Native Nations who require unconditional relinquishments of all other Native Nation citizenships to hold office within a given Nation</li> <li>▪ Children whose enrollments are relinquished by their parents or guardians before the age of 18 are eligible for re-enrollment regardless of the original reason for disenrollment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continued drafted language surrounding enrollment is reviewed as a group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Fraud.</b> Evidence of fraudulent and/or misrepresented documentation for enrollment shall result in the immediate suspension of tribal citizen benefits pending a hearing before the General Council. If findings of fraud are not substantiated by clear and convincing evidence, then benefits may be restored retroactively. The Nation shall have a right of recovery with regard to any excess or improper payments hereunder.</li> <li>○ If findings of fraud are substantiated by clear and convincing evidence then the General Council shall determine disenrollment via General Council Resolution</li> <li>○ (Needs: Voting &amp; Due process)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion surrounding due process and fact finding entity for a possible disenrollment hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some forms of judiciaries include an <a href="#">“investigative judge”</a> role which would allow the Enrollment Committee to act as the person to both investigate a case and present it to the General Council who has the final determination on enrollment matters brought before it</li> <li>○ Should the Enrollment Committee be able to make recommendations on any case it presents before a General Council?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All accusations of enrollment fraud should go through Enrollment Committee first</li> <li>● 4/4 blood quantum is discussed as a possible measure of maintaining sovereignty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Certain federal benefits have specific blood quantum requirements and the federal government may consider it fraudulent for their Indian welfare benefit purposes</li> <li>○ Declaring all 1937 roll members as 4/4 blood quantum regardless of recorded quantum is also an option</li> <li>○ Creating all members as 4/4 blood quantum would allow all tribal members access to certain educational benefits, certain grants, certain treaty rights, any future court decisions</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Crow Tribe has recently discussed doing this</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Kiowa Tribe discussed similar in 2023</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Crossing the border on the Jay Treaty requires proving blood quantum</a></li> <li>○ Future federal government or judicial decisions may include further definition of being Indian based on blood quantum or lack thereof – protection in the Constitution would allow the Nation sidestep any negative hypothetical impacts if already amended</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Confirmation of next meeting on February 16, 2026 @ 6pm</b></p>	
8:03pm	<p><b>Motion #18 (Jo Lynn/Natalie) – to adjourn the meeting- unanimous committee vote – motion carried</b></p>	