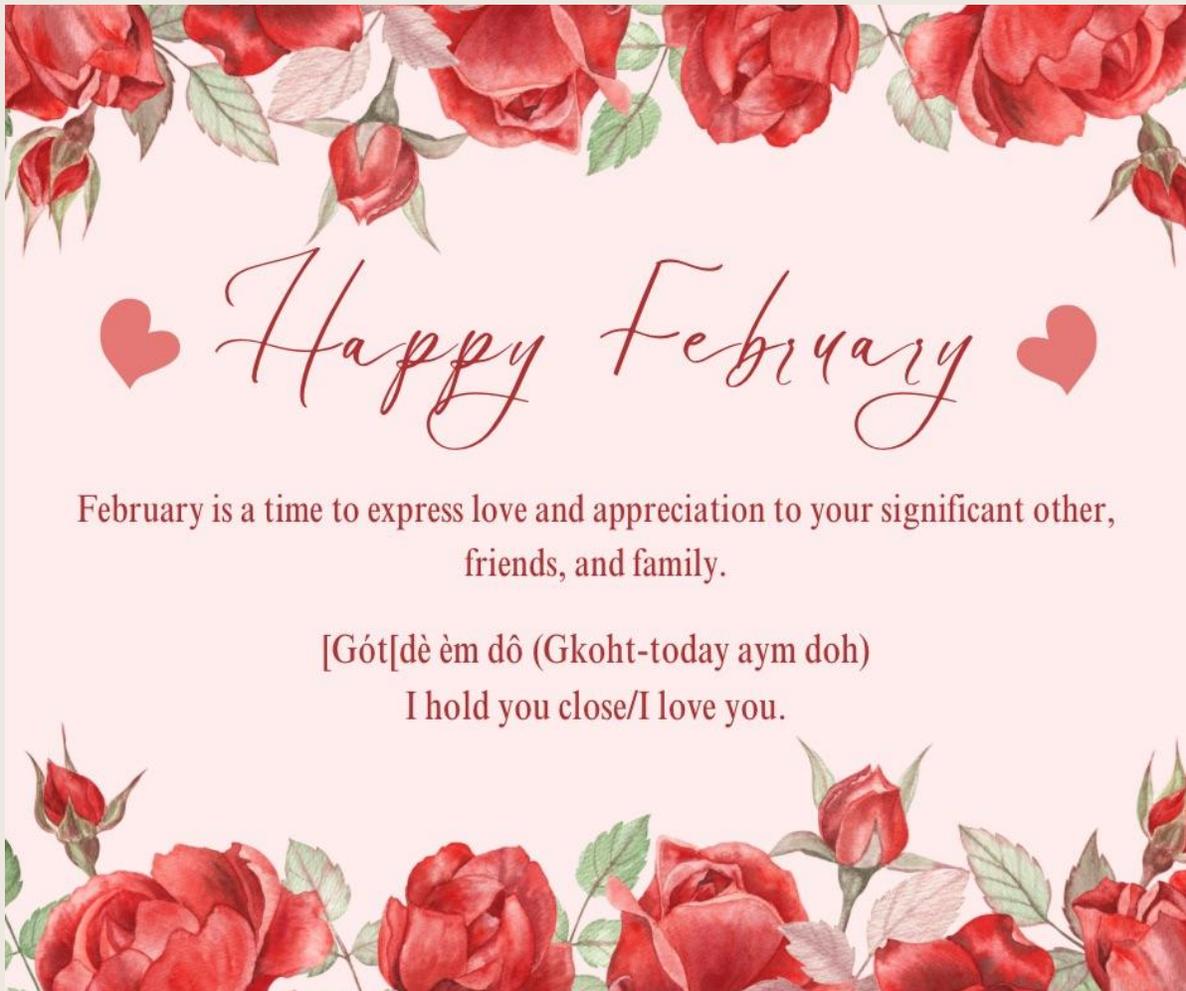




Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

February of 2025



February is a time to express love and appreciation to your significant other,
friends, and family.

[Gót[dè èm dô (Gkoht-today aym doh)
I hold you close/I love you.

Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,

With the arrival of spring, we find ourselves in a time of renewal and critical responsibility. This season marks a crucial phase as the Kiowa Legislature turns its focus to one of the most significant tasks of the year—reviewing and preparing the tribal budget.

Budget season is more than just numbers; it reflects our shared priorities, our plans for the future, and our collective commitment to the growth and well-being of our tribal community. Throughout this process, we will examine how best to allocate resources to honor our heritage while building a sustainable path for the next generation.

We encourage all our members to remain engaged, informed, and active throughout this pivotal time. May the spirit of renewal and growth inspire us all as we work together to ensure a prosperous future for the Kiowa Tribe.

Thoughts from an Elder

Where Do Oklahoma Tribal Citizens Go Today?

Any chance we could get an audience with our congressional delegation? Indian people of Oklahoma need to speak collectively to these officials about the developments in the new administration and how it is affecting/will affect Oklahoma sovereign tribes and their communities. A more pressing question is who or which tribe will take the lead in organizing and facilitating a meeting with these guys? Maybe some of the Oklahoma tribes already have a meeting date, time, place and the news is just now getting out? If so, to what extent will the Kiowa Tribe participate? My personal major concerns with the impact of the month-old administration are the educational, economic, health, and employment life activities of our tribal peoples. We all heard about the threat of cutbacks to these trust responsibilities of the federal government owed to tribal nations and the prevailing movements at Haskell and SIPI, as well as the freezing of federal funding to approved congressional funding of tribal services. The disinformation/misinformation/rumors are swirling like a pre-tornado setting and need to be discussed with the Indian people on the ground immediately. If this tornado fully develops as anticipated tribal people have no place to go for shelter. Just imagine what it will look and feel like after the condition becomes a reality and the lives of Indian people are literally destroyed. The tribal public deserves and demands more attention not only from these elected Oklahoma congressional people but also their very own elected tribal leaders.

Our elderly tribal leaders are extremely concerned and full of anxiety about what today (elderly lives) and tomorrow (grandchildren's lives) will bring for them. What if the federal government and congress exert plenary power (power to dissolve tribal relations with government)? To what extent can Oklahoma tribes survive and effectively serve their tribal members if such a change occurs? This is a time our people truly look to our elected official, Indian and non-Indian to lead. Otherwise, the tribal public must get pro-active and push hard for accountability from its elected tribal, public, and congressional delegations.

The Importance of Political Awareness for American Indian Citizens

Ensuring Accountability from Elected Tribal Officials

Today, Oklahoma American Indian citizens face a critical juncture in understanding and reacting to the dynamic developments in national politics. With the new administration in place, it is imperative for tribal communities to stay informed and proactive about how these changes will impact on their sovereignty, wellbeing, and prospects.

Understanding Current National Politics

The recent political shift has brought about a slew of policies and proposals that may significantly affect all American Indian communities. From potential cutbacks

in federal funding for tribal services to changes in trust responsibilities, the impact of these decisions is profound. These policies influence crucial aspects of daily life, including education, healthcare, economic stability, and employment opportunities within tribal nations for all concerned, Indians and non-Indians.

The Role of Elected Tribal Officials

Elected tribal officials bear the responsibility of bridging the gap between national developments and their constituencies. It is their duty to keep the tribal public informed about critical issues, enabling them to make educated decisions and take appropriate actions. Unfortunately, there are growing concerns that many elected tribal officials are falling short in this regard. The lack of timely and accurate information can leave communities vulnerable to adverse policy changes without adequate preparation or response strategies.

Seeking Accountability and Proactivity

Considering these challenges, it is essential for Oklahoma American Indian citizens to demand greater accountability from their tribal leaders. This involves advocating for clear communication channels, regular updates on national political developments, and transparent decision-making processes. Tribal leaders must actively engage with their communities, providing the information and support needed to navigate these uncertain times.

Mobilizing for Collective Action

One crucial step towards ensuring informed and proactive communities is organizing collective discussions with key stakeholders, including congressional delegations. By uniting voices and presenting a cohesive stance, tribal nations can better advocate for their rights and interests. It is vital for tribes to take the lead in facilitating these engagements, whether through organized meetings, public forums, or other collaborative efforts.

The Future of Tribal Sovereignty

The future of tribal sovereignty hinges on the ability of American Indian citizens to remain vigilant and assertive in the political arena. By holding their elected officials accountable and demanding transparency, they can help safeguard their communities from potential threats. The involvement of all tribal members, from elders to youth, is crucial in this endeavor, ensuring that the legacy and welfare of future generations are protected.

Conclusion

The current political climate necessitates an informed and active approach from American Indian communities. Elected tribal officials must step up to their roles, providing essential information and guidance to their people. Through collective action and persistent advocacy, tribal nations can navigate the challenges ahead and secure a prosperous and sovereign future for all.

Legislative Update



Latest Legislature News

The Kiowa Tribe Legislature has been working on several key initiatives to strengthen our governance systems and address the community's needs. Below is an update on the critical legislative efforts currently underway.

1. Budget Appropriation for the Kiowa Tribe

The Legislature recently focused on refining and finalizing the budget appropriation for the Kiowa Tribe. This process ensures that tribal programs and services are financed adequately to meet the needs of our membership. The approved budget prioritizes transparency, sustainability, and accountability, ensuring every dollar spent aligns with the Tribe's mission and long-term goals.

2. Updates to the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO)

Efforts are underway to revise and modernize the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO), which has not been updated in several years. The TERO Commission is tasked with promoting employment opportunities for Kiowa tribal members and ensuring that businesses operating on tribal lands prioritize hiring tribal members.

The new updates to the ordinance will strengthen enforcement mechanisms and enhance opportunities for workforce development. These updates aim to align the ordinance with modern workforce demands, ensuring tribal members have access to gainful employment and career growth within the Kiowa Nation.

The TERO Commission plays a vital role in fostering economic self-sufficiency for the Tribe by working with contractors and businesses to implement hiring practices that benefit tribal members. Additionally, TERO ensures compliance with regulatory requirements for employment on tribal lands, helping to protect our labor force and extend opportunity to the Kiowa people.

3. Revisions to the Kiowa Election Ordinance

The Kiowa Legislature is also collaborating with the Kiowa Election Commission to amend the Election Ordinance passed in 2022. This amendment process reflects our commitment to improving electoral processes and ensuring the fairness and integrity of tribal elections.

The Kiowa Election Commission administers and oversees the Tribe's electoral processes. From candidate certifications to organizing election logistics, the Commission ensures that the democratic rights of Kiowa tribal members are safeguarded. The proposed ordinance revisions focus on refining petition and recall procedures, clarifying removal requirements of your commission, and enhancing transparency in the electoral system.

Next Steps

These legislative actions are part of the more significant effort to advance the Kiowa Tribe's governance framework while addressing the immediate and long-term needs of tribal members. The Legislature remains committed to keeping the community informed as these initiatives progress.

Your feedback is essential to these efforts. Members are encouraged to engage with their representatives and stay informed on legislative developments impacting our shared future. Don't hesitate to contact the Legislature with any questions or input.

**Episode 12 Available now on
YouTube and Spotify.**

Links can be found on our Linktree, linktr.ee/kiowaD7



EPISODE 12 OF [DÓN:GYÀ!



A CONVERSATION ABOUT
CURRENT EVENTS



In Need of a New Tribal ID?

Enrollment has an online application that allows you to submit a request for a replacement ID. You can also stop by the District 7 office in Norman or Tulsa for help with submitting this form.

For new enrollment, please contact the enrollment department, enroll@kiowatribe.org or 405-901-9239

<https://www.kiowatribe.org/department/enrollment>

Upcoming Events

Kiowa District 7 Language Class

MARCH 17TH

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS

@ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

SPEAKERS

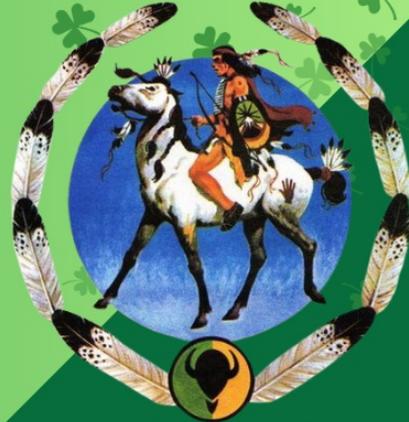
DELORES HARRAGARRA
VELMA EISENBERGER
MARTHA POOLAW

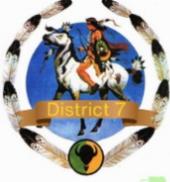
**Location : Kiowa District 7 Office
123 24th Ave NW
Norman, Oklahoma 73069**

ZOOM OPTION

Meeting ID: 876 3205 2759
Password: kiowa

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT RHOADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM





TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

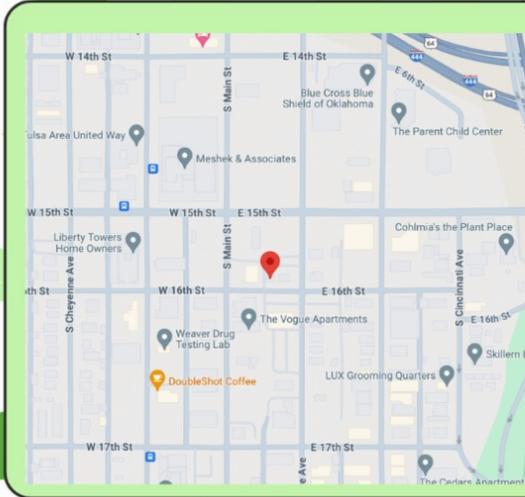
**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

WHEN

**MARCH 31ST
6 TO 7:30 PM**

POTLUCK



Kiowa District 7
Tulsa Office:
**15th E 16th Street,
Tulsa OK 74119**

WHERE

ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Zoom link available on our Linktree:

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)

(539) 525-0437

[DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG](mailto:district7legislature@kiowatribe.org)

Fort Marion POW Descendants Gathering 2025

March 25-27, 2025

**University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
1000 NE 13th Street
Nicholson Towers, Fifth Floor, Conference Room A**

Descendants from the Kiowa, Caddo, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Comanche Nations are invited to a Gathering (Convening) to learn more about the 72 POW who were incarcerated at Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida, from 1875-1878.

In collaboration with the **Peabody Museum** at Harvard and the **Smithsonian Institution**, the Calling Back the Spirit – A Healing Journey (overall project), with one aspect being the Gathering of descendants, in order for them to learn more about Fort Marion and also share their family stories of how they have endured since allotment.

The Gathering will also have the POW Masks on loan from the special collection of the Peabody Museum and working with descendants, the newly sculptured busts of a select number of POWs. Hosted by Caddo descendant Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD and her son, Ah-in-nist Sipes, g-g-g-grandson of Medicine Water and Mochi, the only married POW incarcerated there.

For more information please contact dee-bigfoot@ouhsc.edu or text 405-213-5973. You can also visit www.icctc.org or www.jacobsonhouse.art. Lodging and meals will be provided for those registering at www.icctc.org. Tentative agenda posted on website.

Partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities RZ-300393-24.

YouTube Channel

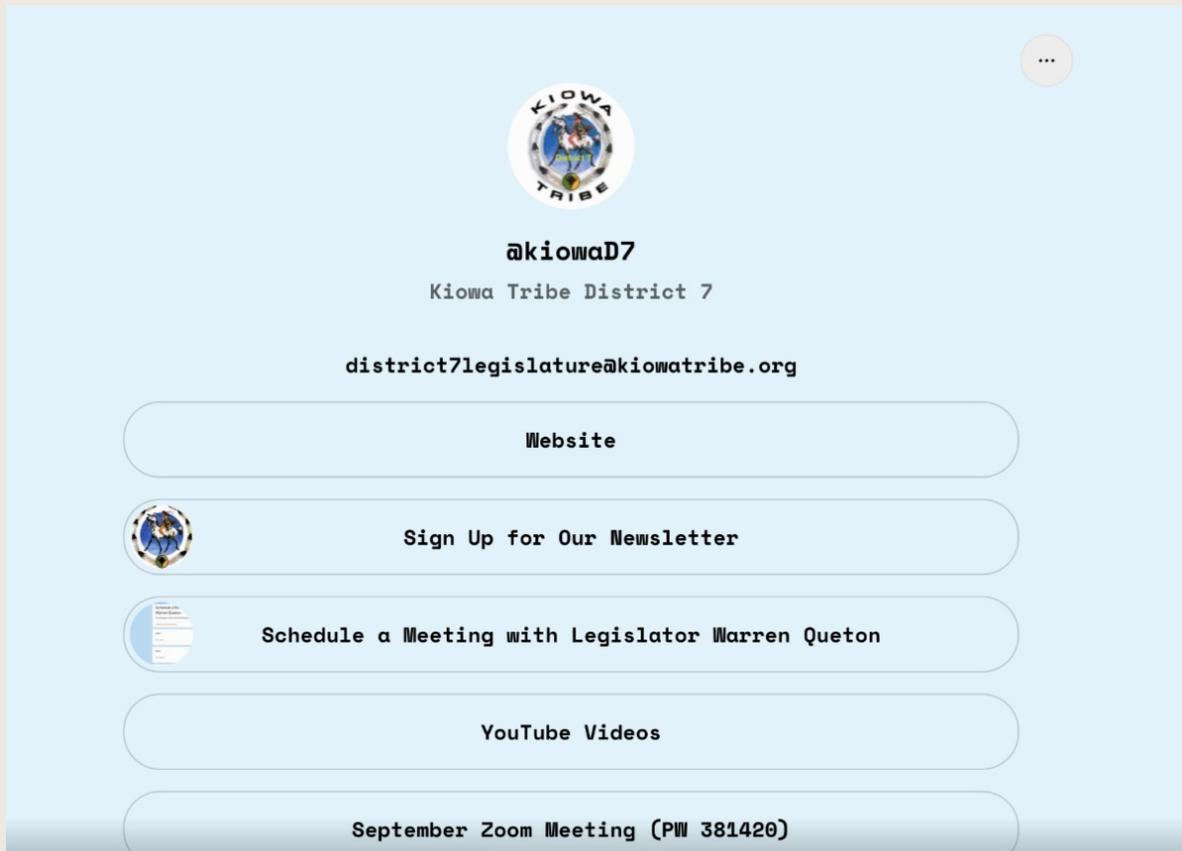
District 7 has a YouTube channel. We aim to record and upload our webinars and different events so everyone can stay involved.

This month, we have uploaded the following:

Episode 12 of our podcast- A conversation about current events
Our February Webinar with the Tax Commission

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

D7 Links



@kiowaD7
Kiowa Tribe District 7

district7legislature@kiowatribe.org

Website

Sign Up for Our Newsletter

Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton

YouTube Videos

September Zoom Meeting (PIN 381420)

Please bookmark and save <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7> this page will be updated with easy-to-navigate links.

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 123 24th AVE NW | Norman, OK 73069 US

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