Egg-citement

District events bring members together for food and springtime fun.
Easter Celebrations bring joy
Watch for more pictures of District Easter Events in the June 2019 newsletter, and online via the tribal Facebook page!

On the cover: Ponca youth scatter in search of eggs during the egg hunt held at the District 3 Easter Celebration.
May a month of significance for the Ponca people

Month of May: A time to plant

The days are longer, and the plants are growing. Me’pahonga/Spring time is in full gear! Mother Earth is alive, bearing her fruits and medicines for the people to plant and/or gather.

When Lewis & Clark met the Ponca, they described them as semi-nomadic horticulturists who were industrious, peaceful people. They maintained large vegetable gardens for the people to sustain themselves though the winter. The following are words for traditional foods grown or gathered by the Poncas.

Corn – Wa’haba
Bean - Hi”bthi”ge
Squash – Wato
Sunflower – Zha’xtha si
Watermelon – Saka thide
Potato - Nu
Strawberry – Ba shte
Wild Onions – Mo”zho”xe
Plums – Ko”de
Mushrooms – Te’nixa ugthezhe

Month of May: A time to remember

In May of 1877, we were forced to leave the Niobrara River Valley-Ni Bratha, and go to the south to a place called Indian Territory, Oklahoma. We must remember all our ancestors who were determined to keep this land in Nebraska.

Remember also the famous words of Standing Bear, Mo”chu No”zhí”, “My hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel

Dwight Howe
Cultural Director

Sunflower – Zha’xtha si
Watermelon – Saka thide
Potato - Nu
Strawberry – Ba shte
Wild Onions – Mo”zho”xe
Plums – Ko”de
Mushrooms – Te’nixa ugthezhe

Nonbe-the wíuga-the eónkigonzhi: Our hands are not the same color
Zhákihi-ke o”niye-tami”k’ë: If I pierce mine I will feel pain.
No”bë-the zháthakihi-ki thiniyetani”kshe: If you pierce your hand you will feel pain.
Wami-ak’h a nó”gai-të-e-di-ki wíuga eó”kigo”-tao”gat”o”: When the blood flows it will be the same color.
Nú bthi”: I am a man.
Wakó”da-ak’h a ékigo” waxa: God made us the same.
Over a month has passed since the devastating flood waters ravaged Nebraska and much of the Niobrara area. Though the tribal grounds were spared, many members were personally affected. Across the state, damage to farms and property due to the blizzard and flooding is estimated at nearly $1.4 billion.

Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) reports that during the peak of the flood, over 3,000 miles of road were closed. Now, 200 miles of roads still require repair, and 27 state bridges are damaged. Travel around the region has been limited by the hazardous road conditions.

Rebuilding efforts will be ongoing for some time. NDOT estimates that the temporary bridge for the Mormon Canal will be placed by August, while the permanent structure will not be completed until the summer of 2020. Highway 281 repairs include replacing the bridge, first with a temporary structure, followed by a permanent replacement anticipated to be finished by winter 2020.

Tribal members affected by flooding are urged to contact tribal headquarters in Niobrara or their nearest office. Resources are available to help. Several community groups donated goods to the Ponca Tribe. The Niobrara, Norfolk, and Lincoln offices all have donations on hand for members. Items include cleaning supplies, water, toiletries, and food. We can also guide you to resources for applying for personal assistance through FEMA and other sources.

Community Efforts

The Niobrara offices hosted a Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) for the Nebraska Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster in April. This brought together several organizations in one location to provide relief resources and offer easier access to residents needing aid. Among the agencies included were the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. NDOT also held an open house in April at the headquarters to provide updates on transportation-related response and recovery.

Web Resources

Nebraska Strong website: http://www.nebraska.gov/nebraska-strong/
State of Nebraska’s website to request assistance or donate resources.
Nebraska Extension: https://flood.unl.edu/
Nebraska Extension is collecting hay, livestock feed, and fencing for affected producers. Additional flood resources pertinent to individuals, farms, and businesses are available on their website, including financial recovery, well water safety, and FEMA guides.
Nebraska Department of Transportation: https://dot.nebraska.gov/news-media/nebraska-flood-2019/
This page is dedicated to current projects related to the repair of roads and infrastructures.
County road closures: http://www.nacone.org/
The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska was honored by the Lincoln-Lancaster Board of Health, together with the rest of the Cultural Coalition with a Community Public Health Award for the Minority Health Initiatives Grant. Larry Voegele, Health CEO, and Community Health Representative Suzanne Mealer attended the Board of Health Awards Breakfast to accept the award with the rest of the Coalition.

Indigenous plant education provided in new classes

The Ponca Tribe Diabetes program recently hosted Indigenous Plant Classes, with guest speaker Barbara Salvatore presenting on indigenous plants, including where to find them, how to identify them, and their uses in both food and medicine. Class attendees made some teas from indigenous plants, sampled a wild greens salad, and took a tour to identify indigenous plants.
This month’s theme for the Circle of Elders events is Earth Day. The Ponca Tribe Environmental program presented to the elders at each location. Elders learned about the origins of Earth Day, the necessity for legislation protecting our environment, and the importance of pollinators.

Elders also made seed paper from recycled newspaper and pollinator-friendly wildflower seeds, that could be taken home and planted.
Lincoln Elders get stitching

The Ponca Tribe office in Lincoln hosted a series of sewing circles for Elders. Lincoln elders had the opportunity to work on ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts at the Elders Sewing Circle.

For more information, please contact Jenika Long at 402.438.9222.

Lincoln Elders stay strong against colon cancer

The Lincoln Circle of Elders gathered Monday, March 25th to learn more about Colorectal Cancer. In addition to receiving information about colorectal cancer, and how to get tested, Elders also listened to a presentation by Legal Aid, detailing the services offered by that agency. After the presentations, elders had the opportunity to participate in an art therapy class, working with paint and colors.
April observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Tayla Cournoyer  
DV Administrative Assistant

Sexual assault is a serious and widespread problem. Nearly one in five women in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives, and one in 67 men have experienced rape or attempted rape.

Sexual violence is often a traumatic event. Experiencing it can affect the way the brain and body work together. To survive, the brain and body have to process things a little differently in crisis mode. It’s a survival technique. A survivor’s response to trauma is a sign of bravery, resiliency, and strength.

When we talk about prevention, we mean stopping sexual violence before it even has a chance to happen. This means changing the social norms that allow it to exist in the first place, from individual attitudes, values and behaviors to laws, institutions, and widespread social norms.

**Being involved is everyone’s responsibility: What can you do?**

All of us can create and promote safe environments. We can intervene to stop concerning behavior; promote and model healthy attitudes and relationships; and believe survivors and assist them in finding resources. The support of friends and family is crucial to the healing journey of survivors of sexual violence. Let survivors in your life know they don’t have to walk their path alone.

- Sexual assault is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.
- In 4 out of 5 cases of rape, the victim knew the perpetrator.
- It is estimated that 325,000 children per year are currently at risk of becoming victims of commercial child and sexual exploitation.
- Only 12% of child sexual abuse is ever reported to the authorities.

If you have been a victim of sexual assault, please contact an advocate at any PTN office location to receive free, confidential advocacy services.

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM CASE MANAGERS & ADVOCATES**

- **Bradley Johnson**  
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  712.258.0500  
  bjohnson@poncatribe-ne.org

- **Brooke Zelasney**  
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- **Michelle L. Thelen**  
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- **Isis L Hernandez-Troche**  
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- **Glennis Guerrero**  
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- **Donna Wolff**  
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- **Tayla Cournoyer**  
  DV Administrative Assistant  
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Increasing Elder Abuse awareness

Jenika Long
Elder Victim Advocate

Elder abuse has been around for generations, but in the past 10 years it has increased 150%. Likely targets are older people who have no family or friends nearby and people with disabilities, memory problems, or dementia.

Abuse can happen to any older person, but often affects those who depend on others for help with activities of everyday life—including bathing, dressing, and taking medicine. People who are frail may appear to be easy victims. One in ten adults over age 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited. The abuser can be a loved one, a hired caregiver, or a stranger and can happen in any environment.

Caregiving can be rewarding but can also bring on stress. Often, caregivers don’t even realize that they are being neglectful or abusive. Many times, caregivers have to leave their jobs and rearrange their lifestyle to be there for their elder. If you are a caregiver, it is important to take time for yourself and ask for help to prevent any type of abuse. Many community organizations provide respite to caregivers to alleviate stress.

Elders are subjected to all of the same types of abuse people of different ages experience. Some types of elder abuse are:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Financial
- Abandonment
- Neglect

Warning signs that an elder is abused or neglected:

- Has trouble sleeping
- Seems depressed or confused
- Loses weight for no reason
- Displays signs of trauma (rocking back and forth, laying in fetal position, etc.)
- Acts agitated or violent
- Becomes withdrawn
- Stops taking part in activities he or she enjoys
- Has unexplained bruises, burns, or scars
- Looks messy, with unwashed hair or dirty clothes
- Develops bed sores or other preventable conditions

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has advocates that can assist Native American elders (55 and up) that are experiencing abuse. For more information and to access services, call the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska-Lincoln office at 402-438-9222 or the Ralston office at 402-315-2760.

Speaker addresses DV and brain injury

Barbara Fitzgerald with Mercy Medical presented on effects of domestic violence on the brain during an event on Traumatic Brain Injury at the Sioux City office.

Dating violence march raises awareness

After participating in a Teen Dating Violence Awareness event during the month of February, Lincoln youth were able to take advantage of warmer spring weather to carry the posters created at that event to the State Capitol. This informal march allowed youth to take their message to a larger audience, and help spread awareness within the community for the issue of Teen Dating Violence.
Lifeline program offers communication options for low income families

**Stephanie Pospisil**  
Director of Social Services

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Some of the features of this program include:

- A monthly discount on your phone, broadband or bundled services
  - Home phone, internet and cell phone
  - Note: the discount will apply to only one of the services, not on each
  - Discount of at least $9.25 each month
- There are currently nine million households, nationwide, using this program
  - Only 274,000 are tribal households

- You can get Lifeline if you (or someone in your household) participates in one of these federal assistance programs:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
  - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
  - Tribal Programs (and live on federally-recognized Tribal lands)
- How to contact this Lifeline program
  - www.lifelinesupport.org

This program will go directly through your provider but contact your Social Services case manager for your district if you need assistance.

Tribal Court Improvement Project

Child Protection Training

Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children

A prevention training program that teaches adults how to recognize, prevent, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Participants will:
- Learn the 3 empowerment skills
  - Making choices
  - Taking risks
  - Supporting each other
- Learn the 5 Steps to Protecting Our Children
  - Learn the facts
  - Minimize opportunity
  - Talk about it
  - Recognize the signs
  - React responsibly

Child Abuse and Neglect 101

This course prepares mandatory reporters with the knowledge and skills to recognize and report child abuse and neglect along with an overview of the different types of abuse and their prevalence in Nebraska. Participants will discuss challenges associated with reporting abuse and neglect, practice asking minimal facts questions, and receive resources that will help with knowing how and when to report. Participants will:
- Learn the different types of child abuse and neglect
- Know what to do when they suspect child abuse and neglect
- Understand how to report child abuse and neglect
- Learn what questions to ask when child abuse and neglect is suspected
- Understand what happens when a report is made

For more information, or to register, please contact Ramona Schultz, Tribal Court Services Specialist at 402.371.8834, ext. 106, or email rschultz@ponca-tribe-ne.org.
MEMBERS NEEDED!

PONCA TAX COMMISSION Under the Authority of the Constitution of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska a body to be known as the “Ponca Tax Commission” was created. This public agency of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is subordinate to the Tribal Council, and will possess all the powers, duties, rights and functions as defined in the Law & Order Code to carry out the administration and enforcement of all Tribal tax laws.

A term will be expiring on May 24, 2019. Therefore, Tribal Council is accepting letters of interest and resume’s for this term that will then expires on May 24, 2022.

Members of the Ponca Tax Commission shall not have or voluntarily acquire during their term any personal interest, whether direct or indirect, in any entity owned or operated by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska or any Tribal organization.

Personal interest shall mean private ownership of an entity that does business with or is operated by the Ponca Tribe. Employment by an entity owned by the Ponca Tribe, its agencies, institutions, or entities or by any other person having such an interest shall not be deemed a personal interest by such employee nor shall it be deemed ownership or control of such entity by the employee. Such an employee may be appointed as a member of the Ponca Tax Commission so long as net revenues from the operation of the entity accrue to the Tribe generally.

Commissioners are paid a $150.00 stipend per meeting plus mileage reimbursement up to $100.00. A letter of interest and resume to apply for the position of Ponca Tax Commission must be forwarded to Ponca Tribal Council, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, Nebraska or janc@poncatribe-ne.org. Open until filled.

HELP WANTED FOR POWWOW

The Powwow Committee is currently accepting letters of interest for cook and two cleaning positions for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska’s 26th Annual Powwow, August 9-11 in Niobrara. Letters of interest can be emailed to the Powwow Committee at powwowcommittee@poncatribe-ne.org, or Culture Director Dwight Howe at dhowe@poncatribe-ne.org, or mailed to: Dwight Howe, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760

Greetings from the Northern Ponca Elders Council

JoAn Ehlers-Schlotman

As you may know, the Elder’s group is comprised of two members from each district and one at-large member. We have been meeting at each of the Districts on a rotating basis. The schedule is posted in the Ponca offices. Anyone who has an interest in what we are discussing is welcome to come to our open meetings. We would be more than glad to have input from the Ponca members.

We have had many discussions about the cultural aspect of our Ponca Tribe. We see a great need to get everyone involved in preserving our heritage in the way of customs, language, and traditions before they are lost to us forever.

One of the ways that we can look at our Tribe is through genealogy. With the recent availability of getting DNA tested by Ancestry.com, 23andMe and other DNA sources, it is easier to find out where we come from and who we may be related to. I had an Ancestry DNA test done and not only have I found several Ponca relatives, but also found a relative living in Russia. It is fascinating to look at family trees to see where we come from and how we are related. I have started a Facebook page called Ponca Genealogy for the purpose of getting us closer together. This page is for asking and answering questions about our relatives. There have been pictures posted as well as other useful information.

I look forward to hopefully seeing you either at one of our meetings or on the Facebook page for further discussion.
PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 19-30

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian Tribe (P.L. 101-484) whose business affairs are conducted by the Ponca Tribal Council as defined in the Constitution approved July 22, 1994 by the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the Constitution of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Ponca Tribal Council exercises legislative powers to enact and promulgate resolutions and ordinances subject to all express restrictions upon such powers contained in the constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribal Council has reviewed the proposed amendments to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Law & Order Code, Title XII – Taxation; and

WHEREAS: These revisions were considered to meet the needs of the Prairie Flower Casino; ensure that any upcoming taxation needs are being met, and that we are updating taxes needed for the Tribe to run efficiently; and

WHEREAS: The proposed amendments to the Law & Order Code, Title XII – Taxation was placed on the April 1, 2019 Tribal Council Agenda to allow comments from the public and on April 8, 2019 and April 15, 2019 for first and second readings respectively. A notice of intent to amend the Law & Order Code, Title XII – Taxation was mailed to all heads of household at least 14 days prior to any final action satisfying the requirements for the adoption, amendment, or abolishment of Ordinances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ponca Tribal Council approves the amendments to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Law & Order Code, Title XII – Taxation General Provisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these amendments shall take effect on May 1, 2019.

CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY AND AFFIRM that the above and foregoing resolution was duly authorized and passed by the Tribal Council of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska at a duly called meeting held via lifesize on the 15 day of April, 2019 by a vote of 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent. Chairperson voting not voting. A Quorum of 7 was present.

ATTEST

Larry Wright, Jr., Chairman
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Candace Schmidt, Secretary
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after EACH term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding.

Summer 2019 Deadline is May 15th, 2019.

Fall 2019 Deadline is August 15th, 2019.

The Ponca Educational Trust Fund is available nationwide to students who enroll at one of the University of Nebraska Campuses/Online Courses: Lincoln ~ Omaha ~ Kearney (Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours per semester to be eligible)

Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 2018-2019 school year are eligible to receive a $500.00 Graduation Incentive!

- Our department is accepting projects for incentives in the following areas: Art, Essay/Poetry, and Student of the Month. *Winners may receive $100.00 for 1st place, $50.00 for 2nd place, and $25.00 for 3rd place. Grade divisions are as follows: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12)

- Attendance will only be considered after a student completes their entire school year and provides proof of their entire year. Perfect Attendance $100.00 (0-.49 days of absenteeism), $50.00 (.5-3.49 days absenteeism), and $25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

Deadline to apply for the 2018-19 school is July 31st, 2019.

All Education Department Applications and Program Information is available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at 402.371.8834 or aknudsen@poncatribe-ne.org.

*Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs*
PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 19-24

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian Tribe (P.L. 101-484) whose business affairs are conducted by the Ponca Tribal Council as defined in the Constitution approved July 22, 1994 by the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the Constitution of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Ponca Tribal Council exercises legislative powers to enact and promulgate resolutions and ordinances subject to all express restrictions upon such powers contained in the constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribal Council has reviewed the proposed amendments to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Law & Order Code Title IV – Domestic Relations; and

WHEREAS: The proposed amendments are being considered to ensure that income withholding orders that are valid upon their face may be immediately enforced by the Tribe. By amending these Rules, the payroll department of the Tribe may immediately enforce an Income Withholding Order for child support for employees that appear valid.

WHEREAS: The proposed amendments to the Law & Order Code Title IV – Domestic Relations was placed on the February 24, 2019 Tribal Council Agenda to allow comments from the public and on March 11, 2019 and March 18, 2019 for first and second readings respectively. A notice of intent to amend the Law & Order Code Title IV – Domestic Relations was mailed to all heads of household at least 14 days prior to any final action satisfying the requirements for the adoption, amendment, or abolition of Ordinances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ponca Tribal Council approves the amendments to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Law & Order Code Title IV – Domestic Relations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these amendments shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY AND AFFIRM that the above and foregoing resolution was duly authorized and passed by the Tribal Council of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska at a duly called meeting held via lifesize on the 18th day of March, 2019 by a vote of 8 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent. Chairperson voting not voting. A Quorum of 9 was present.

ATTEST

Larry Wright, Jr., Chairman
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Candace Schmidt, Secretary
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
When asked to serve on the Head Staff, even the Princesses, every effort should be made to always honor those positions by being ready well in advance of the scheduled time to gather. One should make every effort to dance when necessary in inter-tribal and any specials. It is a difficult thing to sit around the arena and requires a bit of a sacrifice but that is what is expected when honoring the drum and the circle. These are considered good teachings and you honor your family by doing so, remember we must respect our ways.
The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Newsletter is published monthly and printed by Printco Graphics, Omaha, Nebraska. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. In the event the 1st falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before. All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Jessica Hitchcock, jhitchcock@poncatribe-ne.org. See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the member’s side (you must log in) of the web site at: www.poncatribe-ne.org