

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Of Osni Ponka Youth Council

ARTICLE ONE

Name

The name of this group shall be the Osni Ponka Youth Council.

ARTICLE TWO

Objectives

The objectives of this group shall be to provide a collective voice and represent the tribal youth in all matters that concern them; to serve as a means of mobilizing and coordinating the actions of youth, other community members and organizations toward positive goals; to promote the development of future tribal leaders; to help solve problems facing tribal youth; to coordinate school and community service projects and provide opportunities for the youth to interact for fun and fellowship. In addition the youth shall focus on cultural revitalization and sustainability to include being an active generational voice in regards to tribal governing and tribal affairs.

ARTICLE THREE

Members

Section 1: The group shall consist of Ponca youth between the ages of 14 and 24 years of age. If a member is appointed before 24 years of age they may serve the remainder of their term regardless of the above classification.

Section 2: Each member shall have a right to cast one (1) vote on any matter submitted to a vote of the membership except for the Chair who shall only vote in case of a tie.

Section 3: The youth members may consist of one (1) participant from each District (D1, Niobrara and Sioux City areas; D2, Omaha area; D3, Lincoln area; and D4, Norfolk area) for a total of up to eight (8) council members and one (1) Chair to reflect Tribal Council. The balance of the positions will be at large.

Section 4: The members will be appointed by the current Youth Council members serving at the time. To fill vacant council member positions, a letter of interest will need to be provided to the Youth Council and a time will be scheduled for the presentation/interview. From this time on all elections shall be conducted by the Youth Council and Advisors.

The terms of each position will be reviewed and appointed by the current Youth Council. The terms of the Youth Council members will be until the member resigns, Youth Council takes action due to absences with majority vote to remove member, or the month of January following the member turning 24 years of age.

ARTICLE FOUR

Officers

Section 1: The officers of the group shall be Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Two or more principle offices may not be held by the same person. The terms of the Youth Council Officers will be voted on by the Youth Council every two years in January (even years).

Section 2: The Chairperson shall be the principal officer of the group and shall supervise and control the affairs of the group. The Chairperson will preside at all membership meetings.

Section 3: In absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall keep a log of all Youth Council activities and participation at each membership meeting.

Section 4: The Secretary shall keep minutes of the membership meetings and see that all notices are given in accordance with the bylaws, keep current membership list, and in general, perform all duties related to the office of Secretary.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall have responsibility of preparing the annual Youth Council budget and ensure all financial responsibilities are met. The Treasurer will prepare and present a financial report with the assistance of PTN Finance staff at each meeting.

Section 6: The Officers shall be elected by the Youth Council serving at the current time; occurring in January (even years).

ARTICLE FIVE

Advisors

Section 1: The Advisory Board shall be made up of two members from executive management of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, two from Tribal Council and two from community members for a total of 6; but at least one (1).

Section 2: Recruitment of the Advisory Board shall be through promotion of various platforms. A letter of interest shall be submitted to the Youth Council and Advisory Board. Together, the YC and Advisory Board shall make the selections based on the requirements of section 1

Section 3: The members of the Advisory Board will help facilitate meetings, offer guidance to youth, chaperone functions and activities of the youth council, and assist youth council members in fulfilling their responsibilities. One (or more) members of the Advisory Board will serve as the primary advisor(s) of the youth council.

Section 4: At least one member of the Advisory Council must be present at all youth council meetings and functions.

ARTICLE SIX

Meetings

Section 1: The Youth Council membership shall meet monthly. A notice of time, place and agenda will be provided to all voting members at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting. The monthly meeting will include reports from officers and/ or special committees.

Planning and duties for future business and social functions will be delegated during the business meetings.

Section 2: The presence of a majority of the current youth council membership shall be required to constitute a quorum necessary to conduct the youth council's business.

Section 3: If a member of the youth council misses three (3) meetings within a calendar year, the member will be removed from the youth council. If an officer is removed from the youth council due to absenteeism, the position will be filled at the following youth council meeting.

Section 4: All regular and special meetings of the Youth Council shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and consist of an agenda to include:

1. Roll Call
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Reading of minutes from previous meeting
4. Reports of Officers
5. Reports of Special Committees
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment

Section 5: Youth Council may conduct business and votes through email as long as the number of members considered for quorum participates.

Section 6: Youth Council may schedule a Special Meeting at any time needed to conduct additional business.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Affiliation

The Osni Ponka Youth Council will affiliate with the United National Indian Tribal Youth Network, also known as UNITY Network.

ARTICLE NINE

Work Time/Days

The Osni Ponka Youth Council will conduct independent work depending on Action Items given at the monthly or special meeting. Work time/days will be compensated by the amount determined by the majority of the Youth Council. Reports on work activity must be provided at the following meeting. All work outside of meetings will be assigned by the Secretary at the end of the monthly or special meeting. Each member will be assigned as a lead on a (group or individual) project or action item at the meeting.

ARTICLE TEN
Amendments of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the youth council by a majority vote of the entire Youth Council and approval by majority of Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Tribal Council.

TC Approved
5/18/17

TC Amended
6/15/20