

Chukma! Chin Chukma. "Celebrate - Liiholiitoblichí The Chickasaw Nation." What an appropriate name for our 21st Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival! I'm so excited about all the activities coming up that I will get to attend. Of course, by the time you read this everything will be over, but I want to reminisce a little bit.

Some of you remember when we called it "Byng Day." We weren't supposed to, but we did. We have come so far since I was honored to be the chairperson for the annual meeting. In those days, we hardly had a budget and we wanted to do so many things.

The State of the Nation address was delivered in the old Byng school auditorium. After the address, we ate in the school cafeteria (I can almost taste Mrs. Sutherland's chocolate cake) and the most beautiful gospel singing was held in the auditorium all afternoon. There was no parade, no senior activities or cultural activities, but we enjoyed it as much then as we do now because it was a celebration of Chickasaws coming together to visit with old friends and receive the report from the Governor on the progress of the Nation. What great times we had at Byng Day!

So, I guess the more things change, the more they stay the same. I am really looking forward to this year's Festival!

The Human Resources Committee entertained two resolutions in September. GR28-047 regarded the opportunity for the Nation to construct a softball complex dedicated for the use of the Chickasaw Nation. Such a complex would make it possible for Chickasaws to play softball throughout the year. The Nation would also be able to hold tournaments in Ada so the local teams wouldn't have to travel to Oklahoma City to play. There are several all-Indian softball teams in and around Ada who we expect would be very thankful for such a complex. The proposed complex would also include a youth size field for the little-leaguers.

GR28-048 would approve the Chickasaw Nation's application for federal funding to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Tribal Management Grant. Funds from this grant would be utilized to purchase and implement electronic documentation and charge capture software for all phases of patient care in the surgery center at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. Furthermore, the software includes built-in facets that would improve productivity as well as generate a vast array of reports. The grant proposal is not to exceed \$100,000 per year for up to three (3) years.

I certainly hope to hear from you so I know what I can do to enhance your quality of life. Please contact me through  
dean.mcmanus@chickasaw.net or call me at 580.436.1460.

Chi ihollo li!(I love you!)

Dean McManus, Pontotoc District Seat 4