

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Autumn has arrived with its warm days and cool nights. Absolutely beautiful weather here in the Chickasaw Nation.

I have just returned from the National Indian Conference on Aging held in Tacoma, Washington. The Chickasaw Honor Guard presented the colors and several other tribes followed ours with their veterans flying their tribal flags. It was moving, to say the least.

A lot of Chickasaw elders attend the conference and we had the second largest delegation next to the Navaho Nation. Elders attended from all of our senior sites as well as the Oklahoma City Community Council. The national conference is held every two years in different parts of the US and is hosted by local tribes in that area.

The newly elected representative from our district on the board for the National Indian Council on Aging is Thedo "Ted" Underwood. Ted is director of the Chickasaw Nation Veterans program. He replaces my colleague Dean McManus. Ted won a close decision over the Muskogee Creek candidate for this seat on the board.

All of our delegation attended meetings and participated in all the workshops. Thirteen members of our delegation, including yours truly, showed our traditional dress by modeling in a fashion show. Over 100 tribes from across the US were represented at the conference.

All construction within the Chickasaw Nation is right on schedule. Winstar Casino, Hotel and conference center and the new hospital continue to grow. The different sections of Winstar Casino will be opened as they are completed.

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reports the following statistics: for the month of August, 2008, there were 219 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 20,371. August Emergency Room

visits were 1,000. August saw 283 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 3,018 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,080 patients in July. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,156 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,037. The Durant Clinic saw 2,660 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,297 in August.

I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.