

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green. Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Here we are at the first of a new fiscal year. It seems that the days just fly by anymore!

At the first meeting of every fiscal year in October, the Legislature elects a new Chairperson and Secretary and appoints, or re-appoints, a Recording Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms. A new Chairperson sometimes selects Committee Chairs, and I expect that to be the case this year. Therefore, I may no longer be the Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee for Fiscal Year 2010. In any case, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for the several years I have spent as a Committee Chair. I sincerely appreciate the support of my fellow Legislators and especially the Chickasaw citizens that I have been able to assist either directly or indirectly. I pledge to continue to do my best no matter on which committees I sit. My concern for and dedication to the Chickasaw people is unwavering and, I am here to serve. The Legislature has 7 Standing Committees and 5 Ad Hoc Committees. I will probably sit on 5 or 6 of them.

Health Administrator Dr. Judy Goforth Parker gave the Health Care Committee a good report. Construction of the new Chickasaw Nation Medical Facility is now 85% complete and the roof is finished. Dr. Parker explained that the building insulation is on the outside so that all condensation that occurs will not be on the inside of the building causing cosmetic and health concerns. Beneficial occupancy (move-in date) is now projected as May 5, 2010, or shortly thereafter. Carl Albert will continue to be honored because the new road in to the Medical Center is named Carl Albert Drive. The Health System will now be known as the Chickasaw Nation Division of Health. Fun facts - the Medical Center contains 1,300 doors and 22,000 electrical receptacles and the building crew is currently adding up to 1,000 sheets of dry wall per day.

The following are statistics for the month of August, 2009, (last year's statistics); August saw 305 surgeries (283). The Same-day Clinic saw 3,289 patients (3,608). The Family Practice Clinic in Ada and satellite clinics saw 4,020 patients total in August (3,621). Internal Medicine saw 483 patients (433), Pediatrics saw 878 patients (711) and OB/GYN saw 49 patients (48).

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 time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you.