

Dear Chickasaw Friends. Hello, how are you? I hope this finds you well.

As your Legislator for Pontotoc District Seat 4, I serve as the Committee Chair of the Human Resources Committee and a member of the Legislative and Tribal Historical and Cultural Preservation Committees. These assignments just about covers all the services the Chickasaw Nation provides to our Indian people.

The Human Resources Committee presented 4 resolutions in August, all of which were approved by the Legislature. One resolution approved the application of the Chickasaw Nation for a grant to develop a system of inventory control. The grant will be for approximately \$300,000 over a 3 year period. The other 3 resolutions were to confirm the gubernatorial appointments of Brian Campbell, Tim Colbert and John Elliott to the board of directors of RSE Enterprises, Inc., a corporation wholly owned by the Chickasaw Nation. The Legislature approved the 3 appointments because the appointees are all experienced and very capable and are dedicated to the welfare of the Chickasaw Nation.

I attend the monthly meetings of the Chickasaw Historical Society (CHS) as I am able and I wish to inform you that the CHS board of directors is planning to commission Enoch Kelly Haney to sculpt a statue of Chief Tishomingo for the new museum at Tishomingo City. The new museum will be named "Hayochi" which means "to look for or search for." The board of directors chose Chief Tishomingo because he was the last Chickasaw war chief and was revered and followed as the "wise one" or Hopaye during our removal. Chief Tishomingo was held in high regard by all who knew him, not just Chickasaws. He died while on the Trail at a very old age. Please look for upcoming announcements regarding fundraisers for this project, and plan to participate.

The Cultural Resources Division is busier these days than I could have imagined! The Dance Troupe, excellent ambassadors that they are, just returned from Gallup, NM, where they participated in the 86th Annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonies. It was reported that the Dance

Troupe participated in 2 parades as well as dance activities each night. It was estimated that over 3,000 or more attended each session. In September, the Dance Troupe will travel to Spring Park in Tuscumbia, AL, to participate in the Oka Kapassa (return to cold water) Native American Festival. Their calendar always seems to be full of requests for them to participate in many activities across the U.S.

There is not enough room in this short article to report all the activities concerning the planning of this year's Chickasaw Festival. Please notice the agenda for the Festival as it is published and I hope to see you there and visit a while!

If you have questions or comments, please email me through dean.mcmanus@chickasaw.net or contact me through the address or telephone numbers listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times. Happiness is people like you!

God Bless

Dean McManus, Pontotoc District Seat 4