

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

The Human Resources Committee met on July 5 and approved resolution GR22-057, Gubernatorial Appointment of Billie Easterling to the Chickasaw Election Commission; GR22-058, Resolution in Support of Native American Healthy Marriage Initiative Program; and GR22-059, Resolution in Support of Family Violence Prevention and Services. The resolutions were placed on the session agenda and were subsequently passed by the Legislature on July 15.

I attended a meeting of the Elders Council this month and was treated to a presentation of the Chickasaw legislative process. The presentation was given by Scott Colbert and Chairperson Linda Briggs. Legislator Wanda Blackwood Scott and I contributed information regarding the Human Resources Committee, which I chair, and the Education Committee which Wanda chairs.

I also attended a meeting of the Cultural Center Advisory Board. I am so impressed with the plans for the Cultural Center. It will be more than I ever imagined. I believe that the Chickasaw will find it to be a source of great pride. Even though it will not open for another 2 years, the buildings are already under construction and the building interiors and statuary are already being planned.

Those of you who voted in this year's elections - thank you. Thanks especially to those of you who voted for me and thanks to those who voted for someone else because you exercised your right to have a say in who your tribal leaders are. We should all be thankful that we have such a right and should exercise that right whenever we can.

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