

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

The Human Resources Committee met on June 6 and approved resolution GR22-052 Assurances for the Youthbuild Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs. The resolution approves funding for the establishment of a training center to be located in Sulphur, Oklahoma. The training center will begin by focusing on the youth of our Nation.

This is the first step toward getting the training center needed so badly for all our Chickasaw people. There are so many job opportunities with the Nation now because of our growth and we need to train our Chickasaw people to step into those jobs.

Ms Gayla Calloway of the Ada Area Community Emergency Services (ACES) gave a presentation to the Legislative Committee of the Whole on June 13. ACES works closely with the Nation's emergency services programs to take care of those who need emergency shelter, food, clothing and transportation. We began this coordination of efforts when tribal headquarters moved to Ada in 1977. We certainly appreciate the help of ACES when our programs do not meet all the needs of our people.

I was fortunate to be able to attend this year's Red Earth Festival. Legislative Chairperson Linda Briggs and our attorney Robert Cheadle participated in the opening ceremony Grand Entry by carrying the Chickasaw flag. It was so beautiful! I sat in awe at the dancers in all their beautiful regalia. Red Earth mixes the regalia and dances of approximately 100 tribes throughout North America. I enjoyed it so much and felt so proud for all our Indian people.

As for a short report on the National Indian Council on Aging - the Board of Directors has decided on the theme of "Moving Forward, Honoring Commitments of the Past and Advocating for the Future" for the Council's 2006 conference scheduled for September 16-19, 2006, at the

Tulsa Convention Center.

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