

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee!

I have just returned from our first ever Listening Conference where Chickasaws from all across our great land came to talk and work together regarding the 5 most needed services outside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. I met so many wonderful Chickasaws who made me proud to be a part of our great Nation. Each and every one I met and listened to touched my heart. They all felt like family members by Tuesday when I left.

They were indeed a large family who worked hard to give us information regarding the needs of all Chickasaws who live outside the boundaries. My sincere wish was that they be blessed with a safe journey home and that we can expand our services to each of them and all Chickasaws wherever you live in this great country.

Kudos to all the Chickasaw Students of the Month. You worked hard for those good grades. Kudos also to the Living History Players who so ably entertained us at the Listening Conference and taught us about our history. Those Players are: Brandon Blankenship and Kate Duty (who are also in the Children's Choir), Jeremy Wallace, Stoney Stepps, Rick Miller, Kyra Childers, Pamela Aguilar, Steve Jacobs, Brittney Trail and Robert Cheadle. Chukmoski!!

I've promised you that I would again give you the statistics from the Health System so here they are: In the month of January, 2006, there were 236 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 15,869. January Emergency Room visits were 1,106. January saw 246 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,986 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,911 patients in January. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,437 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,593. The Durant Clinic saw 2,795 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 998.

Until next month, may you each enjoy good health. 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.