

TENNESSEE NATIVE AMERICAN CONVENTION  
July 19, 2009  
Labry Hall, Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN

Presiding: Marcia Cross, 1st Vice-chairperson  
Parliamentarian: Turner McCullough  
Opening Prayer: Van Lynch  
Members present:  
Memphis - Ed and Helen Wagner Vinson  
WTN - Patty Beecham  
Nashville - Dale Mitchell. Sandi Perry  
MTN - Ramona Reece  
Chattanooga - Wally Leary  
Knoxville - Herstle and Marcia Cross  
ETN - none  
Members-at-large - Evangeline Lynch  
Alternate - Charles Lawson  
Visitors - Dr. James Cossingham, Glen Reece, Nathan Cross

Reviewed and approved agenda (adding C under Old Business)

#### REPORTS

Approved and corrected the January 14, 2009 minutes.  
Approved treasurer's report.

Accepted and approved resignations of Doug Kirby, chairperson of TNNAC, and Chrisie Moore as MTN caucus chairperson (due to Chrisie's serious illness).  
Elections for these vacancies were held with Marcia Cross elected as Interim Chairperson and Wally Leary as Interim 1st Vice-chair, Doug Kirby continues as a member-at-large.  
Regular elections will be held in October after convention.  
Ramona Reece was elected as chair for the MTN caucus.  
Dr. James Cossingham was nominated and elected as vice-chair for the MTN caucus.

Updates were heard from each caucus chair. MTN will now have only one caucus site.  
Ramona gave a detailed report, stating that the new site will be at the Holiday Inn Express in Clarksville, (see attachment).

Sec. Lynch read a communication from Val Ohle, the chair of TCIA, stating that the Commission has a one-year wind-down period before its termination on June 30, 2010.

#### OLD BUSINESS

A. The Proposed ByLaw Amendment and B. TNNAC Neutrality were both tabled until the next meeting in October.

C. Discussion was held on possible vacancies on other state commissions. It appears that the Human Rights Commission and the Arts Commission have vacancies. There are six seats available on the Human Rights Commission. Only three candidates have listed other choices beside a seat on the Indian Affairs Commission.

## NEW BUSINESS

The board went into closed session to finish its business of reviewing applicants' genealogy. The chair, Herstle Cross, gave a Genealogy report to the board in that Indian Preference had been granted to Tammera Hicks at the May 31, 2009 meeting.

Van Lynch clarified the use of the TNNAC website; Tom Kunesh runs it and Sec. Lynch sends in material to webmaster Kunesh. TNNAC essentially owns the website.

Marcia Cross called attention to the importance of the caucus election procedures found on pp. 12-23 in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), to study them and follow them explicitly.

Wally Leary called attention to the Confidential Disclosure Agreement and the Code of Ethics. All board members have read and signed the Disclosure Agreement, but Code of Ethics had not been signed.

TNNAC heard five complaints that had been communicated. All had to do with the lack of publicity for the caucuses. The only complaint written on the TNNAC Complaint Form from Debra Capino, Kelso, TN, was dealt with concerning the lack of publicity for her caucus. The others, which were not formally written on a Complaint Form also dealt with lack of publicity for the caucuses. Each caucus chair reported that they had made up flyers to be distributed and contacted the media, particularly the newspapers.

Complaint by Valerie Ohle alleged two TNNAC members in her division were guilty of "collusion" regarding the upcoming 1 Aug. caucus election. Motion by Ramona Reece, that complainant Valerie Ohle be sent notice by the secretary requesting her attendance at the next meeting, and that she present at said meeting documentation substantiating her allegation. Seconded and approved.

Discussion was held regarding complaints by Tom Kunesh pertaining to his opponent, TNNAC applicant Tammera Hicks, who was running for his current position on the TN Commission of Indian Affairs. Mr. Kunesh had presented several arguments to the board, but had not presented any credible or certifiable documentation regarding his allegations.

A motion was made to add a disclaimer to the website regarding what is reported by applicants in their biographical data. Motion seconded and approved to add the following disclaimer.

"DISCLAIMER: Candidate information provided is as received from each candidate, which may or may not include a sworn affidavit thereof. TNNAC claims no responsibility for the accuracy of such claims nor liability for accuracy of such claims." Secretary to notify webmaster to post to TNNAC website ASAP.

Submitted: October 21, 2009, Evangeline Lynch, secretary, TNNAC

July 19, 2009 minutes accepted as corrected on 13 February 2010.

TNNAC Meeting  
19 July 2009  
RE: Agenda, Item 2. Reports Caucus chairs/updates

### **Middle TN Caucus Chair Report**

As members know, the seat for chair of middle TN caucus came to me late in the election process, due to unfortunate life changes for Chrisie Moore and Doug Kirby. Chrisie resigned from TNNAC on 23 June '09, and Doug from the office of TNNAC chairman 30 June. Because of the circumstances with Chrisie's health, my contact with them has been extremely limited. I have done everything possible not to place any unnecessary stress on either one of them. It is my hope that Chrisie will fully recover, and quickly, so that she may return to be active once again. Understanding the 2009 caucus elections and the convention are just around the corner, and there is work that has to be accomplished, but afterwards I would like for TNNAC to do something to show appreciation for Chrisie's service in the community.

On 13 July, I was able to confirm with Doug, the Edgar Evins site had only been secured for 13 June, the original caucus date. Doug also confirmed at that time he would not be able to run a second caucus, so there will be one caucus location for the mid TN area. The holiday weekend, of 4 July I was informed the site at Lyles Community Center had been reserved well in advance by another party for 1 August, therefore, it will not be available for TNNAC. I did not want to add to the existing state of excitement surrounding the caucus elections, so to avoid further alarm, I did not announce previously there were no sites secured for the mid TN caucus. I felt it best to focus on locating a suitable place for an election that was due to take place in less than one month.

I had hoped to find something close to one of the two original caucus locations. Lyles is a small community and doesn't offer much in the way of conference centers or meeting rooms. The few places I did locate had already been leased, or were only available until 2pm on Saturdays. On 14 July, I was able to speak with the appropriate party at Edgar Evins State Park, and was informed the building they lease for events had already been rented. I could not afford the time to continue exploring this area, so I expanded to surrounding areas. Every facility I checked on in those areas also had either been reserved, or leasing fees ran 100 dollars or greater.

Hindered by unfamiliarity with what those areas might have to offer, but more so, by time constraints due to the fast approaching election date, I moved to familiar territory, Montgomery County. I have permission to use (cost free) two parks that have historical significance concerning American Indian Peoples. The major drawback, neither park accepts reservations, additionally neither have enclosed facilities or amenities such as tables, chairs etc. Considering these factors, and the weather at that time of year, I felt it would be more conducive for the voters and the caucus staff to conduct the caucus indoors.

I have secured a site and have received confirmation from the general manager. The leasing fee of \$60.25 will be due the day of the caucus. I am requesting a statement from TNNAC for tax purposes, once I submit a paid receipt. The site for the mid TN caucus will be held in the conference room at the following location:  
Holiday Inn Express ~ 700 Sango Road (Hwy. 76) ~ Clarksville, TN 37043  
This site is easy to find, has handicap facilities, adequate parking, and is easily accessible, as it is right off Interstate 24 at exit 11. Doors will open at 5pm with

refreshments available. Site information was submitted to the secretary and was approved by her on 16 July 2009.

I'm still in the process of trying to obtain contact information on some of the 2007 middle TN delegates, as this information is not available through TNNAC. Record of contact with delegates or actively involved persons: **(1) Doug Kirby** - [7/13 accepted *subject to* Chrisie's health]; **(2) Philinese Slaughter** - [7/15 per phone, no response as of this date]; **(3) Sheila Jones** - [7/15/ declined]; **(4) Lance Davis** - [7/15/ phone disconnected no forwarding, no response to e-mail request as of this date]; **(5) Jimmy Reedy** - [7/15/ declined]; **(6) Lori Reedy** - [7/15/ declined]; **(7) Glen Reece** - [7/16/ accepted]; **(8) James Meeks** - [7/17 accepted]; **(9) Floyd Ayers** - [7/18 declined, but was able to assist by forwarding my e-mail request for volunteers to **(10) Wesley Bryan**, and **(11) Patricia Bryan**, Floyd also said if he saw **(12) Wade King** he would relay the request]; **(13) Winona Yellowhammer** - [7/18 request by e-mail awaiting response]; **(14) Vicky Garland** - [7/18 request by e-mail awaiting response. I requested Vicky to forward my e-mail to **(15) Jesse Garland**, and **(16) Cathy Stewart**, as well as **(17) Brenda Oliver**]; In the e-mail request I asked if any copied parties had contact with **(18) Charles Page** and, **(19) Lisa Page** to please forward the message]. I am also requesting the vacancy of vice chair for Middle TN caucus be filled. At present I am the only staff member for this area, and would appreciate having some assistance.

Concerning notice to the public, I have contacted various media outlets regarding Public Service Announcements and will be contacting others. Any outlets with greater range than middle TN will be provided information relevant to the caucus area(s) it covers. I have a flyer that is available for distribution via electronic means or by hardcopies, and it is posted on the internet. I have asked the delegates of 2007, and others to please help distribute the flyer to any parties eligible to participate in the mid TN caucus and to the various community notices available to them. I will be sending e-mails to those I have contact information for. Extensive TNNAC election information has been available on **Tennessee Native Times'** website for months at, ([http://www.tntimes.net/Pages/TNNAC\\_Election\\_2009.htm](http://www.tntimes.net/Pages/TNNAC_Election_2009.htm)), and updates are published regularly. I prepared basic flyers for all caucus sites that have been announced and they can be accessed at the link above.

I request this report in its entirety be made a permanent part of the published minutes for the 19 July 2009 TNNAC meeting. I will furnish an electronic copy for that purpose.

Ramona Reece  
Caucus Chair - Middle TN  
19 July 2009