

TENNESSEE NATIVE AMERICAN CONVENTION

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Labry Hall, Cumberland University

Lebanon, TN

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chairperson, Marcia Cross.

Opening prayer by Evangeline Lynch.

Dale Mitchell, Nashville caucus chair, read his resignation from the board effective immediately, then, excused himself from the meeting.

Welcome and introductions:

Parliamentarian - Turner McCullough

Roll Call:

Memphis – Ed Vinson absent, Helen Wagner Vinson absent

Nashville - Sandy Perry absent

Chattanooga - Wally Leary present, Scott Sanders present

Knoxville - Marcia Cross present, Herstle Cross present

WTN - none

Middle TN - Ramona Reece present, Dr. James Cossingham present

East Tn - B.J. Nuckles present, Gene Taylor absent, Pat Taylor absent

Members-at-large:

WTN - Evangeline Lynch present

Middle TN - Doug Kirby present

Alternates:

Charles Lawson (Nashville) present

Harold Robinette (East TN) present

Visitors:

TCIA Commissioners: James Meeks, Tom Kunesh, Jimmie Thigpen, Alice Henry

Glen Reece

Tammera Hicks

Christine Goddard

Dale Henry

Diane Christmas

Dawn Isham

Cheryl McKenry and minor child

Cliff Caudle

The agenda was amended thusly:

Motion by Herstle Cross to call in commissioners later during closed session to discuss letter from TCIA's chair and other relevant items. Passed. It was clarified members only would be present during genealogy and IP reviews.

Motion by Doug Kirby to accept the agenda as amended. Passed

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$410.40; Expenses: \$28.97; Ending Balance: \$381.43. Motion to approve, seconded. Motion passed.

Election of officers was postponed until after the convention as stated in SOP.

Point of Order, per Robert's Rules of Order abstention votes are not nay votes and are not to be considered in populating the tally/percentile, therefore Ms. Hicks did receive greater than 51% of the votes regarding her Indian preference. (Results reported from vote called for on 30 July 2009: 8 yeas, 6 nays, 3 abstentions. Records corrected to reflect proper interpretation of results and that having met all the necessary requirements, Ms Hicks is granted IP.

Ramona Reece motioned the 19 July 2009 minutes be corrected and later reviewed at the next regular business meeting, due to the heavy agenda load of the current meeting. Seconded by Jim Cossingham, and approved.

#### Executive Session

Motion made and seconded to grant Indian Preference to Charles Lawson. Approved.

Five complaints were discussed. Secretary Lynch was instructed to inform each complainant of the results.

Two complaints by Chattanooga constituents, Ms. Whitehead and Mr. Cooze, regarding unreported tallies for that caucus were found to be legitimate complaints, as each caucus is to report an exact count. Doug Kirby and Turner McCullough were appointed to tally all ballots from the Chattanooga election.

Complainant: Valerie Ohle, was previously invited to attend the 17 October 2009 meeting and notified she would need to provide the board with documentation supporting her complaint at said meeting. Ms. Ohle did not respond, attend, nor did she furnish any supporting evidence regarding her complaint. Additionally the board determined Ms. Ohle had not followed proper procedures in filing her complaint. Motion to dismiss complaint, seconded and approved.

Complaint filed by Memphis constituent, Diane Christmas was heard next. The board privately interviewed two Memphis constituents that were present at the 1 August '09 caucus election. Then additional Memphis constituents that had participated in the 1 August '09 caucus, were brought in and interviewed. The board found no conflicts or discrepancies in the testimonies given. After lengthy discussion and further disclosure of how the election was conducted, the board determined improper procedures had been followed and incorrect instructions had been given to the electorate, causing an erroneous outcome regarding candidates proceeding to the convention level and list of delegates. Motion made to repeal the 1 August '09 election and conduct another caucus election for the Memphis Metro area, motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the date of the Memphis Caucus Election and which TNNAC members would assist in conducting the election. Doug Kirby, Jim Cossingham and Ramona Reece volunteered to assist Ed Vinson, Memphis Caucus Chair. Motion

was made to accept the volunteers and to conduct the caucus election on 14 November 2009, in Memphis TN, motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the applications of TCIA Memphis candidates, Phillip D. Stevens and Helen Wagner Vinson. Motion was made their applications would remain valid for the scheduled 14 November 2009 caucus election and that applications would be open to new candidates that wish to run for the TN Commission of Indian Affairs, other state boards and commissions, TNNAC and ACTIA, motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The board called for complainant Tom Kunesh, in order to review his complaints. The board was notified Mr. Kunesh had left approximately 5 minutes prior, along with TNNAC's Chattanooga caucus officers, stating they were headed back to Chattanooga. A member asked if anyone had Tom's cell number and if so, requested he be called so as to provide the complainant the opportunity to return, be heard and present supporting documents regarding his disgruntlements, but none present had his mobile number. Further discussion confirmed Mr. Kunesh had been given ample opportunity to provide the board with credible documentation regarding his complaints, but that he had not done so, thereby he had failed to meet the SOP's "burden of proof" requirement. Based on the board's findings the motion was made to dismiss all of Mr. Kunesh's complaints, motion seconded and unanimously approved.

In full session, Convention was discussed. E. Lynch read a communication from WTN that they will be unable to host convention due to chair and co-chair resigning and lack of available manpower. (Attachment 1)

Memphis constituents present, offered to secure a location and assist in providing resources for the Convention. Motion made to hold convention in Memphis on December 05, 2009, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Bartlett. Motion seconded and approved.

The secretary, Evangeline Lynch, then read her resignation from the board due to health issues that affect her ability to drive and travel long distances and because of the added stress that TNNAC's problems bring into her life.

Submitted: October 25, 2009 8:34 PM, Evangeline Lynch, secretary, TNNAC

**October 17, 2009 minutes accepted as corrected on 13 February 2010.**

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Prior to Secretary Evangeline Lynch leaving, a motion was made to appoint Ramona Reece as interim secretary. Motion seconded and approved.

Motion by Herstle Cross to accept the resignations of Patty Beecham (West TN), Jon Greene (West TN), Dale Mitchell (Nashville), and Evangeline Lynch (West TN). Seconded by Jim Cossingham. Approved.

Motion by Herstle Cross to move alternate Charles Lawson to vacant Vice-chair seat of Nashville Caucus and Sandy Perry to Chair. Seconded by Doug Kirby. Approved.

Motion by Doug Kirby to make Turner McCullough TNNAC's official parliamentarian. Seconded by Billy Nuckles. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Herstle Cross to nominate Glen Reece to fill vacant alternate seat in Middle TN Caucus. Seconded by Doug Kirby. Motion and nominee approved.

Discussion regarding smooth transition between change of secretaries. It was decided outgoing secretary, Evangeline Lynch, was to finish old business (corrections to July minutes, prepare October minutes and prepare responses to complaints). Interim secretary, Ramona Reece to take office upon effective date of Secretary Lynch's resignation, but was appointed to immediately assist with the duties of the office by attending to any new business, (which includes preparations for the redo of the Memphis caucus elections).

Public comments, none.

Closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 PM

Attachments (4):

1. Statement from West TN at-large rep. announcing inability to host 2009 Convention
2. Resignation Letter – Patty Beecham and Jon Greene (Effective 09/10/09)
3. Resignation Letter – Dale Mitchell (Effective 10/17/09)
4. Resignation Letter – Evangeline Lynch (Effective 11/06/09)

Submitted by Interim Secretary, Ramona Reece

Balance of **October 17, 2009 minutes accepted as read on 13 February 2010.**

## Convention

**Evangeline Lynch** (vanlynch38330@hotmail.com)

Sat 10/10/09 11:44 AM

ellencross@aol.com

wjleary@gmail.com; Evangeline Lynch (vanlynch38330@hotmail.com)

Marcia:

Please make this announcement at the next Board meeting and not before. I'll explain why at the end.

Thanks.

### TENNESSEE NATIVE AMERICAN CONVENTION

October 17, 2009

Labry Hall, Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN

The West Tennessee caucus regrets to inform the TNNAC board that they will be unable to host the 2009 Convention. The caucus chairperson and vice-chairperson have both resigned from the board, and West Tennessee no longer has the faithful numbers of manpower with convention experience that it once had. Ms. Lynch helped with much of the planning and organizing for the regularly scheduled convention date, but she is physically unable to host one alone and will not attempt to do so.

Submitted: Evangeline Lynch, member-at-large, WTN

~~Knowing that WTN is the next venue for the 2009 convention, an attempt should be made to keep it in WTN. I have asked Jimmie Thigpen if his group, the AIA in Millington, TN will be the host. After he consults with them, he will inform me of their decision. I suggested to him that convention does not have to be in the Memphis area. Convention depends on what facilities are available this late in the year and the organizational skills of the host group. In my opinion, having convention might be moot, depending on what decision is made about TCIA on Oct. 24.~~

Van

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection.

**From:** Patty Beecham [amayeduhi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2009 1:25 PM  
**To:** Marcia Cross; Marcia Cross  
**Cc:** Wally Leary; Evangeline Lynch; Ed Vinson; Helen W Vinson; Dale Mitchell; Sandi Perry; Douglas Kirby; Herstle Cross; Ramona Reece; Dr. Jim Cossingham; Scott Sanders; Billy Joe Nuckles; Gene Taylor; Charles Lawson; Harold Robinette; Jon Greene; Patty Beecham  
**Subject:** Tnnac Resignations

Marcia and All:

Effective immediately, 10 September 2009, both Jon Greene and I, Patty Beecham, resign from TNNAC: Tennessee Native American Convention. This is not about our conviction to the Indian community for we still hold true to our values and our culture. This is about money, plain and simple. I'll be damned if either of us will pay a dime to anyone in this turmoil.

A few of you will be well pleased that we, especially me, are resigning. Have your fun and excitement. It will not last forever. This entire fiasco will damage all of us...you included. Good will triumph over evil.

I wish nothing but the best for you all.

Patty Beecham

And....signing for...Jon Greene

10/29/2009

October 17, 2009

To the TNNAC Board:

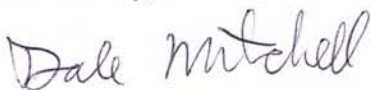
I will not be participating in any of the voting or decision-making that goes on here today, and will not remain to observe today's meeting. Since I am an officer of ACTIA, an organization that has expressed a lack of faith in the ability and/or desire of the present TNNAC Board's continuation as an impartial electoral organization for the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs, I feel it would be a conflict of interest for me to continue my affiliation with the Tennessee Native American Convention.

So, at this time I am tendering my resignation as Metro Nashville Caucus Chair and as a member of the TNNAC Board.

There are still some good and well-meaning people in this organization, but I feel the Board has become tainted over the last few years by partisan politics and people with selfish agendas who have caused this organization to lose respect within the Tennessee Indian Community and in the greater populace, as well.

For those of you who are still trying to do things in the right way and for the right reasons, I wish you well. But, as for me, it is time for me to walk away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Mitchell".

Dale Mitchell

563 Watson Branch Dr.

Franklin, TN 37064

October 17, 2009

To the Board of the Tennessee Native American Convention  
Marcia Cross, Interim Chairperson

I hereby tender my resignation from TNNAC as a member-at-large and as secretary effective ~~immediately~~ for the following reasons:

*When I complete my tasks on 11/06/09*

(1) First and foremost, my physical limitations are making it increasingly difficult to attend the board meetings.

(2) The increasingly stressful situation within TNNAC with its ever present differences in politics among its membership, and the present lawsuit we face makes it difficult to give my best efforts for the good of the Indian community.

The Tennessee Native American Convention has capable members who have and are giving this board their best skills and talent, and I trust those members will continue to use their contributions wisely. Otherwise, TNNAC will have outlived its usefulness for which it was created.

Respectfully submitted,



Evangeline W. Lynch

*I will not sign my name to #1 on the Interrogatories. E.L.*