



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

June of 2025



Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,

Welcome to this month's edition of the Kiowa District 7 Monthly Newsletter, where we focus on fostering our connections and exploring opportunities to come together as a community around our Kiowa Gourd Dance ceremonies. This issue focuses on legislative updates, providing insights, updates, and highlights of activities of the Kiowa Legislature.

Enjoy your time with family, friends, and extended relatives during the 4th of July Holiday. Many people are often confused about why the Kiowa people gather and camp together on this weekend. The truth is the timing of the 4th of July Holiday coincides with the timing of our annual sun dance, which we no longer practice. Since many people have holiday time off from work, we, as Kiowa people, use this time to reconnect with our Kiowa spirituality through the drum. May all our camps enjoy the Tdien-pbay-gaw week together!!

All Kiowa District 7 citizens are all invited to stop by my camp for a cold drink, snack, and even to have dinner with my family in the evenings. We will be camping in the Carnegie Lower Park on the Northeast corner of the Encampment.

Aho,
Warren Queton



THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Outdated Tribal Services Eligibility Requirements

When you think about it, if you are a member of the Kiowa Tribe and live outside your tribal service area, you are not a part of tribal governance because most of the laws, regulations, eligibilities are for those who live inside the tribal service area (except for some health services/benefits). It appears Oklahoma tribes have taken this “tribal service” federal assistance restriction clause and normalized it as a standard requirement for most tribal services, regardless of where the funding comes from. Some of the current literature on Indian development has suggested that some tribes are disenrolling tribal members to get more of the gaming money and services to full blood only tribal members. I was visiting with my Kiowa tribal legislator, and he told me that the Kiowa tribe would be hosting a “free” workshop focused on helping Kiowa citizens develop their wills in Tulsa and Oklahoma City locations. I was happy to hear that such a service would be provided especially for the elderly who lived in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas, which are outside the tribal service area. He then told me that the workshop would be offered by a tribally focused non-profit agency through a grant and that before you could participate in the workshop you would have to live in the tribal service area of the tribe AND meet certain income guidelines. I asked then why they even offer the service to Oklahoma City and Tulsa tribal members? They obviously live outside the tribal service area and probably make too much money even if they are living on a fixed income. This tribal service area requirement has gotten out of control for the Kiowa Tribe. I don’t know about the other 37 federally tribes that occupy this state, but I do know that being Kiowa has no benefits (except for a one-time elderly payment, to those living outside the impoverished rural areas around Carnegie, Hobart, Darko, etc. which are in the boundaries of the Kiowa tribal service area. I don’t live in the area, yet the tribal order continues to count me as a number with a dollar bill amount that it receives as a tribe to provide services for those that live in the tribal service area. Why be a member of the tribe if there is nothing to gain?

District 7 is simply too broad for this constitution we try to function under. We need

to sit down and discuss its relativity to tomorrow and make some adjustments for the benefit of our overall tribal population, not just a few. Why not a commission to examine and make amendment suggestions as part of a report? Taking a status quo attitude and approach to change will not be in the best interest of our people today and tomorrow, as well as the sovereignty of the tribe. If you don't agree please feel free to express your "vision" for the future of our tribe. I get tired of listening to myself.



Legislative Summary for June

The Kiowa Tribal Legislature proactively addressed several significant topics in June, focusing on updates to the Election Ordinance, the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO), and Budget Appropriation details. These efforts highlight the Legislature's commitment to fostering transparency, efficiency, and growth within the Kiowa Tribe's operations and governance structures.

Election Ordinance Updates

The Legislature conducted a detailed review of the **Kiowa Tribe Election Ordinance**, ensuring its continued alignment with the principles of transparency and democratic integrity. Among the key updates:

- Enhanced regulations to safeguard the secrecy of the ballot and voter privacy.
- Strengthened eligibility and procedural requirements for the Election Commission to uphold both fairness and impartiality.
- Reinforced the roles and responsibilities of Poll Officials to maintain order and efficiency during elections.

This commitment ensures the elections reflect the collective will of the Kiowa people while adhering to the highest standards of governance.

Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Developments

Addressing economic security and workforce equality, the Legislature advanced key provisions in the updated **TERO Ordinance**:

- Reinforcement of **Indian Preference in Employment**, promoting hiring, training, and retention opportunities for tribal members, giving particular emphasis to local Indian citizens.
- Structuring a **TERO Fee** for construction contracts and businesses operating on tribal land, with proceeds directed towards apprenticeship programs and employment initiatives.
- Establishment of rigorous certification processes for Indian-owned businesses to ensure authenticity and compliance.

These advancements underline the Tribe's dedication to fostering economic

growth, workforce equity, and employment opportunities for its members, further solidifying the Tribe's economic sovereignty.

Budget Appropriation Developments

Budget planning and allocation remained a critical focus. Key items from the month's discussions included:

- **Cola Raises:** A proposed 3% cost-of-living adjustment across the board for all tribal employees to ensure salaries remain competitive and fair. The possibility of codifying this raise into law was deliberated, with Warren Queton as a potential sponsor.
- **ARPA Funds:**
 - Examination of the status and obligations of **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funding to determine if all resources were efficiently allocated by the December 31, 2024, deadline
 - Clarification of obligations, with specific inquiries into how ARPA funds were used to support entities like **Kiowa Inc.**
- **Education Funding:**
 - Discussions on unifying back-to-school funds under the Education Department were initiated, with \$220,000 allocated for educational support.
- **Emergency and Natural Resource Management** received funding proposals, including resources for buffalo management, fire suppression efforts, and additional fire safety measures.

The Legislature's fiscal commitment extends beyond addressing immediate needs, with strategic allocations ensuring the continued development of critical services and infrastructure for tribal citizens.

Join the Discussion

The June activities highlight the Legislature's active efforts to uphold the Tribe's democratic processes, enhance economic inclusivity, and optimize resource allocation. Citizens are encouraged to stay informed and participate in upcoming sessions to maintain engagement with the legislative processes shaping the Kiowa Nation's future.

**Tero Review and Meet District 7's Summer Intern,
Devyn Wickson**



Welcome Devyn!

The District 7 Tulsa Office is excited to introduce and welcome student intern Devyn Wickson to the team! Devyn is a Kiowa citizen from the Lonewolf family with Cherokee, and Choctaw descendency. Currently enrolled at Tulsa Community College, Devyn is studying Psychology in pursuit of a master's degree with plans to provide mental health services for Indian country.

TERO Summary:

District 7 legislator Warren Queton, District 4 legislator Cole Delaune, the legislative legal counsel, as well as the Current TERO commissioners appointed by the executive branch are bringing important updates to the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. The Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) provides structure and stipulations to the way business is conducted through the tribe and on tribal land. This Kiowa TERO document is focused on promoting Indian employment and the protection of Indian employment. This ordinance holds the tribe accountable to working with Indians, for Indians and promoting growth within tribal business. Employment, rights for employees, contracting Indian owned business, work safety and the way that we enter into agreements with outside business are all important in that they need to be regulated fairly. Our current TERO document that the tribe is working under is from 1996. Considering the growth and development of the tribe as well as the growth of technology and

society, it is necessary to review these laws consistently. More information on the TERO ordinance will soon be available via Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok as well as the Kiowa website. Kiowa legislators are committed to growth, structure and accountability which we feel is reflected in this ordinance.

Episode 16 available now on YouTube and Spotify.



The image is a promotional graphic for a podcast episode. At the top left, there is a line-art icon of a pair of headphones and a vintage-style microphone. To the right of this icon, a magenta rounded rectangle contains the text "EPISODE 16 OF IDÓN:GYÀ!". Below this, a central photograph shows three people sitting at a wooden table in a recording studio. On the left is a man wearing a white polo shirt with a red "OU" logo and a black baseball cap. In the center is a woman with long dark hair wearing a colorful striped shirt. On the right is a man in a green polo shirt. A professional microphone on a boom arm is positioned in front of them. On the table, there is a laptop, a tablet, and a patterned rug. Below the photo, another magenta rounded rectangle contains the text "A CONVERSATION WITH DR. TONI TSATOKE-MULE". In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo featuring a Native American figure on horseback, with the word "Kiowa" and "District" visible.

Links can be found on our Linktree, linktr.ee/kiowaD7

Upcoming Events

Kiowa District 7 Language Class

JULY 21ST

SUMMER LANGUAGE STUDY

**JOIN IN 2ND LEVEL CREDENTIALING
WITH TEACHER CANDIDATES**

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS

@ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

**Location : Kiowa District 7 Office
123 24th Ave NW
Norman, Oklahoma 73069**

ZOOM OPTION

Meeting ID: 876 3205 2759
Password: kiowa



**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT RHOADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM**

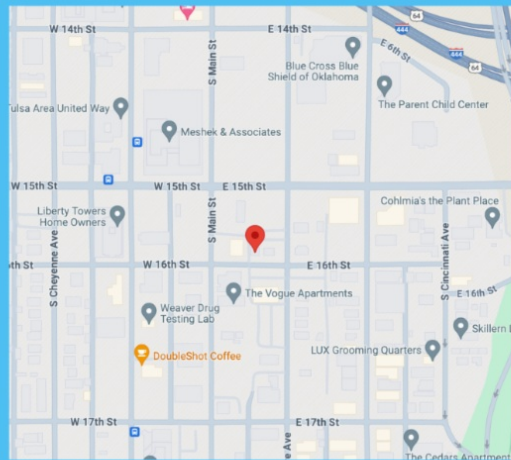


TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

**JULY 28TH
6 TO 7:30 PM**



Kiowa District 7
Tulsa Office:
**15th E 16th Street,
Tulsa OK 74119**

ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Zoom link available on our Linktree:
[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7)



(539) 525-0437



DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG

Social Media Platforms

YouTube

District 7 has a YouTube channel. We aim to record and upload our webinars and different events so everyone can stay involved.

This month, we have uploaded the following:

- Episode 16 of our podcast- guest Dr. Toni Tsatoke-Mule
- Our June Webinar with the Natural Resource Department
- Tulsa June language class recording

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>



Kiowa Tribe District 7

@kiowatribedistrict7

155 subscribers • 49 videos

Welcome ...more

linktr.ee/kiowaD7 and 1 more link



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For You




Episode 16 of [Dón:gyà! A conversation with Dr. Toni Tsatoke-Mule
7 views • 1 hour ago

: Tulsa Lang
No views • 1

TikTok

Please check out our TikTok, we post videos of events, Kiowa hymns, and Kiowa words and phrases





Kiowa Tribe District 7

@kiowatribed7


99
Following


1,877
Followers

8,626
Likes

 Message  

Official page of the Kiowa Tribe District 7 Legislature.

 <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7> and 1 more





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[DÓN:GYÀ



THE KIOWA TRIBE HAS UPDATED SOME PHONE NUMBERS!



KIOWA COMPLEX
(405) 901-9229

TAX COMMISSION
(405) 901-9271

ENROLLMENT OFFICE
(405) 901-9239

JUDICIAL COURT
(405) 901-9237

HIGHER EDUCATION
(405) 648 -0916

SOCIAL SERVICES
(405) 648-0417

D7 Links



@kiowaD7

Kiowa Tribe District 7

district7legislature@kiowatribe.org

Website



Sign Up for Our Newsletter



Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton

YouTube Videos

September Zoom Meeting (PIN 381420)

Please bookmark and save <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7> this page will be updated with easy-to-navigate links.

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 123 24th AVE NW | Norman, OK 73069 US

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