



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

March of 2025



Photos by Manilla Whitehorse from Oklahoma Fancy Dancers event at OU on 2/27/25.

John Hamilton (Kiowa, Wichita, Caddo and Cheyenne, is the drummer and singer for the group). **Terry Tsoitigh** (Straight dance,

flute player, Kiowa). **Kricket Rhoads Connywerdy** (Kiowa Cloth Dance, Kiowa, and Caddo). **Thaumaroi Connywerdy** (Fancy Dancer, Comanche, Kiowa, and Caddo). **Kevin Connywerdy** (Fancy Dancer, Hoop and Eagle Dancer, Oklahoma Fancy Dancer Director, Comanche, and Kiowa). **Beatrice Fingernail** (Fancy shawl, Cheyenne).

Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,

March arrives with significant uncertainty for the Indian country as we adapt to the changes initiated by the new presidential administration. At the forefront of our concerns is the urgent need to protect the sovereignty of the Kiowa Tribe and strengthen our capacity to face emerging challenges effectively. Sovereignty is the foundation of our identity as a Nation. Now, we must remind policymakers—many of whom may be unfamiliar with tribal governance—that our sovereignty is not akin to a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative but the enduring expression of our inherent native nations.

To this end, the Kiowa Tribe has joined forces with the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma to strategize defending our sovereignty, protecting and supplementing tribal funds, and fostering collaborative partnerships with other nations. Together, we are laying the groundwork to educate political appointees and legislative stakeholders on the centrality of tribal sovereignty and ensuring that our voices are heard in this critical moment. Vigilance will be key as we observe the policies and priorities of this new administration and adapt our strategies accordingly.

On another note, our hearts are heavy following the recent devastation of the Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church due to its tragic destruction by fire. For many years, this church has stood as a pillar of faith, community, and cultural continuity. We encourage all tribal members who wish to contribute to ongoing restoration efforts through official channels on the Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church Facebook page. Here, you will find verified correspondences, updates, and reliable information, including details on the GoFundMe initiative being organized to facilitate financial donations.

Should you wish to connect directly, the church's contact details are as follows:

Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church
Aim De Co Rd
E1355 Rd just east of N2350 Rd
Mountain View, OK 73062
(405) 933-6520

While this tragedy has brought sorrow, it also reminds us of our people's enduring spirit and capacity to rebuild and persevere. A church is not just about a building but, more importantly, about the community and the people that make up the church congregation.

Together, we face the challenges ahead with resolve. Our path forward will require unity, courage, and the steadfast commitment of all Kiowa citizens to protecting and uplifting our Nation. Thank you for your continued engagement and dedication to our shared community.

Thoughts from an Elder

Oklahoma Higher Education and Tribal Engagement

I have been campaigning for over 50 years (a half century) for American Indian engagement on policy and decision-making boards in Oklahoma's many higher education institutions. Today is not a smart time to use the word "representation" considering the political climate so I will be political myself and use word "presence", although it may not be politically accurate (old white man trick). Here are some brief comments before I explain my reasoning for this position. Tribal populations have little or no presence on Oklahoma colleges' boards of regents. Oklahoma tribal governments need to move from the limited "consultation" position so common on these boards to a position of being a voting member of these boards if our tribal students are expected to graduate from college in a reasonable time and costs. Simply stated, policies relevant to tribal college attendance, participation, graduation and related employments, are changing and will negatively affect our students' lives if tribal entities do not intervene at this time.

Today's tribal baby boomers represent the most sophisticated, formally educated body of tribal generations in the history of Oklahoma. Many of us tribal baby boomers took advantage of the opportunity to participate in higher education as a result of the civic, social, racial wars of the 50-80 decades. Many of us just recently entered the situation of retirement (employment and life). I believe today's tribal baby boomer generation opened the door for greater participation in higher education for the current and future generations of tribal people because of their seizing the opportunity to participate when the time came. This baby boomer generation now make up the so called "elders of the tribe" and are moving on at a rapid rate. One would think that with the Oklahoma tribal citizenries graduating from college during these decades you would experience a growth in American Indian representation in professional employment. Yet American Indians have not demonstrated an increase in professional employment proportionately speaking over the past four decades. Today's American society is trying to close the door on our grandchildren and great grandchildren entry into higher education. Read about what is happening at Haskell and SIPI, and even here in Oklahoma, with Indian education.

Today's American Indian college students need to have a "champion" who can help lead for a quality opportunity and fair practices especially in college participation. As it is there is a deadly social virus growing each year poisoning the hearts of the American public. This social virus (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion-DIE, I'm sorry. I meant DEI) consists of symptoms such as racism, hate groups, anti this, anti that and threatens the next of American Indian college participation with its prevailing policies against diversity, equity, and inclusion. Many of our current Indian students will feel the drama/trauma of this condition as they move into the final years of college progress, possibly bringing a quicker end to what was once a promising generation of college participants and graduates. Our young Kiowa students need an advocate, as the current administration has threatened retaliation against those who protest the prevailing conditions.

What is the tribe's plan for addressing this closing of the door to higher education for our children? Soon there may not be financial assistance such as the 638 funds, federal financial aid, state financial aid, recruitment/retention activities, academic assistance/guidance services, tribal American Indian curriculum content, etc. in our state's public school system, including colleges and universities. The Kiowa tribe's newly formed Tribal Education Agency needs to

overarching goal of preserving services for our tribal members.

Additionally, legislative members have voiced concerns regarding the accessibility of the Tribal Budget to the community. The current format and presentation of the budget make it unnecessarily difficult for tribal members to interpret and assess, which poses a barrier to the transparency fundamental to our democratic principles. Changes in budget formatting and clarity remain priorities as discussions move forward.

Commitment to Tribal Elders

Further emphasis is being placed on securing the promised \$1,000 payment for tribal elders during the 2025 Christmas season. The legislature recognizes the immense contributions of tribal elders to our community and values this initiative as a meaningful form of support and gratitude. Rest assured, you have steadfast legislative advocates working to protect this funding.

Access to the Draft Budget

The Draft Budget for the upcoming fiscal year has been officially posted and is now accessible to all tribal members. It is available for review on the Legislative Website at Kiowatribe.org. This transparency initiative aims to ensure that all community members have the opportunity to examine and provide feedback on the proposed budget. Members are encouraged to utilize this resource and actively shape financial decisions impacting the entire tribe.

Updates to the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Ordinance

The Legislature is collaborating with the TERO Commission to update the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Ordinance. The TERO Law was established to ensure that Native American tribes have the authority to enforce employment-related rights and promote economic self-sufficiency within their communities. At its core, the TERO Law mandates that employers operating on tribal lands provide fair employment opportunities, training, and business contracting rights to tribal members.

For the Kiowa Tribe, the TERO Ordinance is a critical mechanism for fostering workforce development and supporting tribal businesses. It creates a protective framework that addresses employment discrimination against Native Americans while also securing preferential hiring practices for tribal members. This law ensures that economic developments on Kiowa lands translate directly into tangible benefits for the tribal community. These include increased job placements, improved career training programs, and opportunities for Kiowa-owned businesses to grow.

Updating the TERO Ordinance, the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to empowering the Kiowa workforce and enhancing the tribe's long-term economic well-being.

Updates to the Kiowa Election Commission Ordinance

The Legislature is concurrently reviewing the Kiowa Election Commission Ordinance amendments to ensure that the processes and procedures governing tribal elections are transparent, equitable, and efficient. Updates to the ordinance aim to standardize election protocols and improve governance structures, reflecting a commitment to upholding the democratic principles that underpin the tribal government. By addressing potential gaps or ambiguities within the existing framework, the revised ordinance seeks to strengthen electoral integrity and

foster greater trust among tribal members in the electoral process. These changes underscore the importance of responsive and accountable leadership in advancing the collective interests of the Kiowa Tribe.

In Loving Memory



It is with a heavy heart we mourn the loss of a truly remarkable individual whose life was devoted to preserving and passing on the Kiowa language and cultural traditions. A beloved elder, mentor, and advocate, she taught numerous students the Kiowa language, ensuring that it lives on for future generations.

Her contributions extended far beyond linguistics; as a trusted cultural advisor, she offered wisdom, guidance, and mentorship to many within the community. Additionally, her role as a former Kiowa Tribal Princess further exemplified her dedication to her people. Her impact on the community is immeasurable, leaving a legacy that will resonate through the voices and actions of those she inspired. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family, friends, and all touched by her life. May her spirit continue to guide and uplift all who seek to honor and preserve the rich heritage she so passionately nurtured.

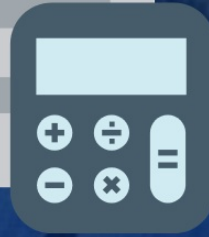
Bé bé[dé: gàu bé dáu:tsái!
(Be strong and Keep in Prayer)

**Episode 13 available now on
YouTube and Spotify.**



EPISODE 13 OF [DÓN:GYÀ!

TRIBAL BUDGET



A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE TRIBAL BUDGET



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

Upcoming Events



TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

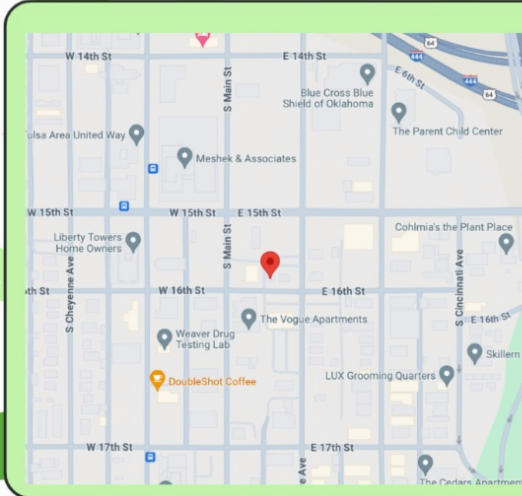
**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

WHEN

**MARCH 31ST
6 TO 7:30 PM**

POTLUCK



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

WHERE

ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Zoom link available on our Linktree:

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)

(539) 525-0437

DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG

NOTICE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KIOWA INDIAN COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

8:00A.M.

RED BUFFALO HALL

KIOWA COMPLEX

CARNEGIE, OK. 73015

AGENDA: TO SELECT A KIC COORDINATOR

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

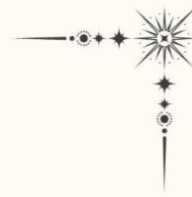
The Kiowa Indian Council (KIC) is made up of adult members of the Kiowa Tribe 18-years of age and older, who attend the Annual Meeting on April 5, 2025. There must be 150 members in attendance to establish a quorum.

KIOWA INDIAN COUNCIL (KIC) COORDINATOR: The Kiowa Tribe's Constitution establishes an office for the KIC called the "Office of the Council", staffed by a part-time coordinator for the KIC. The KIC Coordinator is selected at the Annual meeting of the Kiowa Indian Council in April or at a special meeting called by the Kiowa Legislature, as needed.

There will also be raffle drawings. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

We encourage every eligible member 18-years and over to exercise their rights & attend. Should you need any other information, please contact the KIC Event Planner, Davetta Geimausaddle, 580-919-7028.

Thank you.



KIOWA TRIBE

Transportation pick-up schedule

KIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

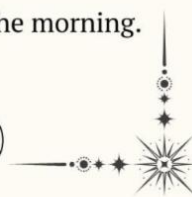
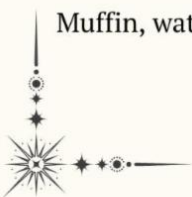
TULSA - 6:00 A.M River Spirit Casino
8330 Riverside Pkwy (South Parking Lot)

OKC - 7:30 A.M Otoe-Missouria OKC Office
4111 Perimeter Circle Place

NORMAN - 8:30 A.M District 7 Office
123 24th Ave NW

Muffin, water, orange juice, and coffee will be served in the morning.
Lunch will be provided

Contact Davetta Geimausaddle
580-919-7028



C. Perez

OWN YOUR PATH: BREAKING BARRIERS

With **MADISON
HAMMOND**

A **FREE** VIRTUAL EVENT TO INSPIRE
NATIVE YOUTH ON THEIR OWN
PATHS TO SUCCESS

 **Date** 7 April 2025

 **Time** 5:30 PM PT / 7:30 PM CT



lwiifoundation.com/ownyourpath

Kiowa District 7 Language Class



APRIL 21ST

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS

@ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

SPEAKERS

DELORES HARRAGARRA
VELMA EISENBERGER
MARTHA POOLAW (IN LOVING MEMORY)

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 RHODSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM



TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

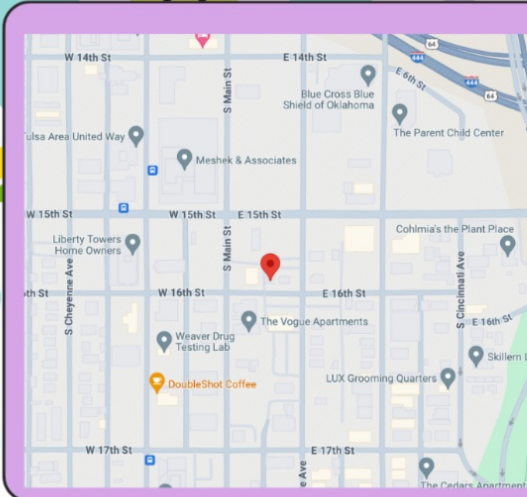
LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!

INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON

WHEN

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

POTLUCK



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

WHERE



ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Zoom link available on our Linktree:

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)



(539) 525-0437



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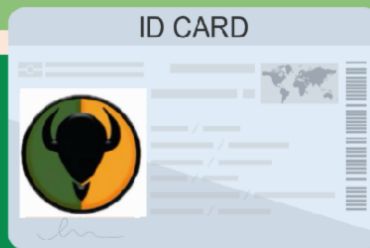
KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7

ENROLLMENT WILL BE VISITING

NORMAN OFFICE

MAY 1ST 10AM-4PM

123 24TH AVE NW,
NORMAN, OK 73069
PHONE NUMBER: (405) 857-8408



TULSA OFFICE

MAY 2ND 9AM-3PM

15 E 16TH ST
TULSA, OK 74119
PHONE NUMBER: 539-525-0437

EMAIL
DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG

YouTube Channel

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 13 of our podcast- A conversation about the tribal budget
- Our March Webinar with the Enrollment
- KCOA webinar- A Capitol Improvements Presentation

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



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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