



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

December/January of 2025/2026



**háun deóñ:dé sáut [dè sái ki:dá dàu
How wonderful a New Year's Day it is**

Greetings from the Kiowa District 7 office,

Happy New Year to all! 2025 was a challenging year for many Kiowa citizens with the unknown forecast of the current administration within the federal government, as well as personal challenges with the loss of elders. Our tribe is on a path in the right direction as we continue to make improvements and build a sustainable government.

It is important that we express our sovereignty through voting in our tribal elections, voice our opinions with our friends and family in a civil way, stay connected with one another through ceremony, language class, town hall meetings, and other festivities. We should take the momentum of accountability and self-governance into this New Year by staying connected to one another as well as our government.

We are thankful for the many new connections we were able to make in 2025 and look forward to building on those relationships in 2026. Stay tuned in to our social media pages for updates on government movement and always feel free to reach out by calling our office or sending us an email through our linktree. We wish nothing but prosperity to all Kiowa citizens in the year 2026!

Devyn Wickson, District 7 Citizen Communication Specialist

THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Kiowa Christmas in the Old Days

This time of the year, one finds it easy to recall and write with good thoughts and feelings toward everyone. Here is wishing all a great Thanksgiving and Christmas blessing with your loved ones. I can't help but think about grandma and grandpa, mom and dad, all brothers, cousins, aunts, uncles coming together at the old homestead south of Carnegie and celebrating the birth of Jesus with worship, singing, feasting, and handing out the bags of ribbon candy, peanut brittle, nuts, apples and oranges, and other old fashion goodies to the happy and excited children. What a beginning in life for our families. That feeling has never left me, even after 8 decades on this Mother Earth. Jesus was born, and he continues to live in this old man's mind, heart, and spirit. Thank you, God!

I will always remember my first encounter with old Santa Claus making an appearance at the Christmas night church with a sack full of socks, toys, some more candy, and the chorus of Christmas hymns and fun songs taught to us by the white folks. My favorite white man Christmas song? White Christmas with old Bing Crosby doing the singing. I must admit it, I noticed this first Santa Claus had the features of a Kowa man (he even spoke broken Kiowa, walked like someone I knew, and used a lot of hand sign language, and even sounded a lot like one of my uncles). I wonder if those rural churches, Cedar Creek, Mahkahey (excuse my spelling), Mt. Scott Kiowa Church, Hunting Horse Church, Cache Creek, J.J. Methvin, Botone Church, Ware's Chapel (Hog Creek), are still there, and still presenting the birth of Jesus Christmas Play to the congregations? When I was 10 years old, I got to be one of the Wise Men in the play, complete with a bathrobe, a striped towel wrapped around my head like a shepherd in the Bible, and one around my waist tied together with one of grandpa's old ties that grandma never liked, and a crown made from aluminum foil. I'd better quit remembering these times, it's about to make me cry.

Although not rich with material surroundings, we were and continue to be rich with God's word, love, and spirit for one another in the old Kiowa Way as taught to us by our parents and elders. Like many of this generation of elders, I am very concerned about the well-being (spirit/faith/values/identity) of our grandchildren and their children, and future generations. I am grateful for my upbringing and thank Our Creator for the wisdom of my parents, grandparents, large extended family, and even my great grandparents in preparing their offspring for their lives in a turbulent society. I believe many current Kiowa elders feel the same way, especially when they experience today's situations and prevailing conditions. Let us help while we are still here. How? This question is seldom directed at

contemporary elders by our elected tribal officials, and vice versa. Our churches need more tribal pastors, larger congregations, and a focus on a condition I heard often during my earlier days-REVIVAL.

Please make sure you vote in the upcoming Special Election. Our tribal government is only as good as the number of people who participate, especially in voting activities.



Legislative Update: January 2026

A Message from the Legislature

As we begin the new year, your Legislature remains hard at work addressing critical governance issues and planning for the future of our tribe. This month has seen significant legislative action, including the enactment of key laws and ongoing strategic planning for the upcoming fiscal year. Below is a summary of our current priorities and recent actions.

Veto Overrides Enacted

The Legislature has successfully exercised its constitutional authority to override two recent vetoes issued by the Tribal Chairman. These measures are now law:

- The Sponsorship Act 2025: This act is now in full effect, ensuring that sponsorship processes are governed by the specific guidelines established by the legislative body.
- The Executive Succession and Signature Authority Act of 2025: By overriding the veto on this resolution, we have clarified the protocols for signature authority within the executive branch, ensuring continuity and clear lines of authorization for tribal business.

These actions reflect our commitment to maintaining a balanced and functioning government where laws are enacted to best serve the tribal membership.

Fiscal Planning: Budget Review

We are currently in the midst of a comprehensive review of the tribal budget for the next fiscal year. This process involves a deep dive into spending priorities to ensure that all official travel is necessary, fiscally responsible, and directly benefits the tribe. We are working to establish clear focus areas that align with our broader strategic goals, ensuring that every dollar spent on travel yields a return for our community.

Election Commission Updates

Looking ahead to future elections, there is significant work underway regarding our electoral processes. I am proud to sponsor a new bill aimed at adopting a modernized ordinance for the Election Commission. This legislation, titled the Election Law 2026, is being developed in close collaboration with the Commission. The goal is to establish a robust, fair, and transparent framework for all tribal elections moving forward. We are reviewing the draft carefully to ensure it meets the highest standards of integrity for our democratic process.

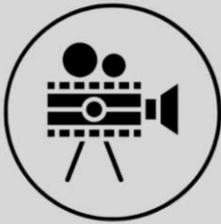
D7 Town Hall Meeting

Thank you to all who attended our OKC Town Hall meeting. It was wonderful to connect with D7 citizens



Check out our latest podcast

Available soon on YouTube and Spotify (link in our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>)



!Dón:gyà!

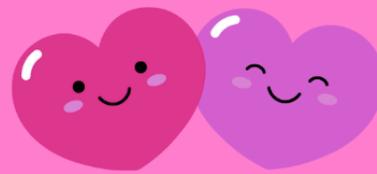


***A conversation
with Loren Waters***



Upcoming Events

Kiowa District 7 Language Class



FEBRUARY 23RD



**PLAINS CLASSROOM
AT SAM NOBLE MUSEUM**

2401 CHAUTAUQUA AVE
NORMAN, OK 73072



POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS @ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

ZOOM

MEETING ID: 834 4943 7664

PASSCODE: KIOWA

**BRING A KIOWA SAYING,
IDIOM OR COLLOQUIALISM.**

**WE WILL BE LEARNING AND
DISCUSSING UNIQUE
KIOWA SAYINGS**

AHO!!

For any questions, please contact:
rhoadsconnywerdy@gmail.com



TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

**FEBRUARY 23RD
6 TO 7:30 PM**



**LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS**

**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

Link can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

Past Events

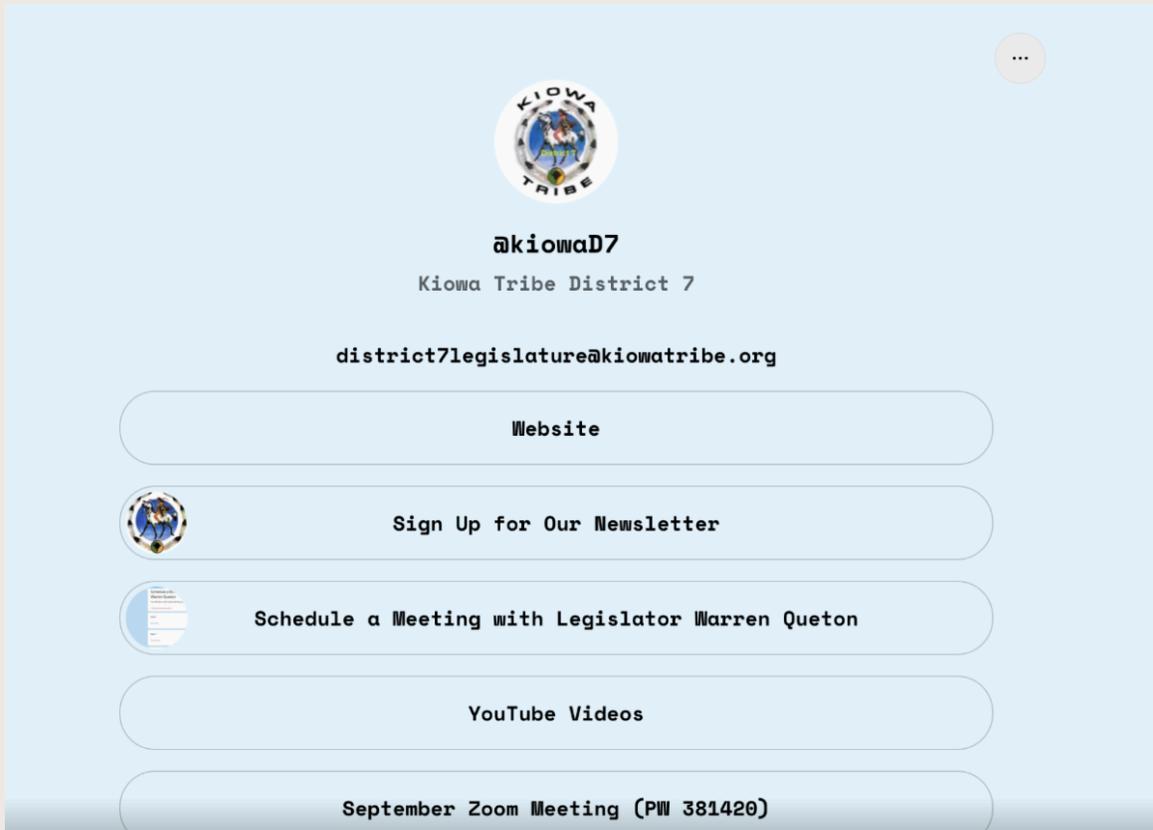
Please check out our YouTube channel to see recordings of:

January Webinar with KIC Coordinator Joseph Granado

December and January Tulsa Language class

Links can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

D7 Links



The screenshot shows a social media profile for @kiowaD7. At the top is the Kiowa Tribe logo, a circular emblem with a figure on horseback and the words "KIOWA TRIBE". Below the logo is the handle "@kiowaD7" and the name "Kiowa Tribe District 7". The email address "district7legislature@kiowatribe.org" is listed. There are five buttons: "Website", "Sign Up for Our Newsletter" (with a globe icon), "Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton" (with a meeting icon), "YouTube Videos", and "September Zoom Meeting (PW 381420)".

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

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 15 E 16TH ST | Tulsa, OK 74119 US

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