

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1 • OCTOBER 2024

# NOODAGAN NEWS

"Story Being Told"



## THIS ISSUE

**NEW AND NOTABLE**

**TRIBAL COUNCIL-  
COMINGS AND GOINGS  
NEW TO THE COUNCIL AND  
TRIBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**SCOTT HENNING- NEW  
COUNCIL MEMBER AND  
DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATION**

**TED VAN ALST- MEMBER AT  
LARGE**

**CHI MIIGWICH (THANK  
YOU) TO THE FOLLOWING  
TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE  
TRIBE THROUGH SERVICE  
ON THE COUNCIL.**

**THERESA KEYS AND  
PATRICIA WARTELLA**



# NEWS AND PROJECTS

**1** Eagle Staff Gathering Gun Lake Tribe.  
On September 19, 2024 Richard Lewis was invited to present a Staff for the Gun Lake Tribe Eagle Staff Gathering. There were 46 Staff present. Representatives came from such places as Canada, Pokagon, Mackinac Bands. Richard Lewis represented a staff that he added to that was in honor of his brother and all branches of the service. He also introduced himself as a member of the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians and told of his journey and his family connection to Mackinac. Matthew Mitchell represented his staff as a member of the Mackinac Bands. Matthew is still active duty in the military.

Chairman, Lisa Powers was there with Richard and his wife Stephanie to assist. There was a strong feeling of community to everyone they came in contact with. Chairwoman Powers met with Ron Yob of Grand River Band and the Council of the Gun Lake Tribe. We were shown much respect from Gun Lake. Gifts were given to Tribal Leaders in attendance by Gun Lake Council. This was a three-day event with a Sunrise ceremony every morning. The Mackinac representatives were treated like family and was able to make several connections with other tribal leaders.

**2** MBCOI has been collaborating with Middlebury college professor Guntram Herb on telling the story our experiences in the borderlands between Canada and the US. Please check out this site to learn more.  
<https://sites.middlebury.edu/borderrites/native-mackinac/>

***If you have news to share with the community, please reach out to us at [Noodigannews@mackinacband.com](mailto:Noodigannews@mackinacband.com)***

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

## MACKINAC BANDS OF CHIPPEWA AND OTTAWA INDIANS UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Aanii Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians community members, I have sat on the Council of the Mackinac for about 20 years now and I have been the Chairman, elected by the people for 8 years.

The Mackinac are the oldest historical tribe in Michigan. We are a signatory and treaty tribe. The Mackinac has and still has a continuous governing council of recorded historical documentation since 1820.

The present governing council is designed to represent ALL Mackinac people relating to the federal government, the states and other tribes. This process is to protect equal representation for all Mackinac people. As good and sufficient steps towards the larger goal of recognition for all Mackinac members, and we carry the full weight and measure of this historical effort.

The Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians has consistent recorded history with the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Federal Acknowledgment. On September 22, 2012, a sacred tree was planted at the Fall Gathering establishing our recognition with the city of St. Ignace and for the Mackinac people of those represented.

The Mackinac are a signatory tribe to the treaties of 1836 and 1855, the significance to these two treaties' that the Mackinac are signatory to is that we possess a legal right to assert our independence as a self-governing tribe. The Mackinac "Miknaak" government are not working for a select few but for all Mackinac people.

Our recent trip to the Smithsonian to introduce objects from Chii Miknaack (Great Turtle) Island to an existing group of objects is a form of federal acknowledgement.

The governing council has seen many people come to sit at the table to contribute time, effort and to bring their respective expertise. Even though there have been many, it has been over 50 years of effort to make so many wrongs to our community and the struggle to make it right is arduous.

We, as people, need to come together or our people, culture and the way of life will become extinct.

- We are currently working on the General Election. We need the volunteers to sit on the Election Committee.
- Youth Committee Members
- Education Committee Members
- Elder Committee Members
- Conservation Committee Members

We have submitted an incredible amount of documentation to show evidence of what we are doing and what we have done as a continuous community. Chii Miigwetch to all those who have come to sit at the table to help our people achieve federal recognition.

Baamaappii,  
Lisa Powers  
Chairwoman





# SPRING GATHERING

**AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL PARK  
200 N STATE ST, ST. IGNACE MI**

This past spring MBCOI held a spring gathering and ceremony to welcome the spring and honor the birch tree planted in the park. The Birch tree was planted by the tribe in 2012.

In Ojibwe culture, tree planting symbolizes a profound connection to the land, marking territory with reverence and respect. Each tree embodies a story, a legacy, and a bond with the earth. It serves as a living testament to ancestral stewardship, forging paths of harmony between nature and community. After the outdoor ceremony, we then moved up the street to the Village Inn at 250 State Street for fellowship.



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## SCOTT HENNING



Greetings Band Members,

My name is Scott Henning, and I am honored to serve as the recently appointed Director of Communication for our tribe. My family's ancestral lines run through the Truckee, and I am proud to belong to the Ajijaak Dodem (Crane). I currently reside in New Jersey, where I work as a physician and run a small business. My wife and I are raising three school-age children.

In addition to being a physician, I proudly served as a combat veteran in the U.S. Army, with deployments to Iraq and the Balkans. Now, I look forward to dedicating my energy to strengthening the sense of community within our band.

Please feel free to reach out to me at [noodagnnews@mackinacband.com](mailto:noodagnnews@mackinacband.com) if there is anything you need or any way I can assist you. It is a privilege to serve on the Tribal Council, and I look forward to connecting with all of you.

Miigwich,  
Scott  
[noodagnnews@mackinacband.com](mailto:noodagnnews@mackinacband.com)  
[henning.scott@gmail.com](mailto:henning.scott@gmail.com)

## TED VAN ALST



Dear Fellow MBCOI Citizens,

I'd like to introduce myself to you and let you know I'm proud to serve on council and help further our interests in any way I can. My lines are from the LeCuyers and many of my relatives live in the Bay City area where I spent all my summers growing up, with a few more in the UP over near Engadine.

Though I currently live and work in Portland, OR, I frequently travel to St. Ignace and Mackinac and intend to retire out that way in a few years. I've been teaching Native American Studies in higher ed for about 20 years. I have a PhD from the University of Connecticut and have held positions at Yale and the University of Montana. I'm also a writer and have award-winning books published by the University of New Mexico Press including *Sacred Smokes*, *Sacred City*, and *Sacred Folks*. Additionally, I am co-editor of the best-selling collection *Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology* from Vintage / Penguin Random House.

**Theodore C. Van Alst, Jr., Ph.D.**  
**Tilikum Professor**  
**Indigenous Nations Studies**  
**Portland State University**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED IN MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS PLEASE EMAIL NOODAGANNEWS @MACKINACBANDS.COM**

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## JANA HARPER



In May of 2024 MBCOI member and artist Jana Harper presented her yearlong project identifying, visiting, and reuniting objects originating on Mackinac Island held in the National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C..

Jana was a 2023/2024 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow and her project was titled, "Looking for Nanaboozhoo". In May, the NMAI's Cultural Resources Center hosted MBCOI members for a day-long event. The ceremony was attended by Tribal Chairwoman (Ogima) Lisa Powers, Tribal Council Vice Chair Richard Lewis, as well as other tribe members. Proper blessings were conveyed to the pieces as well as a presentation on their significance to Mackinac Island. Congratulations Jana!



LEFT TO RIGHT: HINMONTON BOURISSEAU, SARAH BALDWIN (NO LONGER ENROLLED) TANA BALDWIN (NO LONGER ENROLLED) RICHARD LEWIS AND WIFE STEPHANIE KREBBS, JANA HARPER, MARY BOURISSEAU, JOHN BOURISSEAU, LISA POWERS AND GINNA BOURISSEAU.

PHOTOS BY KATHERINE FOGDEN. AT THE CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER (CRC) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN (NMAI).

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# RECOGNITION UPDATE

The Tribal Council met with the Tribes legal counsel, Ms Tanya Gibbs of Mshkawzi Law LLP to review the tribes ongoing navigation of the Federal recognition process. We are confident our case is viable, and we are hopeful for an update soon. We would ask all of our members to submit any information and documentation they may have concerning the tribal community for the period of 1900 – 1990 directly to Noodagan News to further bolster our narrative and application.



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

### EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many resources available for education, finances should not be the barrier. If you are interested in finding out more or if you need help navigating the process or application contact Penny Mcbain @

### SOME SCHOLARSHIPS THAT ARE AVAILABLE:

The Renaissance Scholars Program (RSP) proudly supports first-generation college students, providing them with renewable scholarships and comprehensive resources to facilitate their academic journey. Offering up to \$5,000 annually, this scholarship assists with tuition, housing, and academic supplies, targeting talented students who face significant financial challenges. Beyond financial assistance, RSP enhances the educational experience through exclusive scholar events and an expansive online resource library, ensuring students receive ongoing support throughout their academic career. This initiative not only alleviates financial barriers but also fosters a community of encouragement and success, empowering students to achieve their bachelor's degree and beyond.

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver- information and applications

<https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/programs/indian-tuition-waiver>

# OJIBWE CULTURAL TEACHINGS

Dbaadendiziwin or humility, is a cornerstone of Native American philosophy and is one of the Seven Grandfather teachings. It encapsulates respect, equality, and learning. This virtue signifies the understanding of one's place within the universe, advocating for a life lived in harmony with all beings. It teaches us to listen, value diverse perspectives, and embrace our limitations. Humility is about seeking wisdom, prioritizing communal well-being, and learning from mistakes. It fosters a culture of mutual respect and support, enhancing our connection to others and the natural world. By practicing humility, we open ourselves to growth and deeper understanding, promoting balance and respect for all of creation. This principal guides individuals toward a fulfilling life, emphasizing the importance of community, environmental stewardship, and personal development.



## LANGUAGE CORNER

### OODENAAWIN- COMMUNITY

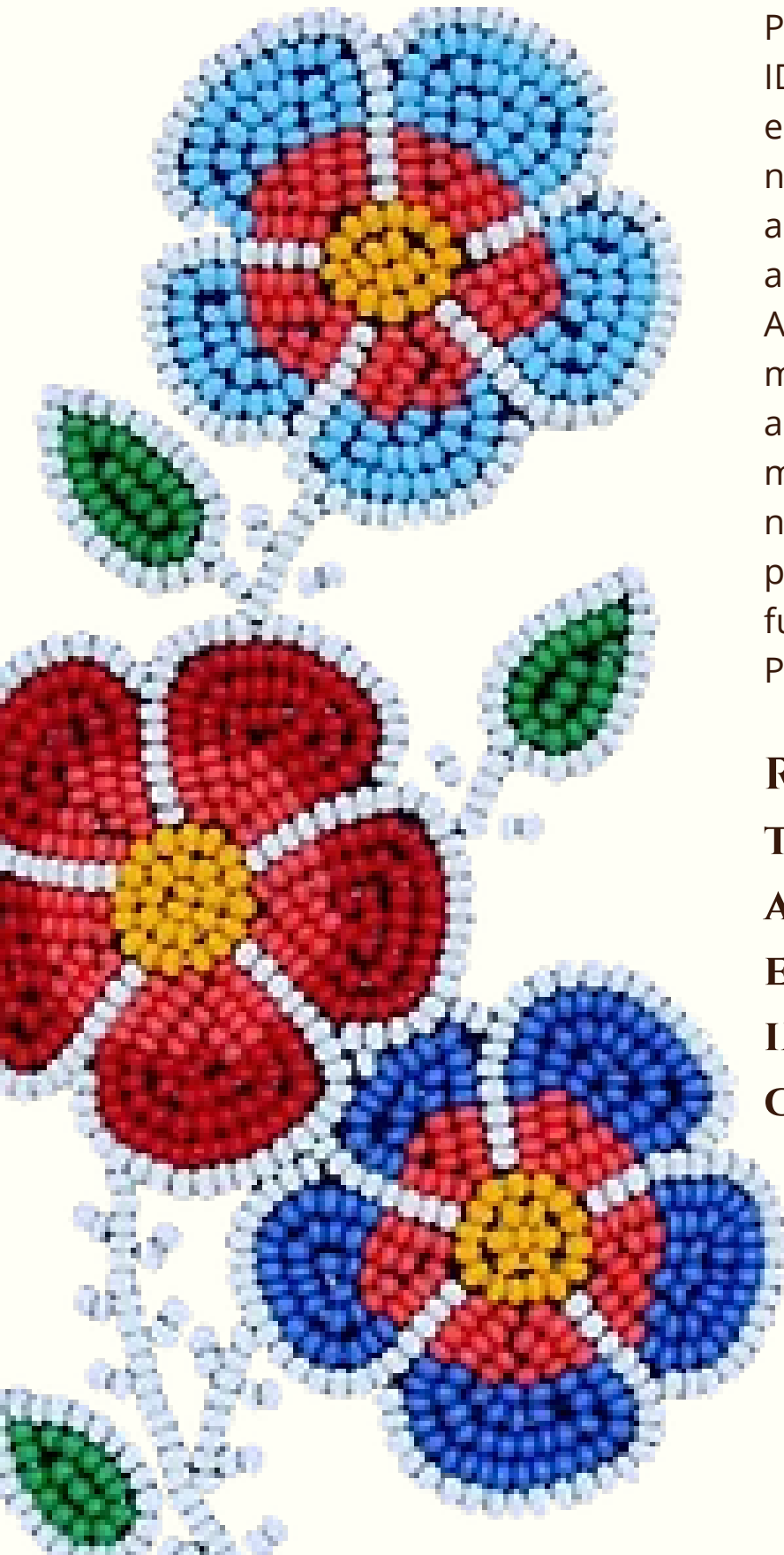
Community holds a central place in Ojibwe culture, serving as the foundation for identity, tradition, and support. This strong sense of community is vital for passing down ancestral knowledge and maintaining a rich cultural heritage. To strengthen these bonds and extend them beyond local realms, a Pen Pal Program is being introduced for children within the community. This initiative allows young members to connect with peers from other areas, fostering a broader sense of unity and friendship. Through exchanging letters, the next generation can share stories, learn about diverse traditions, and build lasting relationships, further enriching their understanding and appreciation of their shared cultural landscape. If you are interested in participating contact Scott Henning at [henning.scott@gmail.com](mailto:henning.scott@gmail.com)



# TRIBAL ID CARD RENEWALS

Please check the date on your tribal ID card and make sure it has not expired (this is very important). Do not forget to send in your new address, phone number, email or any other information that changes. At this time we are asking that you mail your information to our address along with a cashier's check or money order of \$25. If you want or need a new photo on your card, please send that in as well. For any further questions contact Lisa Powers at (906) 984-2202.

**REMINDER: DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR NEW ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OR ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT CHANGES.**



# TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tribal Council meetings are on the second Thursday of every month. Three Tribal Council meetings per year are open to the public, these will be available on Zoom. Stay tuned to when these open meeting will be held. Please register at: [Information@MackinacBand.com](mailto:Information@MackinacBand.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**THERE IS A FACEBOOK GROUP FOR ENROLLED MEMBERS ONLY. IF YOU ARE AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF MACKINAC BANDS, CLICK THE LINK BELOW:**

**[MACKINAC BAND FACEBOOK COMMUNITY GROUP](#)**

**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AND ADMIN WILL ADD YOU TO THE GROUP.**



## APPROVED METHODS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE MBCOI

As a reminder only the website above and the Facebook community Group are the only official and authorized methods of communication. There is a lot of disinformation out there concerning MBCOI and want our membership to be up to date on the latest, accurate information. If you have information you wish to disseminate please contact us.