

WE NEED YOUR



## 2022 Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama Elections

This year is an election year and your vote is important. The election will be run by the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission. Here is the voting information.

1. The elections will be carried out by the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission.
2. All ballots will be mailed out on February 1, 2022 from the Alabama Indian Affairs Office. (Ballots will be printed on paper that cannot be copied.)
3. You will receive with your ballot an envelope addressed to the Indian Affairs Commission office, place your ballot into the envelope. Please seal the envelope and mail.
4. Ballots must be physically in the Alabama Indian Affairs Office not later than March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
5. Ballots will be counted on April 2, at the Governing Body Meeting by the Indian Affairs Staff.

Ballots Sent out: February 1, 2022

Ballots Due: March 30, 2022

Ballots Counted: April 2, 2022

\*\*\*If you do not receive a ballot and you believe you are eligible to receive one by February 15, 2021 call the AL Indian Affairs Office at 334-240-0998 or email [aiac@att.net](mailto:aiac@att.net).\*\*\*

**Nominees:** *(All information was provided by the nominees.)*

## **Principal Chief Nominees**



**Dennis Wooten**

### **Introduction**

- Dennis Wooten, Chief of Deer Clan
- Encouraged to run for Chief of Deer Clan by my uncle, Chief Lucky Bates
- Been a citizen of the Tribe since mid-1990s

### **Experience in Tribe**

- Spearheaded moving the Festival from Falkville to the Tribal Grounds
- Festival Coordinator for 4 years
- Arena Director of Festival for 4 years
- Chief of Deer Clan for 5 years
- Help facilitate Honor Guard activities and Native funeral ceremonies
- Continue to help promote good will between our Tribe and local veterans through Christmas sock donations and distributions
- Ongoing coordinator of grounds maintenance and upkeep
- Involved with multiple building improvement projects, including building the stage, ramp, and pavilion, as well as working to clear trails and facilitated adding electrical receptacles for vendors at the Festival
- Ongoing participation in promoting the Tribe and Native culture at multiple state events, including the DAR veterans' fundraising event, the Trail of Tears, and Alabama's 200th

### **Experience in Business**

- Owned and operated two businesses
- Have practical knowledge as to how to make, budget, and save monies
- Experience in delegating tasks while maintaining oversight

### **Goals**

- Immediately implement correct and appropriate office procedures to get the office up and running efficiently and economically
- Update necessary documents and Tribal paperwork to ensure that all are in compliance with IRS 501c3 regulations, including relevant AIAC protocols, as well as ensuring that citizens have a voice in Tribal leadership and daily Tribal concerns

- Institute financial checks and balances to not only comply with regulations, but to provide for transparency and accountability to Tribal citizens

Personal Expectations

- To be available to citizens via email and with office hours at the Tribal office
- To continue to promote the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama proudly and as frequently as possible
- To inspire citizens to become involved and engaged with their Native culture
- To bring back our cultural traditions on our Tribal grounds, encouraging our young people to re-engage with their ancestors, elders, and build our future based on strength and progress through Indian unity
- Thank the Creator, I'm a Cherokee!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me directly at [chiefredstag13@gmail.com](mailto:chiefredstag13@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Chief Dennis 'Red Stag' Wooten



**Nancy Massey**

Nancy Massey  
Wolf Clan  
901 6th Ave NW  
Alabaster, AL 35007  
[L2massey @yahoo.com](mailto:L2massey@yahoo.com)

Thank you for the nomination to serve our tribe in the office of Principal Chief. I look to the future as we, as a like minded group of people, set aside our differences to serve, educate and strengthen our citizens. As we bind our hearts together in unity, love and dedication the future of the ECHOTA Cherokee Tribe of AL will flourish. Let your voice be heard. Every vote counts. A confirmation vote for me to continue the term as Vice Chief by the Governing Body was held

July 31, 2021.

Motion by Rita Majors to make the position official.

Second by Misty Henderson.

Motion passed.

List of Governing Body members present: Charlotte Hallmark, Sharon Keith, Nancy Massey, Misty Henderson, Julie Schumacher, Rita Majors, Martha Gann, Hans Friedrich.

I have served on the governing body for 10 years as the Recording Clerk. (Which was previously called Recording Secretary)

I became a citizen in the early 80's.

I have been a citizen since before we had a plot of land to call our own.

I have traveled to various venues to attend both Clan and State meetings.

I danced on the dance team until I married in 1985.

I have supported the tribe along with the Governing Body and other citizens to bring awareness of our tribe and develop our tribal property.

The tribal property has increased from the original purchase of 24. acres with an additional purchase of 25.7 acres after the original loan was paid off. We now trod on 49 + Acres of a well developed tribal complex.

The trailer was placed on the property to establish an office.

The shed was added for storage.

The bathhouse was added to meet the needs of citizens and visitors.

I have been proud to participate in the following efforts:

Work on the log cabin.

Help landscape around the bath house.

Work on Pavilion #1, which later was developed into the first meeting room, office and kitchen.

I helped alongside the Governing Body members and many others with the construction design, clean up and decorating of the tribal house.

Pavilion #2, which later became the meeting house we enjoy today.

I helped alongside the Governing Body members and many others with the construction design, and clean up of this project.

I gather and clean donations for the museum.

I have served on the Festival Committee.

There have been so many more additions to our complex. I know I haven't been involved with everything but I have truly enjoyed seeing us all work together and use our gifts and talents that the good Lord has given us to grow our complex into such a beautiful campus thus far.

I support the tribe with donations to the gift shop and office.

I participate in the tribal festival both here at present on our tribal grounds and at other locations in the past.

I travel to other festivals and Pow Wows encouraging wholesome family gatherings, education and unity.

I have served as Secretary of the Wolf Clan.

I am a full time bus driver for the Alabaster city School System, and have done so for 20 years.

I have passed the background check necessary for the school system.

I am randomly drug tested at my job.

I help coordinate buses for the field trip schedule at THS and have done this for 10 years.

I also have a substitute teachers certificate. I work through Kelly Services to fill positions at Thompson High School-9-12-grade.

I am a member of The Alabaster Church of God, where I am on the Praise Team and I'm a substitute Sunday School Teacher.

I help with the food bank at ACOG.

I have attended ACOG for 30 years.

I was wife to Yogi Massey for 33 years until he went to be with the Lord in Sept. 2018. I have 5 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

I served 3 years total in the ACESP. One year as secretary and two as Vice President.

I am an avid crafter and artisan. I design and create jewelry as well as many other items.

Vending from my unique portable jewelry cabin.

I promote and encourage strong, peaceful and harmonious relationships with tribal citizens.

Everyone is welcome...We are ECHOTA.

### **My goal for the tribe as Principal Chief.**

To be implemented over a 8-12 month period. All citizens are encouraged to offer your opinions, services and to volunteer. In this phase of growth and change no disrespect, rude behavior, gossip or bullying will be tolerated. There has been quite enough of that and it will not be allowed to continue amongst our people.

### **Month 1-3**

Assess the condition of the tribe as a whole.

Establish a membership board. That will include a Governing Body member. This board will be reviewing personal information and members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement due to the sensitive personal information on the applications. Expulsion from the tribe is a possible punishment for violating the confidentiality agreement. This board will review files and determine why cards haven't been mailed out. The report will be presented to the Governing Body. When approved it will then and only then be presented to the tribal citizens. The members of this board may be required to submit to a background check.

I welcome everyone to get involved. We must move forward in unity.

The locks will be rekeyed and the codes changed to prevent unauthorized individuals from having access to the buildings.

Meet with the Governing Body on April 9, 2022. Go over the By-Laws to reinforce duties, share concerns and take recommendations. Clarify all questionable sections. Confidentiality Agreements will be signed and placed on file in the tribal office. This board is a representation for all clans, out of state citizens and our tribe as a whole. Delegation of board duties and expectations of each Governing Body board member will be reviewed. I realize being on The Governing Body is not a paid position however to sit on the Governing Body is a privilege given due to the respect and confidence your clan members and officers have in you.

Compile a financial statement for review and have it available for qualified tribal citizens.

Take applications from individuals interested in working in the Tribal office, Gift shop, Museum, web page and public relations of the tribe. These individuals may be required to submit to a background check. This application will be ready for distribution on April 9th.

A US post office box will be established in Alabaster for my access for communication purposes. This will not take the place of the tribal P. O. Box. It is simply a safe secure place for individuals to be able to send correspondence. I will be paying for this box. I included this now for transparency. I will have a key. A key will be kept in the tribal office. A named

individual will hold the 3rd key. (If 3 keys are issued). I live in Alabaster.

Required forms will be organized and stored in a secure place in the tribal office for review for qualified citizens and authorities, if they are not already available for review.

Cut unnecessary expenses.

### **Months 4-8**

Establish a finance board that will include a Governing Body member to keep a check and balance system for our finances. This board will be established solely to track expenses and report irregularities and detailed expenses of the tribe. This is not a paid position. The report will be presented to the Governing Body. When approved it will then and only then be presented to the tribal citizens. That will hopefully eliminate individuals from spreading panic about the tribe's solvency. A confidentiality agreement will be required to be signed by each board member with expulsion from the tribe as a possible punishment for violating the agreement. These individuals may be required to submit to a background check. Trust is vital and Misinformation is poisonous.

Build a competent office staff of volunteers to operate the tribal office during set business hours. A confidentiality agreement will be required to be signed by each volunteer working in the tribal office. Expulsions from the tribe is a possible punishment for violating the agreement. These individuals may be required to submit to a background check. A sponsor from the Governing Body will oversee the process.

Place a representative to the out of state citizens that has the tribe at heart not just growing numbers but educating, acknowledging and including them in our tribal news and Cherokee culture.

Develop a zoom group to: Include our meetings, exchange official information, share ideas, take recommendations and to build relationships with tribal citizens.

This resource will be sponsored by a minimum of one Governing Body member, a citizen sponsor to help coordinate and set up this resource and 2 citizens to support the group to share the scheduling and approval of material to be covered. This group will be set up under a trial basis. At any point lack of participation or the zoom program becomes less than a resource beneficial to the tribe it may be terminated.

Develop a welcome/information center for campus visitors. Accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A sponsor from the Governing Body will oversee this project volunteers are encouraged/needed to participate to make it a success.

Establish a grounds team that has access to tools to keep our campus looking its best. There will be a sign out and in sheet for documentation on who removed, used and returned tools. A detailed policy/procedure/use agreement to be signed and returned to the tribal office will need to be developed so individuals know what is required to use tribal tools and equipment.

A service sheet for the equipment and tools will be posted in the shed to ensure upkeep and maintenance on these items. A sponsor from the Governing Body will oversee this team.

A directory of tribal citizens that have businesses or offer services to utilize will be composed. A sponsor from the Governing Body will oversee this directory to keep it up to date.

Tribal citizens will be offered the opportunity to do the work that is resourced out whenever possible on paid jobs needed by the tribe.

Bids, bonding and brotherhood will be encouraged.

Volunteers for classes and skills to be taught will be encouraged. Disrespect, rude behavior will not be tolerated. We should share our knowledge and skills in a positive teaching environment. No talking down to anyone due to their lack of understanding or knowledge of the

class being taught. We all have to start somewhere. Knowledge is power...let's empower our people. A sponsor from the Governing Body will oversee this project.

This process may seem extreme however when goals are set and expectations are put in place we know what we can expect of others and declare what can be expected from us. We are all ECHOTA. We are like minded people. Growth and unity go hand in hand. We are not split despite this being an election year. Whoever is our next Principal Chief will need support, respect, encouragement, help and prayers. I would appreciate your vote and future support.

Respect the position even if your first choice does not prevail. This is not a win lose election...it is a restructuring. Look to the future, learn from the past and walk a clear path today.

We are all ECHOTA.

Blessings.

I am adding this 12/14 to make something perfectly clear...it is not my intention to purge the tribe. Removal from the tribe is the absolute last resort. When job duties are explained along with the severity of misinformation or misuse of information to bring harm to the tribe or an individual it will be dealt with. Documentation including a written complaint will be required. This will be presented to the GB upon which time the follow up will be determined. Telling lies, twisting the truth, being disrespectful, spreading rumors needs to stop. Unity, truth, honor and love will mend the heart and bring peace.

Respect the position even if your first choice does not prevail. This is not a win lose election...it is a restructuring. Look to the future, learn from the past and walk a clear path today.

We are all ECHOTA.

Blessings.

Nancy Massey

## Vice-Chief Nominees



**Rita "Drumgore" Majors**

### **Rita's Election BIO**

1. I am running for Vice Chief for the ECHOTA Cherokee Tribe of Alabama in the 2021 election. My Family and I have been a member of the ECHOTA Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, (Deer Clan), for Seven years.
2. I was born in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama, and have lived here all my life. My family roots go back four generations. My Cherokee ancestors were born in Indian Territories, North Carolina.
3. During the seven years that I have been active member of the Deer Clan, attending meetings, and supporting/participated in the following activities:
  - a. Attended: State meetings, Governing Body meetings, Christmas Parties.
  - b. Worked with Chief Lucky Bates arranging the TUT Fanning Veterans Sock Christmas party, 2015-Present. Asked by the AIA to attend the 2016 Ancient COPENA Indian Mound Dedication in Limestone County at Lucy's Branch Marina, Athens, Alabama.
  - c. Arranged an event for the Echota to attend the (DAR) Daughters of American Revolution invitation in Athens, Al to raise money in support of the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives.
  - d. Supported the ECHOTA Tribe Festivals 2016-present.
  - e. Set up/rearranged inventoried the Museum and Gift shop.
  - f. Under my leadership we (Deer Clan) arranged/furnished the kitchen area in the Long House. Purchased an ice maker, refrigerator, range, a grill, and coffee pots. Furnished pots/pans etc., in order to run a kitchen. Assisted the Ground crew in the upkeep of the Tribal grounds. Planted shrubs and trees. Installed trail cameras for Security of the Tribal facility.
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4. Employed as a civilian for the US ARMY as an Executive Assistant for AMRDEC HQ located on Redstone Arsenal, AL. During the twenty (20) + years:
  - a. 1993 to 1999, employed for the US Army, (OPM SANG) Office of the Program Management, Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG), Riyadh Saudi Arabia.
5. A member of the John Wade Keyes (DAR) Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter



# 3035, Athens, Alabama, and am the American Indian Chairperson.

6. Also, a 27 year member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Brigadier General Joseph E. Johnson (UDC) Chapter # 198, Athens, Alabama.

I feel that I am qualified for the position and would appreciate your vote.

Thank you

Rita "Drumgore" Majors

Deer Clan Vice Chief

## Wayne Freeman Rasco – Wolf Clan

### Vice Chief Nominee

I graduated from Mortimer-Jordan High School in Morris, AL. in 1956 and joined the U.S. Air Force the same year. Was sent to Lackland AFB in Texas for Basic Training; Nov. 1956 sent to Chanute AFB in Illinois to aircraft instrument school; Graduated in 1957 and was assigned to Tyndall AFB, Panama City, FL. where I worked on instruments of B-57, F-102-F104. In Nov. 1958 I was assigned to Goose AFB in Goose Bay, Labrador; came back to the States on Feb. 2, 1960; Honorable Discharge Feb. 4, 1960. Was employed by the State of AL. Highway Dept., Fifth Division Soil Lab in Mobile, AL. In 1964 moved up to A.W. Williams Testing and Inspection Co. in Mobile; Later transferred to Madison, AL. where building of the Huntsville-Madison County Airport was being built, tested soil, concrete and asphalt. From there I was promoted to Field Forman.

In 1967 I moved back to Birmingham and was employed by Law Engineering Testing and Inspection Co. where I ran tests on soil, concrete, and asphalt; later I transferred to the steel dept. where I trained for welding and steel inspection. I was transferred to KY. Where I did fabrication inspection on KY. Hwy. then bridge and girder inspection work at G.E. Lamp and glass plant in Jackson, MS. & G.E. Transformer Plant in Shreveport, LA. Next was fabrication and inspection of the steel that went into the Ocoee Nuclear Power Plant in Ocoee, South Carolina.

I spent most of 1970 in Orlando, FL. doing the steel erection inspection on the twenty-five (25) story C.N.A. Building plus some on the Haunted Mansion, the Small World Building and the Main Street Building at Disney World. I returned to Birmingham at went to work at American Cast Iron and Pipe Co. and worked there for thirty years and retired in 2000.

After retiring, I joined the Cook Springs Volunteer Fire Dept. and was later voted to the position of Assistant Fire Chief. Ellen and I joined the Echota Cherokee Tribe in 1982 and became a part of the Echota Dance Team. In 1984 I was appointed to the Governing Body of the Tribe. I served as Vice Principal Chief from 1986 until 1995, then as Principal Chief until 1999. I also served as Wolf Clan Chief for six years and I have served on the Governing Body for a number of years.

I am more than willing to submit to a background Check.

I have served my Tribe for forty, wonderful years and my personal thoughts are these; Nancy Massey and I are the most qualified candidates for the positions of Principal Chief and Vice Chief. This is a Critical time for the Tribe and a place where "*experience counts*".