

February 1, 2024

#### **Dear Citizens - From Chief Massey**

As we enter into 2024 I hope all are well and ready to tackle a new year. I want to cover a few business matters:

1.) A financial report for 2023 has been prepared and is available for review.

2.) Each clan is requested to provide 2 representatives to be on the festival committee. Please send in your candidates name, phone number and email information to the tribal office ASAP. A committee chairman will be voted on and confirmed for our 2024 festival. There are alot of moving parts to the festival to make it successful and we all play an important role.

3.) I would like to make something clear. There has never been an amount awarded to the principal chief, or any of the governing body members to cover expenses to come to the tribal property or to participate in any of our governing body meetings. I have not received any money for travel, nor has any of the governing body. If you want more clarification contact me. L2massey@yahoo.com

4.) If a clan uses the meeting house for their clan meeting there is a \$35 usage fee. This was covered by the Governing body before 2020 and the temporary closing of the office and has somehow been overlooked since the reopening of the tribal property. The \$35 should be turned in to the office for deposit into the tribal bank account to

help cover utilities and other supplies.

5.) Although the library is being worked on and organized we are not ready to check books out at this point. Please refrain from taking materials out of the library. There will be a functioning computer and hopefully a copier for citizens to use during office hours.

I would like to thank you all again, who have helped to get our tribal complex back on track. The gift shop/museum committee has done a fabulous job with our gift shop and museum. Thanks to everyone that has helped. We had fantastic sales during our festival.

Our enrollment is up and applications are still coming in. Remember to share our heritage with family members and friends.

Shawn Castleberry is doing a wonderful job in our office. He is pulling things together, getting the emails handled, he does the mail run and keeps the office above board.

Weeya Calif is keeping us updated on our webpage, news, events, and has now completed the governing body requests on creating an official Facebook for the tribe.

Be encouraged..... We are Echota....

**Blessings - Chief Massey** 

#### Office Updates from Dr. Shawn Castleberry

#### With Sympathy

Greetings citizens of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama. I would like to give you a brief update on the office.

Previously, Bob Bailey headed up a team of volunteers that worked to review applications for enrollment. They began with the Echota Minor applications then once enrollment was reopened, they moved to reviewing all applications.

From August to December of 2023, a total of 152 applications have been approved. There were 96 minor applications and 56 adult applications.

When I, Dr. Shawn Castleberry was appointed Office Manager for the tribe in October, I continued with the foundation laid out by Bob Bailey and Weeya Calif.

In the month of January, there have been 23 applications approved. Of those, 14 are minors with the other 9 being adults.

The tribal office is currently open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:45 until 12:45 with the exception of severe weather. Please check the tribal calendar on our tribes website for any updates or changes.

https://echotacherokee.org/calendar.html

\*\*\*We ask that when you pay your assessments to please include your roll number if you know it.\*\*\*





The tribe extends its sympathies. Jeaneane (NMN) Moore, 75, of Warner Robins, GA, passed away on August 8, 2023 after losing the battle to COPD. Jeaneane was preceded in death by her parents, Vicki E. McClam Moore Sommers and Watteress Aubrey Moore, sister Carol Moore Matthews, brother Ronald "Ronnie" Aubrey Moore. She rests in peace next to her beloved brother, Ronnie, in Rogersville, Alabama.

Jeaneane was a member of our tribe and her grandmother successfully escaped while on the Trail of Tears, she married and had a good life.

Jeaneane was caring, compassionate, community oriented and always looking for a way to improve people's lives. Jeaneane was an educator with the Huntsville City Schools for over 30 years. She will be missed.

The secret of our success is that we never, never give up. CHEROKEE OUOTE LINGALOT.COM

#### Deer Clan Deliver Socks By: Maria Daws

In December, Wayne Smith, his daughters Maria & Storm and grandson Ender went to the Lovelady Center in Birmingham, Alabama to deliver packages of socks.

At the center, there are 450 women and 100 children who reside there. Our recently passed citizen James Wootem, would volunteer there and introduced the center to the Deer clan for volunteer work.

The residents were made aware that the donation was done on behalf of the late James Wooten and from the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama.



The lady to the far right is Michelle Barnes. She is a graduate of the program and a current staff member of the development team.



#### Deer Clan, cont.



The gentleman to the far left, in the back is Frank Long. He is the Director of Development.



Information for the Lovelady Center.



GONTAGT CLOTHSURF4YOUTH@GMAIL CLOTH & SURF FOR YOUTH

## Safe, efficient, & rapid air transportation for SURVIVERS of human trafficking.

DID YOU KNOW

of trafficking survivors said transportation was a barrier to escaping their situation.

#### THERE IS A DIRE NEED FOR RESCUE TRANSPORTATION.

**Yet, there is currently no other organization** dedicated to the transportation of survivors and their advocates, government or nongovernment. *THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN.* 

WE PROVIDE RESCUE & TRANSPORTION FOR SURV/VERS and their advocates.

# WE NEED <u>YOUR</u> HELP!

#### VENMO



We have the volunteer pilots and planes, but fuel costs have to be supplemented.

With your support, we can get these women & children to safety.

**PAYPAL** 



DONATE TODAY & TOGETHER WE CAN #STOPTRAFFIC

Flyer courtesy of

The Cove Company LLC

Design & Marketing

covecosocial@gmail.com

Tribal Member Emory Harshman has been successfully flying as a volunteer pilot for Cloth & Surf 4 Youth to help counter human trafficking & its "Stop Traffick!" campaign. Using aviation assets and a nationwide network of volunteers they've been successful in helping rescue trafficking victims and getting these girls to a safe place. They work with established charities, law enforcement, & social services.

Please follow & like them on Facebook & Instagram! <u>https://www.facebook.com/clothandsurf4youth</u> <u>https://www.instagram.com/Cloth\_Surf\_For\_Youth?fbclid=IwAR27quglpC4tiAnyTgzAFbhtopqsi6qR4vm8URKCgUWe-</u> <u>OCKyCJL7DLj\_Sc</u>

#### Letter From A New Citizen



Dear Echota Cherokee Tribe of AL,

I'm a new member. I am wanting to share info about a Christian-themed global "Prom" event Feb 9 called "Night to Shine". Here in Nashville, I'm going to be acting as a Limo/RN for two groups attending at one-two of 550 locations; some kids are wheelchaired, with varying degrees of Autism or spectral status, etc., but each deserves to be a King or Queen of Prom celebrating how God/Creator sees each of us.

If anyone or groups within Echota Cherokee Tribe want to be a part of an event created by Tim Tebow that, so far, has made my Life's problems seem very small, watch the 2023 highlights video in the middle of the "Host" page or click on worldwide locations to see if one is near you. I may even make some Tiaras to send to another location than the ones I am dedicated to care for. This is Christian kindness or living with/in Native Heart below: <u>Night to Shine | Tim Tebow Foundation</u>

#### How to Make Traditional Moccasins



#### Celebrating My Great Great Grandfather

#### By: Marlene Hoenig

Richard Hall was my Great great grandfather on my mother's side. He was wounded and left for dead at the battle of Shiloh. I believe he was 32 and left a widow who was also a full blooded Echota Cherokee with six children.

You are one of God's Treasures and created to have a happy and healthy life!

Missionary Marlene Collier Baggs Hoenig 850-661-6104 Cinderella Released Ministries

Love and Learn to Live after Crisis, Trauma and Life Altering Circumstances

#### https://linktr.ee/marlene.hoenig





Hall, Richard H., Pvt.; enrolled 13 Mar 1862 at Corinth; wounded at Battle of Shiloh; left on field — remarks: "Doubtless dead."

Artists Guild for State Recognized Tribes For the past two years, some entities have tried to take away the rights of state recognized tribal artists. They have tried to have them removed from the Indian Arts and Craft Act and they have tried to remove state tribes from the National Congress of American Indians.	The guild is a new entity and was founded in November 2023. They received their nonprofit status in January of 2024. They are reaching out to artists so as to be a resource for artists and to represent artists from state tribes whether they are a part of the guild or not.
Currently there are 63 official state recognized tribes across the United States. After experiencing and fighting against these entities, a group of official state recognized tribal citizens came together and developed SRTAG - State Recognized Tribal Artists Guild, Inc. This organization is a 501c3 non profit that works to maintain and fight for the rights of state recognized tribes and their artists. Did you know that only federal tribes and state recognized tribes can call their artwork "Native American Made"? Did you know that if you do not belong to either and you call your work Native American Made that you can be fined or imprisoned?	SRTAG would love to have you be a part of our guild. You can apply at this web address: https://srtag.org/memberships/ <u>As an artist member you will receive:</u> -Newsletter Access -Attend Zoom Meetings -Access to Facebook Private Group -Name in Art Directory, Website and Annual Booklet -Access to SRTAG portal for logos, signage to use for your business. -Grant opportunities from SRTAG and other opportunities. -Online educational classes. -A vote in SRTAG Artists decisions
<ul> <li>Because you are a part of an official state tribe, you are able to call your work "Native American Made". SRTAG will be working hard to make sure no state tribes lose this right.</li> <li>Because SRTAG is a nonprofit, they can apply for grants for funding and accept donations. These monies will be used to award grants to the artists guild members. They will also offer online classes and educational programs to assist all artists in the guild.</li> </ul>	We also offer supporter memberships for businesses with various benefits such as: -Newsletter Access -Name on our supporter page w/website link to your business page. -Name in our newsletter -Full page ad in our Annual Booklet. -Full page ad in our online directory. Please take a moment and visit our website. We thank you.
The guild also offers a space for artists to advertise their business and to showcase their work. You can see examples of artists profiles here: <u>https://srtag.org/members/</u> The guild also wishes to show support to businesses that support our cause.	Authentic Native American Art SRCCACC State Recognized Tribal Artists Guild

#### New At-Large Representative

The tribe is excited to announce that we now have a new At-Large Representative. His name is Emmett Turner. He has graciously accepted the position and has already created an Official At-Large Facebook page for all at-large citizens. If you would like to be a part of the At-Large Facebook page, please email Emmett to be added.

If you are an at-large citizen and have any comments, questions or concerns, please direct them through an email to Emmett and he will do his best to answer or address these things. You can contact him through email at: beardog100@outlook.com.

#### Student Graduates

Our son, Kyle "Nate" Goble, Jr. graduated from Northeast Alabama Community College in December with a degree in Mechatronics.

He was able to accomplish this, in part, by receiving scholarship money from Alabama Indian Affairs Commission. We thank the tribe and AIAC for helping make his dream a reality.

Thank you, Kyle & Kristi Goble

#### Just a Reminder:

The tribe's newsletter goes out every two months. We have dates at the end of this newsletter that show when the newsletter goes out. At anytime you want something to go into the newsletter, please email the tribe and put Newsletter in the subject line or you can email echotawebmaster@gmail.com

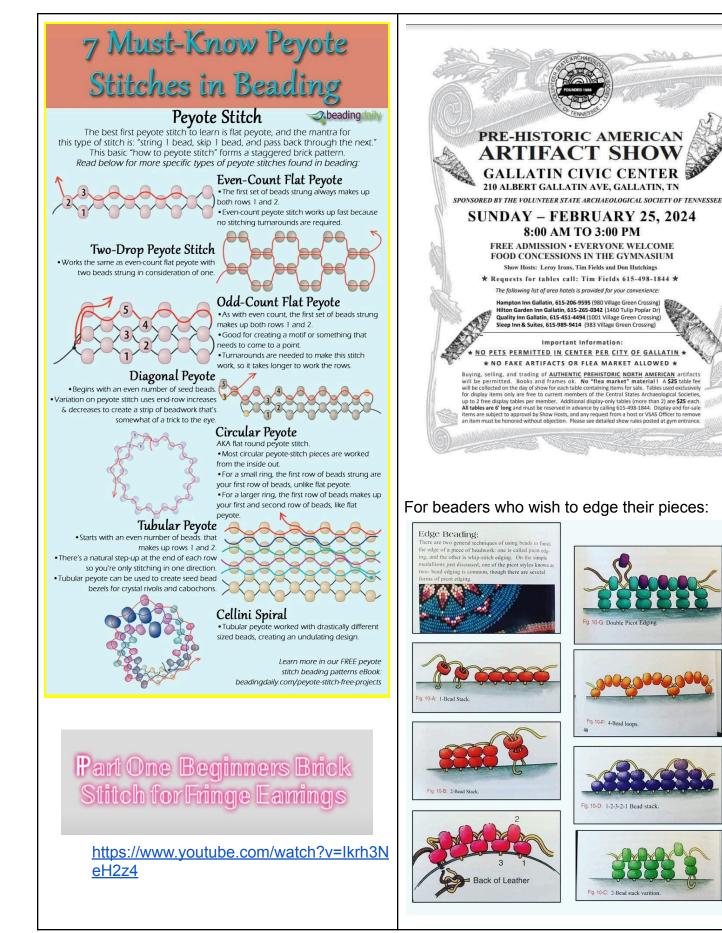
#### Interesting Facts about the Cherokee

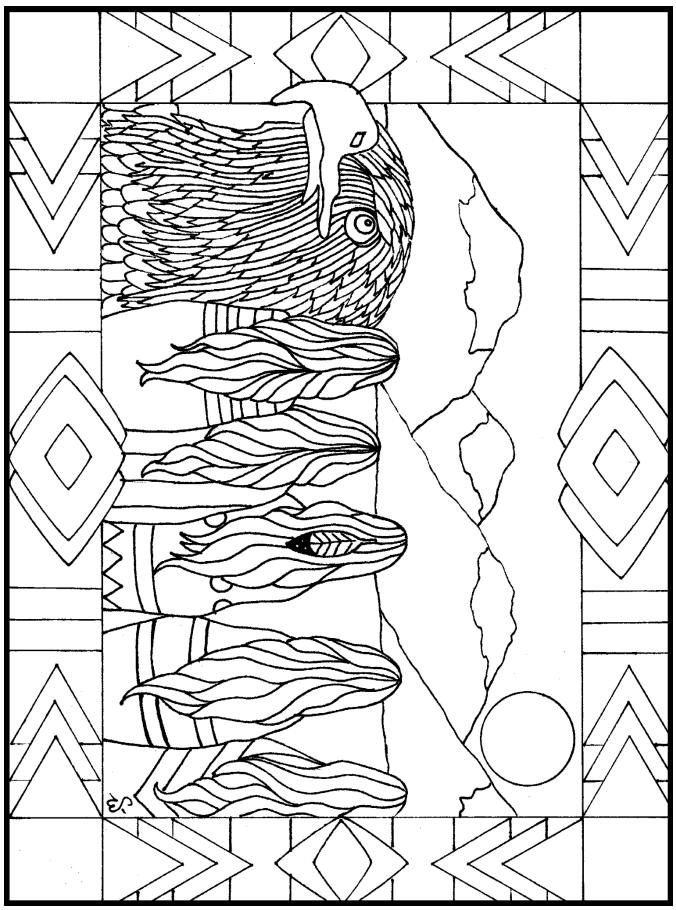
- During the Revolutionary War, the Cherokee aligned themselves with the British. They hoped that, if the British won, they would stop colonial expansion to the west (just as they'd done with the Royal Proclamation of 1763).
- Unfortunately, when the British were defeated, the Cherokee people lost a large portion of their **North Carolina land** to the newly formed United States of America.
- In 1798, the Tellico Treaty was signed in response to the influx of settlers into North Carolina's Cherokee territory.
- This treaty required that the Meigs-Freeman line be drawn to stop more settlers from encroaching on Cherokee land.
- This line went from the peak of Mount Collins to a spot on the North Carolina-South Carolina border, near what is now **Brevard NC**.



Cherokee Statue at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian

#### Assessment Reminders: Cherokee Word(s): I Love You Citizens who are married where both husband and wife are citizens - \$45 for the family (includes minor children) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j39bkCc5Wxc Citizens who are single parents with children - \$45 Click the blue link to hear how to say it. for the family (includes minor children) Citizens who are 18 and older - \$45 each We are getting questions of when is someone to EħGT pay their assessments. If you did not pay for 2023, we ask that you go ahead and pay the GVGEYUI assessment. Then mark your calendar or set up a reminder of when you pay it next year. You can also refer to your canceled check if you paid with a check. The tribe will not be sending out reminders. Our other suggestion is to always pay it the same month every year. This way it is easier to I LOVE YOU remember. We are also asked how much back pay do I owe? We ask that you begin paying your assessments to become active in the tribe. We are not asking that you pay all your back owed assessments. Please HEROKEE pass this along to anyone you know who may have this concern. Tony Mack McClure, PhD Also we are receiving emails of individuals who do not realize they should be paying an annual assessment. To be an active citizen and to have a vote in any election, you need to pay your annual assessment of \$45. You can do so by paying online or sending in a check/money order to the tribe. Pay online here: https://echotacherokee.org/assessments.html Pay through mail: A Guide for Tracing and Honoring The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama Your Cherokee Ancestors P.O. Box 479 Falkville, AL 35622





Coloring Sheet by Weeya Calif

Do You Own A Business?	Health Care for Children
Being a citizen of our tribe, you can qualify for a small business loan and more.	Did You Know that Free Health Care Coverage May Be Available For Your Children?
For information on 8(a) Business Development Program and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) certification, visit the Small Business Administration website.	The ALL Kids-Children's Health Insurance Program provides comprehensive health care coverage to children and teens under 19 whose families meet certain eligibility requirements. All Native American children and teens that are eligible for and enrolled in ALL Kids receive coverage at no cost.
website.	Using the Blue Cross Blue Shield preferred
Native American Business Directory	provider network, ALL Kids provides for regular check-ups, sick child doctor visits,
Businesses Disclaimer	dental and vision care, prescription
Native American Entrepreneurs Course	coverage, hospitalization and many more benefits.
Then, call the Business Development Staff at (205) 290 -7101 in the SBA Regional Office in Birmingham. Apply to become a vendor with the state: Alabama Department of Finance-Purchasing Division	For general information about ALL Kids, click here to visit our website where applications in English and Spanish can be downloaded and printed out. Applications can also be picked up at your local county health department. For more information about the program, answers to enrollment questions or to request an application, you
Alabama American Indian Success Story	may also call the ALL Kids toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-KIDS (5437).
For information concerning the Alabama Department of Transportation's	Click links below for more information:
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)	Information on the ALL Kids program
program call 1-800-247-3618 or 334-242-6534	Health Survey of Alabama Indians
Minority Business Development Agency Interactive Web Portal	ADPH Minority Health Quarterly Newsletter
	Kid One - Home/Kids One Application
Alabama Small Business Development Consortium Network	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
South Regions Minority Business Council	Indian Health Service
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	The Indian Health Service Fact Sheets

#### Echota Cherokee Tribe Council House Reservation



Because of meetings overlapping from different entities in the tribe, the Chief and Vice Chief are setting an expectation that anyone wishing to use the tribal council house for anything will need to reserve the space. The expectation is that our citizens will visit our calendar on our website to see if the date they wish to use the facilities is available. They will then be required to email the tribe to have that date reserved. The facilities cannot be used without going through this process. Those following the reservation process have priority.

To make a calendar reservation, include the following information in the email:

What type of meeting Contact Person Date of meeting Time of meeting Description of what will occur at the meeting.

#### The Echota Print Shop

The tribe now has a print shop. The Governing Body has given Weeya Calif permission to create items to sell for the tribe. All profits from the sale of these items will go directly to the tribe. We have just a few designs and hope to have more in the near future. Please visit the link to see one of a kind items.

https://echotacherokee.org/the-echota-print-shop. html



#### Looking for Clan News & Updates:

If you have clan business or clan information you wish to have published in the newsletter, please email the tribe with the information and we will make sure to get it out in the next newsletter. Please pay attention to the dates on the last page of the newsletter. The dates show when to submit articles and when the newsletter comes out. We look forward to more clans submitting information.



#### **Office Hours & Operations**

In case you didn't know, our office is now open. Dr. Shawn Castleberry is our new Office Manager. His office hours are:

MWF - 9:45 am - 12:45 pm

However, there are some days that he will be in the office that go outside of the above stated times or there are days he cannot make it into the office. Dr. Castleberry suggests that you check the calendar of events, on the website, to see when he is in the office and to view other events on the tribal grounds. Here is a link to the calendar of events.

https://echotacherokee.org/calendar.html



Weeya Calif & Dr. Shawn Castleberry Webmaster and Office Manager

#### Things to Remember:

#### The Official FB Page of the Echota - We Are Echota Cherokee

Our tribe has a private group page on Facebook that is for our citizens only. If you are interested in joining this group, you can email the webmaster, Weeya Calif. Weeya will need to verify you are a citizen of the tribe. You may be asked to provide a picture of your tribal ID as proof of citizenship. Once verified, you will be sent a link to join The Citizens Page. Please send your request to echotawebmaster@gmail.com.

#### Not Able to See the Online Newsletter?

Dear Citizens, if you know of an elder or other citizen who is unable to go online to read the newsletter or have it sent to them in email, we ask that you let your Clan Rep know so that they can print a copy and get it to those individuals or if you have a printer, please consider printing a copy and giving it to your elders or citizens who do not have technology. You might even want to call them and read the newsletter to them. We apologize for the inconvenience, but the tribe cannot, at this time, send out the newsletter via snail mail.

#### **Use Your Enrollment Number**

Notice to all citizens. It is very important when paying your fees, sending emails, calling the office or handling any tribal business that you include your tribal enrollment number. We can still help you but you will need to eventually know your number. If you do not know your tribal enrollment number, you will be asked to apply for a new tribal ID card and pay the fee to process the card. It is important that you keep up with your card and your number. We are currently developing a database with everyone's information but this will take time.



#### Great Resource for Cherokee Clothing:

Cherokee Clothing in the 1700s Museum of the Cherokee Indian Store https://museumstore.mci.org/products/cherokee-clothing-in-the-1700s

This is a well documented resource of what the Cherokee traditionally wore before and after the 1700s. If you are looking to wear traditional Cherokee regalia, this book is a great resource and has instructions as well.

#### **Great Genealogy Resource Books for Cherokee Ancestry:**



Website with genealogy resources: https://www.weeyacalif.com/genealogy.html#/

Cherokee Roots Books: https://www.amazon.com/Cherokee-Roots-Set-Volumes-Eastern/dp/096337740X

### **Echota Business Page:**

If you have a business card with your business information or a website address of your business that you would like to share, please sign up <u>here</u>. Let's shop with our citizens!!!



Weeya Michelle Calif Artist, Educator & Storyteller Website: <u>www.weeyacalif.com</u> Email: <u>weeyacalif@gmail.com</u>

Native American artist who works with traditional art and digital art. She designs logos, flyers, paintings and more. She is also available to teach online classes and in person classes.

She currently works with the Oneida Nation Arts Program and the Woodland Indian Art, Inc., organizations teaching art to Native youth and adults.



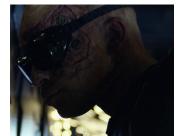
Native American Aztec/Cherokee Creations

We Focus our Creations on our ancestors of the Aztec Mayans Toltecs and Cherokee. Hand Made Traditional Items. Leather bags, Necklaces, Dreamcatchers, Drums, Earrings, Medicine Bags, and much more. Email: awarren2006@yahoo.com Website:https://native-american-a ztec-creations.business.site/ Phone: 719-248-3131



Ron Warren Native American Flute Player

Ron offers online (Zoom) lessons in Native Flute playing, music theory and songwriting (discount for Echota Cherokee tribal members). Live Stream performances and workshops are also available. Visit the website, <u>www.ronwarrenmusic.com</u>, for more information.



"**Lil Cory**" Cory Edwards Actor | Musician | Music Producer

Film/TV/Voice: Talent Manager: Alison McMahon alison@vaentertainment.ca

Twitter: @lilcorymuzik Instagram: @lilcorymusic Sweet to the Soul Pure LOCAL HONEY

> Wadulisi Hives Tim Guyse 256-454-7625 Courtland. AL

Pure raw honey from North Alabama.

#### The Offices of Michael D. Freels



Tax & Immigration Consultant. General office work.

Phone: 479-856-5557 Email: mdfreels@yahoo.com



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Stop by my pop up shop to share a smile and say hi. Handcrafted jewelry and craft items available as well as jewelry repair.

We offer friendly service, reasonable prices and quality workmanship.

You receive southern service with a tribal flare.

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#### FREEEEE!!!!!



The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama		
Head Leadership		
Principal Chief	Nancy Massey	
Vice Chief	Bobby Bolden	
Parliamentarian	Position Open	
Recording Secretary	Lenela Glass-Godwin	
Clan Chiefs		
Bird Clan	Jean Chandler	
Blue Clan	James Swann, Jr.	
Deer Clan	Wayne Smith	
Long Hair Clan	Tommy Keith	
Paint Clan	Reginald Hughes	
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open	
Wolf Clan	Wayne Yates	
Clan Representatives		
Bird Clan	Martha Gann	
Blue Clan	Vick Ball	
Deer Clan	Gary Parnell	
Long Hair Clain	Sharon Keith	
Paint Clan	William Gaskin	
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open	
Wolf Clan	Eddy Bonner	
At - Large	Emmett Turner	





Did you know that you can now pay your fees online? Just visit our tribe's website. Click on the Citizens Only tab and choose Assessment Fees.

https://echotacherokee.org/assessment-fees.html



#### **Calendar of Events**

The tribe is now posting tribal events, meetings, clean up days and more on our calendar which is on our website. If any citizen or clan has important dates they would like us to post on the website's calendar, please forward that information via email to:

theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com



How to Make and Wear a Cherokee <u>Turban</u>



We are excited to share with the tribe that we will be sending out the newsletter every two months via email and posting it on the website. This will help save our tribe a lot of money. However, for our citizens who wish to receive the Smoke Signals, it will be sent out by Ms. Charlotte H. quarterly.

#### Dates to remember:

Deadlines to submit items to go into the newsletter will be the 20th of the previous mouth. For example, the next Newsletter will go out on February 1st. All items citizens want posted in the newsletter need to be submitted to the tribe's email by January 20th.

Deadline to Submit	Newsletter Posted
January 20th	February 1st
March 20th	April 1st
May 20th	June 1st
July 20th	August 1st
September 20th	October 1st
November 20th	December 1st

If you have items you would like included in the newsletter, please send it to: theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com

### Your Native American Rights As Echota Cherokee Citizens

#### Worship in the Manner of Your Ancestors

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Public Law No. 95-341, 92 Stat. 469 (August 11, 1978)

These rights include, but are not limited to, access to sacred sites, freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rights and use and possession of objects considered sacred. The act required policies of all governmental agencies to eliminate interference with the free exercise of native religion.

#### Market Your Arts and Crafts as "Native American or Indian Made"

"The Indian Arts and Crafts Act (Act) of 1990 (P.L. 101-644) is a truth-in-advertising law that prohibits misrepresentation in the marketing of Indian arts and crafts products within the United States. It is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian or Indian tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization, resident within the United States.

Under the Act, an Indian is defined as a member of any federally or officially state recognized tribe of the United States, or an individual certified as an Indian artisan by an Indian tribe." -- <u>U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Art &</u> <u>Crafts Board</u>

## The U. S. Census Bureau defines a native American as follows:

American Indian and Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.