



# PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA Member News

Newly elected  
Tribal Council  
installed



February 2025



# Tribal Council members take oath of office

On Sunday, January 18, 2025, four newly elected or re-elected Tribal Council Representatives were installed at a ceremony held at the Niobrara Headquarters. Patrick Lamoureux (District 1), Samantha Galllagher (District 2), Suzie Baker (District 3), and Alex Taylor (District 4) took the oath of office, and assumed their duties as Tribal Council Representatives for the ensuing term. A reception was held afterwards to welcome the new Tribal Council members, after which the first Tribal Council meeting for the new term was held. Congratulations to our new Tribal Council Representatives!



L-R: Tribal Council representatives Alex Taylor (District 4), Suzie Baker (District 3), Patrick Lamoureux (District 1), and Samantha Gallagher (District 2) take the oath of office from Election Board Chair Rhonda Oestreich.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Healthy Living

## Walk/Run & Powwow

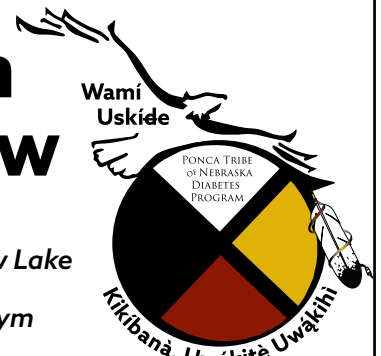
April 12, 2025

**Walk/Run Location – Skyview Lake**

1900 West Maple Ave | Norfolk, NE

**Powwow Location – Ponca Gym**

1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE



On the cover: 2025-2026 Tribal Council. Front row, L-R: Shanna Carpenter (District 3), Tribal Chairwoman Candace Schnidt, and Falon McAlpin (District 2). Back Row, L-R: Suzie Baker (District 3), Patrick Lamoureux (District 1), Samantha Gallagher (District 2), and Alex Taylor (District 4). Not Pictured: Angie Starkel (District 1) and Kyle Taylor (District 4).

# Chairwoman's Corner

**"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries."**

Thati'a relatives,

First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the recent catastrophic fires in California. We know all too well how devastating these natural disasters can be. The Tribal Council continues to vigilantly monitor the situation, and our emergency management team has been in contact with members in those at-risk areas. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please reach out to our Emergency Manager ([smingura@poncatribene.gov](mailto:smingura@poncatribene.gov))—your well-being is our top priority. In times of disaster, staying connected is vital! Ensure your contact information with the tribal enrollment department is updated and complete. It is important so that we can reach you and keep you informed about essential updates and reach you in emergency situations. Don't wait until it's too late—stay in the loop!

In January we welcomed our newly elected tribal council representatives during a swearing-in ceremony. Congratulations to each of you! I look forward to our journey together as we continue to move our beloved tribal nation forward; including many exciting projects on the horizon.

We are excited to invite all tribal members to the grand opening ceremony of phase 2 of the Prairie Flower Casino! Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for the official Save the Date in this newsletter and a personal invitation in the mail.

Lastly, we celebrate alongside all our indigenous relatives as Leonard Peltier, tribal elder and activist, returns home thanks to President Biden. See the full statement on



Chairwoman Schmidt and other tribal chairs with IHS director Tso at the Great Plains Tribal Health Board Meeting.



L-R: D4 Rep Alex Taylor, D3 Rep Shanna Carpenter, Tribal Chairwoman Candace Schmidt, outgoing D1 Rep JoAn Schlotman, and D1 Rep Angie Starkel at an Open House Honoring JoAn Schlotman for her years of service on Tribal Council

page 2.

Below are some additional highlights to share from the last couple of months. Until next time, take care!

- Tribal Council Health Subcommittee meetings
- Weekly Tribal Council meetings
- Meetings with local and state officials
- Tribal Nations White House Summit
- Diaper Distributions at all office locations open to all tribal members
- Farmer's Market events at all office

locations open to all tribal members

- Federal briefings and consultations
- Chief Standing Bear Museum and Cultural Center meetings
- Executive Team meetings
- Meeting with IHS officials
- Casino Development meetings
- Workforce meetings
- Bi-weekly Federal calls
- PGE meeting
- Great Plains Chair meeting

continued on page 3



# Farmer's Market Food Distribution

## February

- Mon. February 10, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Sioux City | 125 6th Street
- Tues. February 11, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street
- Wed. February 12, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot
- Thurs. February 13, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle
- Fri. February 14, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Lincoln | 1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot

## March

- Mon. March 10, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle
- Tues. March 11, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Sioux City | 125 6th Street
- Wed. March 12, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street
- Thurs. March 13, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Lincoln | 1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot
- Fri. March 14, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot

## April

- Mon. April 7, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Norfolk | 1800 Syracuse Avenue | North Gym Lot
- Tues. April 8, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Sioux City | 125 6th Street
- Wed. April 9, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Lincoln | 1600 Windhoek Drive | North Lot
- Thurs. April 10, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Omaha | 5815 South 86th Circle
- Fri. April 11, 2025 | 4 - 6 pm**  
Niobrara | 2523 Woodbine Street



PONCA TRIBAL MEMBERS

*Expansion*

**OPEN HOUSE!**



**PRAIRIE FLOWER**  
CASINO

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16**  
**1-6 PM**

EXCLUSIVELY FOR

*Tribal Members*



**WATCH FOR A POSTCARD**  
**WITH MORE INFORMATION**

**CASINO PUBLIC GRAND OPENING**  
**FEBRUARY 17: 10AM**

1031 Ave H • Carter Lake, IA 51510  
888-WIN-MORE  
prairieflowercasino.com  
Must be 21. Please bet responsibly.

## CONT: Chairwoman's Corner

continued from page 1

- Interviews
- ICWA meeting
- Communications meeting
- Great Plains Health Board meetings
- Swearing-in Ceremony
- Convening of the Four Winds and Corn Planting meetings
- OSNI Dinner celebrating 10 years for staff member Chris Armitage
- Open House for outgoing council member JoAn Schlotman
- Strategic Planning meetings

**wibdàhà (thank you),**

Chairwoman Candace Schmidt

candaces@poncatribes-ne.gov | (402) 860-1497

*Below is the statement issued by Tribal Council on the clemency granted to Leonard Peltier.*

Today, on the symbolic and powerful Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we celebrate a transformative moment in justice as President Biden has granted clemency to Leonard Peltier, a revered Native American elder and relentless activist.

"Leonard Peltier is not only a symbol of resilience but a survivor of the devastating American Indian boarding schools. His journey reflects the enduring spirit of Indigenous peoples who have faced immense challenges and injustices," said Chairwoman Candace Schmidt.

This clemency is deeply significant, falling on a day dedicated to the legacy of Dr. King—a day that reminds us of the ongoing fight for equality, justice, and human rights. It's a testament to the belief that it is never too late to right the wrongs of the past.

"Peltier's release serves as a beacon of hope for our communities, encouraging us all to continue advocating for justice and to uplift the voices that have too long been silenced. Today is a call to action for equity and reconciliation," Chairwoman Schmidt added.

As we reflect on this historical moment, let us unite in our commitment to honor those who have fought for justice and to continue the work necessary to bring healing to our communities.

## Councilwoman Schlotman honored

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, an Open House was held to honor outgoing District 1 Tribal

Council Representative JoAn Schlotman for her service to the Tribe.



## Member Spotlight - James LaPointe



Serving as a Citizen of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is an honor. But serving as an Election Board Member for the past four years? That's a responsibility I hold with immense pride! This role isn't easy...it's one of the most important boards within our tribe. We are entrusted with ensuring fair, transparent, and ethical elections that uphold the voice of our people. The long hours, the meticulous work, and the unwavering dedication it takes to maintain election integrity is no small task!

On January 18, 2025, we proudly witnessed the Ponca Tribal Council Installation of Elected Council Members, a moment that reflects months (and years!) of hard work from our board. I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible individuals I serve alongside. Their commitment, sacrifice, and passion for our people inspire me every day. Thank you Rhonda, Jamie, Amanda, and Charley!

This isn't just about elections...it's about empowering our citizens to have a voice in shaping our future! While I balance my amazing full-time career, serving my Tribe in this capacity is one of the most meaningful things I do. If you've ever wondered about the impact you can have on your community, this is your sign to get involved!

**Wašábe Clan**

by Steve Laravie, Sr., Language Program Coordinator

W A N Á Š E T A Ğ À Đ G E D Í G  
 Ĳ H Á T Đ E Ž É H É X U D E W I  
 T Š W Š S Á T É S Á W Ĳ Á W I N  
 É Ú Á G Ĳ Š U G À Á Đ È E Ž T Á  
 M K K P A H É U Đ Í Š A Í Á Ĳ Ž  
 Í A A A U N É Đ È Ĳ G Ž G X È A  
 Ž B H Á M Á G E Z Í E Í W U I G  
 Ĳ Ĳ A É N Ú G À P À Ĳ G Ĳ D Á È  
 G Ĳ Š G M A Š T É W Ĳ Á G E Ĳ A  
 À Đ A Ž Í M W Đ K É T W H À A Ĳ  
 Y É Đ T H N X K E Í H O Z Đ Á Ĳ  
 À Z A A A Á Đ È M S K Á S Ž À Š  
 N E H T E M Í W A U A G A X Ĳ W  
 E S A Ĳ Ĳ A N Ĳ Á Š Ĳ M Á X Á G A  
 T É W Á U A G Ĳ Ž Ú T Á Ĳ Đ É Đ  
 Í B U Ž Á G È D A B N Ĳ N Í B A  
 M E Š A Đ E K Ĳ W A D E Đ G Í M

**Xčáde**

to love

1. Xčá'ade - I love him/her
2. Xčá'widè - I love you
3. Xčá'awagide - I love us
4. Xčá'awadè - I love them
5. Xčá'akide - I love myself
6. Xčá'ágide - I love my own

For the next several months, this word search puzzle will explore historic personal names from each of the Ponca clans. Ponca names are formed from words in the language, and provide a unique way to study both the language and history of the Tribe.

**Niníba** - Pipe**Šúkabi** -

Bunch of Clouds

**Hé Xude** -

Grey Horn

**T'é Mížgà** -

Buffalo Girl

**Žá Xude** -

Grey Wood

**T'é Sájwí** -

White Buffalo Girl

**Máge Zí** -

Yellow Breast

**Má Xága** -

Jagged Arrow

Head

**T'é Wáu** -

Buffalo Woman

**Mašt'e Wí** -

Sunny Day Woman

**Mí Gđedā Wí** -

Moonhawk

Woman

**Gināžagè** -

Makes a Pathway

**Wanāše T'agā** -

Big Solder

**T'é Míwau** -

Buffalomoon

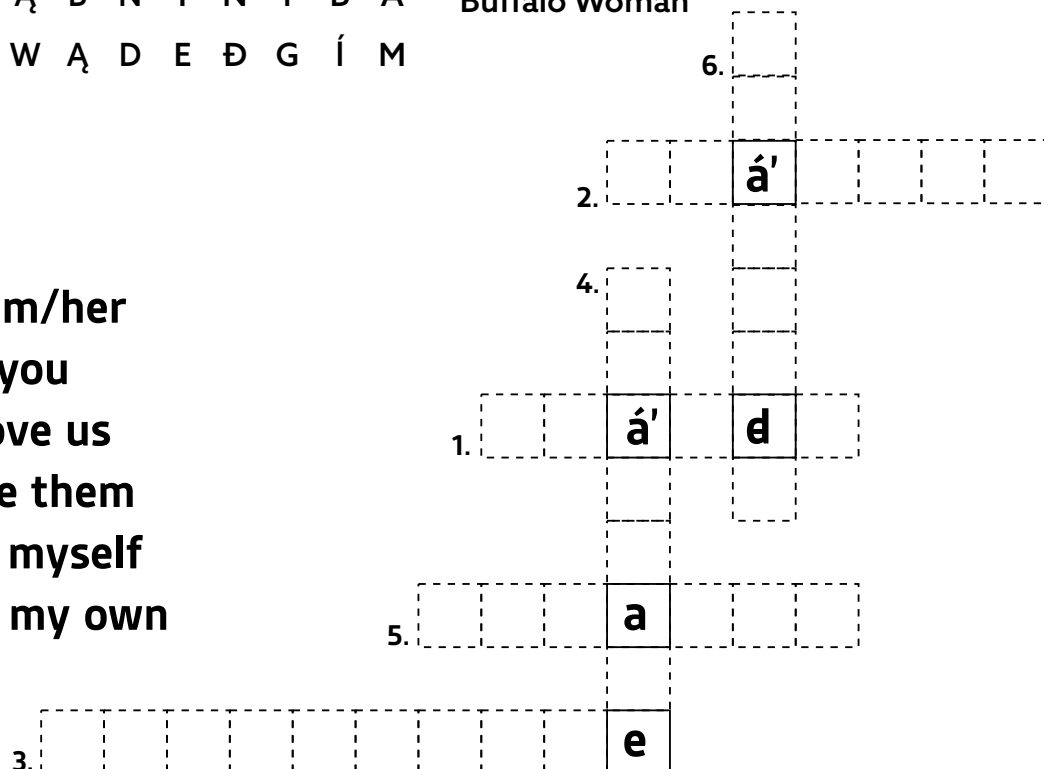
Woman

**P'ahé Udīšā** -

Bison Around

the Hill

answers on page 15





# Ponca Tribe hosts Round Dance in Sioux City

On December 28, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska hosted a Round Dance in Sioux City for the Native community to come together and celebrate. The event ran late into the night, and included a meal, an apple and orange dance, a midnight snack, along with lots of singing, drumming, dancing, and community.



## Calling all Ponca Artists

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members are invited to sign up to sell their handmade items at the Niobrara Market.

Please scan our QR code or visit [https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca\\_artists\\_niobrara\\_market](https://poncatribeofne.formstack.com/forms/ponca_artists_niobrara_market) to sign up. For more information, contact Rebecca Sullivan at [bsullivan@osniponca.com](mailto:bsullivan@osniponca.com).



## Ponca Tribal Code Series

The Ponca Tribal Court and the Domestic Violence Program are working together to host the Ponca Code Series. This series is a training being held to assist tribal members, staff, legal professionals, human service professionals, and members of the indigenous community to better understand the Ponca Tribal Code.

### Guardianship

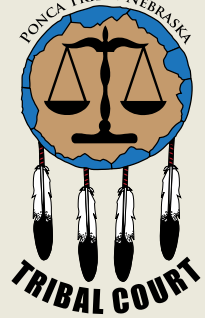

February 13, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm  
Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

### Custody

March 13, 2025 | 11 am – 2 pm  
Sioux City Offices  
125 6th Street | Sioux City, IA

The series will go over one section of the code per event and is taught by the Honorable Patrick Runge. Lunch will be provided.

This flyer was produced by the Ponca Tribe of NE under two grants: Grant # 90CS2045 TCIP, and grant #15POVC-21-GG-00928-TVAG, awarded by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Program, and U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this flyer are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.





# Distance no deterrent with three parties for District 1





## Food, fun, and smiles at District 2 holiday party



District 2

## Girl Scout Cookie Day

**February 23 | 10 am-12 pm**

5701 S 85th Circle | Omaha, NE

Come down and get your Girl Scout Cookies and have a meet and greet with four of our D2 Girl Scouts! There will be refreshments to enjoy and each enrolled member will be able to select up to 2 boxes each on a first-come, first-served basis.

*All members must be actively enrolled when the enrollment list is pulled. For more information, please contact Falon McAlpin at 402.208.0297 or Samantha Gallagher at 402.213.2058.*

**PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA**





# Bingo and Santa make Christmas fun for District 3!



## Super Bowl Watch Party

**February 9, 2025 | 6 pm**

Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive | Lincoln, NE

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska families living in the District 3 Service Delivery Area are invited to watch the Super Bowl! Kick off will be at 6:30 pm. Food, drinks, and activities for kids will be provided.

For more information, please contact Tribal Council Representatives Shanna Carpenter at [shannac@poncatribes-ne.gov](mailto:shannac@poncatribes-ne.gov) or at 402.805.0883 or Susie Baker at 925.788.0649 or at [sbaker@poncatribes-ne.gov](mailto:sbaker@poncatribes-ne.gov).



# District 4 members enjoy food and fun at Christmas party



## Interested in obtaining your GED?

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offers members a \$250 incentive upon successful completion of the program plus \$60 to be applied toward testing fees.

For any questions or to obtain an application, please contact Aubrey or Pat in Education at 402.371.8834 or you may email them at [aknudsen@poncatribene.gov](mailto:aknudsen@poncatribene.gov) or [pate@poncatribene.gov](mailto:pate@poncatribene.gov).





Focus on healthy teen relationships during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

**Maria Al-Kafaji**  
Domestic Violence Case Manager

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is an important opportunity to talk with youth and teens about healthy relationships and dating violence.

Exploring relationships is challenging, especially for youth and teens exploring romantic relationships for the first time. As adults, we can provide guidance and support to our young people by talking about the signs of a healthy and respectful relationship and by giving them an example of what a healthy and respectful love looks like with our own personal lives.



Here are some signs of dating violence that you can talk about with your teens:

- Partner acts extremely jealous or possessive
- Partner frequently shows up wherever you are unannounced
- Partner gets annoyed or frequently upset
- Partner threatens to start false rumors
- Partner gaslights teen. Example: partner explodes in anger and later denies that it happened
- Partner criticizes teen's dreams, goals, family or friends
- Partner tells teen what to wear or how to dress

- Partner doesn't want to be known by teen's family or friends
- Partner threatens to hurt themselves if teen doesn't do what they want
- Partner makes teen use drugs or alcohol in exchange for sexual "gifts"

Our Native youth and teens are our future, and they will lead the way to our future Native generations, help them to find the right path in their lives now. If you have any questions please contact Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Domestic Violence Program at 531-248-3030.

Child Care Development Fund

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska uses the Federal government's Child Care and Development Fund to provide assistance to families who need child care due to work, work-related training and/or attending school.

In order to qualify for this benefit program:

- You must be a parent or primary caregiver responsible for children under the age of 13 years of age, or under 19 if incapable of self-care or under court supervision who needs assistance paying for daycare
- In order to qualify you must be either employed or enrolled in a training or education program
- You must reside in one of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Service Delivery Areas
- Your daycare provider must have their business in one of the tribe's Service Delivery Areas
- Once you have confirmation from the State of Nebraska showing denial for their Child Care Subsidy Program, you are eligible to be considered for our Child Care and Development Fund program.

For more information or to see if you qualify for acceptance into the program, contact the program coordinator:

Stephanie Pospisil, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE 68512  
531-248-3030 x 1108 | spospisil@poncatrib-ne.gov





# Circle of Health promotes healthy relationships and eating habits

In January, the Circle of Health promoted both healthy eating and healthy relationships, at two separate events held at Ponca Health Services - Lincoln. The healthy eating event focused on ways to incorporate

ate traditional foods into our diets, and the healthy relationship event delved into having safe, healthy relationships that support ourselves and our families.



## Join Us for Lunch!

Members are invited to come and share lunch with the Executive Team at our monthly meet and greet! We look forward to sharing a meal, and hearing member input on projects and prospects facing our Tribal nation. Please be sure to RSVP, so we can save you a spot at the table!

**February 21 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Niobrara Headquarters  
2523 Woodbine Street

**March 21 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Sioux City Offices  
125 6th Street

**April 18 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive

**May 16 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Ralston Transit Building  
5701 South 85th Circle

**June 20 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Norfolk Housing Authority  
1501 W Michigan Ave

**July 18 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Niobrara Agency Room  
88915 521 Avenue

**August 15 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Sioux City Offices  
125 6th Street

**September 19 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Lincoln Community Room  
1600 Windhoek Drive

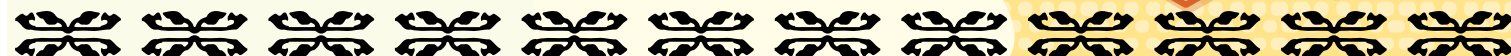
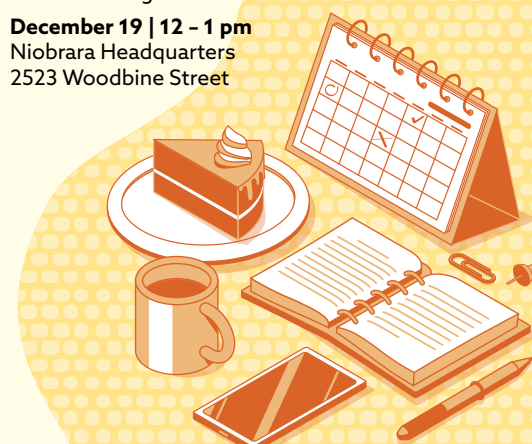
**October 17 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Ralston Transit Building  
5701 South 85th Circle

**November 21 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Norfolk Housing Authority  
1501 W Michigan Ave

**December 19 | 12 - 1 pm**  
Niobrara Headquarters  
2523 Woodbine Street



To RSVP, please scan our QR code or visit our link: [https://poncatribefne.formstack.com/forms/meet\\_and\\_greet](https://poncatribefne.formstack.com/forms/meet_and_greet). For more information, questions, or to request a link to join virtually, please contact Taylor White at [twhite@poncatribene.gov](mailto:twhite@poncatribene.gov).



## D2 packs theaters again for a fun afternoon of Mufasa!!



## SAVE THE DATE! Diaper Distribution

**February 5, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm**

Norfolk Gym

1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE

Lincoln Community Room – North Entrance

1600 Windhoek Dr | Lincoln, NE

Niobrara Headquarters

2523 Woodbine St | Niobrara, NE

Cabinet Building Garage

5813 S 86th Cir | Omaha, NE

**February 18, 2025 | 10 am – 6 pm**

Sioux City Office

125 6th St | Sioux City, IA

**Please bring Tribal ID or proof of enrollment for you or the child in need to participate.**

# Be ready for the next step.

## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act- Indian and Native American Program

The Ponca Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program is funded by a Department of Labor Grant. The program assists individuals with education and training, job search activities, and employment related supportive services.

Information about hiring events, job listings, educational opportunities, and more is available on the Ponca Tribe WIOA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ptnwioa](https://www.facebook.com/ptnwioa).

If you are interested in obtaining education and training, contact the WIOA Program to see if you qualify for assistance.

### The WIOA Staff are:

Colleen Plasek—Ralston | 402.315.2765

Bianca Marino—Norfolk | 402.371.8834

Lisa Agans—Lincoln | 402.438.9222







# Did you know?

Our PTN Education programs are open to members nationwide!

- Need based funding in our Higher Education, Adult Vocational Training, and Graduate programs at the post-secondary level.
- K-12 Youth Incentive Program
- GED Incentive Program and GED testing fee assistance

For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Education Department at 402.371.8834, via email at [pate@poncatrib-ne.gov](mailto:pate@poncatrib-ne.gov) or [aknudsen@poncatrib-ne.gov](mailto:aknudsen@poncatrib-ne.gov), or via mail:

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Department of Education  
1800 Syracuse Ave | Norfolk, NE 68701

**PONCA TRIBE  
OF NEBRASKA**



## Attention All AVT/HIED Students Nationwide:

Please remember to submit your official transcripts after **EACH** term funded in order to be eligible to receive future funding. Students must apply each school year.

**Summer 2025 deadline: May 15, 2025**

**Fall 2025 deadline: August 15, 2025**

**Winter 2025 deadline: November 15, 2025**

The Ponca Educational Trust Fund is available nationwide to students who enroll at one of the University of Nebraska Campuses/Online Courses: Lincoln ~ Omaha ~ Kearney (Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours per semester to be eligible)

## Attention All K-12 YIP Students Nationwide:

- High School Seniors for the 2024-2025 school year are eligible to receive a \$500.00 Graduation Incentive!
- Our department is accepting projects for incentives in the following areas: Art, Essay/Poetry, and Student of the Month. *\*Winners may receive \$100.00 for 1st place, \$50.00 for 2nd place, and \$25.00 for 3rd place. Grade divisions are as follows: Primary (K-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12)*
- Perfect Attendance \$100.00 (0-.49 days of absenteeism), \$50.00 (.5-3.49 days of absenteeism), and \$25.00 (3.5-5.49 days of absenteeism).

**Deadline to apply for the 2024-2025 school year is July 31, 2025.**

All Education Department Applications and Program Information are available online on our tribal website. If you have any questions for the education department, please feel free to contact Aubrey Knudsen at: office (402)371-8834, work cell (402)844-0957, or [aknudsen@poncatrib-ne.gov](mailto:aknudsen@poncatrib-ne.gov). *\*Ponca tribal enrollment is required for ALL education programs\**

# PEDCO welcomes Greg Moser as Director

Greg Moser serves as Director for the Ponca Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO). He has over 21 years of experience in the public health field serving Nebraska at the state and local levels. During his career in public health, Greg was successful in coordinating multi-sector, collaborative efforts to assess population health needs and develop community health improvement plans. Greg was also responsible for providing technical assistance and support to 20



Nebraska Health Departments in strengthening their capacity to deliver essential public health services. Greg’s specialties

include strategic planning, community health improvement planning, workforce development, grants management, and quality improvement initiatives. Greg has a bachelor’s degree in community health education from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health. Greg brings dedication and a passion for helping others live better lives. He is committed to serving people who face

challenges from various walks in life. Originally from northeast Nebraska, Greg enjoys spending time with his family, staying active, and watching sports. He is excited to work with the people of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to ensure vibrant growth of the Tribe and a brighter future for all Native American people.



## AVAILABLE NOW!

# CYBERSECURITY IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING WITH PEDCO & UNO

Hackers are getting more sophisticated, and they strike randomly. This is true even in Agriculture. Understand your options and prepare for the possibility you could be the next victim of a cybercrime. PEDCO offers free Cybersecurity in Agriculture training in partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Training will be available online or in-person if requested, and training sites will be available in any of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska offices throughout the Service Area upon request.



**CYBERSECURITY IN AGRICULTURE TRAINING**

—

**PRESENTED BY PEDCO & UNO**

—

**IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

—

**FREE TWO-HOUR TRAINING**

—

**OPEN TO ALL PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS**

**INTERESTED? CONTACT**

Tom McCauley  
Grants Manager  
PEDCO  
[tmccauley@pedco-ne.org](mailto:tmccauley@pedco-ne.org)  
402-499-1202



## COMING SOON!

# PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**

The PEDCO Workforce Development program will provide our Ponca Tribe of Nebraska members access to services designed to help nurture individual self-sufficiency, assist in eliminating barriers to employment, and provide members a means to achieve professional success. This program will be available to all members 16+ wanting pre-employment assistance, to further their career, or to advance professional skills. We are planning to build this into a career center based on the needs of our People.



**PEDCO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

—

**CAREER EXPLORATION**

—

**EMPLOYMENT TRAINING**

—

**CAREER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

—

**VIRTUAL SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING**

**PEDCO**  
2756 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402.434.2127

[PEDCO-NE.org](http://PEDCO-NE.org)

Releasing in early 2025



# Chris Armitage celebrates ten years with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

On Thursday, January 9, 2025, Osni Ponca, LLC, the PEDCO Board of Directors, staff members, and members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Council gathered at Misty's Steakhouse in Lincoln, Nebraska, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Chris Armitage's outstanding service. During the event, Chris was honored with a star quilt presented by Chairwoman Candace Schmidt and a certificate of appreciation from Jeremy Wright, Chairman of the Osni Ponca, LLC Board of Directors.

Chris Armitage serves as the Controller for



Osni Ponca, LLC, bringing over 30 years of experience in operations within small businesses and non-profits.

Chris's dedication to creating positive change and delivering measurable results exemplifies her commitment to making a difference.



She resides in Lincoln, Nebraska, and remains a vital part of the Osni Ponca, LLC team, continually advancing the organization's mission.

## Strategic planning sessions held for OSNI Ponca, LLC and PEDCO



From January 9–11, 2025, OSNI Ponca, LLC and PEDCO economic divisions conducted their strategic planning sessions.

On Thursday and Friday, the OSNI Board of Directors and staff members participated in a comprehensive strategic planning session facilitated by consultant Brandi Liberty of the Luak Group. The sessions were held at the Ponca

Tribe of Nebraska office in Lincoln, Nebraska, focusing on goals and initiatives for the organization's economic development objectives.

On Saturday, the PEDCO Board of Directors and staff shifted their focus to the non-profit entity, completing another strategic planning session to align efforts and set a clear direction for the future

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word search answers from page 4



## Tribal Court Judge Evaluations

Section 1-2-13 #2h of the Ponca Tribal Law and Order Code states that one of duties of the Law & Justice Committee is: To provide annual evaluations of the Judges and Justices of the Tribal Court and provide the same to the Tribal Council and members of the Tribe.

These evaluations, and the evaluation process, can be accessed via the QR code below.



PONCA TRIBE  
of NEBRASKA

## Culture Teachers Wanted!

Are you in the Sioux City, Omaha, Niobrara and Lincoln area? Are you interested in sharing Ponca culture and knowledge with others? The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Culture Department is seeking Ponca members interested in teaching various aspects of Ponca culture (regalia, beading, singing, dancing, food, etc.) and offering classes throughout the coming year.

To be considered, please send a sample of your work (video, picture, etc.) to Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs, Alexcia Boggs at [aboggs@poncatribene.gov](mailto:aboggs@poncatribene.gov) or 712.258.0500 ext. 1005.



PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA

## Empowerment Through Education: Ponca Youth Council Scholarship

**AWARDS:**

- ★ 1 \$1000 Scholarship
- ★ 2 \$500 Scholarships

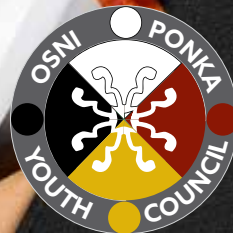
### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ Enrolled Ponca member
- ★ 17 - 24 years old
- ★ Preparing to enroll or currently enrolled in a college (2 or 4-year accredited institution), graduate, trade, or professional school
- ★ Answer three prompts
- ★ Provide one letter of recommendation

To start the application process, scan our QR code.

Applications are due **March 31, 2025**.

Applicants will be notified **May 17, 2025**.





(Please sign your name in the area below with a BLACK felt tip marker)

I \_\_\_\_\_ I

**TRIBAL MEMBERS**

(please print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING):

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**VETERANS ONLY: MILITARY BRANCH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department if you are requesting a military seal.**

**FOR A PHOTO ID PLEASE SIGN AND FILL OUT THIS PAGE.  
DON'T FORGET TO SEND (EMAIL) YOUR PICTURE AS WELL**

**Photo ID Instructions**

**1. Signature**

Please completely fill in the information on the bottom of the signature page. With a **black** felt tip marker please sign your name in the middle of the top of the signature page. **(Please note that children do not require a signature for theirs.)**

**2. Clear readable copies of the following must be submitted:**

a: State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID card  
(It **must** have your picture and signature on it)

b: If you are **not** an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe, but your child is, you must still submit a copy of your State Driver's License, State ID Card or other valid Picture ID and a copy of your child(s) Social Security Card and Tribal Enrollment Card for proof of enrollment.

**3. Photo Options:**

You must submit a current photo without filters and a solid colored background. You can email it to [enrollment@poncatrib-ne.gov](mailto:enrollment@poncatrib-ne.gov) or you may mail documentation and current photo to:  
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Enrollment Department, PO Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760-0288

**\*\*\*Please note that we can/will NOT use a photo from your state ID or driver's license.**

**4. Military Seals:**

Military branch seals are available for veterans. Military service papers must be submitted to the enrollment department to show proof of veteran status.



Change of Address Form

Mail to: PTN Enrollment Dept PO Box 288 Niobrara, NE 68760  
Fax: 402-857-3771 or enrollment@poncatribes-ne.gov

ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBER REQUESTING ADDRESS CHANGE:

OTHER ENROLLED PONCA TRIBE MEMBERS IN HOUSEHOLD:

PREVIOUS ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

NEW ADDRESS: (Street/P.O. Box, Apt #, City, State, Zip, County)

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE/CELL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE NEW ADDRESS IN EFFECT: \_\_\_\_\_

To provide better services to Ponca tribal members, this information will be shared with all PTON Departments as needed. Any service may be suspended until this information is corrected and/or updated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

## HELP US UPDATE OUR MEMBER INFORMATION!

Hello Members,

The Enrollment Department is doing their best to keep our members information current and up to date but we can't do it without your help. If you've moved or need to report a death please contact us to let us know.

Below is a list of members that are inactive. **This means that we do not have a current address for them on file or maybe a death was never reported or documents were never received.** If you see the name of someone you know who has moved please contact them and tell them to update their information with us. If there is the name of someone you know who has passed please contact us. We need a death certificate or document on file in order to change their status.

You may contact the Enrollment Department at [enrollment@poncatribene.gov](mailto:enrollment@poncatribene.gov), or contact the Niobrara office. We appreciate your help!

### INACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF 2/1/2025

LaPointe, Alejandro Jauquine  
Smith, Stephanie Rae  
Brown, La` Trel Lucious  
Velder Jr., Jason Lee  
Peniska, Ronin T.  
Mullen, Michael Thomas  
Poafpybitty, Misty Brook  
Prunty, Austin Joe  
Salazar, Mauricio  
Phillips, Oscar Alexander  
Sherman, Mitchell Everett  
Boettger, Dakota Birdhead  
Scuderi, Jana Marie  
Grant, I I I., Jesse Clarence  
White, Jacey Aron  
Flowers, Joseph  
O'Flynn, Shania Marie  
Rowe, Crystle Anette  
Parsley, Shanel Rose  
Smith, Danial Ray  
Carlson, Stephanie Lea  
Blair, Hunter Wo Day Leon  
Mc Cray II, Allen Junior  
O'Meara, David Joseph  
Droescher, Samantha Roma Rae  
Stuczynski, Drake Keegan  
Sherman, Cody Lee  
Lasley, Brittany Joy  
Laravie, Jr., Steve Alan  
Brownrigg, Steven Francis  
Keeling, Lamont Terrill  
Barrett, Dannielle Samantha  
Hope, Dorothea Jo Ann  
McGrath, Bryan Thomas  
Bair, Wesley David  
Scurlocke, Athena Larissa Lucille  
Wright, Cruz Montgomery  
Mann, Sydney Desiree`  
Hagler, Joshua James  
Schmidt, Dylan Andrew- Philip  
Rich, Mitch Andrew  
Wright, Alina Lee  
Roberts, Marquitta Ruby  
Hocking-Gosnell, Zalla C.  
Bonge, Todd Joseph  
Johnson, Lukus Tyler  
Rulo, Byron  
Muscutt, Elias Gordon  
Govia, Mc Kenzie Jo  
Peck, Tyler Duane  
Prichard, Joseph John  
Wright, Eric David  
Anthony, Jr., Steven Scott  
Wright, Aaron David  
Torrez, Jr., Lawrence DeWayne

Quintana Jr, Arthur Jose  
Matthews, Jett Haden  
Knight, Cameron Patrick  
Smith, Ashley Nicole  
Bear, Joshua Gilbert  
Rley, Andrew Briggs  
Maben, Jessica Paige  
Eckley, Leigha Irene  
Wright, Cherita Alberta  
Angell, Tonya Francine  
Horine, Ashley Danielle  
Becker, Sr., Anthony Arnold  
Bagent, Wayne Orval  
McKeen, Juanita Rose  
Grant Jr., Donald Allen  
Mercier, Jade Sharice  
Sherman, John Glenn  
Sainz, Tritia Jeanene  
Howe, Richard H.  
Latimer, LaRohn Lewis  
Goss, Mamie L.  
Taylor, Samantha Rose  
White, Tianna Alexia  
Pfundstein, Nathan Alexander  
Danielson, Daniel James  
Schmidt, John Thomas Carl  
Hogie, Jamie Lyn  
Becker, Tyller Randell  
Thomas, Natana Lynn  
Wells, Isaiah David  
Mc Cray, Johnny William Melvin  
Larson, Ann Marie  
Peck, Brandalynn  
Raymond, Joseph Allen  
Taylor, Curtis Anthony  
Henritze, Karen June  
Schmitz, Jennifer Joy  
Drapeaux, Juston Lee  
Baker, Skylar Dominick  
Wright, Asheena Lee  
Wayte, April May  
Harlan, Lavara Mina  
Veals, Clifford James  
Little, Jeromy Todd  
Kelso, James Alan  
Hennek, Gail Howe  
Courtright, Michael Todd  
Wright, Jacob Martin  
Sherman, Harold Dewayne  
Swinarski, Alicia Estrada  
Cutshall, Katline James  
Baker-Ferguson, Jared Riley  
Chwalowski, Kaitlin Martika  
Carter, Amber Lynn  
Stastny, Rachel Colleen

Kettula, Ruby Jean  
Burstion, Sandra Lee  
Veals, Sherry Ann  
Bell, Darian Patrick  
Carlson, Emma Rose  
McGrath, Daniel Patrick  
Glisan, Cynthia Lynn  
Spencer, Peyton Thunder  
Russell, Kristina Anne  
Buffalo Chief, Uriah Jordan  
Lindenberg, David Charles  
Remmenga, Daniel James  
Eckley, Lane Emory  
King, Gavin Michael  
Da Moude, Deborah Kay  
Standblack, Daniel Skye  
Freeman, Xavier Lee  
Polly, Rachael Anne  
Mategko, Lisa Louise  
Stegman, Mi'a Miwasa Nevaeh  
York, Gregory Allen  
Thomas, Jenny Anne  
Vanderlinden, Emmi Clarine  
Hendren, Adavia Gabrielle  
Picotte - Felde, Diamond Rose  
Taylor, Ka` ili Brianna  
Bear, Max Starr  
Boyer, Berlin N.  
Wright, Howard Floyd  
Buckley II, Sentwali Onyemachi  
Govia, Isaiah Lee  
Glenn, John Allen  
Henritze, Joseph Dale  
Kyles, Jarred Joseph  
Schmidt, Jaye Anthony  
Wolfe Sr, Michael  
Waters, Deon Koleen  
White, Abrianna Aliya  
Pilcher Jones, Josi Marie  
Blowe, Tyrone Richard  
Humphreys, Belinda Kay  
Haahr, Anneliese Teresa  
Lieb, Syllas Vittorio  
Williams, Andrea Michelle  
Leach, Isaiah Marcus  
Lerew Jr, Zachariah Ray  
Treichler, Jasmine Dawn  
Mategko, Janet Louise  
Flagg, I I I., George Albert  
Pierce, Raychel Marie  
Wright, Jaedyne Ajana  
Boone, Asia Ranee  
Mann II, Steven Michael  
Becker, Jr., Anthony Arnold  
Bell, Shaune` Kay

Brooks, Angela Ellen  
Sherman, Michael Ray  
LaPointe, Robert James  
Sherman, Tristan Ray  
Greenwood IV,  
Ernest Sydney Leshawn  
Blowe, Isaiah Fredrick  
Brown, J. Wesley  
Brown, Da` Trel Duvoni  
Larson, Scott Andrew  
Boone, Lola Belle  
Muscutt, Jr., Gordon Dean  
Mullen, Owen Dean  
Evans, Kareem Antwon  
Thomas, Robin Diane  
Standblack, Marko Tulio  
Jeppesen, Zachary Lee  
Banuelos, Christa Rose  
Lopez, Jr., Juan Francisco  
Burgon, Jeremy Edward  
Velder, Tristen Leo Spencer  
Thomas, II,  
Scott Richard Herbert  
Arellano, Carlos Montana  
Schmidt, Jr., Karl Michael  
Miodowski, Jerome Michael  
LeRoy, Sophia Storm  
Sarton, Gwendolyn Lee  
Gutierrez, Vincent Clarence  
Blowe, Dominick Adams  
Voigt, Mitchell Henry  
Knudsen, Crystal Mae  
Queen, Anthony Scott  
Harris, Paul Joseph  
Krueger, Annette Marie  
Boyd, Myron Ralph  
Sherman, Savannah  
Voss, Joshua Le Roy  
Vaughan, Linda Lou  
Zephier, Cameron Dawn  
Mategko, Michael Steven  
Petersen, Kevin Lee  
Voss, Michael Roy  
Fierro, Brandon Michael  
Hart-La Londe, Kaedyn Mikael  
Kerrigan, Kathleen Ann  
Sherman, Robert Le Roy  
Teboe, Temperance Tayen  
Suverkrubbe, Nathan Fernando  
Birdhead, William Randolph  
Foley, Michael Joseph  
Green, Brooklyn Marie  
Lieb, Donovan Joseph  
Beaver, Jason Chaska



## **MEMBERS NEEDED**

### **LANGUAGE & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

The Tribal Council is accepting applications for District 4 and At-Large positions for the Language & Culture Committee due to two terms that will be expiring. Members must reside within the Service Delivery Area. This Committee focuses on the preservation and revitalization of the Ponca language.

The Committee consists of 7 representatives: a representative from each site within the Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) and a representative from outside of the SDAs. Committee members will be selected according to their knowledge of Ponca language, culture, and traditional ways. If a representative is not who meets the above qualification is not available from each site, any qualifying member may be appointed to the committee.

Members will be expected to attend all Committee meetings scheduled monthly and will be paid a stipend of \$250 per meeting and claim associated travel at the government rate, not to exceed a total of 410 total miles.

Some of the responsibilities of this committee are:

- To provide guidance to the Culture Department and Language Program with long-term planning, programming, and the use of traditional knowledge.
- To generate culturally-appropriate programming to increase tribal involvement on culture and language activities and create a sustainable culture and language program for tribal members inside and outside the SDAs.
- To act as a resource for Tribal departments to create culturally-based programming by providing guidance, knowledge, wisdom, and expertise on Ponca culture, traditions, history, and beliefs.
- To assist the Ponca Tribal government in the formulation of policies and procedures pertaining to the Ponca Language, culture, and history.
- To review and approve all Ponca culturally related educational material, such as instructional materials and modern communication media productions, to be used to provide instruction to
- To review and reserve approval on all other activities and tasks related to the Ponca language, history, and culture as may be referred the Committee.
- To periodically assess and review the Language Program and provide such assessments to the Tribal Council.

Please forward your letter of interest including your qualifications/resume for this Committee to Ponca Tribal Council, Attn: Candace Repenning, P.O. Box 288, Niobrara, NE 68760 or via e-mail to [crepenning@poncatribes-ne.gov](mailto:crepenning@poncatribes-ne.gov). Deadline for Applications is March 14, 2025.

## **Our website has moved!**

You can now find the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska website at **[www.poncatribes-ne.gov](http://www.poncatribes-ne.gov)**.

Your login info remains the same. All PTN email addresses have also changed to end in **.gov**.



## Congratulations!

It is with great pride and joy that I announce that my son, Michael James Packham, has officially graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth Law School with a Juris Doctor (JD) degree. Michael has worked tirelessly throughout his academic journey, excelling in every class and seizing every opportunity to learn and grow. His dedication, intelligence, and unwavering commitment to his studies have earned him not only academic success but also a bright and promising future.

I am especially grateful to the Ponca Tribe's Education Department for the instrumental role they have played in supporting Michael's educational path. A special thank you goes to Aubrey Knudsen and Pat Eichberger, whose guidance and support while navigating the available resources the tribe offers has been a constant source of support throughout Michael's undergraduate and graduate studies. The resources provided by the tribe have been



vital in helping Michael reach this incredible milestone, and we deeply appreciate the tribe's continued commitment to supporting our youth in their educational endeavors.

Michael's journey to becoming a lawyer has not been an easy one, but through hard work, resilience, and a deep passion for justice, he has made it. He is the embodiment of what it means to be a compassionate, resourceful, and determined individual. The legal profession is fortunate to have an attorney like Michael—

one who is driven not only by a love for the law but also by a desire to make a positive impact on the world around him.

Michael, I am so incredibly proud of you and all that you've accomplished. Your success is a testament to your hard work, your character, and your unwavering belief in yourself. I know that you will continue to achieve greatness in your career and in your life. You are exactly the kind of person the legal profession needs—someone who will use their skills to fight for what is right, advocate for those who need it most, and continue to inspire those around you.

Congratulations on this incredible achievement, Michael. I look forward to watching your future unfold, knowing that you will continue to rise to every challenge and excel in every endeavor you undertake.

With all my love and pride,  
Mom

Sandra Packham Harris

*The following is the first in a series of poems by Ponca Member Savannah Sherman/Lake. These poems will be published in the PTN newsletter over the next few months.*

### Avengeance

Committed to vices of sites she holds near  
A powerful queen with mercy her ring  
Ravished the skies, rubble & sea  
Uniting once fallen to the depths of her King  
Where he held a mirror  
And she met demise  
A sirens last call  
Poseidons great fall

*-Savannah Sherman/Lake*



## Elder's Committee Meetings

**February 3 | 10 am**

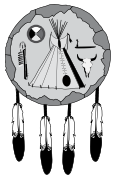
Transit Building | Norfolk, NE

**March 3 | 10 am**

PTN Offices | Sioux City, IA







# PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 288  
Niobrara, NE 68760

[www.poncatribene.gov](http://www.poncatribene.gov)

## PONCA TRIBE of NEBRASKA Office Locations

### **NIORRARA 68760**

#### **Headquarters**

2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288  
Ph: (402) 857-3391  
Fax: (402) 857-3736

#### **Enrollment**

2523 Woodbine St., P.O. Box 288  
Ph: (402) 857-3391  
Fax: (402) 857-3771

#### **Cultural**

P.O. Box 288  
Ph: (402) 857-3519  
Fax: (402) 857-3652

### **LINCOLN 68512**

#### **Administration**

1600 Windhoek Dr.  
Ph: (402) 438-9222  
Fax: (402) 438-9226

#### **Ponca Health Services-Lincoln**

1600 Windhoek Dr  
Ph: (531) 248-3030

#### **Osni Ponca**

2756 O Street  
Ph: (402) 434-2127  
Fax: (402) 434-2128

### **NORFOLK 68701**

#### **Administration Building**

1800 Syracuse Ave.  
Ph: (402) 371-8834  
Fax: (402) 371-7564

#### **Gym Building**

1800 Syracuse Ave.  
Ph: (402) 371-8834  
Fax: (402) 379-0988

#### **Ponca Hills Clinic**

Ph: (402) 371-8780  
(402) 371-5726  
Fax: (402) 379-4291 - Pharmacy  
(402) 379-4293 - Registration  
(402) 371-4094 - Medical Lab

#### **Ponca Express**

Ph: 877-769-3111

#### **Northern Ponca Housing Authority**

1501 Michigan Ave.  
Ph: (402) 379-8224  
(800) 367-2320  
Fax: (402) 379-8557

#### **Purchased/Referred Care**

Ph: (800) 405-0365  
Fax: (402) 371-0176

### **OMAHA 68107**

#### **Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Clinic**

2602 "J" Street  
Ph: (402) 733-3612  
Fax: (402) 733-3487

#### **Administration**

5805 South 86th Circle, 68127  
Ph: (402) 315-2760

#### **Dental**

2602 "J" Street  
Ph: (402) 733-1325  
Fax: (402) 733-3487

#### **Northern Ponca Housing Authority**

10635 Birch., 68134  
Ph: (402) 505-3055  
Fax: (402) 505-3066

### **SIOUX CITY 51103**

#### **Administration**

125 6th Street  
Ph: (712) 258-0500  
Fax: (402) 939-0297

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

#### **Child Abuse Hotline**

800-652-1999 (Nebraska)  
800-362-2178 (Iowa)  
877-244-0864 (South Dakota)

#### **National Child Abuse Hotline**

800-422-4453

#### **National Suicide Hotline**

800-273-8255

#### **Domestic Violence Hotline**

800-799-7233

#### **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

888-373-7888

#### **National Problem Gambling Helpline**

800-522-4700

#### **Elder Abuse Hotline**

800-252-8966

#### **Boys Town Crisis Line**

800-448-3000

#### **Drug Treatment & Referral Hotline**

877-726-4727

#### **Nebraska Family Helpline**

888-866-8660

#### **Veterans Crisis Line**

800-273-8255

*The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Newsletter is published monthly and printed by Printco Graphics, Omaha, Nebraska. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month. In the event the 1st falls on a weekend, submissions are due the Friday before. All submissions of a political nature are subject to Tribal Council approval. Send to Jessica Hitchcock, [jhitchcock@poncatribene.gov](mailto:jhitchcock@poncatribene.gov). See or print the newsletter archives in full color on the web site at: [www.poncatribene.gov](http://www.poncatribene.gov)*