

Carolina Indian Voice

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Olivia Oxendine Elected President of Alumni Association

years ago.

Other newly elected officers are: Bill Jackson of Chapel Hill, PSU class of '79, vice president; and Johnna Wilson of Lumberton, PSU class of '89, secretary.

New lifetime members of the association are Michael Brooks, Pembroke; Michael Hunt, Fairmont; and Sarah Thomas, Aberdeen.

Olivia Oxendine says she is "very excited about being elected alumni president. We have other officers equally excited and very creative. We are looking forward to have luncheons to plan events and look at different opportunities."

Oxendine her Bachelor of Science in elementary education (4-9) with a concentration in English Education in '70. She received her Master of Arts in public school administration with a minor in family sociology from Appalachian State University in '76. She is now working on a doctorate in educational leadership with a concentration in curriculum and instruction at UNC-Chapel Hill.

She has been in her present position in Raleigh for three years.

Oxendine, a native of Lumberton, attended Magnolia High School, but graduated from Pembroke High School when it was located adjacent to the PSU Chancellor's residence. Her parents, who reside in the Saddlecree area of Robeson County, are Aileen Holmes, a member of the Robeson County Board of Education, and Normie Holmes, a retired farmer.

Oxendine is married to Gervais (Gary) Oxendine, a '65 graduate of PSU and a Pembroke native who is manufacturing manager for the Laurinburg plant of Abbot Laboratories. He joined the PSU Chancellor's Club in 1990. The Oxendine are parents of two sons: Eric, 24, a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill who is an ensign in the U.S. Navy and soon to be sent to the Persian Gulf, and Brock, 14, a sophomore at Pinecrest High School in Southern Pines.

BIA Programs—Office of Trust and Economic Development

This Office is principally concerned with the economic development of the tribe. It oversees job training and placement programs, financing and credit assistance programs for developing tribal resources (and administration of three programs under the Indian Financing Act of 1974), on-reservation Indian business programs, and tribal transportation system programs.

BIA Programs—Office of Trust Funds Management

The programs of the OTR are keyed to the BIA's legal responsibilities under the federal trust duties. The OTFM has inter-office departments providing Real Estate Services, Trust Funds Services, Rights Protection, Environmental Services, Road Maintenance, Fish Wildlife and Recreation program, Irrigation and Water Resources programs, Soil and Moisture Conservation Agriculture programs, Energy and Minerals programs, and Forestry programs.

NON-BIA Programs

As noted above, most of the federal programs that are available only to recognized tribes are administered by the BIA. There are, however, a few programs which specifically benefit recognized tribes that are administered by federal agencies other than the BIA. For example, the Indian Health Service is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. There are also other programs available to Indians or Indian tribes regardless of recognition, such as educational benefits under the Johnson O'Malley Act. And finally, Indians are eligible for all other federal programs on the same basis that all other American citizens would be eligible—for Social Security, for example.

Summary of Federal Benefits and Services

Those programs available to Indian tribes because of their recognition are administered primarily by the BIA, which has four main Offices (Tribal Services, Indian Education, Trust and Economic Development, and Trust Funds Management). Which federal programs a tribe needs is initially determined by the needs assessment performed by an Area Office of the BIA. Some of the federal programs serve to carry out the federal government's trust responsibilities. In addition to the BIA programs, there are some other federal programs administered by other governmental agencies that especially benefit recognized tribes and Indians are eligible for other federal programs on the same basis that all other American citizens are eligible.

Conclusion

The three main consequences of federal recognition are the establishment of tribal sovereignty, the creation of a trust relationship between the tribe and the federal government, and tribal eligibility for federal benefits and services. Of these, the most important is tribal sovereignty. The whole point of federal recognition is to recognize the tribe as a nation subject to the power of the United States Congress—but not as a ward; rather, as a sovereign people in a government-to-government relation with the federal government. In consultation with the BIA, a newly recognized tribe has a great deal of flexibility in defining exactly what its relation will be with the federal government. The tribe's task in defining that relationship will require the utmost in foresight and wisdom.

There will be future articles focusing on specific topics in more detail that have been discussed in this series of articles on federal recognition. If you should have any question regarding the articles, please do not hesitate to contact me. My number is (919) 281-2837 or 1-800-554-7852

Federal Recognition: What It Really Means

by Cynthia L. Hunt, Indian Law Unit, Lumbree River Legal Services

This is the last article on federal recognition in the first series by the Indian Law Unit at Lumbree River Legal Services, Inc. The article will focus on an issue of federal benefits and services. Federal recognition entitles the newly recognized tribe to compete with other recognized tribes for those federal benefits and services set aside only for recognized tribes. Perhaps the first service that a newly recognized tribe receives is an assessment carried out by the BIA of the tribe's needs, to determine which services and benefits would best help the tribe. For example, if the current bill is passed to recognize the Lumbee, a needs assessment will be conducted upon verification of the tribal roll by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Lumbee tribe shall develop a determination of needs and a budget required to provide services to which the members of the tribe are eligible. Both the Service shall submit a written statement of such needs and budget with the first budget request submitted to the United States Congress after the fiscal year in which the tribal roll is verified. If H.R. 334 is enacted, the Lumbee Indian tribe shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided to Indians because of their status as federally recognized Indians. It is important to note however, that Lumbee will not be entitled to such services until the United States Congress appropriates the funds for these services.

A unique feature of HR 334 is that it gives considerable discretion to the Lumbee tribe in the management of these appropriations. Typically, recognized tribes will compete for the various categorical programs in the BIA budget. In this case, Lumbee does not compete against other recognized tribes for these categorical programs. Instead, Lumbee is directly funded a budget to meet the needs of the tribe. This means that Lumbee is given authority to decide how this budget is allocated to meet the needs within the tribe, such as health care, education, economic development, etc. This is one of the responsibilities of a tribal council. As stated in previous articles, tribal members will be electing these tribal council members. For the purposes of the delivery of such services, those members of the tribe residing in Robeson and adjoining counties shall be deemed to be resident on or near an Indian reservation. This means that only those persons will be eligible for services.

There are two points to note: first, recognition does not guarantee that a tribe will in fact receive specific benefits and services. First specific benefits and services a tribe will decide to seek will depend on what the tribe's needs are and on what the tribe sees as its goals and priorities; second, there are other federal benefits and services available for use by Indian tribes that do not require federal recognition and remain available to tribes after they become recognized. With these points in mind, the discussion that follows describes the main federal benefits and services available to tribes because of their recognized status. Although all of the programs described are administered by the BIA, there are some programs administered by other federal agencies, but this article does not address them.

BIA Programs

With the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there are six offices that administer programs to recognized tribes: A. The Office of the Commissioner; B. The Office of Tribal Services; C. The Office of Indian Education Programs; D. The Office of Trust and Economic Development; E. The Office of Trust Funds Management; and F. The Office of Management and Administration. In addition, there are BIA Area Offices and Agencies. The Office of the Commissioner and the Office of Administration, aside from employment preference programs, are not directly involved in administering programs.

BIA Programs—Office of Tribal Services

The Division of Housing Services within the Office of Tribal Services helps needy Indians obtain housing, either through financial assistance directly to the individual or through an Indian housing authority established by the tribe. The Division of Law Enforcement Services within the Office helps tribal governments establish and operate a system of criminal law and law enforcement, including the staffing and training of tribal police forces, construction of detention facilities, counseling services for violators, and maintaining an emergency police force. The Division of Social Services in the Office assists needy, elderly, and juvenile Indians with social services and with help obtaining social services from state or other authorities, including child welfare, family counseling, and similar programs. These social services are provided only when other government agencies, either state or local, do not provide similar services already. The Branch of Tribal Government Services in the Office assists tribal leaders with political matters such as elections, constitutional changes, visits by tribal delegations to Washington, judgment distributions, and membership enrollment. The TGS also helps establish and maintain tribal courts. (The Federal Acknowledgment Project is a part of Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1975 in the BIA, and works to strengthen tribal government, assists with tribal contracting, helps in acquiring lands under the Act, and monitors federal programs for the tribe under the Act. The Division of Tribal Planning Services provides long-range planning for the tribe, operating a handful of programs aimed at curbing unemployment and at the conservation of natural resources.

BIA Programs—Office of Indian Education Programs

The OIEP operates a federal school system for Indians in addition to providing assistance to Indians who attend public and private schools. The OIEP also has adult education programs, vocational training and counseling, and on-the-job training. For Indian college students, the OIEP administers scholarship and grant programs. There are over 20 Indian controlled community colleges, operated by the tribes with funds and other assistance from the OIEP.



Recipients of the top two awards at Pembroke State University's Alumni Awards Dinner Saturday night were Dr. Cheryl Ransom Locklear (Left) of Pembroke, who was presented the "Outstanding Alumni Award", and Fred George (right) of Laurinburg, who was presented the "Distinguished Service Award." Making the presentations was Randall Jones (Center) of Pembroke, president of the PSU Alumni Association



Inducted into Pembroke State University's Athletic Hall of Fame Saturday night were Jeff Cushing (left) of Lumberton and Eric Ricioppo (right) of New York. Presenting them their plaques was PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine (center). Cushing was a track and cross country star, and Ricioppo was a soccer star, both being at PSU in the 1970's.

Reflections Alta Nye Oxendine

LOS ANGELES RIOTS

I do not believe in racism, in spite of my fears as a child. Sometimes, however, problems that look like racism (pure and simple) have more causes than appear on the surface.

According to what I've read, there is evidence that the "spontaneous" riots in Los Angeles last spring were actually triggered by at least two communist groups working with gangs in the area. Of course, since "Communism is dead", tv coverage has never (as far as I know) even hinted at such a possibility.

LET'S PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY AND WORLD

As we watch and listen to news reports, we need to keep our minds and hearts in touch with our Maker and Saviour. Let's pray for each situation we are seeing or hearing about. Also for all the news people who shape our thinking every day.

God alone knows the answers to today's complex problems, including the situation in Yugoslavia. We tend to forget that the governments there has been runned by Communists for decades. Perhaps "ethnic cleansing" like racism, gives a good excuse for so-called "ex-communists" to divide and conquer all over again.

Tuscarora Lacrosse Team to Travel to Chapel Hill

All the members of the Tuscarora Lacrosse Team will be taking a trip to Chapel Hill on February 20 to watch the UNC Lacrosse Team in two scrimmage games. This field trip is sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Tuscarora Cultural Survival School. The team will benefit from being able to witness one of the top Lacrosse programs in the country, along with watching the games and benefiting from the techniques and styles being shown by the programs.

Lacrosse is a game that was invented by the Six Nations or Iroquois in which the Tuscarora are a part. The Tuscarora believe that Lacrosse is the Creator's game and that he gave it to them. They consider it a part of their culture, a part of their life interwoven into the culture.

The Tuscarora Team is grateful to Coach Dave Kjarman, the Lacrosse Coach at UNC for assistance on the field trip.

Another trip is being scheduled to Chapel Hill when UNC will play Syracuse March 6th.

All Tuscarora who are interested in playing Lacrosse are encouraged to call 521-8978 or 521-4955. The next practice is Saturday, Feb. 13, 1993 at the Tuscarora Cultural Survival School.

Kiwanis Report

The weekly meeting was held at the Town and County Restaurant with President Larry Chavis presiding.

Program Chairman Ed Teets presented Scout Master Francis Pinchbeck of Troop 27. The troop is sponsored by Kiwanis and is in its 55th year of scouting. Chuck Jacobs is head scout master. The troop meets every Monday night from 7-8:30 at the Scout Hut. The all-round scouting award was received this year from the Scout Council. It certainly shows the excellent work the troop is doing. They have Camporees coming up plus working on passing tests, the Scout show at Biggs Mall, Scout Sunday, attending camp in June and July, first aid classes, camp at the Tree Farm and many other activities.