



## **POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **POARCH CREEK HOLDS HISTORIC ELECTION**

**POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS RESERVATION**, POARCH, ALABAMA – June 17, 2009 – A swearing in ceremony was held during the Tribal Council meeting June 16, 2009 for the Tribal Council candidates who were elected into office Saturday, June 6, 2009. Stephanie A. Bryan, Keith Martin, and Barry Ross were sworn into office by Judge Joseph Brogden.

For the first time in Poarch Creek's history Tribal Members were able to vote for and elect an executive officer for Tribal Council. Stephanie A. Bryan was elected Tribal Vice Chair during this historic election. This will be Ms. Bryan's second term as Vice Chair, during her first term she was elected to executive office by the Tribal Council. "I was ecstatic when the results were revealed on Election Day. I shed tears of joy that night from knowing the faith and confidence that people have in my leadership abilities. This is the first time in the Tribe's history that Tribal Members got to vote for an executive officer's seat, and I am thankful to be selected by my constituent's during this memorable moment for the Tribe. I would like to thank everyone for their support and I look forward to serving three more years as the Vice Chair for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians." Bryan said. Ms. Bryan has also held the position of Chairman, Tribal Gaming Commission during her first term on the Tribal Council.

Keith Martin was re-elected to his second term as councilman for the Tribe. "I would like to thank, first of all, the good Lord, second my wife Rochel and my family for putting up with me during the campaign. Thanks to all the folks who voted for me. I pledge I will always try to do right by the Tribe and look out for the betterment of the people that belong to it," stated Martin. Mr. Martin is currently Chairman, PCI Gaming Authority, a business enterprise of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Barry Ross will be serving his first term as a councilmember. "First I want to thank God, with him all things are possible. I also want to thank my family and friends for their support, it has

been a long road to get to this point, but I am here now and ready to serve the people of this Tribe.” said Ross.

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Mr. Ross replaces three term Tribal Council Member Daniel K. McGhee. Mr. McGhee was asked by Chairman Buford L. Rolin for any thoughts he’d like to share with the Tribal Council. Mr. McGhee stated, “The last nine years of my life have been shared with a wonderful group of fellow leaders on the Tribal Council. I have learned so much and had the opportunity to see many great things I may not have otherwise witnessed if not for my elected position. I am grateful that the people of this tribe have allowed me to serve them as a tribal councilman for as long as I did. It has truly been an honor to take part in the growth of my tribe and I wish the current council continued success with all their endeavors.” Mr. McGhee is currently the Administrator for the Tribe’s Gaming Commission.

### **About the Poarch Band of Creek Indians**

The Poarch Creek Indians are descendents of a segment of the original Creek Nation, which once covered almost all of Alabama and Georgia. Unlike many eastern Indian tribes, the Poarch Creeks were not removed from their tribal lands and have lived together for almost 200 years in and around the reservation in Poarch, Alabama. The reservation is located eight miles northwest of Atmore, Alabama, in rural Escambia County, and 57 miles east of Mobile.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the state of Alabama, operating as a sovereign nation with its own system of government and bylaws. The Tribe operates a variety of economic enterprises, which employ hundreds of area residents. Poarch Creek Indian Gaming manages three gaming facilities in Alabama, including: Wind Creek Hotel & Casino in Atmore; Riverside Casino in Wetumpka; and, Tallapoosa Casino in Montgomery. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is an active partner in the state of Alabama, contributing to economic, educational, social and cultural projects benefiting both tribal members and residents of these local communities and neighboring towns.

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