### CREEK CORNER

2022 ELECTION

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians





2004 Tribal Election Voting Machine.

#### 2022 Tribal Council Election Calendar

<u>FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022</u> – Names of candidates and any proposed constitutional amendments, ordinances and/or resolutions will be posted.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022** – Official List of Eligible Voters will be on display in Building 100 at the front desk (Thelma's area).

Pursuant to Title 22 Poarch Band of Creek Indians Election Code

22-7-5 Voter Eligibility

#### (a) Official List of Eligible Voters

The Election Board shall compile, in alphabetic order, an official list of Eligible Voters as of the date of publication. A copy of this list shall be posted at the tribal offices, for public review at least fifty (50) days prior to the election.

<u>THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022</u> – Last day to submit Letter of Candidacy and fees for Tribal Council to be a Write-in on Ballot. Any additional names of candidates will be posted within 10 days.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 – Walk-in voting starts and continues through Friday, June 3, 2022. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except for Sunday and Monday, May 29-30, 2022.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 – Last day to request Absentee Ballot to be mailed out.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022** – Deadline for Election Board to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022** – Walk-in voting ends at 6:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022** – Tribal Election Day. Polls open 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Pickrell House (on Pow Wow grounds). Results will be announced at the Calvin McGhee Memorial on the Pow Wow Grounds and will be live streamed on the Tribe's official Facebook page, will be posted at the PCCC front door, on the Pickrell House door, and will be published in the July issue of the Creek Corner.

<sup>\*</sup>All times listed at Central Standard Times (CST)

## -CREEK

#### ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

#### 2022 POARCH CREEK INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022



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			CLECTION BOARD	
		5811 JACK SPRIN ATMORE, AL 365		
	BY FAX:	(251) 368-0856	)U2	
		elections@pci-nsn.	gov	

Requests for Absentee Ballots must be received by the Election Board no later than the close of business (5 p.m. CST) on Monday, May 23, 2022. Requests received after the deadline will not be honored.

Should you have any questions pertaining to the 2022 Tribal Council Elections, please feel free to contact Haley Martin Madison at (251) 253-5998 or send questions to elections@pci-nsn.gov

## 2022 VOTER GUIDELINES & ELIGIBILITY

- 1. Only the Eligible Voter will be allowed inside the building.
- 2. The number of Voters in the building will be limited.
- 3. Voters are asked to remain 6 feet apart from other voters at all times (inside and on the porch of the building as well).
- 4. Hand sanitizers will be available after you sign in and as you exit the building.
- 5. Please touch only necessary items while inside the building.

Sec. 22-7-5 - Voter Eligibility (a) Official List of Eligible Voters The Election Board shall compile, in alphabetical order, an official list of Qualified Voters as of the date of publication. A copy of this list shall be posted at the Tribal offices, for public review at least fifty (50) days prior to the election. (b) Eligibility Disputes The Election Board shall determine the eligibility of any written claim to vote presented to it by one whose name does not appear on the official list of Qualified Voters as well as written challenge of the right to vote of anyone whose name is on the official list. It shall rule on all claims no later than ten (10) days before the election. Any claim not presented at least ten (10) days prior to the election shall not be allowed. The decision of the Election Board shall be final.

# TRIBAL COUNCIL SECRETARY



The following candidates have submitted their Written Statement of Candidacy for the position of Tribal Council Secretary. Please vote for the Candidate of your choice.

Charlotte McGhee Meckel (Incumbent)

Nioma Jackson Till



#### **CHARLOTTE MCGHEE MECKEL**



I Charlotte McGhee Meckel, declare my candidacy for Secretary in the upcoming Tribal Council Election on June 4th, 2022. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as Tribal Secretary the past six years. Once again, I humbly ask for your continued support. I am the proud daughter of the late Ernestine and DC Daughtry and the late Julius Jack McGhee. I am married to Martin Meckel, we have two children, and eight grandchildren.

The role of Secretary encompasses many areas. I serve as the Chair of the Records Committee and, am responsible for certifying and maintaining the Tribal Council Minutes and Resolutions along with many other tasks that arise. We have grown incredibly, despite all the obstacles we have been up against for the past two years: declaring a weather related and health State of Emergency and, dealing

with two COVID variants while still maintaining adequate staff at the Health Clinic and the Departments. Through it all we were still able to maintain sustainability and provide for our Tribal Members.

Working diligently alongside the seated council we have been able to accomplish many things including:

**Increased Benefits:** Each year we have seen a steady increase in our GWE, Per Capita distribution and Elder's Benefits. Improving the quality of life for all Tribal Members is our main focus and top priority.

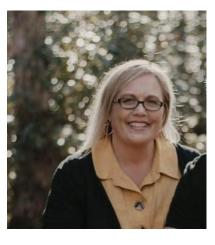
<u>Cultural Awareness:</u> Through the Pow-Wow Club (Youth & Adult), Princess contest, Creek Language Program and by providing more classes on advanced moccasin design, bead work, basket weaving, pottery, patchwork, and shell carving we have kept the Tribal Members and their families more involved with our heritage.

**Government Transparency:** Through social media, TMOP, Poarch Creek Connect, Rapid Cast, posting of Workshop and Tribal Council Meeting Minutes, Live streaming of Tribal Council and Community Meetings, and more dialogue at the Council Table, the Tribal Members in and outside the service area are better informed daily. Effective communication is the key to meeting the needs of our people.

As our Tribe continues to grow, we find ourselves planning for new developments and programs in many of our departments, in order to better assist our people. While serving on the Health Legislative Committee, I've been pleased to be a part of some positive changes. We now provide services at the Health Clinic to first generation up to the age of 26, extended hours at the Pharmacy and have made improvements at the Assisted Living Facility. As your Secretary, I make sound decisions with ALL the General Council in mind, using the love for my people and a "common sense" approach.

Given my years working for the Federal Government, education background and serving on Tribal Council these past 6 years, I feel an experienced and entrusted leader is crucial to our success. Once again, I humbly ask for your continued support in this election, my door is always open. 251-359-5974.

#### **NIOMA JACKSON TILL**



It is my great honor to announce that I, Nioma Jackson Till, am a candidate for the 2022 PCI Tribal Secretary position.

I am especially proud to share my life with my husband,
Shawn and our two beautiful children, Brantlee and Gabe.

I am also proud to be a member of the Poarch Band of
Creek Indians and a member of two strong tribal families.

My mother is Martha Jackson Colbert; my grandparents are
Edwin F. Terry and Nioma Taylor Stewart and our genealogy
includes George Washington Taylor. My father is Ronnie

Ray Jackson; my grandparents are the late Alton and Mable Jackson. My family branch here connects to Jackson, Rolin and McGhee.

An important building block in my life was being a part of Tribe's athletic community. Not only did my daddy and uncles play baseball, basketball and football—me and my cousins naturally took up with any and all sports where we were thrilled to play for our Tribe. Whether it be coon/deer hunting or softball, today I eagerly share these same activities with my children as these traditions have always been shared with me. The frequent gathering and closeness with family has built a strong foundation in my life. However, one of the most meaningful and everlasting foundations in my life was the precious time that I was privileged to spend with my Granny, Mable Jackson. She was my rock, my historian, my story teller, my best friend in every aspect of my life and while I am grateful to have had her in my life, I continue to grieve her absence.

#### **Education:**

- Associates in Business Administration
- Associates in Nursing

#### What qualifications do I have to run for the position of Secretary?

- Experience serving as Housing Dept. Secretary
- Knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order
- · Excellent communication skills and an eye for details
- · 10 years' work experience in an office setting

 Case Management position experience allows me to see needs and challenges in our community and throughout our tribe.

Let me assure you that I am no politician in the traditional sense! I am a regular tribal member with a passion for my people and a commitment to do more for our Tribe I believe that our shared values make PCI great – family, education, community, inclusivity and culture. I believe every PCI citizen should have a voice in our government. I believe that even though we face challenges, we also embrace our opportunities. I am confident that I can "hit the ground running" if elected to this position with our Tribe.

Please get in touch with me to learn more about how I can bring us together and continue to move our Tribe forward. I would love to hear from you!

251-253-9848 timefortill@gmail.com

Timefortill.com Facebook: Nioma Jackson Till

# TRIBAL COUNCIL \*\* TREASURER



The following candidates have submitted their Written Statement of Candidacy for the position of Tribal Council Treasurer. Pleace vote for the candidate of you choice.

Amy Bryan Gantt (Incumbent)

Chance Jackson

Denise Young



#### AMY BRYAN GANTT (INCUMBENT)



I, Amy Bryan Gantt, declare my candidacy for Tribal
Treasurer of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in the 2022
Tribal Election.

I am incredibly blessed to have amazing parents and inspirational grandparents. Roberta McGhee Sells, my maternal grandmother, played an instrumental role in my upbringing and instilled in me faith, strength and humility. She was the backbone of our family, an Indian woman, who lived an extraordinary life and taught us family and God are

the cornerstones of life. She gave us a strong foundation of love and acceptance, and the ability to see the similarities between our people, rather than any differences. What inspires me the most about my grandmother was her love for her Tribe and her unwavering dedication to our community and Tribal members. She dedicated her life to the betterment of our people, before and after federal recognition. I have spent my entire adult life trying to walk in her footsteps.

These past three years have been both an honor and privilege to serve as your Tribal Treasurer. I want to thank each of you for your support and encouragement.

### <u>During my tenure, I have been an active member of the following Tribal legislative</u> committees:

- ECKE (Board of Directors)
- Budget and Finance and Labor Committee
- PCI Government Affairs & Rules Committee
- · Community Services Committee
- The Land & Natural Resources and Facilities Committee

#### Relevant Experience

- At-Large Member of the Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Council
- PCI Gaming Board of Directors
- Recording Secretary to the Tribal Council
- Special Assistant to the Tribal Chairman
- Administrative Executive to the Vice-Chairman

- President and CEO, SBA 8(a) Contractor
- Consultant to businesses seeking to expand their financial, sales and marketing strategies with government agencies
- Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Marketing (Wind Creek Hospitality)

  Additionally, I have brought forward initiatives, policy recommendations and resolutions, and been a stern advocate for the upholding of the Tribal Constitution and our Tribal Code.

My work on the Tribal Council has always reflected the interests and concerns of the people. I represent the office of Treasurer with integrity and continuously focus on moving our tribe forward.

The last few years have been demanding, to say the least, but together the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have stood tall and persevered.

I respectfully ask for your continued support on June 4th, 2022 as your Tribal Treasurer. There is still work to be done. I can be reached directly at 251-253-9733, via email at amy4treasurer@yahoo.com or through my website www.amy4treasurer. com.



#### **CHANCE JACKSON**

My name is Chance Jackson, and I declare my candidacy for Tribal Treasurer. I have been married to my beautiful wife Candace for over a year now and we have just recently given birth to our only son, John-Tullis Jackson. I am the son of Edie Tullis Baker and Eddie Jackson. I am the grandson of Mary Jane and Eddie Tullis and the lates Mable and Alton Jackson.



I graduated from Escambia Academy in 2012 and proceeded to obtain my associate degree from Faulkner Community College in 2014, bachelor's degree in Business

Management from The University of Alabama in 2016 and master's degree in Business Administration from Florida State University in 2017. I have held my current position as an Auditor for the Tribal Gaming Commission for a year and a half now and have worked for both the government and gaming side of the Tribe in Accounting and Business Development, respectively.

I believe with my experience, education, and desire to learn and listen that I can become a candidate our Tribe is proud to have representing them.

Thank you,
Chance Jackson
251-253-2527
Jackson.chance5@gmail.com



#### **DENISE YOUNG**



I, Denise Young, am seeking the office of Tribal Treasurer and ask that you vote for me on June 4, 2022.

I have been happily married for 37 years to Phillip Young. We are blessed with 2 daughters: Megan Zamora (Francisco), Mallory Rolin (Justin "Bobo") and 4 grandchildren: Emmee, Aric, Parker and Jaxin. I am the daughter of Jackie McGhee Smith and Melvin James Sells; the granddaughter of Ernestine and DC Daughtry and Julius "Jack" McGhee and Lucile and Milton "Half" Sells; and the great-granddaughter of

Dan and Lena McGhee and Will and Bessie McGhee. I am proud of my family and love them immensely.

Some of my earliest memories are those of the Poarch community, the place of my birth and childhood. My roots run deep here and my life has been shaped by some

remarkable women. Because of them, I am a woman of integrity with a heart of compassion. My mother inspired me to possess a strong work ethic and to never compromise my beliefs. My grandmother taught me to give without expecting, "always do what's right", and forgive. "Mama Clara" taught me to be compassionate and put God first. I've also learned it's not the outside that makes a person shine, but the inside. These attributes have been woven into the fiber of my being, and I have worked hard to follow their example. Above all, my relationship with God has guided me throughout my life.

After working for 34 years, I retired in April 2021. I graduated from Flomaton High School and attended LBW College. The first 4 years of my career taught me office skills that prepared me for a position with Southeast Alabama Gas District. For 17 years, I oversaw the yearly inventory audits under direct supervision of an internal accountant. The last 13 years were devoted to the Tribe; I wrote grants, then worked in Tribal Member Benefits. My duties included data analysis of Tribal demographics, routine Tribal database audits, and management of minors' trust accounts. I worked with internal and external accounting personnel to produce clean records. While there, I received firsthand insight into the lives of Tribal Members and their many challenges. Your frustration became my frustration, and it was during these years my compassion grew along with my desire to see improvement of services.

I am prepared to take action and work diligently for the betterment of ALL people. My past work experience and education have provided me the tools needed to produce effective results.

As a tribe we have prospered greatly. I believe we need to unite in love, lay aside differences, and work together for the betterment of everyone.

Mvto,

Denise Young

334.488.3945

dyoung3945@gmail.com

# TRIBAL COUNCIL \*\* AT-LARGE



The following candidates have submitted their Written Statement of Candidacy for the position of Tribal Council At-Large. Please vote for the candidate of your choice.

Dewitt Carter (Incumbent)

Keith Colbert

Carla McGhee Hammonds

Douglas "Poncho" Kelley
Steven Ledkins



#### **DEWITT CARTER (INCUMBENT)**



I am the proud son of the late Dewitt Sells and Grace Philyaw and grandson of the late Eugene and Roberta "Granny" Sells. Growing up with 8 sisters, I know the importance of family and have been blessed with 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Before my time on Council, I have spent time in various trades including the establishment of Carter Mobile Home Movers. This

business allows me to assist Tribal Members and First Generation Descendants with housing services.

Membership on the Land and Natural Resources Committee has allowed me to make more informed decisions based on the needs of the community. Through this committee, I have participated in discussions which resulted in acquiring 1800 acres that expanded our footprint in Escambia County. In the future, we intend to develop this land into pastures to extend our cattle operations. In addition, I was instrumental in the implementation of our fresh beef program which has led to the design of a \$10 million dollar meat processing plant.

We are breaking ground on our eighth casino and entertainment center in Illinois. This has broadened the Tribe's portfolio. I am proud to say I have been a part of the acquisition process for five of these properties. Also, despite the complications brought forth by the pandemic, we were able to complete the construction of two administrative buildings that add to the allure of our reservation.

By being a member of the Tribal Council, I was appointed to the Alabama Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group by Governor Kay Ivey. This allows me to compile the information to share with our Education Department in order to utilize funding to apply for grants.

During the storms of 2016 and 2020, I was also able to lend support to Tribal Members by transporting necessary fuel, supplies and equipment. As a result, power was restored to thousands of residents, including many Tribal members in Southern Louisiana. I am proud of this opportunity which enables me to help our Tribal Members! This is the most rewarding aspect of being a member of the Tribal Council. . My exceptional communication skills have allowed me to fully understand issues impacting our community. While I do not have all of the answers, I will continue to address all of the concerns that are brought to my attention by vocalizing your thoughts in order to resolve matters in a beneficial manner to the tribal community as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Poarch Creek Community for six wonderful years. I appreciate your confidence in me. Throughout my tenure, I have actively promoted transparency. Providing transparency from the Council to the Tribal

Members and being known as the "People's Council Member" are two of my proudest accomplishments. I pledge to continue this transparency and accessibility to all Tribal Members.

On June 4, 2022, I ask for your trust by awarding me the privilege of continuing to serve you, My Tribe, for another three years. Please vote Dewitt Carter for the Tribal Council At-Large position.



#### **KEITH COLBERT**



Biography of Keith Wayne Colbert

Keith Colbert is an astute leader in the military with a proven track record of directing and delivering strategic ideas that reduce complexity and foster efficiency. In the course of his civil service through family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation that spans over 40 years, he has consistently recorded palpable success as a selfless leader dedicated to the growth of his team members and the organization. And he is motivated

to continue impacting lives with his exemplary style of leadership that gives everyone a voice hence, his desire to serve his people in a position on the Poarch Creek Indians tribal council.

Keith started his career in MWR at Osan Airbase as a recreation center program director in January 1988. His dedication to service helped him rise quickly to the position of Director of Personnel and Community Activities at Camp Red Cloud in 1999. After being appointed director at camp red, he was assigned other leadership positions in subsequent years. Serving as the Chief MWR at the Presidio of Monterey 2001, then his selection as the DPCA for the 417th BSB in Germany 2004, and DPCA for USMTM Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In 2009, Keith returned to the United States as Business Operations chief at Dugway Proving Grounds and served closer to home as DFMWR at Anniston Army Depot in

2012. Later, he decided to return to Korea as USAG Yongsan's Business Operations Chief in 2015, where he continued his service to Soldiers and Civilians within Area North. Keith's selfless nature and leadership dexterity are evident in the different positions he has worked in hitherto now. His remarkable performance has earned him outstanding awards that are too numerous to mention, his latest induction into the "Order of the White Plume." Keith's passion in life is improving the quality of life for those who serve. His presence on any board, planning, or body would be a catalyst for positive change.

Poarch Proud!



#### **CARLA MCGHEE HAMMONDS**



Carla McGhee Hammonds "We Are One" At-Large

I, Carla McGhee Hammonds, am proud to announce my candidacy for the Tribal Council At-Large position in the upcoming 2022 Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Election. Having lived in the area over 30 plus years, my lineage runs deep in the Poarch community. I am the daughter of the late

Benny and Mary McGhee, granddaughter of the late MC and Hattie Lou Morris, and the late Adam Daughtry and Carlie McGhee Dalrymple, and the great-granddaughter of the late Levi and Treacy McGhee. I'm happily married to Andrew Hammonds and blessed with four amazing children: Shawna, Tristan, McKenna, and Seth, and one

amazing granddaughter, Amelia. I have been blessed with a fantastic family who has supported me in all my endeavors throughout my life.

I have had the privilege of working with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for over 22 years. Over the expanse of my career with the Tribe, I have been fortunate to experience guidance from strong management while working within diverse, equally rewarding departments. I started out in the Health Clinic, eventually moved over to the Tribe's Human Resource department, and currently, I work as a Lead Gaming Agent with Tribal Gaming Commission. As a Lead Gaming Agent, I am responsible for the supervision of junior auditors while conducting annual audits on regulated departments within the Tribe's three (3) casinos located witinin Alabama. This position has allowed me to travel on numerous occasions around the United States to gain more knowledge of the gaming industry.

I have served on the Endowment Committee and the Housing Advisory Board for the past eight (8) years. I have had the pleasure of serving as Secretary for the Housing Advisory Board for the last four (4) years.

The last couple of years have been unprecedented and has certainly introduced numerous challenges, both professionally and personally for all of us, but, at the end of the day, we still have been blessed. The Tribe has adapted and overcome these adversities because we are resilient people. With all the hardships we have faced, I hope and pray that we continue to improve the quality of life for all tribal members. I am a woman of faith and deeply care for my Tribal family. I am dependable, committed, outspoken, and have lots of compassion for all my Tribal Members. I am genuinely a voice that you can count on. I want to be of service to every one of my Tribal members. I will always be here for you. I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming 2022 election. Together, we can work to continue to move our Tribe and its prosperity forward. In the meantime, I encourage each of you to get involved, and remember to make your voice count by voting on (or before) June 04, 2022! Mvto, and God bless,

Carla McGhee Hammonds

#### DOUGLAS "PONCHO" KELLEY

My name is Douglas "Poncho" Kelley and I am running for Tribal Council At-Large. I am the son of the late John O. Kelley and the late Lillie Mae Colbert Kelley. I have been a resident of Poarch since 1992. On April 14th I will be celebrating my 18th year of employment with Perdido River Farms. I have raised 1 son and 2 daughters and watched 7 beautiful grandchildren come into this world. I have been the 2nd Chief at the Ceremonial Grounds for 30 years. I have been a proud member of the Tribe all of my life and want to see the Tribe go even further. Vote for me, Poncho Kelley!!





#### STEVEN LEDKINS

I, Steven Ledkins declare my candidacy for the Tribal Council At-Large seat in the 2022 Tribal election.

I am the proud son of Joe and Kathy Ledkins. I am the grandson of Verlie McGhee Bailey and the great grandson of Lawrence McGhee and Mammie Rolin. I have been married to my lovely wife Jackie for 30 years and we have two amazing daughters, Kelsey (29) and Victoria (22).

After graduating from Excel High School in 1992, I enlisted in



the United States Marine Corps. Following graduation from Marine Corps Basic training as honor graduate, I was stationed in Cherry Point, North Carolina for the remainder of my enlistment where I received numerous awards and citations. The honor of serving my country and forming a brotherhood with men and women all around our great nation helped to reinforce the since of pride and integrity that was instilled in me by family at a very young age.

Following my honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps, I was blessed with a job at Alabama River Newsprint, where I was employed for the next 13 years. After the closure of the newsprint mill, my next employer was ThyssenKrupp Steel in Calvert, Alabama. I was employed with TK for almost seven years before coming back home and working for our Tribe. I am currently serving our Tribe as the Facilities Division Director and my previous job with our Tribe was TERO Business Compliance Officer.

As the Facilities Division Director, I help keep our current government buildings, grounds and roads in pristine condition for our employees and Tribal members. As the TERO compliance officer I saw many issues facing our Tribe and I also saw the many accomplishments that our Tribe has made. I have seen our fellow Tribal members grow and prosper in businesses where their skills were honed helping others around our Tribal community. I am one of your fellow Tribal members that came to work for our Tribe in order to give back. I was blessed to attend college through our tuition assistance program where I obtained my Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA) followed by my Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in 2016.

Even though I was raised 30 miles north of Poarch, Poarch has always felt like home. Visiting every weekend and spending my summers in Poarch, helped me realize the bond between so many different families living in one small community. What I loved the most is how everyone would gather and fellowship to help their neighbors in need. I humbly ask for your vote and support in the upcoming June election.

You may contact me on my cell @ 251-359-0212 or via email at sledkins@pci-nsn.gov for any questions you may have.

Thank you and God bless!



Government Relations and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Rd Atmore, AL 36502

## CREEK CORNER

**ELECTION 2022** 

5/5/2022	Last Day to Submit Letter of Candidacy to be a Write-In on the ballot	5:00 pm
5/23/2022	Walk-In Voting starts - Pickrell House	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
5/23/2022	Last day to request absentee ballot	
5/29/2022 - 5/30/2022	Walk-In voting is closed due to holiday	
6/3/2022	Deadline for Election Board to receive Absentee Ballots	5:00 pm
6/4/2022	Tribal Election Day	8:00 am - 7:00 pm