



Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, 131 Benjamin Drive Moncks Corner, SC 29406

2009 Tribal Election Results

Thanks to everyone who came out and voted on July 25, 2009. The positions up for election were Spiritual Leader, Tribal Administrator, and five (5) Tribal Council positions. Also on the ballot this year was the question whether to amend the tribal by-laws to re-institute a \$25/year Tribal Due. Below are the results of the election:

Tribal Administrator = Lisa Leach

Spiritual Leader = Charles Rodgers, Sr.

Tribal Council Members = Edmund Ray Varner, Janie Shumak, Karen Stallings, Loretta Leach, Michael Rochay
\$25/year Tribal Due = Yes

Your new Tribal Executive Board will administer the tribe for the next four years. Below are some pictures taken at the election:



Tribal Dues

Based on the 2009 Election Results, Tribal Dues have been reinstated for active membership in the Wassamasaw Tribe. Tribal Dues for this fiscal year (Aug.1, 2009 – July 31, 2010) will be due no later than **October 31, 2009**. Checks or Money Order should be made payable to the **Wassamasaw Tribe** and can be mailed to 131 Benjamin Drive, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. The following updates have been made to the by-laws in regards to Tribal Dues.

1. In order to help support the mission of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, Tribal Dues have been implemented to sustain the functioning of the tribe.
2. Tribal Dues of \$25.00 must be paid each year in order for members to remain in active status. The fiscal year runs from August 1st – July 31st.
3. Tribal dues must be paid by October 31st of each year or a \$10 late fee will be charged. Returned Checks will be charged a fee of \$35.00 to cover bank charges associated.
4. Once a membership falls into inactive status due to failure to pay tribal dues, the account will remain inactive until all Tribal Dues and late charges have been paid in full.
5. Inactive members cannot vote in tribal elections, may be removed from tribal mailing lists, and may be ineligible for tribal programs until they become current in their tribal dues.
6. In order to be nominated to run for Tribal Offices, members must be in active status for at least 1 year.
7. If an Executive Board member fails to pay their tribal dues, their voting privileges will be suspended until they become current.
8. If an Executive Board member remains in suspended status for more than 3 months, they may be removed from office by a majority vote of the remaining board members due to a violation of Tribal Bylaws.

Tribe Partners With Salkehatchie For Community Home Repairs

The Salkehatchie Summer Service program worked on repairing three homes this summer (July 2009) in the Varnertown community. The camp leaders came into the community and assessed a number of homes to determine what best fit the mission of their program as well as the skill set of their youth workers. The work sites chosen were the homes of the following Wassamasaw Tribal elders:

- **Robbie and Ethel Clark**



- **Samuel Varner**



- **Betty Lou Risher**



To thank these workers, a pot luck dinner, consisting of fried fish, catfish stew, and various sides was served at the tribal office on Wednesday July 23rd. Below are some pictures of the dinner. Thank you to all those members who participated and made these workers feel welcomed into our community.



STATE RECOGNITION - TRIBAL STATUS

On April 1, 2009, the Wassamasaw Tribe submitted an extensive package to the CMA to upgrade our State Recognition status from Group to Tribe. This package went for review in June, and we passed the Review Committee phase and received a positive recommendation for Tribe. The last stage of the process was verification of 100 members and of our historical data. CMA sent letters to some of our Tribal Members asking for a notarized signature. We held a meeting at the Tribal Office on August 29, 2009 to have the membership get their letter notarized. A special thanks to Ms. Connie Mills and Ms. Mary Mood for providing us with this free service. The CMA received 107 certified letters of membership, which successfully passed us in the membership stage of verification. Ms. Marcy Hayden came on Saturday, September 5, 2009 to review our tribal documentation and advised that she had everything she needed to recommend passing the verification process based on her review. The final vote for our status will be with The Board of Directors of the CMA on October 9, 2009. Your Executive Board plans to attend this meeting.



FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM - 3rd-8th Graders

The Wassamasaw Tribe has applied for participation in The Carolina Bridge Project, which provides a free afterschool education program for 3rd - 8th graders. The deadline for the application for this year was September 1, 2009. If selected, this program will offer free after school care and education for community students from 3 PM - 6 PM each weekday at the Tribal Office at 131 Benjamin Drive. It will also provide bus drop off to the Tribal Office by all area schools, 3 part time paid positions within our community (a Site coordinator, and 1 teacher, 1 aid) and finally a monthly stipend to the Tribe to pay for facilities and supplies for this program. We will be notified by September 18, 2009 if we have been accepted, and the program would begin October 1. Anyone interested in enrollment of their children or grandchildren into this program please call Janie Shumak at 843.553.1993 or email the tribe at Wassamasaw@hotmail.com.

FUNDRAISERS - Tribal T-Shirts for Sale:

Tribal T-Shirts for Sale: Colors are Black or Grey. Tribal Name on Front and Tribal Seal on Back of Shirt. All Sizes Selling for \$15.00. Koolzies with Tribal Name and Seal also for sale for \$5. For more information or to order, please contact Loretta Leach @ 843-509-4685.



Show Your Pride





From the Desk of Lisa...

Members –

Thank you to everyone who came out and voted during the Tribal elections on July 25, 2009. I am honored to have been voted in again as your Tribal Administrator for the 2009-2013 term. We have had a great 1st half of the year and have had many accomplishments: We have partnered with the USC School of Medicine and the Social Security Administration to go over resources available to community members; we have had the Salkehatchie Youth Program spend a week working on 3 homes in our community; we have submitted a package to the State to move our recognition status from Native American Group to Native American Tribe, we have worked diligently to get through the verification process (a BIG thank you to all those who came out to help with this process); and finally we have applied for a Free After School Program, to help our community children and provide 3 new PT jobs into the community. We continue, each month, to push our Tribal Needs to the CMA and look forward to programs that will be offered to the community. Your Executive Board has joined me in attending the meetings in Columbia, which shows the CMA that we are serious about getting needed resources into our community as quickly as possible.

With our moving from Group to Tribe within the State, we will need to realign our Enrollment Process and Update Tribal Cards with our new Status, once it is achieved. Our Enrollment Officer will be contacting Tribal Members who do not have their birth certificates on file, to have you submit one. It is important that you have all documentation on file for your new cards. You will be provided a form to mail to the State if you do not have a current version of your long form birth certificate showing your parentage. This has always been a requirement, but we now need to ensure it is actually on file.

As always, feel free to contact me, or your Executive Board Members with any concerns or issues. We look forward to a productive new term and in meeting the needs of the community. You are invited to attend our Executive Board meetings the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM to hear what is being worked on.

-Lisa Leach, Tribal Administrator

DATES TO REMEMBER

Regalia Making Class – Class will begin Saturday, **October 3, 2009 at 11 AM** at the Tribal Office (131 Benjamin Drive). Ms. Elsie Goins from the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of SC will be teaching us about proper regalia for our region as well as teaching us techniques involved.

Drum Group Being Formed – Anyone interested in learning how to drum, please meet us at the Tribal Office starting Saturday **October 3, 2009 at 4 PM – 6 PM**. Practice will be held every Saturday from 4 PM – 6 PM at the Tribal Office. We are especially looking for young adults of our tribe to participate.

Tribal Status Decision – The Board of Directors of the CMA will be voting on **October 9, 2009** whether to grant Tribal Status to the Wassamasaw Tribe. The Website will be updated that evening with the results.

Deadline for Tribal Dues – \$25.00 tribal dues need to be postmarked by **October 31, 2009** or a \$10 late fee will apply. If you would like to pay these dues by cash, the next Executive Board meeting is October 3, 2009 and someone will be at the Tribal Office from 9:30 AM – 6 PM that day. Otherwise, dues can be mailed via Check or Money Order to the Tribal mailbox at 131 Benjamin Drive.

State Recognition Ceremony – Tribe will be formally recognized if State recognition is received on Thursday **November 5, 2009**. Events start at 12 PM and conclude at 8 PM. See article above for details.

Native American State Conference – **November 5 - 7, 2009**. Includes workshops, exhibits, and will include the Native American Film Festival.

State Recognition Ceremony - Nov. 5, 2009

Once the CMA Board of Directors accepts our Recommendation as a Native American Tribe on October 9, 2009, the state will be doing a recognition ceremony for our tribe. This ceremony is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, November 5, 2009** at the USC Russell House in Columbia during the Native American State Conference.

The Tribe would like as many community members to attend as possible. We understand that transportation may be an issue to many, so we are looking into renting a bus to take us to Columbia as a group. We need to know how many members would be interested in attending the recognition ceremony. Events on November 5th will be taking place from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM and will include Film Festival information, Art show and Business Exhibitors, as well as the reception and recognition.

Over the next few weeks, Melanie Childers will be calling all members to determine if they would like to attend that day. Please let her know if you can participate in the event. This will help us to determine what type of transportation may be needed and the costs that will be involved. Also included within this newsletter is the flyer for the entire Native Affairs State Conference, which covers 3 days of events and activities. We encourage members to attend other days if they can.



***Wassamasaw Tribe
of Varnertown Indians***

*131 Benjamin Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461*

Events are always posted online at:

www.wassamasawtribe.com

You can reach the tribe by email at:

wassamasaw@hotmail.com

*For tribal questions, please
contact: 843.364.7041*
