



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

Varnertown Recognized as Tribe by State

The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians received State Recognition as a Tribe on November 5, 2009. Previously the Varnertown Indians were recognized by the state as a group in 2005. In order to be recognized as a tribe, the petition submitted April 1, 2009 had to include extensive documentation to show that the Varnertown Indian community has existed for over 100 years, that there has been a continuous core group that has maintained a separate community over that time (as shown by church records, school records, graveyard records), that we have separate customs and traditions that are distinctive, and the petition had to show evidence of the Native American progenitors of each family line as documented by affidavits from the 1800s, court records, and other state archival documentation. All current tribal members had to show genealogical linkage back to those documented Native American progenitors. The petition was reviewed by the CMA Board and voted on to pass review in July, and the tribe had to go through a formal verification process which included notarized letters from 100 tribe members affirming to their membership, as well as an in depth office visit by the state to review member files, original documents that were in the petition, birth and death records, and community sites in October. Thank you to all members who actively participated in this process, especially those who attended the recognition ceremony in Columbia in November. We are very proud of this accomplishment by the Tribal Executive Board, and look forward to more accomplishments in the future.

2010 Community Dinners

The tribe will be sponsoring a community potluck dinner each quarter this year. These potluck dinners will be utilized to document our community's history via a continuation of the Elders Speak program. We encourage all community and tribal members to attend these events this year in order to fellowship with their extended family members, learn more about our elders' history, as well as to keep informed of all tribal events and activities. Tribal Council Members Edmund Ray Varner and Michael Rochay will be organizing these community dinners, so please reach out to them if you would like to volunteer to assist in any of these events. All drinks, ice, and paper products will be provided, so community members should bring a covered dish. The 4th Quarter dinner will be our annual Native American Heritage Month Banquet in November. The date, time, and location of this event will be in next quarter's newsletter.

SAVE THE DATES

1st Quarter: February 13, 2010

2nd Quarter: May 8, 2010

3rd Quarter: August 14, 2010

AT: TRIBAL OFFICE
TIME: 4 PM - 6 PM

February 13th's Elder's Speak Topic:

Grandparents Traditions

We will be talking about what songs they sung, stories they told, superstitions they followed, occupations they had and how they lived day-to-day (farming, canning, quilting, butchering, etc). Please bring photos so these can be documented into our historical archives.

2010 Varnertown Community Programs

GED Classes

The GED Program has been updated and will resume at the Tribal Office in February.

Anyone age 17-21 years old with an official withdrawal letter from school and/or copy of school transcript can register to attend the community GED classes. If you are older than this age bracket and would like to work towards your GED, please contact us as well.

Registration will be on February 16th and 18th at the tribal office. Be prepared to spend 3 hours for registration and testing because you will be assessed for your knowledge level. Classes will be every Monday and Tuesday night from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for 12 weeks.

The GED test will cost \$80.00 but the classes are free. The tribe is currently seeking funding to help offset the cost of the exam. In order to better fund this program, all students/participants of the Native American community must check Native American on your registration. If you are of multiple ethnicities, please also include Native American.

Our funding will be based on the number of Native American participants. The classes are open to all community members and the public. Space is limited, so please call and RSVP for a registration date. Contact Lisa Leach at 843-364-7041. Please leave your name and a contact number in regards to the upcoming GED classes.

WorkKeys Assessment

The tribe is now working to offer WorkKeys Assessment training.

For those community members seeking employment, you know that most companies now such as Alcoa, Boeing, DuPont, J W Aluminum, etc., require the WorkKeys assessment test. We will be registering for those persons with a high school diploma and wish to study for the WorkKeys assessment test. You can also register to study online at home and come to help classes at least twice per month for hands on help with any math problems and other test issues. You will work toward a level 6 or 7. Once you've reached that level in your study, you can then take the basic WorkKeys assessment for \$30.00. Boeing requires the additional 2 assessments, which will cost \$15 each. The tribe is working towards funding to offset this cost. **If you are interested, please plan to attend registration on the same nights as the GED class registration.** Please plan to stay 3 hours for testing at the time of registration.

The tribe is constantly seeking ways to improve the economic status of its community members. This is one good way to prepare you for today's job market. Please take advantage of this opportunity. We are hoping for a good number of people to register and attend to promote economic advancement for our community. These classes are a giant step to create a career center for our community to better equip our members for jobs in the community and organizations.

For more information, please call Lisa Leach at 843-364-7041.

Tribal Dues

Active Members

Thank you to the members below who **have paid** this year's dues and are now in active standing with the tribe. If you do not see your name below, please mail a check or money order to the tribe for \$35 (\$25 dues +\$10 late fee) in order to get back into active standing.

Mack Clark
Loretta Leach
Janie Shumak
Robert Neville
Tammy Leach
Charles Rodgers, Sr
Sandra Clark
Henry Clark
Birtie Henderson
Faith Henderson
Joan Betts
Billy Boren
Malanie Childers
Chris Weik
Ivory Hockersmith
Bradley Hockersmith
Erica Hockersmith
Brenda Branton
Lisa Leach
Denise Bentz
Ruby Jean Oliver
Suzie Clark
Sandra Mucelvaney
Alice Hinka
Debbie Strickland
Ashley Strickland
Maggie Gunter
Kevin Clark
Dennis Clark
Mary Simmons
Robert Huff
Krista Huff
Alison Rogers
Michael Rochay
Charles Rodgers, Jr

Open Positions

Currently there are 4 open positions on the Executive Board for the tribe that can be appointed based on current by-laws. Please review the positions below to determine if you would like to nominate yourself for one of the positions. Please remember, you need to be an active member of the tribe to fill a board seat. If you're not currently active, please mail in your tribal dues along with your nomination request to activate your status.

Tribal Council Member - Must have email access and be able to attend all tribal meetings and functions. Must also take an active role in working on programs for the tribe and be willing to work productively with all members of the tribe. Voting position.

Archivist - Must have email access. Will be responsible for maintaining tribal historical documents, ensuring all news articles, and tribal records adequately filed and recorded. Will be responsible for starting online storage records via CDs and online files. Non-voting position.

Historian - Must have email access and must be able to attend all events. Responsible for chronicling activities of the tribe, taking pictures at tribal events and updating tribal website to let membership see what is taking place in the community. Will work closely with archivist to ensure information gathered by historian is accurately stored by the archivist. Non-voting position.

Tribal Liaison - Must have email access. Will be responsible for community outreach to determine needs assessment of community, as well as responsible to ensure members know about all upcoming events. Non-voting position.

Please send a letter to the tribal office or an email to Wassamasaw@hotmail.com to nominate yourself for any of these positions.

Your Tribal Executive Board

*Tribal Administrator – Lisa Leach
Spiritual Leader – Charles Rodgers, Sr
Tribal Council Members*

*Janie Shumak
Loretta Leach
Edmund Ray Varner
Michael Rochay
Enrollment Officer – Tammy Leach
Secretary – Charles Rodgers, Jr*

*Please feel free to contact anyone on the
Executive Board to answer any tribal
questions or concerns.*



Each quarter the tribe will be sponsoring a night out for Active Members Only.

1st Quarter - Bowling Night

Dorchester Lanes - March 16th from 6 PM - 8 PM. Costs for shoes and games free for active members, \$2 per game for guests of active members.

RSVP = 364-7041

**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
