2015

May

THE WASSAMASAW TRIBE of VARNERTOWN INDIANS

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Tribal Newsletter

Meeting with Governor Nikki Haley

Tribal Administrator, Lisa Collins along with Dr. Will Goins, met with Governor Haley in March. The purpose of the meeting was to establish dialogue with the Governor's office to address issues affecting Native Americans here in SC. Some of the items were economic development through tourism, educational opportunities and scholarships for Native youth to attend college, and working with state agencies to address our needs. Governor Haley was very receptive and promised to establish better communication between her office and the Native people of SC. We are exploring new avenues and diligently working within the state infrastructure to address our community's needs and opportunities.

Upcoming Tribal Community Events

The Burbage Family Reunion will be on July 25, 2015 at 11 am. Place to be announced. https://www.facebook.com/groups/552520778219184/

The Varner-Collins Reunion will be held July 31-Ausgust 2, 2015 in Myrtle Beach, SC. https://www.facebook.com/VarnerCollins?fref=ts

Basket Weaving Class for beginners will be Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 1 pm at the Otranto Road Library in North Charleston.

August will be Movie Night. Time and place TBD.

September will be Regalia/Beading Class. Time and place TBD.

The Executive Board meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at the Otranto Road Library Conference Room at 10 am.

Members attend AICCSC event in Greenville, SC

Board Council Member, Richard Guerzon and secretary, Valerie Herald attended the 8th Annual Native American Summit hosted by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce on April 23-24, 2015, in Greenville. The summit spotlighted the socio-economic challenges of the state's native Americans and addressed how organizations could work together to resolve those challenges. The Chamber partnered with BMW Manufacturing, LLC, Clemson University's International Center of Automotive Research (CU-ICAR), and Harvard University. Many areas of opportunity were identified and the tribe will be working diligently with the Chamber to explore all avenues to advance the socio-economic issues of the Varnertown Indian Community. If you own a business or is self-employed, we will like to identify you and your business so that your business needs can be addressed. The Chamber offers many services to help Native owned businesses in SC: such as certification, business development, and networking. Please call us or contact us to list your businesses in our directory and for your business needs.

Members learn Gourd Painting

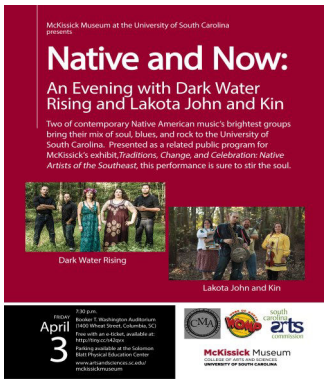
It was an exciting class on February 28th when tribal community members came out to paint some gourds. Members learned about cleaning, staining , tracing or drawing art designs and painting of the gourds. By the end of the class, every participant had a completed gourd to take home and share with family. Everyone thought the class was informative and lots of fun. Even our smallest student took a gourd home to enjoy on her own. Thanks to all those who came out and participated. We are listening to our members advice and giving you classes that are more simple and everyone of all ages can participate. We hope to have many more like this class.

Community BBQ and Potluck

April 18th, we had BBQ hog and fixings for our community potluck. We had about 30 members come out and fellowship at Full Gospel Mission Church in Cross. We would like to thank Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Clark for generously allowing us to use the church fellowship hall. Thanks to all those who came out to meet Mr. Doug Peach. Mr. Peach works for the SC Arts Commission and has been a friend to the leadership of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. It has been a pleasure to work with Doug on many Native events here in SC. It is always appreciated for those leaders to request to come to our communities and meet our people and see first-hand the faces of those they are supporting and helping. Our next community meeting is scheduled for September. We will let you know the exact date and time once it is scheduled.

Native American Concert on April 3rd

A historic Native American Concert was held on April3, 2015 at USC to close out the Diverse Voices exhibit: *Traditions, Change and Celebration: Native Artists of the Southeast.*. In concert were Dark Water Rising and Lakota John and Kin. It was a wonderful night of music and celebration with many of the Native American community and others in attendance. Varnertown Community had 7 members in attendance. Thanks to all those who supported this exhibit and all its programming.



Take a look!!! We are now listed in the new SC History Books for school. Now our children and students will learn current and relevant history about SC Natives. Please promote this book and encourage your local schools to buy the new edition for their students. This book is the authorized text for SC public schools. Usually, newer texts are bought by district schools as needed. Please tell your school to purchase the new book.

Words from Lisa

We have been having some wonderful classes and events this year. We encourage all our members to come out and learn about your history, culture and family. There are a number of core family reunions in the works, we hope everyone will come out and participate.

The Board is focusing on socio-economic growth and education. We will be trying to identify our native-owned businesses and increasing opportunities for our members. We want to identify our crafts people and artists who are producing and selling their artwork. There is a law that defines who can sell "native-made artwork". Please contact us as we identify those artists in our community.

Lastly, we know that everyone is proud of our heritage and we express it in different ways. Please, please do not use our seal or logo for promotion on either personal media, crafts or other documentation without our express permission. It is copyrighted!

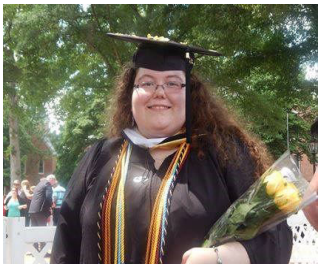
If you have any questions, feel free to call or ask. We want everyone involved and working together.

In Unity,

Lisa

Congratulations, Graduates!

Congratulations to our community and family graduates that graduated this year from High School or College. We are so proud of you and wish you much success. Let's support our youth as they make their way on their paths! Congratulations to Alexander Hockersmith, Kristen Lawrence, Matthew Mood and Emily Elizabeth Oliver.



Looking for Some Help!

Looking for help with our community project! We are looking to reestablish the pump/well in the community graveyard. If you know someone who is willing to help, please call us at

Remembering Our Members

We've recently lost some of our elders an members this past year. They have left a void in our community. We remember the contributions they made and their memo-

Mathew H. Clark

(May 9, 1933—March 13, 2015)

Esther Dangerfield Burbage Sellers

(April 6, 1945—Feb. 29, 2015)

I give you this one thought to keep
I am with you still - I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the sweet uplifting rush,
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft starts that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still in each new dawn.
Traditional Native American Prayer