



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community

651-452-4141 • www.mendotadakota.com • www.facebook.com/mendotadakota

1351 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN 55150

55150 MMDC is a Tribal 501C3 Organization

VOTING MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:

FYI: We do not have voting membership meetings in December.

Our Constitution requires that we have a minimum of 10 members attending to conduct any business so we hope to see you there!

Responsibilities for monthly Tribal Council meetings include: Attend meetings.

- Create agendas & take minutes.
- Type up those minutes and submit them to the Tribal Council for review and approval.

Responsibilities for Monthly Voting Membership meetings include:

- Attend meetings.
- Create agendas & take minutes.
- Type up those minutes and submit them to the Voting Membership for review and approval.
- Submit minutes to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

Winter : 2017



Message from Sharon:

Hello everyone! This newsletter has been a long time in the making! Thank you for your patience. We've been hard at work. Meetings, classes, federal recognition just to name a few. We've lost some great people you will read about in this newsletter and they will be missed.

Are you a writer or do you know someone who is? I'd like to find someone who could write a short story or article concerning Dakota people helping Dakota people, or more to the point, why DON'T Dakota people help Dakota people? I'm not looking for blame and name calling, I'm only looking for answers. I'd something written that will be thought provoking and provide food for thought. We've been Orphans long enough! We have nothing but our community which is the only thing that has kept us from becoming extinct! We are not in a position to be able to help our own people. We have no land, no medical, no housing, nothing for our native people. Some tribes have so much, more than they could ever use yet we have been struggling to build a community center for our people for years! We need a place to call our own.

Victoria Scott bought a house and is moving home. I'm so happy about that. Now we need to get Linda to move home. I know that will not happen but I can wish.

-Sharon Lennartson Tribal Chairwoman.

**HOLIDAY PARTY AND TOY DRIVE.
MENDOTA MDEWAKANTON DAKOTA COMMUNITY
WELCOMES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
AND TOY DRIVE.**

**DUPUIS HOUSE OR SIBLEY HISTORICAL SITE.
1357 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY
MENDOTA, MN 55150**

**DEC 2, 2017, 1-4 BRING A DISH TO PASS. GIRLS 1-17
BOYS 1-17 TOYS OR CLOTHES. DON'T WRAP GIFTS
KEEP IN BAGS. WE DELIVER OR HAND OUT TOYS A
WEEK LATER. CALL THE TRIBAL OFFICE IF YOU
WANT TO DROP OF TOYS OR ANYTHING YOU MAY
WANT TO GIVE BY DEC 18HT 651-452-4141.**

**PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY NOV 29TH IF YOU ARE COMING
TO THE PARTY.
MENDOTADAKOTA@GMAIL.COM or 651-452-4141.**

Happy Holidays!

PROFITS & LOSSES, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The following represents the Tribe's finances for the following accounts as of 11-18-2017

Business:	\$3,1024.00
Wacipi:	\$ 1,100.00
Scholarship:.....	\$ 1,264.25
Land:	\$25,000.00
Fed Recognition:	\$ 133.17

ADDENDUM

Wacipi - Income \$11,849.00 Expense \$8,904.00.
\$3,112.64 went in to the bank. Less startup
money \$1,060.00 total = \$2,052.64

We took \$1,500 from the Fed Rec fund to pay for our history panels to be used at the Wacipi.

Someone defaced one of our panels and they should pay for a new one. View the panels at:
www.mendotadakota.com/mn/history

We have about \$1,500 left in the pow wow account.

NEXT MEETINGS:

The next voting membership meeting will be held Monday, Nov 27th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Dupuis House.

After this meeting, our future meetings will be held on the last Sunday of the month and will be a potluck from 1pm to 3pm until June that's when the DuPuis is open on Sundays then we need to go back to Mondays.



REMEMBER YOUR 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS:

All members of the tribe, even honorary members, are required to pay contributions.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the tribal and honorary members who pay their contributions on time or who use the automatic payment system.

These contributions are important for keeping our tribal office running. They pay for things like cultural events, education, powwows, office supplies and more!

Would you like to pay your contributions automatically? www.mendotadakota.com/mn/ach

Prefer to use the ACH automatic payment system? You can do so here: www.mendotadakota.com/ach

Need to get caught up with back payments? www.mendotadakota.com/payment



Mitakuye oyasin: "All are related"

From Oceti Šakowiŋ: The Seven Council Fires. MNHS Collections. Historically, there were seven major divisions — "council fires" — of the Dakota, each with a distinct but similar culture. Bdewakantonwaŋ, The Spirit Lake People (Mdewakanton); Waŋpekuŋe, The Shooters Among the Leaves People (Wahpekuŋe); Waŋpetuŋwaŋ, The People Dwelling Among the Leaves (Wahpeton); and Sisiŋwaŋ, People of the Fish Village(s) (Sisseton), are referred to as the Santee or Eastern Dakota. Ihaŋktonwaŋ, Dwellers at the End (Yankton); and Ihaŋktonwaŋna, Little Dwellers at the End (Yanktonai), are referred to as the Western Dakota or often as the Nakota; and the Tituŋwaŋ, Dwellers on the Plains (Teton) are called Lakota. The historic alliance of these divisions has been known variously over time as the Sioux, the Great Sioux Nation, or Oceti Šakowiŋ, the Seven Council Fires. Today Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota tribal governments and communities are located in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Montana in the United States, and Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan in Canada.

Oceti Sakowin rocks are at Pilot Knob in Mendota Heights



PILOT KNOB PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Known to Dakota people as Oĥéyawahe, “the hill much visited,” Pilot Knob is a place of distinctive historical, cultural, and environmental importance, a sacred site, a landmark of Minnesota’s beginnings.

The **Pilot Knob Preservation Association** advocates for this distinctive hill, documents its long history, raises public awareness of its importance, and helps to preserve it for present and future generations.

You can view their latest posts and learn how you can help by visiting www.pilotknobpreservation.org



A MESSAGE FROM OUR HISTORIAN, PERRY ALTENDORFER:

A message from our Historian, Perry Altendorfer: To all Lineal Descendants, Signers and First Original Families relating to the 1830 Prairie du Chein Treaty. We are currently updating our files, adding articles and documentation that involves families related to this treaty. Our goal is to unite all mixed blood families. Please see the Johnsons and Jones Report 1856 www.tiny.cc/1856report

Please contact Perry with questions or comments. altendorferperry@gmail.com

BYLAWS:

We are currently working on the bylaws. We will update the website when they are complete.

STAY CONNECTED:

Make sure to like us at www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota to be the first to hear about upcoming events and news!

Your opinion matters, so while you're at it, please feel free to leave us a www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews

DAKOTA LANGUAGE / CULTURE CLASSES:

Monday night Dec 4, 6:30 - 8:00pm at the DuPuis House.



“To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations.”

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP REMOVAL

Below is an example of the letter that we have and will be continuing to send to inactive members who have not responded to previous messages from us. We have attempted to contact these members using the most recent contact info we have for them in our files. This is why it is very important to make sure we have updated contact information. In an upcoming voter membership meeting, we will need to discuss implementing a cut-off date for inactive members as this impacts our ability to achieve federal recognition thereby disadvantaging the entire community. If you are having difficulty with your contributions, please contact us, we may be able to help if you are able to show that your income would make you exempt from paying.

If you have questions or concerns about this, please attend the meetings and we will discuss them. Thank you.

Dear Member

You've had every opportunity to get caught up on your contributions or to call the office to make payments or to provide proof of income to qualify for exempt status. We've given each inactive member 30 or more days to respond the letter or email that was sent to the last address we had on file.

You have not contacted us or paid your contributions to the Mendota Community in many years. Furthermore, you have not come to or participated in the meetings or events that we have held. We have no choice now but to remove you from membership. You can reapply at any time, however, there will be a \$500 reinstatement fee.

It is very important for our entire community to have our membership rolls up to date, to have our members financially contribute, to have everyone that can, come to meetings and events and generally make an attempt at being involved with and being a part of our community.

"Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the Dakota Culture for Future Generations"

This is our mission statement and we need to maintain an office in order to do accomplish this. We are also seeking federal recognition. We have teachers, speakers, wacipis, cultural and educational events, inipis and we are trying to expand our services and impact on the community, including our very important mission of receiving federal recognition and acquiring land and a community center.

For our goal of federal recognition, it is mandatory that all members have updated, current applications and paperwork, be current with their contributions and be active in the community. We are sorry to see you go, however, for the sake of the entire community and out of respect for the members who do make their monthly contributions, we have no choice. The names of all members to be removed were discussed at the voting membership meeting and the active members voted.

Our bylaws are available on our website and have been discussed at our meetings and online since at least 2006. We are including them below for your convenience.

Sincerely, the Membership Committee, Tribal Council, and active members of the Community.

Bylaws of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community of the State of Minnesota

Article I – Membership

Section A – Applicant:

- An applicant is an individual who is applying for membership in the Tribe, but whose application has not yet been approved.
- Applicants are required to pay a reasonable fee, which will be recommended by the Tribal Council and approved by the voting membership at a voting membership meeting with a 2/3rds vote.

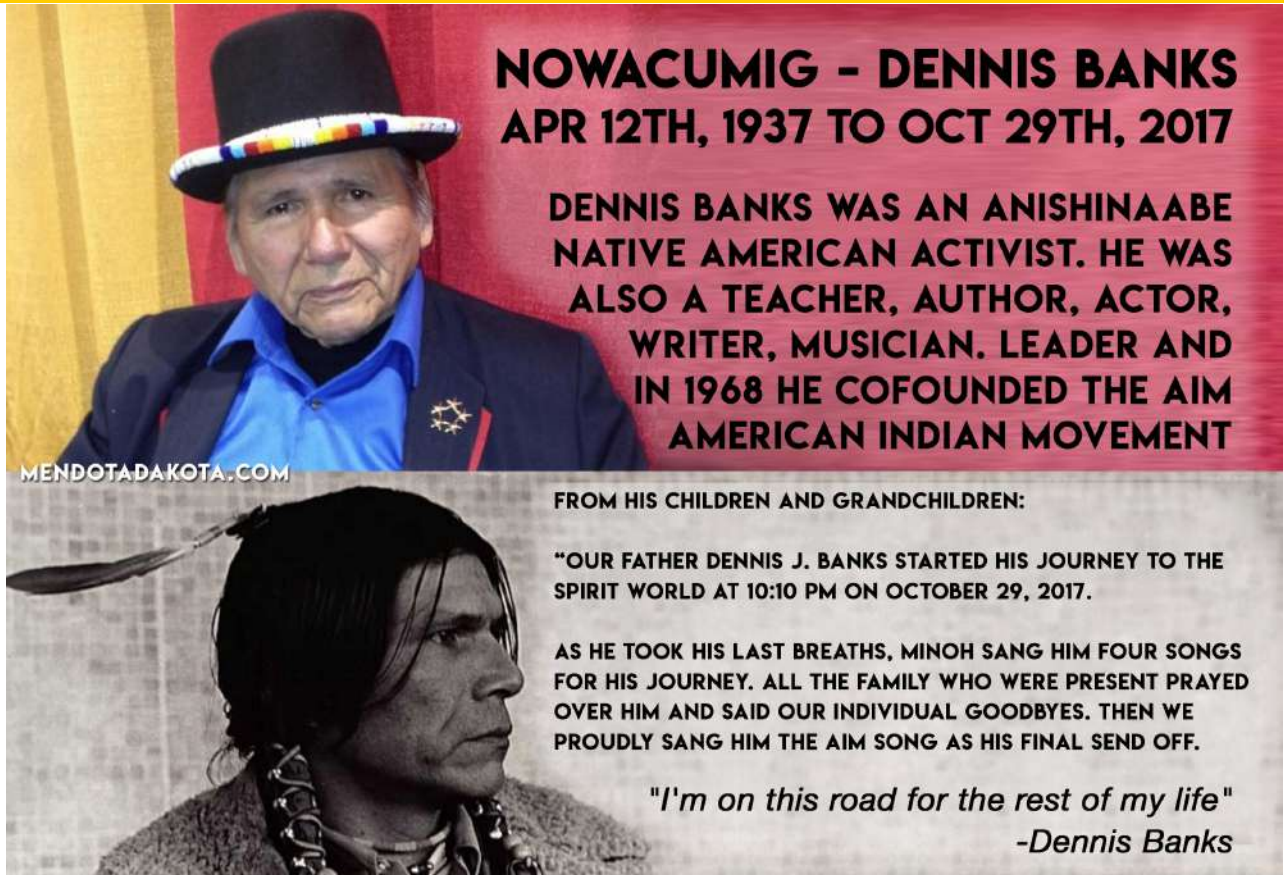
Section B – Enrolled Member:

- An enrolled member is an individual who meets all enrollment criteria and is eligible to become a member of the Tribe.
- An enrolled member is pending active membership (see Section C – Active Membership).
- An enrolled member is not eligible to vote in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws until he/she becomes an active member.
- An enrolled member is not eligible to hold office.
- An enrolled member is not eligible to receive per-capita payments.
- A member who has not paid their contributions in two years will be removed from membership.
- To become reinstated, you must submit a letter to the tribal council requesting reinstatement and paying your contributions for one year, there may be a \$500.00 reinstatement fee for some members.

Section C – Active Member:

- An active member has **financially** supported the Tribe in each 12-month period, at a contribution rate recommended by the Tribal Council and voted on and approved by the voting membership with a 2/3rds vote.
- An active member is encouraged to physically participate in at least 4 events, meetings, a year. Physical participation does not replace a financial contribution.
- An active member is eligible to vote in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws.
- An active member is eligible to receive per capita payments in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws.

NOWACUMIG - DENNIS BANKS HAS PASSED INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD



NOWACUMIG - DENNIS BANKS
APR 12TH, 1937 TO OCT 29TH, 2017

DENNIS BANKS WAS AN ANISHINAABE NATIVE AMERICAN ACTIVIST. HE WAS ALSO A TEACHER, AUTHOR, ACTOR, WRITER, MUSICIAN. LEADER AND IN 1968 HE COFOUNDED THE AIM AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT

MENDOTADAKOTA.COM

FROM HIS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN:

"OUR FATHER DENNIS J. BANKS STARTED HIS JOURNEY TO THE SPIRIT WORLD AT 10:10 PM ON OCTOBER 29, 2017.

AS HE TOOK HIS LAST BREATHS, MINOH SANG HIM FOUR SONGS FOR HIS JOURNEY. ALL THE FAMILY WHO WERE PRESENT PRAYED OVER HIM AND SAID OUR INDIVIDUAL GOODBYES. THEN WE PROUDLY SANG HIM THE AIM SONG AS HIS FINAL SEND OFF.

"I'm on this road for the rest of my life"
-Dennis Banks

WE REMEMBER FRANCES "FRANNIE" FAIRBANKS

We are all saddened by the passing of Frances "Frannie" Fairbanks on October 30, 2017 at the age of 88.

Frannie started work at the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC) in 1975 as an employment counselor in the job training program, not long after the Center's doors first opened. She was soon directing that program. She became Executive Director in 1982, and led MAIC for nearly thirty years until she retired in 2012.

Under Frannie's leadership, MAIC survived tough economic times in the 1980's when many other urban Indian Centers across the country were forced to shutter their doors. During Frannie's time with the Minneapolis American Indian Center, she touched tens of thousands of Native people's lives, by providing guidance, support, services, and by insisting on just treatment for her community. When Frannie finally retired in 2012, the Minneapolis American Indian Center was firmly established as a legacy institution to serve the urban Indian community, and preserve and share our traditions with future generations.

Frances Fairbanks was one of the group of urban Natives who founded the American Indian Movement in the 1970's, and she often talked about the terrible mistreatment of her people at the hands of police, government agencies, and the mainstream community that she had seen in her years. In her role at the Center, she reached out to help Natives living in neighboring communities. One of Frannie's other legacies was the hundreds of young Native people she mentored and supported across her career. Nearly all of today's leaders in the Minneapolis Native American community have a "Frannie story", of how she inspired them with advice given in the old ways, through stories, by calmly and fairly arbitrating disputes in the community, sometimes by rebuking us in a friendly but firm way, and always by sharing a good laugh or shedding tears with us for our losses.



Frannie was a proud member of the Red Lake Nation. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great – great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and siblings, as well as many children that she fostered over the years, as well as the hundreds of others who felt as though Frannie was also their auntie, or mother.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Dupuis House:

Some of our classes, events and meetings are held at the Dupuis House. the address is **1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota Heights, MN 55120** www.tiny.cc/dupuis-map.

Donations, Federal Recognition and Grants:

We've been working very hard examining hundreds of documents in an attempt to boost the tribes visibility in the community, develop ties with agencies and groups to assist us in gaining federal recognition, working with fundraising ventures and locating grants both private and governmental.

Federal Recognition meetings:

We are having Federal Recognition meetings once a week at the office.

Land Patents in Minnesota and the Laws Relating to Indian Affairs:

Anyone who is interested in learning more, please contact Perry Altendorfer altendorferperry@gmail.com or Carl Leith native0069@yahoo.com

Important Message and legal disclosure for Inactive Members:

Members who have inactive status were sent letters to their last known address. Along with sending a letter, An announcement has been made in our newsletter, to our facebook page and to our website alerting them and describing their options. Inactive members have 30 days to respond or their membership will be removed. If you are inactive or think you may be, please contact the office ASAP. Phone: 651- 452-4141 Email: mendotadakota@gmail.com

ARE YOU GOOD AT RESEARCH?

We are looking for research volunteers. If you'd like to help, please contact Sharon (952) 687-7058

We are looking for any photographs or new information about Angelique Renville, wife of Hypolite Dupuis.

We'd like to find any evidence of our Mdewakanton ancestors who were born in or lived in the DuPuis House, in Mendota, MN.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our dear friend Carl Leith, who has been working so hard to help us achieve federal recognition just had to have surgery. He lost his left foot and all of the toes of his right foot. Our heart goes out to him. Please send any healing thoughts towards him and wish him a speedy recovery.

We were able to reduce the page size of our enrollment application from 7 pages to 4 pages without losing any of the important information.

We removed the sections about adopted and honorary from the application and created specific applications for them.

Thank you to the 130 members who have completed the *new* application and the paper work. I know can be frustrating to do it, however it's very important to the BIA and to our chances of gaining federal recognition. Once it's done, it's done, so if you have not yet done it, please get on it soon.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Tiffany who was able to get a \$1,000 donation from her workplace, Milestone AV Technologies in Eden Prairie, MN. We appreciate the support from this great company. www.milestone.com - www.facebook.com/MilestoneAVTechnologies
Tiffany has gotten other donations for us, as well. Thank you Tiffany, great job!

We have 40 members, including some honorary who are using the ACH system to make their contributions.

We currently have 55 honorary members.

We have a new language teacher; Frank Killwright.

We had a meeting with the Bishop at the Newport Lutheran Church. Perry will be speaking about it at our next meeting.

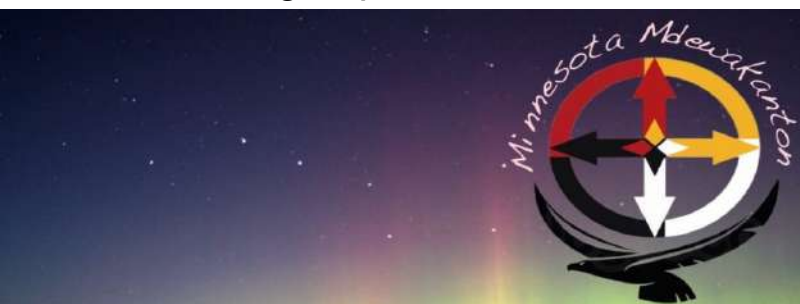
We have Square for using Visa. People can pay dues or make a donation.

No membership meeting in Dec Holiday party and Toy drive instead.

YOU SHOULD VISIT: WWW.MDEWAKANTON.ORG

The Minnesota Mdewakanton are descendants of the blending of two cultures, one an ancient native culture, and the other the European culture. www.mdewakanton.org Is Identifying Lineal Descendants of the Mdewakanton Band of Mississippi Sioux by Treaty. www.mdewakanton.org

Join the discussion at the official group: facebook.com/groups/MdewakantonDakota



SANTEE SIOUX GENEALOGY

We are a group of researchers specializing in Santee Dakota Genealogy, specifically the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska.

Please feel free to add content. Documents, photographs, and especially memories of Santee and her people are most appreciated.



The lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time. - Thoreau

Mitakuye Oyasin- We are all related

TRIBAL CONTACTS:

Chairwoman:	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
Vice Chair:	John Leclair	(612) 817-2538
Treasurer:	Marlene Dixon	(651) 734-3290
Secretary:	Marlene Dixon	(651) 734-3290
Historian:	Perry Altendorfer	(612) 327-0100
Mbr at Large	Lon Navarre	(612) 209-2342
Mbr at Large	Chris Antiel	(612) 817-2538
Cultural:	Jim Anderson	(612) 328-7837

You can view a complete list of contacts by visiting:
www.mendotadakota.com/mn/contact

CONTACT THE EDITOR:

Please let us know of any errors you may see in the newsletter. Send all updates and corrections to us and if necessary we will revise the current newsletter or correct the error in the next edition.

Do you have an idea for a story?

Would you like to find or write articles for the MMDC website, facebook page or newsletter?

Are you an artist/cartoonist, storyteller, activist or photographer?

Do you have something you would like to contribute for possible inclusion to our newsletters? A funny anecdote or joke? Stories, news or history, art, a link to your music, videos or photo gallery?

Have you seen something interesting on the web you think should be included?

Please send us an email.
newsletter@mendotadakota.com



We'd love it if you could give us a review!
www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews

GO GREEN AND HELP US SAVE!

The newsletter is an important tool to keep members up to date on the happenings of the tribe including events, education, finances, notices, etc.

Each time we publish the newsletter it costs the tribe in ink, paper & postage not to mention the time involved to stuff and ship envelopes.

You can help us reduce our costs by sending us a message at newsletter@mendotadakota.com and let us know that you read it online. Thank You!

View current and past newsletters at www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter

ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER & ON WEB:

Just think, if your advertisement was here, other people would be reading it! All submissions will be reviewed before accepting. We reserve the right to choose not to accept your advertisement for inclusion. We are also accepting advertisements for our facebook page and website. We can even create graphics for you and write up the information for a low price!

All proceeds go to help our tribe. We are a tribal 501C3 organization.

Contact us for pricing and possible inclusion in the next newsletter. newsletter@mendotadakota.com

ADVERTISE HERE

ABOUT US AND MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal community is a non-profit 501C3 organization dedicated to preserving the Dakota heritage.

In 2002, the MMDC membership participated in a comprehensive strategic planning session that resulted in the development of seven (7) long range goals striving to:

- Promote and support the preservation of the Dakota culture, including protecting sites of cultural significance to the Dakota people.
- Promote a better understanding between the Native American community and the general public.
- Teach community members others the Dakota language.
- Develop self-sufficiency through in-house business.
- Obtain federal recognition.
- Maintain a tribal office in Mendota.
- Acquire a land base.

