



# Mendota MdeWakanton Dakota Tribal Community

651-452-4141 • [www.mendotadakota.com](http://www.mendotadakota.com) • [www.facebook.com/mendotadakota](http://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.

**Autumn : 2016**



## Message from Sharon:

### So much has happened this year!

It is with a heavy heart that I write to say that both of my sisters, Lillian Rose Anderson and Beverly Mae Scott have passed into the spirit this year. They will both be missed by many. Beverly's memorial is Nov 19th at the DuPuis House 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN 55120. It's from 1 to 5 pm. We will have a potluck and an inipi and I hope you can all attend.

My son Joe and I will be working on the grant again and I'm excited to say that Joe will be attending MRAC grant writing training.

**This is very important:** Our application process and paperwork has changed at least 4 times in the last 20 years and the federal government doesn't like changes. We've been instructed that we need all of our members to have the same application document on file. They all must match and if they don't it could cost us our federal recognition or at the least, create very long, unnecessary delays. This means that all members must fill out a new application. This does NOT mean that you are "applying" it just means we need the same documents, filled out the same way, for everyone. This includes the Ancestor Chart & Individual History Chart that the BIA requires which is included in the new application

Also, ALL current members must have Certified Birth Certificate & OFA (Office of Federal Acknowledgment) on file with our office ASAP.

We will be going over all the files, checking everything for consistency and accuracy before we send it to the government to be checked and filed as part of the federal recognition process.

Have you looked at our ancestry photo section? [www.mendotadakota.com/mn/ancestors/](http://www.mendotadakota.com/mn/ancestors/) We just added a photo of Louise DuPuis to our website. She's Chief Little Crow's Niece. Please send us photos and stories of your ancestors. We want to save them to share for all time. To many stories have been lost over the ages.

There is a very interesting book called "Where The Waters Gather & The Rivers Meet Atlas Of The Eastern Sioux" by Paul Durand. Paul was good friends with Clem & Fran Felix. I strongly suggest you check it out if you get the chance. You can get this book on eBay: [www.tiny.cc/rivers](http://www.tiny.cc/rivers) or Amazon: [www.tiny.cc/watersgather](http://www.tiny.cc/watersgather)

The MN Historical society has donated \$3,600 to us to help us create a 10 piece panel of photos and stories of our ancestors which can be taken to schools, museums, events, etc. We will be telling the story of the Mendota people. I sent emails out and asking for help in forming a committee to start working on this at the DuPuis house to meet after the first of the year and 8 members have responded offering to help. Please contact me if you're interested in taking part. We desperately need photos and stories of our ancestors. Did your great grandfather tell you stories when you were a child? Do you remember pieces of history that's been passed down in your family? Do you have photos of ancestors? PLEASE share, we need all we can get!

Perry Altendorfer, Carl Leith, Fran Felix, and I have been actively working on federal recognition. Contact us if you have questions.

THANK YOU to Susu who brought our flag to Standing Rock to show our support, solidarity and pride in our native brothers and sisters who are protecting the water.

-Sharon Lennartson Tribal Chairwoman.

## REMEMBER YOUR 2016 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? Visit

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

Need to get caught up with back payments? [www.mendotadakota.com/payment](http://www.mendotadakota.com/payment)

### CHRISTMAS TOY DONATIONS:

Each year we have a toy drive and last years was a real success with many bags of toys delivered to local families with children. Thank you again to everyone who donated!



**This year we need your help!**

Please donate unused, unwrapped toys at our Christmas Party potluck Dec 3rd 1 to 4 pm at DuPuis House or you can call Sharon to make an appointment to bring toys to the office. Up to Dec 18th. (952) 687-7058

**CALL FIRST, DO NOT DROP TOYS OFF OUTSIDE OFFICE.**

### NEW MEMBERS:

We've had 10 new applicants. 7 completed the application process and are now new members.

Welcome to Carol Koop, Bonnie Melchert, Molly Woodle, Dara Simpson, Brian Fisher, Scott Fisher, Steven Carpenter, Lamont Hoffius, Loren Hoffius, Quentin Hoffius, Diana Jordan.

Thank you Ellen Turpin for so many referrals!

### Did You Know: "Dakota"

"Dakota" actually translates in English to "the allies." Another name for the tribe is the Lakota, or Nakota, which is just another way to pronounce the same word. Each tribe tends to pronounce "Dakota" differently, yet all identify as the same group of Native Americans.

The Dakota were agriculturalists and one of the many natives who built burial mounds.

Early Dakota hunting centered around hunting buffalo by horseback after horses were introduced to them by neighboring Sioux Native Americans.

The Dakota are made up of seven different tribes, the nation's government consists of 13 political divisions, however, these divisions are more cultural as opposed to political. Each Dakota reservation has its own government and functions independently as it's own nation *within* a nation including its own police force, government and citizenship.

### NEXT MEETINGS:

The next voting membership meeting will be held Sunday, Nov 27th from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Dupuis House.

*This will be a pot-luck so please bring something to share.*



**FYI:** We did not have a meeting in Sept 2016 due to the Wacipi.

There are no meetings in December, just the Christmas Party mentioned in this newsletter.

### PROFITS & LOSSES, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The following represents the finances of the tribe for the following accounts as of **10/17/2015 5pm**

Business: .....	\$4,617.21
Wacipi: .....	\$2,150.57
Scholarship:.....	\$1,463.99
Land: .....	\$4,706.06
Fed Recognition: .....	\$1,509.18

#### Wacipi expenses & income.

Wacipi expenses:.....	(will update soon)
Wacipi income:.....	(will update soon)

### PROFITS & LOSSES, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Jimelle is doing our 990 for 2015 year as we made over \$50,000 Remember, the profit & loss balance sheet and reconciliation of the checking account are at all meetings. Jimelle is also taking care of our Attorney General paperwork.

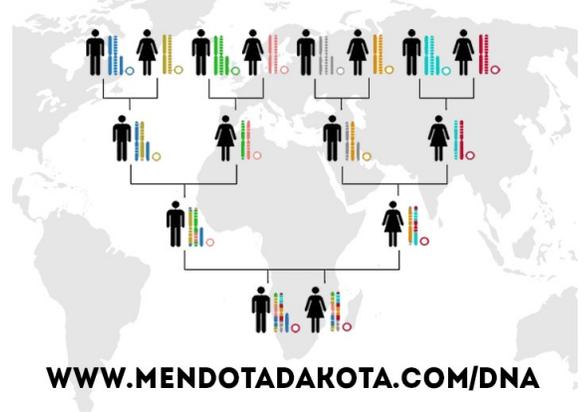


## USING SCIENCE TO GROW YOUR FAMILY TREE

Here's something exciting; You can now have your DNA analyzed to discover many exciting things about yourself, your bloodline, your health, where your ancestors came from, your family, etc. As an example, your DNA will be compared with millions of other samples to show you relatives from around the world. It will even create a chart for you describing the type of relationship you share, like 3rd cousin on mother's side, etc. How widely spread do you think your family is spread across the globe? How far back will you be able to trace YOUR family tree? You might be amazed to find out!

FYI: Right now the lab is doing a study of Irritable Bowel Syndrome and if you have been diagnosed IBS you may be able to get your DNA kit for free!

If you would like to participate, please visit [www.mendotadakota.com/dna](http://www.mendotadakota.com/dna)



[WWW.MENDOTADAKOTA.COM/DNA](http://WWW.MENDOTADAKOTA.COM/DNA)

## DAKOTA WOYUTE OYAKAPI RECIPES

Here's a recipe from the tribe's very own Cookbook. We may be thinking about making this book available for purchase again!

### French Indian Meat Pie

1 lb. ground beef	1 large onion, chopped fine
1 lb ground pork	1 teaspoon sage
3/4 cup celery	Salt and pepper to taste

Brown meat and add onions, celery, Sage, salt and pepper. Cover with water and simmer until vegetables are 3/4 done. Make a roux of flour, butter and milk. This is the thickening to the meat mixture. Stir until thickened. You may add more flour and milk if needed. Put ingredients in bottom crust of 2 two crust pies. Cover with top crust. Cut a few slits in top to let out Steam while baking. Bake at 375 degrees for one hour, until golden brown and celery is done. Makes two pies

*To the LeClaire Family from Lillian Selisha LeClaire-Brown*

## MEANING OF THE DREAMCATCHER

The dreamcatcher, or ihąnǰbla gmunka

Some consider the dreamcatcher a symbol of unity among the various Indian Nations, and a general symbol of identification with First Nations cultures.

Original dreamcatchers were made with willow hoops and sinew or cordage made from plants. The shape of the dreamcatcher is a circle because it represents how giizis – the sun, moon, month – travel each day across the sky.

## FYI: FEDERAL NATIVE ART & CRAFT LAW

**Did you know:** The "Indian Arts and Crafts Act" of 1990 prohibits the misrepresentation in marketing of American Indian arts and crafts within the United States making it illegal to offer or display for sale any art or craft in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced or an Indian product if it is not. If an individual violates this law, the first offense can be \$250,000 fine and/or five years in prison. If a business violates, the first offense can be up to a 1 million dollar fine. This law broadly covers all Indian and Indian-style traditional and contemporary arts and crafts produced after 1935. This includes, but is not limited to: baskets, dreamcatchers, jewelry, regalia, pottery, carved stones, woven rugs, dolls, bones, clothing, pipes, tomahawks, leather goods, etc. The Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior has responsibility for overseeing implementation of the Act. Read more: [www.tiny.cc/iacb](http://www.tiny.cc/iacb) and [www.tiny.cc/iaca](http://www.tiny.cc/iaca)

**Authentic Native American Tomahawk!**

Be the first to review this item  
Price: \$9.00 & FREE Returns.  
Qualify for FREE SHIPPING

**ADD TO CART**

VISA   MasterCard   American Express   Discover   PayPal

## MARGERY OTTO LOAN, LAND IN MENDOTA:

We received a \$25,000 donation from Margery Otto. We honored her at our Pow Wow this year and she passed away shortly thereafter. She will be missed.

We discussed this donation at our meeting and determined the majority of it should go towards acquiring land in Mendota so we can have a place to call our own. We are also asking people to help by donating. We may also consider using an online crowdfunding platforms such as Kickstarter or GoFundMe. Does anyone have experience with these?

Please **DONATE**

Help us acquire land  
[mendotadakota.com/donate](http://mendotadakota.com/donate)

## 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.

## BEVERLY MAY SCOTT HAS PASSING

Beverly May Scott has passed into the Spirit World on Oct 5th, 2016.

**Beverly's Memorial will be held Nov 19th at the DuPuis House 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN 55120 from 1pm to 5pm.**

It's a potluck so please bring a dish to share. We will also have an Inipi after the memorial.

Read more: [www.mendotadakota.com/mn/beverly-scott](http://www.mendotadakota.com/mn/beverly-scott)

From Victoria Scott.

"Another limb has fallen from our family tree. i keep hearing a voice say, " grieve not for me". Just remember the good times, the laughter and joy. I lived a good life while I was strong. Please continue our heritage, our culture, because I'm counting on you. My mind is at ease, no more pain or embarrassment, my soul is at rest ; I was truly blessed. Go on with your lives, no matter what. Don't worry and stress.. I miss you all dearly. Keep smiling until the day comes we're together again. "



## LILLIAN ROSE ANDERSON HAS LEFT US

Lillian Rose Anderson (Mickey) Passed away at age 81 on March 4, 2016 at United Hospital in St. Paul. She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell, in 2012 and she will be missed by many



From Patricia, her daughter: "My mother was a beloved wife, mother, sister, aunty, friend. She enjoyed movies and crossword puzzles. She loved dad's cooking and visiting with all of her grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and all the other family. She is loved by many.

## 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](http://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 are once a month 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](mailto:altendorferperry@gmail.com) or Carl Leith [native0069@yahoo.com](mailto:native0069@yahoo.com)

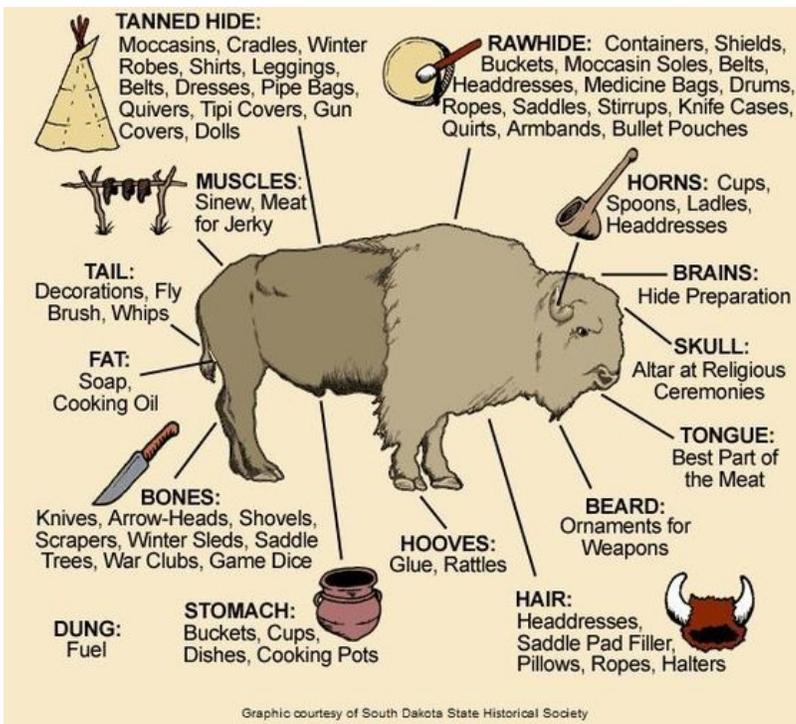
### Important Message and legal disclosure for Inactive Members:

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](mailto:mendotadakota@gmail.com)

### 2016 Christmas Party!

Please donate unused, unwrapped toys at our Christmas Party potluck **Dec 3rd 1 to 4 pm** at DuPuis House. Can you also volunteer some time to help out?

## DID YOU KNOW: "IMPORTANCE OF THE TATANKA"



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Gary Charwood from Cass Lake for being our 2016 Wacipi MC. Also, Gary has promised to help us get grants towards next years Wacipi and this is great news!
- Barry Frantum, Windy Down Wind, Mary So Happy Northern Lights Singers, Scotty Brown Eyes and everyone who helped with our Wacipi, we couldn't have done it without you.
- Joseph Lennartson for all his hard work in locating grants.
- The tribal council for all the important work they do.
- The Honor Guards, Wacipi Committee, the volunteers, the drum groups, vendors, guests, and everyone who helped bring together a beautiful Wacipi

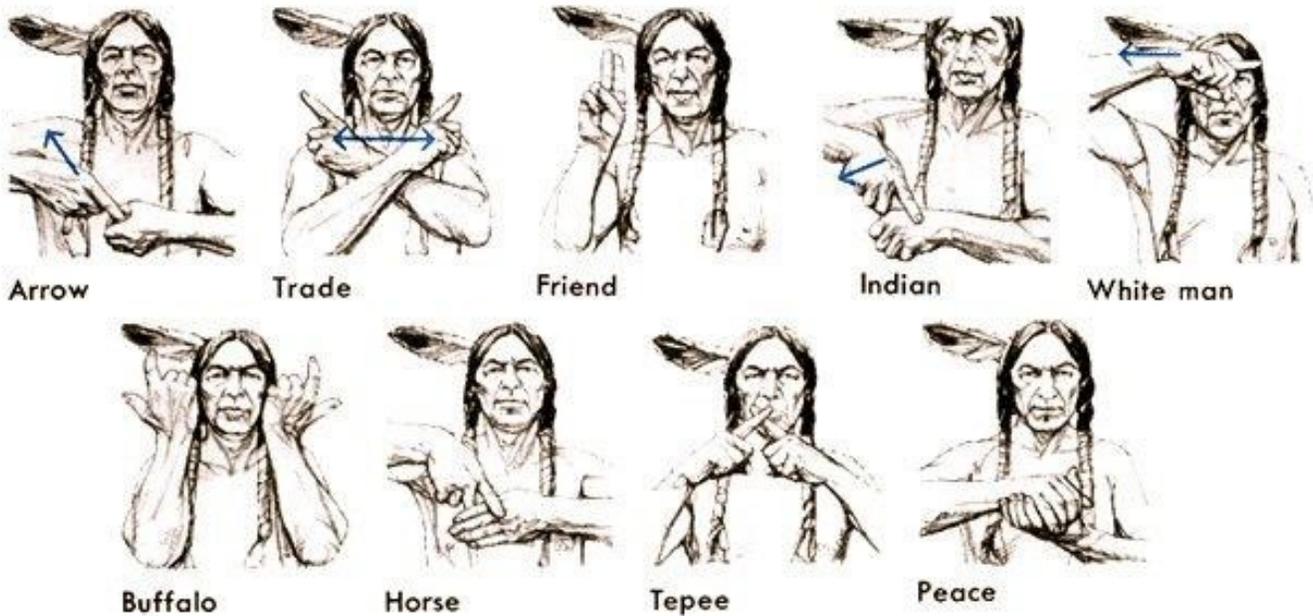
## DID YOU KNOW: "SIGN LANGUAGE"

**Sign language** was very important for Native Americans and was used for story-telling, oratory, various ceremonies, and by deaf people for ordinary daily use. Sign language use has been documented across speakers of at least 37 spoken languages and was used across an area of over one million square miles. In 1885, it was estimated there were over 110,000 "sign talking Indians", including Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Sioux, Kiowa and Arapaho but by the 1960s there remained a very small percentage of this number and there are very few Plains Sign Talk speakers in the 21st century.



Interested in learning some of the signs? [www.inquiry.net/outdoor/native/sign](http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/native/sign)  
Want to learn more about it? [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plains\\_Indian\\_Sign\\_Language](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plains_Indian_Sign_Language)

FYI: There exists a variety of Plains Sign Talk within the Blackfoot Confederacy. Little is known about the language aside that it is used by Deaf community members as well as by the community at large to pass on "oral" traditions and stories.



## BYLAWS:

The complete document titled: "Bylaws of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community of the State of Minnesota" can be downloaded from here <http://mendotadakota.com/mn/bylaws>

## STAY CONNECTED:

Make sure to like us at [www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews)

## DAKOTA LANGUAGE / CULTURE CLASSES:

Language and Culture classes are currently not running and will start again sometime in March of 2017.

Please check our website or facebook page for updates.

*Normally* Cultural Class is every last Wednesday of the month.

*Normally* Language class is always the first three Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30

These classes are *not running* right now but *normally* are held at the Dupuis House.



**"To preserve, protect, and promote the Dakota culture for future generations."**

## TRIBAL CONTACTS:

Chairwoman:	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
Vice Chair:	Chris Antiel	(612) 817-2538
Treasurer:	Marlene Dixon	(651) 734-3290
Secretary:	Marlene Dixon	(651) 734-3290
Historian:	Perry Altendorfer	(612) 327-0100
Cultural:	Jim Anderson	(612) 328-7837

You can view a complete list of contacts by visiting:  
[www.mendotadakota.com/mn/contact](http://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](mailto:newsletter@mendotadakota.com)



We'd love it if you could give us a review!  
[www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews](http://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](mailto:newsletter@mendotadakota.com) and let us know that you read it online. Thank You!

View current and past newsletters at [www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter](http://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 right away for pricing and possible inclusion in the next newsletter. [newsletter@mendotadakota.com](mailto:newsletter@mendotadakota.com)



## 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.

