



Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community News

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1351 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN 55150

55150 MMDC is a Tribal 501C3 Organization

Message from Sharon (Spirit Name: *Good Thunder Woman*)

Hello everyone!

Good news everyone, my cancer is in remission! Thank you all for your continued support, I really appreciate all of the thoughts, prayers and love!

Our last Wacipi or Pow Wow was our 20th. It ran Sept 13th through the 15th of 2019. It was a real success and we had people from all over who attended. We also honored many loved ones who passed. Thank you to all our volunteers, guests and dancers for making it such a success! We had a poster at the Pow wow with all the families that were in Mendota. If we forgot someone please send to us to add that family.

These families are our roots to the Mendota Community.

LeClaire, Felix, Robinette

Renville, Frenier, Dupuis

Campbell, Turpin

LeMay, Auge

LaBatte, Cermak

Newcomb, Perron

Leith, Sherry

LaCroix, Frazier

Faribault, Crook

DuFour, Coursolle

Many of these families are descendants of Chief Cetanwakanmani the second Little Crow.

In June of 2020 we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary as the Mendota Tribe, the (Mendota Reservation) at the St. Peters Church.

Thank you Joe and Brad for all your help. I want to wish everyone very warm holiday wishes. I hope you will all have a safe and happy new year!

-Sharon Lennartson Tribal Chairwoman.

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Winter : 2019



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PS. We have not had a newsletter since last year, the time goes by so fast with many other things to do. If anyone would to help out with the newsletter, please let us know. Also, if you have any interesting information, photos, humor, history, stories, news, art, etc. for the newsletter, please send it for possible inclusion.

On another note, I hate to bring up any negativity, but what can be done when someone is so disrespectful to an elder, especially an elder who's going thru the trauma of cancer, heart is in Atrial fibrillation and is in her 70s? I work hard to do the job of 10 people, without complaining just because no one else will do it and then I still must deal with this disrespect from one of the people who should be supportive, rather than disruptive to our community and our cause. It's just so saddening and disheartening.

- We need research done, you volunteer your time at home.
- (Newspapers on MN Frontier 1849-1860) we will pay for the documents, so there is no cost for you. Just send us the information.
- Another site is (Newspaper.com) also needs to be looked at for community family / members,
- Ancestry.com,
- MNHS, MNDS,
- MN Genealogical Society,
- Old church records, libraries and anywhere else you can find information.
- Also look up any families anything that pertains to Mendota.
- Mdewakanton.org and Dakota kinship on face book.
- Santee Sioux Genealogy on Facebook.
- Minnesota Mdewakanton.
- Anything any subject about Mendota.
- ACESSgenealogy.com/native/mdewakantonsioux-tribe.htm
- French Fur Traders
- Indian Scouts in 1860 - 1864
- Old phone directories for Mendota.
- Please look at your (great) grandparents birth certificates to see if they were born in Mendota in the DuPuis House our ancestral home of Hypolite DuPuis & Angelique Renville. Send us a copy of that birth certificates or baptismal. I know not all of you are related to Hypolite and Angelique. If you are we still need any stories about them. Other members we need your ancestor's stories too.
- When you find something, document where you found it, if it is a book, the page, the date you found it, the date it was written. If it is on microfiche what box, what document, etc.

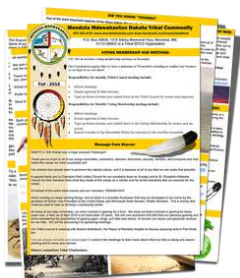
Best Buy has given us a \$10,000 grant to get a grant writer and fundraiser to help us get a community center the deadline for that grant is June 15, 2020.

We need help with many projects. Email us if you want to help. Thank you Joe Lennartson for getting that grant and for getting the \$10, 000 grant for the pow wow.

Joe and Sharon are working on the Otto Bremer grant which is due by Jan 7th, 2020.

We will be doing a small fundraiser in Feb, selling fry bread and art work. Once we get a professional grant writer will have a big fundraiser. Check our social media, website and watch for emails.

This is Sharon's last newsletter, if you would like to take over please call the office.



FYI: Would you like to see a newsletter every 6 months?

You can help by submitting stories, history, pictures, news, humor, etc.

You can view our current and many of our archived newsletters at www.mendotadakota.com/newsletter



PROFITS & LOSSES, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

We will no longer be including our financial information in the newsletter. If you'd like to view the financial documents please attend our meetings or contact by email or phone the office for more information. Thank you.

HERE'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT...

The holidays are a time of giving and this is not a foreign concept to Native cultures.

All throughout the year, many Native American cultures celebrate special occasions and events with giveaways. Such generosity in Native cultures is a sign of a giving heart, with spiritual as well as social value. So, the concept of holiday giving easily coincides with traditional Native American beliefs. Both the Winter Solstice and Christmas are a time to look forward to what is coming in the new year, a time when hope abounds. This is also a time when our organization is focusing on services for those that perhaps need a little boost of hope and cheer. In addition to providing services such as winter fuel for Elders to heat their homes, staple foods for senior centers and Thanksgiving meals for Elders and their families, each year we help brighten the holidays for tens of thousands of Native Americans through our Holiday gift and meal programs. Native children, teens, families and Elders alike enjoy the gifts and the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season in the same ways as other Americans. – From nativepartnership.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marlene Dixson (secretary) and Chris Altel (Vice Chair) have both stepped down as they have too many other commitments and do not have the time. Thank you Marlene and Chris for the time you dedicated.

In April 2017 we had our elections. Our next elections are in April 2021.

Perry Altendorfer was removed as historian in October, 2019 for lack of involvement. Thank you for all your time.

Greg Standmark is our new historian since October, 2019. Greg has been our historian in the past and he did an excellent job.

Carl Leith will be helping us on federal recognition. Carl is very knowledgeable with the federal recognition process and the Bureau of Federal Acknowledgment. With Greg and Carl we should be able to get closer to federal recognition than ever before: WITH YOUR HELP. We will be sending out information about what we need researched and we will be asking for your help.

Best Buy gave Sharon a computer for her home office. Best Buy also brought two more computers to the office and will be installed them soon. We will have another computer at the office for people to do research, Sharon will donate a computer for research.

The office has been remodeled, and expanded. We were not in the office for 9 months. Dec 1st is our first month rent of \$500.00. Please come by and visit, call first as we are not always at the office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW HISTORIAN: We are pleased to have Greg Strandmark back as our official tribal historian.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION: We will be re-starting our federal recognition meetings at the office, headed by Greg Strandmark, Carl Leith, John LeClaire and Sharon Lennartson. We need volunteers to help us. We need people to examine documents, writing, go through boxes and organizing.

NEW OFFICE: It's larger than our previous, please call to make an appointment if you'd like to come to the office.

BFA REQUIERMENTS: The Bureau of Federal Acknowledgement is requiring that we have social security numbers listed for our members. We will need to discuss how to add these numbers to existing members applications and documents. As we have not asked for social security number. If you have any input about this, please send us an email or attend the meetings where we will discuss this.

REMEMBER YOUR 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

It's very important to pay your contributions. The tribe DEPENDS on these to survive.

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, programs, gas, inipis, community car, etc.

Please get caught up on your contributions. For those of you who have not paid for a while please get caught up. You don't want to be removed when we are so close to sending in our narrative for federal recognition.

If you have not paid in two years you could be removed.

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

Need to get caught up with back payments or make a one time payment? www.mendotadakota.com/payment

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

We will be honoring our ancestor Fat the DuPuis House on Saturday Feb 8th 2020 potluck!

We will be having a fundraisers in the middle of February selling Indian Taco, Connie's frybread mix to sell, and Sharons maple butter to sell.



In June, 2020, we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary as a community! Location and date to be announced, please keep an eye on our facebook, website and emails for time and location.

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION!

If someone has a complaint or concerns about how the tribal council runs the community, we have a form available at the tribal office. You can fill out your grievance, sign and date it and it will be reviewed by the Tribal Council. There will be no disruptions at the meetings. Official meetings are not the time or place for that. **IF SOMEONE IS BEING DISRUPTIVE OR DISRESEPECTFUL, THEY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE OR BE REMOVED.**

BYLAWS:

We will be updating the Bylaws and Constitution once again. We have 5 people to work on the new changes. We hope to start in Jan.

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, please feel free to leave us a www.facebook.com/MendotaDakota/reviews

Would you like to share your opinion online? facebook.com/pg/MendotaDakota/reviews

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will be changing our Bylaws and Constitution again as some of them are old, obsolete and need to be updated. Once we get federal recognition we may no longer be able to change them.

Thank to Tommy going to a fundraiser and meeting Joise Peters. They discussed our community needing a community center.

That's how the Best Buy thing got started. Sharon called Best Buy and the rest is history. John, Sharon, Tommy came as historian, Victoria Scott came to see what was going on in Now. The CEO of Best Buy Hubert Joly said to call him after the holidays. Sharon, called in Jan, they told her to call in February. There was a meeting set up Sharon, Tommy, and Bobby went to a meeting with Hubert Joly's staff in February. Then Best Buy said they would help the tribe with a grant to help build a community center. Months later Sharon asked for \$10,000 donation for the Pow Wow. Best Buy decided to give us \$10,000 towards the grant writer and fundraiser instead.

We are honored to have our 75th honorary member to join us!

The Pow Wow was great again we had a different display this year, more about the people that lived in Mendota. People really enjoyed all the pictures, videos, etc in the tent. Seeing Red Sky (Jimmy Anderson) on videos or letters that he wrote to protect our culture and our community.

Attendants was a little low but the pow wow was awesome. It was so nice to watch the dancers and hear the drums.

We setup the pow wow in the rain with lots of nice people helping setup. Thank you to all of those wonderful people who helped set up the pow wow in the rain and then on Monday in the extreme heat.

Next year we are thinking about holding the pow wow in August. The weather may be better and also less competition with local events, like the Vikings, Twins, School and the Renaissance Festival, etc.

Please let us know what you think, send us an email.

If you are interested in having a sprite name, please contact us and we will have you discuss it with a spiritual elder.

ARE YOU GOOD AT RESEARCH?

We are looking for research volunteers. If you'd like to help, please contact us Greg Strandmark. mendotadakota.com/mn/contact

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.

Please **DONATE**

Help us acquire land
mendotadakota.com/donate



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

Chairwoman	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
Vice Chairperson	John LeClaire	(651) 274-6214
Treasurer	TBA	(952) 687-7058
Secretary	TBA	(952) 687-7058
Historian	Greg Strandmark	(763) 360-4354
Federal Recognition	John LeClaire	(651) 274-6214
	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
	Greg Strandmark	(763) 360-4354
Membership	Chris Leith	(612) 824-0717
	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
Grants	Joseph Lennartson	
	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
Newsletter	Brad Saint George	(310) 651-8873
	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058
Public Relations	Michael LeMay	(360) 239-3880
Tribal Relations	Tommy Tomahawk	(612) 715-3037
Construction	Seven Feathers Construction	(612) 715-3037
IT Consultant	Brad Saint George	(310) 651-8873
IT Assistant	Joseph Lennartson	
Tribal Council	John LeClaire	(651) 274-6214
	Sharon Lennartson	(952) 687-7058

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 help our tribe. We are a 501C3 organization.

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



ABOUT US AND OUR GOALS

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:

We currently have seven (7) goals:

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



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?

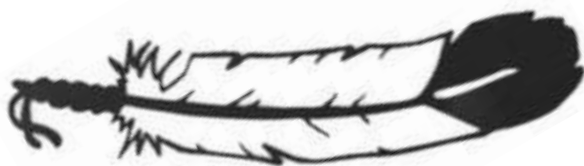
Do you have something you would like to contribute for possible inclusion to our

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