



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:

Winter : 2021



Hello everyone!

I hope you have all been staying warm and safe this winter! Hopefully the problems that Covid caused are slowly becoming a thing of the past. We have lost some people this year, but also we have new births and new members. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in our community and in our lives.

The council has been working hard on the bylaws, grants and federal recognition.

I'd like to make a big thank you to my son, Joe Lennartson for working so diligently. He's helped us to get around one hundred thousand dollars in grants since 2014. He brought in about \$38k in 2021 alone and he is currently working on even more grants for our community!

We've made some changes to the website, hopefully it will be easier to find things and easier to use.

Another year our Mendota Community has kept our doors open. Last year we almost had to close the office. We would still be a community with no office other than the one I have at home.

My book is coming along, just to busy this month to work on it. (See excerpt in this newsletter)

We've been getting lots of visitors to the website. One of the best days was in August 2021 at 2,700 individual visitors and we've had over 150k visitors since the first of the year.

Speaking of our website, our member Brad (Sumpter) Saint George has been doing our website and social media for over 10 years for free. He just got married to his girlfriend of 8 years. She lives in England but will be moving to America to be with him as soon as possible. Her father, Reginald (Reg) Davies recently passed away. You probably saw him at our pow wows, he traveled all the way from England just to see them and visit with us.

The Tribal council is having a meeting with Anita in Jan. More details will be in our next agenda.

The 2 churches we get toys from, are doing gift cards this year instead and it's much easier. Each family will get \$25, \$50 or \$100.00 depending how big the family is.

We are giving many things to the food shelf and homeless on Franklin Ave in Minneapolis and Joe got a grant from Walmart to help the underprivileged at Christmas from the Mendota Community.

What a difference a year makes.

Thanks to all our members and honorary members who made donations.

Another year is coming to an end, say goodbye to 2021 and hello to 2022.

-Sharon.

Our total 2021 POW WOW costs were:

Expenses:..... 28,746,80

Income:..... 27,764.96

- 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.

It was very successful we want to express our gratitude to Walmart for gifting us \$7k, much of which went to help the needy over Christmas, including 45 families, 3 churches and two food shelves.

- Anything any subject about Mendota.
- accessgenealogy.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.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

All of our meetings will be on Zoom until further notice. Check the website for dates.



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

REMEMBER YOUR 2021 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, programs, gas, inips, community car, etc.

Please get caught up on your dues. 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. 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

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.

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

I've been working on writing my book. I have over about 25 chapters mostly done out of a possible 45 total chapters in the completed book. I am very thankful for the \$5k grant given to me by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council to help with publishing, cover art, research, etc. towards my book. Once published I plan on using some of the proceeds of my book to help our tribe.

I hope to be publishing soon. If anyone has literary agent, publicist or publisher suggestions, please let me know! Here is an excerpt from the introductory of my book:

"I'm proud to share the blood of both the Dakota and Anishinabe Native Americans. I am related to Cetanwakanmani, Big Thunder, and Little Crow; historical leaders of the Dakota People and the 1862 Sioux uprising. My 3rd grandparents are Angelique Renville who married Hypolite DuPuis, Angelique Wabasha 4th grandmother, and Mazasnawin Iron Woman Rosalie Fernier 3rd grandmother. Lilly Felix LeClaire is my grandmother and Selisha LeClaire is my mother.

What does the word Mdewakanton mean? (pronounced Mid-ah-wa-kah-ton) Mdewakanton means "dwellers of the spirit lake." Mendota are the keepers of the eastern gate. The four directions or the four winds: east (yellow), south (red), west (black), and north (white).

I embrace the religious and cultural aspects of my everyday life the best I can. I take part in Native ceremonies and encourage others of our Tribal Community to do the same. I love our culture and look to the Creator whenever things get tough. I look to the creator for guides, love--for everything.

When questions come up, it only takes a few minutes before someone says, "Let's ask Sharon. She'll know the answer." I did not grow up in the traditional Dakota way, so now I focus on learning the language and traditions of my people. I'm involved in many of the historic remembrances of lives lost and promises and treaties broken for the Dakota.

I will always care for the needs of my people. I'm especially concerned for elders and assist them in any way that I can. Now I'm a proud elder myself, having turned 75 on August 28, 2021. I like to say "Be Dakota Every Day!" a saying from my brother, Bob Brown, who is in the spirit world. Bob Brown, Linda Brown, Bob's wife, Jim Anderson "Red Sky," my sister Beverly Scott and her son Michael, my sister Linda Brown, and I are all the original founders / members of the Mendota Community, after being turned down at Shakopee."

INFORMATION FROM THE AGENDA DECEMBER 2021

- *Checking, Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet. We don't get the bank statement until after Dec 31st.*
- *Thank you all for supporting Mendota and keeping our doors OPEN for another year. The Tribal Council appreciate you very much.*
- *To all active members in good standing, and honorary members Pidamaya for all your support, we would not be where we are today without you Pidamaya ye to you all.*
- *Deerwood Bank has \$127.94. We are leaving that in the bank. If we ever need to find something in that account, we have access to that account.*
- *Let get Federal recognition done. Reach our goals to our highest potential, for the hearth and happiness of our community.*
- *RACIAL EQUITY, the promise of our nation is that every American has an equal chance to get ahead,*
- yet persistent systemic racism and barriers to opportunity have denied this promise for so many. President Biden is putting equity at the center of the agenda with a whole of government approach to embed racial justice across Federal agencies, policies, and programs. And President Biden will take bold action to advance a comprehensive equity agenda to deliver criminal justice reform, end disparity healthcare access and education, strengthen fair housing, and restore Federal respect for Tribal sovereignty, among other actions, so that everyone across America has the opportunity to fulfill their potential.*
- *Keep checking our website www.mendotadakota.com.*
- *Get your stories on our website.*
- *We should be getting another two grants for \$5,000 and \$10,000 by the end of the year?*
- *We received the check from St Thomas for \$1,000. Thanks to Professor Mike Kline and students.*
- *Professor Mike Kline and his students are working on the new book.*
- *Greg and I had our last meeting on zoom with Mike and his student. I had to leave the meeting early people were coming to get their gift cards.*
- *The Zoon meetings went well with honorary members.*
- *Had to cancel lineal member's zoon due to a death in family.*
- *Sharon need a new computer after Christmas.*
- *Starting in January 2022 we will have regular zoon meetings for language, cultural, many classes. Every month, some classes will be every other month?*

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

- *Joseph Bester will be starting Dakota language classes on zoom in Jan 2022. Joseph will have many different teachings. Joseph Bester will be paid by the cultural grant that Joe Lennartson received.*
- *1. First class will be language. What is like to go in an Inipi for the first time, what songs and ceremonies are in the Inipi what time the pipe ceremony is. What does a pipe ceremony mean. Who can have a pipe and do ceremonies. What is a suncatcher. What does it mean to be a sun dancer, who can be a sun dancer.*
- *How to make prayers ties, woman cannot be on their moon or period, woman need to wear a skirt or dress, you will need a towel. Man needs to wear shorts, and you need a towel.*
- *If there is something you want to learn, email Joseph Bester or Sharon Lennartson, we will add it to our discussions on zoom.*
- *Tommy Tomahawk will also be doing some cultural things too; he also will be paid through the cultural grant that Joe Lennartson received. Tommy Tommyhawk has done 2 videos, one on sugar bush, and ricing. We just need to get them on our website.*
- *Joe Lennartson (Mendota) received a grant in Feb for \$10,000 in that grant he asked for an expense camera to film sacred sites, meetings, anything we can put on YouTube or our website. The \$10,000.00 will be used for classes, operation, etc.*
- *If you can think of a cultural class, you want to do on zoom. Call Sharon you will get paid for that from cultural grant. Anything to do with Dakota cultural, heritage, traditions.*
- *We have two more members and 2 honorary members. All going on ACH payments.*
- *Gary Shull has lung cancer pray for him.*
- *Receiving gift cards now from members and friends. Pidamaya!!*
- *Joe applies for the Walmart Giving Fund. All the different Walmart's each donated*
- *\$1,000 more or less. We are up to \$7,000 from 7 different Walmart's. We have not received all the grants; we have received emails that we will receive a grant from different Walmart's. So far, we have received \$4,000.00 for helping people, food shelves, schools, churches. Help members pay their cable bill, food, gas. As far as churches, we will be donating to St Peters Church, Cherokee Park United Church, St Elizabeth Orthodox Church, Cherokee Park United Church, and the Zen Church.*
- *Hoping next year, we won't have to ask for gift cards from members and friends. We will get plenty of gift cards thought Walmart Giving Funds. Once we receive the checks, from friends and members we buy gift cards for people. Help with a utility shutoff.*
- *It feels so good that the Mendota Community & members can help people in need.*
- *We get checks from different Walmart's, then we buy gift cards to hand out.*
- *This whole thing came up about Walmart Giving Funds is so overwhelming, that we could help so many people in need this holiday season.*
- *Last year we were almost broke, ready to close the office. We paid over \$2,000 a month and have for years; income was \$2,000 so we were barely hanging on. Things are so much better this year with a lot more money in our bank account.*
- *We received the \$5,000 from Winona LaDuke at (Honor The Earth). Pidamaya ye Winona.*
- *Sharon applied for a grant for her book from MRAC, we just got a notice that Sharon received the grant. Hope to have the book done by spring. And to have it at our next Wacipi on Sept*
- *Pidamaya to MRAC for all the grants Mendota has received through the years.*
- *Joe gets 10% of all grants since he started getting grants in 2014. First grant was for the Wacipi for \$10,000 from MRAC back in 2014. We are still getting those grants today.*
- *Joe will be applying for 3 grants for the Wacipi. MRAC for \$15,000 for 2022 and two others grants at \$10,000 each for the Wacipi only.*
- *We will get a new sound system, microphone, speckers, generators, 4 lights around the Wacipi circles. Whatever we need, we have not had lights for 2 years. This cannot happen ever again.*
- *Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride 2021. The Mendota community donated to the memorial ride.*
- *Joe has brought in over \$37,790 since 2021. With more coming, one for \$10,000 for Covid relief. Joe is working on many more grants thru the new 2-22/when he starting to work on grants with no experience*
- *Greg Strandmark our wonderful historian has been working hard on federal recognition for many years. Pidamaya ye Gregory.*
- *Judy Strandmark Grege's mother has also done a lot of work through the years.*
- *There has been dozens of people who have helped us through the years on federal recognition.*
- *Jason Delmont, secretary and vicechair, Sharon Lennartson tribal chairwoman, and others have worked on federal recognition over the years. Pidamaya!*
- *When you have time, please go to our website www.mendotadakota.com to see what we have accomplished.*
- *Also check out our 27 years of community building and public education on our website.*
- *Dick LeClaire, Denise LeClaire, Greg Standmark, Sharon Lennartson will be attending this very important meeting with Anita her last is private for now we meet in January 2022. This meeting we will explain it*

January agenda maybe sooner.

- We will be working on the bylaws for the 20th time.
- Sharon needs a new computer for Mendota. I will wait until January to buy it.
- Charlyn Auge donated some toys in the bitter cold. Pidamaya ye Charlyn. Her daughter Sarina asked her school to donate toys. What a thoughtful idea Sarina!
- Pidamaya ye to all who donated gift cards.
- Jim Cross took down gloves and hats to the homeless on Franklins Ave. We gave him a gift card.
- Thank you Wendy the manager at from Apple Valley Dollar Tree for your

donations each year.

- Tribal council should get a Christmas bonus, what do you think, vote yes or no. The bonus is way overdue.
- Saying goodbye to all we have passed this year, there has been way too many people die this year.
- Brad is the administrator for our website, he needed a new computer, we helped with \$300, he has done our website for over 10 years for free. Joe and Sharon are his assistant on the website.
- Sharon adds all the new posts as they come up.
- Maybe members could say Pidamaya ye to Joe Lennartson for all the money he has brought into our Community. look on our website for his email.

- Joe is thinking on working on a capital grant for a community center for \$500,000.
- We received a great article about Angelique and Hipolite DuPuis from Dan Munon. I sent to all members.
- Potential new members Campbells and Renville.
- Mendota will be having a big camp, follow our website and social media for more details.
- It has been 22 years since Stop the Reroute Taking a Stand on Sacred Land.
- That is, it for 2021. Pidamaya to all for being members.

Make Your Own Wasna

Wasna is a traditional energy food that was used when fresh meat was not available. It was also used "on the road" when the Sioux were hunting or moving camp as it is dense and filling but also light, portable and requires no cooking. Traditional Wasna was made by combining dried, pounded bison meat with dried chokecherry patties. Tallow held the mixture together. I have made dried, pounded meat the traditional way and the whole process takes about a month. Give it a try if you'd like, or save yourself a lot of time by finely shredding beef or bison jerky in a food processor.

- 2 cups. shredded beef or bison jerky
- 1 cups. chopped tart berries (chokecherries tart (sour) cherries or cranberries work best)
- 6 Tablespoons beef tallow or vegetable shortening

Shred the jerky and berries in a food processor. Mix in the tallow or shortening and stir until well incorporated. Form the mixture into patties and dry in a dehydrator or refrigerate and eat within 3 days.



Wasna photo from argusleader.com

Make Your Own Wohanpi

Wohanpi is a traditional soup, still very popular among the Sioux. In years past, Wohanpi would have been made with bison meat, prairie turnips and blo (wild potatoes). Today it is made from bison/beef, potatoes and other vegetables. If using bison, decrease cooking time. Bison has less fat than beef and if overcooked, it can get very tough.

- 3 cups cooked cubed beef or bison meat
- 6 cups beef broth
- 3 medium potatoes peeled and cubed
- 3 medium carrots cut in 1/2" slices
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- salt and pepper to taste

Add the cooked meat to the broth in a stock pot. Add carrots, potatoes and Worcestershire sauce. Simmer over low heat for 45 minutes. If using bison, add the meat to the pot in the last 15 minutes of cooking. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



Wohanpi photo from foragerchef.com

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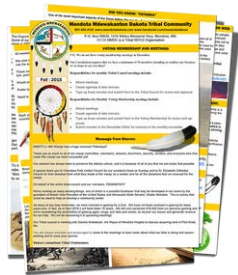
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You can view our current and many of our archived newsletters at

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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



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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

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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.



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