



San Diego Cherokee Community Newsletter

Issue 18

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

April, 2010

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Save the Date: May 23rd

The Council is very pleased to announce that the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah will be sending us an expert on the Cherokee culture and spiritual practices for our Community meeting on May 23rd. The speaker is a teacher at the Cherokee Language Emersion School and a member of the Kenwood Ceremonial Grounds. We all look forward to learning a lot more about the religious and spiritual side of our

Cherokee heritage. These topics were the most sought after in our informal poll at the Annual picnic last Fall, so we are excited to be able to bring this program to San Diego. The SDCC Council is working on the specific details and location for the event, but please mark your calendars now for May 23rd, from about noon to 3:00 PM, and plan to join us. This could well be the most profound event in the short history of our San Diego Cherokee Community. The details and agenda will be published in the May 1st newsletter.

We have been advised by Julia Coates, our CN Council Member At Large, that the “Cherokee way” of staging a community meeting would involve a potluck lunch. Everyone contributing and sharing in the meal is the spirit of “[gadugi](#)”. (“working together towards a common goal which would benefit all of the Cherokee People”).





How do you feel about bringing a potluck dish: does that increase or decrease your desire to attend the meeting?

→ [Reply to this email](#) address and let us know.

Council Volunteers Requested

Our membership year and fiscal year end on April 30th. Likewise, the terms for Council Members end on April 30th. We will have several Council seats vacated this year due to moving out of the area, other job conflicts, and fatigue, so we invite you to consider serving on the SDCC Council. Council participation involves attending a few meetings per year to review and discuss the issues facing the Community and planning the events that are held during the year. We are particularly interested in having you join the Council if you have enthusiasm, energy, and new ideas about how to make our Community meetings more interesting and vibrant. If you have a particular interest in writing newsletter articles, planning specific events, or

creating Facebook and Twitter communities, we want to talk to you. Cherokee Nation citizenship is desirable but not required. To express your interest to serve, reply via email to SanDiegoCherokeeCommunity@yahoo.com or to george.lynch@cox.net. All council members must be elected in the annual election that will take place in May. Please send your expression of desire to serve before May 1, along with a bio of no more than 200 words including your Cherokee heritage and why you would wish to serve, emailed to one of the above addresses. That is all that is required. It may also be in written form and mailed to: SDCC, PO Box 504453, San Diego, CA, 92150-4453, mailed to arrive by May 1. All candidates' sketches will be included in the next SDCC newsletter in early May. If you are not sure, or have questions about how you can contribute, call George Lynch at 760-489-1836 for some live conversation rather than emails and websites.

Council Elections, 2010

Ballots for the 2010 Council Election will be mailed out in early May. These ballots may be mailed back to the Community PO Box (a return envelope will be provided in the election packet) or hand carried to the May 23rd Community Meeting. Mailed ballots must be received on the Friday prior to the May 23rd meeting to be valid.

More information can always be found on the SDCC website:
www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

2010 Membership Renewal

It is that time again. The Council has set the membership dues at the same low rates as last year in recognition of the economic times we continue to experience: \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families at the same address. Your membership dues fund expenses the Community incurs for newsletter distribution and for Community events. Without you, we have no community, so we hope you will renew and attend the Community meetings throughout the year.

Simply fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it along with your check to the address listed there.

If there are programs and topics you would like to recommend for Community meetings, we would love to hear your request. Add those comments on the line provided at the bottom of the form.

Did You Miss it...

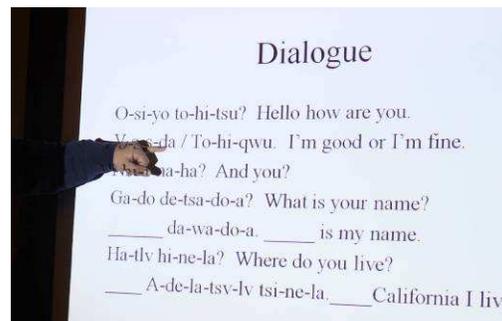
...the great program at our March 7th Community Meeting? Or maybe you were there; we had about 25 people turn out on a rainy Sunday afternoon at the Lemon Grove Methodist Church to hear Chris Holmes speak on the Cherokee Language.



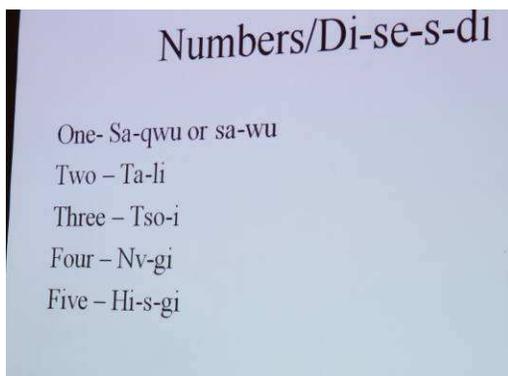
In the center are Kristin Fourkiller and Chris Holmes between SDCC Council members Patrick (left) and George (right)

Chris is a fluent speaker of the Cherokee language who lives in [the Tailholt Community](#) near Welling, about 14 miles southeast of Tahlequah in Cherokee County. (You can find Tailholt, OK on google maps, but it is not a big place.) He is an employee of the COTTA Program and is currently attending Northeastern State University pursuing a degree in Cherokee Education.

Chris led us through the structure and pronunciation of basic Cherokee words and phrases.



The words used to represent “California” there on the bottom line translate into “where the gold is”.



Chris also led us through how to count. If you can master the simple 1 to 10, you will have made a big step in learning the language. If you want more, there are extensive language resources available at:

<http://www.cherokee.org/Culture/Language/Default.aspx> .

Kristin is a Technical Assistance Specialist in the [COTTA Program](#) in Cherokee Nation Community Services in Tahlequah. COTTA stands for *Community Organization Training and Technical Assistance*, which is a program created by the CN to help communities in Eastern Oklahoma help themselves with leadership, education, and technical assistance from the CN.

For more on COTTA, see <http://cotta.cherokee.org/> .

Kristin and COTTA are pretty busy with all the communities that they support, but they have been able to send us several speakers including Chris, and including the upcoming Cultural speaker announced for our May 23rd Community Meeting. We will be working with Kristin and COTTA on future events as well.

Cherokee History Class Concludes

The second San Diego presentation of the Cherokee History Class just concluded last weekend. The class was taught by Julia Coates, our Tribal Council Member At-Large. This four-day, thirty-two hour course has received widespread acclaim from the thousands of tribal employees and community members who have participated in it. It is an important part of an ongoing initiative to rejuvenate our knowledge of the Cherokee language, culture, and history. Cherokee Nation citizens, as well as the general public, are offered the opportunity to enrich their understanding of the Cherokee history, government, and people.

This class has been conducted in San Diego twice, with a several year gap in between. It spans four full days spread over two weekends, so can be difficult to fit into the calendar for many people. The class is conducted in conjunction with a professor in Native American education at UCSD so has located on the UCSD campus. We highly recommend that class for those for whom the logistics can work. We hope everyone with a thirst to better understand their Cherokee heritage can find time to attend the class.

For more information contact Julia Coates at 530-383-9396 or julia-coates@cherokee.org .

Watch for the May Newsletter with Council Election information.

Wado,
George Lynch, 2010 Newsletter Editor

