



Delaware Tribe of Indians

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DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

FEDERAL RECOGNITION RESTORED

(Bartlesville, OK) - Oklahoma is once again the home of 38 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. The Bartlesville, Oklahoma based Delaware Tribe of Indians received official United States Department of Interior notification on July 28, 2009 that the Tribe's status as a Federally Recognized Tribe was restored. According to Tribal Chief, Jerry Douglas, "The official memo to the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Oklahoma Area Office states in-part that a direct Federal relationship with the Delaware Tribe is restored and that our Tribe will be included in the next list of recognized tribal entities published in the Federal Register."

In 2004, a 10th Circuit Court ruling in favor of the Cherokee Nation resulted in the removal of the Delaware from the list of Federally Recognized Tribes. Since the Court's decision the Delaware and the Cherokee entered into an agreement resolving jurisdictional and other issues.

After the two tribes negotiated and signed their agreement the Delaware Tribe voted to reorganize under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. An election to approve the Tribe's Constitution and By-laws was administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On May 26, 2009, Delaware Tribal Voters overwhelmingly voted to approve the Tribal Constitution and By-laws, with 1,136 voting to approve and 19 opposition votes.

"Now that it's official, according to Chief Douglas, we have got some serious heavy lifting to do." "Regaining our federal recognition is the key component to nation building for an Indian Tribe such as ours." We are the largest landless Tribe in the United States and our economic development program and endeavors have been on hold since 2004. We are now about to enter an exciting period in the growth and development

of our tribe. Chief Douglas says, “he believes the best is yet to come for the Delaware and he is looking forward to seeing the Delaware Tribe grow and prosper.”

Delaware Tribe of Indians, Tribal Trust Board election, candidate filing period deadline closing date 5:00 p.m., September 15, 2009. Three Tribal Trust Board positions will be filled in the November 2009 Tribal Trust Board election.