



# NATIONAL LONGHOUSE DRUM BEATS

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIVE SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAMS

Snow Shoe Moon  
Winter 2014



Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of National Longhouse Drum Beats, a national newsletter for Native Sons & Daughters Programs. The purpose of this newsletter is to broadcast news and information, both fun and important, to the membership in all Longhouses across this great program of ours. Be proud in knowing that you belong to a growing program that is coast-to-coast across our great country.

## **"Numway" to all the Native Sons and Daughters!**

For our members in the East I am sure you have taken advantage of all the cold and snow and were able to get outside and enjoy some winter fun. I hope there were many hours of snowmen building and sledding with your children. I know our members in the South and West wish they had all of this wonderful cold and snow to enjoy!

I hope our new members are enjoying their first year with Native Sons and Daughters. Please have fun and enjoy all you do with your children. The adventures you are having will last a lifetime in the memories you and your children are creating.

I cannot emphasize enough to all our members to participate in as many activities as you can with your children. Take advantage of your individual tribe activities as well as those offered by your Longhouses. Time goes by very quickly. You start out in this program and your child is 5, and then before you know it you look back again and they are a teenager!

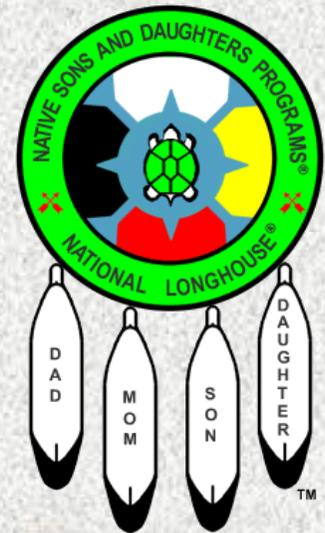
At the National meeting in May we will be holding elections for the following positions: NATIONAL CHIEF, ASSISTANT NATIONAL CHIEF, NATIONAL WAMPUM AND NATIONAL TALLYKEEPER. If any members are interested in running or would like information about the responsibilities involved in the open positions, please feel free to contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing some old friends and making some new friends at the upcoming National meeting in May.

*May the Great Spirits blessings always be with you and your families!*

**Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala**

National Chief – Native Sons & Daughters



### **Highlights In This Issue**

- National News
- Longhouse Special Events
- Community Service Project
- Regional News
- NSD Heritage-The Legacy
- Native American Theme
- Craft Corner

## **Share Your Stories in the Drum Beats Newsletter**

Does your Longhouse or Tribe have a great story to share? Share the news and pictures of your special events with all of Native Sons & Daughters membership. Send them to [NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org](mailto:NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org)

## Community Service Project 2013-2014.

### UPDATE

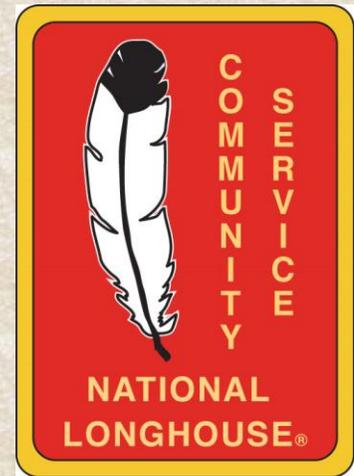
Perform your service project for this program year and submit your reports for national recognition.

Final reports are due by March 15th, 2014.

Reports are sent to [CommunityService@NationalLonghouse.org](mailto:CommunityService@NationalLonghouse.org).

Awards distributed by April 15, 2014

See the full brochure, project details and reporting form on the NLL website <http://nationallonghouse.org>



## 2014 National Longhouse Annual Meeting Announced:

The 2014 National Longhouse Annual Meeting is now scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> in Yulee (near Jacksonville), Florida. This meeting is the annual gathering of program representation from National, Regional (RAL) and Local Longhouse levels. This mission of this annual meeting is hear the voices of the Longhouses today and to plan for the future. National Officer Elections are to be held this year. The leadership responsible to find delegates to the meeting has already been notified and is searching out delegates. If you're Longhouse has concerns that need to be heard, notify your local or regional leadership.

## 2014 National Council of Officers Elections:

Like your Local Longhouse, National Longhouse is sustained through dedicated volunteers. Anyone who might wish to contribute at this level would be warmly welcomed. Please consider serving and contributing to the mission.

**This is a perfect place for program elders to get involved in this honorable mission. Pay it forward!!**

**AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT NOMINATIONS AND THE ELECTIONS WILL BE SENT VIA CIRCLEBRIDGE IN MID TO LATE MARCH.**

**For more immediate information, contact National Chief Don Bittala**

[NationalChief@nationallonghouse.org](mailto:NationalChief@nationallonghouse.org)

# Longhouse Special Events

## Orange Blossom Native Nation (OBNN) Charity Art Auction

Submitted by Adam "Man Pony" James, Nation Chief

On 12/1/2013, OBNN (Orange Cty, CA) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Art Auction event at the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity. Under the supervision of art professionals, our Native Daughters created their own unique pieces of art which were then displayed on the gallery walls. Later that evening, families were welcomed to an appetizer reception and silent auction where they bid on their daughters' creations and other works of art. In the spirit of the holidays, 100% of the auction proceeds are donated to a local charity.

This year's event was particularly special because our nation had recently lost one of our Big Braves, Charles "Stomping Deer" Neal, to brain cancer. Through the auction, OBNN was able to donate over \$4,000.00 to the college scholarship fund of Charles' daughter, Olivia "Dancing Deer" Neal.

[www.chuckjonescenter.org](http://www.chuckjonescenter.org)



Charles "Stomping Deer" Neal  
Olivia "Dancing Deer" Neal



Young Artists at Work



Charity Art Auction Event Day

## West Toledo Longhouse (Black Swamp Nation) Christmas Event

Submitted by Steve McLaughlin, Nation Chief

The West Toledo (Ohio) NSD Longhouse held its annual Christmas party in December. We had a local Native American speaker, a visit from Santa (who brought presents for the kids) and a lasagna dinner. We had a great turnout. The Native American was "Lightfoot" from the Ottawa Tribe, and he told us about his people's life in the late 1700's and early 1800's. His focus was on trading patterns with the English and French settlers. He brought with him a slew of artifacts, including a saw made of deer bone, turtle rattles, a tomahawk carved from rocks, fur skins, and a number of tools made from nature. The kids got to see the artifacts up close, and even try on the fur clothes. Everyone seemed very interested, and we may schedule an event to see Lightfoot in his replica Native American longhouse, which is large enough to fit our entire membership in it!



# Longhouse Special Events

## Timucuan Federation-Yuma Tribe-Charity Event-The Apple Project

Submitted by Brian Quirk, Timucuan Elder and Florida Regional Advisory Lodge Chief

Just prior to Thanksgiving 2013, members of the Yuma Tribe of the Timucuan Federation (Jacksonville, FL) sponsored a Car Wash in support of the Apple Project. One of the Timucuan dads, Andrew "Eagle Feather" Stainsby, saw a report on our local television about how low income and uninsured people, because they have no real access to dental care, often lose many of their teeth. So he contacted the anchorwoman at First Coast News and asked how NSD could help. The Apple Project's mission is to build a center where people who do not have access to dental care can come and receive free dental services. Andrew organized a car wash for our group a small but mighty group raised money for the charity. It was also learned that the Delores and Wayne Weaver, former owners of the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars agreed to match all contributions up to \$100,000. Now on the First Coast News / Apple Project website (link below), the list of donors also includes The Timucuan Federation as named the Native Sons and Daughters as well as Andrew's 30 seconds of fame in the promo video piece. The Timucuan group was seen on television and acknowledged by the local news station. The children that participated knew the money they were helping to raise money for would insure that other underprivileged children would be able to see a dentist and get their teeth cleaned. The Yuma tribe contributed 105 volunteer hours and more than \$650 was raised for the Apple Project. Timucuan Federation will participate in their next fund raiser as well. <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/features/apple-project/>



## CRAFT CORNER

**Paw Prints:** A craft to symbolize the bond of parent & child. The banner (9"W x 11"H) is made from tan colored felt, fringed on the bottom and the top wrapped and glued around a hanging stick. The parent traces their hand on yellow felt, cut out and glued to the banner. Child places their "Paw Print" (face of hand wetted with Tempra paint) onto the parents paw. Decorate with Indian name symbols and of course, feathers and beads. **A NSD Original!**



# National Longhouse Operations

We thought it a good idea to give all membership a basic idea of how the operation of National Longhouse is structured. National Longhouse is operated by a **National Council of Officers (NCO)** and the **National Board of Elders (NBE)**.

The **NCO** oversees the day to day operations of National Longhouse, financial budget & management, planning the annual meeting, interacting with Regional and Local leadership, new program startup, committee oversight and general care for the program. The NCO are elected positions on a 2-year rotation.

## Your Current National Council of Officers, May 2012 – May 2014

Name	Officer Title	
Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala	National Chief	<a href="mailto:NationalChief@nationallonghouse.org">NationalChief@nationallonghouse.org</a>
Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk	National Assistant Chief	
Kenn "Soaring Eagle" Synek	National Wampum	
Keith "Red Wolf" Armstrong	National Talley Keeper	

The **NBE** are the trustees and stewards of National Longhouse and its programs. They oversee major business concerns such as insurance policies as well as legal concerns. They contribute to program development and insure that the operation of National Longhouse is conducted as originally intended within the framework set forth upon founding of the organization. NBE members are appointed and serve a 2-year revolving term.

## Your Current National Board of Elders

Name & Position	Name & Position
Greg "Gray Horse" Measor, Chairman	Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala, Elder
Dave "Buckeye" Garberson, President	Ray "Straight Arrow" French, Elder
Jim "Howling Wolf" Advent, Secretary	
John "Broken Arrow" Lott, Elder	

# Regional Advisory Lodge (RAL) News

## Great lakes RAL (currently Ohio and Michigan)

Compiled from the Minutes of the GLRAL Meeting, 11/9/13

The Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge (GLRAL) conducted its Fall 2013 meeting on November 9, 2013 in Strongsville, Ohio. Present were representatives from 5 of 9 Longhouses including Big Walnut, Chagrin Valley, Crooked River, Cuyahoga Valley and West Toledo. Not in attendance were Hillcrest, Lakeshore, Two Feathers and Tarhe. It was noted that Little Turtle Longhouse of Fort Wayne, Indiana has folded. They had been struggling for several years with very few members and no influx of new members. This is the first meeting since November 2012 and GLRAL has been without an official Chief for much of that time. Meeting was led by National Chief Don Bittala and Crooked River Elder Mike Ivan. For perspective, recent GLRAL history was given as a starting point for discussions about the leadership and direction for the GLRAL. Meeting attendance by all Longhouses was also discussed and has much room for improvement. Other GLRAL discussions included the possibility of creating a Pow-Wow type event as a platform for sharing ideas, a centralized RAL events calendar, and a possible rebirth of the regional Gathering of Nations campout last held in 2008. John Falko (Cuyahoga Valley) was elected as RAL Chief and Mike Ivan (Crooked River) was elected as Assistant RAL Chief. Jay Hader (Crooked River) agreed to continue as RAL Wampum. Longhouse reports were given by each attending Longhouse. These reports are largely to allow the attending Longhouses to hear each other's story and promote sharing. The reports covered membership strength, recruiting successes or struggles, typical or special events, campouts, Native American Theme use and fundraising.



# Regional Advisory Lodge (RAL) News

## Florida RAL

Submitted by Brian Quirk and Stuart Borie



There is a lot of excitement in Florida as the FLRAL is taking shape. The first Regional meeting was held in October 2013 in a joint campout with leadership from both The Great Sun Nation and The Timucuan Federation in attendance. Regional discussions included recognizing the need for increased "Brand" awareness for our program. To help accomplish this, our Longhouses have begun to increase the number of Community Awareness activities that each of us participates in. The Great Sun Nation teamed up with the Wayne Barton Study Center for the second time and worked on Friday and Saturday helping stuff and distribute over 2500 backpacks with school supplies to children who were in need. We also ran the grill and fed everybody chicken, hotdogs and hamburgers. We also donate our time at the food bank to make sure no child goes hungry.

The Timucuan Federation co-sponsored the Apple Project Car Wash (see separate article), participated in the Walk for children with Apraxia of Speech, partnered with the U.S. Marines in their annual Toys for Tots program and delivered over 120 toys for needy youth, and entered a contestant into the local Chili Cook Off.

In more typical events, both Longhouses held their respective Fall Longhouses with very high participation levels at each location. Camping with their fathers continues to be a highlight in any Native Son or Native Daughter outing. The children reward us with their hugs and smiles. I am not sure if it is the food, the crafts, seeing their friends, sleeping in tents or just eating S'mores by the campfire with their dads that bring so much joy to their faces.

Great Sun held their event at Blue Springs State Park in Sanford, FL. Blue Springs is a beautiful setting with a natural spring that is over 100ft deep. The water was a chilly 72 degrees. It is always that temperature year round. It has the clearest and cleanest water you will ever see. We even got to see a manatee and her pup. What made this campout even better was to have several members of the Timucuan Federation join us. Flaming Arrow delivered the first ever spirit stick to the Great Sun Nation. The November Great Sun campout was at Manatee Hammock in Titusville, FL with over 150 attending. The campground is directly across from the Kennedy Space Center where we spent all day Saturday. The Saturday night fire ceremony was followed by an ugly shirt competition. The fierce competition was won by Aaron Parkinson, wearing a gold disco shirt complete with afro wig and music! The night concluded with S'mores for all out and a launching of Chinese Lanterns.

The year closed with more than 60 members of the Timucuan Federation building a float and marching in the Gator Bowl parade on New Year's Eve. Some of the children were even shown on T.V. during the event recap on our local television affiliate.

In closing, our new Regional Website is up and running and I ask you to give it a quick browse and let me know what you think. We can be found at [www.nativesonsanddaughtersflorida.org](http://www.nativesonsanddaughtersflorida.org) As you can see from the top of the page our new state lodge logo has been approved and is in use with all our official correspondence.

Upcoming Spring events include more camping, the Sunshine State Pow Wow and activities that are only limited by the imaginations of the fathers. We continue to create life-long memories with our children.



FLRAL Chief Brian Quirk and Assistant Chief Stuart Borie at the inaugural FLRAL Meeting



The FLRAL Chiefs display at camp

**WE HOPE TO HAVE REPORTS FROM ALABAMA RAL AND CALIFORNIA RAL IN THE NEXT EDITION**



# NSD Heritage-The Legacy

## Charles Keltner Shanks

We would like to introduce you to **Charles Keltner Shanks**. Only a small number of past & present program leadership have met Charlie or know about him so we thought it a good idea to do this article.

Charlie (originally "Big Thunder", now "Lone Eagle") is the eldest grandson of Harold Keltner, co-founder of the original Indian Guide program. When National Longhouse (NLL) was formed in 2002, it was important for us to have the blessings of the founding families to carry on with the program legacy, started so many years ago by his grandfather and Ojibway Indian Joe Friday. Charlie was contacted by then members of NLL to tell our story and to ask for the family's approval. He is extremely proud of his grandfather's legacy, and honored that people still care enough to want to continue that legacy and he has been a part of NLL since then. In the several NLL annual meetings that he has attended, he has shared much of that legacy with us, opening his grandfather's personal history to us and sharing his personal story as well.

Charlie grew up in Hamilton, ILL, which is due north of St. Louis, MO, where the program was founded. He was a teacher in Washington, Iowa for much of his adult working career. He is now retired and about 70. Charlie has a son Mike (Little Echo), 43, and a daughter Cara, 40, with a son (Charlie's grandson). He and his son were in the Indian Guides program for a number of years in Washington, Iowa. Charlie played trumpet and later a drummer for the Ray Alburn Orchestra. He also had his own Dixieland band, The River City Jazz Band for many years. His son Mike carries on that tradition as a professional drummer. Sometimes his stories have included glimpses into the living history of the program. One such story is when Ojibway Indian Joe Friday (co-founder, who passed away in 1955) would be visiting in St. Louis and Joe being a tall 6' 4" man would pick up the young boy and Joe would seem like such a giant to him. He also relates remembering the many hours spent sitting around the campfire in the northern woods of Wisconsin (at grandpa Harold's cabin) being caught up in the wonderful ways of the Indian. All of this through the many stories told by grandpa. We are truly fortunate Charlie is willing to share these stories, and his own with us.

Charlie himself is a devout Christian, much like his grandfather was. He has been a licensed short wave (ham) radio operator years and currently has his own Christian ministry show. The web link to that is <http://www.lookingatvictory.net/>

In his own words... "I can tell you, my grandfather loved the Indian and certainly was honoring them through the program. I learned to understand the Indian ways and appreciate their loyalty, and obedience to God "The Great Spirit". I understood that they never killed for pleasure. They honored each other; they didn't steal, they lived in harmony with each other, and were close knit as a family. These are just a few of the many attributes I learned. As I grow older, I realize how basic these things are, and that God has ordained us to live just that way and a program such as the Native Sons and Daughters must be preserved. Forgive me for preaching a bit, but please be encouraged to continue on with the programs. In this day and age of fast food, and hurrying here and there, we really need to slow down and see where we are going".

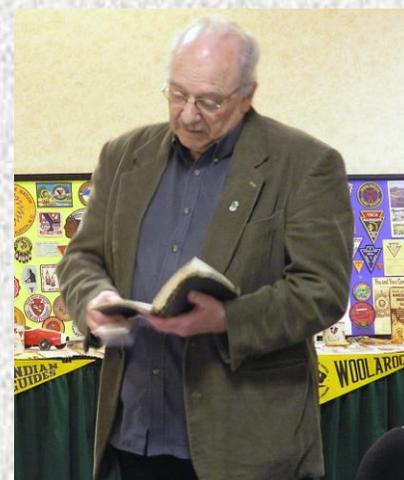
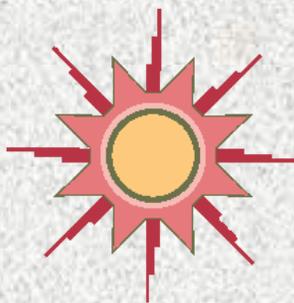
We hope to have Charlie contribute an article from time to time on whatever subject he would like to share with us, himself, family legacy, etc.



At the 2007 NLL Annual Meeting



Big Thunder and Little Echo, mid 1970's



With Grandpa Harold's bible

# Native American Traditions

## The Dream Catcher



Originally, the dream catcher was used by the Canadian and North American Sioux and the Ojibway peoples. The Ojibway believe that dreams have magical qualities and the ability to change or direct their path in life. The night air is filled with good and bad dreams. The dream catcher is hung above the bed. Bad dreams are captured, and become tangled in the webbing, similar to the way a spider web catches insects. The bad dreams disappear or perish with the first light of day. The good dreams know the way, and are allowed to pass through the net, gently falling off the feathers to the sleeper below.

The net of the dream catcher can take different shapes. Some have a hole in the center, some do not. Some have beads and feathers fastened to both sides and at the lowest point of the ring. Traditionally crafted by the elder women of the tribe. The eternal circle is fashioned using willow tree branches.



*In the Next Edition (mid-May 2014)*



- Highlights from the NLL Annual Meeting
- New National Officers Introduction
- Community Service Project Annual Report
- NSD Heritage: June Friday MacInnis
- More Longhouse Special Events
- And More...

# NSD Heritage-The Six Aims

Compiled and Transcribed by Dave "Buckeye" Garberson, NLL Great Elder

Regarding the Six Aims of the Native Sons and Daughters Programs, when National Longhouse (NLL) was formed in 2002, June Friday MacInnes, Ojiwa Indian and eldest niece of the great Joe "Ahtik" Friday, gifted to NLL, 3 parts of Ojibway tradition. These traditions, in the forms of documents, teachings and recollections, have historical significance surrounding the Six Aims. Some might say that these are directions of life, as we aim ourselves in our hunt for survival just as Ojibway Indian and founder Joe Friday did. Joe Friday gave these aims to the Indian Guide program all those years ago in the 1920's

The **First**, written by June Friday MacInnes, explains each of the Aims as to how the Ojibway people would teach their heritage within their tribal peoples. This document of the Six Aims and their Ojibway traditional meanings is contained in the Native Sons and Daughters Member's Handbook, but also reprinted here.

## The Six Aims; By June Friday MacInnis and Joseph "Ahtik" Friday



### Always Be Friends With Your Father/Son: (color Black)

Joe's lost relationship with his father, and then his new found one with Chief White Bear was the basic foundation of that Aim. (Chief White Bear took in Joe's family when Joe's father died, when Joe was the age of 10.

### Clean in Body, Pure in Heart: (color White)

Here the traditional ways of Ojibway people, with their Purification Ceremonies, the use of Sweat Lodges, and the understanding of the Medicine Wheel are involved. The cleansing and purification of self in the body and heart are proposed.

### Love the Sacred Circle of Your Family: (color Red)

We are all a part of the Great Circle of Life. Nothing comes between the extended family relations, as when Joe Friday and family were taken in by Chief White Bear.

### Love My Neighbor As Yourself: (color Blue)

Being good and kind to neighbors has always been an Ojibway way among its people. They share their wealth in food, jobs, and basic needs in housing and clothing. No one would go hungry or ever be cold or unloved within the Ojibway people.

### Be Attentive (Listen) While Others Speak: (color Yellow)

Basic rule of Respect For Elders and those who are trusted with knowledge and experience prevails with this Aim. The basic means of discipline of the children, in paying attention, not just listening stated here too. The Talking Stick was part of that tradition in the Ojibway ways.

### Seek and Preserve the Beauty of the Great Spirit's Work, in Forest, Field and Stream: (color Green)

Seemingly the most obvious for the Ojibway values as their territory was full of forests, fields and waterways. All were needed for survival. Reverence and thanks to God, the Creator. The Great Spirit has always been most important in giving thanks to God for what they have been given (food, clothing, and shelter) by Him. The offer of tobacco was always left when their needs were satisfied by the gifts from the Great Spirit, as with a successful hunt, planting season, or bountiful harvest. To preserve them is thought to be giving back to the Creator what was given to us.

The **Second**, more of a recollection or teaching that describes The Six Aims (directions), in each of these we understand the important ways the One Ojibway Nation people, including the Cree, Chippewa and Algonquin peoples gave thanks and honor to the Creator, the Great Spirit, The Great One, our God. This was done through honor and tradition that bind this One Ojiwa Nation, God and His gifts to His people.

As the Elders stood in a circle, the ceremonial pipe was lit. Each took turns, taking a puff then holding the tobacco bowl in the left hand and holding the other end in the right hand, pointing the stem to each of the directions one at a time, turning their body to each direction as they call out each direction like (i.e) "Father Sky-Listen while he speaks" and so on. It was a great honor to be a part of that group, to perform this honor ceremony to the Six Aims (directions).

The **Third**, based in traditions, indicates that in addition to the meanings of The Six Aims there are also colors for each as well. Traditional uses may be a color feather given for display or the color bead for decoration, or a color to paint on your wigwam or tipi or vest to honor the spirited message of each Aim. Some decorate their walking stick, honor staff, or coup stick for each Aim. Some would place special colors near their dwelling on their pony before a hunt. Some women would add color to their dresses as honors. The color are listed with the Six Aims above.

Mrs. MacInnis reminded us when she told of the Ojibway honors and traditions, that they are realized through their use of prayers, songs, dances, art and ceremonies. Their understandings would be read to to the people in a circle near the campfire so all adults and children together would grow up with this tradition and honor. These Six Aims are a guide for living each day.

