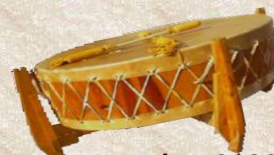




NATIONAL LONGHOUSE DRUM BEATS

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIVE SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAMS



November 2020

Freezing Over Moon

Gashkadino-Giizis

**Welcome to this special edition of National Longhouse Drum Beats,
with a special letter from our National Chief**

From the Teepee of your National Chief

Yá'át'ééh Native Sons and Daughters!

Greetings from Chief Creaking Oak and National Longhouse!

Folks, I had yet another birthday this past week. And this year unfortunately, my birthday served largely as a somber reminder of the struggles we've all endured these last several months.

You see, I am a Halloween baby...

Until 2020 rolled around, parents and children spent the days and weeks leading up to my Halloween birthday excitedly planning and piecing together the perfect costume, decorating the house and yard with ghosts and ghouls, preparing candied apples or filling up giant bowls of candy by their front doors for spoiling the neighborhood trick or treaters. When the big night finally came, proud parents and children walked the neighborhood together, putting their weeks of costume planning and design on display. For their jobs well done, children were rewarded with troves of not only candy from the neighbors, but of life-long memories with family and friends.

But this year was different. My kids very casually recycled some costumes from previous years. They had nowhere to go really, but a small family get-together. The single group of 4 trick or treaters we had in the large, busy neighborhood was lucky we just happened to have had a few candies sitting around when the doorbell rang.

No, this Halloween was not the broad spectacle of Halloweens past. We didn't creep slowly with trepidation through any local haunted houses. We didn't take advantage of the holiday being on a Saturday this year with a big party: enjoying orange and black cupcakes or bobbing for apples. Out of necessity, we had to take a different approach this year. And in the end, we still treasured the hallowed, special time together. We were safe. We enjoyed activities together as a family. And years from now, we will always remember this Halloween; how we adjusted our expectations and how we built this year's Halloween memories in the face of adversity.



So I am writing you today as I draw parallels between the Halloween we all just experienced, and the events that you're Native Sons and Daughters Longhouses have been working tirelessly to plan and host for their local tribes and members in the face of that same adversity. Over the past several weeks I have attended gatherings of the Longhouse Chiefs of each Regional Advisory Lodge around the country. All Chiefs of all Longhouses were invited to discuss in depth, the COVID-19 crisis; how it is affecting their local members; how each Local Longhouse is accommodating local and National safety guidelines; and how creative Longhouse Leaders have been in developing new procedures, new events and new awards to keep tribes and families engaged and building lasting memories while we continue to navigate the "New Normal".

Kudos to your Local Longhouse Leaders! I have been utterly impressed. The devotion these leaders have shown to finding ways for families to continue building memories through the program, while ensuring the utmost care for health and safety has been extraordinary to hear. Here are just a few of the great event ideas I've heard are happening in Longhouses around the country:

- Service activities (Beach Cleanup, etc.) which allow for social distance
- Sharing of the best camp locations for social distancing between nearby Longhouses
- Leveraging local family activity locations (Trampoline parks, etc.) which already have their own COVID protection measures in place.
- Encouraging events to be held in small groups / tribes
- COVID Patches to replace canceled events
- Virtual (Digital Photo) Fishing Derby
- In-Person, Social Distancing events:
 - Drive in Movies
 - Mini golf
 - "Day in the woods"
 - "Respectful" camping
 - Alex's Lemonade Stand in front yards
- Zoom / videoconference tribe meetings
- Other Zoom / videoconference events being held by longhouses this year:
 - Pumpkin carving contest
 - "Build something with your dad" event: At-home fort building contest
 - Christmas cookie contest
 - Backyard virtual tribal campout
 - Pinewood Derby with video-broadcasted races
 - Virtual Powwows



Note: Though old folks like me can get bored quickly with a Zoom call, remember that our sons and daughters love to spend that time "Hanging out" with their friends virtually. Some of those videoconference events are huge successes.

This is an astounding, heartwarming show of leadership among your Longhouse Chiefs: Thinking outside the box and developing new procedures and new events to keep families active together safely in these uncertain times. If you have not yet registered this year, or if you've just not heard about the updated events and activities that your Longhouse Leaders are working on this year, reach out and talk to them. We are all volunteers and are all in these volunteer roles to see this program successful, and our families spending quality time together.

Like our Country and like the world, the Native Sons and Daughters family is feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. But also like the rest of the world, we are all still moving forward with health and safety in mind, toward a safe recovery. And like the Halloween that just passed, this year's Native Sons and Daughters events and activities are going to look different. Memories we and our children will look back on from this Native Sons and Daughters season are going to be different. In some ways, they're going to be even more special and even more memorable because of the challenges underlying this year.

I would like to once again thank the Chiefs and other leaders from Longhouses throughout the country who came together over the past several weeks to meet with the other leaders in their regions to share and discuss these extremely important, creative ideas and solutions in this time of such uncertainty. Thank you!

And finally, to all of our Native Sons and Daughters, big and small: The Native Sons and Daughters programs will get through this storm and come out stronger on the other side. This beloved program has been passed down through families since 1926 and I for one, will be attending campouts with my grandchildren a decade from now. Your local leaders are dedicated, hardworking and are truly rising to meet the challenges of 2020.



Yá'át'ééh,
Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk
NS&D National Chief
nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org



National Longhouse

National Council of Officers



These are your 2020-22 National Council of Officers.

Name	Position	Email
Ray "Creaking Oak" Junk	National Chief	nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org
Michael "Wild Eagle" Ryan	Nat'l Assistant Chief	nationalassistant@nationallonghouse.org
Aaron "Fishing Bear" Olson	Nat'l Wampum Bearer	nationalwampumbearer@nationallonghouse.org
Jeff "Tall Cedar" Huston	Nat'l Talley Keeper	nationaltalleykeeper@nationallonghouse.org
Stewart "Running Wombat" Morris	Nat'l Web Spinner	nationalwebspinner@nationallonghouse.org
JJ "Howling Wolf" Sutphin	National Sachem	nationalsachem@nationallonghouse.org

Thank You for your service to Native Sons & Daughters Programs!!



Visit the National Longhouse Website and Facebook Page

Check out the National Longhouse website for beneficial resources and information.

Find us on Facebook! Go to and "like" our page to get frequent updates from National Longhouse and featured articles about our program's activity nationwide.

National Longhouse

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RESOURCES

TRADING POST

SITE MAP

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Native Sons And Daughters Programs® seek to strengthen the foundations for a positive lifelong relationship between parent and child.

PALS FOREVER
Friends Always®

TELLING OUR STORIES

Native Sons and Daughters are meeting regularly across the country to take on new challenges, seek adventure, serve their communities, and have loads of fun. With [Our Stories](#), we spotlight individual programs and report on their recent activity.

<http://www.nationallonghouse.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/nationallonghouse>



Have a Zoom Tribe Meeting

How to sign up to Zoom

Signing up to Zoom is free and easy.

You just need a valid email address, and the willingness to accept Zoom's privacy policy and terms, which are fairly standard.

Anyone can sign up to Zoom by downloading the app, or going to the official website.

You can find the Zoom sign-up page here: <https://zoom.us/signup>

How to Host & Join a Zoom meeting

To host a video meeting, load the website or app.

Make sure you're logged in, then click New Meeting and Start-With Video.

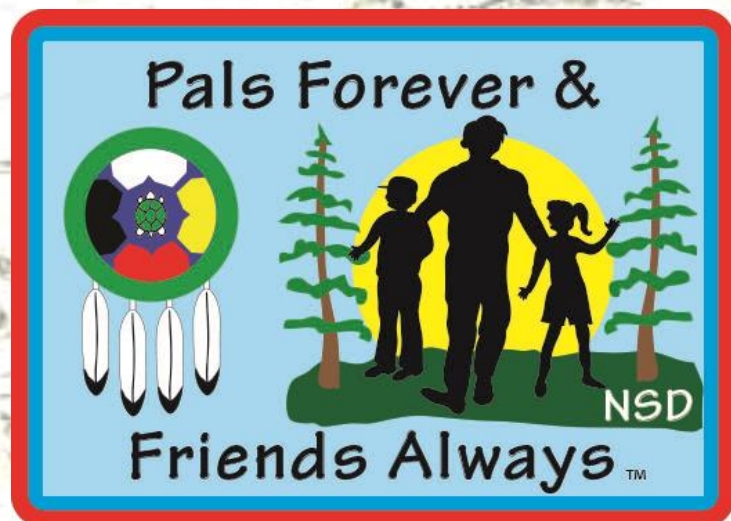
You can then share a link to invite other people.

If you receive a link to join a meeting, simply click it and you'll be taken to the right video conference.

There are some limitations to the free version of the app so be sure to understand those before you host a meeting.



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