

# SWO EXECUTIVE REPORTING



Both July and August reports are included in this issue.

Hau Mitakuyapi,  
**Chairman's Office:**

I am pleased to provide you with a report on my recent activities and accomplishments as your Tribal Chairman, specifically focusing on the NCAI Mid Year conference and other key initiatives. From May 30th- June 6th, along with Chairman LeBeau of Cheyenne River and I, had the privilege of representing the Great Plains region at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference in Cherokee, NC, serving as the Vice President Alternate. It was a productive and insightful event where Tribal leaders from across the nation gathered to discuss important issues nationally and strategies for our communities. Together, we facilitated discussions on key regional concerns and successfully passed several resolutions, which address critical issues and reflect our commitment to advocating for the needs and interests of our Tribes, primarily Law-Enforcement and public safety. I attended various breakout sessions focused on Tax and Finance Task Force. These sessions provided valuable insights into federal tax policies and financial strategies that can benefit our Tribe. We explored ways to optimize our financial resources and enhance economic development within our community. Tax revenue is essential to help build healthy rural and regional economies.

We joined the NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force for an opening meeting to discuss work in the fields of tax and finance in Indian Country. This Task Force has been charged with advancing tribal priorities on legislative and administrative tax, finance policy, and developing solutions to dual taxation, facilitating tribal engagement with the US Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC), and sharing information regarding Tribal-State tax agreements.

During the Traditional Healing Medicine session, the discussion-based workshop uplifted participants' voices as they contributed to the National Indian Health Board's traditional healing informational materials for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

## MONTHLY PRIORITY

- Executive July/  
August Reports
- Aya Corporation  
Section 17
- Ptaya Wicozani
- ES Head Start  
Groundbreaking
- Education Dept.
- Diabetes Center

# SWO EXECUTIVE REPORTING

During “Road Mapping Philanthropic Investments”, the session reviewed trends, data, and provided updates on NCAI philanthropic strategies to support the field. Discussions included how Tribes can position themselves for more philanthropic investments with a focus on healthy and thriving communities in collaboration with the Sisseton- Wahpeton Housing Authority.

Dakota Magic Casino hosted the annual convening of the South Dakota Native American Homeowners Coalition. This event was a significant opportunity for supporting and promoting homeownership among Native Americans in SD. We discussed strategies to increase access to affordable housing, shared best practices, and strengthened our network of support for Native American homeowners. It is worth mentioning that the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe has over 300 current homeowners in our community.

As we move forward, I remain committed to working diligently on behalf of our Tribe. Our participation in the National and Regional forums are crucial for ensuring that our voices are heard and our interests are being represented. I will continue to advocate for policies and initiatives that support our community’s growth and prosperity.

This month, we proudly hosted our 157th Annual 4th of July Wacipi, a celebration that brought together our community in a display of our culture and traditions. The event was a collective success, filled with song and dance. It was a testament to our resilience and the strength of our cultural heritage.



*Cheyenne River Chairman LeBeau, Principal Chief of the United Houma Nation Lora Ann Chaisson, SWO Chairman Garret Renville*



## **Vice-Chairwoman’s Office:**

For the month of June, my office focused mostly on preparing for Summer General Council. Tribal Executives had decided to honor our Long-Term Employees (20 years +) and our active Foster Parents to show recognition to all those who have done tremendous work for SWO and our community. We also displayed pictures of employees and past leadership as a Tribute for their services.



# EXECUTIVE REPORTING

For both months I have been attending meetings with different banks to find funding for our upcoming projects: Police Station, Wellness Center, and Treatment Center to secure the amount of \$49 million. Executives and Council have been working with our Programs to complete 105(L) Lease Applications to ensure funding to cover the loan amounts.

My office has been working with Managers to complete Standard Operation Procedure booklets for each Program/Department which will help with stable reporting and consistency of operations for programs and membership.

Three meetings were attended with our Head Start Director Lennie Bernard-Peters, Education Director, Dr. Sherry Johnson, and with the main office located in Washington, DC to focus on creating steps and work plans for correcting past audit findings. Due to these items, it led my office to focus on Standard Operation Procedures, tribal- wide inventory, and additional staff to ensure correct reporting. Our SWO Accounting Manual is now in its final stages of being updated. Managers will be making final corrections, from there it will be forwarded to our consultant for a review before approval from Council and Executives next month. The Accounting Manual was last updated in 2017. I was able to meet with our Finance Department, Budget Office, Executive Director, and Planning Department regarding the new steps for grant administration, finance reporting for grants, and applying processes. We are working to ensure an easier process for timely reporting, meeting federal/grant requirements and the ability to measure outcomes for future funding.

Lastly, I had a meeting with Construction Office and received updated lists regarding home repairs. We will be contacting homeowners next week on the status of each of their homes.



*Terry Mason Moore was sworn in as Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate's Supreme Court Justice during summer 2024 General Council by SWO Chairman Renville.*

# EXECUTIVE REPORTING

## **Tribal Secretary's Office:**

For both of the months, the Office of the Tribal Secretary had 159 visitors sign in for multiple reasons. We also had numerous visitors that did not sign in. I attended various meetings, round tables, presentations, and bid openings throughout the months. I participated in 36 meetings with Managers, visitors, and had several other meetings with Tribal Executives, Council Members, and SWO Tribal Members. The office buildings for the Light House Group Home have been delivered and set-up. We are waiting for water and sewer to be connected. Some of the furniture has arrived and was placed in the buildings. We are finalizing a date for the follow-up meeting with South Dakota officials to discuss the certifications and licensure needed for the Group Home. I participated in the Cris Carter Charity Golf Event at Dakota Magic Casino, which raised \$32,000 for the Asniyapi Field Health Clinic! I, along with Chairman Renville, and members of Tribal Council, met with the Sisseton Mayor, City Council Members, and City Attorney to discuss concerns with the Warming House. I also attended the groundbreaking for the Enemy Swim Head Start Project.

## **AYA CORPORATION- SECTION 17 SWO BUSINESS BOARD:**

This past month Tribal Executives and Council attended a pivotal initial meeting with Ho-Chunk Inc. CEO, Lance Morgan, to discuss the development and strategic direction of AYA Corporation, a Section 17 Federally Chartered entity.

This collaboration aims to harness new economic development opportunities and drive sustainable growth for our community. Our discussions were productive, focusing on innovative strategies. With Mr. Morgan committing to sit on our Aya Corporation Board of Directors, we aim to bring new direction and dynamic opportunities to SWO. This will allow us to save valuable time, tribal resources and capital in the process that will help drive our initiatives forward quickly.

## **BENEFITS OF SECTION 7 STRUCTURE**

1. Sovereignty and Legal Protection  
Sovereign Immunity & Federal Recognition
2. Economic Flexibility and Growth  
Access to Capital & Business Ventures
3. Operational Autonomy  
Separate Entity & Governance Structure
4. Regulatory Benefits  
Federal Contracts & Tax Benefits





# EXECUTIVE REPORTING

## **PTAYA WICOZANI: INTER TRIBAL SECTION 17 CORP.**

SWO ratified Ptaya Wicozani. This initiative represents a collective effort by all nine SD Tribes, who acted on a resolution supporting the development of an Indian Managed Care Entity in SD. SWO has taken the lead, in partnership with the \$300,000 of BIA funding, to help further develop these efforts. This entity aims to improve Healthcare outcomes for our most vulnerable population- those individuals and families on Medicaid in the state of SD.

### Key Features:

- Culturally Competent Care
- Improved Access to Health Care
- Enhanced Health Outcomes
- Economic Efficiency
- Regulatory Benefits.

Several tribes have successfully established managed care entities to improve healthcare for their members. For instance, the Navajo Nation has worked on developing a managed care entity to provide more efficient and culturally appropriate care to its members.

## **ENEMY SWIM HEAD START GROUND-BREAKING:**



*Pictured: ESHS Staff: Lolita Seaboy, Barb Iyarpeya, Jenn Shepherd, Tribal Council and Executives, ES students, Education Director Sherry Johnson, HS Director Lennie Bernard-Peters, and Comstock Construction*

# EXECUTIVE REPORTING

On July 16, 2024, there was a ground-breaking ceremony held for the new Enemy Swim Head Start building. Tribal Vice-Chairwoman, Lexie Fancher- Lincoln provided the opening remarks. The previous building was demolished days before and new construction has begun. The \$3.2 million dollar project was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, as a priority from the community and will be completed by summer 2025.



*Pictured: Tribal Secretary Curtis Bissonette, Vice-Chairwoman Lexie Fancher-Lincoln, Tribal Chairman J. Garret Renville, Head Start Director Lennie Bernard- Peters, Education Director Dr. Sherry Johnson.*



*Pictured: Enemy Swim Head Start Staff: Barb Iyarpeya, Lolita Seaboy, Jen Shepherd and ESHS students.*

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to our Tribal Education Department as they are excited to announce that SWO has been awarded a \$900,000, 3- year Living Languages grant to fund the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Community Immersion Project. This project will provide Dakota Language immersion opportunities to the community through Dakota Language classes, active lessons, and hands-on workshops that will be offered in-person, virtual, and/or by pre-recordings to facilitate community systemic change.

## DIABETES FITNESS CENTER

Warrior Week is time for our community members to show their strength, courage and abilities through physical challenges. We hold these events in the days leading up to our annual Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate 4th of July Wacipi. In these 5 days, participants come out to take part in different activities that they may not normally do. This year we held a water volleyball tournament, triathlon, bean bag tournaments, elderly games and our annual walk/5K RUN.



# EXECUTIVE REPORTING



We love to see everyone laughing and smiling and trying to “out-do” one another. While Warrior Week is literally all fun and games, we do love to see new faces show up. We had a total of 263 participants in our activities this year. We saw a lot of new faces and that is what we are always looking for! We love to hear “we look forward to this every year!” from people but the biggest thing we are proud of is being able to reach people who may not otherwise step foot into our facility. The long hours and preparation done by our team in the weeks prior make it all worthwhile. Every year we strive to make it fun and enjoyable for everyone and to remind them they are capable of being active, they just have to start. Participating in our events may be all they need to start on their fitness journey.

## Winners-

### Women Singles Bean Bag:

- 1st: Sheri LaFromboise
- 2nd: Juanetta German
- 3rd: Elsie German

### Mixed Doubles:

- 1st: Janet Brown/  
Johnny German III
- 2nd: Chuck Kostboth/  
Dusty Allery
- 3rd: Thomas Lee/ Josh  
Wilson

### Men's Singles Bean Bag:

- 1st: Thomas Lee
- 2nd: Johnny German
- 3rd: Sunny Zephier

### Triathlon (Age Categories)

- 1st: Bubba Greeley, Whitney D Herrick, Cyrus Hawkins
- 2nd: Audrey German, Jamison Pratt, AJ StrangeOwl
- 3rd: Riley Bravebull, Travis Herrick, Aja RedWing
- 4th: Aaron Erdrich, Parish Saunsoci, Danielle Kampeska
- 5th: Josh Flute, Alana LittleBird.

