



**MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS, INC.**

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MCNAA TurtleTalk: October – December 2021

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING AT MCNAA

AUTUMN BOARD MEETING HELD

by Board Member Burne Stanley-Peters

On Thursday, November 11, 2021, we held a virtual Board Meeting. Zoom was operated by Board Member Claudia Fox Tree and the meeting was chaired by yours truly. Board members spent two hours diligently updating the 5-year Strategic Plan. Claudia and Dawn did a great job facilitating the exercise. We hope to finalize the Plan at the next board meeting.



Other topics that were briefly discussed included:

- the recruitment of and criteria we are seeking in additional board members;
- the January 2022 book discussion and a prospective surprise guest;
- the March 2022 craft making afternoon;
- a recap of Septembers' Student Meet & Greet and potential changes to next years' application and requirements; and
- the success of the November 1st book discussion with Larry Spotted Crow Mann.

It was great to see and work with this terrific team again. We will meet again in January 2022. ■

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE OFFICE!

by Board Member Burne Stanley-Peters

The MCNAA office was opening up slowly to our members but with the rise in COVID-19 cases that began in June 2021, we had to scale back again. However, we are still maintaining a physical presence by having a couple board members work from the office a few days a week (and the rest of the week from home.) We are also meeting visitors outside who come by to pick up items they purchased or to drop off memberships or monetary donations. Face masks are still worn for these short visits.

Despite the lack of planning live events like our auction, dances and pow-wows, our days are filled with other important work that keeps all of us very busy. Over the last three months, we:



- * Packaged and mailed items that were purchased from the online fundraising web page.
- * Assisted a number of needy Native families and Elders by mailing them food gift cards, and paying their utility bills.
- * Worked on the layout of the updated Strategic Plan.
- * Responded to many requests by organizations and civic groups for speakers and panel discussions that were being planned for October and November.
- * Worked with Claudia and Erin on plans for the winter book discussion and the crafting afternoon.
- * Worked on routine tasks – membership renewals, bookkeeping, donation receipt letters, attended informational and training webinars, responded to general e-mail inquiries, updated our web site and social media pages, etc. ■

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES

by Advisory Council Member Erin McCormack and Board Member Claudia Fox Tree

MCNAA is looking ahead to the 2022 Winter season and has planned two new virtual events for the beginning of the year:

1. Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

On Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM, MCNAA is hosting its fourth virtual book discussion on "Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The young adult novel is a coming of age story which explores identity and culture through the action of a mystery/thriller set in modern day northern Michigan. The book is a New York Times bestseller and has won the Goodreads Choice Award for Young Adult

fiction. Barack and Michelle Obama’s film development company has chosen the book to become a Netflix special, under agreement with the author to include indigenous people both in front of and behind the camera.

“Firekeepers Daughter” features a tough, athletic teenager, unsure of her future after high school. She is recovering from a hockey injury as well as the death of a beloved uncle, tying her to home. “...Daunis Fontaine's life is split between two communities that of her white French Canadian mother and the other of the Sugar Land Ojibwe Tribe of her late father. When Daunis witnesses a tragic murder, Daunis finds herself involved in an FBI investigation into drug trafficking in her community.



However, the investigation will uncover secrets and threaten many people, including many she knows. In this thrilling and dynamic story, Boulley tells a tale that is suspenseful, insightful and emotionally complex.”

Readers will enjoy the well-developed characters and fast action of the book, as well as the thoughtful way the author incorporates native language - and references - into the main character's thoughts and decisions. As in previous discussions, readers are asked to select a quote from the book that has particular meaning for them, to share in a small group "break-out room" part of the program.

The event is open to all. If interested in joining the discussion, please register at <https://forms.gle/6WcnqxZeAFvE88Gx8> and the zoom link will be e-mailed to you closer to the discussion date. ■

2. Crafting Afternoon for All Ages

On Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 2pm, MCNAA will offer a virtual Crafting Afternoon making a leather pouch from pre-made kits. There is no charge and the event is open to all ages (no needles or thread is involved.) Participants will learn about medicine pouches and the symbolism of materials. Participants will receive leather and cord in the mail, and also a "surprise" fur that is meant to come their way.

If you or your children are interested in joining the crafting afternoon, please register at <https://forms.gle/uYP3ehDaQPXAftmZ8> The deadline to register is February 10, 2022. Materials and space are limited. You will receive the event zoom link in advance of the March 13, 2022 event. ■

MCNAA DONATES COLLECTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN BOOKS TO THE PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY OF DANVERS

by Board Member Anthony SkyHawk

On the 1st of December, MCNAA delivered nearly 100 Native American books to Peabody Institute Library of Danvers to enhance their Indigenous resources for the general public. These were duplicate books acquired throughout the years for MCNAA's library and not being used. In as much, MCNAA's office is located in Danvers, it was felt that we should donate the excess books to the local library.



Two of MCNAA's three book cases stacked with Native American books and periodicals.

After a few visits to the Library to view their collection of Native American books, we found their inventory to be extremely limited. We, therefore, decided to ask to meet and with speak with library director Alex Lent to discuss the process to possibly make the books a part of the library's inventory. Mr. Lent was very much interested as he agreed that the library's inventory had very few books about the Native Peoples of this land. It was thereby decided they would like to increase the number of books but it would require the approval of the library's Board of Trustees. This was then presented at the Library's next monthly meeting and it was unanimously approved, giving Mr. Lent the go ahead to create a larger section of the library dedicated to Native American books.

The books were then slated for delivery within a month or two but, prior to beginning the process, it was

overwhelmingly delayed because of the Covid-19 outbreak and eventually put on the back burner for over a year.

Since that time, Mr. Lent had left his position and Noel Boc was hired as the new Director. After conversations over the past 4 months, the process was once again started thereby allowing the Library to take delivery and begin making these books part of their inventory. These books will also be housed on the 3rd floor in a special section for Native American readings.

This is exciting as we receive many requests for resources on Native American and we will be able to direct them to the local library where hours are more flexible than ours. ■

MCNAA RECEIVES \$1,000 DONATION FROM CUMMINGS PROPERTIES

by Board Member Burne Stanley-Peters



Cummins Properties honors colleagues, long-term clients, and other select associates of the Cummings organization by contributing \$1,000 to a local charity of their choice. This unique initiative is one of the many ways that *"Cummins Buildings Power Charities."*

Through Cummings Community Giving, which was originally created as Employee Directed Giving, the company seeks to support communities where staff members, clients, and other valued associates live and work. Since 2012, this program has resulted in more than \$4 million in donations to area nonprofits. This year, MCNAA was among many local non-profits that received the grant through the recommendation of a Cummings Property worker. This individual lives in Peabody and obviously knows of MCNAA.

MCNAA extends its sincere thanks to Cummings Properties and to the Peabody resident for their generous donation. The \$1,000.00 donation will be used this winter to continue our support to Native families with heating costs. We are grateful. ■

MCNAA – A SURPRISE RECIPIENT OF AN “END OF YEAR” YOUTH SUPPORT GRANT

by Board Member Anthony SkyHawk

Recently, we received a surprise notification that MCNAA was one of those chosen for an “End of Year” Youth Support Grant from the Native Youth Empowerment Foundation (NYEF). The mission of NYEF is to support Native youth statewide through providing small grants for education, workshops that promote professional development, cultural engagement initiatives, networking and various other resources that aim at intertribal inclusivity and youth empowerment."

The \$7,500 grant can be used to help support our Scholarship Program if this is what our board decides. According to the Foundation, individuals up to age 25 are considered youth and are eligible recipients to benefit from the funds. This is important because it includes many young people (18-24) who are seeking a profession and still in need of further support.

Currently, MCNAA's Scholarship Program provides needy Native students with funds for college-related expenses to help train future leaders in the community by assuring they are given the opportunity to compete for a college education or comparable degree/certification. An important goal of the program is to encourage students to use their newly-gained knowledge to give back to their communities.

This award is particularly exciting as these funds could be of help to MCNAA's Scholarship Program which has relied heavily on multiple fundraisers and a 2-year education grant to help endow the program. But with the pandemic limiting our fundraising events as well as the fact that the education grant has ceased, these unexpected funds from the NYEF will be an enormous help to funding college scholarships.

On behalf of the MCNAA Board, I would like to thank NYEF's Board for acknowledging our important work in the Native community, and look forward to the day when we can all get together again. ■

INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD

MARGARET WHIPPOORWILL CLOUD CARUOLO

by Board Member Anthony SkyHawk



It is with great sadness that we report the loss of another dear MCNAA Member and Friend, Margaret "Whippoorwill" Cloud Caruolo. She left on her spirit journey to join her ancestors on November 3, 2021. Those of us who were fortunate to share and spend time in her presence were truly blessed/fortunate. She was an inspiration to many.

Over the many years since MCNAA's founding, she was a strong and consistent supporter of the organization and its work. Most of our Native friends and supporters know of her from past MCNAA Socials, Anniversary events, Auction Fundraisers, etc. However, she also attended and supported many of MCNAA's pow-wows up until several years ago when she started to have eye problems which sometimes limited her from driving long distances at night. Despite, the driving limitations, she always found a way to attend and support all of MCNAA's yearly auction fundraiser for college scholarships and other needy programs. In addition to making generous donation of items for the auction, she also was the first to bid on and purchase other items to keep the bidding competition going. She always thought of others, particularly our youth who are our future.

After all of her years of support, MCNAA wanted to show our appreciation by having an honoring at our 27th Anniversary Celebration at Lombardo's in Randolph in 2016. The overflow of attendees at this annual event showed how much she was loved in the Native Community.

Whippoorwill was also an accomplished author and recently published a beautiful Native American novel, "Buffalo Faces The Wind". She generously gave MCNAA a signed copy for us to enjoy and now to remember. She will be sorely missed. ■

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION

BIDEN'S INTERIOR DEPT. REVERSES TRUMP'S ATTEMPT TO STRIP MASHPEE WAMPANOAG LANDS OF RESERVATION STATUS

Reprinted in part from info by Native News Online

Photo by Ron Schloerb Cape Cod Times File

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe received an early Christmas gift from the U.S. Department of the Interior on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 when it received notification from Assistant Secretary of the Interior – Indian Affairs Bryan Newland that the tribe's reservation has been confirmed.

The decision reverses the action by the Trump administration's attempt in March 2020 to strip the tribe of its reservation, which includes 321 acres of land that was put into trust status during the Obama administration. The Obama decision was reversed by the Trump administration three years later in September 2018.

Mr. Newland confirmed that the Interior Department has authority under the Indian Reorganization Act to take such action, and further confirmed that the Tribe's Reservation has remained in federally protected trust status since the Reservation land was first placed in trust six years ago on November 10, 2015.

"This is a momentous day for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, for indigenous communities across the country, and for defenders of justice," said Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Chairman Brian Weeden. "We are grateful that President Biden and his administration, including Secretary Deb Haaland, Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland, and Solicitor Bob Anderson, have faithfully implemented the law and respected the sovereign rights of our tribe to protect our reservation."

The 55-page decision had the support of the Massachusetts' two United States senators.

"I congratulate the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe on this major victory, which conclusively reaffirms the trust status of their reservation," said U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). "The Massachusetts congressional delegation and I have proudly stood with the Tribe throughout its fight to protect their ancestral homelands—a fight that should never have been necessary in the first place. I am glad to see the Biden Administration and the Department of the Interior finally issue this confirmation, and to end the attempt begun by the Trump Administration's to unjustly disestablish the Tribe's reservation."



*Brian Weeden, Chairman,
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe*

"The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe has withstood years of uncertainty after the Trump administration's unlawful, unprecedented and unjust attempt to abrogate their sovereignty and take away their Tribal lands," said U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA). "The Department of the Interior's decision today finally lays to rest these wrongful actions and reaffirms the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's right to this land, which they have stewarded for more than 10,000 years. I join Tribal Leadership and the Wampanoag people in celebrating this decision and look forward to our continued partnership. We must take every opportunity to support and elevate Tribal sovereignty and land rights across the federal government as a cornerstone of our fight for a just, livable future."

Chairman Weeden said the decision allows the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to reclaim and protect their cherished land and better serve its people for generations to come. ■

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT MCNAA *BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR*

Many of you have noticed that on our membership application there is a section you can check-off that says *"I want to do more. Instead of the annual membership fee above, I want to pledge \$___ monthly."* We have similar language on our website as well. We feel recurring gifts are a great way for our organization to receive funds on a regular basis to help more families and/or to put towards some of our other important initiatives.



In the spirit of "giving-back" all year round, we invite you as well as large and small businesses, to help make a difference by joining the circle of monthly giving. We are a 33 year old, tax exempt organization that can use additional support throughout the year. Donations will be applied to either our college scholarship program, our social assistance-needy fund, or our social change/social justice initiatives.

If your heart speaks and you would like to support the organization this way, please go to your PayPal account and make a donation to the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (or mcnaa@aol.com) then click "reoccurring" or "make this a monthly donation." Or you can mail a check monthly to the organization at: MCNAA, ATTN: Monthly Giving Circle, 85 Constitution Lane, Suite 3-B1, Danvers, MA. Large, one time gifts, are also accepted. Thank you. ■



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Danvers, MA 01923

Phone/Text: 617-642-1683 E-mail: mcnaa@aol.com Website: www.mcnaa.org

YEAR-ROUND GIVING FORM

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I want to “pay it forward” with a tax-deductible gift in the amount of:

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\$4,000.00 \$5,000.00 \$10,000.00 \$20,00.00 Other _____

Please make your check payable to: MCNAA and mail it with this form to:

MCNAA, 85 Constitution Lane, Suite 3-B1, Danvers, MA 01923

Or make an on-line donation this way: Go to your PayPal account and make a donation to the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (or mcnaa@aol.com).

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