Dear Members: This newsletter will provide updates on our activities and events over the past two and a half months covering mid-April 2019 through June 2019.

**MCNAA Newsletter – Summer 2019**

**MASS. CULTURAL COUNCIL’s SMALL SHOPS MEET UP**

*by Anthony Silva, Board Member*

On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, I attended a Small Shops Meet Up, sponsored by the Mass. Cultural Council (MCC), at the Tsongas Industrial History Center in Lowell, MA. The purpose was to convene nonprofit cultural arts organizations who have little or no compensated staff and rely primarily on volunteers to run their programs.

A central vision of one of MCC’s grants….Cultural Investment Portfolio… is to help grantees and other nonprofit organizations build organizational and personal capacity.

Throughout the meeting, there were a host of issues brought up that many small nonprofit organizations encounter. However, the major issue that nearly all of us encounter is fundraising to keep our organizations thriving. Discussions centered around what we, as an organization, currently do to raise funds and what is most successful. Although MCNAA and other smaller organizations have managed to successfully raise funds through a number of ways including auctions, dances, and year-end appeals, it was felt that in order to sustain funds it would be important to increase our donor base including more corporate & private donors, and additional foundations.

During the session, we went to the Foundation Directory on-line website which gave a lot of insight as to what organizations these foundations are supporting. I also had the opportunity to network with fellow small shops, share ideas, and explore these challenges. It was quite an informative and important gathering. ■
ANNUAL SPRING PLANTING MOON POW-WOW DRAWS HUGE CROWD
by Anthony Silva, Board Member

MCNAA’s 25th Annual Spring Planting Moon Pow-Wow in Marshfield drew a large crowd on Saturday and Sunday over the Memorial Day Weekend. Featured new this year were The Kalpulli Huehuetlahtolli Aztec Dance Troupe, who performed ancient Aztec dances that honor centuries of Indigenous culture and traditions.

Thanks to the beautiful weather, the Circle was filled with dancers throughout the two days. As this unofficially marks the beginning of Pow Wow season, there were many dancers demonstrating their dance styles and some showing off their new regalia.

Emcee, Earl “Chiefie” Mills, Mashpee Wampanoag, kept everything flowing while educating the public about Native culture and announcing upcoming activities that were happening during the day. Host Drum Eastern Sun Singers and the Split Feather Singers kept the dancers moving with some great songs each day. Julia Marden, Aquinnah Wampanoag (L), an internationally known artist best known for her 17th century style twined basketry and Jennifer Lee, Narragansett/Metis, a well-known regional artisan bark basket maker, demonstrated their traditional skills for visitors to see.

Children’s activities included storytelling by Jennifer Lee and craft-making activities at the children’s table with Advisory Council Member JulieAnn Corbin. In addition, MCNAA friend, Earl Running Deer, set up two outstanding tipis furnished with many handmade Native items. Children and adults visited inside throughout the day. Native foods, prepared by Silver Moon, Mashpee Wampanoag, provided delicious nourishment for everyone all day. Before closing, we send a special ‘thanks’ to all who stepped up and helped with the setup and break down of the pow wow especially student volunteer Lujah Brown.

It was great to see so many of our Native friends celebrating together and we look forward to seeing everyone at some of our events throughout the year.
Race Amity Day, North Andover Public Schools, N. Andover – in brief
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness participated in North Andover’s 2nd Annual Race Amity Day. Tony chatting with interested students, teachers, school committee and community members about the organization, Native culture, etc. while Kim and I set up craft supplies to do a little craft demonstration.

There was a segment in their program where we could all learn to do the bachata and then we all sat back and enjoyed an impressive Lion Dance presentation. Guests also participated in an educational game that promoted cross racial/cultural discussions.

With all of the activities that took place, the day brought people together to celebrate friendship and to share & learn about traditions from different cultures. It was fun and exciting, similar, in some cases, to our pow-wows!
Grantee Social of Essex County Community Foundation
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

Board Members of the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) attended the Grantee Cohort Social of Essex County Community Foundations’ Creative County Initiative (CCI). The gathering was held on June 13, 20189 at Curious City “Pop up Children’s Museum” in Peabody. MCNAA is one of 11 grantees of this Initiative.

The Foundation felt that with all CCI projects underway, this would be a great way for all grantees to meet each other, connect with ECCF staff and CCI Steering Committee, meet some of the funders, and share stories and experiences. (Some pictured on right.)

In response to the Foundations request for each grantee to bring something to share with the other grantees that shows the essence of their projects, we prepared a large document with photos and explanations of our Intertribal Pow-wow last September (which was funded under this grant.) All grantees were also asked to give a one-minute presentation about their project. Board member Anthony Silva opened up for MCNAA with introductions of Board Members and then Claudia Fox Tree (pictured below with Board Member Dawn Duncan) gave the presentation.

She spoke (for almost 4 minutes) about our cultural art events and emphasized that inaccurate information about indigenous people is such a problem that coming to a pow wow is a way to challenge the dominant narrative. She added that most people have never even met or talked with a real life Native American. The event was fun and enlightening. Everyone had a lot of fun and we connected with a few other grantees.

JOIN ONE OF OUR TEAMS: We are looking for additional fresh voices to complement our Teams. If you have a strong connection to our organization and want to share your expertise, we invite you to inquire about sitting on the Board of Directors or joining the Advisory Council. For more details and to be considered, please contact Tony at mcnaa3@aol.com.
MCNAA Board Meeting Held – brief results
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

Another Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at “Dawn’s Board Room” in Lynn. Here are the highlights of the meeting: We worked diligently on editing and then finalizing the following documents (a) A Perspective on Native American Identity; (b) 38 Ways To Support—Not Appropriate From—Native Culture; and (c) the 2019 student scholarship application. The first two documents are now posted on our website. We discussed Tribal Land Acknowledgement (for when we hold events in the region); as well as the growing number of donors in our monthly donor program.

We floated ideas about what we will do for Brandeis University’s October Teach-In; as well as which dancers & drummers/singers we will invite for the Arts & Culture Summit’s Street Procession at the end of September, and for The International Day of Peace event in late September at Boston Commons. Foundations to apply to within the next few months were also discussed, noted, and will be followed up on.

GREAT MEETING – GREAT LEADERSHIP TEAM!

Board Members
Dawn Duncan, Claudia Fox Tree, Kim Orben, Anthony Silva, and Burne Stanley-Peters.

Advisory Council Members
Eva Blake * JulieAnn Corbin * Rick Pouliot * Patricia D. Rocker * Kate Yeomans.
Testimony Given by MCNAA Board Member Claudia Fox Tree and others at Mass. State House, Boston, MA

On June 25th, Board Member, Claudia Fox Tree, testified at the Mass. State House in support of MA Bill S.247/H.443 – An Act Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots by Public Schools in the Commonwealth.

Currently about 38 public high schools in the state use Native American mascots. This bill would task the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with establishing regulations to prohibit Native American mascots in Massachusetts public schools. Decades of social science research have shown that Native American mascots are harmful to both Native American and non-Native youth. These mascots are not educationally sound because they reflect and reinforce racial stereotypes and prejudice. Further, for Native American youth, they generate a hostile learning environment, and diminish self-esteem, capacity to imagine possible future selves, and faith in their communities.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the country’s largest Native American advocacy organization, has been fighting to eliminate Native American mascots since the 1960s. Currently over 115 tribal, government, education, professional, civil rights, and religious organizations in the United States have recognized the negative health impacts of Native American mascots and called for their elimination. In Massachusetts, this includes the Chappaquiddick Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation, Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Nipmuc Nation. Organizations in Massachusetts include Cultural Survival, Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs, Massachusetts Teachers Association, the New England Area Conference of the NAACP, North American Indian Center of Boston, and United American Indians of New England. In addition to NCAI, national organizations include the National Education Association, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the American Psychological Association, the American Anthropological Association, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Many school districts that have been confronted with this issue fear community backlash and so fail to take a stand. Civil rights issues must be addressed at the state level. S.247/H.443 will be a first step towards ending this harmful discrimination in our Massachusetts public schools.
Summer Moon Pow-wow – Danvers, MA
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

Despite periodic rain throughout the weekend, and humid weather that limited the number of dancers, we had a terrific program at the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness’ Summer Moon Pow-wow. The gathering took place during the weekend of June 29-30, 2019 at Endicott Park, Danvers, MA.

We opened the event with a “Land Acknowledgement Statement”…a simple, powerful way for MCNAA to show respect to the Massachusetts Peoples, the original inhabitants of these lands…which is a step toward correcting the stories that erase tribal history and culture. We also called on individuals and other organizations in the audience to open their public events with acknowledgment of the Native inhabitants of the land that their events are held on.

Before the skies opened with rain, Larry Spotted Crow shared traditional and contemporary stories with the audience teaching life lessons in an entertaining and engaging way. The Aztec Dancers put on another enlightening, educational dance presentation that wowed our visitors; Claudia Fox Tree presented a workshop where our guests joined in interactive conversations about Native American identity, culture, and history; Board member Kim Orben led the Children’s Activities Table, and so much more. MCNAA had a resource table with educational information, event flyers, newsletters, membership applications, brochures, plus t-shirts and patches with the MCNAA logo. Set up next to us were raffle tickets for the kayak set. Advisory Committee Member, Patricia Rocker set a limit of 50 tickets for sale and she sold every one of them.

We thank all of you were attended the Summer Moon Pow-wow which was supported in part by a grant from Essex County Community Foundations’ Creative County Initiative.
KAYAK RAFFLE WINNER

Lauren Barthold (L), bought a raffle ticket at the Summer Moon Pow-wow and won the kayak set worth $220. She, along with her son Gael Muchnik, came to the office to pick up the prize. The set included an 8’ Sun Dolphin Aruba kayak, a paddle, and life vest. They got it down to their car without a hitch. It was great to meet them.

For the past several years, Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker has been bringing her kayaks and small canoe to our Intertribal Pow-wow at Plug Pond offering free rides in the inner Pond. We hope Lauren and Gael will bring their new vessel to the pow-wow and enjoy a ride around the beautiful waters in their new vessel with our other visitors.

= = = = = = = = = =

MCNAA’s Upcoming Events

September 7-8  Annual Intertribal Pow-Wow ~ Celebrating 31 Years at Plug Pond, co-sponsored by the City of Haverhill, Plug Pond, Sanders Road, off Mill St., Haverhill, MA. This is a cultural arts event with the focus on cultural expression, cultural awareness & education, and sharing with the public.

Saturday, September 28  “70’s & 80’s Autumn Fundraising Dance”, American Legion Hall, 69 River St., Middleton, MA. 7PM-11PM. Supper buffet, Cash bar, and 50/50 Raffle. Advance tickets only. This is a fundraising event with the focus on dancing & fundraising.

Sunday, October 20  21st Annual Fundraising Auction & Luncheon, VFW Function Hall, 12 Station St., Middleboro, MA. 1:00 PM. Luncheon Buffet, Live & Silent Auctions, and Raffle Drawings. Advance tickets $10. This is a fundraising event with the focus on bidding & fundraising.

Saturday, November 2  29th Annual Nat’l Native American Heritage Day Pow-Wow, Pingree School, 537 Highland St., So. Hamilton, MA. (NEW LOCATION.) This is a cultural arts event with the focus on cultural expression, cultural awareness & education, and sharing with the public.

Saturday, December 7  “Oldies-But-Goodies” Holiday Fundraising Dance, American Legion Hall, 950-R Washington St., Canton, MA. 7PM-11PM. Supper buffet, Cash bar and 50/50 Raffle. Advance tickets only. This is a fundraising event with the focus on dancing & fundraising.
Dear Members and Supporters of the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness:

“We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.” This famous Dakota saying seems so appropriate for the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary (April 1989-April 2019). We have seen many brothers and sisters leave tracks for us to follow, and over the 30 years of our existence, we have hopefully left some good tracks for others to follow as well.

We can’t believe 30 years has come and gone. As many of you know, Slow Turtle and Burne operated the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness on a completely volunteer basis since its founding in 1989. In the beginning, in addition to them, a few volunteers helped process memberships and work on a few small fundraisers. Program funds have always been low because the organization never received any state or federal funds. This made it difficult to help our constituents to the level that was needed in the communities. But in those early years, Slow Turtle would just say “we’ll make do with what comes in and help those we can”. Considering we’ve never had a sufficient funding stream or paid staff, we’ve made tremendous strides during these 30 years in helping needy Native American students, elders, and families around the state as well as educating the public about Native/Indigenous issues and concerns. Slow Turtle would be proud. We attribute this success, in part, to the help and support we’ve received from people like you and others who have crossed our path over the years.

In the spirit of honoring the legacy of Slow Turtle and our first 30 years, we have reignited a campaign to celebrate this milestone. The goal of the campaign is to raise $10,000 by the end of September 2019 for the operation of several programs so that we can make a greater impact this autumn and winter. Specifically for our Scholarship Program so that we can award more scholarships in September to Native students; our Public Education and Awareness Program so that we can hold more workshops, lectures and discussions in November to bring awareness to Native issues; and our Social Assistance Program so that we can help more needy Native Elders and families with food, heating bills, and other basic needs in December/January/February.

MCNAA’S FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
“CELEBRATING 30 YEARS”
We are asking for just 40 people to make a one-time donation of $250 or to commit to donating $25 per month for 10 months as a symbol of support for our 30 year/$10,000 campaign. To acknowledge your participation, your name or message will be written on a strip of leather and tied to the Anniversary Croak Staff. The staff itself was donated to MCNAA but Claudia and Burne created the center and adornments along with the leather fundraising strips.

For those of you who are considering donating, your message can be – “in memory of a loved one” or “in honor of someone special”. The beautiful staff is over 5’ tall, wrapped in elk skin and adorned with fox fur. As the campaign goes on, we’ll add other adornments to the staff.

Here are a few examples of some of the type of message you can write:

In Honor of….. The Next Seven Generations, Those Who Came Before Us, Native Veterans; Single Native Parents; Homeless Native Families; Residential School Survivors; Mother Earth; All Human Beings; A group or organization; An occasion or special event; a parent; a child; a grandparent; a relative; a school teacher; a neighbor; a pet; etc.

In Memory of ….. a parent; a child; a grandparent; a relative; a school teacher; a neighbor; a pet; etc., etc., etc.

Here are a few messages that we received in the past that now appear on leather strips that are attached to the staff:

"Many Thanks and Blessings To All Who Help MCNAA Do Its Great Work. Your Illinois Satellite Member."

"In gratitude for the wild edible fruits (and nuts, roots, shell fish, etc.) of the Earth that nourish the Peoples of yesterday, today and tomorrow."

"In Honor and Memory of Those Who Came Before Us."

“Thank you MCNAA for bringing together the Nations so that the next seven generations may walk in beauty... ~ The Fox Tree family”
“In Memory of the two Nanepashemets”

“In Memory of past Shubenacadie Chief, Benjamin Pictou”

"In Memory of Slow Turtle and in Honor of those who carry on his work."

"The Greatest Strength is Gentleness - in Memory of Mary Frances McLure Eror”

"In Honor of all those who supported us in the past and those we support in the future in turn."

"Peace to All Beings."

“In Loving Memory of Robert W. Corbin – father, hero, friend.”

The Anniversary Staff will be displayed at all of our pow-wows and carried into the Circle with our flags. The spirit of your message....in honor or in memory, or your name, will share space with us in the Circle and be a permanent part of our pow-wows and MCNAA throughout the years.

If you want to be part of this 30 Year Anniversary effort, please fill out the accompanying form (including your message for the leather strip) and your method of payment so that we can add you to our Campaign. You can make a one-time donation by mailing in a check, using your PayPal account or by credit card. Or, we can also set up a monthly debit for you. If you made a past donation to this effort ad have an existing message strip, you can always add another with a different message or name.

The entire Leadership Team is grateful to all of you who have supported the work we have been doing on behalf of the Massachusetts Center of Native American Awareness over the past 30 years. We have a number of long-standing members who have seen the value in our programs and continue to love and support the work we do..... helping our needy constituents, educating the public, and preserving Native American culture, traditions, and spirituality.

Thank you in advance for your support and together let’s continue the good work we’ve been doing at the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness. As they say, one finger cannot alone lift a pebble – (Hopi).

The MCNAA Leadership Team.
MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS, INC.

Celebrating 30 Years!

Campaign Donation Form

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State_____ Zip _______________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________ Phone: _______________________________

I'm honored to partner with you on the Anniversary Campaign of the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness by donating $250.00 which will include my message or my name on a leather strip attached to the Anniversary Staff.

I'd like to pay by:

☐ Check – I am enclosing a check for $250.00.

☐ Check – I am enclosing a check for $25.00 and commit to sending a check each month for a total of 10 months.

☐ I authorize the Mass Center for Native American Awareness to debit my card each month for $25.00 for a total of 10 months. Please call me.

☐ I am making an on-line donation of $250.00 through my PayPal account

☐ I am unable to participate in the Campaign at this time but am enclosing a donation of $_______

On the leather strip for the Anniversary Staff, I would like my name/message to read as follows:

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Mass Center for Native American Awareness (or MCNAA)

Mail to: Mass. Center for Native American Awareness

ATTN: 30 Yr. Anniversary Campaign

85 Constitution Lane, Suite 3B-1

Danvers, MA 01923

---

12