



Carrie Wabaunsee O'Toole

For Tribal Council Member #3



Bosho! My name is Carrie Wabaunsee O'Toole and I am currently serving as Tribal Council #3 member. I am the oldest daughter of Drusa (Masquat) Wabaunsee and the late Will Wabaunsee. My grandparents were Jim and Charlotte (Nocktonick) Wabaunsee and Bob and Carrie (Puckee) Masquat. I have been happily married to Jim O'Toole for over 31 years grew up in Hoyt and raised my family in Mayetta for 27 years. We have five beautiful children: Kateri, Chris, Kavan, Lara and Josh, six grandsons: Andrue, Daryon, Colin, Jonathon, Dominic and Edric also one granddaughter Kylee. In addition, my sons Kavan and Chris are Marines and Army veterans while Josh is currently serving in the Navy. I believe in looking at things positively, seeing the best in others and I have a strong belief in family, the importance of my faith and keeping our language and culture alive while serving our people and community. I actively participate in the Potawatomi Language classes.

I have learned while serving as a Council member we are charged with making decisions based on available facts to make informed votes. This also means a willingness and ability to make difficult and tough decisions. The Kansas Casinos have affected our gaming revenue with loss of approximately 15% of gaming revenue the past couple of years. This means tightening our budgets which doesn't allow for much flexibility or alternatives. The fact is we are working with a smaller budget. These reduced budgets affect some of the services we provide including Housing, Social Services, Education, etc. Many of our programs are applying for tribal, state and federal grants which supplement a large part of some tribal programs. The Casino Team is also working hard to keep our customers happy while trying to maintain and grow the revenue. The Casino has recently expanded its floor to offer bingo, a new gift shop and will be offering even more entertainment and more gaming machines in the near future. The Council supports the PBPEC Board in running the Casino, Nation Station and Golf Course.

I have worked for the tribe in several different capacities through the years: the tribal bingo 1989-1997 in different capacities, Housing department, administrative assistant to Chairwoman and Vice Chair, receptionist, casino 1997-2001, Tribal Gaming Commissioner 2001-2005, Casino 2006-2008 as a regulator compliance, player clubs and slot department and Tribal Council Member 2008- 2016. I believe this varied history and experience within the Nation and its enterprises serves me well in my position as Tribal Council Member and provides me within an insight and understanding and a perspective that is somewhat unique to Tribal Council.

I am currently serving on the Haskell Board of Regents as the 4 Tribes of Kansas Representative. This position was changed at the last board meeting to include serving all of the Haskell students that live in state of Kansas. I was a part of the reaccreditation team for Haskell and we received accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2015. I also have given testimony as a Kansas Tribes Representative and include our rich history of tribal members attending Haskell which for some families includes over 5 generations. While at convocations, board meetings or graduation ceremonies, I meet up with our tribal member students attending Haskell and visit with them about school and what degrees they are studying for.

While on Council I have been a representative the Kansas Representative for the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) which was previously known as Oklahoma City Area Indian Tribal Health Board (OCAITHB) as an alternate since 2008 and a representative since 2014. The Health board is comprised of the Tribes in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Being on this board has helped our tribal members with several dental grants which were used for our children at Child Care and Head Start. A current grant from this board is allowing implementation of our community health survey we did in 2014. The focus of the health survey is Obesity/Diabetes, Elder Care and Mental Health and how these issues affect all of our members. I communicate with the other tribes in Kansas and Haskell by attending upcoming Health conferences, trainings, a meeting with the Surgeon General and updates about health issues.

Another health project I have worked diligently on is the Kansas Healthy Tribes 2020 Health Summit which was started in 2013 with Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). I have been on the planning board for this Summit since 2013. This grant allowed us to do a health survey of the needs of our tribal members that live locally. We will host the Summit again this August and we will provide information and resources to different tribal programs, Clinic director and staff and to the other 3 tribes in Kansas. This project allows us to meet with the other tribes whose needs are similar to ours but addresses them as separate Nations at the same time.

I also serve on other committees that serve our community including Royal Valley Impact Aid Committee (26 years), Doorstep, and Holton Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. I also have served on JOM, Title VII, Head Start Parent Council, School Site Council, Boys and Girls Club and

Mayetta Fire Department. I have served on TIBC Tribal Interior Budget Council the Southern Plains representative 2012-2015 which determines the BIA budget working directly with the Assistant Secretary of Department of Interior Kevin Washburn and BIA staff. National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Southern Plains representative 2013-2015 for the executive board. I also gave needed testimony before the Civil Rights Commission because I was denied the right to vote with my tribal identification which is a legally recognized form of identification for voting in Kansas. I have participated in the Kansas Dental Advocacy Day to get Registered Dental Practitioner bill approved. A registered Dental Practitioner is a mid-level dental provider which is needed to provide more services. Access to and dental services is a problem in both rural communities and Native American communities across the country and Dental Practitioners can help fill that shortfall and provide those much needed dental services in those communities.

Some of the following things I actively participated since being on Council are:

COUNCIL EVENTS

- Christmas gifts for the active Military members since 2009
- Census 2010
- Four Tribes meeting
- Shabehnay project
- National Conferences dealing with tribal issues with Federal and State Officials
- Annual Native American Legislative Day @ State Capital
- Tribal consultations w/Federal Agencies partners
- PBPCR meetings
- LLC meetings
- Rock Building 75th celebration
- PBCR employee award banquet
- American Indian Record Repository Visit
- Jackson County Hall of Fame dinner
- Head Start annual meeting with Agency
- CHAT (Community Health Association Team)
- Land buy back meetings
- PBPN Charitable Contributions award ceremonies
- Native Vote

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Tribes strategic planning
- Child Care and Head Start Graduation pow wow
- Our annual tribal pow wow
- Earth Day activities
- Trunk or treat
- Big Bear pow wow
- Splatters that matter
- Take Back the Night
- Egg Estravaganza
- Great Program graduation ceremony at Royal Valley
- PTFD and Tribal Police open house and activities
- Different events at Elder Center
- School events
- Veterans pow wow
- Conference about water issues
- Meeting with tribal members
- Valentine Roundies
- Walk a Mile in their Mocs
- Movies at the park

I attend community events and support our tribal programs at all levels local, state, regional and national. These different events and meetings allow us to get our voices and concerns heard and hear opportunities for additional funding. The Nation is very fortunate that our programs are leaders in their area of expertise, Road and Bridge, EPA, Tribal Victim Services, Student Services, Clinic, Fire Department, Police Department, etc. compared to other Nation's tribal programs or surrounding communities. Our programs are important to our community and surrounding communities because they provide jobs and opportunities that we used to have commute to other communities in the past.

I believe that my experience, knowledge gained on the job, participation on boards and communities that provide me and the Nation access to resources as well as the valuable contacts and relationships I have been able to build. This benefits the Nation so we can continue moving forward. I would appreciate your vote and participation in our tribal election. If you have any questions for me please reach me at carrieo1628@gmail.com or my cell 785 845-011. Migwetch!