

2016 Re-Election

My name is Thomas M. Wabnum. I have filed my candidacy for Tribal Councilperson, Position No. 2 for re-election, and a 2nd term. I have the honor to be named after my Misho John Wabnum's (Nuck Muck) Brother Pete Wabnum and also called Mektewzi. To many of you I am also called Hoppy.

My maternal grandparents were Louis (Wabaunce) A. Wabaunsee and Catherine U. Shoptese (Koche no quah). My paternal grandparents were John Wabnum (Nuck Muck) and Emma Young (Ash tah kish ko quah).

My parents were Edison T. Wabnum (Wahbnum) and Angeline M. Wabaunsee (Ke Wah Quah).

I was married for 33 years. I have 2 Daughters and 4 grandchildren. I live in Topeka, Kansas and have a home in Albuquerque, NM and share a home with my children on the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce, New Mexico.

Employment History:

- PBP Tribal Council Member Sept 2012 to July 2014.
- Tribal Consultant Contractor, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Branch of Contracts and Grants in 2006 and 2007.
- Retired from the Department of the Interior, Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2004.
- Management Analyst, OST/Office of Trust Records from 1999 to 2004.
- Detailed to BIA, Eastern Area Office, Arlington, VA, Budget Officer 2002.
- Budget Analyst, Office of the Special Trustee, Directors Office from 1997 to 1999.
- Budget Analyst and various positions within BIA, Southern Pueblos Agency, Albuquerque, NM from 1990 to 1997.
- Staff Support Assistant, Division of Trust Responsibility, Branch of Land Titles and Records, Washington, DC, 1988 to 1989.

- Housing Tenant Relations Specialist, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce, NM in 1988.
- BIA programs: Forestry, Social Services, Property and Supply, BIA Jicarilla Agency, Dulce, New Mexico from 1985 to 1988.
- Tribal Government Assistant, Riverside Agency, Riverside, California from 1983 to 1985.
- Accounting Assistant, Riverside Agency, Riverside, California from 1980 to 1983.
- Prairie Band Tribal Treasurer, Mayetta, Kansas from 1978 to 1979.
- Director: Indian Action Team Program, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in 1977.
- Financial Management Assistant, BIA, Washington, DC 1976 to 1977.

Throughout my employment history I have been employed with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs in various positions and various locations throughout the United States.

U.S. Navy: U.S.S. Truxtun, Destroyer, Gunners Mate – 1969 thru 1973. 3 Six-month tours in North Viet Nam.

I am an Individual Indian Money Accountholder or IIM. I had interests in 12 Land allotments and cannot utilize these lands for anything. I and other land owners sold some of our land interests to the PBP Nation thereby increasing its trust land base and generating more money for the Nation.

During my many BIA government assignments it gave me an experience and education in a broken Indian trust system. Since inception, the BIA was to protect us and all assets especially the land where the trust is embodied, they did not. The BIA was supposed to provide the best beneficiary services and wealth management, they did not. We were land and naturally resource rich and yet we were cash poor. The BIA cannot give us an accurate accounting of all our funds taken from our lands and yet they continue operations without consequence. These nationwide assignments nationwide gave me a great experience in many

administrative, financial and management systems operated by employees of many characters.

My BIA assignments gave me great experiences in providing the monitoring and oversight of numerous tribes across this Country who contracted "638" programs, tribal administrative and management systems, meeting with many Tribal Councils and financial business transactions. There were good systems and bad systems and I learned the difference of working to improve them for the common good of tribal communities.

IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT GOVERNMENT

We are an IRA Tribe or Indian Reorganization Act Nation in which our tribal Government operates under a Constitution. We are now a Nation of many written laws. There is no perfect government, constitution, tribal council, tribal council person or decision. When a General, Tribal Council or tribal election vote is taken it is approved by a majority vote for the common good of the community. Not all tribal voters or citizens will be happy with a majority vote but it is progress creating a better government for the common good.

Aside from federal contract and grant funds into this Nation, we have generated other revenue to create more tribal benefits by funding more programs, services, per capita. As our population grows or if our blood quantum should change then we must plan to do more to prepare for those increases.

We have amended tribal codes, changed policies and procedures. We have purchased fee and fractionated interests and transferred to the tribal land base thereby increasing our tribal income from leasing and sale of leasing and crops.

Over the past 4 years, the Nation has moved forward in many ways.

We approved an Agreement with the Cobell Land Buyback Program using \$5,145,493 (non-tribal money) purchasing 3,290 equivalent acres for the Nation.

We have made progress on the Shabehnay project and are closer now than ever before to establish a gaming facility on our Illinois reservation. If approved, this will add new money to the Nation.

We have had many town hall meetings discussing our enrollment issues that will affect our future, tribal resources and all tribal benefits and services.

We have approved an agreement with the VA for veterans to build homes on trust land.

We have approved a Direct Care Services Reimbursement Agreement between Dept of Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System VA Healthcare System and the PBP Nation.

We have approved a Tobacco Compact with the State of Kansas.

Moving Forward

Once again, the Nation is at having another Tribal Council Election. I just hope that if there is a change that we still continue to have improvements and success, without losing business momentum, in moving this Nation forward.

We are having an election with many that have many ideas, different ideas, new visions, and different ways of improvements in the community.

PBPN have come a long way as a Nation and we have created a multi-million dollar business, we have become business partners with County and State. We have participation in national Indian organizations, we have made constant contact with our Congressional representatives, and we have shown our government trustee-delegates that we can operate independently of them.

This Nation is educating many and they are acquiring outside business experience and knowledge of new world technology.

We may have a change in tribal leadership but my hope is that we continue to move this Nation forward.