



MODOC NATION

22 N. Eight Tribes Trail
Miami, Oklahoma 74354
918-542-1190 • FAX 918-542-5415

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding Tribal Enrollments

FROM THE OFFICE OF CHIEF BILL FOLLIS.

Today, the Enrollment Committee met to hear the results of the independent enrollment audit conducted by WIPFLI LLP and was dismayed to find that an unacceptable number of enrollment applications forwarded to the Enrollment Committee by the Tribal Registrar contained irregularities, inaccuracies, and incomplete information. The Enrollment Committee took careful consideration in making its decision to approve the enrollment for those applications that were properly completed and submitted. Enrollment applications that were not properly completed or reviewed by prior serving Tribal Registrars were remanded to the current Tribal Registrar for further processing.

I want to reassure our potential members that the Enrollment Committee did not take final action to disapprove any of the improper enrollment applications or disenroll any tribal members. On remand, each person will have a full opportunity to work with the Tribal Registrar to ensure that his or her application is complete and properly reviewed to determine whether the person is eligible for enrollment.

Under my leadership, the Modoc Nation is following a thoughtful, considered, and objective process for reviewing enrollment applications. After it was discovered that many enrollment applications were not finally approved by the Enrollment Committee, and an internal review found problems with some applications, the Modoc Nation took immediate steps to engage an independent auditor to examine all enrollments so that our review of the applications would be based on objective criteria. I understand that such an extensive review can be disruptive to our community, but it is necessary to ensure the integrity of the Modoc Nation.

The Annual Meeting and election of the Elected Council is scheduled for August 6, 2022. The Modoc Nation will hold those elections, and all fully enrolled members will be eligible to vote.

At my request, the Enrollment Committee will hold at least one more meeting prior to the elections on August 6, 2022, so that those individuals who are able to correct their enrollment applications may do so and be fully enrolled and eligible to cast a vote. The Tribal Registrar will notify each person whose enrollment application was remanded by the Enrollment Committee about what additional information is necessary to complete the application and provide timely review.

Additionally, I have learned that some potential members will seek to enjoin the Modoc Nation from continuing the process for ensuring they are qualified for enrollment by requesting intervention from a court that is not part of the Modoc Nation. The Modoc Nation has a Tribal Court currently led by Judge Jack Shadwick, who was appointed following the resignation of Judge Gina McGaughey earlier this year. Judge Shadwick in turn has appointed local attorney Marsha Harlan to serve as Special Judge to preside over tribal disputes pending the election of a Tribal Judge on August 6, 2022. Because Modoc Nation is a sovereign nation, the Tribal Court is the only judicial body capable of addressing internal membership issues. Any person who believes that he or she has a legal claim should file their complaint in the Tribal Court.

Finally, please ensure that the tribal offices have your current contact information to expedite this process. I ask that the community has patience with the Tribal Registrar's office, so that they can focus on working with individuals to complete applications. There are many enrollment applications to correct, and the Tribal Registrar will work diligently on each application.

Thank you, again, for your patience. It is and has been my honor to serve as your Chief.

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