



NAKOTRIN E-HADEYES

The Official Newsletter of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana

Volunteers Needed!

The tribe needs your help! Volunteer to help lead our tribe into a new era of prosperity and recognition. There are immediate openings for: Communications Director, Events Director, Grants Director, Graphics Designers, Web Developers, CPA, and Tax Specialists. Please review the posting on the tribe's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AdaiCaddoNDNZ>



Website Update

COMING SOON! The tribe's website is under construction. The website will be available in Q1 of this year and will include important announcements, records, and other information for the public and members.

<https://www.adaination.com/>

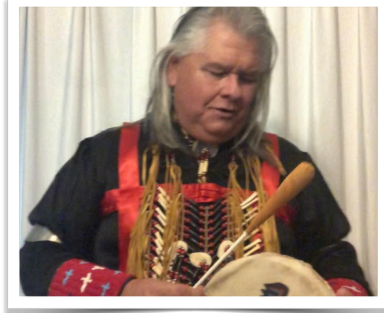


25th Annual Powwow

The powwow was a huge success bringing thousands of attendees from all over the country!

The tribe thanks each of our council and committee leaders and volunteers for their hard work and participation in making this happen: Charlene Conarro, Cathy Behrens, Darrin Fentress, Calvin Rosalies, Monica Hudson, Mary Page. A special thanks to our treasurers Ralph Davis & Rose Davis, and also to the many volunteers (both appointed and those who were volunteered)! We could not have done this without each of you jumping in where needed!

The tribe recognizes and deeply appreciates Debbie Garrett and Marty Johnson for spending several days (and quite a bit of their money and sweat) getting the Cultural Center, electrical service, and grounds prepped.



A message from our Chief

Brothers and Sisters,

When I accepted this role as your Chief, I started right away trying to figure out how to unite us all and to pick up where my father left off to accomplish the mission set forth by him and the Elders of this tribe. It took some uncovering to realize that the movement and status that he established, had become bigger than him, especially in the state that he was in the last few years of his life. We the Adai have been in a dormant state for several years. On the verge of losing what ground they have gained in state and federal recognition. But I am proud to tell you, today, that we are back on the road that was provided for us by my father. Thanks to the help, determination, knowledge and experience of your great Tribal Council! This council is seeing and accomplishing the same vision my father had for all of us! The WHOLE Tribe! We are creating a beacon for those of us still out there across the world, that have not yet realized they came from us! We are building and reclaiming a place that, the very red dirt, that our ancestors farmed, hunted, *(continued on next page)*

To our Powwow Officials & Drummers: Herb "Chickdog" Johnson, Roland Thompson, Jason Rivers, James Sepulvado, Mary Rivers, and The AC Woodland Singers - It was an honor to have you at the powwow. The tribe is so grateful for your support in the arena!



Service Awards

At the December tribal council meeting, 3 annual awards were authorized for the tribe. The awards are for members whose volunteer, community, or professional achievements distinguish them and the tribe. Awards will be presented at either the powwow or the annual meeting. Recipients' photo and writeup will be posted on the website.

The Chief Rufus Davis Jr. Award for selfless service to the tribe by any member whose actions have gone above and beyond; greatly benefited or protected the tribe; and honors the sacrifices, service and memory of Chief Rufus Davis Jr. The award includes a complimentary lifetime membership and is awarded by the Chief.

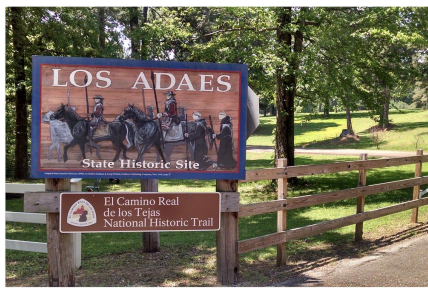


The Tribal Council Award for selfless service to the tribe by any member whose service has benefited the tribe. The award includes a complimentary 3-year membership and is awarded by the tribal council.

The Council of Elders Spirit Award for selfless service to the tribe by any member under the age of 22 whose service demonstrates the spirit of the Adai people. This award includes a complimentary 3-year membership and is awarded by the Council of Elders.

traded, worshipped and raised their families on! A place where our descendants can bring their children's children to and say "your blood comes from this very ground you're standing on since time immemorial ". Brothers and Sisters, we must pull together in unison, because I know that so many blessings are coming to the Adai Caddo, that we are going to have to hustle to catch them all! I pray to ride off in the sunset one day, knowing that we have accomplished this, and for my own personal prayer, that my Father's legacy may live on! Long Live Chief Rufus Joseph Davis Jr!

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Learn our language

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Adaizan is the language of the Adai people. A grant-funded program is underway to revitalize and share the language based on the study of historical government documents that recorded several hundred Adaizan words in the early 1800's. The tribe is indeed fortunate to have a professionally trained linguist within its membership ranks leading the effort. To hear and learn more visit: <https://www.youtube.com/@AdaizanLanguage>

Adai appointed to the Native American Commission

Please join me in congratulating Vice Chief Debbie Garrett for her recent appointment as Secretary of the Louisiana Office of Indian Affairs Native American Commission.

Each month, Debbie drives to the Governor's office in Baton Rouge to attend the commission's meetings as the tribe's representative. She works closely with other state- and federally-recognized tribes and government officials. She represents our people with honor and distinction. Her appointment to the commission's board is a testament to her selfless service and astute leadership.



The commission's purpose is to advise the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs regarding issues pertaining to Native Americans, identify the needs and concerns of the Native Americans in Louisiana, establish criteria for state tribe recognition and recommend criteria to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the legislature for adoption and implementation, review applications for the Office of Indian Affairs Scholarship and recommend scholarship awardees to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, promote Native American culture, awareness, and education across the state, promote Native American Heritage Month in Louisiana and conduct a comprehensive review of all state departments and agencies to identify obstacles to the effective delivery of governmental services by all service providers at all levels of government to Native Americans, propose methods for removing those obstacles, and submit such proposals to the appropriate governmental entities.





HELP the TRIBE!

The tribe is in desperate need of volunteers especially for leadership positions including tribal officer and director positions.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✦ Member in good standing
- ✦ At least 18 years of age
- ✦ No state or federal felony convictions
- ✦ No bankruptcy filings in the past 5 years
- ✦ Access to and proficiency in using the internet, computer, printer, smart phone, email, and social media
- ✦ Ability to commit a few hours per week
- ✦ Work from home!



Membership

It's that time of the year to renew memberships. Renewal forms will be on the website and sent via email. Applications for new members will be available on the website and on Facebook.

Eligibility Requirements: In order to become a member, applicants shall satisfy all of the following:

- ✦ Documented and traceable blood line to the Adai tribe
- ✦ Submit an application and be approved for membership by the Chief or the tribal council
- ✦ Pay the enrollment or membership fee
- ✦ Cannot be a member of another Native American tribe

New Applicants: New applicants shall pay an enrollment fee, which includes their annual membership dues if their application is approved, per the following schedule:

- ✦ Applicants 0-21 years of age: \$10
- ✦ Applicants 22-61 years of age: \$25
- ✦ Applicants 62 years of age and older: \$10

Renewal: Renewing members shall pay a non-refundable annual processing due to help defray the administrative costs:

- ✦ Members 0-21 years of age: \$10
- ✦ Members 22-61 years of age: \$25
- ✦ Members 62 years of age and older: \$10

Lifetime Membership: A member in good standing shall have the option of purchasing a lifetime membership:

- ✦ 0-10 years of age: \$100
- ✦ 11-21 years of age: \$200
- ✦ 22-61 years of age: \$400
- ✦ 62 years of age and older: \$100



Membership Dues Waiver: Membership dues for the subsequent year may be waived by having attended events or provided volunteer service to the tribe in an approved role within the current year. In order to be eligible, the member shall complete the membership dues waiver section of the membership application.



Securing the next chapter of the Adai...

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held in December at the Cultural Center. Attendees from several states were in attendance. Old friends and families were able to reconnect, share stories, and create new memories. Thank you to everyone that prepared food and assisted with meeting preparation and clean-up.

The main agenda item was the restated Articles of Incorporation, which passed by a majority vote. This was an important accomplishment as the tribe was noncompliant in several areas. The state deemed the tribe was "not in good standing". The tribe was at risk of having its articles and ability to operate revoked. This would have been devastating not only for our current state-recognition but future federal-recognition efforts.

The restated articles and other required documents have been filed and accepted by the Louisiana Secretary of State. The tribe thanks Robert Brevelle for drafting these documents and working closely with the state to ensure the tribe's compliance with all regulations.

With these issues resolved, the tribe is well positioned to tackle other longstanding objectives such as securing our ancestral burial grounds, partnering with the National Park Service to oversee our ancestral village, and obtaining grants to help with cultural programs, college scholarships, and other member benefits.

Grants

The tribe is eligible for grants to assist with cultural classes (language, dance, history), scholarships, healthcare, and other programs that would benefit members. The grants are from Federal, State, and Local governments, nonprofits, universities, historical societies, and other organizations. The tribe needs anyone with grant writing experience or an interest in learning how to research or write grants to contact Tribal Councilman, Boyd Ocon: (boyd@adaination.com).

Calendar of Events

- March 2, 2024
 - ◆ Tribal Council Meeting
- May 12, 2024
 - ◆ Mother's Day at St. Anne Cemetery
 - ◆ Tribal Council Meeting
- October 19, 2024
 - ◆ Powwow
- October 20, 2024
 - ◆ Annual Meeting
 - ◆ Tribal Council Meeting

(tribal council meetings are open to members)

Nonprofit Charitable Organization



Another benefit of the the tribe achieving "good standing" is our 501(c)(3) status. The tribe is officially a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and able to receive tax-deductible contributions. This also allows us to receive grants for education, cultural and language programs, medical, emergency management, and other services that will benefit our members and the local community.

This was no small task. The tribe appreciates the hard work and diligence of Tina Nicole Fentress, Boyd Ocon and Robert Brevelle.



About:

The Nakotrin e-Hadeyes (*Adai Thunder*) newsletter is a publication of the Adai Caddo Nation of Louisiana. If you have news to share, please contact Dee@adaination.com.

Editor:

Robert Brevelle (interim)
Looking for volunteer!

Graphic Designers:

River Toby
Looking for volunteers!

Photographers:

Ben Garrett
Looking for volunteers!

Contributors:

John Mark Davis
Dee Niette Thompson
Tina Nicole Fentress
Robert Brevelle



Donors

We appreciate each and every one of our donors and we wouldn't be where we are without their support. The tribe relies heavily on donors and their gracious gifts.

Advanced Cosmetic Techniques

110 University Pkwy Natchitoches, LA 71457

A'nala Salon

105 Williams Ave Natchitoches, LA 71457

Dark Woods

4343 University Pkwy Natchitoches, LA 71457

Hair Bar

123 South Drive Natchitoches, LA 71457

Maglieaux's

805 Washington Str Natchitoches, LA 71457

Mama's

608 Front Street Natchitoches, LA 71457

Southern Belle Salon

510 University Pkwy Natchitoches, LA 71457

Speedy Pete's

226 Keyser Av Natchitoches, LA 71457

Green Acres

836 Keyser Ave Natchitoches, LA 71457

TJ's on the River/T Johnny's Seafood

5811 LA-1 Bypass Natchitoches, LA 71457

Plantation Treasures

720 Front Street Natchitoches, La 71457

Southern Keepsakes

Pleasant Things by Brenda

Lulu's Creations

Monica Hudson