

Cherokee Community of the Inland Empire  
P O Box 8055 Riverside, Ca. 92515-8055  
cherokeecommunityie.org  
ccie@cherokeecommunityie.org  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**10/17/09 1:30 PM - 3:45 PM**

**Location: Sherman Indian High School**  
**9010 Magnolia Ave.**  
**Riverside, Ca. 92503**  
**Bennett Hall**

Attendees: Adults - 48                      Youth – 12

Wendi welcomed members and visitors. The following announcements were made:

- Membership Dues – a reminder to renew your membership. Please talk to the Membership Coordinator Yvonne concerning your dues. These are hard times for many of us; perhaps we could help you with your renewal.
- Language Class – is going great and ends at the end of October. Class members are interested in meeting after the class is over to continue speaking Cherokee. Contact Wendi for more information. The next Cherokee Language Class session will begin in January. Date to be announced by flyer and on the CCIE website.
- The new CCIE T-Shirts with our new logo have arrived. T-Shirts are \$20.00. Sizes 2xl & 3xl are slightly higher. We still have CCIE Coffee Mugs for sale.
- 50/50 Drawing today
- Genealogy Circle – will meet sometime in October. Check the website for the date.
- Mary requested help from the community to work at the Potluck tables. Needed are helpers to set up, receive and organize the food and help clean up.
- Cookbook project – Wendi announced recipe forms are available at the Welcome table to use to submit your favorite recipe for our cookbook. Please fill out the form and give to Wendi.
- Bill and Anne have provided a sign up sheet to make Gourd Rattles. There will be a trip to get the gourds before making them.
- Darlene brought free yellow ribbon car stickers that were supplied by the Cherokee Nation. The yellow ribbons are in support of our U.S. Troops and contain the seal of the Cherokee Nation in the middle.

All attendees were invited to read “The Lord’s Prayer” and sing “Amazing Grace” in Cherokee.

Some members and visitors accompanied the community with drums and rattles as everyone sang the Cherokee “Morning Song”. This was followed with two more songs.

Members, visitors and youth were invited to come up front and practice our Cherokee words and phrases with Wendi.

### **Cherokee Nation Picnic**

The picnic was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Will Rogers State Park in Pacific Palisades. Many CCIE community members attended. Principal Chief Chad Smith gave a brief version of his State of the Nation speech that he gave in Tahlequah, OK during the Cherokee National Holiday. Also attending were some of the members of the Cherokee Nation Youth Choir, singing in the Cherokee language.

Council Member Theresa presented the Chief with a 1/4 portion of the White Eagle Corn CCIE members had grown. The corn seeds were given out at the 2008 CN Holiday with Chief Smith encouraging everyone to grow the corn and bring back a portion to the Cherokee Nation. Theresa related how very touched Chief Smith was that CCIE had actually grown the corn and presented it back to the Cherokee Nation.

Shortly after the picnic, the CCIE Council received a letter from Chief Smith addressed to the CCIE Officers(Council) and Members. The letter honored the quality of all leadership within our community; and, the dedication, participation and contributions made by all CCIE members to secure the success of our CCIE community. As an At Large Community, the Cherokee Nation expressed it's "gratitude and appreciation" to the Cherokee Community of the Inland Empire!

### **Holiday Food Drive**

Cassie announced the CCIE Food Drive has begun. Food donations are needed as well as help in organizing and distributing food baskets for the Holiday season. Flyers will be at the November and December meeting and can also be printed from the CCIE website. Bring your non-perishable food items to the General meetings. Cassie also stated money donations or gift certificates will be accepted.

Contact Cassie at the CCIE email address for further information.

### **Coat Drive**

Bill announced CCIE is collecting coats, hats, scarves, gloves, etc. to send to the Cherokee Nation.

Please bring your items to the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Bill and Patty will collect them all and mail them to the Cherokee Nation for those in need.

### **Great New Moon Ceremony**

Wendi provided informative facts and aspects about this Cherokee Ceremony and Beliefs held every October. This beginning of the Cherokee New Year is determined by seasonal changes and requires particular ceremonial processes: hunting, dancing, purification, sharing of food and religious practices. Within all aspects of the Great New Moon Ceremony, the spiritual leaders were actively involved and guided each part of the ceremonies, making it the most profoundly religious ceremony of them all.

The ceremony was concluded by the rekindling of the Sacred Fire.

Following the blessing of the food by Singing Bird, our Elders were invited to begin the Potluck line.

At the conclusion of our meal, Singing Bird, along with other CCIE members and visitors sang songs with drums and rattles.

Our craft projects continued with the Tear Skirt project and making clay beads. While some created with our crafts, others enjoyed fellowshiping and getting to know each other.

With the main help of Brenda, Kim and Star, the potluck clean up went very fast and efficiently!

Our next CCIE General meeting will be Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1pm at Sherman Indian High School. See the CCIE website to print a flyer.