



# "The Tawodi"

Newsletter ~ October / November 2008

*CCIE: Cherokee Community  
of the Inland Empire*

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*O'siyo ʁRʁᵂᵂ*

## SUMMER TRIP: Back for the 56<sup>th</sup> Cherokee National Holiday

O'siyo, nigada, here is a picture of Theresa Payne, Gina Alesi, my daughter Shauna and I standing in front of the National Holiday poster at the Cherokee Complex in Tahlequah (in Oklahoma).

We had THE best time ever. We saw so many wonderful things and had so many wonderful experiences.



We went to an intertribal powwow and saw Chad Smith (Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation) dance. We went to a Stomp dance and got to participate in the most wonderful and awesome of Cherokee experiences. Shauna and I spent one day waiting for a replacement rental car, but the others saw the Cherokee parade in Tahlequah and heard (and recorded) the State of Nation speech given by Chad Smith, Principal Chief.

We also got to participate in the Cherokee games and cultural doings. Theresa made Cherokee baskets. Theresa, Shauna and Gina learned how to make corn husk dolls. Gina and Shauna shared in the doing and making of blow guns. The BEST time ever.  
~ Wendi Wright

"My trip to Tahlequah was very enjoyable with all the events I loved the Gospel singing & hearing the Cherokee national Youth choir singing in Cherokee with their whole hearts into it & the since of family. And I look forward to experiencing the same feelings with our Cherokee community here in California."

~ Carol Husband



**The Unity Fountain:**

It represents the physical continuity of the Cherokee Nation over the course of time - from our beginning in our ancient homelands before the Trail of Tears, up to today. Experiencing this 1st trip to Tahlequah with my daughter Kristin, will always be a life event in my memories!

~ Gina Alesi

**The State of the Nation Address:**

Principal Chief Chad "Corn Tassel" Smith helped present the historic original flag of the Cherokee Nation. It was created in the late 1960's and now returned to the Cherokee Nation.

Kristin Fuentes Gina Alesi Shauna Wright is shown with blow gun at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Okla. Next Year several CCIE members plan to return for the next Cherokee National Holiday.



**NOTES from the COUNCIL:**

I am so excited that our newsletter is back on track after our June elections. It is a great avenue for our community to share activities, achievements, future events and to thank those who have helped in all of the numerous ways needed. To have the honor of sharing the first \*Notes\* section with this community is very humbling. It brings me back to my first meeting of CCIE and the promise of being able to learn, honor and celebrate my heritage with fellow Cherokees in a community that was supported by the Cherokee Nation, was revolutionary. This was the first time in the history of the Cherokee people that those who lived outside the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation were reached out to by the Nation. Like many of our community I have always known that I was Cherokee and knew my family history well. I have never thought of myself as other, it simply was a part of me and my family. Participation in the CCIE history committee, CN history course and attending the CN National Holiday celebration, gave me the insight that our history is not only the facts from the past. Rather it is strongly written in the people themselves. This point was driven home to me when I was in the Tahlequah cemetery before my great-great-great-grandmother\*s grave knowing that she survived the Trail to settle in the area. For each of us there are similar stories, which we carry forward from our ancestors. The history of the Cherokee people is vibrant and living in each of us. I hope that we can begin to share these histories with each other in our community. For each of us have a story to tell and all have much to learn.

Wado, ~ Theresa Payne, Chairperson

**Powwow CCIE Booths:**

When we have a booth at the powwows, come join us in support of CCIE and enjoy the crowd. It is amazing and awe inspiring. If you are looking for materials to make rattles, drums, just about anything, chances are they will have it.

CCIE had a booth at the San Manuel Powwow of Oct. 10-12 weekend. We were there all three days.

We also will have a table/booth at the Pecan Festival at the Louis Rubidoux Nature Center in Jurupa on Saturday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. located at 5370 Riverview Drive, off of Limonite Ave.

**Members: Please feel free to join & help the Committees out.**

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*Brother Bear Drum group with Singing Bird visited us in August & September and everyone had a fantastic time.*

**Kids Korner** ~ Anne Steinman - The children were introduced to the new Youth Activities Coordinator, Chris Steinman. Along with coloring Native American pictures, they were treated to a special project working with leather, putting it on a ring and adding beads, making a key ring to take home. After some intense working on their projects, they went out to the yard and played Rabbit in the Hole, Hoop and Darts with some general all out fun. All the children were winners and came home with prizes.

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**OCT. Meeting:** Youth Craft - River Cane Flute-making. Bring your own flutes to join in the sing. Other Crafts - Theresa Payne is making Corn Husk Dolls. This is also Harvest Time and Cherokee New Year.

**NOV. Meeting:** Craft - a Booger Mask. Also: Special speakers: (Traditionalists) from the Cherokee Nation are coming out to speak.

**Thanksgiving Dinner and Coat Drive ~ Nov. 8**

This year, another Cherokee Community group, "Tsa-La-Gi L.A.," has partnered with the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah to provide coats for those who may not be able to afford a winter coat. They are asking if you have used coats you can spare, please bring it to the dinner. Call Pam Robbins at: (805) 241-1979 if you have any questions or want more information.



*Our new drum ~ "Lady Hawk" led by Shauna Wright*



*At the last CCIE Meeting ~ Speakers from the Cherokee Nation ~ Roy Hamilton, Gene Norris-Genealogists; Secretary of State-Melanie Fourkiller Knight; and historian Julia Coates.*

**Changes in Committee Chairmen:** History: Sandra Ochoa ~Youth Activities: Christopher Steinman

**Next Meetings & Potlucks:** Oct. 18 & Nov. 15, from 1-4 p.m. ~ every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of Month at Sherman Indian High School, located at 9010 Magnolia Avenue in the city of Riverside at 92503. Go to the Guard gate on Jackson Street & follow the signs to Bennett Hall at the back and far side of campus.