

# Mt Hood Cherokees

## 2017 Election

# Talking Leaves



February 2017

### ELECTIONS EDITION

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## Cherokee Government

by Bryan Jackson

After the last Cherokee detachments arrived from the Trail of Tears in the new Indian Territory in March of 1839, the people set about building a new government. On September 6, 1839, the new Cherokee Nation adopted its constitution, the preamble of which read:

The Eastern and Western Cherokees having again re-united, and become one body politic, under the style and title of the Cherokee Nation: Therefore,

We, the people of the Cherokee Nation, in National Convention assembled, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, promote the common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of freedom acknowledging, with humility and gratitude, the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in permitting us so to do, and imploring His aid and guidance in its accomplishment--do ordain and establish this Constitution for the government of the Cherokee Nation.

Certain contingents within the Cherokee community, from both Old Settlers and newly-arrived Eastern Cherokees, moved rapidly to ensure that John Ross was re-elected. Many Cherokees were still sick and some were dying as a result of the difficult journey and although pressing issues such as building cabins and finding food and water were among them, the Cherokees also wanted the political stability they once enjoyed in the east. Ross's education, wealth, and power helped solidify his re-election and the adoption of his views for many years to come.

Let's face it, Cherokees vote for some of the same reasons other Americans do: freedom, independence, and responsibility for self and tribe. A lot has happened since those early days of John Ross and the many chiefs subsequent, including the election of Wilma Mankiller in the west in 1985 and Joyce Dugan in the east in 1995. And historic events like the election of women chiefs keep

happening because Cherokees—including satellite communities such as ours—have the right to freedom of choice to decide on representatives. The years from the Washington Treaty of 1846 to the Civil War are often called the “Golden Age” of the Cherokee Nation, but I wonder if we're not in fact living in one now based on the freedoms we have and our willingness to express them.

Each time the Mt. Hood Cherokees vote, we are in turn voting for the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation formed at New Echota in 1827, reestablished in Indian Territory in 1839, and reaffirmed in Tahlequah in 1975. Satellite communities such as Mt. Hood are akin to the original districts spread far and wide (such as Hickory Log, Etowah, and Aquohee) and our “head man” or “head woman” (council chairperson) *must* be elected if we are to continue as a functioning entity.

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## Cherokee Government

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The Cherokee concept of *gadugi*—working together to solve problems—is inherent in the election process itself, and calls us to act. **A quorum of fifty percent plus one (50% plus one) of the eligible voting members must be achieved for the election to be valid. Please keep in mind it is critical that all MHC members vote for our representatives. Wado!**

### SOURCES:

Coates, Julia. 2014. *Trail of Tears*. Santa Barbara: Greenwood.

Confer, Clarissa W. 2007. *The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War*. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press.

McCloughlin, William G. *After the Trail of Tears: The Cherokees' Struggle for Sovereignty 1839-1880*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

“The 1839 Cherokee Constitution,” accessed January 16, 2017,  
<http://www.cherokeobserver.org/Issues/1839constitution.html>

\*\*The 1827 Constitution of the Cherokee Nation may be accessed here:  
[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active\\_learning/explorations/indian\\_removal/cherokee\\_constitution.cfm](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/indian_removal/cherokee_constitution.cfm)

## Richard D York - candidate for RECORDS KEEPER

Richard D. York is a proud member of the Cherokee Nation. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Visual Studies degree from Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) Hallie Ford School of Graduate Studies. He was a recipient of PNCA's MFA in Visual Studies Merit Scholarship for 2012-2014. During his graduate studies Richard was awarded the 2013 Caldera MFA in Visual Studies Residency at Sisters Oregon. He recently had his paintings selected for publication in Volume Twenty-Five, the spring 2014 edition, of Studio Visit Magazine. He has also been honored to have his paintings selected on four separate occasions to appear on the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Emerging Artists blog. In June 2014 Richard was selected as featured artist for ARTE FUSE, a contemporary online art magazine.

Richard worked as a Medical/Public relations photographer for fourteen years, starting at the Portland VA hospital for 2 years and continuing at Oregon Health & Science University for 12 years. In 1996 prior to working at Oregon Health & Science University Richard graduated Cum Laude from Boise State University, receiving his Bachelor of fine Arts degree with a dual emphasis in painting and photography. Before going to college Richard served 4 years active duty in the US Army, where he was a Radar Control Operator for the Hawk system. He served two years of his tour in El Paso Texas and two years in Neuheilenbach Germany. Richard attained the rank of Sergeant / E-5 and was decorated with multiple ribbons and medals including Army Commendation Medal 1st oak leaf, Army Achievement Medal 1st oak leaf cluster, Overseas Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service, and Good Conduct Medal.

## David Crawford - candidate for COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

I have declared my candidacy for Council Chairperson in the 2017 Mt. Hood Cherokees Council Election and would appreciate your vote. If elected, I will support our mission to bring Cherokee history, culture, heritage, tradition and fellowship to our membership.

### **Personal**

Spouse - Sally Crawford, teaches piano.  
 No children (except Lulu, our miniature schnauzer).  
 Born in Michigan. Raised in Oklahoma and Kansas.  
 Bachelor of Music Education - Wichita State University.  
 Master in Professional Accounting - The University of Texas at Austin.  
 Music teacher.  
 US Air Force C-130 Navigator.  
 CPA - Arthur Young and Weyerhaeuser Company.  
 Board of Directors - Portland Youth Philharmonic & Woodstone Credit Union.

### **Cherokee**

Family from Nowata, Childers & Coody's Bluff, Oklahoma.  
 Ancestors were "Old Settlers" in the Cherokee Nation West.  
 Originally from Turkey Town (today, NE Alabama).  
 Became a Cherokee Nation citizen in 1995 after meeting Wilma Mankiller.  
 Extensive study about our Cherokee history and culture.  
 Attended the Cherokee Nation History Course, taught by Julia Coates,  
 in Seattle, Eugene & Portland.  
 Cherokee Warrior Award - 2015

### **Mt. Hood Cherokees**

Attended original MHC organizing meeting in 2010.  
 Served on MHC Interim Council and MHC Council for 5 years.  
 Participant in 2013 CCO Conference in the Cherokee Nation.

I have especially enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many new Cherokee friends through Mt. Hood Cherokees. Wado for your consideration.

## Brenda Mallory - candidate for TREASURER

Brenda Mallory grew up in Claremore, Oklahoma. She and her husband, Bruce Barrow, moved to Los Angeles where she attended UCLA. She been living in Portland for the last 25 years and has a daughter, Emma, who lives in Los Angeles. Brenda is a full time artist now, but until 2011 she also owned a small business with several employees. She was treasurer of Emma's elementary school PTA for several years. Bruce and Brenda now have grown their family to include Brenda's mom, sister, and two sweet grand nieces.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE MT. HOOD CHEROKEES**

**Mt. Hood Cherokees Meeting**

Presenting local Cherokee artists:

**Brenda Mallory and Richard York**

February 11, 2017 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship  
917 NE Shaver St. Portland, Oregon 97212

**Potluck. Everyone is welcome.**

Three MHC Council positions, including Council Chairperson, Treasurer, and Records Keeper, are up for re-election.

**MHC Election Timeline:**

Nov. 12: Form Election Committee (3 MHC members)

January 9: Declare Candidacy, Propose By-Law

Amendments (email Tom at: tomjanetcates@q.com)

February 10: Newsletter with Bios & Amendments

February 19: Ballots Mailed

March 10: Ballots Returned to Election Committee

March 11: Ballots Counted & Results Announced

**My vote is not valid unless you vote!**

Mt. Hood Cherokees must receive more than a 50% response for a valid election. Your vote really does matter. Please complete and return your ballot not only to share your voice, but also so the votes of your fellow MHC members are not invalidated.

**Mt. Hood Cherokees  
Newsletter  
February 2017**

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