



North Country Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow

Hosted by Anna Sunlight



March 30, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

Committee Members:

President/Treasurer:
Ed Littlefield

Host/Co-President:
Anna Sunlight Littlefield

Committee Chairperson:
Randy Luce

Co-Chairperson:
Ellie Luce

Committee Members:
William Wright
Jennifer Wright
Keith Richards—*new*
Teresa Richards—*new*

Master of Ceremonies:
Jim Augustine

Host Drum:
Bear Lodge Drum

Additional Drums:
Spirit of the People
Indian Bay Singers
Lone Wolf Singers
Rez Dog

All drum groups are welcome

Storyteller:
Donna Augustine

Story from the Powwow

Often we receive wonderful stories of thanks and happy experiences from the powwow. Margaret Allen is from Tuscon, AZ , she joined us recently for powwow and sent us this great tale of her experience with us.

I am Irish, Scots, English and Welsh, with a very small addition from a Native community somewhere in western PA from the early 1800s. All we really know about her is her name: Delight Champan, and the fact that the man she married lived in western PA. We know that she was said to have a beautiful singing voice. When I moved to the Southwest, I began a learning journey from the Tohono O'odham, Yaqui, Chihennai, White Mountain Apache, Navajo and Hopi communities. My journey included introduction to the pipe and sweat ceremonies. I'd experienced healing and greater spiritual awareness and felt a bond with the people from whom I learned. I developed a love for the desert, the strength of which I did not know until I left it during my three years as a traveling nurse.

My mother finished her earthly journey in the fall of 2003. The following July, I headed for Waterville, Maine for my first traveling nurse assignment. I grew up in the north and east and welcomed the forests across the country like old friends. Customs, food and the landscape in Maine were so familiar, yet I increasingly felt a little depressed from the loss of the openness of the desert and the loss of contact with my new circle of friends. I sorely missed the weekly sweat ceremonies and their healing power. Then, a new friend at my assignment told me of the powwow, and my charge nurse arranged my schedule so that I had that weekend off.

I wore the shirt and long skirt I had learned were a sign of respect for ancient customs. The first morning, when I arrived at powwow, I wandered the various tables and talked with the vendors. Yours was my first powwow and I had absolutely no idea what to expect. Surrounding the powwow grounds were the trees, reaching for the sky and rustling in the breeze. Each person with whom I talked was welcoming, provided information, explained important history of various objects.

Then, the drums began. I found myself drawn to the edge of the dance circle by some unseen Power as my spirit responded to the sound of the drums. Through the day, the drums and the songs reached deep inside of me. The wind picked up and the trees bowed with its passing. Eventually, the public was welcomed to join in the dancing, and I did so with joy and reverence. All through the first day I experienced tremendous healing from the combined losses of mother, desert, contact with friends. Yet, I had the sense that my mother and my new friends were right there with me at the powwow.

I returned the second day and discovered a sense of belonging that has lasted to this day. I am so grateful for the continued contact through this newsletter, and so grateful for the healing learning I experienced within the powwow. At the end of the fall, I returned to the desert, leaving it several more times before returning for an extended time here at home. Yet, each time I enter the lodge, each time I gather at the edge of the dance circle to listen to the drums and the songs, each of you is here with me, and the memory of that remarkable weekend remains constant.



Honor Guard—NCITPW 2007

If you or someone you know has a story that you would like to share with us, we would love to hear from you.

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Mother Earth has given this land to us to meet on. Let's keep the land beautiful for the next generation.

Powwow 2008

The 2008 powwow season is rapidly approaching. We hope that everyone has had a safe winter. Here at NCITPW we are working hard to make this years powwow a huge success. We have held two committee meetings over the winter and are pleased to welcome Keith & Teresa Richards onto the powwow committee. Their volunteer hours, ideas and hard work have not gone unnoticed and we are proud to welcome them to the team.

CONSTRUCTION: Modifications will be made to the trailer this summer including a deck for the front of the trailer, steps for the rear of the trailer, a good coat of paint, curtains, some electrical work and more. Additionally we hope to update the ticket booth at the front entrance to the grounds.

VOLUNTEERS: During the week of June 23-26, 2008 we are asking for volunteers to help with grounds clean-up, construction, painting, sewing, and more. Please contact Ellie if you can volunteer even a couple of hours during this week. Thursday night we will be having a barbecue to say thank you to all of those who came out to help.

SECURITY: Security will be present on the grounds and doing rounds after the grounds have closed to the public for the evening. If you notice anything out of the ordinary or have any problems, please come down to the trailer and alert a member of the powwow staff. Staff members will be readily identifiable in Tan t-shirts with the NCITPW logo.

FOOD: One of our food vendors—Deb Caldwell—will be adding some interesting new recipes to her fare this year to include Indian tacos, buffalo burgers and fried bread. We will also continue to have our pot-luck feast this year for all vendors and dancers. The time will be moved back to 6:30 p.m. to allow enough time to conclude the days activities before serving dinner. Please drop off any pot-luck offerings to the powwow trailer.

SHOWERS: Showers will again be available for a modest fee this year. Each person will be allowed 20 minutes total in the bathroom and will be required to present their money prior to entering. We heat the water via gas powered generator and will be unable to provide free showers with gas prices being as high as they are. Thank you for understanding.

ADMISSION: Anyone arriving after 11:30 a.m. regardless of whether they are a dancer, vendor or family member will be charged admission.

CONTRACTS: Due to the increased interest in vending spaces at NCITPW we will be limiting the number of vendor spaces this year to 25. Contract will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you arrive at NCITPW without a signed contract, we will be unable to accommodate you. Those contracts received after the 25 vending spaces have been assigned will be placed on a waiting list and notified if we receive any cancellations.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

February: Elroy Pomeroy
Roberta Noyes

March: Morning Star Wolf

Anniversaries:

Leslie Adkins & James Bitley

Membership

Membership applications to NCITPW will be available in May. Please do not hesitate to contact Ellie for an application. Membership applications are reviewed on a monthly basis.

Single Membership—\$10
Couple Membership—\$15
Family Membership—\$20

Membership fees directly benefit the maintenance of the grounds. Donations are welcome at any time.

NCITPW is always looking for new ideas, suggestions, drum groups, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments and/or ideas.

REMINDER

Under no circumstances should there be illegal drugs, firearms or drunkenness on powwow grounds. Visitors, campers or vendors who are suspected to be in possession of a firearm, are intoxicated or under the influence, will be asked to leave.