

OPINION/COMMUNITY NEWS

RE: YAN FEDERAL WATER SETTLEMENT.

By Vincent E. Randall

Letter to the Editor:

The Nation has been working towards a federal water settlement for as long as I can remember. Our first opportunity at getting a settlement ended up as an attempt by powerful groups within the state trying to shove a bad deal down our throat. That deal was rejected by the Nation in the 1970's. More recently, since 2012, we have gone back to the table to negotiate a good deal for our communities that will assure our children and grandchildren a clean, reliable source of water into the future. We cannot have a truly sustainable Homeland without a legally secure water supply.

The current tribal administration and our water team have been focused like a laser on the settlement, because it is critical to a healthy and economically sound Yavapai-Apache Nation. This is a complex and difficult negotiation, but in the end it will be worth it. One of the reasons we have had much greater success this time is because of the continuity of the water settlement team the Nation brought together. We have assembled a dedicated team of lawyers, an engineer, a researcher, technical people, the Tribal Chairman and Attorneys' General as well as other experts who are helping YAN make this happen. What seemed like a dream a few years ago is now looking like a reality. We hope to have a final version of the settlement legislation that is acceptable to the Nation completed within a year.

Many of you will remember the Indian Claims Commission from a few decades ago. That settlement awarded us compensation for the lands that were taken from us in the wars of conquest during the nineteenth-century. That settlement was about trying to right past wrongs with money. This settlement is about trying to make past wrongs right with water. There will be funding that comes with the settlement for upgrades to our existing water wells and delivery systems. There won't be any checks

going out to anybody, just the guarantee of clean water coming to Yavapai-Apaches for a hundred years.

We are looking at a future of more and more people coming to Arizona and the Verde Valley and a world with less and less water. Because of this we are also worried about the health of the Verde River. The River has become like a pie, everybody wants a piece of it. In the 1930's one of our Tribal Elders, Mary Sine, told her son David, "As long as the River flows, life will be good!" That wisdom speaks to us from over eighty years ago and it is as true today as it was then. An important part of the YAN water settlement will be keeping the River alive and flowing. These issues are of great concern to us because our Reservation is all that we have left of our Home Lands that we can still call our own and without a guaranteed supply of water the land is no good. As the ground water of the region is used up from over pumping our water settlement will be worth more than money. The government can print more money whenever they want, but they cannot make more water. You cannot drink money and we cannot use it to water our crops.

I have spent a lot of time thinking about this over the years and I know this much, water is life and the future is going to be about clean water. That is why I am informing the community, so you have the facts to be able to support our efforts in this final stretch to the finish line. This is one of those times we need to stick together for our children and their children. The hard legal work, scientific research and tricky negotiations are going on as you read this message. We will continue to fight for what rightfully belongs to the Nation, because in the future water will be more important to us than cash.

Vincent Randall
Tribal Elder and Water Team Member

Dear Davalene Flowers:

Let me take a moment to thank you- for your hard work, your commitment to the Yavapai Apache Tribal Housing (YATH) and your support of our community members. Your compassion to the community in ways of your time and talent, will never be forgotten.

May God bless your future endeavors.

Darlene Rubio
Vice Chair

Thank you!!

Happy Monday everyone, I just wanted to take some time to give a big "thank you" to everyone who lent a helping hand during the Diabetes Prevention and Awareness presentation. Genevieve Russell, Darin Smith and his crew, Nina Sanchez & Angelica from WIOA, our motivational speakers Mr. Steve Saffron and Mr. Steven Pattea. We will meet again next month on July 22, 2016 to present another Diabetes Awareness & Prevention to the second group of WIOA Summer Youth workers. Have a great day everyone! Oh and remember "This Kid is Good" aye!

Robin Hazelwood
YAN Diabetes Coordinator
Email-rhazelwood@yan-medical.org

Hey Grand Kids,

I know your July birthdays are soon to be here and I wanted to let you all know that your Grandma is thinking of you. A family is a gift that lasts a lifetime!! I miss you all and wish you all a good day when it comes to celebrating your day you are all special and forever will be.

Birthday Wishes for my Grandsons: MARLON A. ONTIVEROS & JULIAN RODRIGUEZ & COLTON A. COOK

Birthday Wishes for my Granddaughter: LAUREN R. ONTIVEROS, my daughter, Ticker Ontiveros, and niece Jodie Wathogoma.

Lots of Loves,
Grandma Andrea Wathogoma

Dear Newspaper:

I would just like to say....

Amazing job to the staff at PR for the continuous positive news our newspapers have been filled with..

I was almost in tears seeing some of the wonderful things that our tribe and tribal members are out there doing!

Keep up the great work!!!!!!

Nancy Ruiz, EPA Department

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Davalene for her years of service at Tribal Housing. She has led everyone by great example, with a dedication and work ethic that is to be admired. As she takes off for the eastern U.S., may she have a wonderful life!

Sharie Benson
Yavapai Apache
Nation Tribal Housing
Executive Director
928-567-4191

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Donald Smith; our Brother, Uncle, cousin and friend.

May God Bless you with many more.

Love always from your sisters, brothers, nieces & nephews.

Darlene Rubio

I want to wish my Awesome Son Ricky Gonzalez a very Happy 21st Birthday I am so proud of you Ricky Dink for being a good son and always helping your family in every way possible. We love you bunches Mijo... Your Awesome Mommy. Renee Gonzalez Omar Gonzalez, Jesenia Gonzalez
Renee Gonzales

I would like to give a Happy Birthday Shout Out for my three grandsons, Daylen, Daryle and Dewaun; you three have a very special place in my heart and I love you much! I have seen you grow up to be the world's finest gentlemen and a heart of gold. May your special day be full of surprises, family, friends, fun and lots of good food!! God Bless each of you with good health, happiness and peace.
Love G'ma Vida Smith.

Constitution committee grapples with blood quantum level for enrollment in the Nation

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

In May of this year and into June, a small group from the Constitution Committee began addressing the matter of blood quantum for enrollment in the Nation. Apphia Shirley, committee chairperson for the Constitution committee has been coordinating these meetings in Middle Verde council chambers to discuss other parts of the Constitution in addition to enrollment criteria.

With respect to a possible revision of the Constitution for enrollment which would require a secretarial election by the Bureau of Indian Affairs oversight, the Constitution committee authorized a community survey among all registered voters of the Nation living on-reservation and off-reservation. With a meager return of just over 100 respondents from a mail out to all registered voters of the Nation, Shirley said that the results are being reviewed.

Just after the Constitution committee had mailed out the surveys, the Enrollment Office and Enrollment Board came out with their own recommendation identified as "Option #4" as the Constitution Committee had recommended that respondents could also devise their own Option under "Option #4" besides Options 1-3 that were spelled out by the Constitution committee that were mailed out to respondents.

On June 13, the Enrollment Board and the Tribal Enrollment Office

wrote an Option #4 and mailed them out to every registered voter as a suggestion for enrolling new members. In acknowledging the survey sent out by the Constitution committee, the Enrollment office issued the following statement with the letter they sent out:

"The Yavapai-Apache Nation Enrollment Board and Tribal Enrollment office have received the options presented by the Constitution committee's recent survey. Based on what the Enrollment Board sees as a



Chairperson: Arlin Carlton
Secretary: Miriam White
Member: Peggy White
Member: Delores Plunkett
Member: Linda Evans

TO: Yavapai-Apache Members

The Yavapai-Apache Nation's Enrollment Board and Tribal Enrollment Department have reviewed the options presented by the Constitution Committee's recent Survey - you should have received by US mail.

Based on what the Enrollment Board sees as a need for change to the Constitutional requirements for Membership, or Article II, we are proposing our **Option 4**.

This will focus on tribal blood or Yavapai-Apache blood and require descendency from the Base Roll.

Proposed Option 4 - Article II, Sections 1-3 changes

Section 1. **Requirements.** The Membership of the Yavapai-Apache Nation shall consist of the following:

- All Persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the Base Roll (the official census roll) as of April 1, 1934, with the supplement thereto of January 1, 1936.
- All Persons who are at least one eighth (1/8) Yavapai-Apache Blood, and have at least one parent enrolled at the time of birth and are descendants of the Base Roll.

Section 2. Adoption (REMOVED)

Section 3. Proof of Paternity or Maternity

Proof of paternity or maternity established for purposes of tribal membership shall be established by credible evidence that an applicant for membership is the biological child of a member.

- Acknowledgement of Paternity
- Paternity or maternity established by any Court Order
- Scientific testing (DNA) reflecting a 99% or greater rate of probability

!!!!IMPORTANT!!!!

Be sure to return your surveys with YOUR choice for change

need for change to the Constitution requirements for Membership on Article II, we are proposing our Option #4."

The Constitution committee's survey with Options 1-3 and a blank space for Option #4 is included in

the following survey sent out by the Constitution committee.

In a subsequent interdepartmental communication that was sent by Apphia Shirley, committee chairperson for the Constitution committee to the Enrollment Office and Enrollment Board Shirley, Shirley stated that the "Constitution Committee has been working with the Enrollment Office and Board seeking suggestions and insight on the Constitution survey. Option #4 is designated to open for suggestions."

Since the Enrollment Office and Board's recommendation mailed out Option #4 to registered voters for consideration and suggestions, the Constitution Committee notes that both entities are working together on the Options being considered.

Option 1

Section 1. **Requirements.** The Membership of the Yavapai-Apache Nation shall consist of the following:

- All persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll as of April 1, 1934, with the supplement thereto of January 1, 1936.
- All Persons must be one eighth (1/8) Yavapai-Apache Blood

Section 2. Adoption [REMOVED]

Section 5. **Review.** Article II - Membership shall be reviewed in 50 years. [ADD]

Option 2

Section 1. **Requirements.** The Membership of the Yavapai-Apache Nation shall consist of the following:

- All persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll as of April 1, 1934, with the supplement thereto of January 1, 1936.
- All Persons must be one fourth (1/4) Yavapai-Apache Blood

Section 2. Adoption.

- Yavapai-Apache descendency to 1934 Base Roll of the Yavapai-Apache Nation

Option 3

Section 1. **Requirements.** The Membership of the Yavapai-Apache Nation shall consist of the following:

- All persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll as of April 1, 1934, with the supplement thereto of January 1, 1936.
- All Persons who are able to provide proof of descendency to the 1934 Base Roll of the Yavapai-Apache Nation

Section 2. Adoption [REMOVED]

Option 4

Mark the box of the Option you are in favor of:

Option 1 -

Option 2 -

Option 3 -

Option 4 -

Help Us Voice Your Opinion

Mail back by June 24, 2016
Yavapai-Apache Nation
ATTN: Constitution Committee
2400 W. Datsi Street
Camp Verde, AZ 86322