

Cherokee Community of the Silicon Valley

March 15, 2008

1:30 – 5:30 pm

Santa Clara City Library

Meeting called Dana Keys & Harold Doyle **Note taker:** Donna Wheelehan

Attendees: Present: Harold Doyle, Dana Keys, Gail Miller, Donna Wheelehan.

Minutes

Agenda item: Review/Approve Minutes from Last Meeting and Agenda for This Meeting **Presenter:** Harold Doyle

Discussion: Minutes from last meeting were approved.

Recap: March 15 Language and Genealogy Workshop

Eight people attended the workshop. Trina Gentry, President of the Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society (SCHGS), presented an overview of their organization, and provided information on upcoming workshops and recent additions to the library collection. Dana will be presenting on Cherokee genealogy to SCHGS on June 17. Trina also mentioned that access to the genealogy online databases, Ancestry.com (in the library only), Heritage Quest (in the library and from home), and New England Ancestors (in the library only) is available with a Santa Clara City Library card. (See <http://www.library.ci.santa-clara.ca.us/research.html> for more information.)

Dana made the following announcements:

- It is an exciting time for the Cherokee community groups. Cherokee Nation voted \$100,000 in support to the groups for this fiscal year. More money will be allocated for the next fiscal year.
- Cherokee Nation will be developing modules for the community groups to use for their general meetings. Ideas for topics are needed. The 2008-2009 meeting schedule will be planned based on which topics are of the most interest to CCSV members.
- On April 10 (as well as other dates), PBS will be broadcasting the program, "Bad Sugar," a documentary on diabetes and its impact on Indian populations (http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/hour_03.htm).
- Cherokee Nation still has the Cards for Kids program. Five cards featuring native artwork may be purchased for \$10. All proceeds benefit Cherokee children. (<http://www.cherokee.org/PressRoom/2472/story.aspx>)
- May 17 is the date for the Northern California Cherokee Community Groups potluck picnic to be held at Rush Ranch in Suisun City (http://www.solanolandtrust.org/o_l_rushRanch.php). A time has not been announced. More information will be posted on the CCSV website.

Dana presented on the Cherokee syllabary and taught the group some basic phrases in Cherokee. Cherokee Nation offers a free, online language course. Everyone was encouraged to take the course. The next session begins in April. Julia is working on getting a language course taught "live" at a time that is convenient to residents of California. More information is available at: <http://www.cherokee.org/SiteRegistration/>. You must register for the Cherokee Nation website in order to register for the language classes. Once registered, you can also sign up for a weekly email newsletter sent by Cherokee Nation.

Dana also demonstrated the Cherokee Radio Show that is available through the Cherokee Nation website <http://www.cherokee.org/Culture/Radio/Default.aspx>.

The remainder of the meeting was spent on searching various resources (both print and online) for genealogical information.

COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda item: **March 15 Workshop Debriefing** **Presenter:** All

Discussion: All felt that the information covered in the workshop was useful to the participants. Attracting people to attend though is still a problem.

Conclusions: Pros: The topics of Cherokee language and genealogy are of interest to participants. Dana provided a lot of valuable content at this meeting. Having Trina from SCHGS attend was also a plus.

Cons: Publicity is still spotty and attendance is not growing.

Now that CN will be providing financial support, publicity, and workshop modules, it is hoped that this will help increase attendance. Specifically, if CN will mail meeting fliers to all CN tribal members, more people may want to join CCSV. Another thought is to join forces with the Cherokee Society of the Greater Bay Area. Maybe one group for the entire Bay Area would be more successful. The May 17 picnic will be a great opportunity to generate more interest in CCSV and it's hoped that more people will become members.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Plan 2008-2009 Meeting Dates and Topics	Dana	Ongoing
✓ Get the word out.	All	Ongoing

Agenda item: **Harold's Position as Council Meeting Facilitator** **Presenter:** Harold

Discussion: Harold will be resigning as a council member at the end of this term. He will continue to be a member and is still interested in attending general meetings.

Conclusions: Harold's position will need to be filled. In addition, members are needed to fill other positions on the council. This is a continuing concern for CCSV. If more members join, we can recruit new council members.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Fill Harold's and other council positions.	All	Ongoing

Agenda item: **Membership and Financial Update** **Presenter:** Gail

Discussion: One participant became a member at today's meeting. Another donated \$10 to CCSV and may become a full member at a later date. (She will be out of town for the next several months and did not want to join at this time.)

The current balance is \$367.02. Dana has some expenditures for photocopying and supplies.

Conclusions: Dana will submit receipts for reimbursement.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Submit receipts to Tim for reimbursement.	Dana	ASAP
✓ Post Financial Report on website.	Gail	March 22

Agenda item: Cherokee Nation and Community Groups Bylaws **Presenter:** Dana

Discussion: Cherokee Nation has compiled a draft version of the bylaws for the community groups. Julia emailed them to all of us. In addition, a Board of Directors has been announced for the community groups. They are: Charlie Soap, Neil Morton, Fredia Vann, Jim Ketcher, and Patty Edgar.

Financial support is available for this and next fiscal year and Cherokee Nation would like the money to get spent. Julia told Dana that Cherokee Nation will pay for room charges for group meetings. More information should be forthcoming on how this money will be allocated.

CN will be doing more publicity for the community groups, including mailings to its members.

Dana found out from Julia that CCSV will not be held liable when we book rooms. Also, CCSV does not need to file income taxes.

Conclusions: All are excited about this new CN support for the community groups. A couple of the bylaws could be problematic for CCSV. One provision in the bylaws is that a minimum of 6 meetings need to be held each year. CCSV had originally agreed to coordinate 5 meetings per year. Is there any flexibility to the bylaws? Another concern is the bylaw that states that 60% of our members must also be CN tribal members. There was discussion that we could offer non-voting memberships to comply with the 60% regulation. We will need to watch our membership rolls to be sure we are in compliance.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Keep Julia informed of CCSV meetings and activities so that she can be sure they are publicized	Dana/Donna	Ongoing
✓ Check with Julia to see if there is any flexibility to the bylaws.	Dana	April 15
✓ Check with Julia for CN's insurance/liability coverage policy in writing	Dana	April 15
✓ Watch CCSV membership ratios to be sure 60% are CN members	Gail	Ongoing

Agenda item: Modules for Group Meetings **Presenter:** All

Discussion: Cherokee Nation wants to develop modules for the community groups to use for their general meetings. They are in need of ideas for topics.

Conclusions: The following topics were suggested:

- Trail of Tears
- Stomp Dancing
- Future Plans/Concerns of Cherokee Nation
- Cherokee Language
- Traditional Cooking/Foods
- Cherokee Dress
- Cherokee Music/Songs

Other ideas are to provide DVDs to show at meetings and/or speakers from Cherokee Nation. For example, Julia or Jack Baker could attend one of our meetings.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Email topics to Julia (with March meeting minutes)	Donna	March 21

Agenda item: CCSV Newsletter **Presenter:** Gail

Discussion: Aggie did a newsletter that was sent out with the flier for the March meeting. All agreed that it looked nice.

Conclusions: Gail stated that it was important to have the CCSV contact information, email, and website on the newsletter. She also had trouble trying to modify the newsletter. The group thought it may have been created in Microsoft Publisher, which is a program many people do not have. All agreed the newsletter should be converted to a PDF file before it's posted on the web or emailed.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Continue the newsletter.	Aggie	Ongoing
✓ Convert to a PDF file (need to email to Donna)	Donna	Ongoing

Agenda item: May 17 NorCal Cherokee Group Picnic **Presenter:** All

Discussion: Saturday, May 17, at Rush Ranch, Suisun City. Cherokees from the Northern Central Valley, Stanford University, and the Greater Bay Area community groups will also be attending with CCSV. A delegation of Cherokees from Oklahoma will attend and will provide a hog fry, stickball demonstration, and many other cultural activities, such as Cherokee marbles. It is not certain yet whether Principal Chief Chad Smith will attend. Also, a time has not been set yet.

All felt that this is a great opportunity for us to meet and recruit potential members of CCSV. We all agreed that it would be a worthwhile expense to have a professional-looking banner made for CCSV to use at this and other events. Gail suggested that we buy colored tablecloths (all the same color) to identify CCSV tables.

Conclusions: Dana agreed to contact Julia regarding:

- Time of the picnic
- Setup of the tables (will community groups each have their own section?)
- Can we get fliers for the picnic for us to send to our members?
- Will each community group be able to have an opportunity to recruit new members; e.g. make an announcement or be introduced?

Gail will get the tablecloths and banner.

All were encouraged to bring family, friends, and anyone with an interest in Cherokee culture.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Contact Julia regarding NorCal Picnic questions	Dana	May 1
✓ Have a CCSV Banner made	Gail	May 17
✓ Buy colored table cloths	Gail	May 17
✓ Get the word out	All	Ongoing

Next Meeting: May 17, 2008 -- TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Rush Ranch, 3521 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun CA 94533

Directions:

I-680 N (signs for **I-680/Sacramento**)

Partial toll road

Take the exit onto **I-80 E** toward **Sacramento**

Take the **CA-12 E** exit toward **Rio Vista/Suisun City**

Slight left at CA-12 E

Turn right at Grizzly Island Rd