

Cherokee Community of the Silicon Valley

January 19, 2008

1:30 – 5:00 pm

Santa Clara City Library

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

Attendees: Present: Harold Doyle, Aggie Fishel, 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: January 19 Genealogy Workshop

Eleven people attended the workshop, 5 council members and 6 new faces. Dana provided her personal collection of genealogy resources to use and a display board that explained the various rolls associated with Cherokee genealogy. Donna brought copies of actual Cherokee Census Packets and Miller Applications.

Everyone introduced themselves and described what names or family members they were searching and what resources they had used so far. Many have heard that they are Cherokee, but they are not officially enrolled with Cherokee Nation. Most participants found some record or mention of a family member and/or became acquainted with the various resources (both print and online) that can be used to search for information.

John Witt, with the American Indian Veterans Cultural Center, explained what services they offer and said that he would help spread the word about CCSV. The Center provides sweat lodges as well as other Indian ceremonies.

The following resources were recommended for Cherokee Genealogy:

- ARC – National Archives
<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>
- Access Genealogy Indian Tribal Records
<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/>
- Cherokee Lineages (James R. Hicks)
<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/i/c/James-R-Hicks-VA/index.html>
- Indian Pioneer Papers
<http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer/>
- Goingsnake Messenger (Newsletter)
(Subscriptions available from Talbot Library and Museum <http://www.talbotlibrary.com/>)

Agenda item: January 19 Workshop Debriefing **Presenter:** Dana

Discussion: All felt that the workshop provided useful information to the participants. Cherokee Nation sent out a mailing regarding all Northern California's community group events so some people came as a result of that. Others had read about it in their local newspaper. It was gratifying to know that the word is getting out, but none of the people who attended the November workshop came back to attend this one.

Conclusions: Pros: Publicity is getting out into the community and we are getting new people interested. Some of the attendees said that they would become members of CCSV. The best outcome was that CCSV was able to help people find and understand their Cherokee roots.

Cons: Although the Santa Clara City Library is a great meeting place, the room arrangements keep getting changed. We publicize the Redwood Room and then we get bumped and need to move to a different room. Also, the Cherokee Nation flier stated that the workshop was at 1pm and CCSV's flier stated 1:30pm. Because of a swim event that day, parking was horrible, too. Hopefully that did not discourage potential attendees from attending.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Confirm March 15 with the Library.	Dana	ASAP
✓ Continue to publicize in local newspapers.	Robert	Ongoing
✓ Get the March 15 workshop on the Library's and Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society (SCHGS) calendars, bulletin boards and websites.	Robert or Dana	Feb 12
✓ Get the word out.	All	Ongoing

Agenda item: Community Groups and Cherokee Nation **Presenter:** Harold

Discussion: Harold expressed concern that as a satellite group we are operating without the protection of the Cherokee Nation. If someone were to sue, who would back us up? When we reserve rooms, whoever signs the contract for the room is liable.

In Julia's email of November 25, 2007, she states that Cherokee Nation is still working on obtaining nonprofit status for the community groups. Once that is done, will Cherokee Nation be responsible for filing federal and state tax returns on behalf of the community groups. Until then, how should taxes be handled?

Conclusions: All agreed that this is an important issue that needs to be clarified by Cherokee Nation. Dana agreed to email Julia to obtain answers to the following questions:

- Is CCSV an official satellite of Cherokee Nation or are we our own club?
- When someone from CCSV signs a waiver for a room reservation, is the signer personally liable or is Cherokee Nation?
- Once CCSV is incorporated by Cherokee Nation, is our community group covered by Cherokee Nation Community Corporation's insurance?
- Can CCSV get a copy of the insurance policy?
- How rigid are the Charter requirements sent to us in Julia's email? Does CCSV have some flexibility?
- Does CCSV have to file a tax return or does Cherokee Nation file on behalf of all the community groups? Who pays the taxes?

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Email Julia for a response to the above questions.	Dana	ASAP

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

Discussion: The membership rolls remain the same, although we may get new members as a result of the January meeting. Gail and Dana have made some expenditures for photocopying, supplies, and stamps.

Conclusions: Dana and Gail will submit receipts for reimbursement.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Submit receipts to Tim for reimbursement.	Dana/Gail	ASAP
✓ Update the Financial Report.	Tim/Gail	March 15

Agenda item: CCSV Newsletter **Presenter:** Aggie

Discussion: The need for a newsletter was expressed. CCSV members need to feel that they are getting something for their membership dues and they need to receive the latest news on upcoming events and issues.

Conclusions: Aggie will put together a newsletter. The idea of combining the newsletter with the next workshop flier was discussed. All thought that would be a good way to get the newsletter started. Ideas for stories could come from the CCSV website. Write-ups on past meetings could also be included.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Put together the CCSV newsletter	Aggie	Feb 15

Agenda item: Value of CCSV Membership **Presenter:** All

Discussion: The value of CCSV membership was discussed. In order for people to join, they need to feel that they will get something of value from joining. The meetings, the website, and the newsletter are all benefits of membership.

In addition, the following ideas were proposed:

- Dana would do genealogy research, at no charge, for members. They could post their genealogy questions on the website and Dana will respond.
- Donna could provide assistance in ordering Cherokee Census Packets and Miller Applications from the National Archives and other sources.
- All council members could help members with the process of enrolling in Cherokee Nation and obtaining "the blue card."

Conclusions: All liked the idea of providing additional benefits as part of CCSV membership.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Publicizing these benefits in the newsletter.	Aggie	ASAP
✓ Publicizing these benefits on the website.	Dana	ASAP

Next Meeting: March 15, 2008 -- 1:00 – 4:30 pm

Santa Clara City Library
2635 Homestead Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
Phone: 615-2900

<http://www.library.ci.santa-clara.ca.us>

Upcoming Meetings: May 17, NorCal Cherokee Picnic

Location: TBD