

ASEPERMY EXIT LETTER

AS A MEMBER OF THE COMANCHE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

I was sworn into office as CBC No. 2 on May 30, 2007. My last day in office will be either shortly after the primary election on May 15, 2010 (if the candidate wins a majority vote) or after the run-off election on June 19, 2010. During the past thirty-six months I attended eighty-one regular CBC, Special CBC and reconvened CBC meetings and about one hundred sixty-seven other meetings with the Tax Commission, Gaming Board, Gaming Commission, Economic Development, Finley & Cook, the Comanche Nation College, Comanche Enterprises, Inc., Tribal Council, etc; That's 248 meetings - **only three meetings started on time**, too me this is a poor example for those that lead to those that follow. I **drove** my POV **about 31,190 miles** and received about **13,140 phone calls** and about **9,855 emails** of which a large majority was answered. I was paid **a salary of \$9,000** at \$250 per month regardless of how many CBC meetings were held and an **additional \$23,800 in stipends** from the Tax Commission (\$331 per monthly meetings), College Council (\$500 for 2 days of meetings quarterly for two years), Gaming Board (\$250 per monthly meetings), Liquor Board (\$250 per quarterly meetings) and Gaming Commission (\$250 per quarterly meetings). That's a total of \$32,800 or \$10,933 annually, \$911 monthly or about \$5.69 per hour if I was a full-time employee. Our Chairman's annual salary is \$100,000 and the Tribal Administrator's is \$78,000. In addition to scheduled meetings, I visited the headquarters, programs away from the complex and our casinos once to three times weekly. I worked with Wallace Coffey, Mike Burgess, Darrel Bread (for only one meeting as he was recalled), Ron Red Elk, "Bunky" Henson, Ed Tahhahwah, Robert Tippeconnic, Eddie Mahseet, Jenice Bigbee, Darrell Kosechequetah, Clyde Narcomey, Johnny Wauqua and Willie Nelson. All were elected by a majority of the people. These are all good men and women with thick skin, good intentions and a love of "Being Comanche". **My point is if you are considering getting into politics you must be willing to sacrifice your time and money not to mention accept criticism right or wrong.**

COMPENSATION OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Even with stipends added to our salary the Comanche Business Committee is the **lowest paid committee** when compared with other local tribes. The **annual salary of the Kiowa Business Committee is \$31,500** (or \$2625 monthly), the **Apaches \$36,000** (or \$3,000 monthly) and the **Fort Sill Apaches \$900 monthly**. In order to attract qualified candidates for office a salary ranging from \$36,000 (\$3,000 monthly) - \$60,000 (\$5,000 monthly) annually would probably get qualified Comanches to run for office. Of course this would mean the Business Committee would be basically day to day exempt salaried workers for the Nation. To make this happen **an amendment to the Constitution** would be required.

ETHICS

Why did I run for political office – for the same reason I spent over 24 ½ years in the military, to give back to the Nation. My grandparents embedded in me certain "rules" – **not to lie, steal or cheat** (and the military reinforced these "rules"). I may add to my "rules" – do not do anything **illegal or immoral**. As I leave office I have a clean conscious that I have not violated these "rules".

THE PAST

Former Vice-Chairman Ron Elk, who I think is one of the most honest men I have ever met, said after he got out of office **"We have gone through the "Dark Ages" from shortly before gaming provided us income in the late 1990's to 2006 and part of 2007"**. From what I have learned he is right. There were no audits for a number of years, many lawsuits because of poorly written contracts and ignorance, IRS debts because of poor gaming and government management,

little or no accountability of governmental or gaming monies, poor record-keeping, no accountability of our property, lands and leases, wasteful spending, poor land purchases, etc;

GAMING NUMBERS

The Nation owns **four casinos** – **Red River** near Devol, **Comanche** off Gore Blvd in Lawton, **Star** on the east side of Walters and **Spur** south of Richards Spur. These casinos are **PAID IN FULL**. We have, as of March 1, 2010, 2204 gaming machines. From 2004 through 2009 (six years) our net income (after all expenses are paid ie; pay-outs on the slot machines, employee salaries, maintenance costs, utilities, etc;) from all four of our casinos was **\$229,472,000**. I estimate we have collected **GROSS revenues of about \$2,300,000,000 (yes, that's a billion dollars) since 2004**. A breakdown of the **net income** for each casino is listed by year:

	Devol	Lawton	Richards Spur	Walters	Total
2004....	\$11,915,000	\$9,236,000	\$966,000	\$394,000 (loss)	\$21,723,000
2005....	\$17,839,000	\$8,955,000	\$1,641,000	\$13,000 (loss)	\$28,422,000
2006....	\$18,360,000	\$16,288,000	\$2,147,000	\$209,000	\$37,004,000
2007....	\$26,617,000	\$16,994,000	\$2,157,000	\$388,000	\$46,156,000
2008....	\$27,802,000	\$18,339,000	\$3,006,000	\$479,000	\$49,626,000
2009....	\$28,960,000	\$14,547,000	\$2,580,000	\$454,000	\$46,541,000
Total....	\$131,493,000	\$84,359,000	\$12,497,000	\$1,123,000	\$229,472,000

As you can see we have “leveled” off since 2007 basically because of a nation wide weak economy, saturation and competition (the Fort Sill Apache Casino in Lawton and the Kiowa Casino near Devol). **NOTE:** Based on the Gaming Board Financial Report from October 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 (a five month reporting period) our casinos show a **net profit of about \$18,022,000**.

INDIVIDUAL DISTRIBUTION OF GAMING NET PROFIT MONIES (PER CAP & ELDER PAYMENTS)

Distribution (about 40%), of these monies were paid as a **Per Cap** to Nation members in the amounts of:

- \$1,035.58 in 2005
- \$1,020.40 in 2006
- \$1,412.06 in 2007
- \$1,268.60 in 2008
- \$1,014.14 in 2009
- Total \$5,750.78**

In addition our elders, aged 62 years or older before year's end, received \$1,000.00 each from 2005-2009.

Total \$5,000.00

Each Nation member has received \$5,750.78 (minor's monies are put in an interest bearing trust fund) and **each Nation elder has received up to \$5,000.00** since 2005. Some elders have received \$10,750.78 since 2005. Distribution of our Per Cap payments depends on our **enrollment numbers** and the **net profit** of our Gaming. At the end of **December, 2004** our enrollment was **11,636 members** – at the end of **April, 2010** our enrollment was **14,753 members**, that's an **increase of 3,117 members** (about 21%) during the past five years. Since June, 2007 about **65% of our enrollees have been 1/8 blood quantum and only one, yes one, enrollee was 4/4 quantum**. I am most appreciative the Per Cap and Elder payments I have received.

AUDITS, LAWSUITS, IRS ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Our audits have been complete (2004 through 2008) and the 2009 audit is in progress with a completion date on/about May 31, 2010. The results of the audits are noted under AUDIT RATINGS on page 5. The majority of the lawsuits and the IRS debts have been settled (on page 4) thanks to the efforts of our law firm, Hobbs, Strauss, Dean and Walker. In addition, accountability of our gaming and governmental monies has improved drastically due to the efforts of our Gaming Board and Gaming Commission and the Gaming Board/Commission Sub-Advisory Committee (CBC) and efforts of our Certified Public Accountants, Finley & Cook.

TAX COMMISSION

Our **Tax Commission** has **collected**, from 2000-09, **\$24,975,000** in taxes from mostly vehicle tag and tobacco sales and oil & gas leases. They have funded a number of programs and at one time were our only source of revenue, other than Federal funding, the Nation had – they are a well-run and valuable asset to the Nation.

PROGRESS

Since June, 2007 the **Comanche Casino, in Lawton, completed a major renovation** and built a **new Smoke Shop** with hopes of increasing our revenue, a **Hope House** (used for housing domestic abused families), **Youth Shelter** (used for housing our abused children) and **Fire Station** (used for housing our Wild land Firefighters and Police Department) has been built. The **Business Center** (the old Elks Lodge used for housing our Gaming Board, Gaming and Tax Commissions) and the **Indian Child Welfare and Child Support building** (next to the Business Center) **have been renovated**. A **Smoke Shop warehouse has been established** at the Star Casino to cut the cost of tobacco distribution. **The Comanche Nation Gym (now known as Watchetaker Hall) has been renovated** to provide more room for our culture events and meetings. Numerous **physical improvements have also been made at the Comanche Nation College**. A **physical fitness center, in Lawton, was purchased and is in operation** – a Warrior Workout program has been established to assist with diabetes and obesity at the center. **Economic Development has added 4,000 square feet and eight office spaces to their building and a 6,500 square foot “Nations of Fun”**.

COMANCHE EMPLOYMENT

The Nation government employs over 241 people (about 76% being Comanche). Our casinos employ about 752 people (about 19% Comanche). **About 1068 people are employed (1173 when the Water Park is open)** by the Nation making us one of the largest employers in Comanche and Cotton counties. **About 40% of the employees are Comanche**.

FEDERAL FUNDS

The Nation, during 2009-10, also received about **\$13,612,000 in federal funds**.

PROPOSED PROGRESS

Proposed short and long range projects (in the next 1-5 years) include **building a larger casino (with paved parking) and a 85-100 room 3-4 star hotel** at the Red River Casino site at an estimated cost of \$32,000,000, building a **Events Center** at the Lawton Casino at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000, converting the Travel Center into a **Restaurant/Gift Shop** at an estimated cost of \$1,200,000 and constructing a **Travel Plaza** south of the Lawton Casino at an estimated cost of \$5,000,000. That totals \$44,200,000. Now the decision to do these projects I hope will be based on **“how long will it take to recoup the cost of the proposed projects and how long will it take to increase our revenues”?** These are some tough decisions for our leadership. An **expansion is**

needed for the Nation Complex as we have had to outsource some of programs in Lawton such as Substance Abuse, the Community Health Reps, NAGPRA/Tribal Preservation, Child Support, the Children's Court and Indian Child Welfare.

LAWSUITS AND IRS ASSESSMENTS

Lawsuits and IRS assessments have cost the Nation dearly.

Lawsuit 49 LLC – the Nation was **sued for \$100,000,000** because of a poorly written contract signed in 2001. The **settlement was \$5,000,000** (less \$95,000,000 of the lawsuit).

Lawsuit CDST – the Nation was **sued for \$104,000,000** again for a poorly written contract signed in 2002. The **settlement was \$7,880,000** (less \$96,120,000 of the lawsuit).

Lawsuit CDST (2) – the Nation was **sued for \$15,000,000** on a contract dispute signed in 2000. This lawsuit is not settled and the CFR court in Anadarko will make a determination as to the validity of the contract.

IRS Comanche Casino Assessment – The IRS asserted the Comanche Nation Casino (in Lawton) **owed \$338,000** in taxes and penalties for the year 2004 for failure to file forms W2G, 1099, 941, 945 & W2. The **settlement was \$90,000** (less \$248,000 of the assessment).

IRS Comanche Red River Casino Assessment – The IRS asserted the Comanche Red River Casino **owed \$5,128,691** in taxes and penalties for the years 2002-05 for failure to file forms W2G, 1099, 941, 945 & W2. The **settlement was for \$667,000** (less \$4,461,691 of the assessment).

IRS Comanche Governmental Assessment – The IRS examined and asserted the Nation **owed \$3,224,342** in taxes and penalties for failing to properly file business-related tax forms 1099, 941, 945 & W2 for the years 2003-05. The **settlement was for \$775,764** (less \$2,448,578 the assessment).

Add the amounts the Nation **was sued** and the **IRS assessments** and the total is **\$227,691,033**. The **settlements** from these lawsuits and IRS assessment totaled **\$14,412,764** (less \$213,278,269 of the lawsuits and IRS assessments). **If we lost the lawsuits and paid the IRS their assessments our casinos net profit from 2004-09 would have made \$1,546,967 instead of \$229,472,000. Had the lawsuits and IRS assessments not been settled for the \$14,412,764 we would have received a one-time Per Cap payment of \$42.11.**

ATTORNEYS (HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER)

As mentioned earlier we were sued because of poorly written contracts, ignorance and poor management by our leadership. Who "bailed" us out – our legal firm, **Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker (HSDW)**. Not only have they "**bailed**" us out of these legal issues they ensure through their legal advice and guidance this will not happen again. Exactly what services have they provided, **simple as ABC: A)** Negotiated and lobbied for passage of and obtained the first federal approved Oklahoma gaming compact **B)** Negotiated a new tobacco compact **C)** assisted Tax Commission with enforcement of the Nation's oil and gas severance taxes (which bought \$2,500,000 to the Nation) **D)** obtained trust ownership of the Red River and Star casinos **E)** defended the Nation against the National Indian Gaming Commission's enforcement actions threatening closure of the Nation's gaming facilities **F)** defended the Nation's sovereignty in many lawsuits brought against Nation officials in tribal and federal courts arising from enrollment, employment and licensing decisions **G)** developed, drafted and obtained federal policies of multiple tribal laws including the Federal Charter Corporation, Gaming Ordinance, Tribal LLC Code, Revolving Loan Fund and the Policies, Procedures and Regulations for the Gaming Commission, Gaming Board, Tax Commission and Liquor Control Board **H)** conducted will clinics and have assisted fifty-two Nation members with their wills **I)** given back the Nation by

contributing to the support of the Comanche Nation Fair, various pow-wows and emergency disaster relief. **NOTE:** For fiscal year 2009 (October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009) the **legal fees for governmental services was \$465,507** – not included was **\$111,002 in “no charges”** for research and for more than one attorney attending meetings. A significant portion of the fees were for negotiations of the IRS settlements – for FY 10 (from October 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010) the **legal fees for governmental services are \$121,811 with \$10,397 in “no charges”**. Besides the lawsuits and IRS settlements HSDW represented us on a number of issues (as mentioned above) including **Medicine Bluff** when they obtained an injunction preventing the US Army from building a warehouse on what the Nation considered “sacred ground”. That issue is close to settlement including recouping the Nation's legal fees. Seems every Tribal Council I hear “get rid of the lawyers, they cost too much”. **I fully support HSDW and it would be a terrible mistake not having them represent the Nation.**

AUDIT & RATINGS

Our audits are complete or on-going and on schedule. There are four rating categories of audits – **Unqualified** (an A grade), **Qualified** (a B grade), an **Adverse** (a C-D grade) and **Disclaimer** (a F grade). There are **three areas of audits, Overall, Funds and Compliance**. Here are rating by year and area:

2004 audit for all three areas was an Unqualified (A)

2005 audit Overall and Funds was a Disclaimer (F) and Compliance was a Qualified (B)

2006 and 2007 audits Overall and Compliance was Adverse (C-D) and funds was a Disclaimer (F)

2008 audit Overall was a Disclaimer (F), Funds was an Unqualified (A) and Compliance was an Adverse (C-D).

We were put on “**High Risk**” status by the BIA because of these ratings and the audits being late. There were **10 findings for 2004** of which 4 have been corrected, **26 findings for 2005** with 13 corrected, **26 findings for 2006** with 11 corrected, **28 findings for 2007** with 9 corrected and **19 findings for 2008** with 0 corrected – that's a total of 109 findings with 37 (or 34% of total) corrected (meaning 72 findings are a work in progress), not very good numbers. We are close being taken off “High Risk” (my best estimate would be a year from now) dependent on correcting the findings and being in compliance. The 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 audits were all late by as much as three years. This is a past leadership (CBC) problem clearly defined in our constitution – it has been fixed as far as getting the audits done in a timely manner but the ratings are still a matter of doing business better.

FINLEY & COOK

One of the **best things that happened to the Nation** was when we outsourced our Financial Accounting to Finley & Cook. We were in such disarray with our accountability of our finances that **millions of dollars may have disappeared into a mysterious “Black Hole”**. The cost for their services, which includes **monthly accounting, daily and monthly reporting, special projects, training and expenses, in 2009**, was about **\$835,000** – a **transition study was done in July, 2008** to see what it would cost to return the services Finley & Cook provide back to the Nation. It would take a minimum of **fourteen highly-trained personnel, office space we don't have, software, computers, printers, office furniture, supplies, salaries**, etc; at a **start-up cost of \$1,900,000**. Once established the cost would **drop to \$1,600,000 annually**. Even established we are paying about half the cost that would incur if we transitioned back to the Nation – too me it doesn't make sense to transition back to the Nation.

LAND OWNERSHIP & PURCHASES

The Comanche Nation own, more or less, **2,753 acres in trust** property that was purchased for \$4,320,000 or \$1,568 an acre. The Nation also own, more or less, **1,139 acres of non-trust (fee)** property purchased for \$6,008,000 or \$5,275 per acre. That's a **total of 3,892 acres** purchased for \$10,328,000 or \$2,654 an acre. In addition the Nation owns a number of town and city lots and blocks (which is included with the purchase price above). The Secretary/Treasurer is in the process of clearing the title on two trust properties totaling 250 acres. Trust applications for nine of the 21 non-trust properties are on file at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. About 29% of our property is leased (with many leases pending approval by the BIA) – the Nation receives about \$41,000 annually from those leases. **NOTE:** The 80 acres the Red River Casino sits on was purchased for \$100,000 – this property was once a pasture and wheat field and has produced a net profit of \$131,493,000. The almost 10 acres where the Spur Casino sits was purchased for a \$1,000,000 – this property has produced a net profit of \$12,497,000. Now I would to say these were solid land purchases.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, COURTS & ASSOCIATIONS

1) Business Committee consists of seven elected members are paid a **salary of \$250 per month** – they are the governing body of the Nation.

2) Comanche Nation College Council consists of 6 members selected by the current membership (the current council was appointed by the Director of Higher Education) for six year terms and the Nation Chairman (as an ex-officio member). **They are paid \$500 and their actual and reasonable expenses for two day meetings.** Meetings are held quarterly – they develop policies and provide governance to the College. **NOTE:** The College has **completed 40 of the 44 required steps** for accreditation (three of the uncompleted steps are financial – the College is awaiting information from Finley & Cook to complete those steps). There are **four major steps** included with the accreditation process **A) Request for Interview**, completed on August 12, 2009 **B) Letter of Intent**, completed on March 29, 2010 **C) Preliminary Information Form (PIF)** which the college has a timeline of December 8, 2010 to complete and **D) Request a Site Visit** upon the successful completion of the PIF document and receive an invitation to move forward on a **Self-Study**. During the time of the Self-Study the **accrediting agency may grant initial accreditation status**. The College has 24 Staff & Facility positions with 17 currently filled. Their annual payroll for 2008-09 was about 52% of their budget which generally speaking is about 40% less than a 2-year institution. The College was established in August, 2002 and has had two seated Presidents – the current President was appointed on July 1, 2009.

3) Gaming Commission consists of 3 members and an alternate appointed by the CBC for three year terms, they **are paid \$250 per meetings** and meet twice monthly, once with the Gaming Board and once with their staff and bi-monthly with the CBC – they regulate gaming operations. **NOTE:** The Commission has 78 employees (an Executive Director, 3 Admin, 12 Compliance, 4 Licensing and 58 Surveillance). Their 2010 operating budget is \$4,299,000 of which \$2,564,000 is used for surveillance. The balance of their budget is used for wages/fringe benefits, supplies, equipment, shared expenses, utilities/telephone, insurance, professional services, meeting, vehicles expenses and membership fees. How proficient is the Commission – **in 2007 their were 198 gaming violations, in 2009 their were 4** which means our gaming operations are following the rules, regulations, policies and procedures thanks to the efforts of the Commission.

4) Gaming Board of Directors consists of three members appointed by the CBC for three year terms, they **are paid \$250 per meeting** and meet a minimum of three times monthly (once with the Gaming Commission, once with the CBC and once with their staff) – they oversee the day to day operations of the casinos. **NOTE:** The Board has ten employees (a Chief Executive Office, a Finance Officer, a Purchasing/Project Manager, a Security Director, an IT Director, a Marketing Director and 3 Admin personnel). Their operating budget for 2010 is \$1,279,000 (less \$83,000 from

2009). The renovation project at the Lawton Casino cost about \$9,000,000 and there has been a 16% increase in revenue since the Re-Grand Opening in late December, 2009 through February, 2010.

5) Economic Development Commission consists of five members appointed by the CBC for three year terms and a Ex officio member (a member of the CBC) selected by the CBC, they meet twice monthly (once with their staff and the other with the CBC) and **are paid \$250 per meeting** – the Commission oversees the administration of Economic Development. **NOTE:** Economic Development has currently established eight businesses and employ from 65-75 people (100-110 more with the Water Park open from May to September). About 80% of the employees are Comanche. They have an annual payroll of about \$1,200,000.

6) Tax Commission consists of the seven members of the CBC and two other members appointed by the CBC, they meet once a month and **are paid \$331 per meeting** – the Commission oversees the administration of the Tax Commission.

7) Museum Board consists of seven members appointed by the CBC for three year terms, they meet quarterly and **are paid \$200** per meeting – the Board oversees the administration of the Museum.

8) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Board consists of seven members appointed by the CBC for three year terms, they meet monthly and are **paid \$200 per meeting** – the Board monitors and advises the NAGPRA staff on various issues.

9) Comanche Nation Enterprises, Inc. consists of seven members appointed by the CBC for three year terms, they meet monthly and once annually (for an annual report open to all Nation members), they are **paid \$250 per meeting** – the Board oversees a three-person staff which creates self-managed for-profit businesses and employment to Nation members. **NOTE: To date** they have been **awarded three government contracts totaling \$200,000** and are **negotiating to purchase** four active construction government contracts and more than **\$300,000,000** in completed contracts – they are also **negotiating to purchase** a government contracting business with more than **\$30,000,000** in annual sales.

10) Liquor Board consists of the CBC and Tax Commission Director, they meet quarterly and **are paid \$250 per meeting** – the Board reviews/approves liquor licenses on Nation property.

11) Election Board consists of seven members elected by ballot for staggering three year terms. Nominations are taken during Tribal Council. One member will represent the voting precincts in Oklahoma City, Anadarko, Apache, Lawton, Walters and Cache. They must live within the precinct they represent. An At Large member will also be elected. They are paid **\$250 for once a month meetings**, (regardless of how many meetings they conduct), **\$500 for the primary election, \$500 for the run-off elections, \$400 for Tribal and Special Tribal Council meetings, \$250 once a year for 8 hours of in-house training and travel, per diem and lodging for training outside Comanche Country.**

12) KCA Land Intertribal Land Use Committee consists of the Chairman and two members of the CBC (selected by the CBC), they meet monthly and **are not paid** for meetings.

13) Comanche Nation Housing Authority Commission consists of five members appointed by the CBC for three year terms, they meet monthly and **are paid \$35 per meeting and mileage** – the Commission oversees housing authority issues.

14) Indian Health Service Board consists of the Nation Chairman and 2 selected CBC members, they meet monthly and **are not paid** – the Board works with the Kiowa, Apache, Caddo, Wichita, Delaware and Fort Sill Apache Tribes on Indian Health issues.

15) Children's Court consists of three judges appointed by the CBC, they meet twice a month and are paid **\$500 per court session** – the Court settles family disputes involving Nation children.

16) Comanche Indian Veterans Association consists of all veterans and spouses of veterans they meet monthly and **are not paid** – the Association represent the Nation at gatherings, pow-wows, weddings, reunions, homecomings, funerals, dedication/installation of military markers, banquets and graduations, etc; They also formally recognize and present honors to eighteen Comanche Veterans a year (about 140 veterans and Auxiliary have been honored since 2005).

17) Elders Council consists of any elder 62 years old or older, they meet monthly and the elected Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) **are paid \$125 per meeting**, the Officers are elected by the elders – the Council provides information about our culture, traditions, history and current events.

18) Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee consists of any person interested in the preservation and promotion of the Comanche language and culture, three Officers make up the committee (selection process is not known too me), the Committee **are not paid**.

19-21) Community Center Committees in Apache, Cache and Walters, to my knowledge, no longer exist – each center has a part-time Manager appointed by the Tribal Administrator or selected by the community. The manager receives a **monthly stipend of \$400.00** and is responsible for the maintenance and scheduling/coordinating events.

22) Shoshone Reunion Committee consists of four Officers, a coordinator and numerous volunteers, they meet as needed. The committee was originally appointed by the CBC and currently appoint themselves, **they are not paid**.

23) Sports Commission, information on this Commission can be provided by the Gaming Commission, **they are not paid**.

GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

The Nation has about **forty-five plus programs that provide services** for members of the Nation. Most of the services these programs provide can be found on the Comanche Nation Website and are published from time to time in the Comanche Newspaper.

DID YOU KNOW

As of April 7, 2010 there are **1,211 elders** (62+ years old – 8.2% of the total enrollees) and **817 full-blood** members (5.5% of the total enrollees). We also have **3,897 members 1/8 decree** (26.4% of the total enrollees). Our oldest living member is Josephine Myers Wapp who turned 98 on February 10, 2010.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is **unfinished "business"** on the table – an **updated Election Ordinance** (Approved April 3, 2010), **Constitution amendments** (I have given the sitting CBC twenty-three recommended amendments in September, 2009 with no action), **changes to our Boards, Committees and Councils** (I have given the sitting CBC recommendations in September, 2009 with no action), **water rights, personnel expansion** to keep up with the needs of the Nation, **more office/building space** to house personnel expansion, etc; are a few of the items on the back burner. We are doing "business" better than three years ago and continue to improve with each passing day. Accountability of lands, property, personnel, funding, monies, etc; has vastly improved. Ordinances, policies, procedures and regulations are being updated as needed to keep up with the changing times.

THE UGLY

Perhaps the **ugliest things** I have gone through are the **recall process**, an **enrollment issue** and the **Comanche Forum**. Five of the seven current CBC members have had or currently have recall petitions on them. I will say this about mine. I was **recalled by a person I did know personally**, that the **Bill of Particulars** (violent and abrasive treatment of tribal members, deliberate misuse of authority vested in the office of a tribal committee person, activities creating dissent among tribal programs and acting outside the parameters of his elected committee person) are totally false and unproven (a bunch of lies in other words), that the **petition pages were not lawfully notarized** as required by the petition ordinance, that **more than one person collected names** appearing on each petition page contrary to the petition ordinance, that several **signatures were altered**, that at least **twenty-two tribal members did not spell their names correctly**, that **fourteen members stated they did not sign the petition**, that a **tribal member in a high security prison (in Missouri) signed the petition**, that **signatures were supposedly collected by the same person in Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois and Wisconsin in a single day**, that the dates of **signatures from the Dallas/Ft Worth area were altered by three weeks, etc;** My **conclusion is forgery, fraudulent handling of recordable instruments, tampering with records, securing execution of document by deception, perjury in the petition process and obstructing governmental function was committed by the petitioner, her family and their friends (including a former CBC member)**. When I ask the Comanche Nation Police if legal charges be brought against the petitioner I was told the BIA would or could not do so.

Another **ugly issue was enrollment** – the CBC directed our Enrollment Office to conduct an audit at the request of numerous Nation members. This was done and **ninety-two people were found to be illegally enrolled** per the guidelines of the Constitution. Fourteen of those ninety-two people were under the age of eighteen and can reapply for membership between their eighteenth and nineteenth birthdays. The other seventy-eight was already enrolled with other tribes and was basically **“double-dipping”** by receiving benefits from the two tribes they were enrolled. Why did this happen – because of a **dishonest Enrollment staff and interference of the then sitting CBC for political favors**. I assure you that everyone enrolled with the Nation from July, 2007 until now was done legally to the best of my knowledge.

The **Comanche Forum** is a website in which very few of the people identify themselves. This website is **very negative**. I hear (since I don't read the garbage) on occasion there are a few positive things. Mostly **lies**, some **half-truths**, a lot of **rumors, name-calling, foul-mouth people** who **use profanity** more often than not, **she said – he said** and **hear-say**. The best source of information about the programs, officials, casinos, etc; of the Nation is the Nation newspaper, the official Nation website and Camp Crier. Questions, comments and inquiries can be directed to each CBC member through their published email address or telephone number.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

I mentioned early on the men and women I have served with on the Business Committee and as Tribal Administrators. Like everyone else I have my opinion about our “elected leaders” – I will keep my opinion where it belongs, with me. **I will say this about our “elected leaders” – We have argued, debated, almost come to blows at times and most importantly agreed to make the best decisions for the good of the Nation**. We are not perfect and **have made mistakes** – I think we have **corrected most of our mistakes** but most important **MOST** have **learned from our mistakes**. A lack of **TEAMWORK, at times**, fits into the equation also. It is not difficult to provide positive leadership to the Nation if the **ELECTED LEADERS** get rid of **personal agendas and political appointments/favors, abide by our oath of office, the Constitution and the Code of Ethics – simple for few, difficult for some**.

HOW DID WE GET TO WHERE WE ARE

Simply – I don't know. It's really **amazing how the Nation has progressed** the past 43 years (starting in 1967 when we became the government as we know it). The **foundation was laid by those that have mostly gone on**, the ones who wrote the Constitution and the different Chairmen and Business Committee Members who served throughout the years (I estimate about ninety different CBC members and nine different Chairmen have served on the CBC). Each leader made a contribution and for that I'm thankful that the Nation is now a multi-billion dollar business that provides the services and per cap payments to our members and elders. **Think about it – a small city has risen** at the Medicine Park exit (the Nation Complex) that houses our Nation government and most of our programs, **casinos now stand** in what were once pastures or on land that was in a flood plane, our history is housed in a **state of the art Museum, Community Centers** have been built and maintained in four locations where we can gather for pow-wow's, meetings, funerals, etc; **hundreds of houses were built that are now homes** for many Nation members, **Storm Shelters** for many Nation members have been installed, we have the only "Indian" **Funeral Home in Oklahoma that provides dignified services and headstones** for our deceased members at little or no cost to their grieving families, we have a center to **enjoy a meal and visit friends and relatives**, we have a **Food Distribution** program second to none, we have an **annual Fair** that attracts hundreds of thousands of people and list goes on and on. Do we stop here – **NO!** We must continue to expand, to grow, to keep up with the changes by improving what we have. That can only happen if we **elect motivated and qualified (with common sense) leaders** (not people because they're your relative or friend) to move the Nation in a positive direction and continue to **provide accountability, prosperity, stability and transparency to all Nation members, not a select few.**

THE OLD DAYS REMAIN

I thought about not writing this paragraph but feel I need to **say what others are afraid to say** – In the "old days" there were those **too lazy** to hunt the buffalo, kill the buffalo, butcher the buffalo, tan the buffalo hides and make clothing and tools from the buffalo but they were the **first in line** to eat the buffalo, use the hides, wear the clothing and use the tools of the buffalo. The "old days" remain today. It was a small minority in the "old days" and remains a small minority today. We know these **Kaawos1** (meaning deceitful, liar, tricky in Comanche), they are the ones who talk the loudest, create chaos, make little sense except to themselves, know it all, put signs out "badmouthing" others, line their pockets and even cry to get their "handout" without conscious or shame. Who are they – look around the fort and you'll see them every day, some are even employed, others elected by the Nation. Amen.

TIME TO MOVE ON

I am honored to have served the Nation for the past three years and chose not to run for office again because of health issues, an 83 year old Mother that my wife and I will care for when the time comes and because I don't have the time required "to do a good job" – **it is not an easy job.** I have served this great country of ours as a Soldier and as an employee of the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache tribes, the Girl Scouts of America and the US Department of Defense for forty-four years. Now is the time for this Old Soldier to fade away. I thank those who supported me and wish those who did not the best. If I offended anyone, especially the Kaawos1, please accept my apology.

Lanny G. Asepermy
CBC No. 2

