

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association
(GPTCA)

Part 1

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the Tribes of the Great Plains; North Dakota, South Dakota & Nebraska, Sovereign Indian Nations, in order to preserve and maintain our homelands, defend our Tribes' inherent rights under our Treaties and Executive Orders with the United States, to speak in one unified voice, to offer support to our people, to afford ourselves a forum in which to consult each other, to enlighten each other about issues affecting our people, to share our diverse cultures, to otherwise uniformly promote the common welfare of all Indian people of the Tribes of the Great Plains, and to protect the sovereignty of each Tribe, we do hereby establish this Association.

MISSION

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association is founded on the principles of unity and cooperation among Indian governments and people of the Great Plains; respect for the unique and several interests of its member Tribes; the pursuit of security and protection of treaty-based and other sovereign rights, traditional and contemporary cultural and religious rights and practices; and promotion of the common interest and welfare and the enhancement of the quality of life of Indian and Native peoples.

PURPOSE

To provide a forum for sharing information on matters of interest to its member Tribes, develop consensus on matters of mutual importance, assist member Tribes in their governmental and programmatic development consistent with their goals for self-determination and self-sufficiency and provide for effective public relations and education program with the non-Indian communities. Through its conferences, forums, networks and alliances, it is the intent of the Association to represent and advocate for the interests of its member Tribes to national Indian and non-Indian organizations and governments.

Article I

Membership

Section 1. Participation in the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association is open to each of the Sixteen (16) North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska Indian Tribal Governments: The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Ft. Berthold Reservation, The Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe of the Ft. Totten Sioux Reservation, The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribe of the Turtle Mountain Reservation, The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Ft Thompson Reservation, The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, The Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Reservation, The Yankton Sioux Tribe of the Yankton Reservation, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation, The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of the Flandreau Santee Reservation, The Omaha Tribe of the Omaha Reservation, the Santee Sioux Nation of the Santee Reservation, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska of the Ponca reservation and the Winnebago Tribe of the Winnebago Reservation.

Section 2. Participation in the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association shall be established by resolution of each individual Tribal Council.

Section 3. The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association shall be composed of and represented by the Tribal Chair/President of each Tribe or a designated elected Tribal Council Representative, collectively referred to hereafter as "Tribal Delegates".

Article II

Governance

Section 1. The governing body of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association shall be an Association made up of the Tribal Delegates from each participating Tribe. This Association is the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

Section 2. The duly appointed Association shall elect from its own membership, at a designated meeting, the Officers of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and such other officers and committees as may be deemed necessary.

Section 3. The Association Officers shall each serve a term of 2 years.

Section 4. Elections for Association Officers shall be conducted in January of odd numbered years.

Section 5. Election of Association Officers shall be by majority vote.

Article III

Vacancies and Removals

Section 1. If an Association Officer shall die, resign, lose status as an elected Tribal Council Representative, or be removed from office, the Council shall declare the position vacant and elect a successor to fill the unexpired term.

Section 2. Any Association Officer who is proven guilty of improper conduct or gross neglect of duty may be removed as an officer by eight Tribal Delegates of the Association voting in favor of such removal, and provided further, that the accused officer shall be given full and fair opportunity to reply to any and all charges at a designated Association meeting. It is further stipulated that any such officer shall be given a written statement of the charges against him/her at least ten days before the meeting at which he/she is to appear.

Article IV

Powers, duties, and functions of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association

Section 1 The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association will participate in federal and state meetings on a Government-to-Government basis with the highest government level or delegate empowered to commit to any action derived from that consultation.

Section 2 It is not and shall not be the intention of this Association to infringe upon, abrogate, or interfere with the respective Tribal Governments of the North Dakota, South Dakota & Nebraska Indian Tribes in the conduct of their Tribal affairs.

Section 3 Official matters of business to be disseminated outside of the Association may only be with a majority of all member Tribes and a clear articulation of all member Tribes' position on the issue.

Section 4. Internal matters of business of the Association will be decided by a simple majority vote.

Section 5. Official meetings of the Association will be convened when eight Tribal Delegates are present.

Section 6. Votes concerning matters referred to in Section 3 may be obtained by means other than direct participation in an official meeting provided that such other participation is documented.

Section 7. A regular Association meeting shall be called every quarter of the year. Special meetings may be called at such times deemed necessary.

Section 8. A member Tribe will host each quarterly or special meeting of the Association on a rotational basis. The host Tribe will determine the location. Meeting hosts will be determined and scheduled at the first quarterly meeting of each calendar year.

Section 9. Order of business:

- a) Call to order by the Chair
- b) Roll Call
- c) Reading of minutes of last meeting
- d) Unfinished business
- e) Reports
- f) New business
- g) Adjournment

Section 10. Each member Tribe shall have one vote on any matter of business not requiring consensus that comes before the Association; however, meetings are open to participation by all Tribal Officials.

Section 11. The Association shall have the authority to hire an Executive Director and staff, establish offices as needed, and enter into business agreements as necessary to carry out its powers, duties and functions. The Executive Director shall manage the organizational affairs, carry out the duties as assigned by the Executive Board, and pursue the established goals of the Association.

Section 12. The Association shall have the authority to establish committees and sub-committees as necessary to conduct business. Committees and sub-committees shall be established for a specific purpose for a specified time frame and shall report to the entire Association.

Section 13. The Association shall have the authority to establish, collect, and waive membership dues as necessary. Payment of dues will be at the first quarterly meeting held in January of each year.

Article V

Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a vote of at least eight Tribal Delegates of the Association.

Part 2

Bylaws

Article I

Chair and Vice-Chair

Section 1. The Chair of the Association shall preside over all meetings of the Association, perform all duties of Chair, and exercise any authority detailed to him/her, and he/she shall be entitled to vote on all questions.

Section 2. The Vice-chair shall assist the chair when called on to do so, in the absence of the chair, shall preside, and when so presiding shall have all the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of the chair.

Section 3. The Secretary in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, when called on to do so, shall preside over meetings and when so called, shall have all the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of the Chair. Additionally, the secretary shall always ensure that all meeting notes, resolutions and actions are properly approved, recorded and disseminated, so as to provide a permanent record of the actions of the Association.

Section 4. The Treasurer in the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, when called on to do so, shall preside over meetings and when so called, shall have all the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of the Chair. Additionally, the Treasurer shall ensure that all dues are paid by member Tribes, and that all financial matters of the Association are conducted in such a manner as to provide fiscal accountability of all transactions. This includes the oversight, completion, and reporting of an annual audit.

Article II

Executive Director

Section 1. The Executive Director shall be selected by a majority vote of the Association. The Executive Director may be removed by a vote of at least eight Tribal Delegates voting in favor of such removal.

Section 2. The Executive Director shall:

1. Be guided in their duties by the Association and report directly to the Chair;
2. Distribute draft agendas and proposed actions to the Association at least 15 days prior to any regularly scheduled meeting;
3. Record and distribute meeting minutes to the Association not more than 15 days after each meeting; and,

4. With approval from the Association be allowed to hire staff as necessary to conduct business.

Article IV

Office Location

To be determined.

Article III

Ratification of Constitution and Bylaws

This Constitution and the attached Bylaws, where officially adopted by a vote of 11 Tribal Chairman, Presidents and Chairwomen on January 11, 2007.

The following action was taken which shall be entered into the history of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

Action

Motion by Chairman Roger Trudell to adopt the Constitution and By-laws for the GPTCA as presented by A. Gay Kingman.

Second: Chairwoman Myra Pearson

Motion Passed unanimously by a vote of 11 in favor.

Action

Motion to incorporate the GPTCA under the Yankton Sioux Tribe by Chairman Roger Trudell

Second: Chairman Mike Jandreau

Passed unanimously by a vote of 11 in favor.

CERTIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS¹

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association hereby adopt the forgoing Constitution and Bylaws at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present.

In witness whereof, we have hereto subscribed our names this 11th day of January, 2007.

The following Tribes were represented: Joseph Brings Plenty, Chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; Lester Thompson, Chairman, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe; Michael Jandreau, Chairman, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe; John Yellow Bird Steele, President, Oglala Sioux Tribe; Robert Cournoyer, Chairman, Yankton Sioux Tribe; Myra Pearson, Chairperson, Spirit Lake Tribe; Ron His Horse Is Thunder, Chairman, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Mitchell Parker, Chairman, Omaha Tribe; Roger Trudell, Chairman, Santee Sioux Tribe, Alex Taylor, Ponca Tribe and Matthew Pilcher, Chairman, Winnebago Tribe. Also present was Regional Director, Bill Benjamin.
