

Regina Gasco-Bentley & Stella Kay



Candidate Team for
Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson



Aanii,
Nakii Qua Ndiiznakaaz

My English name is Regina Gasco-Bentley. I am seeking your support in the 2021 election for Chair/Vice Chair with my current Vice Chair, Stella Kay.

I was born in Harbor Springs where I attended the Holy Childhood Boarding School. I also attended, and graduated from, Boyne Falls High, and have lived in Northern Michigan all my life.

Most importantly, I want to say Chi-Miigwetch to our tribal citizens for allowing me to serve you. I have been honored to represent and fight for our people. It is a duty that I hold close to my heart and approach with the highest respect. I am now asking for the opportunity to continue as your Chairperson.

With me, I bring a strong set of morals that guide me each day, as well as over 20 years of leadership experience on Tribal Council and as Tribal Chairwoman. I follow our Seven Grandfather teachings as I make decisions that will impact all of our tribal citizens. I have consistently voted in consideration of our tribal membership as a whole. It is a priority for me to ensure all our tribal members are represented, regardless of where their path has taken them. This past year we faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, and we worked hard to make sure our tribal members were taken care of and safe. This included work to quickly send relief money to all citizens.

While in office, I am proud of what we have accomplished. Our Elder's department now offers more services to our Elders, including a general welfare stipend for utilities and other necessities. The number of medical services provided by our Health Clinic has increased. We have been able to expand our dental service program to take care of all Elders who may need these services. Our team works to ensure that services are available to Elders both within and outside of the reservation boundaries. We authorized the implementation of a new Medicare reimbursement program which provides reimbursement to both Elders and people living with disabilities. These are just a few accomplishments we have been honored to bring to our community, and we strive to move forward each day we are in office.

Our Elders are critical to our tribe, as they hold the important teachings of our past. Our youth are critical, as they are our future. During my time in office, my focus has always been youth services, elder services, education, tribal preference, and health care.

I would like to continue serving as your Tribal Chairperson because I believe the creator has more for me to accomplish. A few of my goals are to work towards a new medical center, a new youth center, and increase local affordable housing options. I want to keep our tribe moving forward in a good, positive way, and I ask you to help me do so. I value your support as we renew our dedication to the Waganakising Odawa Nation.

Chii-Miigwetch,
Regina Gasco-Bentley



Aanii,

My name is Stella Kay, and I am running for the office of Vice Chair, with Regina Gasco-Bentley. I am the proud daughter of Rita Gasco-Shephard and granddaughter of Stella Gasco and Jonas Shawanessie of Indian Town. I grew up in Oden, Michigan and graduated from Alanson High School. I continued on to Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting. There, I met my husband Dave with whom I share four wonderful children.

After college I moved to Dayton, Ohio where I spent the next 28 years collecting professional experience, including time at NCR Corporation, a Fortune 500 company. In addition to my professional experience, I learned of the value of hard work, honesty, and integrity. I also learned how to team with both individuals and departments to accomplish common goals.

Being Odawa was very important to my mom and she was incredibly proud of the people we are. Her fingerprints were everywhere in the early days of LTBB reaffirmation. After her passing, I decided it was time for me to come home to the community she so cherished, and use the skills I had developed to serve our people-- and I trusted the Creator to guide me in doing so. I worked on the SPRING grant in the Health Department, within the legislative offices, and in April of 2015, I took over the responsibilities of the Treasury Office and worked directly under Tribal Council as their financial analyst.

Five years ago, I was honored to be elected Vice-Chair, and I work every day to make sure I honor my ancestors with my work as a representative for our people. My duties include providing counsel and support to the Chairwoman. Towards that end, I have to be prepared to step-in as a knowledgeable surrogate whenever needed. I am a Co-Chair for the USDA Tribal Leader Consultation Workgroup and work closely with the National Association of Food Distribution Programs for Indian Reservations towards the betterment of our food package. I put my financial background to work for you, by ensuring that I have a firm understanding of the tribal government finances and counsel the Chairwoman about decisions that protects the tribe's financial stability. I work alongside our Departments to fight for our tribe, both locally and nationally. I feel strongly about empowering our Departments and giving them the resources they need to do their very important jobs.

It has been an honor to serve you; yet I know I still have so much more to give. I ask for your support in our re-election because I believe we can keep the tribe moving forward to build a sustainable future for the next seven generations.

Chii Miigwetch
Stella Kay