

TAKU OTA WAŠTE (MANY GOOD THINGS)



SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

FOUR-YEAR REPORT | 2016-2019



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	2016-2019: REFLECTIONS FROM THE SMSC BUSINESS COUNCIL
8	COMMUNITY AND GOVERNANCE
16	CULTURE AND EDUCATION
26	#SMSCGIVES
30	DEVELOPMENTS
36	PARTNERSHIPS
42	GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
46	TIMELINE
51	IN LOVING MEMORY



The Business Council elected in 2016, including (left to right) Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, then-Secretary/Treasurer Freedom Brewer, and Chairman Charles R. Vig.

Members of the SMSC Business Council (left to right): Chairman Charles R. Vig, Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, and Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson.

2016-2019: REFLECTIONS FROM THE SMSC BUSINESS COUNCIL

Ushering in a new chapter of the SMSC’s history, 2016-2019 brought new initiatives, projects, priorities, challenges, and successes for the Community.

When we began our term, we made a commitment to make the Community a better place. We hope that the many accomplishments of the last four years serve as a testament to the Community’s steadfast forward progress. In addition to completing major infrastructure improvements—including the reconstruction of County Road 83, the Inyan Ceyaka Otonwe subdivision, and the South Area Water Treatment Plant, the last four years witnessed the unveiling of Mystic Lake Center and the Community’s long-awaited cultural center, Hočokata Ti.

With the completion of Hočokata Ti and the SMSC’s 50th anniversary of federal recognition in 2019, we are more focused than ever on preserving our language and cultural lifeways, and are thrilled to finally have a designated space to gather, learn, celebrate, and plan as a tribe. Voices of Our Ancestors—a two-year intensive Dakota language program launched in 2017—marked the beginning of a concerted effort to preserve our language for future generations. With Hočokata Ti, we now have the ideal setting to further the efforts begun by the first Voices of Our Ancestors cohort and ensure that this critical component of our cultural identity is maintained.

The Business Council has also dedicated significant efforts to protecting tribal sovereignty and making provisions for the future of the Community. Nearly 1,200

acres of SMSC-owned land were placed into trust¹ for future residential purposes, cultural use, environmental preservation, and more. We also played a leading role in successfully placing the sacred Black Hills land of Pe’ Sla into trust and led the Native Farm Bill Coalition to achieve unprecedented successes for Indian Country’s food sovereignty interests.

Maintaining the tribe’s relationships with local leaders and government officials has been another priority of the Business Council in the last term. In addition to engaging in multiple collaborative projects with local cities, we also worked to educate state and city employees about the fundamental importance of tribal sovereignty and other pertinent issues through the Tribal-State Relations Training in 2016 and 2018, the City-Tribal Relations Training in 2018, and a special Sovereignty Day at the Minnesota State Capitol in 2019.

We are grateful for all the Community Members who have served and continue to serve on the SMSC’s work groups, committees, and boards. Your participation, hard work, and advice have been critical to the successful implementation of so many of the Community’s initiatives, events, and projects and has helped the SMSC be a successful, generous, forward-thinking tribe.

As we close out this 50th anniversary year of our tribe’s federal recognition, we are exceedingly grateful for all that the SMSC has achieved, and we look forward to continued progress in the years to come.

Chairman
Charles R. Vig

Vice-Chairman
Keith B. Anderson

Secretary/Treasurer
Rebecca Crooks-Stratton

¹ 177.05 in 2016, 691.66 in 2017, 277.25 in 2018, and 51.32 in 2019

SMSC BUSINESS COUNCIL Q&A: CHAIRMAN **CHARLES R. VIG**

Chairman Vig is serving his second term on the Business Council. Before becoming Chairman in 2012, Vig served as the SMSC's Vice-Chairman. He also served for 14 years on the SMSC Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors, which oversees Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino. He was chairman of the board when he was elected to the Business Council. Early in his career, he was a journeyman bricklayer before working his way up from project manager to vice president of facilities at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel.

Today, Vig serves as chairman of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association; is a member of the board of directors for Greater MSP and Koda Energy; and is the SMSC's representative to the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Gaming Association. He was among *Global Gaming Business Magazine's* "25 People to Watch in 2017" and was one of Indian Country Today's "50 Faces of Indian Country" in 2015.

Vig and his wife of 39 years have five children and six grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with his family and is a licensed pilot.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in the last four years?

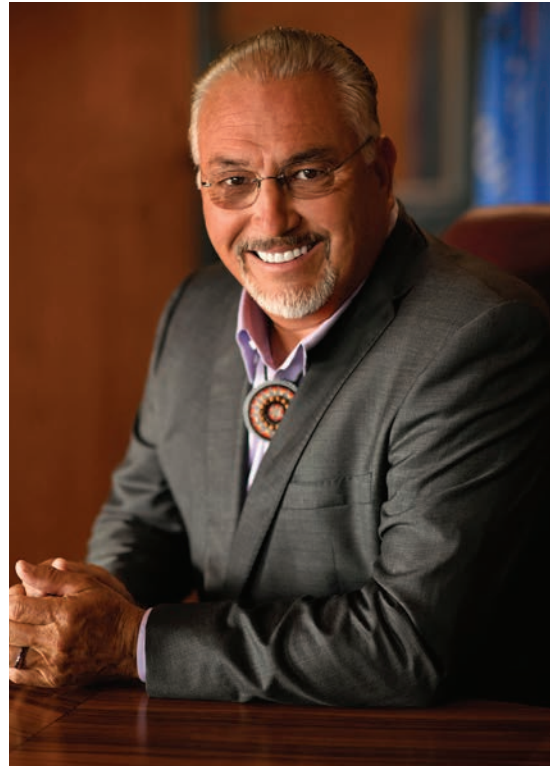
From the completion of the cultural center and the reconstruction of County Road 83 to our South Area Water Treatment Plant and our continued relationship building with the local cities and the county, we have so much to be proud of as a community over the last four years. Significant progress has been made on many accounts, and I believe the major infrastructure upgrades, fee-to-trust successes, and concerted efforts on future planning will usher in a new chapter of forward-thinking advancements in the years ahead.

What issue(s) are you most passionate about? Why?

Planning for the future. Many of our ancestors struggled to have what little they did have, so to be able to use the resources we have now toward the betterment of future generations is extremely gratifying. Our younger generations represent our future leaders and our collective future as a tribe, and I think it is so important that we set them up for success through long-term planning of a shared vision.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

Above all, I enjoy spending time with my family and my grandchildren. It's amazing to watch them learn and grow as individuals. I also enjoy flying my plane and getting creative with woodworking and carpentry projects.



Chairman Charles R. Vig was elected to his second term on the Business Council in 2016.

What advice do you have for future leaders?

Being a good leader is more about listening than it is about speaking. I've found that if you talk with people and truly listen to what they have to say, you will have a much better understanding of the issues that matter most to your community and the path you need to take in order to attain those goals. Try not to take things personally either, and always remember to make time for yourself and prioritize your family and personal well-being. You're not going to be as effective as a leader if you don't first take care of yourself as an individual.

Which Community event do you most enjoy attending?

I always look forward to Wacipi and Young Native Pride every year—it's wonderful to see our Community Members and Youth come together each year to celebrate life and culture.

SMSC BUSINESS COUNCIL Q&A:

VICE-CHAIRMAN **KEITH B. ANDERSON**

Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson is serving his fourth consecutive four-year term on the SMSC Business Council. On behalf of the SMSC, Anderson advocates for the tribe and Indian Country in Washington, D.C. He is the co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, which supports Native American interests in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Anderson has served as Vice-Chairman since 2012, and was previously Secretary/Treasurer. Earlier in his career he served on the SMSC Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors for seven years, including five years as chairperson. He also worked as a design drafter for Rosemount, Inc., and as a store planner for Target Corporation.

He is the board chairman for Koda Energy, which produces environmentally friendly biomass energy, and a board member for the SMSC's Hotel Development LLC, which owns the JW Marriott hotel at Mall of America. Anderson has a degree in small business administration and has lived in Prior Lake and Shakopee since 1969.

What issue(s) are you most passionate about? Why?

It is through our sovereign recognition that we work toward self-sufficiency and self-determination. Our Community is a shining example of what can be accomplished when a tribal government produces and manages the resources necessary to implement projects and programs that actually create real-life examples of self-sufficiency and self-determination. Our infrastructure of buildings, roads, water, and sewer systems, energy grid, housing, and communications is state of the art. The services we provide to tribal members create a safety net that supports their health, education, and welfare. These services create an environment in which every tribal member has the genuine opportunity to thrive and accomplish anything he or she may want.

What advice do you have for future leaders?

I see our future is bright. I notice that the next generation or two of our future leaders have a great start on learning and understanding what is important for our Community's continued success. I recognize that we must all be good listeners and appreciate that everybody has good ideas. And with the next generation of leaders, there are many new good ideas that are being presented. I encourage these young leaders to get and stay involved, share your ideas, hold your integrity and values to high standards, and never forget to pay attention to all of the things that are working against us, as an Indian tribe and as Dakota.

Which Community event do you most enjoy attending?

I support holding more events for our members that feel casual and informal. It is during these times we get to know



Keith B. Anderson was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Business Council in 2016.

each other better and build a better sense of community. I am proud that we all came together for the planning and approval of Hočokata Ti, a space that is truly for all Community Members.

What inspired you to run for Business Council?

My father, Ken Anderson Sr., was Vice-Chairman of the SMSC on two occasions. I worked very closely with and looked up to Chairman Stanley Crooks. I had these wonderful mentors who shared their knowledge and experience with me, which has helped shape my view of tribal sovereignty and tribal governance. I originally got involved in elected leadership first on the Gaming Board of Directors and then the Business Council because I just wanted to help and try to keep and protect those things that have allowed for our good fortune. I wanted to give back to our Community. I have always felt that the SMSC provides the opportunity for each of us to live our dreams and be whatever each of us wants to be. This comes with the responsibility to represent the SMSC as a member in a good, respectful, and responsible way. I feel that we are all so fortunate, so fortunate that I am humbled by it and will fight to the end to ensure our children and grandchildren get the opportunity for the same good fortune, just as my elders have.

SMSC BUSINESS COUNCIL Q&A:

SECRETARY/TREASURER **REBECCA CROOKS-STRATTON**



Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the Business Council in 2018.

Rebecca Crooks-Stratton is serving her first term as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

Crooks-Stratton previously served on the SMSC Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors and chaired its Audit Committee. She also served two terms on the SMSC Gaming Commission and worked for the tribal government in administration roles from 2007-2016. Crooks-Stratton led the Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza project at TCF Bank Stadium (University of Minnesota) in Minneapolis and helped launch the Montessori classroom as part of the SMSC's daycare program.

Throughout her career Crooks-Stratton has been an active member both within her Community and greater Indian Country. She was unanimously elected to serve as an alternate Midwest Regional VP of the National Congress of American Indians. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Indian Country Today, a nonprofit, Indian-led news organization. Recently she served as Program Director at the Native Governance Center, a nonprofit that provides leadership development and governance resources to tribal nations in Minnesota and the Dakotas. She currently serves on the Minnesota Zoo Board of Trustees and is the Vice Chair of the Prior Lake

Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee. Crooks-Stratton has previously served on the Metropolitan Council's Equity Advisory Committee, SMSC Scholarship Selection Committee at the University of Minnesota and on the Community Education Services Advisory Council for Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools.

In 2017, she received national recognition from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development as one of their "40 Under 40" leaders to watch in Indian Country. She also was nominated to, and completed the Young American Leaders Program at Harvard Business School.

Crooks-Stratton earned a Master's degree in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2019. She received her Bachelor's degree in American Indian studies & Political Science from the University of Arizona in 2007. Rebecca and her husband live on the Reservation in Shakopee and are trying to raise their three young children with knowledge and appreciation of their history and respect for their elders.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in the last four years?

The last four years we have seen incredible growth in community infrastructure. We have added much needed neighborhoods, parks and our beautiful new cultural center Hočokata Ti. Our tribe is young and I am proud that we are thinking about the next generation and investing in the infrastructure we need to ensure our members have housing options, parks and trails and critical infrastructure like sewer and water. I am also proud of our environmental initiatives, our land restoration projects in both the prairies and the forests are preserving natural areas for generations to come. From an economic development perspective, I am proud to be part of the development and launch of Mystic Lake Center. This addition has been instrumental in driving business and contributes to our goal of being a premier full-service resort. People love the facility and look forward to their next trip!

What is one thing that you wish others understood about the SMSC?

I wish people could look past our casino and have a better understanding of who we are as a people. While we are proud of our economic engine, it does not define who we are. It is far more important that others understand the hardships our community and our relatives endured and the resilience it takes to come back from the difficult circumstances we were faced with. Despite everything we are here today, a modern, thriving Indian community that is a substantial part of the local economy.

What issue(s) are you most passionate about? Why?

Defending tribal sovereignty because it is the backbone of our community. Our sovereignty supports all that we do to better the lives of our people. Part of defending our sovereignty is supporting youth because they are our future leaders. We need to pave the way for them to be successful and sometimes that means having difficult community conversations so we can address issues rather than deferring them to the next generation of leadership.



Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson (left) and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton (right) welcome Representative Angie Craig (D-MN) to the SMSC during a tour of Hočokata Ti.



Chairman Charles R. Vig (left), Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan (center), and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton (right) take in the sights and sounds of the 2019 Indian Horse Relay together.



Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton and Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson with a group of fellow honorees at the 2019 NCAI Awards Banquet in Washington, D.C.



Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton (left) and Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson (right) meet with Rep. Deb Haaland (D-NM) at the 2018 NCAI Executive Council Winter Session during their Washington, D.C. visit.



Chairman Charles R. Vig visits with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) during a trip to Washington, D.C. in 2018.

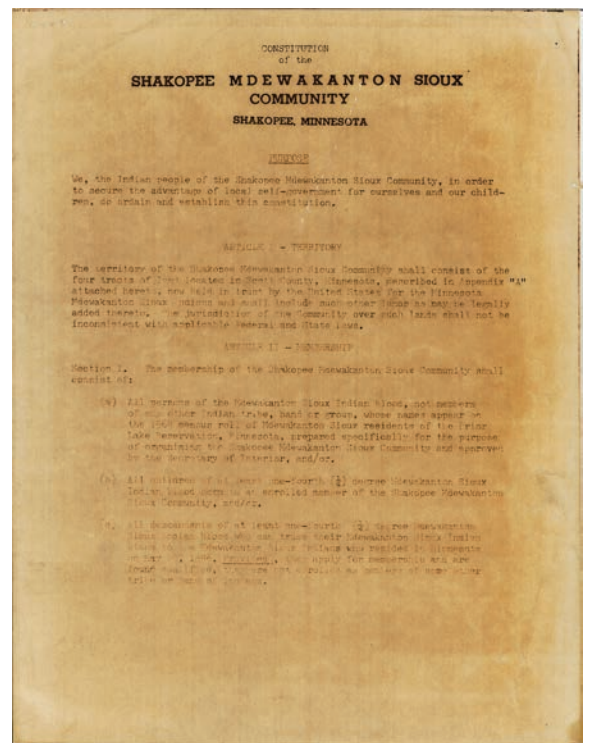


Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson (far left), Chairman Charles R. Vig (second from right), and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton (far right) meet with Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) at the "Change the Name" rally against the Washington NFL team in October 2019.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FEDERAL RECOGNITION

The year 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the SMSC securing federal recognition from the United States government as a sovereign tribal nation. While the history of the SMSC extends far beyond this 1969 milestone, the significance of gaining recognition from the federal government as a sovereign nation with sovereign rights cannot be overstated. Attaining federal recognition meant that the SMSC possessed the right to self-govern, enter into government-to-government relationships, and pursue self-sufficiency and economic independence for its members. In short, federal recognition is at the foundation of everything that the SMSC has achieved in the last 50 years, and it will continue to be at the heart of all future accomplishments.

To commemorate this milestone year, the tribe took time to reflect and honor the memory of the SMSC's ancestors and origins, while celebrating the tremendous progress achieved in the last five decades. From instability and poverty to economic self-sufficiency and cultural preservation, the SMSC has come a long way in the last fifty years, evolving into an exemplar of integrity, forward-thinking progress, economic success, and unwavering generosity for all of Indian Country, while protecting and strengthening tribal sovereignty.



Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton gives a presentation on tribal sovereignty in 2018.

“The governing body shall be a General Council, composed of all persons qualified to vote in the Community elections. There shall be a Business Council consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary/Treasurer, which shall perform such duties as may be authorized by the General Council.”

-Article III, Constitution of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community



076

Minnesota Agency
Third Floor, Federal Building
Duluth, Minnesota 55801

November 4, 1969

CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an election authorized by the Acting Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs on September 18, 1969, under delegated authority, the attached Constitution of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota was submitted to the qualified voters of the community and was adopted by a vote of 12 for, and 0 against, in an election in which at least 30 percent of the 12 members entitled to vote cast their ballots in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 338).

Paul A. Brown
Chairman, Election Board

Donald H. Lewis
Election Board Member

James H. ...
Election Board Member

United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Through: Area Director, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

NOV 23 1969

Dear Mr. Brown:

We have received the results of the election held on November 4, 1969, by the qualified voters of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota. The election was called in accordance with an order approved on September 18, 1969, which permitted the qualified voters of the community to adopt or reject the proposed constitution.

As witnessed by the Certificate of Results of Election, signed by the members of the election board, the proposed constitution was duly adopted by the voters.

The Constitution of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota is hereby approved and returned for delivery to the community.

Sincerely,
Marion Beach
Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Paul A. Brown
Superintendent, Minnesota Agency
Duluth, Minnesota 55801

Enclosure

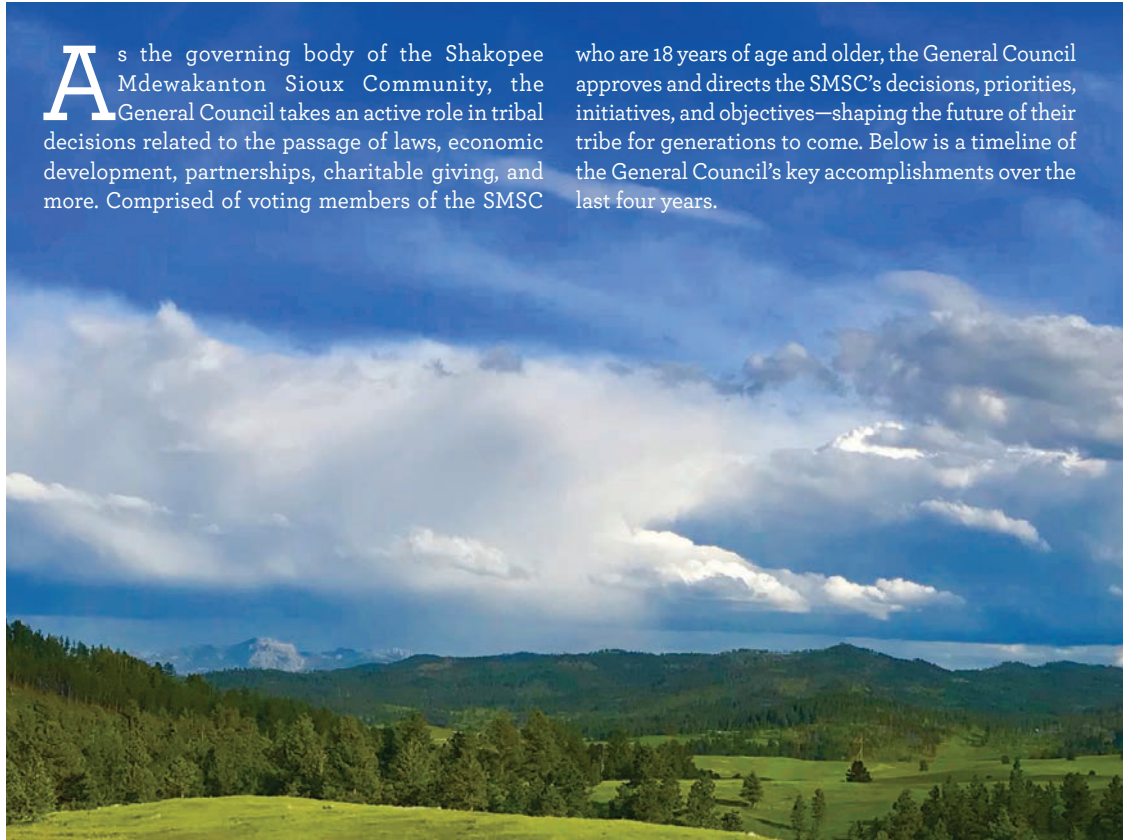
Received DEC 1 1969
Account Manager
SAC Camp

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

GENERAL COUNCIL'S KEY ACTION ITEMS

As the governing body of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the General Council takes an active role in tribal decisions related to the passage of laws, economic development, partnerships, charitable giving, and more. Comprised of voting members of the SMSC

who are 18 years of age and older, the General Council approves and directs the SMSC's decisions, priorities, initiatives, and objectives—shaping the future of their tribe for generations to come. Below is a timeline of the General Council's key accomplishments over the last four years.



2016

March: Sacred land in South Dakota known as Pe' Sla was placed into trust, thanks in part to the efforts of the SMSC. Furthermore, additional funding was allotted for the new hotel and convention center at the Gaming Enterprise.

May: Enacted the Civilian Review Board Amendment and invested in Niron Magnetics.

July: Introduced amendments to the Gaming Enterprise Ordinance.

2017

March: Authorized the SMSC to enter into a cooperative agreement with the city of Prior Lake for a joint water treatment plant and authorized the SMSC to enter into a Minnesota court data services agreement.

May: Purchased the Cates parcel, part of the traditional homeland of the SMSC.

July: Introduced multiple resolutions advancing tribal economic development and law.

November: Entered into an agreement with a new tax preparation firm for the SMSC tax program and approved an economic development loan to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.



Members of Business Council pose with representatives from the city of Prior Lake at their joint South Area Water Treatment Plant.



Representatives from the SMSC, Scott County, and the city of Prior Lake at a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the end of construction on the Stemmer Ridge Road and County Road 81 project.

2018

March: Authorized the creation and collection of a hotel and lodging tax; approved the creation of an intergovernmental organization with the three other Minnesota Dakota tribes for a proposed joint treatment and wellness facility; approved an economic development loan to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; amended the Mall of America Phase I (c) loan; and enacted the Animal Control Ordinance.

September: Approved the fiscal year 2019 SMSC Gaming Enterprise budget and business plan and the fiscal year 2019 SMSC Tribal Operations budget; authorized amendment to the change of name ordinance; authorized a contract with Thomson Reuters for the codification of SMSC laws; and amended the Community Member loan program.

November: Approved a Food Safety Ordinance and made amendments to the Conservation, Fish, and Game Ordinance.

2019

March: Authorized the use of vote tabulation machines for voting at General Council meetings and approved the relocation of the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility, appropriating the necessary funding to purchase land for the relocation and other associated costs.

September: Approved the fiscal year 2020 SMSC Gaming Enterprise budget and business plan and the fiscal year 2020 SMSC Tribal Operations budget; authorized amendment to Chapter 4 of the Consolidated Land Management Ordinance regarding recoupment; approved the Verizon mono pole and small cell project and lease; approved the South Metro Federal Credit Union project and lease; approved delegation of standing authority to Business Council to enter into contracts and nondisclosure agreements that include waivers of sovereignty; and approved the economic development investment in Brinjac Engineering.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PREPARES NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

With over half of its members under the age of 25, the SMSC is in the midst of an important transition as the younger generation prepares to take on more responsibilities in the leadership and direction of the tribe. To help Community Youth find their voice and develop their leadership abilities, the SMSC established the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) in November 2013. Open to Community Youth ages 12 and up, YLC has been meeting on a weekly basis under the guidance of peer-elected officers to promote responsible behavior through the Seven Sacred Dakota Values.

“One day, it will be up to my generation to lead the Community,” Community Member and YLC Advisor Justin Hoy explained. “It’s important for us to be involved now to learn from and work with previous generations.”

Over the past four years, YLC members have been continuously engaged in the Community, planning and attending events, hosting fundraisers, and serving as role models for the SMSC’s children and teenagers. In addition to assisting with key events each year, including Tiwahe Culture Camp, the End of the Year Barbecue, the Back to School Dinner, NB3FIT WEEK,

and Honoring Our Veterans, YLC members hosted their annual “Cookies for Coats” fundraiser to collect winter gear for Native communities in need.

In 2016, YLC members helped organize a Dakota Roundtable with other youth leaders from Minnesota tribes in order to discuss many issues, including culture, language, education, health, wellness, and resiliency. The following year, the group began a mentorship program to help younger students with their schoolwork, leading activities and games in the Education Department. Also in 2017, then YLC Chairperson, Maddison Van Cleve, was appointed by then Governor Mark Dayton to serve on an advisory council to help plan the first-ever Minnesota/Mnisota Tribal Youth Gathering.

The group also contributed their time and money to several causes of their own choosing, including the Dakota Access Pipeline protest in North Dakota, the Tiowakan Outreach Group, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Thanks to the hard work and inspired efforts of these young members, the SMSC will be well-poised to hand the torch of leadership to the next generation of leaders and continue its future-forward progress.



SMSC’s Youth Leadership Council had their first meeting in the Youth Tipi at Hočokata Ti in 2019.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
ELECTED OFFICERS 2016-2019**



(L-R) Chairperson Josh Thomas, Secretary Katrina Brewer, Vice-Chairperson Chaskae Brewer, Treasurer Chase Rouse, and Activities Coordinator Sara Coulter (not pictured).



(L-R) Vice-Chairperson Rachel Thomas, Chairperson Maddison Van Cleve, and Secretary/Treasurer Vanessa Peterson.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL'S
MISSION STATEMENT:**

Striving to create a better Community by embracing our seven Dakota values, supporting one another in our educational endeavors, challenging each other, and encouraging responsible behavior so that we can be positive role models for future generations.



(L-R) Vice-Chairperson Rachel Thomas, Chairperson Maddison Van Cleve, and Secretary/Treasurer Connie Jones.



(L-R) Chairperson Symone Naya, Vice-Chairperson Summer Lemke, and Secretary/Treasurer Aryanna Brandt-Dedeker.

COMMUNITY MEMBER WORK GROUPS DRIVE PROGRESS

Since being introduced in 2013, the SMSC’s seven Community Member work groups have taken a proactive approach to guiding the tribe’s growth and planning. While each work group has its own set of objectives and priorities, they are unified in their broader goal of strengthening the SMSC for generations to come.

From 2016-2019, the work groups have made several tangible improvements to the lives of Community Members. Below is summary of their key successes over the last four years.



COMMUNICATION AND MEMBER GOVERNMENT INTERACTIONS

Informed the development of the SMSC website and mobile application.

Developed, introduced, and/or revised several tribal ordinances, including the Consolidated Land Management Ordinance, the Election Ordinance, the Food Safety Ordinance, and more.



EDUCATION

Collaborated with the Finance/Economic Development Work Group to create and offer a financial literacy program for Community Youth and young adults.

Assisted in the planning and orientation of Voices of Our Ancestors, an intensive Dakota language program.

Facilitated the Education Department’s move to a more spacious, accommodating location.



CULTURE AND HISTORY PRESERVATION

Heavily involved in the concept, creation, and continual development of Hočokata Ti, the SMSC’s cultural center.

Organized several events for Community Members to record and preserve memories, oral histories, and other important narratives.

Provided feedback on the future direction of Wozupi Tribal Gardens.



FINANCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Modified the SMSC loan programs.

Initiated the process of administering a detailed financial review of each Tribal Operations enterprise.

Reviewed various economic development and investment opportunities.



Provided continuous support to the planning of various SMSC events, to include Honoring Mothers, Honoring Fathers, and the SMSC's Night to Unite event.

Worked with Mdewakanton Public Safety select recipients and distribute \$535,000 in grants to local public safety departments.

Reviewed various safety initiatives to include conservation and enforcement, and public safety staffing and programming.



Helped coordinate \$365,000 in grants to five Scott County governments to support new local trails.

Established an archery range near the SMSC Wacipi Grounds for Community Member use.

Helped review and finalize the SMSC Comprehensive Plan.



Established guidelines that help determine the selection method for tribal donations.

Made recommendations to the Business Council on donation and grant requests.

HOČOKATA TI OPENS TO PRESERVE MDEWAKANTON CULTURE

Hočokata Ti, the SMSC’s new cultural center and gathering space, opened during the tribe’s 50th year of federal recognition. Approved by the General Council in November 2015, construction broke ground on Hočokata Ti in October 2016. After construction began, the building and grounds rapidly began to take shape, creating the beautiful cultural center seen off of Mystic Lake Drive today.

With this mission in mind, the SMSC designed and built a gathering space that includes Native designs and patterns that are important to the Dakota people.

To encourage the practice of traditional Dakota cultural activities, Hočokata Ti offers the Community learning spaces throughout its seven tipis, cultural learning classrooms, and its grounds, which include trails, native prairie plants, wildflowers, and a pond for kayaking.

Throughout the planning and design process, the Business Council, General Council, Culture and History Preservation Work Group, and all others involved ensured that the building would be used to interpret and encourage traditional Mdewakanton Dakota heritage, language, and history.

POTENTIAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT HOČOKATA TI:



Archery



Language learning



Pottery



Bark lodge construction



Leather tanning



Quillwork



Cooking classes



Moccasin making



Tomahawk throwing



Kayaking



Plant harvesting

And more

WHILE THE MAJORITY OF HOČOKATA TI IS RESERVED FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, a public exhibit, called *Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake*, is open to the public. Tours are offered to guests, where an assortment of Dakota artifacts and educational displays can be viewed. The public exhibit provides visitors with a cultural experience that enhances their knowledge and understanding of the Mdewakanton Dakota people and their history. Guests can also purchase a variety of Native-made art, books, music, beaded and quilled items, and craft supplies in the gift shop.

Although construction only began in 2016, Hočokata Ti represents the resiliency, hope, determination, and ingenuity of generations of Dakota people. The SMSC has been working to create a building dedicated to cultural preservation since the early 1980s, and after decades of planning, the Community now has a gathering space dedicated to preserving Mdewakanton Dakota culture for generations to come.



INDIAN HORSE RELAY CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Since the historic cooperative marketing agreement between the SMSC and Canterbury Park was signed in 2012, the SMSC's relationship with Canterbury Park has continued to be mutually beneficial, and the SMSC's Indian Horse Relay has been the pinnacle of late-August racing entertainment at Canterbury Park ever since.

After SMSC representatives were invited to a race at Apsaalooke Crow Nation in 2013, the SMSC determined that a Native American horse racing event would be an excellent way to bring culture and tradition to the Shakopee area. Now in its seventh year, the event has continued to grow and attract racers from across the country.

During Indian Horse Relay, the spiritual relationship between Native American people and their horses is on display for all in attendance. The racers demonstrate this relationship through high-speed bareback racing and jumping from horse to horse during exchanges. The event also hosts many Native craft vendors, who display and sell jewelry, beading, carvings, and art throughout Canterbury Park. The Saturday night championship races are complemented by Native American music and dancing, which is performed by the SMSC Royalty, a host drum group, and other invited performers.

As the attendance at Indian horse Relay has grown, so has the event's reputation. Some of the best Indian relay teams in the country are invited to race at the SMSC's event, creating one of the most competitive races in Indian Country. For the first time in 2018, Indian Horse Relay was livestreamed for viewers to watch online—allowing families and the home tribes of the racers to cheer on their favorite teams.



RESTORATION EFFORTS CONTINUE AT SACRED PE' SLA

In 2012, the SMSC, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe came together to protect and restore Pe' Sla, a deeply sacred site of the *Oceti Sakowin* of the Dakota-Nakota-Lakota Oyate located in the heart of the Black Hills in South Dakota that was reserved as the tribes' permanent homeland in the 1851 and 1868 Sioux Nation Treaties.

Five years later in 2017, the land was placed into trust status, recognizing tribal authority over the land. Since then, the tribes have made substantial progress in restoring the land that has hosted sacred ceremonies for centuries. When the land was first purchased, the Seven Council Fires reclaimed 1,942 acres. Today, the group manages over 2,600 acres of trust land at Pe' Sla.

To continue the successful restoration of Pe' Sla, representatives gather at a quarterly meeting to discuss progress and upcoming initiatives. Tribal leaders and guests come together each March, June, September, and December, where they join in prayer, discussion, and fellowship.

As part of the Pe' Sla restoration effort, the Seven Council Fires reintroduced bison to the land, and the population has continued to grow steadily. All of the buffalo living at Pe' Sla are genetically pure.

Working together, the tribes' efforts to purchase the land, preserve sacred sites, reintroduce buffalo, and restore natural wild lands for current and future generations provides a collaborative model for restorative justice work.



SMSC LAUNCHES DAKOTA LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAM

To ensure the use and viability of the Dakota language, the SMSC announced Voices of Our Ancestors, a Dakota language learning program, in June 2017. The program, which partnered the SMSC with four tribal colleges, invited 20 students from five tribes to become fully immersed in the Dakota language for two years. The SMSC committed nearly \$2 million in 2017 toward Voices of Our Ancestors.

Students received a stipend to participate in classes that were held 40 hours a week. The 24-month curriculum

covered Dakota language, culture, and history. All tribal members and students throughout the five tribes were also invited and encouraged to participate in the program and were able to sit in on classes for free.

Upon completion of Voices of Our Ancestors, students are encouraged to give back to their communities and help teach the language to the next generation by creating learning materials, teaching classes, assisting with community events, and providing cultural guidance.

“We have very few Dakota speakers left who grew up speaking the language. Fortunately, the number of second-language fluent speakers is gradually increasing. They are the keys to preserving our language and teaching our next generation. This program will add much-needed Dakota speakers and teachers in several communities across the country.”

-Chairman **Charles R. Vig**



Community Members and Voices of Our Ancestors students (left to right): Andy Vig, Sonya Seaboy, Dakota Language Teacher Danny Seaboy, Margo Gavle-Prescott, and Adam Crooks.



Community Member and Voices of Our Ancestors graduate Adam Crooks takes notes during a class session.

SMSC STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS

After more than a year of studying, the SMSC Voices of Our Ancestors students earned first place at the second annual Lower Sioux Indian Community *Kawitaya Dakota Uŋkiapi kte* Language Bowl. The SMSC students improved and displayed excellence while working together on their Dakota language.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Throughout the program, students from each of the participating communities gathered at annual meetings to help them learn and teach. Activities included working with fluent speakers, setting goals, group reflection, and brainstorming ways to bring Dakota language back to their communities.



Voices of Our Ancestors students congregate at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel for the program orientation in August 2017.

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

FORT PECK ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES' FORT PECK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SANTEE SIOUX NATION'S NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

SISSETON WAHPETON OYATE'S SISSETON WAHPETON COLLEGE

SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE'S CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACIPI CONTINUES TO ATTRACT THOUSANDS EACH YEAR

For decades, thousands of people have gathered at the annual SMSC Wacipi to celebrate culture through song, dance, and camaraderie. In 2017, Community Member Cole Miller was selected as Wacipi Chairperson, and the efforts of the Wacipi Committee, Community Members, and countless staff have continued to make the SMSC Wacipi a resounding success.

During the third weekend of August each year, the SMSC hosts one of the largest Pow Wows in Minnesota. The event kicks off each year with the Wacipi Exhibition at the Mall of America on Thursday, which puts the weekend's dancing and drumming on display for mallgoers from throughout the Twin Cities metro area, the Midwest, and beyond. Friday morning plays host to the SMSC invitational—a golf

tournament for Community Members and invited guests at The Meadows at Mystic Lake. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, the weekend's four Grand Entries, dozens of vendors, and countless competitions continue to be the highlight of the weekend, creating a celebration of life and culture that has transcended generations.

In 2018, the SMSC featured two new enhancements to the SMSC Wacipi—livestreaming and a central location for security. Livestreaming allowed people across the country to view the SMSC Wacipi online, generating over 1 million impressions and 75,000 views in 2018 and 2019. The new Wacipi Grounds warming house offered a central location for all security at the 2018 and 2019 Wacipi.

“We had an excellent turnout, which was great to see. A special thanks to all of the Community Members and employees who worked to make this event a success—it truly is a team effort every year, and we couldn't have done it without your hard work and dedication.”

—Community Member and Wacipi Committee Chairman **Cole Miller**





WACIPI COMMITTEE TAKES OVER ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF YOUTH

Community Youth are the future of the SMSC, and they are honored at Wakaneza Wacipi, an annual celebration of the SMSC's next generation through music, dancing, fellowship, and culture.

For several years, the SMSC's spring Wakaneza Wacipi was held by the Ho Wašte Teca parish. In 2018, the event was entirely planned and run by the Wacipi Committee for the first time, and in 2019, it became the first large event held at Hočokata Ti.

Since the event began, it has been a way to encourage and teach youth about traditional Dakota dancing and competition. In recent years, the event has evolved into an election of sorts, and four youth are chosen to become SMSC Royalty at the Wakaneza Wacipi each year. The four SMSC Royalty—the Brave, Princess, Junior Brave, and Junior Princess—are selected by the Wacipi Committee for their involvement in and knowledge of Dakota culture, language, and dance.

After the SMSC Royalty are selected, they act as ambassadors for the SMSC until the following year's Wakaneza Wacipi, where they are honored for their service to the tribe. During their time as SMSC Royalty, they travel to many events and Pow Wows to share their Mdewakanton Dakota culture with other tribes and the greater community.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING PROVIDES CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

As the tribe continues to grow, the SMSC Education Department strives to provide more cultural opportunities through its programming, in addition to its basic educational support. These programs, which have existed for years, have continued to improve and provide Community Youth with fun ways to learn about Dakota culture and history.

TEACHING YOUTH ABOUT DAKOTA ART

Over the last four years, Community Youth have worked with Native American artists to learn about several different Native art styles. From dancing and painting to 3D design, Community Youth learned a unique approach to art each year during the Artist in Residence program.

In 2016, Native American artist Kathy Whitman-Elk Woman worked with Community Youth to create a 3D mural made of recycled materials, such as cans, plastic, and newspaper. The 2017 program hosted the Sampson Bros., who are well-known hoop dancers in Minneapolis. Samsosche and Micco Sampson shared the history, genres, design, and techniques of hoop dancing. In 2018, Community Member Jacob Crofut led the Artist in Residence program. Crofut shared his graphic art and drawing skills with Community Youth, and the group worked together on creating a canvas mural for the new Education Department space. 2019 featured Lower Sioux Indian Community member and pottery artist Joyce Pendleton, who spent four days with Community Youth guiding them through the artistic process of traditional pottery making.

IMPROVING DAKOTA LANGUAGE SKILLS

To help foster the Dakota language skills of Community Youth, the Education Department hired a fluent, full-time Dakota language teacher in 2017. In addition to teaching the Voices of Our Ancestors program, the Dakota language teacher has also assisted with Dakota language education for Community Youth and has helped incorporate language in various Education programs, including Young Native Pride and Tiwahe Culture Camp.

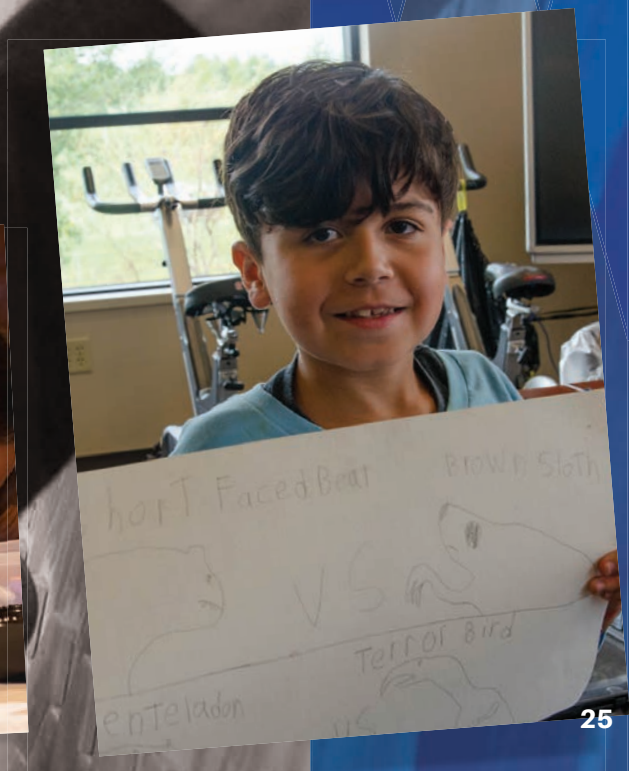
The new Education Department and Hočokata Ti also provide designated space for language learning. The Education Department includes a Dakota language classroom, and Hočokata Ti hosts language learning in the attached Language Tipi. These spaces, as well as the many language-based programs, help the SMSC secure the future of the Dakota language for generations to come.

GROWING THROUGH DAKOTA CULTURE

Since 2014, the Education Department has organized an annual summer program to help Community Youth connect with their culture in a healthy way. The program, titled Growing Strong Bodies & Minds, hosts a number of unique activities related to Dakota culture and living a healthy lifestyle. In 2018 and 2019, the month-long program provided activities from June through August.

Throughout Growing Strong Bodies & Minds, Community Youth have taken part in many activities, including food harvesting, cooking healthy meals, and playing Indigenous games. In 2018, the group also participated in the Dakota Language Camp in Bloomington, and they planted two bur oak trees near the intersection of county roads 82 and 83 to leave their mark for generations to come.





#SMSCGIVES BACK THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

From tribal nations and local businesses to emergency disaster relief and students in need, helping others has long been a top priority for the SMSC. To empower its employees to take part in this tradition of giving, the SMSC launched the #SMSCgives Community Outreach program, an initiative that organizes volunteer opportunities both on-site and in nearby communities.

The Community Outreach Program offers SMSC employees outreach hours each year to use toward volunteer opportunities, such as clothing and food drives, meal packing, gardening for local food shelves,

and so much more. Other #SMSCgives activities include in-kind and monetary donations, volunteer opportunities, and water bottle or equipment donations.

The inspiration for the Community Outreach Program grew out of an initiative to increase the SMSC's involvement in the greater community while supporting the Dakota tradition of helping others. At the heart of the program are the goals of assisting others through meaningful activities, building a stronger team—including both gaming team members and tribal operations employees—across the SMSC, and showing the public yet another way that the SMSC gives back.



 **UNITED WAY
ACTION DAY 2019**

A TOTAL OF **75 SMSC
EMPLOYEES**
AND TEAM MEMBERS
HELPED
PACK **40,000
BACKPACKS**
FOR KIDS IN NEED

WHY THE HASHTAG?

The hashtag in #SMSCgives shows the big picture—and tracks the remarkable work being done through #SMSCgives.

SMSCGIVES.COM



EMBRACING THE DAKOTA VALUE OF GENEROSITY: THE SMSC'S CHARITABLE GIVING INITIATIVES

Each year, the SMSC invests millions of dollars into the betterment of neighboring cities, schools, and organizations across the state and beyond, embodying the Dakota value of *Wo'okiye*, or helpfulness. From 2016-2019, the SMSC donated nearly \$80 million to Native American tribes, nonprofits, and other organizations.

The SMSC is one of the largest charitable givers in Minnesota and donates more to Indian Country than any other tribal government or organization in America. To date, the SMSC has donated more than \$350 million to support a variety of projects, ranging from health care and local governments to youth programming and environmental protection. Whether it's a large-scale effort or a small-town sports team, the SMSC supports initiatives from across the state and beyond, in a continued effort to embody the Dakota way of life and share resources with others—now and for generations to come.

SMSC FUNDS CRITICAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS IN SCOTT COUNTY

In early 2019, the SMSC awarded a total of \$100,000 to fund three trail projects in Scott County with the Shakopee School District, the city of Elko New Market, and the city of Jordan. The grants were part of a larger \$300,000 initiative to augment existing trail systems and improve access to public natural areas.

The Shakopee School District received \$16,620 as part of the total grant, which will be used for a mountain bike trail to provide a practice area for Shakopee students and neighboring club riders, as well as members of the surrounding community. The grant will also help fund the construction of a path through an outdoor learning space at Shakopee West Middle School, in the hope of encouraging students to foster a better understanding of and appreciation for the environment.

The city of Elko New Market received \$18,224 in funding to complete a local neighborhood trail, which will symbolically tie the formerly separated cities of Elko and New Market together, further fostering a sense of community and providing safer access to the cities' two major community parks for families. The city of Jordan received \$65,000 to help fund the construction of a trail that will connect 173 residential properties to their local community and also spur the continued development of pedestrian trails in the area.

"As a community that has long held deep connections to the natural world, the SMSC is excited to help make these wonderful projects come to life," said Chairman Charles R. Vig of the trail grant awards. "These trails

will not only provide Scott County residents with beautiful places to get outside and exercise, but they will also serve as a space to connect as a community and take advantage of the restorative benefits that nature has to offer."

In addition to the \$300,000 in trail grants provided in 2019, the SMSC gave \$366,000 in grants in 2014 to fund five Scott County trail projects, including trails in Elko New Market, New Prague, Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee.

1,000TH AED DONATION CAPS OFF MDEWAKANTON LIFE PROGRAM

Over the course of 13 years, the SMSC has donated hundreds of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to countless tribes, first responders, and government agencies in an effort to help save lives. In November 2017, the SMSC capped off the program, named Mdewakanton LIFE, with its 1,000th AED donation, providing 14 new AEDs to the Prior Lake Police Department. While the formal program may have ended, the SMSC still donates AEDs to people and organizations that request them.

Since 2004, at least 28 people have been saved across the country by law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel using SMSC-donated AEDs, plus many more by the SMSC's first responders using AEDs located around the reservation and tribal enterprises.

"This program is one way we can be good partners and good neighbors. Even if it only saves one life, these donations are always worth it."

-Vice-Chairman **Keith B. Anderson**



Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton with representatives from Shakopee Public Schools following the SMSC's trail grant award to the district in 2019.



The SMSC Endowed Scholarship program was established through a \$2.5 million gift from the SMSC to the University of Minnesota, with the tribe donating an additional \$500,000 to the program in 2017.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORTS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS

Each year, the SMSC dedicates funds to educational initiatives, including an endowed scholarship fund at the University of Minnesota. The SMSC Endowed Scholarship program was established in 2009 through a \$2.5 million gift to the University of Minnesota from the SMSC, and an additional \$500,000 donation to the scholarship program was provided in 2017. The gift leveraged a former university matching program that doubles the impact of the gift to students.

In a continued effort to prepare the next generation of Native Americans for success, the SMSC has contributed to this scholarship fund for nearly a decade. The SMSC Endowed Scholarship program supports talented Native American students with financial need who are seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota.

“The endowment will provide opportunities for more Indian students to seek out a college education at the university so that they can better serve their tribal communities,” the late SMSC Chairman Stanley R. Crooks said in 2007 at a ceremonial announcement of the donation. Since the program began in 2009, more than 200 students have received this scholarship, representing more than 40 tribal nations.

ADDRESSING THE FOOD CRISIS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Given the serious and widespread nutrition and food access crisis in Indian Country, supporting the dietary health of Native American communities is of particular importance to the SMSC. Five years ago, the tribe set out to create a major effort to support the Native grassroots movement around food and dietary health. Many practitioners, researchers, and advocates work tirelessly on this issue, and we wanted to launch a national campaign to bring about wider addition, broader strategies, support, and collaboration.

The Seeds of Native Health campaign has since grown to a \$10 million philanthropic effort. Drawing on our focus areas of food research, education, and access, the SMSC has utilized grantmaking as a way to build on localized efforts. For instance, recently the campaign has helped establish several new charitable funds, which support innovative nutrition programs, policy work, and research by providing grants to tribes and Native-led initiatives.

The campaign has also been successful at helping bring Native health and nutrition issues to the national stage. Our advocacy efforts—including the Native Farm Bill Coalition—have helped tribes make their voices heard and influenced public policy to the benefit of Indian Country.

SEEDS OF NATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES

Major initiatives over the past four years have included:

- Grantmaking to 51 tribes and Native nonprofits in re-granting partnerships with First Nations Development Institute and the Notah Begay III Foundation—strengthening Native food systems and increasing food access throughout Indian Country
- Major collaborative projects with the American Heart Association—supporting Native nutrition and health policy work across the country
- Healthy Children, Healthy Nations initiative with Better Way Foundation and the Center for Indian Country Development at the Minneapolis Federal Reserve—supporting early childhood development and nutrition in Minnesota’s Native communities
- Navajo Nation’s junk food tax with Dine Community Advocacy Alliance and First Nations Development Institute—supporting the implementation of healthy foods tribal legislation
- Water First! With Notah Begay III Foundation—reducing sugary beverages in Native communities
- Native Food Sovereignty Fellows with AmeriCorps VISTA and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative—stabilizing food sovereignty efforts, food systems, and tribal economies
- 52 Weeks of Giving with the Super Bowl Legacy Fund—contributing to nutrition and food access projects in Minnesota Native communities
- Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition with the University of Minnesota’s Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute—bringing together academic and Indigenous knowledge in the only scientific conference series on Indigenous nutrition in the world
- What Can I Eat? pilot program with the American Diabetes Association—piloting a nutrition education program in Indian Country
- Healthy Futures program with the Johns Hopkins University’s Center for American Indian Health—piloting a program to improve health and nutrition in tribal communities
- Model tribal food and agriculture laws with the University of Arkansas School of Law’s Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative—developing a comprehensive set of legal codes for customization and adoption by tribal nations

Leveraging new resources

By creating the Seeds of Native Health campaign, the SMSC has concentrated some of its own charitable giving around an urgent problem in Indian Country. This campaign has enabled the SMSC to collaborate with expert partners, helping further their work and expanding the possibilities of supporting large, consequential projects. It has also elevated other philanthropic organizations’ understanding of the needs of Native peoples.

The SMSC has combined funds with the American Heart Association and Better Way Foundation for major projects in Native nutrition advocacy and early childhood development and nutrition respectively. Other partners—First Nations Development Institute, the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, the Notah Begay III Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Minnesota, and the American Diabetes Association—have successfully used leading gifts by the SMSC to leverage additional investments from others interested in solving the Native food and nutrition crisis. Funders involved in major SMSC-supported projects include AmeriCorps VISTA; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota; the Christensen Fund; the Ellen and Michael Kullman family; Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger; the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and the Walmart Foundation.

What is Seeds of Native Health?

Seeds of Native Health is a national philanthropic campaign that works to improve Native nutrition. The campaign strives to combat health problems in Indian Country through community development, conferences and meetings, educational initiatives, grants, and research.

SMSC INVESTS IN MAJOR UPGRADES TO FACILITIES

To keep up with industry standards and ensure a positive experience for all employees and guests, the SMSC invested in a number of enterprise upgrades throughout the past several years. From relocated and renovating departments to remodeling and building additions to enterprises, the SMSC has experienced a number of makeovers throughout the tribe.

DAKOTA! ICE ARENA #2 REMODEL

After nearly 25 years of use, Dakota! Ice Arena #2 experienced a major remodel in 2018. The project, which took approximately three months to complete, wrapped up in July 2018 and was capped off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The improvements included energy-efficient and enhancements throughout the arena, including a new ice floor and refrigeration system, new boards and penalty boxes, expanded locker rooms, new seating, banners, light fixtures, and a fresh coat of paint, among other upgrades.



gave the Health and Wellness Department a more central location for Community Members at the Community Center.

MDEWAKANTON PUBLIC SAFETY RECEIVES FIRETRUCK UPGRADE

To improve their emergency response, Mdewakanton Public Safety unveiled a first-of-its-kind firetruck during spring 2017. This lightweight ladder truck includes combined EMS and fire response services, and it has better ladder capabilities and utilizes a compressed air foam system. Since its unveiling, the truck has served Mdewakanton Public Safety well and is the team's primary emergency response vehicle for years to come.



EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND WELLNESS DEPARTMENT RELOCATIONS

In early 2018, the Education and Health and Wellness departments were relocated. The purpose of the relocation was to provide the Education Department with adequate space for its growing needs—adding more classrooms, a multi-purpose room/lunchroom, natural lighting, and easy access to Dakota! Sport and Fitness for the department. The relocation also

PLAYWORKS LINK EVENT CENTER RENOVATIONS

During a three-week period in summer 2018, the Playworks LINK Event Center updated its space with new technology and a fresh look. The remodel included the removal of more than 100 lockers and handwashing stations to make room for wider hallways, new cabinetry and countertops, booth seating outside of conference rooms, replaced carpeting, and updated audio-visual components, including 4K projectors, new screens, speakers, microphones, and more.





REFRESH BAR AT DAKOTAH! SPORT AND FITNESS

In summer 2018, Dakotah! Sport and Fitness and Mazopiya opened a new reFresh Bar location at Dakotah! Sport and Fitness. This new location provides Dakotah! Sport and Fitness members new, healthy options to refuel after their workouts. Like the reFresh Bar at Mazopiya, the Dakotah! Sport and Fitness location also offers 100% organic juices, coffees, and smoothies, as well as healthy grab-and-go food items.

SDCS #1 RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Throughout the last four years, Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store #1 has experienced many improvements. In fall 2016, SDCS #1 started offering Mazopiya Express items from Mazopiya, providing guests with the opportunity to pick up healthy food options on the go.



In early 2018, SDCS #1 completed an overhaul of the store's design to freshen up the space and provide a better experience for customers. The new design gives SDCS #1 a competitive edge in the convenience store market, and it provides an upgraded deli space for new selections and old favorites.

THE MEADOWS AT MYSTIC LAKE COURSE RENOVATION

In 2016 and 2017, The Meadows at Mystic Lake renovated its course to improve play, drainage, maintenance, and appearance. A large part of the renovation included changes to the bunkers—the crew reshaped the course's bunkers, removed unnecessary bunkers, and added white sand.



GAMING ENTERPRISE GROWTH BRINGS ECONOMIC SUCCESS TO THE SMSC

Since 2016, the SMSC Gaming Enterprise has experienced many upgrades and marketing successes that have allowed the SMSC to maintain its standing as one of the premier gaming destinations in the Midwest. These changes have provided Mystic Lake and Little Six casinos the opportunity to grow, achieve greater economic success, and provide services to guests that have not been offered in the past.

CLUB PURPLE

In July 2016, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel announced a partnership with the Minnesota Vikings—making the SMSC Gaming Enterprise the exclusive casino sponsor of U.S. Bank Stadium. This sponsorship also led to Mystic Lake’s Club Purple at U.S. Bank Stadium, which offers state-of-the-art club-level seating that can hold more than 1,000 attendees, breathtaking views of the field and the Minneapolis skyline, and all-inclusive food and beverages.

BENEFITS OF THE SMSC-MINNESOTA VIKINGS AGREEMENT INCLUDE:

- Prominent Mystic Lake signage throughout U.S. Bank Stadium
- Marketing opportunities for casino guests
- Exclusive naming rights for Mystic Lake’s Club Purple and Little Six Casino’s Club Gold

GAMING ENTERPRISE ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

In October 2016, longtime Gaming Enterprise President/CEO Ed Stevenson retired, and Angela Heikes became the new Gaming Enterprise President/CEO. Heikes has more than 20 years of experience in

tribal gaming and had worked in all areas of casino management, with an emphasis on strategic planning and finance. Since the leadership change, Mystic Lake built another hotel tower and Mystic Lake Center, and the Gaming Enterprise was heavily involved in the significant improvements made to County Road 83.

GAMING ENTERPRISE CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

In 2017, Mystic Lake and Little Six casinos celebrated milestone anniversaries—Mystic Lake celebrated its 25th anniversary, and Little Six celebrated its 35th. In 1982, Little Six Bingo Palace opened its doors to the public, eventually leading to decades of economic success. In 1991, construction began on Mystic Lake. As the Gaming Enterprise has grown, improvements and facility updates have followed, making Mystic Lake and Little Six casinos premier gaming destinations in the Midwest.

MYSTIC LAKE CENTER AND THIRD HOTEL TOWER OPEN

After years of planning and construction, Mystic Lake Center and a new hotel tower opened to the public in early 2018. The event space, featuring design inspired by Minnesota’s natural scenery, was met with immediate success, booking numerous large-scale events through 2023. Dakota culture is reflected throughout Mystic Lake Center—each ballroom is named after a Dakota word significant to the area. The new hotel tower raises the number of hotel rooms at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel to 766, making it one of the largest hotels in the Twin Cities metro area.



MEETING A GROWING COMMUNITY'S NEEDS



With a projected 4,000% increase in population expected by 2067, the SMSC is laying the groundwork to accommodate the future needs of its growing community. Over the last four years, significant progress has been made to plan and build several additional residential subdivisions, including the following:

INYAN CEYAKA OTONWE

Located near Howard Lake, Inyan Ceyaka Otonwe, named after the historic Dakota Village that was located near Jordan, features a large restored wetland, environmentally conscious residential irrigation system, 66 residential lots, and a park with a picnic shelter and fitness circuit along with natural play elements. Construction on the subdivision began in spring 2018, with construction of homes beginning in 2019.

TEWAPA

Completed in 2017, the Tewapa subdivision is named after the historic Dakota village that was located near Savage and includes 23 residential lots an environmentally conscious irrigation system. The on-site park features trails, a sports court, a picnic shelter, a rain garden, a fishing dock, and a sports field for various recreational activities.

TINTA OTUNWE

Located east of Hočokata Ti, Tinta Otunwe, named after Dakota leader Šakpe's village, provides 48 lots, a natural waterway, and a park that will include a picnic shelter, wheel park, and sports fields for Community residents. Home construction began in 2019.



BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE: CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Maintaining and upgrading roads, trails, and utilities are critical to keeping the tribe's infrastructure in top shape. Over the past four years, the SMSC has completed and funded a number of construction projects and entered into partnerships with neighboring communities to ensure the area meets the needs of residents, staff, and visitors alike.

COUNTY ROAD 83

To accommodate growing traffic to and from the area, the SMSC recognized a need to reexamine the main thoroughfare leading to Mystic Lake Casino Hotel. Planning began in 2013 for the County Road 83 reconstruction project between county roads 42 and 82, with the goal of improving safety and traffic flow for local, commuter, and visitor traffic.

The \$17.5 million project widened portions of County Road 83 to four lanes and added trails and walkways to both sides of the road, improving safety for walkers, runners, and nonmotorized vehicle options. With an average of 17,000 drivers traveling daily on this stretch of roadway, these improvements have helped the SMSC meet current and anticipated traffic demands.

COUNTY ROAD 81 (STEMMER RIDGE ROAD)

After years of discussion, the SMSC entered into an intergovernmental cooperative agreement with the city of Prior Lake in 2016 to plan for and build Stemmer Ridge Road. The \$4.49 million project connected county roads

12 and 82 and included several traffic calming features including a center median, bump-out at the intersection of the new roadway with the existing Stemmer Ridge Road, roundabout at the park entrance, and curvilinear roadway design. "This road now brings us that much tighter together, and it creates a connection," Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs said at the ribbon-cutting event for the road.

NORTH-SOUTH WATER SYSTEMS CONNECTION

To provide greater reliability and improved operational efficiency for the SMSC's water systems, the SMSC began work in 2017 to connect the tribe's north and south water systems, which were previously two individual systems. The project consisted of extending a water main from the south system to the north system along portions of County Road 83, County Road 42, and McKenna Road.

MYSTIC CENTER DRIVE AND DAKOTAH PARKWAY

Following major improvements to County Road 83 and access roadways to both Mystic Lake and Little Six Casinos, the SMSC constructed a new connection from Dakotah Parkway to County Road 83 to allow easy access to the casinos, residences, and businesses in the area. In late 2017, construction began on Mystic Center Drive to provide an upgraded entrance to Mystic Lake Center. A roundabout was added to connect Mystic Center Drive with Dakotah Parkway, providing a safe route to the newly constructed convention center.



A LOOK AT LAND ACQUISITIONS

Looking ahead seven generations is an important lifeway of the Dakota people. Conserving and protecting *Unci Maka*, Grandmother Earth, today ensures that there will be food, trees, natural savannahs and prairies, traditional wild foods and medicines, and land from which future generations will derive many benefits.

Through a series of approved fee-to-trust decisions since 2016 the SMSC placed nearly 1,200 acres of land into tribal jurisdiction. These acquisitions—provided several economic development and sustainability opportunities within the Community, including residential areas, retail enterprises, wetlands, and stream systems that handle a majority of the SMSC’s stormwater. Other approved applications include the 250-acre parcel that includes The Meadows at Mystic Lake and a portion of the parking at the Wacipi Grounds.

In 2017, the 218-acre residential parcel Inyan Ceyaka Otonwe was placed under tribal jurisdiction. The process took nearly 19 months due to the parcel’s unique location, the future use, and other extenuating factors. The property also hosts the SMSC’s newly completed water treatment facility, which will be jointly used by the SMSC and the city of Prior Lake. The 114-acre parcel south of the Eagle Creek Elementary School, including Eagle Creek Transit Center park-and-ride facility, which is leased by Scott County was placed into Tribal jurisdiction.

In 2018, SMSC’s land holdings adjacent south of Deans Lake were placed under tribal jurisdiction and will be restored to its original capacity as an oak savannah. Both the area at Wiçóni Wašté and Wozupi II host a wealth of space government functions as well as Native-grown foods and a medicinal garden.

The Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store #2, was placed under tribal jurisdiction in May 2019. At the time of publication, planning was underway to submit applications for placement of an additional 238 acres into trust.

2016-2019: LAND PLACED INTO TRUST

2016

- Whipps 2 - 3.98 acres
- Group E - 166.13 acres
- Kinlock - 6.94 acres

2017

- Meadows - 249.89 acres
- Tinta Otunwe - 109.12 acres
- Inyan Ceyaka Otonwe (ICO) - 218.65 acres
- Tollefson - 114 acres

2018

- Group P - 72.88 acres
- Widman North - 26.46 acres
- Wiçóni Wašté - 38.62 acres
- Wozupi II - 139.29 acres
- Rads - 39.75 acres (pending)

2019

- Four Corners South - 50.63 acres
- Mni Yuskapi Makoce - 0.69 acres

TOTAL 1,197.28 acres

FEE VS. TRUST

Fee land means it is owned by the SMSC but subject to the jurisdiction of the state, county, and city. This status limits tribal self-determination.

Trust land is land that the U.S. government has taken ownership over specifically for a Native American tribe. The purpose is to restore lands that were historically taken from or lost by tribes, and to permanently protect those lands from similar loss. This status brings the land into the governmental control of the tribe and provides the best protection that the land will be available for the tribe’s future generations.

PORTIONS OF TINTA OTUNWE (OLD SHAKOPEE VILLAGE) CONVEYED TO THE SMSC (2015-2017)

The original spring site for the village of Šakpe—a prominent Dakota leader—near the Minnesota River in present-day Shakopee is an invaluable historic site for the Mdewakanton Dakota people. In July 2017, sisters Pelagie Snesrud and Pat Cates conveyed a piece of this historic land to the SMSC. The site has been in the family since 1844 and is home to three spring sites historically used by the Mdewakanton people.

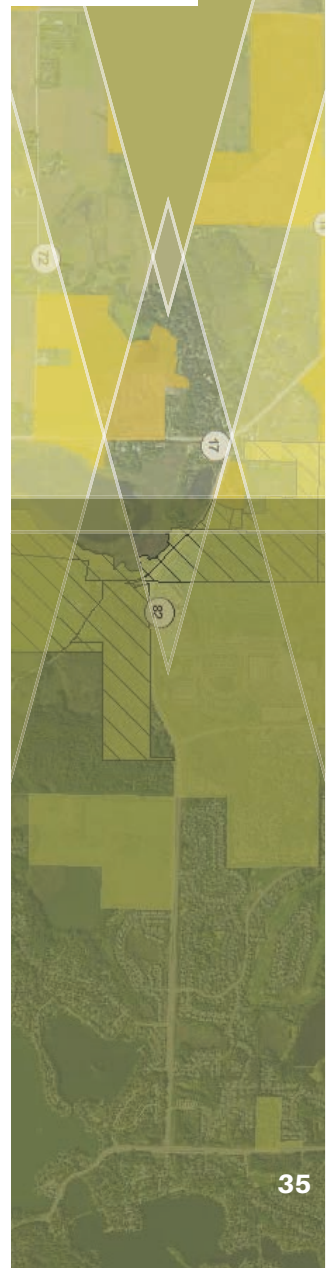
“This land came from the Mdewakanton, and I wanted it to go back to them,” said Pat Cates.

The springs on the site are the reason that people have been living in this area for hundreds of years, as it was—and still is—a year-round water source. It was also the center of Tinta Otunwe (Village on the Prairie). After the Treaty cessions of 1851, in which Dakota ceded nearly half the state of Minnesota, the Dakota relocated to a small tract of land. In honor of the significance of this area to the tribe, the SMSC will be returning the site to native prairie or savannah, while two other nearby pieces of property that were part of the village site will also be restored.

In addition to being a source of life, this parcel of land is rich with history. In 1858, there was a battle between the Dakota and Anishinaabe at Shakopee, and several victims of that battle are still buried in the area.



The site has been in the family since 1844 and is home to three spring sites historically used by the Mdewakanton people.



ACADEMIES OF SHAKOPEE PARTNERSHIP SETS THE STAGE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

In 2018, the SMSC began serving as an Academy Champion for Shakopee High School's visionary Academies of Shakopee program. Comprised of small learning communities of students and teachers organized around areas of interest, the Academies of Shakopee program was created to foster an inclusive learning environment and improve student success in postsecondary programs and careers.

As an Academy Champion for the Arts & Communications Academy, the SMSC is providing \$250,000 over five years to help students develop

relevant skills and knowledge in the field of arts and communication.

"The SMSC has long prioritized the education of our young people, and we've been honored to work with Shakopee Public Schools for many years on a variety of worthy projects," Chairman Charles R. Vig said. "We are particularly excited to support the Academies of Shakopee, a truly innovative program that will help empower our youth and prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow."



About the Arts & Communication Academy

The Arts & Communication Academy fosters creativity, innovation, and expression to ensure well-rounded individuals who can apply those skills in a number of fields. Career fields include the performing arts, visual art, publishing, online media, and creative design.



MISSION STATEMENT:

VOICE: The A&C Academy will develop skills for a 21st century world by fostering relevant experiences that **Validate** students' **Originality** by **Inspiring Creative Expression**.

SMSC DONATES ŠAKPE STATUE TO CITY OF SHAKOPEE

In a symbolic gesture of neighborly friendship, the SMSC bestowed a statue of Dakota leader Šakpe III to the city of Shakopee in November 2017. Standing proudly at the Highway 101 entrance to the city, the statue serves as a tribute and reminder of the longstanding legacy of the Mdewakanton Dakota people in the Shakopee area.

Šakpe III was the leader of a Mdewakanton Dakota village along the Minnesota River in the 1800s and a descendent of Šakpe II, the namesake of the city of Shakopee.

“We are honored to share this history with our neighbors,” Chairman Charles R. Vig said at the unveiling of the statue. “Together we’ve been able to accomplish so much more than we could alone.”

Sculpted by artist Denny Haskew, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma, the statue was donated by the SMSC to the city of Shakopee after the city had expressed interest in commissioning a statue for its downtown area. The tribe also provided a grant of \$50,000 for the restoration and installation of the statue in its new home.

“I would like to thank Chairman Vig and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for their generous donation of this wonderful statue,” said Shakopee Mayor Bill Mars. “We are strong partners, we are being enriched through our common history, and we have much to be proud of.”



Community Youth posing in front of the newly unveiled statue.



MDEWAKANTON PUBLIC SAFETY EXTENDS HELPING HANDS TO NEARBY COMMUNITIES



As a sovereign nation, the SMSC makes the safety and well-being of its tribal members, employees, and guests a top priority. MDEWAKANTON Public Safety (MPS), a full-time, professional fire and ambulance department, is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to providing emergency response, emergency medical services (EMS), fire prevention, and fire response services, staff work rotating 24-hour shifts in which they respond to incidents; prepare and clean equipment; and train for any emergency safety or health situation that might come their way.

Through mutual aid agreements, MPS works in coordination with neighboring public safety agencies and governments, including the cities of Prior Lake and Shakopee. Between the SMSC and neighboring cities, MPS responds to an average of 1,800 calls each year. MPS employees also frequently assist with large-scale emergencies and wildfires, both near and far.

The SMSC received a Local Government Innovation Award (LGIA) from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota for its unique, forward-thinking unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program at MPS in the Native Nations category in fall 2018. The SMSC implemented its community-wide, collaborative UAV program in August 2016 to further promote public safety. Among other features, the program allows MPS staff, in addition to neighboring city police and fire departments, to conduct search and rescue missions, event surveillance, crime scene documentation, roof investigations, and other security-related objectives.

By using a UAV, the SMSC has been able to mitigate risk while maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the greater community's public safety initiatives. The LGIA program recognizes local government projects that demonstrate innovation and collaboration.

Changes that MPS has made over the past four years—including training, community risk reduction, and enhanced incident management systems—led to the SMSC receiving a higher ISO rating in 2018. Its Class 2 performance rating ranks MPS in the top 2% of fire departments in the nation. MPS is an excellent example of how the SMSC is reinvesting in the greater community and representing the Community's mission to be a good neighbor.

Each year, MPS collaborates with a variety of local agencies and organizations for externships, emergency response services, prescribed burns, and trainings including technical rescues, tactical planning, and safety demonstrations.

- Academies of Shakopee
- Allina Health
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Genesis Attachments
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
- North Memorial Air Care
- Prior Lake police and fire departments
- Scott County Sheriff's Office
- Shakopee police and fire departments
- SMSC Gaming Enterprise
- SMSC Land and Natural Resources Department
- SMSC Wacipi
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security



SMSC PARTNERS WITH PRIOR LAKE FOR A JOINT WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

To support the growing water needs of the tribe and the surrounding area, the SMSC entered into a unique cooperative water agreement with the city of Prior Lake in November 2017. The agreement, which has no termination date, includes the creation of a joint water treatment facility and gives the city the right to purchase up to 2.2 million gallons of water per day from the SMSC.

“Preparing for the future needs of our Community and protecting our natural resources is critical to the SMSC, as well as the city of Prior Lake,” Chairman Charles R. Vig said. “By working together toward these shared goals, we’ll be able to provide for our communities and better protect the area’s groundwater from overuse and pollution.”

Located near Dakotah! Sport and Fitness on the south side of County Road 82, the South Area Water Treatment Plant is connected to the north water treatment facility in Prior Lake, allowing the SMSC to operate the two facilities as one system.

“This agreement, linking our water facilities together, speaks to the strength and importance of our relationship with the SMSC,” said Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs. “We are proud to partner with our neighbors and collaborate on projects like this that deliver significant value to taxpayers and are in the best interest of our communities.”

Given the significant cost savings of running a joint water operation and the positive environmental impact of the facility, the agreement represents a win-win situation for both parties.

“This is the latest in a long series of collaborative projects and agreements between our tribe and the city of Prior Lake,” said Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson. “As a sovereign nation and our own governmental entity, we are glad to be involved in intergovernmental agreements with our neighbors that make lasting partnerships possible and benefit our community.”



MORE MVTA OPTIONS FOR SMSC EMPLOYEES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

In early 2018, new transportation options were added to the Prior Lake area thanks to a partnership between the SMSC and the Metro Valley Transit Authority (MVTA). The agreement added five new direct stops to and from Mystic Lake Casino Hotel along MVTA's Route 495, which operates daily between Bloomington, Burnsville, and Shakopee.

"More than 100 guests and team members ride MVTA's Route 495 each day. These added stops at Mystic Lake allow team members to have fewer bus transfers and a noticeable time savings."

-SMSC Gaming Enterprise Transportation Services Manager **Josh Johnson**

The new direct stops, which are in the morning and afternoon, supplement Mystic Lake Shuttle Bus routes, which run frequently between the Marschall Road Transit Station in Shakopee and Mystic Lake Casino Hotel. The total cost of the expanded service was covered by a \$75,000 contribution from the SMSC.

"These expanded routes are a win-win for both the SMSC and the MVTA," said Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Executive Director Luther Wynder. "Together, we'll be able to get more travelers where they want to go in an affordable, convenient way." The five additional stops at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel have since made a positive difference for commuting team members who work overnight or swing shifts.



Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson (left) and Chairman Charles R. Vig (right) present a check to Luther Wynder, executive director of the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority.

SMSC LAUNCHES NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION TO ADVOCATE FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

Feeding one's own people is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of any tribal community. It also involves the exercise of a tribe's sovereignty. For far too long, too many tribal communities have been denied the basic power to feed themselves and exercise their food sovereignty. But that has changed. Because of the SMSC's leadership in creating the Native Farm Bill Coalition and guiding its work, Indian Country is in a historically stronger position to achieve food security and assert its food sovereignty.

Enacted by Congress approximately every five years, the Farm Bill is one of the largest pieces of domestic legislation in the United States. It addresses—and funds—nutrition programs, agricultural policies, food production, natural resource conservation, rural development, and forestry programs. Indian Country faces extreme dietary health disparities, and Native communities have some of the highest rates of reliance on federal programs. At the same time, there are many Native food producers who are doing incredible work and represent a hopeful future for tribal food sovereignty and self-reliance.

Historically, the interests of Native American tribes and producers have been largely ignored in previous Farm Bills. Beginning in 2017, the SMSC's Seeds of Native Health campaign played a leading role in giving Native Americans a strong, united voice to advance a common Farm Bill agenda. The SMSC commissioned a landmark report—*Regaining Our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill*—centered on the upcoming new Farm Bill's implications for tribes and Native producers. The report provided a title-by-title overview of legislative opportunities that better support Native consumers, farmers, ranchers, and producers in Indian Country in the 2018 Farm Bill, which significantly impacts over five million Native Americans and Alaska Natives in the United States.



In February 2019, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) awarded the SMSC the 2019 Special Recognition Award to honor the tribe's "instrumental role in elevating and helping secure key tribal provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill that will greatly benefit Indian Country." Vice-Chairman Anderson, co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, accepted the award on the tribe's behalf. Pictured above: Vice-Chairman Anderson presents Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) with a copy of the report.

In partnership with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI), the SMSC launched the Native Farm Bill Coalition at NCAI's 74th Annual Convention in October 2017 and held its first steering committee meeting, led by SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson as the Coalition's co-chair.

"The time to act is now. By adjusting, developing, and improving the Farm Bill's programs, we can build upon the already great work happening in our communities surrounding food and agriculture. We can improve and expand our infrastructure. We can develop our food systems. We can provide the means for our agriculture businesses to thrive. We can continue to address and improve the health of our people."

—Excerpt from *Regaining Our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill* (June 2017)

The Coalition's primary goal was to give Native Americans a strong, united voice to advance the common Farm Bill agenda and get Congress to pay attention to and act on their interests. More than 170 tribes, intertribal groups, Native organizations, and non-Native allies have become members of the Native Farm Bill Coalition. The members helped develop the Coalition's priorities for the Farm Bill, which kept Congress focused on tribal concerns about supporting the dietary health, agricultural, conservation, food sovereignty, and economic development interests of Native Americans.

"The Native Farm Bill Coalition is the largest-ever coordinated effort to influence federal food, agriculture,

and nutrition policies in a way that benefits Native Americans," said Vice-Chairman Anderson. "We are proud to be a founding member of this Coalition, and to build on our Community's existing work to help solve the food and nutrition crisis in Indian Country."

The Coalition represents the largest-ever coordinated effort in Indian Country around federal food, agriculture, and nutrition policy. Thanks to the Coalition's research, education, and advocacy at the U.S. Capitol and across the country, the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law in December 2018 with 63 separate provisions that benefit Indian Country—a feat that has never before been accomplished.

CONTINUED FARM BILL ADVOCACY

The Native Farm Bill Coalition remains active in working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the implementation of the new tribal authorities and access under the Farm Bill. It is also continuing to educate policymakers in the Congress on Native nutritional and agricultural issue, assist in oversight activities and urge Congress to further expand its recognition of tribal self-determination authority in USDA programs.

This ongoing work has included Vice-Chairman Anderson attending the USDA Tribal Consultation on the 2018 Farm Bill in May 2019. This consultation was part of the department's formal process to engage tribal leaders and solicit their feedback and concerns regarding the implementation of the new Farm Bill.

At the consultation, Vice-Chairman Anderson urged U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and USDA staff to work closely with Native American interests in the Farm Bill implementation due to the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and tribal nations.



In December 2018, Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, attended the signing of the 2018 Farm Bill, marking the greatest success to date in recognizing tribes and Native producers in federal food policy.

NIGA OPENS CONFERENCE CENTER NAMED IN HONOR OF LATE SMSC CHAIRMAN

After five years of planning and construction, the Stanley R. Crooks Tribal Leaders Conference Center opened in summer 2016 in Washington, D.C. The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) named this conference center in honor of Stanley R. Crooks, the late SMSC Chairman and Chair of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA).

“The Stanley R. Crooks Tribal Leader Conference Center will be here for our children and grandchildren, who will be working here for many years to come,” said NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens. “They will be protecting our tribal sovereignty. That is what Stan taught us—he was a teacher, mentor, father figure, and a leader.”

At a special soft opening ceremony in June 2016, tribal leaders and NIGA officials expressed their gratitude for the SMSC’s substantial support for the development of the conference center, along with several other tribes across the country. NIGA specifically honored the Business Council members in attendance and many members of the Crooks family who attended the opening ceremony, including Crooks’ daughter, Community Member and Commissioner of Gaming Cherie L. Crooks. “This means a great deal to our family, and we want to thank [NIGA] for remembering him in this way,” she said on behalf of her family.

In their remarks to tribal leaders and representatives from across Indian Country, the SMSC’s Business Council focused on Chairman Crooks’ passion for the restoration of Native American lands and tribal sovereignty. One of Chairman Crooks’ final projects helped facilitate the successful return of sacred Pe’ Sla lands in the Black Hills of South Dakota to permanent trust status for the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota people.

Chairman Crooks once said, “It is our tradition, our cultural responsibility, to help those who have not been as fortunate as we have been. It is just the right thing to do.” These cultural values and beliefs of helping others will be carried on in the Stanley R. Crooks Tribal Leaders Center. Since its unveiling, the conference center has been used for legislative summits, membership meetings, commissioner trainings, and seminars.

NIGA Chairman Stevens closed the tribute by stating, “Stanley Crooks was a great leader. He came to get work done. He was a very humble man who always attributed the generosity of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to the community, and didn’t take praise for the influence he had in guiding his nation forward. He was always a powerful advocate for all of Native America.”



“Stan was one of those influential people in my life, I was enthralled by him. He was decisive, sharp-witted, and a true visionary.”

—Vice-Chairman **Keith B. Anderson**

A TRUE VISIONARY

At the opening ceremony in June 2016, Chairman Charles R. Vig and Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson reflected on the visionary leadership of the late Chairman Crooks and his tireless efforts to strengthen tribal sovereignty through gaming in order to ensure the economic success of future generations.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TRAINING INVOLVES THE SMSC AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

As a sovereign and self-governing nation, the SMSC is responsible for caring for its tribal members. Working with other governments is an important part of ensuring a sustainable tribe for future generations. Since achieving federal recognition in 1969, more than 70 agreements have been signed between the SMSC and local governments, covering policing and law enforcement, emergency and medical services, roadway improvements, equipment sharing, burial mounds protection, watershed districts, and more.

Government-to-government relationships typically require a shared understanding of how each entity operates and establishing areas of opportunity for mutually beneficial partnerships. Throughout the last four years, the SMSC participated in important trainings that were designed specifically to educate and help state and local government employees better understand tribal governments in Minnesota in order to work together more effectively.

TRIBAL-STATE RELATIONS TRAININGS

Two Tribal-State Relations Training sessions—in March 2016 and February 2018, respectively—summoned tribal and state representatives from across the state to promote successful consultation and collaboration with tribes in Minnesota.

An overview of federal, tribal, and state relations was the jumping off point for the two-day trainings, and breakout sessions offered opportunities for discussions with state government staff, Minnesota tribal leaders, and SMSC employees. “It is critical to work together to achieve success,” said Chairman Charles R. Vig. “Successfully working together cannot be done without first learning about one another.”

The purpose of these Tribal-State Relations Training sessions is to promote knowledge, understanding, and respect for Minnesota’s 11 tribal governments, their histories, and their ways of life.

Tribal-State Relations Training Objectives:

- Enhance understanding of tribal sovereignty
- Establish familiarity with the ongoing impacts that historical periods of federal policy have on tribal-state relations
- Increase awareness of the unique relationships across tribal, state, and federal governments
- Expand understanding of Native American history and cultures, within and beyond Minnesota
- Gain insight into how differences can be resolved through understanding, agreements, and partnerships



Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs and Chairman Charles R. Vig during the first-ever City-Tribal Relations Training held in March 2018.

CITY-TRIBAL RELATIONS TRAINING

Local community leaders, SMSC staff, and Community Members came together in March 2018 for the first-ever City-Tribal Relations Training held at the city hall in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Similar to the Tribal-State Relations Training workshops held at the SMSC, the City-Tribal Relations Training shed light on the often turbulent history and relationships between the U.S. government and tribal nations.

The training included presentations on Native American history—including an in-depth look at the SMSC’s own history, Dakota language and culture, fee and trust tribal lands, and Federal Indian policy. By day’s end, participants felt encouraged to consider ways they could contribute to enhancing and improving government-to-government relationships between cities and tribes.

“Our Community has great neighbors and supporters that we often share borders with,” said Chairman Vig. “We are connecting the roads and finding ways to grow together.” Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs further added, “All of our communities are growing, and this is just the beginning of an important dialogue in order to continue to move forward and collaborate.”

City-Tribal Relations Training Participants:

- City of Shakopee leadership
- Prior Lake City Council and advisory committees
- Prior Lake-Savage School Board members
- Scott County leadership
- SMSC leadership and staff

2019 COMMUNITY Day Shares History and Culture with Neighbors

In November 2019, the SMSC invited neighbors, friends, and the general public for a day of educational talks and cultural activities at the first-ever COMMUNITY Day. Held at Hočokata Ti, the public event offered a glimpse into Native American and local history, culture, language, and issues of interest to the SMSC and Indian Country in general, while educating the general public and strengthening community ties. From a dance and drum demonstration to Native film screenings and food tastings, this event offered educational family fun and a chance for the general public to better understand the storied history and rich culture of Native American people and nations, from both a historical and modern perspective.



TIMELINE OF THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

PRE-CONTACT

Dakota people lived in the Minnesota River Valley for hundreds of years, fishing from rivers and hunting game on the prairies and in the river valley woodlands. Along the banks of the lower Minnesota River, leaders of the Eastern Dakota—including Šakpe, Mazamani, Caške, and Wambdi Taŋka—established villages and followed a natural cycle of life.

1640s

First recorded non-Native American contact with Dakota people took place.

1805-1858

After the U.S. government negotiated a variety of treaties with the Dakota, the Dakota lost millions of acres of land for little compensation, eventually surrendering all lands east of the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Territory was created in 1849, and within two years, all remaining Dakota land was in federal hands. The Dakota were forced onto reservations and struggled to survive.

1862

In August and September 1862, the Dakota people's hunger and destitution escalated into the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, and the Dakota fought for their homelands, their ways of life, and their basic survival. The largest mass execution in U.S. history was the result—38 Dakota warriors were hanged in Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 1862.

1880s

A small number of Mdewakanton were allowed to stay in Minnesota, and the U.S. Congress appropriated money throughout the 1880s to provide land for the Mdewakanton who remained in Minnesota. These Acts of Congress led to the formation of the current Mdewakanton tribal governments. The U.S. government purchased land for the Mdewakanton, including land in the Prior Lake area.

1924

Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship.

1934

The Indian Reorganization Act was implemented, repealing the Dawes Act and enabling tribes to voluntarily organize and adopt federally approved constitutions and bylaws.



1950s

Federal termination and relocation policies sent Native Americans to cities to work in an attempt to break up families and tribes. Dakota families living on trust land in Prior Lake worked hard for every meal and their basic essentials. Health care, education, and steady employment were out of reach for many.

1969

On November 28, 1969, the SMSC formally became a federally recognized Indian tribe, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act, with 13 adult voting members and 20 minor members. Norman M. Crooks was elected as the first Chairman of the SMSC.

1970s

The tribe's population grew, even as Members struggled to find adequate housing and employment. Many Community Members depended on food subsidies.

1972

The city of Prior Lake annexed the SMSC reservation.

1982

On October 16, 1982, the Little Six Bingo Palace opened under the leadership of Chairman Norman M. Crooks, and busloads of people began arriving. This new source of economic opportunity brought many changes to the tribe. Tribal government services began to improve, and opportunities for the tribe and its Members increased.

1983

The city of Prior Lake redrew precinct boundaries, leaving out the reservation after deciding the 1972 annexation was illegal. Courts later overturned that action and declared that the city had to provide voting rights and municipal services to the SMSC on an equal basis, even though they had no civil jurisdiction over the reservation.

1989 - 1991

Minnesota tribes were the first in the nation to negotiate and sign compacts with a state government under the authority provided in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. In order to develop Class III gaming operations, each tribe in Minnesota needed to reach compacts with the state government. The result was 22 compacts—one for video games of chance and one for blackjack, for each of the 11 tribes—signed from 1989-1991. On September 25, 1991, a tribal-state compact was signed between the SMSC and the state of Minnesota, authorizing Class III gaming.

TIMELINE OF THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY



DURING 1990s

The tribe saw significant growth throughout the 1990s, with the addition of residential housing subdivisions, a convenience store, a fitness center, a child care center, and an RV and camping enterprise. In this new era of self-sufficiency, the Community was able to use its inherent sovereign rights and growing economy to purchase additional lands and to radically improve its economic base.

1992

Mystic Lake Casino opened in May 1992.

1996

The first hotel tower opened at Mystic Lake Casino, drawing entertainment and guests to the SMSC and further promoting economic success.

DURING 2000s

Mystic Lake Casino opened a second and third hotel tower. The tribe continued to see significant growth with the opening of Tiowakan Spiritual Center, the SMSC Cemetery, Dakotah Meadows Mini Storage, Playworks LINK Event Center, and the Mystic Lake Store at Mall of America.

2002

Mdewakanton Public Safety was established, serving and providing fire and ambulance services to Community members, guests, and patrons of the SMSC, and residents of nearby communities. Also in 2002, the SMSC purchased Lone Pine Golf Course, initiating a complete remodel and later reopening in 2005 as The Meadows at Mystic Lake.

2003

The SMSC worked with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Minnesota DNR to place Maka Yusota/Boiling Springs on the National Register as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) on January 16, 2003, as the first TCP in the State of Minnesota.

2006

A Water Reclamation Facility utilizing European technology to treat wastewater for reuse as irrigation opened in 2006, reducing energy costs and consumption. A 1 million-gallon water tower was built to better serve the needs of the tribe, as well as a second water treatment facility and another water tower on the northern portion of the reservation.



2007

The Mystic Showroom opened as a premiere entertainment venue, as well as a new Bingo Hall at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and a second convenience store, Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store #2. Health care services improved for Community Members with the debut of the SMSC Pharmacy and the SMSC Wellness Center. Little Six Casino reopened in December 2007, moving back to its original site.

2008

SMSC Water Bottling, a vision clinic, and Dakotah! Ice Center opened. After nearly nine years in the federal review process, the SMSC's application to have 752.41 acres of land be placed into trust was approved.

2009

A 262-foot, 1.5-megawatt wind turbine at the SMSC Wacipi Grounds became operational. The Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza was dedicated at TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, funded in part by the SMSC. Koda Energy, a joint, green initiative between the SMSC and Rahr Malting of Shakopee, began operations.

2010

Mazopiya, the SMSC's natural food market, opened its doors. Also in 2010, Wozupi Tribal Gardens began operations, providing fruits and vegetables for the tribe.

2011

The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility opened in the fall of 2011, further supporting the Dakota tradition of caring for the earth. The SMSC also dedicated a statue in front of the Community Center to honor the SMSC's first Chairman, Norman M. Crooks.

2012

Together, four Sioux tribes—including the SMSC—purchased the sacred site Pe' Sla in South Dakota. The SMSC marked the 150th anniversary of the U.S.-Dakota War with marches and funds to build a memorial in Mankato, Minnesota, in honor of the 38 hanged Dakota warriors. Also in 2012, historic partnerships were made with Canterbury Park and St. Francis Regional Medical Center, both in Shakopee.

2013

The first Indian Horse Relay, hosted by the SMSC and Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, came to Canterbury Park in September. The SMSC General Council created the Youth Leadership Council, a group of youth Community ambassadors, role models, and peer mentors. Government-to-government relationships also continued to improve through an agreement between the SMSC and the city of Shakopee regarding shared police services.

TIMELINE OF THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY



2014

Construction began on a new endeavor for the SMSC, the JW Marriott Minneapolis Mall of America, which opened its doors the following year. Also in 2014, the SMSC and the city of Prior Lake entered into a water purchase agreement and joint facility, offering the city access to a new water supply for the next 25 years.

2015

The SMSC provided a \$5 million contribution and launched Seeds of Native Health in March 2015, a major philanthropic campaign to improve the nutrition in Native American communities across the country.

2016

The SMSC broke ground at its new cultural center. Construction began on Mystic Lake Center, a hotel and event space addition to Mystic Lake Casino Hotel.

2017

Funded by the SMSC, Voices of Our Ancestors launched across five tribal communities in an effort to preserve the Dakota language. The SMSC also increased the funding for Seeds of Native Health to \$10 million. The SMSC also purchased the historic Šakpe village spring site in Shakopee.

2018

Bringing the total hotel room count to 766, Mystic Lake Center opened to the public in January 2018. In March 2018, the first-ever City-Tribal Relations Training was held in Prior Lake, promoting government-to-government relationships among the SMSC and surrounding cities. Community Youth participated in the nation's first Tribal Youth Gathering to discuss issues affecting young Native Americans.

The Native Farm Bill Coalition—a joint project of the SMSC's Seeds of Native Health campaign—worked diligently to advocate for the 2018 Farm Bill and advance Indian Country's interests to improve Native American nutrition. The 2018 Farm Bill passed in December 2018, with portions of funding slated to help improve Native dietary health and food access in Indian Country.

2019

Hočokata Ti, the SMSC's new cultural center, celebrated its grand opening, providing Community Members with a permanent gathering space to meet, teach, celebrate, and preserve all things Dakota. Three of the SMSC's enterprises—Dakotah Meadows RV Park, Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store #1, and Dakotah! Sport and Fitness—celebrated 25th anniversaries in 2019. In September, the SMSC and the city of Prior Lake celebrated the opening of their new joint South Area Water Treatment Plant. The SMSC also honored and recognized its 50th anniversary of federal recognition on November 28, 2019.

The Minnesota Legislature hosted a Tribal Sovereignty Day in the Minnesota House Chambers where tribal leaders addressed state legislators from the Speaker's podium.



IN LOVING MEMORY

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE SPIRIT WORLD

2016-2019

VERNON A. ANDERSON
May 8, 1920–July 1, 2017

GRACE A. CHIANELLI
May 30, 1956–July 16, 2019

ERNEST R. COURSOLE JR.
February 8, 1961–February 13, 2019

CLIFFORD S. CROOKS SR.
October 11, 1928–June 3, 2016

GLYNN A. CROOKS
December 2, 1950–October 10, 2018

JAMES W. HERRON
January 12, 1974–November 23, 2016

DARLENE E. KAISER
September 29, 1943–May 3, 2017

JAN M. LAWRENCE
March 3, 1950–February 22, 2016

LAWRENCE N. THOMAS
January 29, 1953–May 21, 2019

JAMES J. VIG
December 22, 1952–August 30, 2016

SUNNY DAY WELCH
March 30, 1972–March 1, 2018

BRENDA F. WILT
July 15, 1942–February 10, 2019



SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

FOUR-YEAR REPORT | 2016-2019