



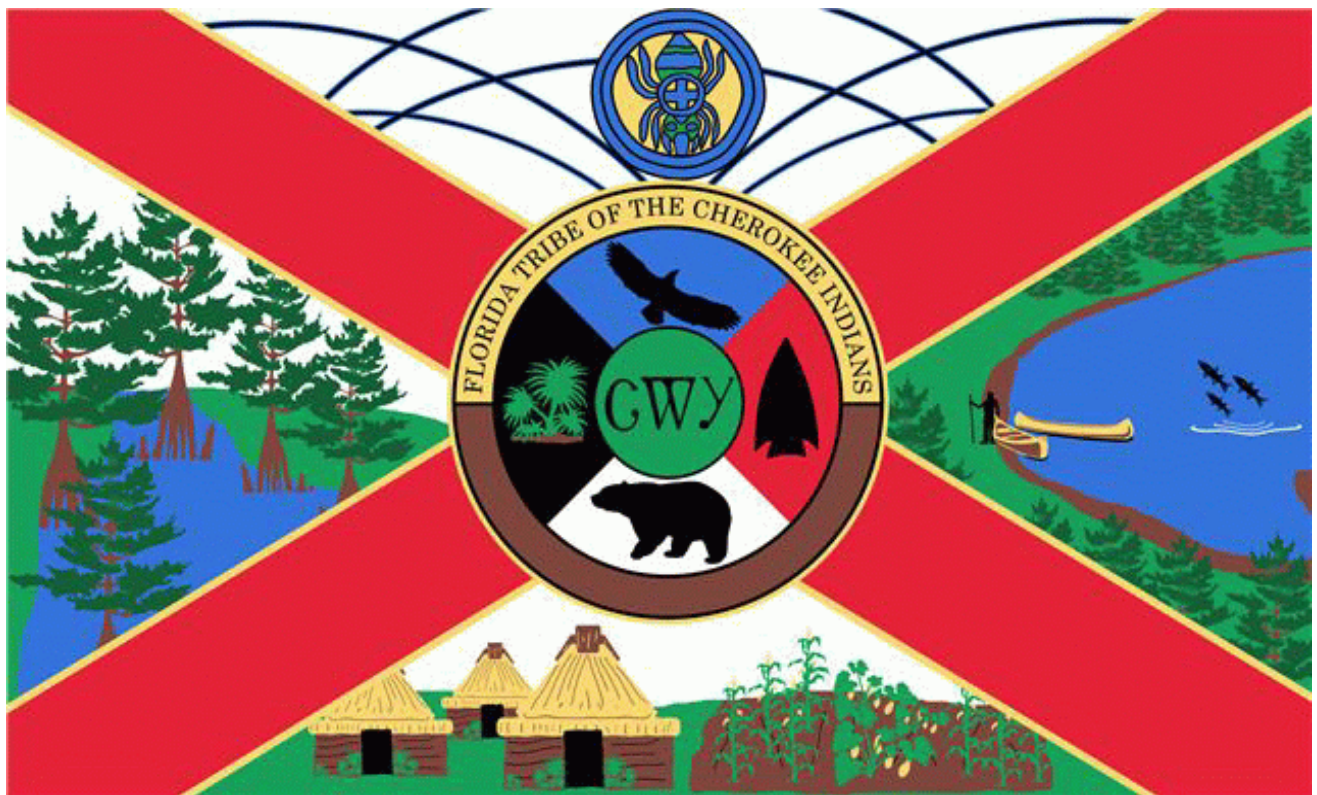
# AGENDA

June 19, 2010

1. Invocation
2. Call to Order
3. Reading of Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Vice Chief's Report
6. Report on Land Grant
7. Phone Tree (Tosha Johnson)
8. Tribal Flag Proposal (Ricky Wallace, Sr. & Ricky Wallace, Jr.)
9. Pensacola Interstate Fair Report
10. Discussion of a Tribal Tax and Revision of Constitution
11. Open Forum
12. Adjournment

# Tribal Flag Proposal

The Florida Tribe of Cherokee Indians has put out a call for design proposals for a tribal flag. The call was recently answered by a father and son. The proposed flag is located below.



# TRIBAL TAX DISCUSSION

All nations levy a tax. Taxes are what the government uses in order to provide services and to act on behalf of the people that the government represents. Even in the days before America even existed, Cherokee peoples would devote their entire day for the benefit of the tribe.

To date, the Florida Tribe of Cherokee Indians has never levied a tax on the tribal citizens. Instead, the tribe has done multiple fund raisers that have had varied results. The belief, at the time, was that the tribe should operate for the benefit of the people. It was understood that the only way that this could happen was if every tribal citizen worked to keep the tribe going strong.

As of late, out of the entire tribe, only a handful of people have worked fund raisers. Some people have even been forced to work hours without relief because of a shortage of help. In one case, at a recent event, workers volunteered for an entire day only to make \$7 that the State of Florida then taxed.

These lack-luster events demoralize what little volunteers we have. Moreover, the constant peddling of trinkets cheapens our culture and gives a negative image.

Yet, despite the lack of funds, calls and emails are received on a weekly basis by the tribe for services and perceived "benefits" that the tribe usually cannot afford or provide. Moreover, there is a national push, by at least one federally recognized Cherokee tribe to make it illegal for tribes like ours to exist. This one tribe spent over \$40 million in 2009 to stop the State of Tennessee from bringing back their state recognition laws. It is believed that a similar amount of money is being spent in Florida now to keep Florida from bringing back its state recognition laws that were abolished in 2001.

As the tribe grows, it is becoming self-evident that the number of volunteers will not be able to work the hours needed to keep everything sustained. The tribe will not be able to maintain its ability to promote, protect, and defend the culture, language, and peoples of the tribe.

People have already voiced their opinion on this matter. One said that "a rented car never gets washed" while another noted that it "it is hard to take ownership of a situation when you have nothing vested in it"...still others have made similar comments. The crux of informal discussions have been that over-taxation is sinful but a reasonable tax is demanded for the tribe to stay afloat and running smoothly. No one plan has been proposed. One suggested plan states that a yearly fee should be allotted with the option to work off that tax – hence spurring greater volunteerism. Another plan was for a set monthly rate of \$5 or so. Another plan called for a yearly rate with set workdays that would cost a set amount if a citizen did not work. Still others have also been submitted. Though there has been no consensus of thought on how the tax should work, there has been agreement that: 1) There needs to be a tax, 2)the elderly should be exempt, 3)youths should be exempt, 4)the disabled/disadvantaged should be exempt, and 5)that it should be fair to all others concerned.

The discussion will be to see if the tribe is ready to impose a tax on the citizenry and how that tax should be handled. No vote will be taken to impose anything at this meeting regarding a tax or the changing of the tribal constitution to allow for a tribal tax.