

**Virginia American Revolution 250 (VA250) Commission**  
**Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council**  
Colonial Williamsburg Inn – East Lounge  
10:00 AM

***Members present:***

**Chief Stephen Adkins**, *Chair*, Chickahominy Indian Tribe  
**Chief Frank Adams**, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe (*Virtual*)  
**Chief Walt “Red Hawk” Brown**, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe  
**Chief Robert Gray**, Pamunkey Indian Tribe (*Virtual*)  
**Assistant Chief David Hennaman**, Nansemond Indian Nation  
**Chief Diane Shields**, Monacan Indian Tribe (*Virtual*)  
**Edward Ragan**, Rappahannock Tribe (*Virtual*)

**Senator Mamie Locke**, VA250 Vice Chair (*Virtual*)  
**Christy Coleman**, Executive Director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation  
**Cliff Fleet**, President and CEO, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
**Carly Fiorina**, VA250 National Honorary Chair  
**Cheryl Wilson**, Executive Director, VA250

**John Hennessey**, Interpretive Planner  
**Kate Egner Gruber**, Director of Engagement, Public Programming & Interpretation  
**Katherine Dabney**, Development & Engagement Associate  
**Frank Sadler**, Chief of Staff to Carly Fiorina  
**Alton Coston**, VA250 Fellow (*Virtual*)

**Welcome and Chair’s Remarks**

Chief Stephen Adkins, Chair, convened the second meeting of the VA250 Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council and thanked everyone for their participation.

He stressed the importance of our work in ensuring that this is a positive commemoration and unifying opportunity for all in which we promote understanding and empathy. The charge for our work: *who we are, who we were, and where we’re going.*

**Remarks from VA250 Honorary Chair – Carly Fiorina**

Carly’s directive: *tell every story; the whole story. History belongs to all of us, this is a unifying opportunity, not a divisive one.* The whole story unifies people. We must be accurate, complete, and meaningful.

Chief Adkins noted *we feel pain, and we feel joy, we need to feel both to better understand each other.*

**VA250 July 4 Planning and Programming**

The VA250 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 celebration will be held in Capital Square. Programming needs to include the human expression aspect of Virginia; importance of including documented speeches from Indigenous leaders (Chief Brown mentioned Chief Logan specifically). Understand that art, culture, food—it’s all part of education.

## **VA250 Emerging Leadership Fellows Program**

Alton Coston, who joined virtually, was introduced as the first fellow in the VA250 program. Fellows will help ensure that VA250 programming is meeting Virginia's communities where they are; ensuring a commemoration that is inclusive of our vibrant communities and cultures across the Commonwealth. We are actively recruiting for a Fellow from the indigenous community and welcome nominations from the council. Fellows are paid a monthly stipend for their time and efforts in support of VA250.

### **Remarks from Carly Fiorina**

- The VA250 Commission's 5 pillars drive our work and all programming must reflect those pillars
- We have a holistic approach to educate people in the Commonwealth over the next 3+ years; All Virginians should be educated in a different way by the time we get to 2026.
- We are all Americans; we have a shared beginning.
- We have an opportunity to reveal things as they truly were, so we can see who we really are.

### **Key takeaways**

- Need more information about tribal enclaves, deep divisions but fighting against disposition and erasure. This is an important part of promoting healing.
- Share stories in a way that resonates warmly, steering clear of patronizing "kumbaya moments" in favor of genuine engagement.
- Tell stories of identity. How do we best reflect the stories and culture of people who played a pivotal role in shaping the nation? Accurate and reflective of how important Black and Native peoples were to the founding of America.
- Educate, eradicate the untruths. Rest on the SOLs, but expand them.
- Truth, opportunity, unity, education: keywords in this conversation

### **Next steps**

- Identify a fellow from the indigenous community.
- Offer thoughts on July 4<sup>th</sup> events and programs. What and who should be included?
- VA250 staff to arrange individual meetings with each Council member to gather insights and input for shaping programming and the mobile museum.
- Next meeting set for Friday, May 3, 2024 at 10 am at Colonial Williamsburg