



**Virginia American Revolution 250 (VA250) Commission
Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council**

Virginia Museum of History & Culture
Reynolds Leadership Conference Room (2nd Floor)

Friday, May 3, 2024
10:00 AM

Members present:

Chief Stephen Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, *Chair of Advisory Council*
Chief Frank Adams, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Chief Keith Anderson, Nansemond Indian Tribe
Chief Mark Custalow, Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Shaleigh Howells, Pamunkey Indian Tribe Cultural Resources Director
Price Jett, Patawomeck Indians of Virginia (*Virtual*)
Dr. Edward Ragan, Rappahannock Tribe (*Virtual*)
Troy Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe (*Virtual*)

Carly Fiorina, VA250 National Honorary Chair
Senator Mamie Locke, VA250 Vice Chair (*Virtual*)
Jane Lammay, Virginia Tourism Corporation
Ashley Webb, Fincastle Resolution 250th (*Virtual*)
Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director
Eric Monday, VA250 Commission Member (*Virtual*)
Katherine Dabney, Development & Engagement Associate
Kate Egner Gruber, Director of Engagement, Public Programming, & Interpretation
Frank Sadler, Chief of Staff to Carly Fiorina
Alton Coston, III, VA250 Emerging Leaders Fellow
Fallon Burner, Russell Reed, Colonial Williamsburg (*Virtual*)

Call to Order (Welcome & Chair's Remarks) at 10:00am

Chief Stephen Adkins, Chair

- Chief Stephen Adkins, Chair, convened the second meeting of the VA250 Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council and thanked everyone for their participation.
- Chief Adkins said that he's been in contact with Vice-Chair Senator Mamie Locke to discuss the opening portion of the July 4th ceremony containing cultural drumming by both Tribal Nations and African-American drummers.
 - Vice-Chair Locke has been in touch with a drum chord that will be drumming at Hampton's Juneteenth celebration. Katherine told Vice-Chair Locke that she'll be in contact regarding these initiatives.

Remarks from VA250 National Honorary Chair

Carly Fiorina

- Carly's opening remarks emphasized VA250's desire to ensure adequate, powerful representation and education of Tribal Nation communities in the July 4th afternoon festival and evening ceremony. Questions for members of the Tribal Nations Advisory Council to consider:

- What would you like included in the afternoon festival in Capitol Square? In other words, what do you want fellow Virginians to know about your community and tribes?
- Carly ended her remarks by reminding the meeting attendees of the mission of the July 4 programming – to educate, engage, and inspire. Carly also emphasized that they’ll have a wonderful opening ceremony, but want every community represented in the afternoon festival to display the variety of human experiences. Lastly, Carly thanked Chief Adkins for writing his powerful Op-Ed.
 - In beginning the formal program, the commission is intending to have Native American drummers entering Capitol Square playing their own cultural rhythm. Moments later, African American drummers will enter Capitol Square playing their cultural rhythm. Lastly, Fife and drum will enter with their rhythm. Then, they’ll ultimately synchronize their beat as a powerful way to start the ceremony.

Update on Individual Meetings with Tribal Nations Leaders

Katherine Dabney and Kate Egner Gruber

- Katherine said that she and Kate had 7 individual meetings with members of the Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council since the last official March meeting to understand their desires in the July 4 afternoon festival and ceremony. Ahead of their calls, the three discussion questions were provided to interviewees:
 - 1) *From visiting our 1,100 square-foot mobile museum, what key-takeaways should visitors learn and know about Indigenous Virginians and their experiences during the American Revolution?*
 - 2) *How can we ensure that all Virginians, including Indigenous Virginians, see themselves and are included in our July 4 programming at the State Capitol?*
 - 3) *As we continue working together to craft engaging, inspiring, and educational programming throughout our commemorative season, from your perspective, what stories do we tell, and how do we best tell them?*
- From these conversations, four major themes were identified:
 - Military Service & Patriotism
 - Broken Promises
 - Individualism & Community
 - Land and Persistence on the Landscape

Kate mentioned a conversation between her and Chief Adkins where they both agreed there aren’t many 18th-century photos/imagery of Native Americans, and in VA250’s work it seeks to avoid promoting any stereotypes/caricatures of Black/Brown populations. Therefore, Kate asked the present Tribal Leaders for photos/pictures/etc. of their families, communities to provide for the mobile museum.

- Chief Adkins agreed saying a lot of people remained discreet to be safe.
- Chief Anderson said that he may be able to network with fellow Tribal Nation communities in North Carolina to receive photos and videos.

The conversation then began soliciting different ideas to locate 18th-century pictures and videos of Native Tribal Nations:

- Alton said William & Mary/Colonial Williamsburg has researchers that have spent significant time in collecting primary sources about Native Tribal nations.
- Shaleigh mentioned current Tribal artists reimagining/utilizing modern day themes to display times of the past. She also mentioned the Library of Virginia having an array of resources.
- Edward suggested finding oral traditions, spoken word, and text

July 4 at State Capitol: A Celebration of Freedom and Our Nation's Founding

Cheryl Wilson and Kate Egner Gruber

- Cheryl mentioned that VA250 is deep into the planning stages for the July 4th event. As a result, she wants individuals to begin spreading the word about the event to their respective communities and ensure participants RSVP for Capitol Police reference.
- Chief Bullock gave a charge to the commission: Have all 11 Federally recognized Virginia Tribal Leaders at the Square Fair since they are seldom in one place at one time.
- Dr. Ragan suggested getting oral histories and pictures of Indigenous military members to bridge past to future.

Programming Partner Introductions

Jane Lammay, Virginia Tourism Corporation

- Virginia Tourism Corporation's job is to bring spectators to the event, and they would love any pictures, videos, oral histories, etc. that they can use in promoting the event (social media, blogs, consumer emails)

Ashley Webb (Eric Monday), Fincastle Resolution 250th

- Fincastle wants to have an exhibit exclusively for Native and Indigenous voices but has 2 big asks:
 - 1) We hope that this advisory council will help them in telling that story by providing resources and
 - 2) Opening exhibit is January 2025 – which will also be near the opening of the Casino in Danville. Want to know if they're comfortable with receiving corporate sponsorship
 - Eric and/or Ashley will follow-up with Chief Adkins about private sponsorships

Next steps

- Chief Adkins will provide contact information of his specified Tribal Nation drummers to Cheryl. Cheryl will begin to coordinate these efforts with the African-American drummers that Senator Locke mentioned.
- Share any primary images, documents, photos with the following:
 - VA250 (Cheryl Wilson, Kate Egner Gruber, or Katherine Dabney)
 - Jane Lammay (Virginia Tourism Corporation)
 - Ashley Webb (represented by Eric Monday for the Fincastle Resolution's 250th)
- Fincastle Resolution's staff will be in contact with Chief Adkins to set up a meeting with appropriate parties to discuss private sponsorship details.
- Spread the word for the July 4th programming to respective communities, ensuring that they RSVP for the Capitol Police
- Identify a VA250 Emerging Leaders Fellow for the Indigenous community.

Chief Adkins adjourned the meeting at 11:12am.