



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

2009 INAUGURATION

SPECIAL EDITION



You are cordially invited to
attend the inauguration of:

William R. Rhodes, Governor
Joseph Manuel, Lieutenant Governor
Annette J. Stewart, Chief Judge
Anthony J. Hill, Associate Judge
Harriett Allison-James, Associate Judge
Lucille Antone-Morago, Associate Judge
Lucinda M. Oliver, Associate Judge
Linda M. Pablo, Associate Judge

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2009
1:00 PM

AKIMEL O'OTHAM BALLROOM
SHERATON WILD HORSE PASS RESORT & SPA
5594 W. WILD HORSE PASS BLVD., CHANDLER, AZ 85226

"Macha Hi'him Ha Vehejid Hegth Hemachkam"
(We Are) Moving Forward for the People

For more information please call (520) 562-9840

Gila River Indian Community

2009 Elected Officials



William R. Rhodes, Governor

William R. Rhodes was born in 1933 in Phoenix, Arizona. Rhodes was raised in St. Johns, District 6, on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). He is a Korean War veteran and has served this country as a member of the United States Navy.

Rhodes is married to Ruby Jackson Rhodes and they reside in the village of Goodyear, District 4. He has ten children, twenty-three grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

Over the years, Governor Rhodes has dedicated his time to the service of the Community. Rhodes was the first GRIC Volunteer Fire Chief, the first Coroner and the first Animal Control volunteer. He was also the first Native American County Sheriff for Maricopa County.

In 1970, he was elected Chief Judge and served in that capacity up until 1985. To his credit, Rhodes has participated in court development throughout Indian Country and was integral in implementing a Code of Conduct and Court Procedures for the GRIC Court. He also helped in implementing the Drug Court and Teen Court diversion program.

Rhodes had served for nine years as a Community Council member representing District 4 and was elected into the position of Lt. Governor from 1988-1990. After his term as Lt. Governor, he returned to the bench serving as Chief Judge.

In 2006, Rhodes was elected Governor of the Gila River Indian Community where he began his work with a mission recognized as the "New Direction". The New Direction was Rhodes' administrative process for establishing goals and objectives to direct the tribal administration. It was an innovative approach to implement the goals established, as well as to address various issues faced by the Gila River Indian Community.

During his 2006 campaign, Rhodes set his priority high to improve the management and operation of tribal administration and address the needs of the Community by ensuring high quality personnel. The strategy was to enhance integrity, credibility, and productivity. Rhodes said, "Much has been accomplished in the last three years, and much more needs to be done."

Rhodes has always been a proponent of programs and services that benefit the youth of the Community and has set goals to ensure that the youth are prescribed opportunities to pursue college or vocational education. He believes that as future leaders they need to acquire skills, knowledge, and the desire to initiate changes in the Community. Rhodes said, "As adults and as leaders we have the responsibility to guide them and provide them with encouragement, and support to become resourceful in their field of interest."

"As an elder and having been part of the Community in various capacities I have always taken pride in the way our Community members worked to support each other. Our Community relied on and drew strength from our culture, our values, and our ways of life." Rhodes said. "I challenge our young and old alike to revisit our past ways of life to make positive changes."



Joseph Manuel, Lt. Governor

Joseph Manuel is the son of Lorraine Johnson Manuel and the late Herman Manuel from Sacaton. Manuel's family has extensive roots in the District 3 as his grandparents were both from the Sacaton area. Mr. Manuel is full blooded Pima.

Manuel resides in Sacaton, District 3, with his two boys, Joseph Jr., Loma and wife Nadine Pongyesva-Manuel. He also has two other sons Tucumseh & Joaquin who are older and accomplished.

Before being elected into the office of Lt. Governor, he served as a GRIC Community Manager in charge of Operations. Through his oversight of the Community's affairs in operations, he has assisted in giving departments and programs added support in their day to day operations. He has been involved with the Gila River Indian Community for the past 30 years in various capacities and has provided synergy services to corporations and non-profit organizations.

Manuel also has experience as a Judge Pro-Tempore with the Gila River Indian Community Judicial Courts. He has extensive background in Tribal Employment Rights which comes from his employment with the GRIC's, TERO Department. He has also been involved with the Southwest Regional TERO and National Organization Council for Tribal Employment Rights serving as Chairman and Vice Chair of the Regional and National TERO Organizations.

Joseph served two terms as a prior Tribal Council Member for District 3; his experience with various Boards include Law Enforcement Commission for ten years, Gila River

Telecommunication Inc (GRTI) Board of Directors (two terms), Gila River Indian Community's Utility Authority (GRICUA) for ten years, Board of Director for Wild Horse Pass Development Authority (WHPDA) and the Four Rivers Indian Legal Services (FRILS) Board.

Joseph's education is comprised of a Bachelor of Science in Business Management (BSBM) and Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Phoenix.

Manuel has always maintained that his heart is with the Gila River Indian Community and his dedication and commitment to do his job. In attaining the position of Lt. Governor, Manuel has vowed to assist tribal government with meaningful intentions through education, leadership, experience, spirituality and sound decision making.



Annette J. Stewart Chief Judge

Annette J. Stewart lives in District 5 and is the daughter of Roland & Verona Stewart. She has one sister, Karen Stewart and two brothers, Durwin and David Stewart. She is the mother of two children, Amber and Joshua Lewis. Annette has maintained that her family is an important part of her life and is thankful to God for them.

Stewart is a graduate of Casa Grande High School and attended Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

She began with the Gila River Indian Community court in 1978 as a court clerk, learning all aspects of the court system. In 1987, she ran for Associate Judge and held the position for upwards of six years.

After leaving the Court in 1994, she worked with The Tribal Gaming Office (TGO) as a Gaming Inspector then an Investigator, which helped her in learning the regulatory aspects of Indian Gaming.

In 2004, GRIC Tribal Council appointed her to the Board of Directors for the Gila River Gaming Enterprise.

Due to the need for Judges in the Tribal Court, in October 2005, she left GRGE and was appointed as a Judge Pro Temp, and in November 2005, she was elected as an Associate Judge.

She is a member of the Vah-Ki Presbyterian Church and active in the Presbyterian Church nationwide.

“In all the positions I’ve held whether work related or in my church, I feel that it has prepared me to be part of a bigger team within the Judicial Department moving forward, constantly striving to improve,” she said. “I have always tried my best to be fair and impartial in everything I do especially where it comes to serving the people of Gila River.”



Lucille Antone – Morago Associate Judge

Lucille Antone-Morago is a resident of District 4. She is married to Danny B. Morago and has three children and four grandchildren. Her parents are the late Henry J. Antone and Mary P. Antone of District 5.

Antone-Morago attended St. Johns Indian School and Casa Grande Union High School. She later attended Central Arizona College, American Indian Lawyer Training Program, and the University of Phoenix for courses which cer-

tified her as a Tribal Court Advocate. She has both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree.

In 1974, she began her tribal advocate work for Gila River Indian Community representing community members in civil and criminal matters. She worked with Four Rivers Indian Legal Services from 1986 to 1997, representing the membership of the Salt River Indian Community in civil matters before their court. She was also hired by the Fort McDowell Indian Community as a tribal court advocate in 1997, representing their membership in civil and criminal matters before the Salt River Indian Community Court.

Antone-Morago has been a juvenile Judge for Gila River Indian Community from 1998 to 2001, specifically hearing children’s cases. She has also worked as a coordinator for Against Abuse, Inc., focusing on child fatality reviews for the counties of Pinal and Gila as mandated by the State of Arizona.

She said, “I have years of extensive experience and knowledge in the tribal legal system as a tribal court advocate practicing before the courts of the Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Apache Nation which qualifies me as a judge.”



Linda M. Pablo Associate Judge

The Judicial Branch has grown tremendously within the past few years and continues to grow with dedication and hard working staff. The newly built Judiciary which was dedicated in 2003 and within a few years has outgrown its occupancy. Staff continues to increase with the growth of business and rate of crime within the

Community.

Change involves the revision of the Law and Order Code with the addition of the Civil Traffic Code, which allows jurisdiction over non members. Procedures have been developed and implemented for handling the flow of caseloads. The benefits are in the revenue received from the traffic citations throughout the Community. For those who choose not to submit to tribal jurisdiction the avenue is to transfer to surrounding jurisdictions.

Also the DUI laws and ordinances within the Code have been revised and stiffer sentences are in effect.

Also recently enacted is the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. This allows for any person convicted of a sexual offense to register as a sexual offender within the Community. This Registry and notification is conducted through Gila River Police Department.

It has been a wonderful experience serving the Community as an Associate Judge. I have served fairly and impartially throughout my term in office and will continue to do so.



Lucinda Oliver Associate Judge

Lucinda Oliver is originally from Gila Crossing, District 6 and currently resides in the village of Santa Cruz. Her maternal grandparents are the late William Peters Sr. and Ellen Thomas-Peters of Santa Cruz and her paternal grandparents are the late Howard Oliver and Ollie Lee-Oliver of Fruitland, New Mexico. Her mother is the late

Pauline Peters-Oliver and her father is Lloyd Oliver (Navajo Nation). Her stepmother is Lucille Williams-Oliver of Camp Verde, Arizona. She is 48 years old and has four children and one grandson.

Before being elected Associate Judge, Oliver was employed with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court as a Juvenile Probation Officer for two years.

Oliver has 16 years of employment with Tribal courts in both the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. She contends to be very knowledgeable of Rules of Practice, Children’s Code, The Law and Order Code of the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Code of Ordinances.

Oliver is a member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Gang Task Force with the Arizona Dept. of Public Safety, Juvenile Drug Court Program, and Northeast Valley Coalition against Methamphetamine.

“I have been requested to offer my public service by community members, relatives and family to seek this office,” Oliver said. “Therefore, as a responsibility and duty, I am honored to do so.”



Anthony J. Hill Associate Judge

Anthony J. Hill lives in Co-Op Village in District 7. His mother is Janet Hill and his brother is Kyle Hill. Through the Community’s support, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Classic studies at the University of Arizona and a law degree at Arizona State University.

Hill serves on various boards and committees

throughout the Community. Currently he is on the District’s Executive Committee and the Tribal Constitution Reform Project. This past April, the Community Council named him acting Chief Judge and he has attempted to bring stability to the court along with reforms to the way business is done.

According to Hill, “The court system experienced some difficulties but Judge Stewart, James, Pablo and I continue to work toward the orderly administration of justice. It is a privilege to work with these judges. The work of a judge is wide with issues from complex criminal cases and difficult family issues to simple traffic tickets. I have put my education and experience to use by conducting legal research, writing fair decisions and analyzing a case from all sides.”

Hill said that while not everyone is happy with court decisions, all should feel they received fair treatment and the chance to be heard. These are the skills he brings to the courtroom.

He said, “Every day in office, I am reminded that a judge is a public servant and I hope I have protected the Community’s interest by upholding the law. There are many problems facing the Community and court but working together, we can find solutions and make this a better place to live.”



Harriet James Associate Judge

The duty of an Associate Judge is to interpret the laws of Gila River Indian Community. This position is for the sole purpose of protecting our resources, and all those that reside on our land and for those who travel through it.

In the time that I have served the Community I have been afforded the opportunity of expanding my knowledge about our laws.

The growth of Gila River Indian Community, along with the growth that has surrounded our boundaries creates the need to revise our current laws and establish our own new tribal laws. The Court looks to the governing Tribal Council for the authorization in revising the Gila River Indian Community Code. Applying and interpreting the law(s) is necessary for the protection and for maintaining peace.

Many aspects of our laws may not be clearly understood by those who enter the Court. The day to day operation of the Court is dependant upon the entire Court staff to make every effort allowable to them to provide clarification and assistance to the public.

This position as a Judge requires not only Criminal matters it also includes addressing matters that may include the Children’s Court, Civil Court, Traffic Court, Adults in Need of Care, Housing and along with other Ordinances that have been approved by the Tribal Council.

I have served the Community as an Administrator in the area of Contracting for approximately 24 years and the opportunity to serve as Associate Judge for the past two (2) years.

