July 2014

*Ebmenthagadék ode Kokmeskinan*
“Caring for Our Grandmother Earth”

On behalf of the board of directors and members of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), I am honored to invite you to attend and participate in the 16th National Tribal Preservation Conference. The Forest County Potawatomi Tribe of Wisconsin is serving as this year’s host and has requested this year’s conference theme, *Ebmenthagadék ode Kokmeskinan* “Caring for Our Grandmother Earth,” something that affects each and every one of us in our daily lives.

For the past 15 years, NATHPO has convened an annual conference that is open to all THPOs, tribal representatives, Federal and state officials, and interested preservationists (if you wonder what a preservationist is, you’re probably one already). Learning, sharing, and networking opportunities are the main reasons to attend and as in previous years, we look forward to learning more about our tribal host, other tribal experiences, and Federal agency activities on the national level.

If you are interested in presenting, please see the NATHPO website for the Presenter Proposal form. Examples of the type of information that we expect to share include treaty rights and sacred places, oral history projects in Indian country, Federal agency development projects, issues related to pipeline development, emergency responses related to disasters, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer specific issues.

The new Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the main conference hotel and meeting location. The hotel is offering a discounted room rate for NATHPO participations. Please see the Transportation weblink for more information on how to reserve your room and local transportation.

For the fourth year in a row and in recognition of the dire financial times in tribal historic preservation, the NATHPO board of directors has decided to keep this year’s registration rates at the same rate as last year. Registration fees include one reception, two lunches, and one dinner.

Preliminary agenda highlights include:

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NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.
The Federal Communications Commission will coordinate a “Training and Listening Session on Implementation of the Positive Train Control Program Comment” on Monday, September 8th.

The Forest County Potawatomi Tribe will be hosting Culture Night at the Milwaukee Public Museum on Wednesday, September 10th.

The FBI will present information and an update on their work with the “Miller Collection” of Indiana and ongoing repatriation efforts.

NATHPO will provide more information on new projects and conclude another – the “THPO Toolkit Training” (separate application and confirmation required and information to be sent separately).

We hope to offer a local field trip to provide participants with a better understanding of the connection of local Indian tribes and the natural landscape.

Please go to our website for more information, including presenter proposal applications, registration form, lodging and transportation information, and agenda (to be updated periodically).

Agenda Outline:

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014
- Travel day

Monday, Sept. 8, 2014
- FCC Session on Positive Train Control
- Opening reception 6pm to 8pm

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014
- Welcome remarks
- General Assembly

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014
- General Assembly
- Culture Night!

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014
- General Assembly and Sessions Conclude
- THPO Toolkit Training Starts (separate registration)

Friday, Sept. 12, 2014
- THPO Toolkit Training (all-day)

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe for their hospitality and support. It is truly appreciated. We look forward to seeing everyone in Milwaukee in September and hope the rest of your summer is productive and enjoyable.

Janine (Bowechop) Ledford
NATHPO Chairman