



Dear Lumbee People,

The month of March conveys a spirit of renewal among our people. After the long, cold days of Winter, the life returns to the land. Flowers bloom (yes, that includes pollen), wildlife becomes more active, crops are planted, and the temperature begins to rise. Cases of the latest variant of COVID have begun to move downward, which has allowed us to move forward with the planning of the “Dance of the Spring Moon Powwow”, which will take place May 6-8, 2022 at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. As our first powwow since 2019, I am looking forward to a great time with lots of fellowship and new friendships. Place this on your calendar and I am excited to see you there.

I campaigned on the promise to get employees outside of Tribal headquarters and closer to our citizens in the different tribal communities. Since I took office on January 6, we have held 17 outreach events throughout the four-county tribal territory. Some of the outreach sites include Cape Fear Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Wagram Recreation Center in Wagram, Heritage Haven in Fairmont, and Zion Hill Baptist Church in Rennert. We will continue to send employees into the different communities, in order to bring our services to the people and to ease the travel burden on our elders.

On March 2nd and 3rd, I was in Washington DC to meet with Congressional leaders in both the Senate and the House. Our hope was to have the Lumbee Bill placed onto the latest Omnibus Bill. We were unsuccessful at this attempt, but the support we found on Capitol Hill continues to grow as we inch closer to our goal of achieving full Federal Recognition. The fact our ancestors began this journey in 1888, to receive education services for our youth, only fuels my fire to push forward and to keep an eye open toward other avenues of action as well.

I would like to thank the Tribal Council for approving my first two Supreme Court appointments, Kelvin Jacobs and Tona Jacobs. Kelvin resides in Cumberland County and is a licensed attorney. Tona resides in Hoke County and is a retired educator, who will serve as one of the laypersons, designated by the Lumbee Constitution.

We held a Water Ceremony on March 18th to welcome back the water at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. After damage from two different hurricanes and the repairing of the dam, we have been able to bring the water back into the lake and make it accessible to our people once again. We also honored Mr. Buddy Dial for his tremendous work over the years at the Cultural Center, by naming the dam after him. When individuals visit the center in the future, they will see a sign that designates the dam as the “Buddy Dial Dam.” The Lumbee Elders Circle members, Lumber River Outfitters, Anthony Locklear, Sherry and Rev. Eddie Carter made the Water Ceremony very special for our people. Anthony Locklear told the story about his



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grandfather, Lester Bullard's vision, to one day have a place where Lumbees could golf, fish, swim, and enjoy the great outdoors. Mr. Bullard's vision came true and we continue to work to make the Cultural Center a place for all Lumbee to enjoy together.

Beginning on April 1st, the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center will be open to the public, seven days a week. The times will be 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday, and 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm on Sunday. Please help us to keep YOUR Culture Center clean, so others may also enjoy the beauty of this place, that is so sacred to our people. Also, fishing will only be allowed on the spillway side of the center, as we work to restock the lake side. More information will be available regarding fishing, once the lake has been restocked.

On April 1st, Lumbee citizens will be able to once again rent our community buildings and Boys & Girls Clubs for events. You can contact Anita Oxendine at 910-522-5190 for building rental information.

I would like to highlight our Lumbee Tribe Peer Support Program, made available by Blue Cross Blue Shield. This program strives to break the stigma associated with mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Our Peer Support Specialist are trained and certified individuals available to positively impact the lives of individuals experiencing mental health and addiction challenges. Peer Support Specialist can provide a powerful message of hope for individuals who have lost their way and feel hopeless. If you or someone you love could benefit from this program, please contact Erica Locklear, Program Manager, at 910-522-5055

I love you all and I am thankful for the opportunity you have given me to serve the Lumbee Nation.

John Lowery
Chairman

OFFICE OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

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