



Dear Lumbee People,

In September, our Lumbee Harvest Moon Powwow welcomed family and friends from throughout Indian Country to the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. With over 300 dancers and 13 drums, the Harvest Moon Powwow was one of our largest events for the year and it left a lasting impression on everyone who attended. I am thankful to the Powwow Committee and the many volunteers who helped to make this wonderful event possible.

During the September business meeting, the Tribal Council approved my recommendation for a Health and Human Services Department. This historic action by the Council creates a foundation for future health related services for our tribal citizens. The creation of the Health and Human Services Department will allow us to apply for different funding opportunities that we could not in the past. Health care is important to our people and the establishment of this department is the continuation of the steady building of our tribe's capacity. I have asked Dr. Cherry Beasley, recently retired UNC-Pembroke faculty member and administrator, to help with the foundation of this new department. With her health care experience and overall knowledge, I look forward to working with Dr. Beasley and our wonderful grant writing team to access funds and create programs for our people.

Also, during the September business meeting, the Tribal Council passed our \$38 Million budget for fiscal year 2023-24. This budget will allow for additional homes to be built, funds for heating and cooling homes, housing rehabilitation, elder services, and much more. I am proud of the work the Tribal Council did to ensure we had a good budget for the Lumbee people and that our services continue to reach thousands of citizens each year.

In September, two motions to amend the constitution of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) which would exclude the Lumbee Tribe and other state recognized tribes from membership, were filed for consideration at the Annual Meeting. The NCAI meeting is scheduled for November 12 -17, 2023. My administration is making every effort to defeat these irresponsible motions, which are another effort to challenge our existence as a Sovereign Nation. The Lumbee Tribal Council and I along with our partner Tribes will not stand by and allow these actions to happen. We are standing and we are fighting!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chairman.

I love you all,

John L. Lowery

OFFICE OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

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