

LTBB Election Board Nonimation Application Form - SECTION 3
CANDIDATE STATEMENT (Limit to 1 page)
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)



Aanii boozhoo, my name is Annette VanDeCar. I am Waabshki mi'ingan (White Wolf) and I am Migizi Dodem (Eagle Clan). My mother was Sarah (King) VanDeCar, and my grandparents were Mary (Kenoshmeg) and Martin King, Sr. I am grateful for the love, support and encouragement I received all my life from my family and from my tribal community. That encouraged me to give back to my tribal community.

Over the years, I have served our tribe in many capacities as the LTBB Communications Coordinator (18 years), as the Chair of the LTBB Pow Wow Committee (18 years), on LTBB's Tribal Burial, Inc. (4 years), on the LTBB Housing Commission (4 years) and on the LTBB Burial Board (1 year). Now, I am humbly asking for your support to serve in another capacity - on our Tribal Council.

The tribe is facing uncertainty as we face threats to our tribal sovereignty, our birthright citizenship and our treaty rights. We must work together across all three branches of government to create a comprehensive plan to protect our sovereignty and our rights and to ensure our treaty obligations are fulfilled.

To maintain services for our tribal citizens and to replace any lost grant funds frozen by the Trump administration, we need to establish additional funding sources to complement the two casinos and leasing land to Lume Cannabis.

Proceeding with building the hotel attached to Odawa Casino in Petoskey would require us to make an initial investment, however, it would pay dividends in a short amount of time as Petoskey is a year-round tourist destination. It was in the original plans and is something guests of our casino always express they would like to see happen. Hotels in the area are still being built as there is a shortage of rooms during peak tourist times.

Also, the tribe should again pursue establishing a funeral home and crematorium to provide a valuable service for our people and to serve as economic development. It would allow us to funnel a significant amount of the Burial Fund monies back to the tribe and drive funds from the non-tribal community to the tribe.

While serving on Tribal Burial, Inc., we were tasked with exploring this, however, Tribal Council chose to put this economic development on hold when it dissolved the corporation in November 2023. In researching this, 75% of those deceased are being cremated, so it would make sense to build the crematorium first. Once the crematorium is self-sufficient, the tribe could use the revenue from it to establish the funeral home, dining hall and garage.

There are only two crematoriums in northern Michigan and one person owns all the funeral homes in the area. We would be able to destroy the funeral home monopoly by offering competitive pricing and offer culturally specific services to Native people. Much of the groundwork for this is already in place. There are land designations for the crematorium and funeral home complex with parking on the tribe's Odawa Circle property in Harbor Springs.

A licensed funeral home director with more than 30 years of experience is willing to help us get them started and to mentor a Native person(s) to run them.

Neither of these are new economic development ideas, however, we need to follow through and implement them instead of relying solely on a saturated gaming market, lease payments from Lume and grants. Many of our tribal citizens rely on our services to live healthy and happy lives. It is our responsibility to them and to our ancestors who worked tirelessly to establish our tribe to care for them and for the next seven generations. These funds could be utilized to benefit our tribal citizens regardless of where they live or their age.

Housing is always a priority, and new economic development could fund future housing projects. There are also lots available on the Wah Wahs Noo De Ke tribal property, located four miles from Harbor Springs, for tribal citizens who wish to purchase their own homes and live there. There are many advantages in doing so, programs available to citizens through the LTBB Housing Department to assist them in purchasing a home and a Section 184 loan guarantee program available to Native Americans.

If elected, I would work to establish and pass legislation which made our collective lives better and to support our distinct culture and traditions. Throughout the years, I have voiced my opinion on proposed legislation and have proposed legislation to Tribal Council, which later became law. I would work hard to gain new knowledge and work collaboratively with others for the betterment of the people.

I have always supported community cultural events and language revitalization and would continue to do so by ensuring they are adequately funded. It is our responsibility to maintain these traditions and to teach our younger generations who we are as Odawa people. We owe that to our ancestors who worked tirelessly to ensure our future.

I would like to see the Tribal Council purchase land with purpose and intent. We own multiple parcels of land which have not been developed or maintained.

I support the establishment of an ethics ombudsman created through legislation to ensure our tribal citizens who work as casino and government employees are treated fairly and equitably. I also support the establishment of a youth council, a youth/events/daycare center, an assisted living/hospice facility, a standalone Cultural Department, a museum, a school and a Pow Wow Complex. Together, we can accomplish this and more.

I look forward to hearing your input and ideas about the future of our tribe. You can e-mail me at annettevdc@yahoo.com or message me through my Facebook page New Hands to Preserve Old Ways.

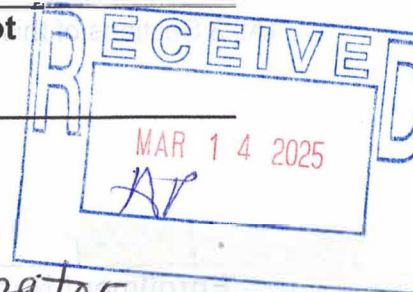
LTBB Election Board Nomination Application Form - SECTION 2
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)

Annette VanDeCar

Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot

Harbor Springs, Michigan

City & State of Residency



1. Work Experience: LTBB Communications Coordinator

(May 2006-present), Sports Reporter - Detroit Free

Press (March 2003-May 2006), Sports Reporter -

Post-Tribune (January 1997-March 2003) and

Contributing Writer - Tribal Observer.

2. Educational Background: Bachelor of Arts from Central

Michigan University in December 1996. Major:

Journalism, Minor: Sports Studies.

Leadership Essentials training program from

North Central Michigan College in November 2014.

3. Traditional Cultural Experience/Knowledge, and/or Other Training, Certificates:

Burial teachings, powwow teachings, feasts, arts, snowsnake,

Boozhooning, 2 grandfather teachings, clan teachings, naming

ceremony, Two Spirit teachings, warrior teachings, water

ceremony and Leadership Essentials certificate

from North Central Michigan College in November 2014.

4. Volunteer Experience, Special Skills and Abilities: Co-chair and Chair of the LTBB PowWow Committee, member of the LTBB Sovereignty Day Celebration Committee, Administrator of Miss Odawa and Junior Miss Odawa program and Co-President and Vice President of the North American Indigenous Student Organization at Central Michigan University.

5. Awards, Honors Received (cultural/colonial): 1st Place in non-deadline sports reporting from the Indiana Associated Press Managing Editors (2003) Finalist, Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism, Sports Journalism Reporting for Daily Publication (2003), American Indian Scholastic Award (1995) from CMU, Honorable mention, Best Enterprise reporting (50,000-175,000 circulation) from APSE (1998), Minority Advancement Scholarship from Central Michigan University

6. Describe Current and/or Previous Elected or Appointed Positions Held at LTBB (1992-1996) or in Any Other Capacity, Government, or Organization (dates, titles, etc):

LTBB Housing Commission (Secretary) 2016-2020

Tribal Burial, Inc. (Secretary and Chair) 2019-2023

LTBB Burial Board (Chair) 2024-present

LTBB PowWow Committee Co-Chair/Chair 2007-present

Administrator of Miss Odawa/Junior Miss Odawa Program 2010-Present

Co-President and Vice President of North American Indigenous Student Organization

7. If applicable, describe anticipated Campaign Information in Detail (Campaign Address, Email, Website, Social Media, Campaign Plan, Any Endorsements, etc): Michigan University

annetterdc@yahoo.com e-mail address

Facebook page New Hands to Preserve Old Ways

