

Bernadece Boda & Linda Gokee



Candidate Team for
Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

BERNADECE BODA and LINDA GOKEE for 2021!

We are excited to officially announce our candidacy for Tribal Chairperson and Tribal Vice-Chairperson in the upcoming election. We have been honored to have earned early support from family and friends who have encouraged and challenged us to step up beyond the life and jobs we love to make a bigger commitment to our Tribal community. We are starting our campaign by asking for your consideration and support as well. Beginning, we will provide a brief glimpse of whom we are and where we come from. We also hope to relay some of the issues that are important to us.

BODA for Chairperson

My name is Bernadece Boda and I am running for the position of LTBB Tribal Chairperson. I am a mother, a grandmother, a wife and a Christian. I am married to Jesse Lewis Boda, a combat veteran and we have (8) children and (1) granddaughter. My mother is Frances Compo and my step-father is Ronald Yob, both of Grand Rapids, Michigan. My maternal grandparents were Frank and Viola Compo, nee Shomin of East Jordan, Michigan. My maternal great-grandparents were Joseph and Louise Shomin, nee Blackbird-Ettawageshik; as well as, Otto Pay-me-saw-aw and Margaret Compeaux, nee Josiah. My Great-greats were Peter and Ne-zette Campaux, Nancy Josiah, nee Genereaux, Mike and Sophia Shomin, and John and Mary Ettawageshik, nee Blackbird.

I have lived in the Petoskey, Michigan area for nearly 17 years. I have obtained a Master of Science degree with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and Social Work; as well as, a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Human Resource Management and Criminal Justice. Below is a list of my various employment experiences and approximate tenures.

- 61st District Court, Grand Rapids, Collections/Clerical Aide (2 years)
- United States Postal Service, Mail Clerk/RCA (3 years)

- Kent County Juvenile Detention, Youth Specialist (3 years)
- LTBB Tribal Court Probation Officer (3 years)
- LTBB Tribal Court Administrator (8 years)
- LTBB Youth Coordinator (1.5 years)
- State of MI, Kent County CPS, Services Specialist (1 year)
- Public Schools of Petoskey, Title VI Native American Ed. Coordinator (1 year)
- LTBB Gaming Authority Chair/Vice-Chair (1 year)
- U.S Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

In late 2019, I was hired by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Chicago Region, as a Partnership Specialist assigned to work with Emmet, Charlevoix and Antrim Counties, all Michigan Federally recognized Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations.

In part, my reputation includes being willing to make the hard, unpopular decisions *if* they are needed; however, I also want to reassure those who fear this, that I also believe in forgiveness, assessing the situation, expressing expectations and giving everyone a fair chance.

Gokee for Vice-Chairperson

Aanii Bozhoo,

Linda Gokee ndizhinikaaz. Ajijaak ndodem. Waganakasing Odawa ndaaw. Bedaasige ndoonjibaa miinwaa Bedaasige ndodaa. Hello. My name is Linda Gokee. I am Crane clan. I am from the Waganakising Odawa. I'm from and live in Petoskey. My parents are John Keshick, Sr.-ba and Mary Keshick-ba. I was born and raised in Petoskey, Michigan.

I've been employed by LTBBOI for twenty-five years now. I started out working in Contract Health in June of 1996 where I remained working until October 1999. From October of 1999 until October of 2017, I worked as the Administrative Assistant in the Tribal Enrollment Department. Since October 2017 to present, I have worked as the Legislative Administrative Assistant.

I graduated from Petoskey High School in 1987. I have gained the majority of my work experience working for the tribe and feel this gives me the knowledge required to the inner-workings of tribal government. It is my belief that this is a must when working as leadership for the tribe and its citizens.

No Matter who is in Office, the Future can always be better than the Present

We are proud of the work our Tribe has done thus far and that we for the most part, have done it without giving up the things we cherish and honor most about our way of life. We need vision and action, not selfishness and division.

We are responsible for who we are and who we become. We shouldn't minimize or dismiss the hard work that has been done and continues to be done within our Tribe by many people but we should also ask ourselves if it is time to pass the torch to others.

We have got to grow our economy and also provide our citizens with the skills they need to be successful. We need to encourage trade skills education as equally, if not more important than traditional college education. We also need to protect our environment, so our children inherit a world that is cleaner, safer and more beautiful. We need to focus on creating affordable housing. We need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient

and effective. One that gives citizens more choices in the services they get, and empower them to make those choices. We are all in this together. We will rise and fall together. We need more opportunity for all, more responsibility from everyone and a greater sense of common purpose. Covid-19 has ravaged the way of life for many people and communities, including ours. We need to anticipate and have a good solid plan for any American Rescue Plan Act funding our Tribe may receive and a safe but faster way of getting our government and services back up and running to full-capacity. We need to be very mindful with any such funding, so it reaches all Tribal citizens and not just those in the service area.

Impacting lives has to do with good character, reputation and longevity, which we believe we possess. If you are happy with the way things are going, vote that way. If you want revival, compassion, love for truth and fresh motivation, Vote Bernie! Bernadece Boda and Linda Gokee for 2021. Please feel free to reach out to us at LTBBCandidates2021@gmail.com