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My name is Mary Schneider, eldest daughter of Susan Swadling and Darwin Swadling Ba, granddaughter of Doris Adams Ba and Lewis Adams Ba, and great granddaughter of Amelia Kishigo Ba and Mitchell Kishigo Ba. I was born in Petoskey, MI and raised in Harbor Springs, MI and currently reside in Alanson, MI with my husband of 30+ years. We have been blessed with three grown children, six grandchildren and four fur grandbabies.

I started my career with the Tribe as the Tribal Receptionist from 1997-1998, I was then promoted to Communication Assistant from 1998-1999, then to Accounts Payable from 1999-2006. I went through some personal challenges from 2006-2017, but in September of 2018 I came back to work for the Tribe as a Temporary Worker for Accounts Payable. I was hired as a full time Accounts Payable Technician II in December of the same year. In January 2020, I transferred from the Accounting Department to the Education Department as the Administrative Assistant for the WOCTEP Program, where I currently serve my community.

The personal challenges mentioned above that I had to overcome were prescription opioids. Like many people affected by this epidemic, opioids were my biggest hurdle as I found myself addicted to pain pills from 2006-2017. Although I never misused them, my body became addicted to them. I found myself angry with my doctors because I was unaware at that time of how addictive these medications could be and felt that I was not adequately educated about the side effects. I have been completely clean from opioids for six years now and have since started living a fulfilled life. In 2018, I started beading earrings and Christmas ornaments to help me quit smoking cigarettes. It has since become a beloved hobby that has brought much joy to me in the years since I've started.

I understand that one of our biggest challenges within our tribe is affordable housing. \$1,500+ per month is not affordable housing in my opinion, and I think we can and should do better as our members have consistently struggled to find affordable housing for many years now. Both local members and members who reside outside of our service area should be entitled to the Federal funding we receive annually to assist with housing costs such as mortgage payment assistance, utility assistance, etc. This will be at the forefront of my goals on Tribal Council, among other pressing issues.

Change is something that cannot happen overnight. It takes planning, time, understanding, empathy, and follow thru. These are all things that I am capable of investing in our Tribe and our tribal members, near and far. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my tribal nation if I am elected to do so. I will lead with transparency and honesty, to rebuild the trust back into the people's council. By doing this, we will rise as one, united tribe, and build a better tomorrow for our children.