

Received

NOV 05 2020

CRIT Enrollment  
Michelle Barth

## **PERSONAL HISTORY INFORMATION**

### **PLEASE STATE YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, YOUR VIEWS, CONCERNS, AND WHAT YOU WISH TO ACCOMPLISH AS A TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBER.**

I've always felt blessed to have been born to the Mohave and Apache people and raised by the parents I've been graced to have had. My folks nurtured I and my siblings with the encouragement and support for whatever our personal passions were. They led by examples, we watched and listened, because there was always a lesson. We may have not realized it at the time, but there was a reason why something was the way it was, it was our job to find the relevance and meaningful purposes. In as part of my up-bringing I began volunteering in my early teens. This is where many valuable lessons were learned, like a sense for community. I learned early on how to communicate and share information so that an event objective was met. One of the most important lessons learned while volunteering was learning how to listen. Listening to ideas that may not be quite what you have in mind, but finding the patience to respectfully disagree, to compromise or make concessions to further discuss. I share this with you because these are the benchmarks that forged my willingness to serve and vie for a seat on Tribal Council over the years and to this day. It's just the way I was raised, with lasting examples, with cultural and traditional exposures, to be constructively chastised and most importantly given a faith in God that has truly sustained me in my lowest of lows and to appreciate the smallest blessings. Without my faith, I would not have the ability to find positivity in the most negative situations.

I am asking for your consideration on December 5, 2020 based on my vast experience in our tribal executive and administrative structure and operations. I have the ability to discern financial information, profits and losses, audits, budgets, expenses, grants and their obligations etc. I am attuned to many of the Plans and Operations that govern our enterprises, the need to get qualified members employed without delay or because of arbitrary hiring processes. I've established a good sense of our Senior Water Right that must be protected especially in these unpredictable times. I am familiar with the Tribal Codes that impact our lives in the realm of health, land, water, environment, legal/court, education, jurisdiction, and others all the while maintaining our sovereignty. The membership of the Colorado River Indian Tribes is the most valuable resource whose young will inherit this great nation.

As for the pandemic, my deepest sympathies are with the families who've tragically lost loved ones due to COVID19, continued prayers are said for those battling with it now and for our entire community for protection. I'd like to be a part of stringent efforts to keep the virus cases at bay and posture for first in line vaccinations, once available, for our members. To launch timely communication efforts and plans to encourage our departments, enterprises and membership. To hold accountable those who are responsible in producing meaningful tracking data of our demographics affected so that spreads can be identified and proper care given. Issuing advance notices of any relief efforts that may take place so our membership can prepare and partake of these efforts by those on and off reservation.

I come with a higher education application experience that I often share with continuing education students. Assisting with the guidelines as to filing for financial aid, college acceptance and tribal awards. I have a Headstart background, as a former Health Coordinator, bringing the program into compliance during my tenure. I come with testimonial experience speaking on behalf of the Tribes in 2007, US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding Class III Gaming and in 2008 testifying before Committee on Natural Resources HR5680 regarding the Tribal Energy Act of 2005. Yes, we can develop our own energy company, solar, hydro etc. I am passionately knowledgeable of the tribal customs of ALL four tribes, of the ancestral lands, the crafts and the contemporary art and mediums of our Tribes as a whole. This tribal electoral process whom our Veterans fought for even before Native Americans became citizens of the United States and past members who historically put in place for us is an inalienable right to chose who would protect and keep their people safe.

I am driven to continue to be the best, learn the most, and decide with respect, for you, the Colorado River Indian Tribes' membership. Consider me on December 5, 2020, feel free to reach out to me on my Face Book page which has statements that are still relevant today, please visit FB Valerie Welsh-Tahbo "Elect Valerie Welsh-Tahbo". Thank you for your time, stay masked and stay SAFE!

**SUBMITTED BY:** Valerie Welsh-Tahbo