

The Seneca-Cayuga Nation Elects New Chief and Committee Members



Sarah S. Channing

The Seneca-Cayuga Nation recently held a swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Chief, Sarah S. Channing. She is the first woman to be elected Chief of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

In addition to electing a new Chief, there were five other positions filled during the most recent election. Cynthia Donohue Bauer and Hoyit Bacon are the newly elected members of the Business Committee. Ryan Birdsong, Rebecca Depriest, and Lydia (Haught) Davis were sworn in as newly elected members of the Grievance Committee.

Reflecting on his time in office, outgoing Chief William L. Fisher said, “It has been the highest honor of my life to serve as Chief of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. My ancestors, Jack Armstrong and Thomas Armstrong served our people in their day. Like our ancestors, we work to better our families and those who will follow us in generations to come. I appreciate the support I have enjoyed from our tribe and the elected officials I have served with. I’m confident I leave the leadership of our tribe in good hands.”

Incoming Chief, Sarah S. Channing, issued a statement thanking everyone who ran for office, and asking all Seneca-Cayuga people to join together as they work toward a better future. “Today, I am humbled by the confidence that Seneca-Cayuga voters have placed in me by electing me Chief,” said Channing. “Thank you to every voter for caring enough to participate in this election. I also want to thank the candidates who were not elected today. Their willingness to serve our Nation and stand for this election is remarkable. It will take all of us working together to build a prosperous future for our children and the generations to come. It is time to set aside the differences that can divide our efforts and work together to benefit all of Seneca-Cayuga people. Congratulations to the winners of the seats on the Business Committee and the Grievance Committee. We look forward to working together to build a stronger government, improve the delivery of services, and find new enterprises and job opportunities for our people.”

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort Announces New Leadership

Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC, (MGE) recently announced the appointment of Emily Lauzon as the General Manager of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort (AMCR), following the departure of Todd Papineau. Lauzon brings



Emily Lauzon

strength and depth of experience, previously serving in the capacity of the Acting General Manager while national searches were conducted for the replacement of former General Managers, Bassney and Keel. Lauzon has led the casino’s team as the Assistant General Manager since 2013.

During Papineau’s tenure, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort undertook significant enhancements, including the addition of sportsbook betting and a \$1.9 million project to transform Rapids Food Court into the new Stick’s Sportsbook and Grill. “On behalf of the Board of Managers, we extend our best wishes to Todd and his family in the next chapter of his career,” said Chairperson Shelley Jacobs.

Emily Lauzon brings eighteen years of Class II and III executive gaming operations experience to the team, but equally as important during this pandemic, the Board has expressed every confidence she will lead with stability and direction in uncertain times. Lauzon began her career with AMCR in the start-up phase in 1999 as the Associate Relations Manager. In 2012, she was chosen to lead the Mohawk Bingo Palace through the merger with the casino, and as General Manager, she ensured a successful transition for the team while the operations were integrated.

“Emily has a deep-rooted commitment to the casino and its employees. Her work is fueled by the greater needs within Akwesasne. Her tireless effort to strengthen our community is reflected in her three-year term served as a Tribal Sub-Chief and participation on local boards. The casino is our region’s top employer, and the most vital funding source for our people. We have every confidence in her ability to lead the casino through this pandemic as our General Manager,” shared the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs.

Lauzon is currently serving a fourth term on the Board of Education at Salmon River Central School as President, and has been actively involved in public safety as a member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Commission Board since December 2019.

“I am humbled and honored to be appointed as the General Manager of our casino,” said Lauzon. “We are the economic engine for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and I thank Tribal Council and the MGE Board for the confidence bestowed upon me. We’ve resumed operations mid-pandemic with a well-executed strategy and a focus on the safety and public health of our guests, our employees and our community. I take this responsibility very seriously, and I am committed to the mission and financial success of our property.” ♣