



CHALON INDIAN NATION NEWSLETTER

PO. Box 902
Bakersfield, CA 93302

We are descendants of the Chalon and Esselen, survivors of Mission Soledad whose traditional homelands encompass significant portions of Monterey and San Benito counties, including all of present-day Pinnacles National Park. Some of our people reside on or near our tribal homelands, while many others found refuge and subsistence in the distant regions of the city of Bakersfield, Kings county and elsewhere in CA.

**June
2025**

Chalon Indian Nation Tribal Council

2025 Board of Directors

Audrey R. Alvarado	Chairwoman
Natalie Garcia	Vice Chair
Bridget Escalera	Secretary
Sonya Dorado	Treasurer
Esther Hernandez	Member-at-Large
Julian Behill	Sergeant-at-Arms
Larry Lopez	Elders Rep

Elders' Council

Victoria Morin	Chairwoman
Nora Alonso	Vice Chairwoman
Olivia Freeman	Secretary
Yvonne Estrada	Purser
Richard Suniga	Sergeant-at-Arms
Larry Lopez	Elders Rep.

Fall 2025 Equinox Ceremony at Pinnacles National Park in Soledad on September 20, 2025 at 12:00-5:00PM

Our Mission

The mission of the Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield is to develop tribal resources, protect and preserve Native American heritage and cultural traditions, seek Federal recognition for our descendants, assist Native Americans in pursuing higher education, assist members seeking tribal affiliation, and promote healthcare services to Native Americans.

Upcoming Events 2025

The Council board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 via zoom. Contact us at chaloncouncil@gmail.com to access our meetings.

- ♦ June 11 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ June 22 Summer Gathering
- ♦ July 9 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ August 13 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ Sept 10 Chalon Council via Zoom
- ♦ Sept 20 Equinox Ceremony Pinnacles National Park

CHAIRWOMAN'S CORNER

Blessings to All

I pray that you and your family are healthy and enjoying the warmer weather that our Creator has blessed us with. Please take time to review the information about upcoming events that your Council has planned. At the suggestion of our Elder's Council we are planning and coordinating a family summer gathering and bring us all together as we had been doing in the past. This event is scheduled for **Sunday, June 22, 2025 at Mesa Marin Park** off Route 178. It will be a day filled with fun and good companionship as well as great food. We hope you plan to attend this summer event. Please help us pass the word about our upcoming events and inform your family members.

At the conclusion of our March 2025 Equinox ceremony we conducted a survey with attendees to assess their interests and suggestion for future activities. Many suggested adding more cultural and traditional lessons and going to our heart-land—Pinnacles National Park for our ceremonies. The Council will take your ideas and put into action. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Audrey R. Alvarado, Ph.D.
Chairwoman
chaloncouncil@gmail.com



*** SPECIAL NOTICE ***

The earlier version of the Chalon ID cards have our old website address—chalonnation.com— and that website no longer links to our official site. The card is still good for your use but if you want the correct website on your card contact Frenchie Turner to replace it at no cost.

This Sunday — May 18, 2025

If you can bring a raffle item for the raffle.



CHALON ELDERS MEETING

Potluck - Please bring a your favorite dish to share



Sunday May 18, 2025

1:00pm - 3:30pm



**4000 Fruitvale Ave suite 14
Bakersfield, CA 93308**

**PLEASE
NO
YOUNG
CHILDREN**





Summer GATHERING

Open to all Chalon Tribal members!

Sunday June 22, 2025

Time 12:00pm-5:00pm

**Mesa Marin Sports Complex
10315 Highway 178
Bakersfield, CA 93306**

**This event is a potluck.
Please bring your chairs and canopies**

*****Reminder this is an alcohol and drug free event*****

**CULTURAL
ACTIVITES**

**FAMILY
HISTORY**

**WATER
PARK**

**For more information contact Tribal Council by
emailing chaloncouncil@gmail.com**

www.chalontribe.com

March 22, 2025 Equinox

The 2025 Spring Equinox Ceremony was held at Pyle Boys Camp near Lake Ming. A special thanks to **Jonathan Rodriguez, Cameron Garcia, and Julian Behill** for conducting the ceremony. Also, thanks to the many volunteers who helped organize and clean up. It was a beautiful ceremony.





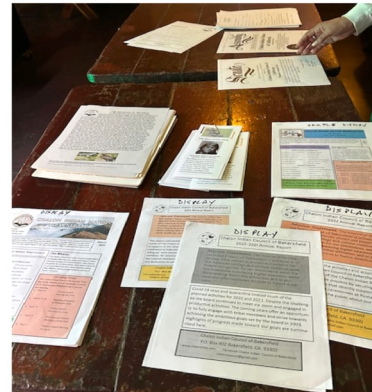
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Election and General Meeting 2025 Highlights

The annual elections and general meeting was held on Sunday April 6, 2025 at Pizzaville in Bakersfield. We are grateful that our current officers agreed to serve another term. Congratulations to Vice Chair **Natalie Garcia**, Sergeant at Arms **Julian Behill**, and Member at Large **Esther Hernandez**. A very special thank you and recognition to **Lawrence Salcido Jr** for serving as chair of the Elections Committee. **Lawrence** is stepping down as chair and we are seeking volunteers to serve on the Elections Committee. Contact the council.



Legislative Update

The Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield is a founding member of the Coalition of California State Tribes (CCST). The Coalition was alerted to a proposed revision to Assembly Bill 52, that would essential silence the voice of non-recognized tribes in California. **Audrey Alvarado**, Chairwoman and **Sonya Dorado**, Treasurer attended a CCST sponsored meeting in Sacramento held on March 23-25, 2025. We met with lawmakers to discuss our concerns about the proposed bill. Our letter of opposition can be found on the next page. Through the Coalition and others' efforts we were able to get the bill delayed for two years. This will provide more time to make our case that the proposed bill which will have detrimental impact on non-recognized tribes throughout California. On another note, the Council submitted a letter of support for Assemblyman Ramos' bill (AB 989) to have a Native American Day as a state holiday in CA.



Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield

P.O. Box 902

Bakersfield California 93302

www.chalontribe.com



April 10, 2025

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Strong Opposition to Amendments to Assembly Bill 52 (Aguiar-Curry)

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan:

On behalf of the Chalon Indian Nation of California, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed amendments to AB52. While we recognize the intent to enhance California's legislative framework, the amendments fall short of honoring the unique status and rights of Native American tribes in our state.

AB 52 has played a vital role in ensuring meaningful consultation between California's Native American tribes and state and local governments concerning environmental regulatory laws. Unfortunately, the proposed amendments jeopardize the integrity of this process, potentially undermining the political and cultural well-being of tribes throughout California.

The amendments, as currently drafted, conflict with the principles outlined in Executive Orders B-10-11 and N-15-19, which emphasize the protection of Native American cultural heritage and promote meaningful government-to-government consultation. Specifically, we have the following concerns:

1. **Sovereignty Undermined:** The amendments treat non-federally recognized tribes as voluntary participants, diminishing our sovereign status.
2. **Hierarchy Reinforced:** The amendments prioritize federally recognized tribes in consultation for lands where no federally recognized exist, creating a hierarchical process.
3. **Marginalization of Non-Federally Recognized Tribes:** Dividing the consultation process between federally and non-federally recognized tribes further marginalizes non-federally recognized tribes.
4. **Weakening of Consultation Language:** By substituting terms like 'government-to-government consultation', with 'discussion' or 'participation,' the amendments diminish the self-governance of non-federally recognized tribes and reinforce inequality.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose AB52 (Aguiar-Curry) in its current form. California's policies must uphold Native American sovereignty, foster inclusion, and protect cultural heritage.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to collaborating with your office to ensure policies that truly respect and support California Native American tribes. For more discussion, please contact Audrey R. Alvarado, Council Chairwoman at chaloncouncil@gmail.com.

Chalon Indian Council
of Bakersfield

Scholarship Deadline

June 30, 2025



About Us

The Chalon Elders & Council have established a scholarship fund with an objective of helping members of the Chalon Tribe and San Joaquin Valley's indigenous youth achieve their academic goals through higher education.

Application Requirements

- Be of Native American lineage/descent from a California San Joaquin Valley Tribe
- Attending Jr. College, College or Vocational or Trade School
- GPA of 2.5 or better (based on 4.0 scale) in the last year of education
- 500-word essay on being Native American & your plans and educational goals



SCAN ME



Visit Our Website
www.chalontribe.com



Email us at
chaloncouncil@gmail.com

A Very Special Gift

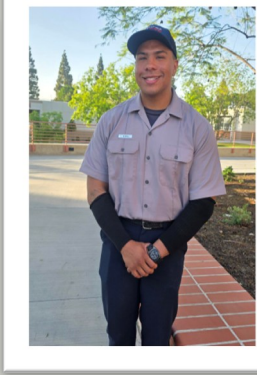
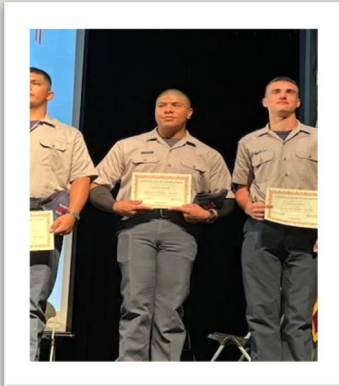
Yvonne Blank and her daughter **Paulette Sanchez** visited Mission Soledad after our September 2024 equinox ceremony at Pinnacles. During their visit they were inspired and encouraged to offer a special gift for the Mission Soledad Museum. They made ceremonial contemporary regalia that will be displayed in a special case at the Museum. A woman's and child's outfit were presented to Museum staff in March 2025. What a wonderful, beautiful, and generous offering **Yvonne** and **Paulette**.

THANK YOU!



Congratulations Landon Burrell

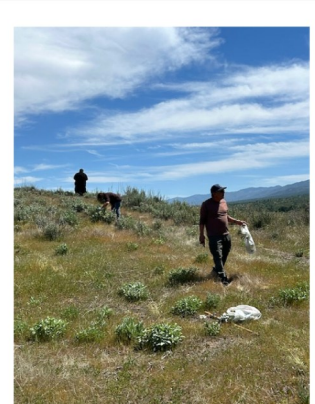
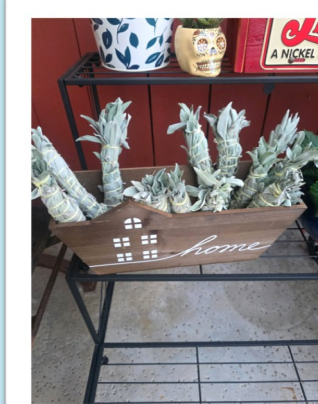
Landon Burrell graduated from BC Firefighter I Academy Class of 2025. So proud of our young warrior man. After 5 months of intense classes and physical challenges **Landon** is prepared to commit to nobly serve our community. Let's keep Landon in prayer. Ask that our ancestors watch over and keep him safe. Aho all our relations—Proud Grandmother **Bridget Escalera**.



Note: If you have a celebration of note please submit a photo(s) and write up for future Chalon newsletters. Send directly to chaloncouncil@gmail.com

Keeping Traditions Alive

Julian Behill coordinated a sage gathering session for Council members, **Larry Lopez**, **Bridget Escalera**, and **Audrey Alvarado**. **Julian** took us to a spot that had white and black sage. Before we gathered the sage for ceremonial purposes Julian reminded us of how we gather sage. We each offered personal prayer and made sure we did not harm the plants or take more than we needed. It was a wonderfully blessed experience for all of us.





CULTURAL SHARING

This past April the Urban School of San Francisco reached out to our Tribe and requested a Cultural presentation to their 10th graders who were camping at Pinnacles. Julian agreed to provide a cultural presentation and teach the youth how to play Staves. He recruited his niece and our Elders Rep. Larry.

Here is his recap on what took place.

We welcomed the visitors to our homelands and sang them a welcoming song. We then started things off with introductions and smudging the grounds and leaving an offering to the fire pit. All students and faculty participated. We then did a small talk on traditional practices and land stewardship. We brought traditional materials for the students to see and feel first hand, some items included Cedar, Sage, Abalone, deer bones, deer owls, black walnuts, Elderberry, and etc.. We held four sessions throughout the day and had over 100 people learn about who we are and about our traditional game of staves. The youth really enjoyed the game and made some amazing sets. Check out the next page for examples of sets they made. We are also in talks with the Urban School for future collaborations.



Elders Rep. Larry sharing his wise wisdom with Urban faculty



Sargent at Arms - Julian Behill

Tribal Youth - Marissa Behill

Elders Rep. Larry Lopez



Tribal Youth Marissa is assisting with teaching Staves



CULTURAL SHARING



These sets
were made
by the
youth

