



American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Texas/Houston

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Send to
Sally Dietrich
Houston
Sally

June 17, 1994

Chief Mankiller,

I apologize for missing your presentation in Houston on June 10, 1994. I was in Washington D.C. attending the Urban Indian meeting with Loretta Avent. I hope you had the opportunity to visit with both of our Oklahoma Cherokee board members, Sallie Dietrich and Wade McAlister.

Our chamber is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to building a strong, American Indian community with special emphasis on economic development. As you will see in our newsletter, we are developing working relationships with governmental agencies, educational institutions and other organizations to address the needs and provide assistance to our people. We are part of a state wide organization that was founded in Dallas, Texas in 1988. In September of 1993 we had our first general membership meeting for our Houston division. Currently, we are serving over two hundred and thirty members throughout the state with seventy five of our members residing in the Houston-Galveston Metroplex.

As Sallie mentioned, we are very interested in assisting with the kids Summer trip to Houston. Please keep us informed and we will keep you informed on our progress and programs.

I would welcome any opportunity to visit with you at your convenience about the trip to Washington D.C. or any other issue that we American Indians face in today's world. I would like to briefly point out two messages that were echoed in every issue that was discussed in Washington D.C.:

- The federal government has an obligation to all American Indians in the United States regardless of whether they reside in a rural, urban or reservation environment.
- Urban Indians still affirm their tribal identities and statuses and we should not be placed in a position that forces us to compete with tribal resources.

Sincerely,

Lorilee S. Lipke

Lorilee S. Lipke

Member of Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Executive Director