

**About The Puyallup Tribe of Indians**

The Puyallup People have lived along the shores of what is now called Puget Sound since time immemorial. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is a sovereign nation of more than 5,000 members and one of the largest employers in Pierce County. It serves its members and community with generosity and is committed to building a sustainable way of life for future generations. Since 2012, it has donated more than $17 million to local nonprofit organizations through its Charity Trust Board, with Tribal Council donating millions more from its own funding. [Learn more about the Puyallup Tribe](https://www.puyalluptribe-nsn.gov/).

**About Puyallup Tribal Council**

The Puyallup Tribal Council is the Tribe’s elected governing body. The first council of five people was elected in 1936. In 1991, the council increased from five to seven members.

**Tribal Council Vision**

**Adopted December 2018**

The Puyallup Tribe is accountable and effective in communication and generous in meeting the needs of our members and involves membership in the planning process. Our community is unified in protecting sovereignty and preserving our history, culture, natural resources and environment. Our tribal membership is educated, healthy, safe, stable and self-sufficient. Our members love and respect one another and we honor our ancestors and elders with gratitude for their sacrifices. Our tribal economy is vibrant and our tribal businesses are thriving, providing adequate resources to support tribal membership needs for generations to come.

**Tribal Council Mission**

**Adopted December 2018**

To oversee the Puyallup tribal government operations, economic priorities and overall community wellness while ensuring financial resources are available now and for future generations. To build upon what our ancestors and elders fought for by continuing to protect and preserve our tribal sovereignty, natural resources, environment, heritage, culture and our families by providing equitable programs and services that help our membership succeed and grow.

Chairman Bill Sterud

Bill Sterud joined Tribal Council in 1978. He has served as chairman and vice chairman several times since his first election. He represented the Tribe in the landmark negotiations that led to the Puyallup Land Claims Settlement in the 1980s, which set the foundation for the Tribe’s prosperity today.

He has fought his entire life to protect our natural resources, especially the Tribe’s sacred salmon.

He has had a hand in every aspect of the Tribe’s economic development that began in the 1980s, including its casinos, cannabis enterprise and marina. He continues to work diligently on developing the only tribal-run deepwater port in the country and on other enterprises.

He is a proud father and grandfather. An avid UW Husky, he frequently gives welcomes to incoming students at University of Washington Tacoma and to graduates at commencement.

**Vice Chairwoman Sylvia Miller**

Sylvia Miller was born and raised in Washington. She graduated from Stadium High School in 1977 and continued her education at Tacoma Community College and Bates Technical College.

Sylvia was first elected to Tribal Council in 2000. She serves as the natural resource policy representative for Tribal Council. Before serving on Tribal Council, she was previously elected to the Puyallup Tribal School Board.

Sylvia Miller has worked for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians since June 1977 in various capacities. Her work has included being employed as a youth coordinator, fisheries secretary, executive secretary for Tribal Council, director of the Puyallup Tribe’s Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) program, law enforcement dispatcher and administration assistant. Additionally, she served as the membership information facilitator during the Land Settlement negotiations.

Sylvia has been asked to participate as a delegate on international missions to places like China, Taiwan and Switzerland. These missions focused on international trade, international relations, Tribal relations, cutting-edge youth apprenticeship models and natural resource policy that spans boarders and oceans.

Sylvia has served on and been appointed to numerous boards and commissions such as the Indian Health Board, Puyallup Tribe Historical Committee, Puyallup Tribal Election Board, and the State Environmental Justice Council. Sylvia Miller would like to thank the Membership for the honor to serve on the governing body of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

**Annette Bryan**

Annette M. Bryan was first elected to Tribal Council in 2016. Her previous work includes 10 years as a Tribal Coordinator at the Environmental Protection Agency and 10 years as the Executive Director of the Puyallup Nation Housing Authority.  
  
Previous positions at the Tribe include working for the Historic Preservation Office, the Environmental Department, and the Chief Leschi ECEAP Program. Annette has served on the Election Committee and the Planning Commission for the Tribe. She has also served on the Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Housing Sub-Committee, the HUD Formula Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, the Northwest Indian Housing Association, and as the Alternate on the National American Indian Housing Council.  
  
Currently, Annette serves on the Chief Leschi Career & Technical Education Science & Engineering Natural Resources Advisory Board, the United Way of Pierce County Board, the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners Board, the Urban Waters Advisory Board, and the University of Washington Tacoma Education Advisory Board. She is a delegate to the Tideflats Subarea Plan Steering Committee, a member of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension Leaders Group, and has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior as an alternate member to the Self-Governance PROGRESS Act Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. She also was appointed as an alternate to the Governor’s Environmental Justice Council.  
  
Annette is deeply committed to Puyallup tribal culture and traditions. She is a powwow dancer, Puyallup tribal dancer and singer, weaver and gatherer, and she speaks some of the language. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, auntie, niece, and cousin who is very proud of her Cross and Reed family roots. Annette loves her community and meeting people at events.  
  
She has dedicated her career to advocacy of Native American issues and tribal sovereignty. Annette has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington Tacoma and a master’s degree in civil and environmental engineering from Tufts University. Annette is honored and humbled to serve on Tribal Council and to build on the foundation of those who've come before her and to protect the Tribe's resources for future generations.

To contact Councilmember Bryan, feel free to call or text her at (253) 389-4667 or email her at annette.bryan@puyalluptribe-nsn.gov.

**James Rideout**

As a first-term Councilmember, Jim strives to base his council seat on dedication, perseverance and to remember the sacrifices of the past. He optimizes this ideology with patience and diplomacy.

Born in Tacoma and raised on the banks of the Puyallup River, Jim is proud to be called a fisherman and to be the descendant from a linage of tribal fisherman.

Through his early adult years he was active with the physical construction of the Tribe’s buildings and infrastructure while continuing to be a part of the tribe’s fishing industry. Through hard work and dedication he established financial security through tribal fishing and seafood harvesting programs, for which he is eternally grateful. Jim is committed to keep these programs intact for future generations.

The fishing and seafood industries have given Jim stability and insight, the skills needed to maintain a business, and most importantly the knowledge he needs to be a proponent and advocate of our treaty trust responsibilities. These elements are core to who we are as a sovereign nation.

Jim’s tribal council seat has also given him the diplomatic capacity to right a terrible wrong. After the death of his niece and due to the rise of minority deaths in police-involved shootings, Jim made law enforcement accountability one of his signature policy issues, with the sincere hope that no other family should experience this kind of tragedy. In 2016, he assembled Justice for Jackie, a family, community and Tribal effort which carried and helped establish Initiative 940 (I-940), which sought judicial change in Washington State. Simply stated there wasn’t any law that held law enforcement officers and or officials accountable for any shootings or deaths by Washington State law enforcement officers.

In 2018, with rigorous planning, commitment, dedication and a vast array of help and support, I-940 was passed into law, now known as Violence De-Escalation and Mental Health Training for all Washington State Law Enforcement personnel.

In two years, Jim was able to prioritize, organize and pass a state law, which can be an insurmountable task. This law passage is a testament to Jim’s willingness to learn, retain knowledge and be a proponent for the betterment of our Tribe and our community. This law is now the model for other states that are deficient in ways and means to hold law enforcement officers accountable.

Jim is truly humbled to be a Councilmember, and has proven to be an advocate and positive role model for the Tribe, and to Indian country.

To contact Jim, feel free to call or text him at (253) 221-3742, or to email him at james.rideout@puyalluptribe-nsn.gov.

**Anna Bean**

*“I want to empower our people to do things on their own, to be self-sufficient. If we have people standing on their own two feet … that is where our real wealth will come from.”*

Anna Bean won election to Tribal Council in 2018 after two decades of human resources work for the Emerald Queen Casino. She first got a taste of HR work while in the Upward Bound pre-college program at The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

“I just realized human resources was the helping hand to an organization at all levels – employee relations, disciplinary – the nucleus of any organization. My love of people drew me to HR,” she said. Anna also developed a love of Shakespeare, comedians and the performing arts while in school – interests that carry over into her public speaking.

“I find something funny about almost everything. … I think life is so difficult sometimes. I haven’t had the easiest life. I’ve had plenty of trauma. But I just never let any of that hold me back.”

Anna grew up in the Tacoma and Puyallup area. After moving to Skokomish starting in kindergarten, she came back to the Tacoma area as a teenager and hasn’t left since.

A sign on her desk refers to a famous quote by American painter and pop icon Bob Ross: ‘We don’t make mistakes. Just happy little accidents.”

After high school graduation, Anna watched others run for Tribal Council and saw how they interacted with people. Years later, she decided to do the same.

“I wanted to be a part of the change that I’d been wanting,” she said. “My goal is to continuously be the tribal councilmember I always wanted … the adult that I had wished for when I was younger.” In Council Chambers, she can be all business. Fiscal issues, modernization and building on the Tribe’s growing prosperity to create a more sustainable future for the membership are constantly on the agenda.

Cultural activities and playing an active role in her kids’ lives take up much of her time outside the office.

Anna’s partner is Kirby D. Manzanares Jr. and her children are Kylah, Korde’, Khloe and Kirby III.

She said 2018’s Canoe Journey, when the Tribe hosted, was one of her favorite things she’s done on Council.

“That and strategic planning,” she said.

**Monica Miller**

Monica Miller was born and raised on the Puyallup Tribe’s reservation and has served the Tribe for more than 40 years, seeing it and helping it grow from having only a small dental trailer to what it is today.

She began working for the Tribe as a 14-year-old youth worker at the Hawthorne School, which stood on the site of what is now the Tacoma Dome. Beginning in 1977, while she was a student at Stadium High School, she would attend classes till noon and then catch a bus over to the Tribe’s brown, two-story administration building that used to stand where the cemetery is today. She started with the Tribe’s Administration as Ramona Bennett’s receptionist and a few months later transferred to working for Barbara Richards in Enrollment.

“The Puyallup Tribe established an Administration Building in 1975,” she said. “Before then, we used to meet in each other’s houses and at the Indian church.”

As an Enrollment employee in the mid-1970s, she helped gather Tribal Members known to be Puyallup and encouraged them to enroll with the Tribe. She also helped circulate the petition among Tribal Members in 1988 for what became the historic Puyallup Land Claims Settlement. “All that took place while I was a young adult,” Councilwoman Miller said.

She also served on the Enrollment Committee, where she was the only person in the group who could drive a car. All committee members were Elders except for Barbara Richards and her. She would pick up everyone and go to meetings and workshops with them as far as California and New Orleans.

“It was nice to be a guide for these Elders,” she said.

She also served on the Enrollment Committee, Housing Committee and the board of Puyallup International Inc. Over 40 years, she gained experience in a variety of departments and jobs within the Tribe:

* Youth worker
* Tribal Administration receptionist
* Enrollment secretary, administrative assistant, assistant director
* Law Office secretary
* Tribal Council secretary
* Per Capita / Low Income Housing Energy Assistance program director
* Enrollment / Per Capita assistant director
* Per Capita / RPP director

Work was a constant. Most of her life she worked two jobs, usually a main job at the Tribe on weekdays and then nights and weekends elsewhere. She did it to make ends meet and put food on the table. She had married in May 1978, had a child in April 1979 and became a single mother in 1986. She later fostered children and adopted two Tribal children.

Over the years, she gained work experience at many different businesses:

* BJ’s Bingo
* The Tribe’s smokeshop on Pioneer Way
* Micro Dome Bingo
* Muckleshoot Bingo
* Selling fireworks
* Mega Foods

Mega Foods gave her experience working outside the Tribe. She started at the store in 1985, and when she left 11 years later to go full-time at the Tribe, she had advanced to become a grocery store manager and a fully vested member of the union.

She brought her varied work experience back to the Tribe. In Enrollment, she made sure Members received the monthly benefits they were due, and that their money was secure. She created and served as the director of the Per Capita Department and gave out 18-year-olds’ trust money and kept accounting records on the trust. In 2011, after seeing Elders, vulnerable adults and vulnerable children being taken advantage of, she created and became director of the Department of the Representative Payee, which exists to protect Tribal beneficiaries and their financial assets from exploitation, and for Members who want help with bill-paying and other financial transactions. She also helped with fundraisers for cancer patients and later helped start a Cancer Committee for the Tribe.

On Aug. 1, 2020, she was elected to the Puyallup Tribal Council. Her priorities are clear:

* That children get the best education and training
* That Elders have the best housing and health care
* That the Tribe continues to grow its economic development and diversification to make the other priorities possible.

“My mission is always to work for the Tribal members to make sure our assets, our per capitas, fish and waters, our lands, roots and berries, our sovereign rights – everything – is protected,” Councilmember Miller said.

Since her election to Tribal Council, the Tribe has embarked on new business ventures to help bring financial security to future generations. It opened two more Commencement Bay Cannabis stores, launched a venture with Amazon, bought two restaurants on prime waterfront property along Ruston Way in Tacoma, bought a church for conversion into a long-needed funeral home, undertook development of port property and began a venture with Kenmore Air to bring seaplanes to the Tribe’s home waters. Tribal Council and the economic development team have also prioritized vocational training for Chief Leschi high school students and young adults.

“My hands go up to our economic development team. Along with Tribal Council they have started projects we never could have done years ago,” she said. “I thank each and every one on the team for bringing their knowledge, credibility and dedication to making sure our future generations survive and thrive. Tribal Council could not do this without you.”

**Fred Dillon**

Fred Dillon is serving his first term on Tribal Council. Before his election, he worked as natural resources policy representative for the Tribe’s Fisheries Department.

**About The Prayer Reader**

**Cecilia Dillon**

Cecilia is a student at Chief Leschi Schools and one of the Tribe’s promising youth who we work so hard for to ensure they have a bright future. She went to the top of the Space Needle on May 18 to help unveil the 2026 FIFA World Cup design.

**About Slahal (Bone Games mural)**

The mural’s design elements represent the ancestors and history of the tribe. It’s a depiction of bone games.

Bones games have been part of the Puyallup Tribe’s rich culture since time immemorial. The game would be played for fun, ceremonially, to settle arguments, and would often include a form of gambling.