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**Form Letter, Membership Application and Bylaws of the
Legislative Council of The Indian Tribes and Bands of the United
States of America, by US Representative Usher L. Burdick, May 28,
1947**

Usher Burdick

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Indian

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE
INDIAN TRIBES AND BANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICE: 206 East Capitol St.
Washington, D. C.

In order to present a united front to free the Indian wards from the Indian Bureau control of themselves and property as soon as conditions at the various reservations warrant it, and in order to keep all tribes and bands informed as to the progress of this work, the various Indian Tribes and Bands are associating themselves together under the name of "The Legislative Council of the Indian Tribes and Bands of the United States of America", with offices in Washington, D.C.

No fee is required as a condition precedent to joining the association; but when the organization is perfected, each Tribe and Band is expected to make a contribution in accordance with their financial condition to carry on the work. Each Tribe or Band will fix the membership fee in such an amount as it deems advisable.

Since I know you very well and know your ability and willingness to unselfishly work for the full, unfettered citizenship of all ward Indians, I am sending this letter to you. Enclosed is a form of association, and if you feel inclined to work in this movement, please sign the form and get as many Indians on your reservation who are also interested to sign the document and return the same to me at the above address.

When ten or more Tribes have signed up, the names of those signing will be mailed to you; and from those names you can cast your ballot for president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. In this way, the preliminary organization can be established without the expense of an annual meeting. The officers selected will serve until the first annual convention, which will be held here in Washington. You may attend personally, or by proxy mailed to this office.

This is the first time in a hundred years that the Indians have had so many friends in Congress; and now is the time to unify the Indians for their own protection. A temporary set of by-laws is enclosed herewith. Please feel at liberty to make such amendments to the by-laws as you think proper.

Yours very truly,

Encl-2
1- Form of Assn.
2- By-Laws

USHER L. BURDICK
Preliminary Secretary

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIAN TRIBES AND BANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


I, _____ of the Tribe or Band of
_____ Indians with post office address at _____

_____, do hereby apply for membership in the above Council and represent the following facts to be true; that I am a ward Indian and am at least one-fourth Indian origin; that I am not an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; that I am in favor of the purposes of this Council, namely, to bring about the full and unfettered citizenship of the ward Indians of the United States just as soon as the financial and education conditions of the various Tribes and Bands are able to assume full citizenship; that I desire to join with other Indians in the United States to unitedly carry out the purposes of this Council.

(Dated) _____

(Address) _____

FORM OF MEMBERSHIP CARD

MEMBERSHIP CARD	
	NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE INDIAN TRIBES AND BANDS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH
This is to certify that _____ of the Tribe or Band _____ post office address _____ is a member of this Council and entitled to the rights and privileges of the Council.	
(dated) _____	(Local President) _____
(at) _____	(Local Solicitor) _____

BY-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIAN TRIBES AND BANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PURPOSE: The purpose of this organization is to bring about complete and unfettered citizenship of the ward Indians of the United States as soon as conditions of finance and education on the various reservations will permit.

NAME: The name of this organization shall be "The National Council of the Indian Tribes and Bands of the United States of America."

LOCATION OF OFFICE: Until changed by the National Board of Directors, the office shall be located in the city of Washington, D. C.

DIRECTORS: Each Tribe or Band shall be entitled to at least one director on the National Board, and two directors when the number of ward Indians on any reservation is 5,000 or more. These directors shall be chosen by the Tribes and Bands in such manner as they may determine and shall hold office for a period of one year. Their duty shall be to direct the affairs of this association consistent with the purposes of the organization. Annual meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the city of Washington, D. C., and any director may attend in person, or by proxy received by the Secretary prior to the date of any called meeting. The date of the first annual meeting shall be the second Tuesday in May of each year, but special meetings may be called at any time by a majority of the Board of Directors. In case of the death of any director, a successor may be appointed by the Tribe or Band to hold office until the next annual meeting of the Tribe or Band.

OFFICERS: When at least ten tribes or bands have approved the purposes of this organization, the names of all member Indians shall be sent to the various Tribes, and from those names the Indians shall vote for a president, vice-president and a secretary-treasurer by ballot, and the one receiving the highest number of votes shall hold office until the first annual Council to be held in Washington.

The president shall preside at all meetings and countersign all checks to pay the expenses of maintaining the office at Washington, D. C. The vice-president shall act in place of the president at any time when the president is unable to attend to the business of the organization.

The secretary-treasurer shall be one office and one elected to that position shall file a bond with the president in sufficient amount to cover the money liable to be received from membership dues or donations made by any citizen. The treasurer shall countersign all checks issued to pay expenses of the Council and shall file a financial report at the close of each years business.

MEMBERSHIP: No Indian shall be eligible to become a member of this Council unless he is at least one-fourth of Indian origin and unless he is a ward Indian of the United States. Each member joining this Council

Page 2 - By-Laws of the National Legislative Council of Indian Tribes
and Bands of the United States of America.

shall pay an annual membership fee to be fixed by each Tribe and Band; when received, the fee shall be divided equally, being deposited in the treasury of the Tribe and one-half with the national secretary-treasurer. A membership card will be issued by the Tribe collecting the membership fees. Any person, not an Indian as defined herein, may become a non-voting member of the Council and membership cards shall be issued such persons with the words plainly printed on said card as follows: "This card carries no voting privileges."

NATIONAL OFFICE - HOW SUPPORTED: The national Council shall be financially supported by one-half of the membership fees and by contributions made by any individual. The board of directors shall ~~have to~~^{not} incur any expense where there are no funds available to defray the expense.

The Board of Directors shall have power to employ an attorney and such office help as may be necessary at such salaries as the funds of the organization will permit.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNCIL: The local Tribes or Bands shall manage the affairs of the Council in any manner they may determine, not inconsistent with the purposes and the by-laws of the national Council. No one shall be authorized to collect membership fees except the local organization. The national Council has no part in fixing the amount of the membership fees, nor in the collection of the same.

The local council shall have a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and a Board of Directors patterned after the by-laws of the national Council.

NEWS BULLETIN: It shall be the duty of the attorney and the secretary to publish a monthly bulletin giving full information as to Indian legislation in Congress, and the status of the same. In matters affecting any Tribe the bulletin shall outline the proposals and notify such Tribe or Band when to appear at Washington, D. C. to either support or remonstrate against said proposals. This bulletin will be mailed or expressed to the president of the local governments with directions to circulate the same among the members.

Dated at Washington, D. C.
May 28, 1947

USHER L. BURDICK
Organizing Secretary