CITIZEN BAND OF POTAWATOMI

The Potawatomi name means "People of the Place of the Fire" in Algonquin. It dates back some 400 years to when the Potawatomi first united with the Ojibwe and the Ottawa Nations, on lands in what today is Ontario. When they moved south, they formed the three distinct nations. The Ojibwe moved west to what is now Wisconsin and Minnesota, the Ottawa moved to the area around Lake Huron, and the Potawatomi moved onto the lower peninsula of Michigan (ENAT, 197-198). The Potawatomi took with them the original "Council Fire" that had been used by the three groups when united, and thus became known as the "Keepers of the Fire".

The Potawatomi Nation now spans an area from Michigan through Oklahoma. The largest band is the Citizen Band in Oklahoma, so called because, after being ejected from Kansas and settling in Oklahoma, they accepted the federal government's offer of citizenship and allotments of land. The Citizen Band controls only the 4,400-acre "Tribal Historic Area" in Oklahoma; most of the Band live on private property.

The flag of the Citizen Band of the Potawatomi Nation is white with the tribal seal in the center. At the top are a tomahawk and pipe, crossed, signifying skill and strength in war and a strong historical reputation as a peace-loving people. In the center is the great "Council Fire" recalling the Potawatomi name. It symbolizes the warmth, friendship, and wisdom of the "Great Council Fire" (Potawatomi Seal, undated pamphlet). Below the fire are two crossed oak leaves. The
acorns of the red oak were a source of food for the Potawatomi and the leaves were widely used in their beadwork designs. The seal is ringed by “GREAT SEAL OF THE POTAWATOMI INDIANS” and “PEOPLE OF THE PLACE OF THE FIRE”. The seal on the flag is frequently represented solely in red outline.