

History of Ponca Community Educational Foundation

Written by Lionel J. Froseth

At the request of a prominent local family who wished to establish an endowment in honor of their father, the PONCA COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (PCEF) was established when the original Articles of Incorporation were filed on October 5, 1984. This non-profit and charitable corporation was filed under Section 501 (C-3) of the Internal Revenue Code for the expressed purpose of enhancing the quality of education in the Ponca School District. The original incorporators included the following interested citizens: Harley Bossman, Florence Curry, Richard Dohma, Lionel J. Froseth, Virginia Iverson, Bruce Karpen, Jerry Knerl, John Kingsbury, Stanley Leigh, Fern Mendenhall, Mary Persinger, Virgil Putman, A. B. Scheffel, Phil F. Verzani.

The Articles of Incorporation were amended and/or revised a number of times when final approval was given on January 21, 1987. The time lapse between 1984 and 1987 was due to a number of reasons including an illness and changing of attorneys. The original Board of Directors included: Stanley Leigh, President; Richard Dohma, Vice President; Mary Persinger, Secretary; Lionel J. Froseth, Treasurer; Bruce Karpen, John Kingsbury.

On February 1, 1982, the Ponca Board of Education had established the Ponca Community Scholarship Fund which was disbanded and all funds were turned over to the P.C.E.F. The first annual meeting of the corporation was held on January 12, 1988. On the same date the Board of Directors met and elected officers and approved the By-laws. Also, the Directors took action to set the membership fee at \$100. There were 142 original charter members who are noted in the annual brochure. As of 2004 the PCEF has over 450 members. The Honor Roll of Donors was initiated in 1993 and to date over 140 members, alumni, and community-minded citizens contribute annually to the PCEF. The PCEF began awarding scholarships and printed its first brochure in 1988. Since then the PCEF has expanded its programs to include special use awards, teacher endowment grants, emergency help grants, and special school projects. Since incorporation in 1984 the PCEF has donated over \$177,000 in scholarships and special use projects to Ponca Public School. As the PCEF celebrates its 20th anniversary, the support and promotion of quality educational programs at Ponca Public School continues to be the goal of the members and the Board of Directors.