

# Tamara J. St. John

## Biography

Tamara St. John is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of the Lake Traverse Reservation of South Dakota. She is the Tribal Archivist and works with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office on cultural preservation issues. Tamara is a Native American genealogist who has done extensive research in the history of the Dakota/Lakota/Nakota or Oceti Sakowin.

She has worked with the Minnesota Historical Society and along with other Dakota Tribes collaborated on the *Commemorating Controversy: The Dakota–U.S. War of 1862* exhibition. She has worked with North Dakota State University and The Center for Heritage Renewal participating in panel discussions on the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 and the Massacre at Whitestone Hill.

Tamara has served as a member of the South Dakota Humanities Council board of directors from 2016 to 2021. She has also served as a delegate for the *Her Vote. Her Voice.* project to help South Dakota commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement.

In 2018, Tamara was elected to the South Dakota State Legislature serving District 1 in the House of Representatives. She was re-elected to the State House in 2020. She currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee, House Health and Human Services Committee, and is a Co-Chair of the State-Tribal Relations Committee.

# TAMARA ST. JOHN

Archivist - Historian - Legislator

## ABOUT ME

I'm a highly dedicated professional who focuses on community outreach, networking, and relationship-building, along with bringing a strong emphasis in historic and tribal cultural preservation.

## EDUCATION

2018 • George Washington University  
Cultural Heritage Tourism Program

2014 • National Parks Service (Inter-Mountain Region)  
Cultural Resource Laws and Management

2012 • Federal Highways / SD Dept of Transportation  
Cultural Resource Management Training on NHPA Section 106 and NEPA

1984 • Sisseton Public High School - High School Diploma/GED

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**July 2012 to Present (40 hrs/wk)**      **Tribal Archivist - Manager of Tribal Archives and Collections**  
Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe

- Preservation and curation of tribal collections.
- Provide tours, community outreach and education programming.
- Participates in consultation with Tribal Nations, Federal Agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Assists in the planning and development of cultural heritage tourism.

**July 2008 to Present (40 hrs/wk)**      **Researcher and Genealogist for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office**  
Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe

- Works with Federal, State, and Local entities on the history and culture of the tribe.
- Assists in facilitation and processing of Section 106 (NHPA) requests.
- Community outreach and educational programming.
- Research and collecting historic data.

**January 2019 to Present (Part-Time)**      **Representative for District 1 (Brown, Day, Marshall and Roberts Counties)**  
South Dakota State Legislature - House of Representatives

- Elected to two-year term in 2018 and re-elected in 2020.
- Co-chair of the State-Tribal Relations Committee.
- Member of the House Judiciary and the House Health and Human Services Committees.

## **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE**

- 2016 to Present**    **South Dakota Humanities Council**  
Board of Directors
- 2020 to Present**    **South Dakota Historical Society - Her Vote. Her Voice.**  
Delegate
- 2010 to Present**    **North Dakota Tribal Consultation Committee**  
Member
- 2015 to Present**    **Minnesota Historical Society - Dakota Community Committee**  
Member
- 2016 to Present**    **North Dakota and South Dakota Native Tourism Alliance**  
Member
- 2014 to Present**    **North Dakota Indian Affairs Heritage Center Hall of Honor Selection Committee**  
Member
- 2012 to Present**    **North Dakota Tribal Re-internment Committee**  
Member
- 2017 to 2018**        **Nebraska State Historical Society Consultation Session on NAGPRA (25 USC 3003)**  
Consultation Representative on behalf of the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
- Report Published on May 1, 2018 in Federal Register (Doc# 2018-09172)
- 2012 to 2018**        **Former Commissioner or Board Member for the following Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe:**
- Tribal Tax Board of Commissioners
  - Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
  - Judicial Committee Member
  - TERO Tribal Employment Rights Office Board of Commissioners
  - Sisseton Wahpeton Federal Credit Union Board of Directors

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

- Outstanding organizational, multitasking, and problem-solving abilities.
- Great communicator, public speaker, and stakeholder engagement.
- Skilled in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook).
- Comfortable working with Microsoft or Mac OS.
- Proficient in audio, visual equipment and software.

## **REFERENCES UPON REQUEST**