



Higuayagua Glossary of Terms

- **Kacike (Tribal Leader)** - The Kacike has the last word in all decisions and can overturn or overrule any decisions. They alone select and instruct Tribal Council members, and have the authority to disband this council as well. The latter may be resorted to if the Kacike feels that they have shown bias or favoritism in decisions regarding conflicts among members. Council members cannot choose sides but rather find solutions to the problems, but council cannot disband the Kacike.
- **Akutuno (Grandmothers/Elders) Council** - This council is composed of respected grandmothers/Akutuno. Their job is to settle disputes and misunderstandings amongst members when lower council cannot. The Higuayagua way is to seek resolution and harmony, not animosity and strife.
- **Tekina (Teacher) Council** - Tekinano are the right and left hands of the Kacike. They are in charge of teaching new and old tribal members songs, dances, culture, etc. They are there to offer advice on CULTURE only. Members with questions on spirituality may call upon them as well. They should *not* be burdened with problems. They are teachers. The Behike is also a part of the Tekina Council. Tekinas will NOT be disbanded or relieved of duty UNLESS they have behaved in a way that is harmful or disrespectful to a member or the tribe. If this is the case, the Kacike, Behike, and Akutu will decide expulsion.
- **Behike (Spiritual Leader)** - Behikeno are in charge of teaching and guiding tribal members in Spiritual matters. People may approach them seeking advice or spiritual guidance. The Behike or Bohuti are not to be approached to resolve complaints or arguments. Behike are also in charge of training Bohuti.



Higuayagua Glossary of Terms

- **Bohutino** - Bohuti are healers who offer advice on healing. They are training to become Behike. They are there to HEAL the tribe, not as ADVOCATES for any individual members.
- **Bahari/Bahiaro** – A Bahari/Bahiaro is a personal advisor to the Kacike, Behike, and Tekina.
- **Tribal Council (Tukudano)** -The Council consists of chosen individuals who help Kacike with day-to-day operations. Council is called up when situations or problems arise amongst members, or when a decision on projects or daily management is needed. Council members must be fair-minded people. They must never take sides. In resolving any situation, the council members always look for common middle ground between adversarial parties. If there is a conflict of interest, that council member will be excused and someone else will be appointed to the council.
- **Witness** -The Kacike has visible (public) and invisible (hidden) witnesses who have been selected for their ability to stay neutral and report faithfully about how they perceive a situation. They do *not* vote, nor do they *advise*, they simply sit in during Council deliberations and give the Cacike an unbiased report of their perceptions. The “invisible” witnesses are those who travel throughout social media and report on the goings on within the larger Taino community and Native community in general.
- **Community Relations** - Community Relations are Tribal Community Liaisons. They are points-of contact for our members. They can offer assistance with general tribal questions, guide our members as to where to find resources, and organizationally maintain our Calendar of events. They may also offer hands-on assistance during meetings by fielding questions from our members during our recurring streaming workshops.