

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND COMMITTEES

To the editor:

This letter is a plea for help with our Native American Circle at Shutter Creek Correctional Institute.

Currently we have a mixed assortment of tribal members from various Oregon tribes (Siletz, Warm Springs, and Klamath), as well as non-registered brothers who are seeking guidance spiritually on their chosen path of the Red Road.

There currently are 20 brothers from the general population on the rolls for participation in smudge and talking circles, pipe ceremonies, and sweat lodge ceremonies. Currently, we are allowed ceremonies as long as a volunteer can come to oversee the ceremony.

We do have a tee-pee where the pipe ceremonies and talking circles are held. We also have a sweat lodge and our own sacred pipe.

As far as sweat ceremonies, our only current volunteer is Rick Goche' from the Coos Bay area, and due to his job our visits are spread out as many as five to six weeks apart.

We wish to find people who would be willing to give their time to make the phone call to the chaplain here and arrange to take the five-hour class to get their volunteer card, and be willing to donate a couple of hours a week, or 3^o to 4 hours to sit on a weekly sweat with us.

It is our plea for storytellers, pipe carriers, people to teach songs, drumming and dance, as well as crafts to the circle here. Anything that can help us to learn more about our culture and strengthen our walk on the Red Road.

The administration here uses the talking circle as an alternative religion for the Summit Program, as it is part of the requirement for such to go to a weekly religious class. We tried to explain long ago to the Department of Corrections that the Red Road is a spiritual path taught to us by our ancestors, but it was placed as a religion per a DOC rule in 1995.

The Summit inmates as of yet haven't been able to participate in sweat ceremonies, as there isn't a volunteer yet willing to work their time into the structure of that program. But we have been told if a volunteer was

available, those brothers and sisters could sweat. The Summit circles are co-ed, so arrangements to accommodate the sisters' needs would also be greatly appreciated.

This letter is written by William Toland, elected chief of the general population circle on behalf of all the brothers and sisters here at S.C.C.I.

Thank you,

Your families are in our prayers
A-Ho

Contact: Father Will Augsberger
S.C.C.I. Chaplain

2000 Shutters Landing Road
North Bend, OR 97459

541-756-6666, ext. 264

Friday-Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
or leave a message

To the editor:

Thank you, General Council. I feel humbled and proud by your vote of confidence.

Now I would like to ask another favor of you. The 2000 Census is coming up. Please state that you are Native American. We want the world to know that we are a living force. Second, the national and local elections are very crucial this year. Become informed about the candidates and please vote.

Thank you,
JoAnn Miller

Correction - June Austin's letter in the February issue of Siletz News should have thanked the Native American Church of Siletz and Buzz Berry and Ana Becerra for their prayers and songs.

2000 Standing Committee Applications Due

Deadline for consideration for 2000 committees is March 16, 2000.

Any tribal member interested in serving on a committee must fill out the following form and return it to the address below before March 16, 2000, to be considered for the following committees. Please send your application to:

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Attention: Executive Secretary to Tribal Council
PO Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

Fax: 541-444-8325

Name: _____ Roll Number: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

Choose your first, second and third choice of committees by numbering your preference 1, 2, 3 in the space provided. If you only want to request one committee, please indicate this by inserting the number 1.

- _____ Education Committee (1 vacancy)
- _____ Natural Resources Committee (4 vacancies)
(Hunting, Fishing and Timber combined)
- _____ Health Committee (6 vacancies)
- _____ Cultural Heritage Committee (1 vacancy)
(Culture and Sacred Lands combined)
- _____ Housing Committee (HIP) (6 vacancies)
- _____ Pow-Wow Committee (no vacancies)
- _____ Budget Committee (no vacancies)

Tribal Council will review applications and approve appointments at the regular Tribal Council meeting on March 17-18, 2000. If you have any questions, please call Kelley Ellis at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 203, or 541-444-8203.