

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Chairman Delores Pigsley

Still an issue that has yet to be resolved is the Notice of Violation (NOV) issued by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

According to an audit conducted by the Siletz Tribal Gaming Commission (STGC), all the comps that the NIGC declared were misused by Tribal Council members during 1999 were found to be legitimate. They were awarded to customers of Chinook Winds and comps related to official Gaming Board activities and meetings.

Comping is a fact of life in the casino business and the Tribal Council and the Gaming Board will continue to be an indispensable vehicle in marketing Chinook Winds.

The NIGC has received a copy of the STGC audit. NIGC has not yet been able to provide proof that comps were taken for personal use as alleged in its Notice of Violation.

Other important tribal developments include the following:

- ◆ The Siletz Tribe has negotiated a law enforcement agreement with the city of

Siletz, a community of Indian and non-Indian citizens. Under the agreement, the tribe is authorized to enforce the law in the city, and provide funding for law enforcement officers who are cross-deputized to serve the community under state law.

- ◆ By the time this issue of Siletz News goes to press, the Annual Run to the Rogue will have already taken place. These runs are of great historical importance to Siletz Tribal members because they are held in an area that is the original reservation territory of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The climax of this year's run, held at Oak Flats, included ceremonial dances by the Siletz Feather Dancers and a salmon feed. The ceremonial dances, which have been handed down over generations, were performed where our ancestors once lived and thrived. (Please see photos on page 12.)

CHS Restricts Pharmacy to Generic Drug Dispensing and Mail-In Distribution

Pharmacy costs reached a high of \$382,752 in 1999. The current level of spending estimates that CHS will pay \$474,133 for the year 2000. Pharmacy costs will continue to increase because of the rising cost of medications. In an attempt to remain within our budget, CHS must adjust the pharmacy benefits effective Oct. 1, 2000.

The Siletz Tribe contracted with the tribally owned business Pequot Pharmaceutical Network in 1996 to provide pharmacy benefits to tribal members nationwide. Tribal members living outside the 11-county service area have a \$400 annual pharmacy benefit.

Distribution of drugs from the Pequot pharmacy in Mashantucket, Conn., allows them to dispense to other tribes or tribal members at the federal supply schedule price. This reduces the cost to CHS by 40 percent. Restricting pharmacy to mail-out distribution will reduce costs to the tribe.

We currently allow dispensing from the retail market – Fred Meyer, Rite Aid – and other providers in the pharmacy business. CHS will allow you to continue doing so in cases of emergencies or acute conditions. But you should ask your doctor to write two prescriptions, one for now and the other for mail-in because using the mail-in for continued use will stretch your benefit amount. If you have private insurance that requires a co-payment, you can pay it and mail your receipt to CHS for reimbursement. Continuing to use the Chemawa, Grand Ronde, or Siletz pharmacies reduces costs to CHS and you should use these clinics when possible.

If you feel more comfortable picking up your prescriptions at the Siletz Clinic and would like to use it for your pharmacy needs, please call 72 hours in advance before pick up, 1-800-648-0449 or

541-444-1030. This will allow time to fill your prescriptions.

You can receive the mail-in envelopes and information by calling Pequot directly at 1-888-779-6638. You also may contact the CHS Department or your nearest community health advocate in the area offices for envelopes or with any other questions you may have.

Your **new** Pequot cards have been adjusted for acute and emergency use and mandate dispensing of generic drugs; a dollar limit has been set. A review and adjustment of the limit will be done on a yearly basis, so please use your pharmacy benefit wisely. If you spend your limit before the yearly review is complete, you may have no recourse but to use mail-in from Pequot or go to an IHS or tribal pharmacy. **New pharmacy cards were mailed in early September.**