

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Dear Tribal Members:

My name is **Lori Higgins** and I am running for a position on our Tribal Council (TC). I am a member as you. I have got to do something to stir the kettle and unite us as a stronger tribe. I have been reviewing the information that we receive as tribal members. The happenings in our tribe disturb me and that is my motivation to run for a seat on our TC. I believe for our tribe to exist and grow, we need to change our way of thinking and the way we do business.

The tribe is in financial strain. Wasteful spending of tribal dollars needs to stop. Many basic programs, such as health care, elder care, and other programs to sustain or improve the livelihood of our members, are being cut back and unavailable to those in need of these resources. This says to me something is wrong. So, let us take a look at revamping the financial plan and the accountability of the funds. All financial information must be available and explained to all of us members. Allowance spending and cost effectiveness should be a priority. The TC needs to start this process.

Tribal Council members work for us and must hold accountability to us. Our input and ideas need addressing. I propose more meeting availability. My job prevents me to attend Saturday meetings in Siletz. I cannot be the only person this affects. All of our voices need open ears to listen to what we need and want for our tribe. General Council meetings are to get clear information. They are to discuss plans and goals, problems and concerns, and for coming together as a tribe and family.

My proposal shall be this: to gather in a different city (Portland,

Salem, Siletz, Eugene, and other areas warranted) and to include more members. Each of these meetings should be lead by a different TC member, not all nine, for each quarter. This would allow more members access to participate and not feel intimidated to talk about their concerns or ideas. **Think** about it, less than 10 percent of our tribe goes to meetings and they seem to be non-productive. Receiving agenda items from you before the quarterly meeting will help with answers. I read the minutes. To me, the meetings where concerns and questions are **brought up** and then the TC answers off the cuff. Let's make the TC be prepared with handouts, data, and answers before the meeting starts. This means the TC will have to study. Some of the agenda items take time to research. It appears to cause confusion and animosity to answer off the cuff, three months later at the next meeting, or never give a clear answer at all. (Of course it does.)

As a tribal member, we must not become dormant. If we allow things to stay the way they are because "that is the way it has

always been," I fear we will not be a unified or functioning tribe for long. Already I see us tearing up each other. We have come a long way in history and fought many battles to reclaim our name as a tribe. **Why** is it we persecute each other?

My campaign is simple. I am realistic. I know change does not happen overnight and there are eight other TC members I will have to work with. But, if I were to be elected, our tribal welfare is a priority to me.

- Establish goals and plans
- Accountability and responsibility to our tribe
- Involve all members in choices affecting all of us
- Prioritize funding
- Information, information, information
- Expectations from members (let's be a tribe and work together for the good of each other)

We're responsible for each other. If we don't demand fairness and respect, it should not be a surprise if we do not get it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lori Higgins

**If you choose
to vote
absentee,
remember
that you need
to mail in
your ballot so
it arrives by
Feb. 3, 2001.**

Election Board Members

Margo Hudson, Chairman
Valerie Hibdon
Rebekah Goulet
Nancy McCrary, Alternate
Dave Bartels, Election Director

If you have any questions,
please call Margo Hudson at
1-800-922-1399, ext. 247,
or 541-444-8247