



## Siletz Tribe to Increase Charitable Giving

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has set in motion a mechanism to distribute 5 percent of its excess net gaming revenues for charitable purposes. The Siletz Tribe recently established a seven-member advisory board to assist the tribe in allocating \$349,000 in revenue from 1999 and 2000.

The Siletz Charitable Contributions Advisory Board members include three Siletz tribal members, Cheryl Lane, Kurt Arden, and Virgil Brown; Rosemary Landis, Tribal Council member; Mike Holden, Lincoln City mayor; and Karen Gertulla, Lincoln County commissioner. Both Holden and Gertulla are Lincoln County residents. Tim Buckley of Salem, Ore., was nominated by Gov. John Kitzhaber. Board members are appointed to three-year terms.

This Advisory Board held its first meeting on June 14 to adopt procedures and establish criteria for awarding funds. It will meet at least four times annually to review applications and recommend grant awards to the Siletz Tribal Council. The council will review those recommendations and approve grant awards at its regular monthly meetings.

Eligibility for funds is limited to two categories:

1. Entities and activities located in the Siletz Tribe's 11-county service area (Lincoln, Tillamook, Linn, Lane, Benton, Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties)
2. Native American entities and activities located anywhere in the United States



*Tina Wooten speaks at the Memorial Day Ceremony in May. Please see additional photo on page 7.*

The deadline for the first round of funding is Aug. 15. The tribe is looking for projects in the arts, culture, economic self-sufficiency, education, addiction prevention and treatment, health, social services, historic preservation, and other areas. The board will review eligible applications and forward funding recommendations at the Tribal Council meeting in September.

Application forms and guidelines can be obtained from Tribal Council Executive Secretary Kelley Ellis. She can be reached at 1-800-922-1399 or 541-444-2532, or by mail at P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380. The tribe plans to include this information on its Web site to allow on-line applications.

Prior to establishing the Advisory Board, the Siletz Tribe distributed a

percentage of gaming revenues through an ad-hoc committee that awarded \$134,020 to various organizations throughout Oregon.

Gaming profits are not the only source of tribal giving. Through its Marketing Department, Chinook Winds Casino & Convention Center routinely supports events and activities in Lincoln County. The casino also has its own charitable funding vehicle, the Chinook Winds Donation Committee. Through these three sources, the tribe distributed more than \$300,000 last year. In addition to cash donations, Chinook Winds has donated excess equipment, such as computers, televisions, VCRs, and event props, to local community groups and schools.

## Siletz Tribe Establishes Charitable Funds

On June 15, 2001, the Siletz Tribal Council took the first step in establishing five charitable funds under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 7871.

Resolutions created the following: Siletz Tribal Education Fund; Siletz Tribal Housing Fund; Siletz Tribal Social Welfare Fund; Siletz Tribal History, Culture, and Art Fund; and Siletz Tribal Environmental Fund.

IRC section 7871 provides that giving to an Indian tribal government (or a political subdivision) is treated like a gift to a state for purposes of tax deductibility. Establishing these funds should help the tribe solicit charitable donations from foundations and other donors, whose giving guidelines or preferences are limited to a certain subject area.

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