

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## BIA Approves Tribe's Per Capita Plan

I am pleased to report that by the time this issue of Siletz News gets in your hands, our plan for a per capita payment already will have been approved by the BIA and the distribution to our members already will have begun – perhaps will even be completed.

As we reported in the October issue of Nesika Illahee, tribes are required under federal regulations to submit for BIA review and approval their Revenue Allocation Plans (RAP). A tribal plan for the distribution of per capitas is a necessary part of the tribe's RAP.

Ours was a well-thought-out plan that complied with all federal requirements. Franklin Ducheneaux, our Washington, D.C., consultant, bird-dogged our



Chairman Delores Pigsley

proposed RAP as it worked its way through the bureau and it was from him that we received the good news.



To the editor:

I have not written a letter to the editor before. It has been my belief that the achievements of our Tribal Council were, in many ways, self-evident. There has been little need to tout those achievements.

I am proud of having played a part in making those achievements a reality and appreciate the many tribal members who have understood and supported the council and my role as council member.

However, I would be remiss in not addressing the misinformation being disseminated, specifically about Tribal Council wages and travel expenditures, by Pat Duncan, former tribal chairman. These unfounded allegations have appeared in various issues of Siletz News as letters to the editor. The following are examples of such letters:

In the October 2001 issue: "The Tribal Council has given themselves a 40 percent increase in wages and travel alone ... and what benefit have our members received by their spending over \$2 million a year?"

In the November 2001 issue: "... no one justified spending so much to give so little to the membership. No one even addressed the \$99,609 increase in wages and travel."

When the council is alleged to have "given themselves a 40 percent increase in wages and travel," she is comparing what was **budgeted** with what was **actually spent** in the year 2000. Did she not know the difference when she made this allegation?

What then, are the facts? What was the record of her 1998 Tribal Council compared to other councils? The record for the five-year period of 1996 through 2000 speaks for itself. What is not known is that the travel from 1997 and beyond is not all Tribal Council, but also includes the council secretaries.

|      | Wages      | Travel     | Total Expenditures |                      |
|------|------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1996 | 89,903.43  | 131,102.52 | 221,005.95         |                      |
| 1997 | 122,001.10 | 149,075.83 | 271,076.93         |                      |
| 1998 | 128,889.70 | 161,123.24 | 290,012.94         | (under Duncan admin) |
| 1999 | 125,863.88 | 161,889.30 | 287,753.18         |                      |
| 2000 | 131,567.74 | 152,817.42 | 284,385.16         |                      |

I am not sure whether we can attribute Pat Duncan's allegations to her lack of understanding of the facts or a deliberate intent to misinform. Either way, it is hard to excuse, coming from a former tribal chairman and current candidate for office.

## Restoration Celebration

With Ed Ben, a respected tribal elder who helped restore our tribe, as master of ceremonies, we celebrated the restoration of the Siletz Tribe 24 years ago. Among his introductory comments, Ed said that about 50 percent of our members have been born since Restoration – emphasizing the fact that we are a young tribe, but with an ancient and proud heritage.

Ed introduced our guest speaker, Rudy Clements, who comes with an impressive background, understanding not only the needs of reservation Indians, but also urban Indians. Rudy helped establish the Urban Indian Council to address the needs of Indians who live far from their home reservations. He served as director of a manpower institute in Portland and

when CETA programs were established for Oregon tribes with the Warm Springs Tribe as its prime contractor, Rudy served as its director.

Ed reminded us that it was the Warm Springs Tribe – and Rudy – who strongly supported our efforts to be restored and have been steadfast in their friendship and support ever since.

Rudy inspired us and filled us with pride for being Siletz and for what we have accomplished. For those who were unable to attend the celebration, I would like to share some of Rudy's comments:

"Twenty-five years ago," he began, "who would have believed there would be a Siletz Reservation again ... such dreams had nearly vanished as the tribe was pushed and pulled and their reservation terminated.

See Chairman's Report on page 13

Yes, there has been an increase, but not as alleged. Just as there was an increase in 1998 when Pat became chairman, Tribal Council has had added responsibilities in all areas of environmental, health, housing, gaming, and economic development. We do not know yet what the "actual" figures will be for 2001 until the year has ended – but the figure Pat has been comparing is the year 2000 actuals vs. 2001 budgeted figures.

I hope that my having written this letter is not construed as a personal attack against Pat Duncan. Although I too am a candidate for council, I am writing as a Tribal Council member who has a responsibility to refute serious allegations against the Tribal Council, and appreciate this opportunity of providing our tribal members with the facts.

Jane John



To the editor:

I do not believe the Tribal Council has to justify any expenditures. We are in a big business and if it takes nine of us to attend all of the workshops, so be it.

The fabulous five (you know who you are) can spend about \$400,000 on lawyers to fight the recall; \$100,000 for council travel and wages is very small in today's time.

The clinic receives Indian Health Service dollars and those funds are being cut. If they need a little boost, we do that if we can.

Students receive the money they qualify for. There are many forms to fill out and that has to be done in a timely manner. The only students that I know who did not receive full tuition or books are those with forms not completed or who are not keeping their grades up to what is expected.

Our elders have a budget. They travel all over, stay in hotels, and eat out. I have heard only one complaint and that is from you, Pat. If I was just becoming an elder and needed votes, maybe I would yell too.

I hope you can justify the \$40,000 for the chairman and \$35,000 for the rest of us (I made \$14,000 in 2000), the 30 hours a pay period and you did not have to work that many hours, the firing of the GM, the firing of other employees, and the secret meetings that went on to hire a GM and hire a large attorney firm.

I also do not appreciate being called a liar about the comps issue from NIGC. We read that article and it was on the Internet.

Mary A. "Dolly" Fisher