

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As usual, there are many issues that the Tribal Council must deal with, running the entire gamut from tribal education and gaming to health, economic development, etc. Each one is extremely important to our tribe. But there are two very important items that I wish to address in this report that currently demand the attention of the Siletz Tribe, one of which affects tribes across the country.

First is the Siletz Tribe's general election; the other concerns high priority issues that were on the agenda of the 58th annual session of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which was held in Spokane during the last week of November.

Regarding the election, there are, once again, three seats that will need to be filled, each for three-year terms.

As in past elections, I again urge our tribal members to be knowledgeable about the issues and to carefully evaluate the qualifications of each candidate – whether he or she possesses the knowledge, experience, and competence to be on the Tribal Council. As before, I again remind our members that whoever is the candidate of their choice, it's not only a privilege, but also the duty, of every eligible tribal member



Chairman Delores Pigsley

to vote. It's not enough to sit back and talk about the election – but to exercise that right and to vote!

Regarding the NCAI conference, numerous priority issues were discussed in general as well as individual breakout sessions. These included everything from welfare reform reauthorization, opportunities for energy development, housing, tribal gaming, health, and economic development opportunities to the 2002 Interior Appropriations Act.

We, the six Siletz delegates, could not possibly attend all meetings, so we split up according to our individual

tribal responsibilities and special areas of interest and concern, attending as many meetings as we could.

Two issues, considered to be of highest priority to all tribes, included (1) the highly controversial restructuring of the Interior Department, specifically the transfer of trust asset management responsibilities to the proposed Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management and (2) recent developments that threaten tribal sovereignty.

NCAI delegates were enraged about the fact that contrary to established federal policy, Indian tribes were not consulted about the administration's intent to drastically restructure trust services in the Department of Interior. This restructuring is feared to have far-reaching, adverse consequences for tribes.

Tribal officials felt that the presence of department officials, representing Secretary Gale Norton, to discuss this issue with NCAI delegates made a mockery of the long-established consultation policy. In the opinion of tribal delegates, Norton's representatives were there to "consult" with tribes **after the fact** and were just going through the motions.

NCAI has scheduled follow-up meetings to determine what actions the tribes and NCAI need to take to address this critical issue.

The other issue of major concern to Indian tribes across the country is the increasing threat to tribal sovereignty. This is evident in the animosity and actions of some state and local governments toward Indian tribes, continued congressional efforts to legislatively weaken tribal sovereign powers, and a number of recent court decisions.

Considerable discussion was devoted to the question of how NCAI, other Indian organizations, and Indian tribes, individually and collectively, can effectively address this growing threat.

On the home front, the Siletz Tribe was fortunate in hiring back Dale Hile as the tribal planner. Dale was the first tribal planner who was primarily responsible for putting together the first Comprehensive Plan more than 20 years ago. On page 7, Dale gives his perspective of what has happened to the Siletz Tribe since he was here last.

I want to personally wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



To the editor:

How long are we going to sit back and take eating it from the Tribal Council? We need to vote and get a new council.

I am very outraged and disappointed in the Tribal Council, how they sit around and act like god and give themselves titles of royalty. They need to get their heads out of the clouds and come back to reality and remember where they come from. They have really acted disgraceful toward our people.

It's really sad that a lot of our low-income tribal members' per capita was voted out because of what little menial money they get to live on monthly was decided was enough. I for one am very disgusted at how **our** Tribal Council sits around deciding on how to keep our tribal members down and out whenever it comes to help or money. Is the per capita counted as government money now too? I thought that our casino was built to benefit all our people.

It's gotten so bad that even with all the money from the casino, we can't even get medical or dental help unless you get on a waiting list, which could last at least a month or longer. Some people can't wait that long. What's happening to all the money to help our people? The people from the city of Lincoln City and all over the state get more than our own people. To the Tribal Council, you need to start helping your own more.

There were a lot of people who are very unhappy and disappointed by the big swift kick in the face they received, rather than their per capita. They will not be able to have the Christmas they were hoping for. Thanks a lot, Tribal Council, and at least maybe **you'll** have a Merry Christmas because a lot of tribal members won't.

F. Lin Flores



General Council Meeting

Siletz Tribal Community Center

Feb. 2, 2002

Agenda

1 p.m.

Call to Order

Invocation

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes: Nov. 3, 2001

1:05 p.m.

Natural Resources – Timber Sales

Education – Child Care Construction

Tribal Member Concerns

Chairman's Report

Announcements

4 p.m.

Adjournment