

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Incumbents Re-elected; Election Challenged

On Feb. 2, the Siletz Tribe concluded another general election with the re-election of incumbents Jessie Davis, Jane John, and Rosemary Landis. For Jane and Rosemary, it was a very close race.

As expected, several tribal members exercised their tribal rights by filing appeals that challenged the conduct and results of the election. As of the publication of this issue of Siletz News, the results of these appeals had not yet been determined.

Whatever the outcome – whether candidates win by one or a hundred votes – those certified as elected serve on the council with all the rights, responsibilities, and authorities conferred on them by our Constitution.

The Siletz Tribe will have survived 24 general elections since Restoration, testifying to the strength and durability of our tribal Constitution and electoral process.

Whatever the final results of the appeals process, I can assure you that the Tribal Council will tackle its governmental responsibilities with renewed energy and commitment. We will address many of the issues and concerns expressed by the candidates during the candidate's fairs and in the voter's guide. You will recall that I highlighted those issues and concerns in the last issue of Siletz News.

Gerald Ben Resigns

I regret to announce that Gerald has resigned from the council because of



Chairman Delores Pigsley

his appointment as deputy regional director of the BIA.

Although I congratulate him and am happy for his promotion to this tremendously important position, I regret that our council is losing a valuable and dedicated member. There is some satisfaction, however, in knowing that in his new position, Gerald not only will continue to be helpful to us in addressing Siletz tribal issues, but also will serve to address the critical issues that face tribes throughout the Northwest.

Gerald's resignation leaves a vacancy on the council, a situation that we have faced from time to time during the past 24 years. According to our established tribal process, the council chairman nominates eligible tribal members to fill council vacancies, and the Tribal Council approves the final selection. Whoever is appointed fills the remaining term of the vacating council member. I can assure you that the

council will take this responsibility seriously and appoint a person of outstanding ability, experience, and dedication.

ATNI Winter Conference

The winter conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) was held at the Sheraton in Portland from Feb. 11-14, 2002. Included on the agenda were panels on such diverse topics as the tribes' Sovereignty Protection Initiative, telecommunications development in Indian country, and the FERC federal hydro-project.

There also were breakout committee meetings that ran the entire gamut of topics from Indian Child Welfare, health, and education to economic development, housing, transportation, tourism, and natural resources.

Jane John and Rosemary Landis represented the Siletz Tribe at the conference, attending all general meetings and as many individual breakout sessions as possible.

On Feb. 14, a "consultation" session was held on the highly controversial issue involving the Department of the Interior's "proposed" plan for the reorganization of the department's trust services. Representing Secretary Gale Norton was Assistant Secretary Neal McCaleb, who listened to the testimony presented by tribal officials from throughout the Northwest.

My testimony endorsed the ATNI position opposing Secretary Norton's

plan and objected to the department's failure to consult with tribes prior to formulating its plan. Tribes nationwide have mobilized in opposition to the secretary's plan. There also has been general opposition to the appointment of Ross Swimmer, former assistant secretary of Indian affairs, to head the department's new entity.

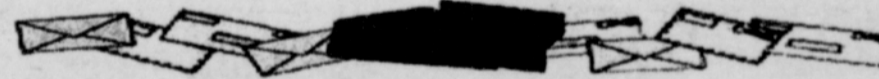
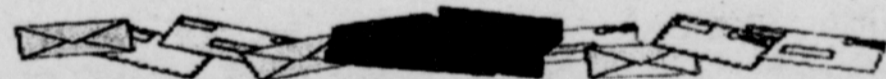
Time will tell whether these regional meetings are, in truth, consultation sessions or whether Secretary Norton's plan already was cast in concrete long before she began "consulting" with tribes.

General Council Meeting

Meeting Location: TBD
Salem, Oregon
May 4, 2002

Agenda

1 p.m.
Call to Order
Invocation
Roll Call
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes
Natural Resources: Timber Sales
Education: Child Care Construction
Tribal Member Concerns
Chairman's Report
Announcements
Adjournment



To the editor:

What a wonderful election this year. I would like to thank the Election Board members. The candidate's fair was very informative and as a candidate, I felt that because of the professionalism they showed during the fair, the candidates were heard. The hard work the Election Board put in this year made this year's election look like it ran smoothly.

Second, I would like to thank all the candidates who ran this year. The majority of us talked before, during, and after the elections. It was exciting for all of us and, of course, very

positive, which I as a candidate appreciate from my constituents.

I would like to thank my family for putting up with me during this time of excitement, stress, and work. Everyone from Angella my campaign manager (living in Missouri) to my daughters, who listened to me unconditionally, showed great patience.

And thanks to those people who had confidence in me to vote for me. And lastly, thank you to all the tribal members who voted. The number of people who voted, whether for me or my constituents, made a clear

statement. People want to be heard; they are watching, listening, and care. So congratulations to the incumbents. You have a big job to do and God be with you and guide you to make the right decisions.

I make a commitment to you as the leaders of this tribe. I also will do my part to let you know my opinions. I plan on attending Tribal Council meetings and learn what direction this Council will be going. I encourage all tribal members to start attending meetings again.

I know that some of the other

candidates have this in mind as well. How else can we expect the Tribal Council to know how we feel about things if we do not make a commitment to them. They should encourage us to be attending and be heard. Again, please, in a positive way. Don't just come up with the problems, but also come up with possible solutions. Tribal Council members are very busy trying their hardest; we need to assist them in making the right decisions.

Hope to see more of you at the Tribal Council meetings.

Margo Hudson