

NOTICES

First Annual Chemawa Remembrance and Consecration

by Rosemary Breon Landis

Chemawa Indian School held the first Chemawa Remembrance and Consecration Ceremony, a special traditional service for reconciliation and healing, on May 5. The two-fold goal was to honor the memories of the children who passed away while they were students here and to recognize the sacred nature of the cemetery.

From my other articles on Chemawa, you know that our tribe has a special connection and concern for the land and the students at Chemawa. Our tribe was in favor of an ATNI resolution brought forward by volunteer historian SueAnn Reddick and John Campbell asking tribes to support efforts to preserve the Chemawa Cemetery and others like it across the nation.

Earlier efforts by Bill Wilson had resulted in Chemawa Cemetery's designation as a historical site on the National Register. In spite of this, no money has been available to restore or make improvements, such as setting up a memorial with the names of the students interred there.

I was glad to represent our tribe at the ceremony. My husband and I also were representing my family. My great aunt, Cora Sutherland, age 6, died at Chemawa in 1892. My grandmother, Estella Sutherland, and her sister, Mary Alice Sutherland, also attended Chemawa with Cora. My grandfather, Arthur Bensell, met Mama at Chemawa. They later married and he brought her home to Siletz. Hopefully,

other tribal members' connections to Chemawa will be documented as part of our history.

SueAnn's slide presentation included interesting information regarding the history of the land. The children wanted their own school, so they worked and purchased 177 acres. Then the "officials" got a law passed by Congress which let them forcibly take one-half of the students' money to buy 83 more acres. Title to the land was given in the name of the government. At one time, the land for the students was about 400 acres.

Harvey Hood, a Klamath/Modoc Foursquare Minister, led the closing ceremony. State Rep. Vic Backland from Keizer and Steve Kilpatrick, ordained pastor and head of the Christian mission organization Youth With A Mission-Oregon, also were involved in the Reconciliation Ceremony. The following words are quoted from Steve:

Confess, repent, and ask your forgiveness for the grievous sins of the church in general and missionaries in particular.

Confess we dishonored you because we did not esteem you as the host people of this land. We did not even attempt to understand your culture or spiritual beliefs. Because your language, culture, customs, and rituals were different, we wrongly assumed they were wrong. We arrogantly assumed that you possessed no redeemable religious practices. Our pre-judging you was completely condescending, pridefully judgmental, and wickedly evil to the core. Please forgive us!

Confess we often judged you by your outward appearance and not from your heart, as God does. Our cultural bigotry and strong-handed religious ways robbed you and your children of important aspects of your rich heritage as a people. Please forgive us!

Confess that even when many of your people responded to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in our condescending ways we stripped you of your identity and the unique and beautiful Native expressions of worshipping Jesus. We

dishonored your language. We dishonored your music. We dishonored your customs. We dishonored your varying styles of expressing devotion to the one true God, the Great Spirit, by insisting you follow our traditions. Please forgive us!

Confess we ignorantly and insensitively called many of the redemptive gifts in your culture demonic or uncivilized. Your ancient ways were different from ours and we judged them altogether reprobate. Please forgive us for our idolatrous devotion to our own human traditions and subsequent disregard for your redemptive gifts.

Confess we were self-seeking when we ignored the dangers of contaminating you with our European diseases in our attempt to convert you. Confess we were greedy when we bargained for land and hunting rights so our missionary families could encroach on your lands. We showed little regard for your physical well-being by these actions. Please forgive us!

Confess our failure to support justice and affirm your right of stewardship over the land. We Christian missionaries did not stand with you when treaties and covenants were being broken. In fact, in some cases we stood squarely with the government's greedy and murderous actions. Please forgive us for not obeying God's command to us to love, mercy, do justly, and walk humbly before our God and before you, his people.

Forgive us as the body of Christ today for not taking the time to study your history, to see the injustices of the past and present, and for not weeping over your pain and repenting of our grievous sins. We recognize our deep need of your help and leadership in our midst. Your voice, your native perspective, is something we can no longer live without. We want to serve you as you take your rightful place as the host people of our nation. We want to serve you as you play a key role in the body of Christ worldwide. We need your leadership among missionaries to the world and especially the indigenous peoples of all nations!

I can only urge you to get involved in the Chemawa Cemetery project.

Bid for Election Director

The Election Board currently is accepting bids for an election director. The opening date was May 3, 2002, and the closing date is **June 30, 2002**.

Description of Duties:

- * Responsible for the day-to-day conduct and management of tribal elections under the tribal ordinance and tribal Constitution
- * Oversee the preparation of ballot packets and verify the mail-out list
- * Assist tribal members with voter registration, including voter registration packet mail-out and preparation of ballot packets for newly registered voters
- * Collect ballots on a daily basis from the Siletz post office
- * Responsible for daily maintenance of all election records, including poll book
- * Supervise the election process at the voting polls on Feb. 1, 2003, including assisting incapacitated tribal members with their ballot, counting the ballots, and presenting the rejected or defaced ballots
- * Certify candidates list
- * Certify election results, post results in a public place, and deliver results to the Tribal Council chairman

Qualifications:

- * Must have experience working with tribal organizations
- * Must have experience interpreting and understanding tribal ordinances and constitutions
- * Must have working knowledge of election procedures
- * Must have Word/Excel experience
- * Must be a person or entity that does not include or is not composed of Siletz Tribal members
- * Must be honest and fair, avoiding any appearance of impropriety or bias
- * Indian preference for Siletz Tribal members will not apply, but general Indian preference will remain in effect

References: Three references must be submitted with your proposal

Deadline: The Election Board must receive all proposals **no later than 4 p.m. on June 30, 2002**. Proposals must be mailed to CTSI Election Board, P.O. Box 490, Siletz, OR 97380.