

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The 2002 Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow was one of the biggest and best ever, with thousands in attendance, more than 25 drum groups from throughout the Northwest, dancers from all over the country, and Indian artists displaying fine Indian arts and crafts. People lined the streets of Siletz on Saturday morning to enjoy the longest and best parade we've ever had. It seems that each year we outdo ourselves.

I am proud and appreciative of the many dedicated people who were responsible for putting on this fantastic pow-wow, with Craig Whitehead again coordinating this event.



Chairman Delores Pigsley

To the editor:

I would like to take this time to convey my appreciation for all of the folks who helped out with the tedious task of helping build the float, towing the float, and manning the booth for the 2002 Siletz pow-wow. This year, I had more people helping than ever in the past. However, I still needed more help on building the float. Here are the people who helped this year.

Float: Ed Shoemack built the clam shell and the scallop shell for our

float; Rose Moon and daughter built a giant clam (unfortunately didn't get used), which they worked very hard on; Kent Kaiser pulled the flatbed to Siletz for decorating; Ray Goddell for letting me construct the float in your carport and helping attach the clamshells after a hard days work at the casino, thanks Ray; Dale Robertson and Kent pulled the float in the parade (they were such characters! If you have ever worked with these two, you will know what a joy it's to be around them); LOL; Dale for busting down the float and letting me park it at his house. By the way, folks, his little boy Bradlee is very cute. Bridget Robertson helped decorate the float and worked the booth. **What a gal!** (I'm forever in your debt.)

Float Riders: Arlissa and Amial Rhoan (mommie and baby) in their regalia, they were awesome; Linzie Mae UpChurch (my granddaughter,

in regalia – thank you, baby, you're always beautiful, and Happy Birthday on Sept. 4); Terry and Bruce (Williams & Ree) – everyone loved you guys.

Booth Helpers: Teresa Simmons (PR), Debbie Davis (Bus dept.), Al Baca (Security), Steve Chrisman



(Mktg. Sales), Trisha Patterson (Bus dept.), Nicky Peterson (CC, Arcade, Gift Shop mgr.), Carole Clarke (CC, Arcade, supervisor), Anita and Craig Watson (Arcade), Dona Trickler (Gift Shop), Don Kennedy (Marketing dir.), Tara Binek (Data Base mgr.), Sar Richards (dir. of Slots), Nolan Butler (HR), Charlotte Brame (HR), Diane Moore (Guest Svcs.), Dennis and Alicia Brundell (Slot mgr.), and Bobbie Salazar (HR). Oh yeah! Martin Wheeler for packing a box for me! (Marketing dept. – he caught me typing this up), and Sharon Nelson (HR). To you folks, **a great big "thank you."**

Once again, a very huge **"thank you"** to all who helped and supported us in our endeavors. (If I forgot anyone, anyone at all, please let me know and I'll do an addendum to this letter.)

Sincerely,

Shelley M. UpChurch, Siletz pow-wow float and booth coordinator

Celebrate 25 Years of Restoration

This successful tribal pow-wow will be followed by another major event just a few months away. We will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the restoration of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon. It was in November 1977 that the Siletz Tribe was restored by the U.S. Congress. President Jimmy Carter signed the Restoration Act on Nov. 18, 1977.

An ad hoc committee has been meeting regularly to plan the celebration of this historic event, which is scheduled for Chinook Winds on Nov. 16, 2002.

The 25th anniversary not only will be a day of celebration; it also will be a day of remembrance – remembrance of the hardships endured by our Siletz ancestors historically, especially during the early treaty and reservation period that finally led to termination in the 1950s. It also will be a day of remembrance of the tribe's difficult but successful struggle to become restored. We will honor those who helped us in this struggle.

We also will celebrate and take pride in the many accomplishments of the tribe since we were restored and it will be an occasion to rededicate ourselves to work for an even better future.

Update on Bills in Congress

Regarding the bills that I reported on in the last issue of *Siletz News* that may have a potential impact on Indian tribes – those bills are still pending. No final action has been taken on HR 4887, the Tribal Government Fairness Act of 2002, or HR 3215, Combating Illegal Gambling and Modernization Act. The notorious HR 2244 introduced by Congressman Frank Wolf that would create a Commission on Native American Policy to study issues relating to Indian gaming has been defeated.

On July 17, Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico reported that he and a bipartisan group of senators have begun an effort to create a Senate Native American Caucus, to give "a sharper focus to issues related to" problems facing American Indians.

Domenici was joined by Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, Democrat, and Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, ranking Republican member. The Senate caucus would be similar to the Congressional Native American caucus on the House side.

According to a House report dated Dec. 13, 2001, the bipartisan Congressional caucus is composed of 106 Democrats and Republicans. It has been extremely helpful in increasing House members' understanding of Indian issues and in coordinating their efforts in addressing these issues.

We're pleased that a similar bipartisan effort has been initiated on the Senate side. As the Congressional caucus has demonstrated, the Senate caucus also will help in dealing constructively with proposed legislation affecting Indians tribes. It's essential that Indian views are expressed in Congress and these caucuses serve as an excellent way of ensuring that our views are represented.

Planning for Chemawa Property

And finally, I'd like to mention that joint planning for the Chemawa property with the Grand Ronde Tribal Council is moving forward. This involves 16 acres that the Bureau of Indian Affairs considered excess to its needs and transferred in fee to the Siletz and Grand Ronde tribes. The land is located west of the old campus and east of the Oregon Electric rail. It was given up for the parkway development and later declared excess.

The Siletz Tribal Council has been meeting monthly with the Grand Ronde Tribal Council to explore various development options and issues. Since the property was given to the tribes in fee and lies within the city of Keizer, we also have initiated discussions with Keizer city officials. Although it's too early to tell where they will lead, these preliminary discussions have generally been fruitful and constructive.