

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tribal Employees as Tribal Council Members

The tribal ordinances and policies that prohibit tribal employees from serving on the Tribal Council at the same time were challenged in Siletz Tribal Court by Bud Lane, who was recently elected to council and is a tribal employee.

Bud contended that his (and other tribal employees') civil and constitutional rights were violated if he had to give up his tribal employment to keep his seat on the Tribal Council.

On March 6, Judge Calvin Gantenbein of the Siletz Tribal Court declared that the tribal ordinances and policies that denied Bud the right to be employed by the tribe and serve on the Siletz Tribal Council were unconstitutional.

Because of the importance and controversial nature of this issue, the Tribal Council decided by resolution on Feb. 9, 2004 (prior to the judge's order) to request the Secretary of the Interior to hold a general election to determine whether tribal employees should be allowed to serve as council members at the same time.

According to the tribe's Constitution, any election to amend it must be conducted by the Secretary of the Interior. At this time, we don't know the exact date for that election.

The full text of the court case can be found on pages 6-7.



Chairman Delores Pigsley

Purchase of Shilo Inn

No new information is available at this time. Members will be kept informed of the status.

NIGA Trade Show and Convention

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) held its annual trade show and convention in early March.

National leaders Ernie Stevens, NIGA president; Phil Hogan, chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC); Ben Nighthorse Campbell, chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee; and Tex Hall, president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), each said in turn that while amazing proven tribal accomplishments exist that benefit not only tribes but non-Indian communities, forces in Congress also exist who

are dedicated to undermining tribal sovereignty and Indian programs, including Indian gaming.

Currently before Congress are proposed bills, including IGRA amendments, the Wolf-Shays bill, and Internet Gaming and Cigarette Tax Collection, all of which have provisions in them that would adversely affect Indian tribes.

During the past several months, I've written letters to Congress on behalf of the Siletz Tribe, expressing opposition to specific provisions of those bills and recommending appropriate amendments.

Legislators like Frank Wolf of Virginia and Christopher Shays of Connecticut are especially persistent and aggressive in pushing anti-Indian legislation.

National Indian organizations like NCAI and NIGA play a vital role by keeping on top of all congressional activities that endanger tribes and keeping member tribes informed.

Relative to the NIGA organization itself, it was election time. I'm pleased to say that I helped campaign actively and successfully to get Jessie Davis elected as regional representative of NIGA. Regional reps are automatically on NIGA's Executive Board.

As most of you know, Jessie and I have been actively involved in dealing with Indian issues for the past 10 years. Jessie served as alternate to the regional rep for the past two years and because of her knowledge and concerns regarding national gaming issues, I felt she deserved to be the regional representative.

With some active lobbying, we got her elected. We expect Jessie will effectively represent not only the Siletz Tribe, but also the Northwest region.

In addition to Jessie and myself, others who attended the NIGA conference were council members Jane John and Rosemary Landis, and consultant Zak Zakoji.

Fill Out Cultural Day Camp Application if You Want to Attend

Pre-registration is required for participating in this year's Cultural Day Camp on July 27-30, 2004. You can attend class only if you register.

Applications are due no later than June 1, 2004.

Applications are included as an insert in this issue of *Siletz News*. Please call 1-800-992-1399, ext. 1246, or 541-444-8246 if you have any questions.

Toll-Free Voter Info Line Available

SALEM, Ore. – Secretary of State Bill Bradbury recently announced the availability of a new toll-free voter information line.

By calling 1-866-ORE-VOTES (1-866-673-8683), voters will be connected to representatives of the secretary of state's office who can answer questions about ballots and voting. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Voter line representatives will answer questions about voter registration, ballot delivery and return, marking the ballot, requesting a replacement ballot, absentee ballots,

signature requirements, the Voters' Pamphlet, when and where to vote, and any other questions that may arise about elections and voting. Voters also can be connected to their county elections office or to the secretary of state's Elections Division.

Required by the Help America Vote Act and created with federal funds, the voter information line is a joint effort of the secretary of state and all 36 Oregon counties.

Representatives will provide services in both English and Spanish. TTY services for the hearing impaired also are available at 1-866-350-0596.

Save the Date for Trading at the River

ONABEN's Annual Gathering of Native American Entrepreneurs and Tribal Enterprises 2004

October 27-28, 2004

**Portland Airport Embassy Suites
Portland, Oregon**

The first day is for tribal economic development and is sponsored by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation. ONABEN will sponsor the second day, for Native American entrepreneurs to meet together to network and learn.

The Oregon Native American Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a trade show throughout the conference. See www.onaben.org for additional information as it's posted.