

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## New Siletz Tribal Council

I wish to begin my chairman's report this month by welcoming newly elected members Robert Kentta, Phil Rilatos, and Loraine Butler to the Siletz Tribal Council.

Robert and Lorraine are new, never having served on the council before, but Phil is an experienced council member, having served several years ago. All three bring to the tribe's governing body diverse backgrounds, knowledge, and perspectives.

I also would like to acknowledge and express my gratitude for the many years of dedicated service to the Siletz Tribe by Jessie Davis, Jane John, and Rosemary Landis, the three incumbents who lost their council seats in the recent election.

And finally, a personal note about my being re-elected tribal chairman: I appreciate the confidence placed in me by the Tribal Council. At the same time, I am acutely aware of the responsibilities that come with this office and the challenges that lie ahead for our tribe.

I will, as I always have, represent the Siletz Tribe to the best of my ability and welcome the opportunity of working with newly elected executive officers of the council. The new vice chairman



*Chairman Delores Pigsley*

is Bud Lane, secretary is JoAnn Miller, and treasurer is Phil Rilatos.

## Wilkinson to Document Siletz History

Charles Wilkinson, nationally recognized expert on Indian law, has agreed to write a history of the Siletz Tribe. Charles' historical account will be based on extensive documented research conducted over the past several years not only by our tribal historian and tribal attorney, but also independent studies conducted by credible historical and legal experts.

Wilkinson, who has wanted to write a history of the Siletz Tribe, will commence working on the project next month. Many of you may remember that Charles greatly assisted the tribe in gaining restoration back in the '70s.

## Dedication of U of O Longhouse

I was pleased to present some remarks at the dedication of the University of Oregon Longhouse in Eugene, Ore., in January.

I expressed the fact that the longhouse had special significance and held fond memories for me because it was in the old longhouse that we had many meetings during the period when we were struggling to be restored.

The purpose and meaning of the new longhouse will have great significance to the university. It's a beautiful facility that will be a great asset. The chairmen of the nine Oregon tribes will serve as an advisory group.

## Meeting with Sen. Smith

Oregon tribes had another opportunity to interact with Sen. Gordon Smith – this time at a breakfast meeting in Portland, Ore. He listened to the concerns and issues expressed by the tribal representatives, specifically regarding such issues as health and education.

## Contributions to Lincoln City, City of Siletz

Of concern to the Lincoln City Council has been the issue of tax contributions by the Siletz Tribe.

In response to its request, I addressed the City Council on the issue of future tax revenues to the city if and when the tribe applies for trust status for lot 57 and the hotel property in Lincoln City. Essentially, the tribe agreed to make contributions to the city (not pay taxes) comparable to the current transient room tax.

While I was meeting with the City Council in Lincoln City, other Tribal Council members were meeting with the Siletz City Council, specifically regarding the purchase of land for housing units in Siletz.

The tribe's recent trust application met with some resistance from the local community. The concerns raised by community members were responded to. It should be noted that the Siletz Tribe has made contributions to Siletz Valley School and to the city of Siletz.

## Inauguration and Congressional Contacts

Like other tribes across the country, the Siletz Tribe was represented at the Presidential Inauguration by council members Rosemary Landis, Jane John, Dave Hatch, Reggie and Lillie Butler, and myself.

We also used this opportunity to meet with the staffs of our two Oregon senators, Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden, as well as with Phil Hogen, chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

We were caught in a crowd of a million people for the Inauguration; because of security we had a difficult time trying to watch the parade. All of us attended the Native American Ball.

The weather was extremely cold and as expected, security was at an all-time high, but we were out there on the mall with 1 million other visitors to the city.

## Willamette University Anniversary

At the Founders Day Anniversary of Willamette University in Salem, Ore., I spoke about the past and present of the Siletz Tribe within the Willamette Valley.

I recounted specifically how the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 was superseded by an executive order on Nov. 9, 1855, that moved the Willamette Valley tribes to the Coast Reservation.

I specifically named the tribes involved, which included the Molalla, Kalapuya, Santiam, and others.

I also pointed out that the tribe's past connection to the valley was recognized by the U.S. Congress when the Siletz Tribe was restored and given our service area. This initially was an eight-county service area that later was expanded to 11 counties, including counties within the Willamette Valley.



*Peter Hatch, Delores Pigsley, and David Hatch at the Native American Ball in Washington, D.C.*