

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

First of all, I would like to remind our members that this month, from Sept. 10-14, our tribe will be the host to about 400 delegates and other participants of the 53rd Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

We are proud to welcome fellow Indians and other friends from throughout the Northwest who will convene at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City not only to address issues of vital tribal concern, but also to be enriched by the knowledge, experiences, and personal relationships we gain from one another.

Enrollment

Of great importance to the present and future of our tribe is the question of who is and isn't eligible to be a member of the tribe.

The issue was basically and simply addressed in the Siletz Tribal Constitution and subsequently, the Enrollment Ordinance adopted by the tribe in February 1980. But since then, it became necessary for the tribe to adopt various tribal ordinances to deal with new and emerging membership issues.

The new blood quantum requirement was adopted by a constitutional election on July 14, 1995.

As requested by many tribal members, I am having the Enrollment Ordinance re-printed in full beginning on page 6 in this issue of *Siletz News*.

You will find that the ordinance covers a wide scope of issues, including the blood quantum required for membership; the duties and powers of the Enrollment staff; the procedures for



Delores Pigsley

applying for membership, including required supportive documents; and how applications are processed, including the specific timeframe required for the submission of applications and the specific timeframe required of the staff.

Other issues dealt with in the ordinance include under what conditions and how blood degree can be corrected, how membership can be lost, what happens in the case of dual inter-tribal membership, and what happens to the membership of deceased members.

The ordinance also provides for emergency eligibility determination in child custody cases pending before the courts.

It also spells out the process, including time frame for protesting the actions of the Enrollment staff and for the conducting of hearings involving blood degree issues.

As you can see, the enrollment issues the tribe must deal with have increased and gotten more complex since the tribe was restored nearly 30 years ago. The Enrollment staff takes its responsibilities seriously and works diligently to see that the provisions of the constitution and ordinances are carried out.

The Tribal Council is the ultimate decision-maker of who does or does not get enrolled in our tribe, following the Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Culture Camp

In closing, I'd like to say a few words about the tribe's Culture Camp, which I was privileged to attend last month for three memorable days.

Our tribe is a sovereign government but it's important to remember that our tribe differs from other governments like Lincoln City, Lincoln County, or the state of Oregon.

While ours is similar in many respects to those governments in the way they are structured and function, ours is vastly different because of our unique tribal history and culture. And it's our culture that helps bind our members together as a tribe.

This was the first year I was able to attend Culture Camp for the full three days; I wasn't fortunate enough to attend all three days in the past. The Culture Camp included a wide variety

of cultural activities and was very well organized in bringing together children, adults and elders.

I observed the old and young weaving baskets together and at the end of the camp, proudly displaying their works of art.

At the elders' table, we had a great time making beaded plant holders. The completed products were works of art that included beautiful shawls, moccasins, necklaces, bows, drumming sticks, beaded medicine pouches, and many other items.

It's not only the making of the arts and crafts, but also the warm interaction among members of the tribe alongside each other that give these activities such meaning and importance.

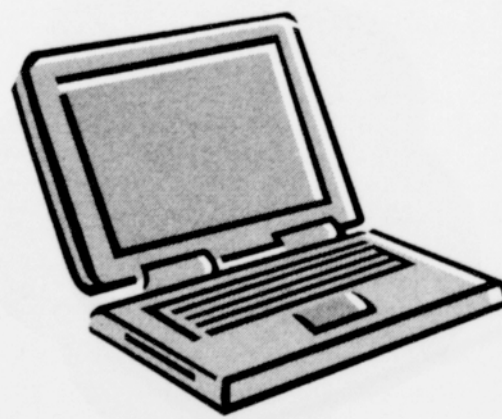
I want to express the council's appreciation to the camp instructors, who included tribal employees, many volunteers, and a few paid instructors. And to our artistic staff and the staff who organized the camp, our gratitude for making this year's camp another great success. I will always treasure the experience of those three days.

Tribal Veterans

We are developing a database of information on our tribal veterans. If you have served in a branch of the service, please contact Tina Retasket at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1210, or 541-444-8210.

If you are interested in serving on the honor/color guards for a variety of functions for the tribe and/or casino, please let Tina know.

Computer Applications



There is a limited amount of funding left to purchase desktop computers for tribal member households and for laptop computers for students. If you would like an application, please call Tina Retasket at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1210, or 541-444-8210.



To the editor:

I am so **sick** and **tired** of reading things about Indian Child Welfare issues and all the "supposed" problems! I would say to the people who decided those issues, "Make the rules stiffer ... make the parents jump through hoops to get their kids back!" After all, if the parent has abused their child they don't deserve to get them right back!

If drugs are involved, the parents should have to **prove** for a lengthy time they are worthy to have their kids back! If there aren't family members who the kids are safe with, then just put them in a home with love and protection – regardless if they are an Indian family or not! The most important thing is the safety and welfare of the kids – **not** the parent's wishes!

And to those people who have to make those decisions – **thank you** for your diligence! I'm sure it's extremely tough but I **know** that child will be grateful for you protecting them!

And to those who continue to criticize – start putting the best interests of those kids ahead of your own agenda.

Cindy Jackson

Meet the Candidates!

Mark your calendar for Oct. 15 for the opportunity to meet all the candidates that will be on the Lincoln City ballot for the November election.

Candidates running for federal, state, county, and local government have been invited to participate in a Candidate's Fair that will be held in the convention center of Chinook Winds Casino Resort at 2 p.m. on Oct. 15.

The event also will be broadcast live over several of the local radio stations.

Most Often Requested Numbers

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| Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians | 1-800-922-1399 |
| Salem Area Office | 503-390-9494 |
| Salem Finance Office | 1-888-870-9051 |
| Portland Area Office | 503-238-1512 |
| Eugene Area Office | 541-484-4234 |
| Springfield Siletz Tribal Head Start | 541-747-0161 |
| Contract Health Services (CHS) | 1-800-628-5720 |
| Siletz Community Health Clinic | 1-800-648-0449 |
| Siletz Alcohol and Drug | 1-800-600-5599 |
| Chinook Winds Casino Resort | 1-888-244-6665 |
| Chemawa Health Clinic | 1-800-452-7823 |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs | 1-800-323-8517 |
| Web Site | www.ctsi.nsn.us |