

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last month, I spoke briefly about tribal restoration and what it means to us. This month, as history gets clouded as more time passes, I would like to reflect on how I became involved and what was happening in 1975, two years before we achieved Restoration.

To begin however, let's make one thing clear: the Siletz Tribe and the Tribal Council weren't created as a result of restoration. Our tribe as a sovereign entity existed hundreds – even thousands – of years before we were restored.

Our individual member tribes negotiated and entered into treaties with the U.S. government and joined together as the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians in the 1800s as sovereigns and were recognized as such by the U.S. government.

By the 1970s, after enduring the catastrophic consequences of termination, the Siletz Tribe fought to be restored, once again, as a federally recognized tribe. My family had just moved back to Oregon from Lawrence, Kan., where we had lived for five years.

I was nominated by Ed Ben and elected to serve on the Siletz Tribal Council in September 1975. Our tribe was destitute, so my duties began by passing the hat for donations to support our restoration effort.

The meetings for our scattered members and restoration supporters were held in a classroom at Chemawa, the Longhouse in Eugene, the Urban Indian Center in Portland, and because we had no meeting place of our own



Delores Pigsley

in Siletz, we used the Grange Hall and the A-frame.

To begin with, few tribal members attended those early meetings. But interest, support, and attendance grew as time passed.

Art Bensell was elected chairman when I was elected in September 1975. Others serving on the council at that time were Pauline Ricks, Robert Rilatos, Sister Francella Griggs, Bob Tom, Kathryn Harrison, and Alta Courville.

That year, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) held its annual meeting in Portland. Art was able to get on the agenda and make a presentation on restoration before the

General Assembly and appealed for NCAI's endorsement of our efforts.

We all had the job of lobbying tribes in support of restoration. We handed out bumper stickers and talked to anyone who would listen to get their support. We were successful.

NCAI passed a resolution in support of Siletz Restoration. At that time, we were fortunate that one of the conference attendees was Forrest Gerard, who then was on the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

We had our first meeting with Forrest at that time. It was Charles Wilkinson who then persuaded Forrest to come to Siletz to meet with the Tribal Council. This meeting paved the way for our hearing before the Senate Committee in Washington, D.C., in March 1976.

We were all pretty overwhelmed by the fact that we would have to tell the tribe's history since termination in 30 minutes. We spent one week in Washington, D.C., prior to the Senate hearing, putting our testimony together, each of us having a role to play in the overall presentation.

We had breakfast, lunch, and dinner together to plan our parts as well as spread out and lobby our congressional representatives in support of restoration.

It was an exciting week. We learned about each other's abilities and knowledge as well as to respect each other as persons committed to the cause of restoration.

After returning from D.C., we began holding meetings with many organizations and local governmental officials. We were often ridiculed, called names, and cursed by hostile anti-Indian groups.

Art, Pauline, and Robert made some excellent presentations and were able to change the minds of many. Joe Lane, who was the chairman prior to Art, and Sister Francella represented us in the Portland area and were able to secure support from various individuals and entities there.

In June 1976, I was asked by Pauline Ricks to join a group of dancers to perform for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the mall in D.C. The festival hosted other tribes and groups.

While we danced Siletz dances, we were able to promote Siletz restoration. All who were in the group developed a great sense of camaraderie.

It took 2½ years of very hard work to finally gain restoration and have President Jimmy Carter sign the Siletz Restoration Act on Nov. 18, 1977, the second in the nation after the Menominee to be restored.

The elected council that followed, of which I was also privileged to be a part, had an even greater task of developing a tribal roll, holding an election, developing a Constitution, planning for and developing a community building, recruiting personnel, and formulating a reservation plan.

Challenging early years that I, and others, will never forget!

2007 Standing Committee Applications Due

Deadline for consideration for 2007 committees is Jan. 31, 2007

Any tribal member interested in serving on a committee for a **two-year term** must fill out the following form and return it to the address below prior to Jan. 31, 2007, to be considered for the following committees.

Please mail or fax your application to Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, **Attn: Executive Secretary to Tribal Council**, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549; Fax: 541-444-8325.

Name: _____ Roll No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: Day () _____ Evening () _____

Choose the first, second, and third choice of committees you are requesting by numbering your preference 1, 2, 3 in the space provided. If you only want to request one committee, please indicate this by inserting the number 1.

Committee appointments are for a two-year term.

Education Committee (3) Housing Committee (3)
 Natural Resources Committee (3) Pow-Wow Committee (no limit)
 Health Committee (3) Budget Committee (1)
 Cultural Heritage Committee (3)

Tribal Council will review applications and approve appointments at the Regular Tribal Council meeting in February 2007. If you have any questions, please call Tami Miner at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1203, or 541-444-8203.

CTSI Jobs

CTSI Employment Job Line
 541-444-8296 or 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1296
 Visit our Web site at www.ctsi.nsn.us

Job Opening

CTSI is constantly looking for temporary employees to cover vacancy, vacations, maternity leave, and extend sick leave. If you are retired, a homemaker, or a student and are looking for temporary work that can last from two weeks to 12 weeks, please submit a temporary application for the temp pool.

Note: "Open Until Filled" vacancies may close at any time. The tribe's Indian Preference policy will apply. Tribal government will not discriminate in selection because of race, creed, age, sex, color, national origin, physical handicap, marital status, politics, membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

Most Often Requested Numbers

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