

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

February was a busy month for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Here are some of the highlights of what took place in the nation's capital when hundreds of tribal leaders convened for the conference, undeterred by terrible winter weather.

The need for immediate congressional reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) and tribal inclusion in the Combat Meth Act were "two of the most urgent priorities in Indian Country identified by NCAI's Executive Council."

Readers of *Siletz News* and the tribe's confidential newsletter are aware of the Siletz Tribe's concerns about these two issues. We have joined NCAI and other inter-tribal organizations to urge congressional and White House action on reauthorizing the IHCA.

I also have written and spoken extensively on the issue of meth among Indian tribes. It was appropriate that the NCAI Executive Council identified these two issues to be urgent priorities.

Our tribe has since joined all Oregon tribes in signing on to an inter-tribal Memorandum of Understanding to address meth issues and problems that are created.

The NCAI honored Indian policy leaders at the Ninth Annual Leadership



Delores Pigsley

Awards Banquet. The following honorees were recognized for outstanding service to Indian people:

- The Congressional Leadership Award to Congressman Tom Cole
- The Public Sector Leadership Award to Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

- The Native American Leadership Award to John Ecohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund
- The Governmental Leadership Award to the National Conference of State Legislators

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Alphonse Jackson, addressed the conference, relating "President Bush's commitment to ensure American Indians have access to all opportunities of this great land."

He stated that, "The president's FY 2008 budget proposal will help thousands of Indian families share in the dream of home ownership ..."

In his speech before the NCAI Executive Council, Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico stated that he had accepted the invitation to participate in the debate of Democratic presidential candidates.

Gov. Richardson is a former congressman, cabinet secretary, and ambassador to the United Nations. If elected, he said he will create the first-ever cabinet-level Department of Indian Affairs.

The debate is being called the "Prez on the Rez" and is scheduled to be held on the Morongo Reservation in California on Aug. 23, 2007. Richardson

is the first Democratic presidential candidate to accept the invitation.

### Indian Mascots

A sensitive issue among Indian tribes generally is the use of Indian mascots. NCAI President Joe Garcia expressed gratitude to the University of Illinois for officially discontinuing the use of its Indian mascot.

"Tribal leaders and Indian people are heartened by the U. of I. decision," he said. "NCAI encourages other educational institutions to follow suit in discontinuing use of Native American mascots that are derogatory and offensive to Indian people. NCAI hopes to work with the U. of I. in furthering awareness about Native culture and traditions."

In conjunction with NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session, NCAI and The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian co-sponsored a Capitol Hill reception at which hundreds of tribal leaders joined members of Congress and congressional staff in celebrating the Native Spirit. The event took place inside the rotunda of the national museum.

NCAI will host the mid-year session in Anchorage, Alaska, on June 10-13, 2007.

### Elder Honor Day – "Circle of Wisdom"

Registration begins at 10 a.m.  
Event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 10, 2007  
Chinook Winds Casino Resort

For more information, please contact Angela Ramirez  
1-800-922-1399, ext. 1225; 541-444-8225; or [angelar@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:angelar@ctsi.nsn.us)

### Can You Play Taps?

Seeking a talented tribal member to play *Taps* at the 2007 Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28 at 11 a.m. in Siletz. If interested, contact Celesta Lee, assistant Tribal Council secretary, at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1205, or 541-444-8205.

### 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](http://www.ctsi.nsn.us)

Position: Executive Director  
Department: Siletz Tribal Gaming Commission  
Location: Lincoln City, Ore.  
Open: 3/19/07  
Close: 4/30/07  
Salary: \$41.32 per hour  
Job Posting Number: 200715

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.

### Restoration Committee Working on 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

by Tina Retasket

The Tribal Council has appointed a committee to work on this year's Restoration Celebration. As you may already know, this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of restoration. The committee is working on many events leading up to the restoration event in November.

If you have any photographs of people or events that are significant to pre- or post-restoration, we would like to make a copy of them.

Please bring your photos to the Public Information office in the administration building in Siletz. Diane or Laurel will scan your photo, ask you who the people are in the picture and what the event is, and return the photo to you. They will forward the copies to the committee and you will have the original.

We appreciate everyone's assistance in this event and hope to use as many pictures as possible to show the recent history of the Siletz Tribe.

### Don't Forget Hunting/Fishing/Gathering Meeting

Have you ever wondered how the tribe administers its Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering program? Want to know what is available to tribal members throughout the year and how to access it?

Come to the Hunting/Fishing/Gathering meeting on **April 7 at 1 p.m. at the Siletz Tribal Community Center** and find out.

Do you have ideas on how the program can better serve the tribal membership? Come to the meeting and let the Natural Resources Committee know what you think.

The meeting will include an overview of the tribe's Consent Decree on Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering (the

document that defines the tribe's rights as recognized by the state); a description of the various types of licenses, tags, permits, etc., available to tribal members; and a review of the current procedures for obtaining those licenses, tags, and permits.

We'll also review the current methods used to distribute the tribe's subsistence game and fish allocations. Then we want to hear from the tribal membership about how you feel the current procedures are working and any suggestions for improvement.

This is your chance to speak out and let the Natural Resources Committee know what you think.