

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I am writing about the General Council meeting on Nov. 1, 2008. It was quite obvious that two Tribal members with a personal agenda hogged the General Membership time.

A Tribal member's behavior was appalling and disrespectful.

After one hour of repeating questions our Elder Chair asked her if she would wind it up. She ignored our Elder Chair; it was disturbing because other elders asked her to stop also.

The Salem Elders had to leave without learning who was declaring their candidacy. The display of arrogance and intimidation to our Tribal Council, Elders, the Election Board and our Tribe is unforgivable. One Elder was chastised for responding to a question.

General Council is for the membership to come participate, speak their concerns and ask questions. The inquisition that took place was the same questions that we have been listening to the past two years. When council answers, this is still not good enough for these two women.

As a Tribe, we have many issues to face protecting our future. It is hoped that those running for Tribal Council have the integrity and common courtesy to deal with issues that affect our Tribe and not attack everything that the Tribe has tried to accomplish.

It would be interesting to see how much time these two Tribal members used at General Council. It was pretty sad that most folks left before they had the opportunity to hear the candidate's declarations.

Rose Bremner
Tribal Elder



To the editor:

My name is Jane John and I would like to announce my candidacy for the Tribal Council 2009 Election.

I have approximately 18 years' (off and on) experience on Tribal Council and I have remained informed by receiving Tribal Council minutes sent to me.

It's time to let go of past shortcomings and failures and use them as a learning tool for the Tribe to push ourselves forward.

During this time of national crisis, I think it would be wise for the Tribe to capitalize on the resources that we have at this time, including the building of the new clinic in Siletz. We need to have a larger, updated facility to attract medical doctors and medical staff to ensure proper medical care for our Tribal members.

To utilize the Lakeside property to Tribal members' best interest.

Our economic development is what the Tribe depends on to supplement our needs for health care and education needs.

I would encourage better communication and interaction between Tribal membership and Tribal Council to establish a happy, well-informed Siletz Tribe.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane I. John

To the editor:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Election Board's proposed changes to the candidate's statement rules.

The authority of our government established by our Constitution extends over all persons and subjects within the jurisdiction of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon. The government shall not inhibit any person's right to enjoy freedom of worship, conscience, speech, press, assembly and association and other rights enumerated by federal law. These individual civil rights are also in the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968.

For the first time in history, the Election Board has imposed a rule that limits a candidate's statement to 750 words, which will appear in the 2009 voter's pamphlet. I am opposing the limit of the candidate's right to enjoy the freedom of press. It will limit the whole of equal rights in the democratic and political process of elections.

Of course statements are political because this is an election. It is in the candidate's best interest and goal to educate and inform and sway the voter to vote for them. There may be some unpleasant truths in some statements, but it is the candidate's right to tell the voters. Some candidates need more than 750 words to express their desire to gain a seat. In this case, by limiting their statements, you limit the voter's ability to be fully informed so that they can make better decisions. This is undemocratic. It is not the American way. It has no place in the democratic and political process of elections.

I can see rules and in fact it is in the draft ordinance that the Election Board has discretion to propose rules. However, proposing a 750-word limit rule and approving statements is not advocating democracy and the principal of political equality for candidates campaigning for Tribal Council.

Let the burden fall on the voters to decide who they want as their candidate, as this has been and still is a long and strong traditional value to the American people.

Thank you for your time.
Rose Kentta



To the editor:

Holiday greetings to everyone! My name is Jessie Davis and I am asking for your support by requesting one of your votes in the 2009 Tribal election.

Seems like the last three years have flown by, but here it is again time to either put my name in to run for council or decide not to be a part of it. I definitely believe I will have the time and energy to do what I can for the membership for the next three years. I have always been an advocate for the membership and if elected, I will continue to be.

If elected, my primary concern will be communication, health care and economic development, not just big business but helping to develop individual entrepreneurs.

I believe my experience and skill, honesty and integrity have been an attribute to the council.

To the editor:

National reform will be felt in Indian country. Already, the Mill Casino (Coquille Tribe) has redefined job descriptions for 39 of its employees. The Palazzo Casino in Las Vegas is looking at a possible default and as of this date also, the Las Vegas Sands casino needs time – and time is not on their side to ride out this economy.

There are many upcoming issues that will affect all levels of our Tribal community. I have long championed Tribal representation, informed judgment and transparency.

Trickle down is not a good business partner. It costs more time, energy and money. I believe though, with good business sense, planned priorities and benchmarks that we can pencil down creative positive changes within some of our existing Tribal programs that benefit Tribal members.

A possible mindset for some of our Tribal members may be my job, my position. How will I ever meet my obligations? If our Tribal economics are not appropriately stimulated, our Tribal infrastructure effectively efficient, Tribal members will most likely face shrinkage in their pocketbooks.

I am experienced, working in a very competitive world of business. I carry a track record and run with minimal baggage. I am professionally disciplined and productive. I open-mindedly make it a priority to be well-informed before going forward. A fine line of creative structuring, revenue responsibility will assure continued jobs and service stability for our families.

I will sit council on a full-time basis, giving all my attention toward the welfare and concerns of our General Council.

I would respectfully appreciate consideration for your vote for a Tribal Council position 2009.

Thank you,
Eva E. Clayton



Jessie Davis

If anyone has any questions, you may reach me by e-mail at jl_davis41@msn.com or you may call me at 503-390-5009.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jessie Davis

To the editor:

Before thinking about alcohol at Chinook Winds – if someone comes in who has been drinking or drunk, who is going to monitor these people if they leave the casino drunk, get in a car wreck, fight, etc. and they sue the casino?

I don't want any more money coming out of my Elders stipend or adding to my rent. That would be the first to go if Chinook Winds gets sued.

Pauline Montana



Dear Tribal Members:

My term on Tribal Council is up in February and I am announcing that I will again run for Tribal Council. My issues are the same in that I will work for the people. I will focus on reaching out to all Tribal members for health, housing and education. I will be submitting more information in the voter's pamphlet. I would appreciate your vote for me once again.

Reggie Butler



To the editor:

My name is Lynette Warren and I'm running for Tribal Council.

At our General Council meeting in February of 2007, Monte Kentta raised ethical questions about a campaign letter sent out by a member of our Election Board. Monte called for sanctions to be imposed on that Election Board member and also on a person who signed the letter. Chairman Dee Pigsley said that the Election Board member had written the letter and put her address on it. Dee said the person had been removed from the Election Board. As to the matter of sanctioning her, Chairman Pigsley said she didn't know how to sanction a volunteer, except to not let them serve on the Election Board.

The Election Board member in question was Tina Retasket. The letter endorsed Tribal Chairman Dee Pigsley and Vice-Chairman Bud Lane for the 2007 Tribal Council election.

I believe that it is highly unethical for an Election Board member to be campaigning on behalf of the Tribal chairman and vice chairman during an election that she is supposed to be administering fairly.

Tina Retasket departed from the Election Board in early 2007 as a consequence of this letter, but later that same year she was back on the Election Board.

On Oct. 12, 2007, the Tribal Council authorized the general manager to appoint an Election Board. General Manager Brenda Bremner appointed Tina Retasket to the Election Board later that month. Retasket served on the Election Board through Dec. 8, 2007, when she certified the referendum on Tribal Council compensation. Retasket then ran in the General Election and won a seat on Tribal Council on Feb. 2, 2008.

I believe we need to clean up our election process and that's why I'm asking you to vote for me and for Lisa Brown in the next election.

Sincerely,
Lynette Warren