

Richards Selected Chinook Winds GM

Tribal member Sar Richards has been selected by the Tribal Council as the general manager of Chinook Winds Casino Resort.

Sar brings years of experience to the position, having worked at the Tribal Gaming Commission and the casino. He has been the acting general manager since February of this year.

Congratulations, Sar!

Edenfield Appointed to Tribal Council

Sharon Edenfield's name was recommended to the Tribal Council by me to fill the vacancy on the Tribal Council. As in the past, consideration was given to Tribal members who have previously served on the council and on committees, as well as staff and other members who have contributed to the Tribe.

According to our Constitution, the chairman recommends a name to the council. The chairman does not make the appointment. The council acts on the recommendation, voting either up or down. Sharon was approved by a 6 to 2 vote. No other names were recommended by the chairman or any other council member.

Regarding the appointment of Sharon to fill the seat vacated by the expulsion of Lisa Brown, the following was reported on the non-Tribal website siletz.net:

"It's not likely ... that she'll be an independent voice on the Tribal Council ... this appointment will increase Chairman Pigsley's power base on the Tribal Council to a lopsided 7-2 majority."

The fact is, Sharon has always been a strong, capable and independent voice in the Tribe's administration and it's therefore presumptuous to assume any "power base on the Tribal Council."

Sharon will be a great asset. There is no basis in fact for the assumption that was reported.

As administrative manager, Sharon holds one of the top employment positions in the Tribe. The posting says it's "interesting to see if she retains her high paying position while holding office, as so many Tribal Council members have."

The fact is there are now six on the present council who work in some capacity for the Tribe. Four are employees of the government, one is an employee of a Tribal entity and one as a contractor for a Tribal entity. So Lynette's statement, "as so many Tribal Council members have" is a gross exaggeration.

As a matter of record, the Tribal Court upheld the right under the Siletz Constitution of Tribal member employees to run for and serve on Tribal Council. The Constitution was voted on and approved by the Tribal membership.

Thank you to all of you who have communicated support for Sharon.

Lisa Brown has filed an appeal of the Tribal judge's expulsion decision. As of the publication of this issue of *Siletz News*, no decision had yet been made on when the appellate hearing will be held.



Delores Pigsley

Council Accomplishments Negated on Siletz.net

For almost 24 years, I have proudly served as chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, serving a total of 29 years. Serving with me have been many dedicated Tribal Council members. Despite what the siletz.net says and some naysayers, our councils have always been highly active and successful in our endeavors for the Siletz Tribe.

Unfortunately, siletz.net, a privately owned website, has been publishing false and negative statements about the accomplishments of the Siletz Tribal Council.

In the March postings, relative to the expulsion of Lisa Brown from the council, a Tribal member directing her comments to the Tribal Council said:

"It is totally obvious that you don't care what the tribe wants or needs ... by your actions, you have made it clear that your lives, your families lives and your own way of life is all that is important to you."

The fact is, the Siletz Tribal Council under my chairmanship "does care what the tribe wants or needs," as demonstrated by the Tribe's remarkable accomplishments since Restoration. We have always had our focus on the Tribe's best interests.

I have not been the chairman for all of those years but have been for many of them. The credit goes to the many members who have served and to our staff.

Our Tribal Councils planned, financed and established the Tribe's successful gaming enterprise, Chinook Winds, 15 years ago. We have acquired the Shilo Inn in Lincoln City, a first-class, ocean-front, luxury hotel adjacent to Chinook Winds. We have financed and developed a first-class RV park and acquired the administration building that houses the gaming commission (and other offices) that overlooks our magnificent casino.

We were able to finance and construct a Tribal administration building and a modern community health clinic in the city of Siletz. We were able to establish excellent housing projects throughout Siletz.

We were able to be federally recognized as a self-governance Tribe, one of the first 20 in the nation. We were able to establish a history/culture department with a competent and dedicated staff that has recovered and catalogued a tremendous wealth of historical documents about our Tribe.

We were capable not only of reconstructing a traditional Dance House, but also of teaching and carrying on our custom at the Dance House with our children. The dancers are knowledgeable and skillful in the performance of our traditional Native dances and ceremonies.

Our Culture Camp held last month is evidence of the interest, popularity and awareness of carrying on our heritage in a participatory way that touches almost every family in our Tribe.

In the face of all the remarkable achievements of our Tribal Councils since Restoration, how can anyone have the audacity to say on siletz.net:

"It is totally obvious that you don't care what the tribe wants or needs ... by your actions, you have made it clear that your lives, your families lives and your own way of life is all that is important to you."

Regarding the revenues generated by Chinook Winds, we have periodically published in the Tribe's confidential newsletter, *Nesika Illahee*, for the benefit of our members, the gaming revenues that are allocated to the Tribe for Tribal use after all costs of the gaming operations are paid – the excess pledge revenues.

Since our Tribal gaming enterprise began, excess pledge revenues have been allocated to six general categories and are in compliance with federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act guidelines: Government Operations, General Welfare, Economic Development, Investments, Charitable Donations (including municipal services) and Per Capita Distributions.

Federal law requires that we distribute revenues to all of these categories to meet Tribal needs and restricts the distribution of net revenues per capita until all Tribal needs have been met. *Nesika Illahee* provides detailed reports of the Tribe's total revenues generated by our gaming center and the total excess pledge revenues available for Tribal use.

There are more than 25 categories under Tribal Government Operations and more than 20 under General Welfare. Individual managers responsible for these programs present their funding requests to the Tribal Council in each of these categories.

In an April 2009 open letter to the Tribe, Delores Riding In made the following unsubstantiated, false and deceptive allegations on siletz.net:

Send letters to:

Siletz News
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380-0549
541-444-8291 or
800-922-1399, ext. 1291
Fax: 541-444-2307
E-mail: pias@ctsi.nsn.us

Deadline for the September issue is Aug. 10. Submission of articles and photos is encouraged. Please see the Passages Policy on page 19 when submitting items for Passages.



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"The Siletz Tribe can and will go bankrupt, exactly like the AIG and the Wall Street banks. Secret deals worth millions of tribal dollars have gone out to non-tribal people and are covered up to this day. Millions of tribal dollars are 'missing.'"

Where Riding In got her fallacious information is a mystery. The facts are that the Siletz Tribe is not, as Riding In falsely alleges, in danger of going "bankrupt like the AIG and the Wall Street banks."

There are "no secret deals worth millions of tribal dollars" that have "gone out to non-tribal people and covered up to this day." Millions of tribal dollars are not "missing" as Riding In alleges.

The Tribe currently has investments in Morgan Stanley, which are fully insured by the Securities Investors Protection Corp up to \$500,000 per account. Additionally, Asset Protection Company (CAPCO), an insurance company, fully protects the principals of each account above \$500,000.

Our investments are fully insured and financially stable. Our other investments are in Atalanta-Sosnoff, none of which are invested in AIG, Merrill Lynch, WAMU, Lehman Bros or Bear Stearns.

The Tribe's custodial relationships were moved from Bear Stearns on Aug. 8, 2008, to Charles Schwab & Co., where transaction charges are lower than Bear Stearns.

The Tribe's other investments are in Wells Fargo endowments, which insures up to \$500,000 per account. They are not assets of the bank and not subject to bank creditors.

Each mutual fund company in which Wells Fargo invested our endowments has its own individual insurance. According to Global Finance, Wells Fargo was designated one of the 10 safest banks in 2008.

So, for Riding In to make deceitful and unrestrained allegations poses a serious problem. Tribal members will, as they should, view the extensive record of unreliability on siletz.net with increasing skepticism and disbelief.

I do not normally respond to the misstatements and smears published on siletz.net because it only serves to bring more attention to statements that deserve to be ignored, but recent statements on this private website have spread confusion among the membership and are causing great, unwarranted harm to the Tribe and had to be corrected.

Siletz News is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Please make checks payable to CTSI and mail to *Siletz News*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Change of address: Tribal members – call the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1258; all others – call the newspaper office.