



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

President Obama meets with 12 Tribal leaders Dec. 15 to hear directly from Indian Country about their policy priorities and concerns. Also in the meeting were Attorney General Eric Holder, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, White House Domestic Policy Council Director Melody Barnes and other administration officials. Tribal representatives included Earl J. Barbry Sr., Chairman, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana; Cedric Black Eagle, Chairman, Crow Nation; Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Brenda Edwards, Chairperson, Caddo Nation; Tex G. Hall, Chairman, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation: Three Affiliated Tribes; Gary Hayes, Chairman, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; John Red Eagle, Principal Chief, Osage Nation; Joe Shirley Jr., President, Navajo Nation; Robert H. Smith, Chairman, Pala Band of Mission Indians; Edward K. Thomas, President, Tlingit Haida Central Council; and Mervin Wright, Jr., Chairman, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada.

### Tribal Summit, con't from page 1

reignty and this face-to-face summit is to allow our governments to address the shared responsibility and obligation to our Native American citizens," said Brian Cladoosby, president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and chairman of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

"There are many issues to address in Indian Country, but one that brings it together. It is: What can President

Obama do in the next two years to uphold the federal trust agreement with Indian Tribes? Let us first understand the meaning of this agreement. Our expectation is simple, hold up your side of the deal with honor and respect," he added. "We view this summit as an opportunity to move towards the next chapter in the Era of Sovereignty for Tribes. We are being very realistic about these opportunities under

the Obama administration and let me be clear, this is a long road ahead of us and we need to use this as a time to build a foundation."

Tribal leaders and President Obama entered these meetings following one of the most significant years of bi-partisan accomplishments for Indian Country.

Since the first Tribal Nations Summit, held by the Obama administration

in November 2009, the U.S. government has taken historic steps, including making permanent the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; signing into law the Tribal Law & Order Act; reaching agreement on USDA's settlement of the long-standing Keepseagle case; and signing into law the Cobell settlement, closing the chapter on more than a century of government mismanagement of Indian assets.

## Understanding the Enrollment Department and how it can assist you

The activities and responsibilities of the Enrollment Department are not always understood by Tribal members, even though it's one of our most important programs. Without enrolled Tribal members, there would be no programs in our Tribe.

In this department, we receive wonderful news of babies born to Tribal members and hear from children and adults who were adopted out and find their way back to the Tribe. Sadly, we also hear when a member has walked on; this never gets easier.

It's important that you keep the designation of your beneficiary updated with the Enrollment Department because we don't second-guess you – if you designated your "ex" as your beneficiary, that's who will receive your death benefit.

If you do not designate a beneficiary or if your beneficiary has passed on, your loved ones will not be eligible for the additional \$1,000 death benefit otherwise paid directly to your designated beneficiary.

Be sure to keep your beneficiary designation up-to-date. The form can be found on the Enrollment section of the website or can be requested from us (see below).

The Enrollment Department assists with the annual per capita distribution and maintains Tribal member addresses used by our Tribal departments. Therefore, it's very important that you update the Enrollment Department with your current mailing address and a contact number in case your mail/newspaper is returned to the Tribe.

In order to facilitate a valid election,

Tribal law prohibits Tribal Council from approving any enrollment application, name change, loss of enrollment or removal from the roll requests from Dec. 1 to the first Saturday in February the following year.

Applications for enrollment with the Tribe still can be submitted and the Enrollment Department will review them and make recommendations to the Enrollment Committee for action after the first Saturday in February.

After the Enrollment Committee votes on the recommendations, the list of applicants will be posted on our website and in Tribal offices, allowing 15 days for a protest. At least 20 days after posting, if there are no protests, the recommenda-

tions are reviewed by Tribal Council at its regularly scheduled meeting in March. The Enrollment Department will send a letter to the applicant via mail of the outcome.

If you have any questions or just want to give us updated information, please contact either of the following:

Loraine Butler, Enrollment Clerk  
Direct phone: 541-444-8258  
E-mail: loraineb@ctsi.nsn.us  
Toll-free: 800-922-1399, ext. 1258

Angela Martin, Data Coordinator  
Direct phone: 541-444-8292  
E-mail: angelam@ctsi.nsn.us  
Toll-free: 800-922-1399, ext. 1292