



Photos by Diane Rodriguez

Stan Werth, Sar Richards and Ed Ben (above left) and Lloyd Irvine, Clint Muschamp, Tony Molina and Alan Fish (above) form the Color Guard for the opening session of the ATNI Convention. The West Coast Boyz (below) brought in the Color Guard.



Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

Tribal Council members Reggie Butler Sr. and Loraine Butler (both left), and Lillie Butler (far right) visit with Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber during activities that kicked off American Indian Week in Oregon 2012.



ATNI brings Northwest Tribal leaders to Chinook Winds for convention

Tribes also participates in events at state capitol

By Diane Rodriguez

The mid-year convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians was held at Chinook Winds Casino Resort on May 21-24 and those attending discussed a wide range of topics, sampled Siletz culture and took in the sights and sounds of Lincoln City.

Following a golf scramble fundraiser at Chinook Winds Golf Resort and a youth ambassador round table, the convention opened with the West Coast Boyz bringing in the Color Guard made up mostly of Siletz Tribal members. Following an invocation by Tribal Vice Chairman Bud Lane, Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley and Lincoln City Mayor Dick Anderson welcomed people to the area.

"Good morning and welcome to Chinook Winds Casino Resort and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. We're very proud to host this year's convention and we're very proud to welcome you to our homelands. Thank you for choosing to come here," said Pigsley in welcome as she spoke about the Tribe. "All of the land that you're on is former reservation. The Tribe's land base when the Tribe was restored was a cemetery; it was eight acres. Today we have over 15,000 acres of land that we've either purchased or has been deeded back to the Tribe. And it's

many scattered parcels of land, mostly not contiguous."

Pigsley thanked other Tribes and ATNI for their support of the success of the Siletz Tribe.

"We owe a great deal of gratitude to the Affiliated Tribes and to the small Tribes of Western Washington, who have been extremely important to our Tribe's restoration effort and our success. And we'll always be grateful to ATNI and especially to all the Tribes that have supported us over the years," she said. "We know that if Tribes don't support Tribes, we don't get very far."

Anderson also shared words of welcome, encouraging people to explore the area and come back in the future.

"Thank you, Chairwoman Pigsley, for this opportunity to welcome your guests to the Central Oregon Coast and more specifically to beachside Lincoln City. This portion of Oregon is blessed with natural beauty. We all should enjoy it," he said. "Thank you again for traveling; I know you've traveled from all over the Northwest to this part of Oregon. It's a beautiful place and I'm hoping you'll enjoy your stay. When you decide to leave - no rush - I certainly hope you'll travel safely and return someday."

ATNI President Fawn Sharp (Quinalt) then led a discussion on trust reform, strategies and the Commission on Indian Trust Administration. Tribal leaders addressed

five questions, including, "Are there any trust administration models the ITC should examine as it looks toward improving the Department of Interior's trust administration and management?" and "Do you have any recommendations and/or suggestions that would improve the nation-to-nation relationship between DOI and Tribes with respect to trust administration?"

The Siletz Tribe hosted lunch on the first day of the convention with a buffet in the showroom. Vendors included the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society with a silent auction and the Siletz Tribal Energy Program with an information table.

Committee meetings ensued after lunch and lasted into the next day. They included Culture/Elders, Economic Development, Education, Gaming, Health, Housing, Human Resources, Indian Child Welfare/Social Services, Law and Justice, Native Vote, Natural Resources/Land, TANF, TERC, Telecommunications and Energy, Transportation, Trust Reform and Veterans.

Resolutions established during the committee meetings were presented on the last day of the convention.

Special thanks to several Tribal members who volunteered during the convention, including Darlene Carkhuff, Valerie Hibdon, Celesta Lee, Tami Miner, Sonya Moody-Jurado, Bonnie Petersen, Wendi Schamp, Cathern Tufts, Rosie Williams and Tracey Worman.

Tribal Government Day

The Legislative Commission on Indian Services held its annual Tribal Government Day at the state capitol in Salem on May 11.

The highlight of the day was the proclamation signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber proclaiming May 13-19 as American Indian Week in Oregon.

The proclamation read, in part, "We continually discover the many ways in which Oregon is enriched by the past, present and future contributions of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, their ancestors, their elders, their present and future leaders; ..."

"There are many opportunities to explore the precious cultural and natural resources of our state that have been respected and preserved by Oregon's Tribes for generations; ..."

Tribal members and visitors found time to network and watch one of several short films produced by various Tribes in Oregon, including one by the Umatilla Tribe on its transit program and another by the Klamath Tribes on elders and children digging roots.

The events on May 11 followed an afternoon of meetings between Tribal representatives and their state counterparts on the subjects of "Consultation with Tribal Governments: How to Do It, What to Avoid" and "Who We Are: Tribal Governments Today."