

Candidate Information

MARITA SELENE BRANDT: My name is Marita Selene (Rilatos) Brandt and I am running for Tribal Council. I would appreciate your support in the upcoming election. I have been an employee of the Tribe since November 1984, with the Economic Development Administration and Housing Improvement Program, and am aware of the many issues involved within our Tribe. Being directly involved with the Tribe helps me to understand the needs, problems and the potential our Tribe has to offer our people and the economy as a whole.

You may have read the article in the December Newsletter, where I opposed the petition pertaining to per capita payment. I strongly feel that to receive per capita payment **now** would be to abolish this Tribe. This is not to say that I oppose per capita permanently, but for the present. We need to think of the future. We as a Tribe have set goals, have prioritized economic development as number one, to become self-sufficient, develop tribal enterprises, self-support our tribal programs, employ our people; to obtain these goals we need the full support of our Tribal Members. When we achieve all of this, then I say — allot cash dividends or per capita payments, should that be in our best interest.

Another issue is, whether or not to expand the service area to include the three additional counties. My feeling is the more people we serve the more goals we've achieved. I would like to see the day when all tribal members are served in some capacity. I especially feel for the people outside the service area, because they're the ones who aren't receiving and have the right to be recognized and served, as well as us in the service area.

These concerns and others will greatly influence the outcome of the future of our people. It is your responsibility as a tribal member to vote for the candidates that will protect the best interest of the Tribe. I feel that I am objective, open-minded, and have strong traditional values. This should be a necessity to serve on the Council. Let us keep in mind our elders and those that have gone on before us, who've laid the foundation for this Great Indian Nation. Let us do the same for our future generations, as we have inherited from our ancestors.

I want to share this song and story with you —

They took the whole Chetco nation,
put us on this a reservation
Took away our ways of life,
a tomahawk and a bow and knife.
Took away our Native tongue,
taught their English to our young,
and all the beads we made by hand
are now-a-days made in Japan.

Over a century ago my people, the Chetcos, were brought with hundreds of other Indians to the Siletz Reservation. Forced to live in an unfamiliar environment under strange laws, their knowledge of their native culture began to fade. But the traditions and the pride of our tribe lingered, carefully nurtured by those who remember the old ways. The years passed with only a few holding on to our heritage. Still the pride remained. They waited, hope, for the time when "Indian" would once again be a proud name to bear. They waited for the day their children and their friends would eagerly seek the old ways. Today the pride of our nation stands firm. The Siletz people celebrate Restoration of their rights as Indians. Traditional dances and crafts are taught and history is shared.

As I dedicate this to my grandfather, a full blooded Chetco, Chief Archie Ben, and in memory of my father, Robert Rilatos Sr. We have always been Indians — we have always been Chetco — today we are proud to share our heritage.

They took the whole Chetco Nation,
put us on this a reservation.

But maybe someday when we learn
Chetco Nation will return, will return....

"Let us come together and remember we are a 'Tribe' not a forgotten people. Put our differences aside on this day to be thankful for all that we have received as a Tribe and as its members", as I quote Shirley Strickler from her article in the November newsletter. I appreciate this positive attitude and feel that we need to focus on this kind of feeling, to be unison.

My heart and mind is for our people and I will serve you in the most honorable manner. Ta gao huska shoo na schilsy (May God Be With You).

BILL TOWNER: Cast one of your three votes for the future. Elect Bill Towner to the Tribal Council.

I served two years on the Council during our struggle for restoration. I have been the Tribe's Representative to the Small Tribes of Western Washington for 6 years. During this time I have served on the Board of Directors, on the Executive Committee and for the last two years I have been the First Vice President of STOWW. I am also a Tribal Court Judge.

I believe withdrawal of Federal funds stresses the importance of making our Tribe financially independent. To accomplish this I support a strong, aggressive and diversified program of Economic Development. I see Economic Development as the key to providing jobs, funding for training and education, health care and assistance to our people wherever they are, and finally as the source of funds for future per capita payments. I would also endeavor to provide funding necessary to adequately staff the Tribal Court. The inability to keep the Courts office open more than one day per week results in a denial of Court Services to Tribal Members.

Remember to place an X by my name when you vote.

DELORES PIGSLEY: Dear Tribal Members, Once again I am asking your support to be elected to the Tribal Council. For those of you who do not know me, I am Alfred and Maude Lane's daughter. I am married and have three grown children. I work for the Social Security Administration and have actively served on the Tribal Council for eight (8) years. I have served as Tribal Chairman for the past two years and have never missed a Tribal Council meeting.

Our Tribe has made tremendous strides since becoming restored in 1977. In the past (3) years I have supported, and been actively involved in, the following: Working to expand our service area to include Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties; to have the comfort facilities built on Government Hill; to obtain land for our housing development (39 housing units will be built); to fund the Tribal Historian position; to establish an Economic Development Commission; to participate in and see our Tribal Court fully operational; to lobby Congress and local governments for transfer of 11,390 acres of timberland; and, most important of all, to see our own people develop and fill important jobs in our tribal administration.

This is a crucial time for the future of our tribe and its leaders. We must continue to pursue the acquisition of the tribal land that will more than triple the size of our reservation. With the land transfer, we will be one step closer to gaining economic self-sufficiency and a future for all members.

I now proudly serve as Chairman of our Economic Development Commission, a commission that was established by the Tribal Council to foster economic growth and create job opportunities for tribal members. The Commission itself will be self-supporting and will create revenue for the Tribe.

Much has been said about the Tribe making per capita payments. I stated at General Council that when Council Members testified before Congress for restoration, per capita payments were never mentioned. At this time, it is not possible to make a per capita payment. However, I must say per capita payments have been discussed many times and have always been put off for the future. I would happily advocate per capita when our tribe is financially sound.

As Chairman of the Tribal Council, a member of the Economic Development Commission, and a member of the Siletz Indian Housing Authority, I assure you my time and efforts are devoted to the Tribe because I care about the future of our people.

MARCELLA BUTLER: My name is Marcella Butler, I was born in 1954, graduated from high school in 1972. Am a former Siletz tribal employee, completed tribal judges training and four National Indian Justice Lawyers training programs. Currently attending Chemeketa Community College, (pre-law). I have a full time job at Chemawa Indian School as a matron for the last 3 years. I have two daughters, age ten and six years olds.

I am running for office because I am concerned that there seems to be no plan or direction set by the present council. The council meeting minutes suggest the council really doesn't concentrate on any issue until it is settled. There is a lot of wasted time and this costs the whole tribe money. The council has had timber revenues for more than five years but cannot show any sound use of the money that will benefit the tribe as a whole. What new business has been started? There is a small stakes bingo which only provides a few part-time dollars.

If elected, I will work diligently to control council spending on things that seem to have no benefit for the tribe. I will not accept the five (\$5.00) per hour paid to the members of the council. I will further push for a plan that helps to start new business or take control of established business that will offer job opportunities for more than a few. Also push for the hiring of qualified people to run our programs and administrations so we won't need so many people trying to do what one half were able to do a few years ago. The tribe needs to stop spending recklessly. Our resources are limited. We need to think first before we spend. Also our tribal newsletter goes into many homes — must we act so foolish before so many? I will work to see that the tribe presents information — not petty bickering.

JOAN WASHINGTON: My reason for putting my name on the ballot is to try and do more for the people. I am talking about the people who do not live in Siletz. There are a lot of Tribal people who need help, and can't get it. I think it's about time to turn things around, and start helping all Tribal members, not just a select few.

I am for amending the Constitution so the people can have a voice in all Tribal matters and business. I would like the people to have a per capita payment, which I know can be used.

We had so many people who ran for Council in the past, promise they would help the people, and when we elected them, they turned around and did the opposite. If I am elected, all I can say is I will try and do my best for the people.

EDWARD L. CASE, SR.: I was born and raised in Siletz. I went to Chiloquin, Oregon, as a young man and went to work at the Klamath Indian Agency. I am a World War II Veteran. I served in the Navy in the South Pacific aboard an aircraft carrier.

I am a former Tribal Council Member and I am still going to work for equality for every tribal member, not just a few favored tribal members that's going on now by our leaders.

I hope you tribal members will stand up and be heard for your rights. Don't sit back and say nothing. That's all for now. If you members cast your vote for me, I'll do my best for you.

MIKE BERRY: My name is Mike Berry. I'm 1/8 Siletz Indian and I'm one of the last of the Siletz people that will be able to enroll in the Tribes. My children or grandchildren will not be able to enroll because of blood degree. Our Indian relatives have been promised many good things, but instead, we received a new building for some people to enjoy and a new restroom and new pow-pow grounds. I have ran for the Tribal Council every time I heard there was a position open. I believe in Indian rights. I believe that the Indian people deserve better than the way they have. All of the Indian people should be able to benefit from being a tribe and not just a few. I believe that we as Native Americans, Indians of the Oregon Coast, have the right to tell these people that bother our burial sites that they must stop their digs. There should be help for the Indian people that live from harvesting things from the lands.

The things I'm interested in are aqua culture, Indian culture and heritage ways, and Indian fishing rights. I would like the chance to help the people that don't have the Indian ceremonies in their lives. If you would like to see a people that are having the same trouble many of us are going through, look at the Indian People Big Mountain Forced Relocation Act. The people are fighting just to be able to keep their lands from being taken from them and made to move from their homes while the coal miners rip up the ground that their ancestors are buried in. Struggles such as fishing rights, burial grounds, hunting rights, ceremonial rights, etc. are going on all around us and if we remain quiet and don't stand up for rights as Native American Indians, time will come that we are losing our rights. Our ancestors grave sites are being destroyed. Ceremonies are being lost with the deaths of our elders. Our fishing rights are there but we have to stand together on these rights or we will lose them.

I hope to sit on the Council to help Indian people that have found themselves caught in the courtrooms of the same judges that okayed the dozers and archaeologist, to get rid of the evidence Indians were there first, so they can make room for R.V. Parks, vacation resorts, etc., on our ancestors and relatives gravesites.

ALTA COURVILLE: My name is Alta Courville. I am an enrolled member of the Conferated Tribes of Siletz Indians, roll number 221. I was born and raised in Siletz, although I moved to Salem in 1944, I still consider Siletz my "home".

I retired on March 2, 1984 after 17 years with Indian Health Services. I presently serve on the Health Committee and I am the Siletz delegate to Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and alternate delegate to The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

I served on the Restoration Tribal Council, went to Washington, D.C. lobbied and testified at the Senate hearings. Our efforts were well worth all the work that has made us a Federally recognized Tribe again, The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. I can see many things that we lobbied for for the tribe that we now have, such as Government Hill, our cemetery, timberland, health care, education, etc.

I am presently a Tribal Council member and as such I want more for my people. The Council has had several proposals presented to them for Economic Development. These were discussed extensively, weighed carefully, and voted on. I was a part of this. I voted for the ones I felt would benefit the Siletz Tribal members most. Being a part of these projects, when they started, I would like very much to continue to serve on the Tribal Council, to be there when these projects become a reality. I truly believe they will be and that our Tribal members will benefit from them. Also important to me is the proposal to enlarge the tribes service delivery area, making more tribal members eligible to receive benefits from all of the programs that would then be available to them.

I appreciate your time and interest in reading my candidacy statement and I hope you will vote for the three tribal members you feel are most interested in and capable of doing a good job for the entire tribe. BE SURE TO EXERCISE YOUR TRIBAL RIGHT AND VOTE!

ARTHUR S. BENSELL: During the restoration effort, our Tribe set our goals which we felt would help make our own tribe become a viable entity. I find that the goals we set up for restoration are still viable. These goals are good health & welfare programs, jobs for all, good education for all, and good programs for the elderly people. We also feel that we should preserve our Cultural Heritage.

The Tribal Council, in its Comprehensive Plan, set forth long range goals and objectives for Tribal Government and general plan for the future development. We are a growing tribe and now have a plan to add additional buildings to our existing plant, such as the museum, and to develop our campgrounds. We have plans to develop the Siletz Tribal Economic Development Commission and Housing Authority and many other worthwhile activities. We are also negotiating for land to add to our Reservation.

So you see, the plans for the future depends on many worthwhile and interesting activities. I want to become an active Tribal Council Member. I would therefore request that you vote for me February 1, 1986.

