

Chairman's Report

From Delores Pigsley

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
JULY 1994

The Tribal Chairmen of Oregon had the honor of serving as the 1994 Portland Rose Festival Parade Grand Marshals. It was an exciting event and many tribal members of all tribes lined the parade route. It was nice to see everyone come out, especially Doris Riding In, who was kind enough to give me a cold drink to take along, thanks.

The parade was followed by a reception given by Senator Hatfield and Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse. Staff from the BIA & IHS prepared the food, it was excellent.

I would like to bring you up to date on a number of other important events of the past month. Siletz Agency Budget is Saved

As I reported in the May issue of the Newsletter, the future of the Siletz Agency was in jeopardy. The Administration's plan which was put together without tribal involvement, was to reduce the Siletz Agency by \$210,000. If implemented, the plan would have destroyed the agency and its ability to serve the tribes.

We not only actively protested this plan in face-to-face meetings with departmental officials in Washington, D.C., we wrote letters and met with our congressional representatives protesting the Bureau's plan.

We received word that the House Appropriations Committee rejected the Bureau's plan to reduce the Siletz Agency by the \$210,000 this negates any immediate forced reduction of Agency staff. Instead of targeting the Siletz Agency, as originally planned, the \$210,000 reduction will be spread throughout the Bureau.

Our determined efforts for the restoration of the funds paid off. We must now develop a plan for our Agency services.

BIA and IHS Self Governance Negotiations

Preliminary negotiations on our 1995 BIA Self Governance Annual Funding Agreement have been completed and the final negotiations scheduled for June 29th.

We have also had preliminary negotiations on our IHS Self Governance project with final negotiations scheduled for August 22nd.

We will report to you the results of our negotiations when they have been completed.

STEDCO Reorganization

You might have heard by now that STEDCO has been reorganized. I believe that STEDCO has the potential of contributing importantly to the economic development of the Tribe.

The Tribal Council deliberated at length about how STEDCO could be strengthened and arrived at the following structure: Each Enterprise (i.e., the Smokehouse, the Mill, etc.), now has it's own Board of Directors, chaired by a member of the Tribal Council.

The Chairmen of these tribal enterprises plus the Chairman of the Tribal Council, comprise the STEDCO Commission. In order to take advantage of the knowledge and experience gained by the members of the previous Commission, these members have been appointed to serve on the various enterprise boards.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Tribe and the Executive Director of STEDCO serve as ex-officio members of the Commission.

We believe that restructuring the Commission in this way is a positive change. It will take advantage of the experience and knowledge of the previous commission members; at the same time, it will place greater involvement and responsibility on Tribal Council members for the policies and general direction of the Tribe's economic development efforts.

Gaming Report

From Jessie Davis,
Chairman, Ad Hoc Gaming Commission

We are moving forward in several important areas, all of which are essential in laying the groundwork for our tribal gaming enterprise.

Tribal/State Compact Negotiations

Thus far we have completed five Tribal/State compact negotiation sessions since February. Although four of those sessions have been with the full Governor's Team, the last session held on June 9th was only with John McCafferty, Director of the Criminal Division of the State Police. Our meeting with him covered a wide range of security issues.

The next session with the full Governor's Team is expected to be held in July. We are moving closer to finalizing the draft compact. When this is accomplished, the draft will be reviewed by the full Gaming Commission with a recommendation for approval by the Tribal Council.

Management Agreement Negotiations

Although we had planned to execute the management agreement over the Memorial Day week-end, there were details that still needed to be ironed out. We are very close to finalizing the agreement. It is very important that we carefully evaluate and work out every detail of the proposed document before it's execution.

One of the basic principles underlying our agreement is for the Tribe, over the five year period of the agreement, to progressively undertake full management and control of the enterprise. The Tribe must rely heavily on the management company in the beginning but through training and increasing involvement in all aspects of the gaming operation, we should be ready to assume full control of our own enterprise by the end of the five year period.

As soon as the Ad Hoc Gaming Commission has reviewed and approved the agreement, it will be submitted to the Tribal Council for Council review and adoption.

Orientation to the Internal Operations of a Gaming Center

During the Memorial Day week-

end, Tribal officials and gaming commission members had the opportunity of learning, first-hand, the internal operations of a major casino in Reno. All the expenses while in Reno were paid for by the prospective management company.

The agenda involved meetings with the owners and key managers of the casino, information about their roles, relationships and responsibilities. The group had the opportunity of touring the facilities and gained inside information about the casino's complex organizational structure, personnel policies, security system and operations, cash management and accounting systems and the relationships between the casino, hotel and restaurant.

Ad Hoc Gaming Commission - Sub Group Assignments

In view of the volume of work to be accomplished and the difficulty of holding meetings because members are so spread out geographically, three sub-groups were formed to carry out specific tasks. The preparation and submission for approval by the National Indian Gaming Commission of a tribal gaming ordinance is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The following Sub-groups have therefore been involved in developing ordinances and regulations relating to specific subject areas.

- (1) Siletz Sub-Group: criteria for the establishment of a tribal gaming commission.
- (2) Salem Sub-Group: standards for the issuance of Licenses to work for/do business with the Siletz gaming enterprise.
- (3) Portland Sub-Group: Tribal standards and procedures for conducting Background Investigation.

There are many areas to be addressed by our Commission; the above represent only a few of them.

Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments

I would like to turn your attention now, to a matter of vital importance to all Indian Tribes: a Bill that was introduced on June 23rd by Senators Inouye and McCain of the Committee on Indian Affairs that would "provide for the major overhaul of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988."

According to Tim Wapato, Executive Director of NIGA, in his memo to Tribes dated June 24th, "This is an extremely complex draft that if enacted would completely replace the existing law. It will require extensive review in order to provide you with an accurate

Continued on page 20....